

MASTER OF DIVINITY (Thesis Track)

Major in Christian Education

I. Introduction

Silliman University Divinity School offers a Master of Divinity degree major in Christian Education. This two-year program is designed for those who finished a degree in Bachelor of Theology major in Pastoral Ministry. Graduates of Bachelor of Theology, both from the Silliman University Divinity School and other accredited seminaries come to enroll in the Master of Divinity program. They come back to update their degree, and especially to gain more preparation in the nurturing ministry. For some years now, these kinds of students were put in the same classes with B.Th. students. Many of these M. Div. students have expressed that they do not find challenges in this kind of setup, especially when they are asked to take the courses they have already taken.

II. Justification for the Proposal to Offer a Master of Divinity major in Christian Education

The Master of Divinity is an existing degree offered by SUDS. Offering Christian Education as a field of specialization is not totally new because such a specialized area was offered by the seminary in the past years until the mid-1970s. Due to a change of emphasis in designing the curriculum, it was scrapped. The change of emphasis was influenced by the notion that everyone trained in Pastoral Ministry can also do Christian Education work.

Offering a Master of Divinity degree with a major in Christian Education is only retrieval of what has been lost for some time. This program is offered therefore for the following reasons:

1. The church has a demand for Christian Education graduates, but no UCCP-related seminary offers a master's degree in Christian Education. The reasons include the following:
 - a) There are no available qualified Christian Education teachers.
 - b) Those that have been trained have either retired, have died, or, are no longer based in the Philippines.
 - c) Christian education program has been neglected in the local churches.
2. Ninety percent of Church life and works involved Christian Education and Nurture but these works are neglected because -
 - a. Pastors are usually called by churches as church administrators, and not as Christian Education persons.
 - b. Some pastors do the Christian Education work but they do not have the special training to do so.
 - c. Church workers will not be ordained if they focus on Christian Education.

3. The churches and conferences have Christian Education and Nurture Committee/Commission/Desk but those who serve as committee chair/CEN director are pastors who do not have special training in Christian Education.

4. Most UCCP churches have kindergarten schools. However these schools are usually run by directors who are graduates of non-theological schools or seminary because of lack of persons who are trained as CE/Religious Education and Early Childhood teachers and directors, and who do not have the government requirement.

Note:

Students who plan to go into the teaching ministry in church-related schools need to take at least 18 units at the College of Education to be able to take the Licensure Exam for Teachers (LET) required by DepEd and CHED.

5. The UCCP has many church-related schools/institutions (like Silliman University) and these institutions offer courses in values education and Bible. However, the Divinity School could not fully respond to the needs of these institutions. Instead, graduates in pastoral ministry who are not prepared to be in the educational ministry are sent.

6. The seminary will be able to respond to the needs of the graduates of Bachelor of Theology who come back to the seminary to take the Master of Divinity degree with specialization.

III. Objectives for each level.

- During the first year the students are expected to focus on the intensive studies on advance Christian Education courses. Students will prepare their research proposals.
- In the first semester of their second year, the students will begin to write their thesis project and defend it by the second semester.

IV. Viability of the program

1. Based on experience, Bachelor of Theology graduates come back to the Divinity School to pursue the degree of Master of Divinity and who were hoping to take Christian Education as their specialization.
2. All UCCP seminaries need teachers in Christian Education and therefore they would welcome the Divinity School's offering of a special training on this particular field.
3. Every year, the Divinity School receive inquiries from churches and individuals about the seminary's offering of a degree or a major in Christian Education
4. The UCCP churches have kindergarten schools and therefore these churches will most likely need persons or pastors who have an intensive training in Christian Education.
5. The UCCP have church-related institutions and schools, and therefore there will always be a need for people who have a specialized training in Christian Education to teach in their schools.

First Year (30 units)

1st Semester

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Units</i>
DCM 441	Leadership and Capability Building	3
DCM 443	Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally Diverse Contexts	3
DCM 445	Contemporary Issues in Christian Education	3
THE 443	Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World	3
EL 33	Critical Essay Writing	3
		15

2nd Semester

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Units</i>
DCM 442	Intimate and Domestic Violence as Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue	3
ED 16	Principles and Methods of Teaching	3
DCM 446	Children and Youth Ministry	3
DCM 448	Family Ministries	3
DS 1	Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 1	3
		15

SECOND YEAR (18 units)

1st Semester

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Units</i>
DBI 445	Wisdom Literature	3
DBI 449	Cross-cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia	3
DCM 447	Administration and Supervision of Church Educational Ministry	3
DS 2	Research 2	3
		12

2nd Semester

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Units</i>
DS 3	Thesis Writing	6