

MASTER OF MINISTERIAL STUDIES (Non-Thesis) Major in Pastoral Care

The Master of Ministerial Studies will be considered as an alternative to the Master of Divinity (Thesis Track). It is a two-year program designed for those who finished a degree in Bachelor of Theology major in Pastoral Ministry. In the past, graduates of Bachelor of Theology, both from of 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. Those in this kind of arrangement did not find enough challenge, especially when their intention to come back to the seminary was to focus on a particular field. 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. Responding to this need the Divinity School offered the Master of Divinity -Thesis track.

However, it has been observed that students who enrolled in the M.Div- thesis program are more interested in pursuing their ministries' professional enhancement than pure academic research. Thesis requirement becomes a disincentive to prospective students.

Another possible limitation is in the career opportunity. A graduate of an M.Div thesis-track may not meet the faculty qualification standard of ATESEA. The Master of Theology (M.Th or Th.M.) is considered by ATESEA to be the minimum educational credential for teaching theological subjects in accredited schools. Students who plan to teach in the seminary are advised to enroll in the M.Th program. This will limit prospective students for the M.Div thesis degree program.

To address those who want to pursue the professional enhancement of their ministries, the Divinity School is submitting a new program: The Master of Ministerial Studies. This degree requires a minimum of two years full-time or its equivalent in part-time study. The aim of the program is the enhancement of contemporary ministries, and it is designed for ministers, priests, pastors, and others involved in a range of ministries. This is a non-thesis track program that requires a minimum of forty-five (48) units.

Major in Pastoral Care

This program is designed to prepare students engaged in ministerial work to be competent and effective pastoral caregivers in their present and future ministries. The program provides the student with in-depth study, meaningful reflection, and integrative approach to the practice of pastoral care in various situations of ministry.

1st semester		2nd semester	
MMS 200- Seminar in Pastoral Theology	3	MMS 202- Christologies	3
MMS 201- Trends in Biblical Studies same as THM-401	3	MMS 304- Ethical issues arising from the Ministry	3
MMS 318- Basic Spiritual Care /CPE	3	MMS 319- Basic Spiritual Care /CPE	3
THM 431- Seminar on Bioethics	3	MMS 317- Pastoral Counseling	3
Total	12	Total	12
1st semester		2nd semester	
MMS 320- Basic Spiritual Care (CPE) 3	6	MMS 323 - Death and Dying. Same as DCM 455.	3
MMS 315 - Dialogue with Other Faiths	3	MMS 325- Pastoral Care Practicum	6
MMS 305- Preaching Patterns and Worship/ DCM 456- Illness, Disability and Healing: Theological, Spiritual and Biblical Perspectives for Ministry	3	DCM 442 - Intimate & Domestic Violence as a Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue	3
		Comprehensive Exams	
Total	12	Total	12
		Grand Total	48