



A student who does not write a thesis as part of a Master of Divinity degree program will be required to write a theology of ministry paper in addition to completing the 90 credits required for the Master of Divinity degree program. (A thesis written as a part of a Master of Arts program will not waive the requirement for a theology of ministry paper even though credits from the Master of Arts thesis may be used to fulfill the thesis requirement for the Master of Divinity program. A student who writes a thesis for a Master of Arts degree and a second thesis for a Master of Divinity degree will not be required to write a theology of ministry paper.) Students will be required to pay a theology of ministry paper submission fee.

TIME LIMITS FOR THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER

The student must successfully complete the theology of ministry paper within one year after enrolling in the last course for a Master of Divinity program and before the end of the time limit specified for the complete program. A 6-month extension may be requested by submitting a Request for Student Service form with a theology of ministry paper extension fee. An extension request for time to successfully complete the theology of ministry paper must be approved by the director of the respective Graduate Studies Group and the Dean and should be submitted before the time limit for the program expires.

WRITING THE THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER

The theology of ministry paper should be 25 to 30 pages (6,250 to 7,500 words) long and must conform to the format of Global University as presented in the edition of the *Global University Graduate Studies Form and Style Guide* that is current when the student submits the paper. Any exception must be approved by the Dean.

Even though the theology of ministry paper is not a research paper and does not require new research, it should include citations from previous readings, as well as Scripture references to support the theology that is presented in the paper. The paper must be computer printed. English is the preferred language for the paper, but a student may arrange with the director of his or her Graduate Studies Group for the paper to be written and evaluated in his or her primary language. An English summary of 1 to 2 pages (250 to 500 words) should be included if the paper is not written in English.

In the theology of ministry paper, the student will synthesize his or her theology of ministry, present a biblical defense for this theology, present a biblical defense for this theology, develop a strategy to integrate theology and personal philosophy into a workable ministry plan for a given cultural setting, and present a plan to solicit feedback to determine the effectiveness of the proposed ministry plan.

A typical theology of ministry paper will include the following: (1) an overview of the student's philosophy of ministry and a scriptural defense of the philosophy that is presented—6 to 7 pages, 1,500 to 1,750 words; (2) a strategy for implementing a ministry plan based on the stated theology and philosophy—15 to 17 pages, 3,750 to 4,250 words; (3) a discussion of challenges that might be encountered in implementing the stated ministry plan and how those challenges could be overcome—3 to 4 pages, 750 to 1,000 words; and (4) a description of how the effectiveness of the strategy would be evaluated—1 to 2 pages, 250 to 500 words.

PROCESSING THE THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER

1. *Submitting the theology of ministry paper.* Within one year after a student enrolls in the last course for a Master of Divinity program and before the time limit to complete the program expires, the student should submit to the director of the respective Graduate Studies Group his or her completed theology of ministry paper and submission fee with a Request for Student Service form.
2. *Evaluating the theology of ministry paper.* The director will be responsible to select an approved mentor to evaluate the paper according to criteria established by the Graduate School of Theology. The paper will be evaluated based on the quality of reflection and on the student's ability to integrate into the paper what he or she has learned in graduate-level courses for the Master of Divinity program. It is recommended that a mentor who is selected to evaluate a theology of ministry paper be familiar with the student's graduate-level studies with Global University.
3. *Final processing and approval of the theology of ministry paper.* The marked paper and evaluation form should be returned to the Dean of the Graduate School of Theology no later than the fifteenth business day after the student submits the completed paper and fee. The Dean reserves the right to give final approval of the grade assigned to the paper.
4. *Notifying the student of approval of the theology of ministry paper.* The Student Services Department at the International office of Global University will notify the student in writing of the assessment outcome of the theology of ministry paper, either pass or fail. In the event the paper does not meet acceptable assessment standards for approval, the student will be allowed to redo and resubmit the paper.

(Based on Requirements in the 2012 Graduate School of Theology Catalog)