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Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Evangel University
Master of Leadership and Ministry

The Master of Leadership and Ministry (MLM)—formerly the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry—is a 45-credit professional studies degree. It equips ministers to become life-long learners and to develop models of personal and professional growth.

Those with limited experience in ministry leadership are encouraged to take at least one practicum as part of their electives. For additional information on how this program leads to a doctoral degree, see the doctoral studies section of this catalog.

Degree Components and Requirements

The Master of Leadership and Ministry can be completed by any student regardless of the field of their undergraduate degree. Applicants with a strong undergraduate program in religion may petition for Advanced Standing in the program, which could allow them to complete the program with 36 credits. See MLM Advanced Standing.

For courses successfully completed as an undergraduate, a student may substitute an advanced course. See the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree for examples.

A limited number of courses may be taken through directed research or distance learning. The general requirements for graduation apply as well.

**Bible/Theology Core (9 credits)**

- BNT 530 New Testament Introduction 3
- BOT 530 Old Testament Introduction 3
- THE xxx Theology elective 3

**Foundations Core (15 credits)**

- BIB 532 Hermeneutics 3
- BTH/MHT 501 Mission of God in Biblical & Contemporary Contexts 3
- HOM 529 Communicating the Message 1

**Ministry Core (12 credits)**

- PTH 522 Identity & Calling of the Spiritual Leader 3
- PTH 557 Spiritual Formation of the Minister 3
- PTH 559 Relational Dynamics in Ministry 3
- PTH 653 Leading Christian Ministries 3

**Practical Theology Electives (9 credits)**

*Advanced Standing possible for these three courses in the Bible/Theology Core—9 credits total.

1 If an equivalent course was taken in the participant’s undergraduate program, an advanced homiletics course may be substituted.
3 If seeking ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God, HIS 532 required if not taken at the undergraduate level.
MLM Advanced Standing

Students who have earned a significant number of credits in religious studies from approved colleges and universities may request exemption from certain required courses in the MLM degree program (see the Bible/Theology Core above), thus granting them Advanced Standing. Life experience does not qualify for Advanced Standing. (See the office of Seminary Registration and Degree Audit for further details.)

The following rules apply to MLM Advanced Standing:

1. Advanced Standing cannot exceed nine credits.
2. Advanced Standing is considered for undergraduate courses with satisfactory parallel content, provided the equivalent collegiate courses are double the credit value of the Seminary’s courses. A minimum grade of B is required and the student must be able to demonstrate competency in subject matter by presentation of an Advanced Standing Portfolio for each course for which Advanced Standing is desired. A fee of $50 per course will be charged for each portfolio that is evaluated, regardless of whether or not the Advanced Standing is granted.
3. Advanced Standing must be requested prior to enrollment but no later than the end of the student’s first semester of study at AGTS. Requests should be submitted to the Office of Seminary Registration and Degree Audit.
4. Partial course Advanced Standing will not be granted.
5. If the student later takes a course where Advanced Standing has been granted, the Advanced Standing would be nullified.
6. In an area where a student demonstrates competency but the criteria preclude Advanced Standing, a substitute course may be allowed if approved by the faculty adviser and the Dean.
7. All AGTS master programs must be completed within a 10-year time limit, which includes any undergraduate courses used for Advanced Standing and any graduate courses transferred in from other schools. See the AGTS Office of Seminary Registration and Degree Audit for more information.

Five-Year Pastoral Ministry Program

AGTS has an accelerated MLM program in conjunction with Evangel University. Students earn a BA/BS at Evangel University in four years, and finish the MLM degree in one more year (27 credits, 9 each fall, spring, and summer semesters). In their undergraduate program, students take THEO 560 Systematic Theology, CHMN 520 Homiletics II, and CHMN 598 Ministerial Internship, which can be dual counted toward the MLM with a grade of B or better. They also qualify for nine credits of Advanced Standing by taking BIBL 296 Sophomore Seminar, BIBL 337 Hermeneutics, BIBL 116 New Testament Literature, BIBL 37 in any New Testament book study, BIBL 115 Old Testament Literature, and BIBL 36 in any Old Testament book study. A minimum grade of B is required for Advanced Standing courses. For more information about this accelerated program, please contact the Dean of AGTS or Dr. Mike Jaffe at (417) 268-1000.

Additional Course Offering Site

AGTS maintains a complete degree offering site for the MLM program in Sacramento, California. Dr. Nick Garza is the site coordinator and may be contacted at garzan@evangel.edu, or drnickgarza@gmail.com.