The M.Div. program is a 93-credit curriculum that blends biblical studies, social science theory, spiritual formation and practical training with an emphasis upon critical and reflective thinking. It is recognized as the most comprehensive and basic level graduate preparation for ministerial leadership and for future study in the theological disciplines. Alongside the prescribed core curriculum and mentored development courses, students select a specific track and professional development courses, in line with their ministry and educational goals.

The M.Div. curriculum develops progressively over three years through the Person Phase, the Church Phase, and the Ministry Phase presented in “Our Model”. ATS offers a pre-substitution system for those who majored in Bible and Theology in their undergraduate program (see Course Sequence).

**Purpose**

The Master of Divinity degree is designed to produce whole people for general leadership in Christian service, whether in their own or in another culture, by bringing into dialogue the various dimensions of theological education. These dimensions are (1) church and academy, (2) theology and social science inquiry, (3) the biblical world and the contemporary world, (4) classroom and experience, (5) character and competence, and (6) wisdom and skill.

**Student Learning Goals**

- Students will lay a foundation for ongoing spiritual formation including personal development, moral integrity, and spiritual maturity.
- Students will gain knowledge and be able to apply methodology in biblical studies, theology and cultural understandings.
- Students will gain an appreciation of the relational nature of ministry through the experience of being mentored and mentoring others, and through learning and practicing interpersonal ministry skills.
- Students will be able to understand and practice integration of the personal, theological, and practical components of holistic ministry. Students will gain ministry skills for a broad range of Christian service responsibilities, and will be able to demonstrate competency in classroom and internship environments (in particular, those skills necessary for licensed and/or ordained ministry within the C&MA and other denominations).

**Program Assessment Plan:**

The following assessments are used to assess program effectiveness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Location in Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Spiritual Growth Covenant</td>
<td>SF 503 Initiation in Spiritual Formation</td>
<td>First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bible Storyline Paper</td>
<td>TH501 Biblical Theology</td>
<td>First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. OT Methodological Essays</td>
<td>OT503 Reading OT</td>
<td>First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Research Paper</td>
<td>CS502 Church as Soc/Cult</td>
<td>Second Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Midway &amp; Final Mentor Reports</td>
<td>SF603 Field Education</td>
<td>Second Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Field Dir Exit Interview</td>
<td>SF603 Field Education</td>
<td>Second Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Revised Spiritual Growth Covenant</td>
<td>SF703 Spiritual Formation Capstone</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ministerial identity integrative paper</td>
<td>SF703 SF Capstone</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Counseling Triads</td>
<td>CD702 Working With People</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Mentoring Assignment</td>
<td>SF703 SF Capstone</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Sermon Project</td>
<td>CD601 Proclamation &amp; Communication</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Evangelism Project</td>
<td>CD702 Working With People</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Master of Divinity

General Prerequisites
1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. A satisfactory grade point average (2.5 minimum GPA).

Degree Requirements
**Master of Divinity Degree**
1. Satisfactory completion of 93 credit hours as prescribed.
2. A minimum grade point average of 2.5.
3. Satisfactory completion of an approved Field Education experience (SF 603).
4. Passing grade of 85% on the Bible Tutor Proficiency Exam within the first two semesters of the program (except Puerto Rico campus, see Bible Tutor Program).
5. Transfer students must take the last 30 credits at ATS.
6. Complete payment of all financial obligations with ATS.

Core Courses
The following courses comprise the core of the M.Div.:

- CD 601 Proclamation & Communication
- CD 701 Worship Arts & Disciplines
- CD 702 Working with People*
- CS 501 People as Social & Cultural Beings
- CS 502 Church as a Social & Cultural Institution
- IC 501 Perspectives in Mission
- NT 503 Reading the New Testament
- NT 504 Greek Bible & Western Mediterr. World
- NT 505 Hermeneutics
- OT 503 Reading the Old Testament
- OT 504 Hebrew Bible & Eastern Mediterr. World
- SF 505 Pers/Prof/Theol Foundations for Ministry
- TH 501 Biblical Theology
- TH 502 Theology in the Global Context
- TH 605 History of Christianity
- UR 601 Church in the Urban World

*Mentored Development Courses

SF 503 - 1st Year Initiation in Spiritual Formation
SF 603 - 2nd Year Field Education
SF 703 - 3rd Year Spiritual Formation Capstone

Tracks
Students will select from one of the following tracks:

**Bible and Theology:** Emphasizes enhanced preparation in biblical and theological studies. Students choose to focus on either Greek or Hebrew. Includes the following 6 courses:

- TH 601 Systematic Theology I: God & Humanity
- TH 602 Systematic Theology II: Christ & the Church

Greek progression:
- NT 506 NT Greek I: Elements
- NT 507 NT Greek II: Readings
- NT 604 NT Greek III: Exegesis*
- OT Book Study (in English)
  *Greek book study for Puerto Rico campus

Hebrew progression:
- OT 506 Biblical Hebrew I: Elements
- OT 507 Biblical Hebrew II: Readings
- OT 604 Biblical Hebrew III: Exegesis
Master of Divinity

NT Book Study (in English)

**Church Development:** Emphasizes the broad perspectives and essential skills needed for full-time local church ministry. Includes the following 6 courses:

- CD 711 Advanced Communication
- CD 712 Leading Change & Conflict Resolution
- CD 713 Management & Christian Service
- SF 610 Human Development
- SF 611 Discipleship & Small Groups
- TH 604 Christian Ethics

**Missions:** Emphasizes perspectives and skills needed by those ministering across cultural barriers, especially in evangelism, church planting and the development of an indigenous Christian faith. Includes the following 6 courses (offered primarily at the Rockland Campus):

- IC 601 Global Expansion of the Church
- IC 602 Cultural Immersion & Social Analysis
- IC 603 Doing Theology in Context
- IC 604 Christian Encounter with World Religions
- IC 720 Theology of Power Encounter
- IC 721 Christian Witness in the Context of Poverty

**Urban Ministries:** Emphasizes the perspectives and specialized training necessary for ministry in an urban environment. Includes the following 6 courses (offered primarily at the Manhattan Campus):

- TH 604 Christian Ethics
- UR 510 Urban Theology
- UR 511 Urban Church & the Poor
- UR 610 Urban Community & Worldview Analysis
- UR 611 Urban Community Development
- UR 714 Leadership Development & the Urban Church

**Professional Development Courses**

In addition to the tracks, students select 6 professional development courses of their choosing from within the ATS curriculum or in consultation with the Dean, from other graduate programs within the Nyack College System. This flexibility allows for further study in areas related to career goals and personal interest.

**First Year – Person Phase**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SF 503</td>
<td>Initiation in Spiritual Formation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC 501</td>
<td>Perspectives in Mission</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT 503</td>
<td>Reading the Old Testament (SUB: any OT course)*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT 504</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible &amp; the Eastern Mediterranean World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF 505</td>
<td>Personal, Prof &amp; Theol Foundations for Ministry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 502</td>
<td>Theology in Global Context</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT 503</td>
<td>Reading the New Testament (SUB: any NT course)*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT 504</td>
<td>Greek Bible &amp; the Western Mediterranean World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT 505</td>
<td>Hermeneutics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track Course</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second Year – Church Phase**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SF 603</td>
<td>Field Education (Pre-Req SF503)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 501</td>
<td>People as Social &amp; Cultural Beings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 501</td>
<td>Biblical Theology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UR 601</td>
<td>The Church in the Urban World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 502</td>
<td>The Church as a Social &amp; Cultural Institution</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 605</td>
<td>History of Christianity (SUB: TH 721 Historical Theology)*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track Course</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Master of Divinity

Track Course................................................................. 3
Track Course................................................................. 3
Professional Development Course .................................... 3
Professional Development Course .................................... 3

Third Year – Ministry Phase
CD 601 Proclamation & Communication ............................. 3
CD 701 Worship Arts & Disciplines ................................. 3
SF 703 Spiritual Formation Capstone (Pre-Req SF 603) ......... 3
CD 702 Working with People (CN510 in PR) ....................... 3
Track Course..................................................................... 3
Professional Development Course .................................... 3
Professional Development Course .................................... 3
Professional Development Course .................................... 3
Professional Development Course .................................... 3

*Substitutions are approved only for those with documented coursework in the respective subject at the undergraduate level.