

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 the 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.

1. Bible/Theology Core (9 Credits)

Courses	Credits
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BNT 530	3
BOT 503	3
THE Elective	3

2. Foundations Core (15 Credits)

Courses	Credits
BIB 532	3
BTH/MHT 501	3
HOM 529	3
PTH 556	3
RES 531	3

3. Ministry Core (12 Credits)

Courses	Credits
PTH 522	3
PTH 557	3
PTH 559	3
PTH 653	3

4. 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.*

2 *See Field Education Research Manual.*

3 *If seeking ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God, HIS 532 required if not taken at the undergraduate level.*

Concentrations

A concentration is not required.

Students may pursue electives of their choice instead. If students desire a concentration, they will assume responsibility for taking the needed courses through their requirements and electives. A concentration does not

appear on the student degree audit since students often change them during their studies. If the needed courses have been taken and brought to the attention of the Assistant Registrar, Seminary, at graduation the concentration will appear on a student's transcript.

Expository Preaching Concentration

See the [Cordas C. Burnett Center for Biblical Preaching](#) for more information.

Course	Credits
HOM 529	3
HOM 633	3
One of the following: HOM 620, 621 or 622	3
One of the following: HOM 623 or 624	3

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 Assistant Registrar, Seminary, for more information.)*

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 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 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.
4. Partial course Advanced Standing cannot 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 advisor and the Dean.

MLM Assessment-based Equivalency.

For those who cannot fit within the 10-year window for Advanced Standing, there is the option for an Assessment-based Credit Equivalency.

AGTS permits up to 9 credits assessment-based credit equivalency in the MAIS, MATS, and MLM programs (for students whose undergraduate credits were acquired more than 8 years prior to starting an AGTS degree) for three Bible/Theology core classes:

- BNT 530 – New Testament Introduction,
- BOT 530 – Old Testament Introduction, and

- THE xxx – Theology elective / THE 531 Systematic Theology I or THE 532 Systematic Theology II

To fulfill this, the student will take an exam in the topic with a written component and a short oral (via online) follow-up exam with a professor in the topical area, which is graded on a pass/fail scale. A fee of \$100 for each core class examination will be charged to the student's account whether or not the Advanced Standing is granted. Contact the Office of Seminary Registration for more information.

Five-year Leadership and 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 Service Practicum, which can be dual-counted toward the MLM with a minimum grade of B. *(Note: Undergraduate dual-credit courses have graduate syllabi.)*

They may also qualify for 9 credits of Advanced Standing by taking BIBL 296 Sophomore Seminar, BIBL 337 Hermeneutics, BIBL 116 New Testament Literature, BIBL 37n any New Testament book study, BIBL 115 Old Testament Literature, and BIBL 36n 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 Associate Dean of AGTS or Dr. Mike Jaffe at (417) 268-1000.

Online MLM Program. The MLM is also

offered as an online program. The online MLM is a 45-credit program, allowing for students with a strong undergraduate program in religion to petition for Advanced Standing, which would reduce the program to 36 credits (See *MLM Advanced Standing* above.) The admission, contours, and graduation expectations of the online MLM program are the same as that of the resident program- 9 credits, Bible/Theology Core; 15 credits, Foundations Core; 12 credits, Ministry Core; 9 credits, Practical Theology Electives.

Projected Tentative Online Course Schedule

Year 1	Fall	RES 531 PTH 522	3 3
	Spring	BOT 530 PTH 557	3 3
	Summer	BNT 530 BTH 501	3 3
Year 2	Fall	PTH xxx THE xxx	3 3
	Spring	BIB 532 PTH 514	3 3
Year 3	Fall	PTH 559 PTH xxx PTH xxx	3 3 3
	Spring	PTH 556	3 3

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The student should consult the Course Schedule each term to learn what is offered in the program. The syllabus for each online course, available during the registration periods, will specify the technical and other requirements for the course. Sustaining two courses in each term, with an additional course in one term, will allow the student to complete the MLM program in approximately 3 years.