MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAMS

MASTER OF ARTS (MA) DEGREES — 45 CREDITS

Two master of arts degree programs are available:
1. Master of Arts in Biblical Studies
2. Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies

- Students must complete 45 graduate credits beyond the bachelor’s degree.
- Students may choose to write a 6-credit thesis as part of the 45 required credits.
- Students who do not complete a thesis as a part of a master of arts degree plan are required to submit a capstone paper in addition to completing the 45 credits required for the degree.

Both MA degrees allow students to choose a
- broad field degree plan with no specialization or a
- degree plan with a specified concentration.

Choices for the Biblical Studies program are
1. Broad Field Plan and

Choices for the Ministerial Studies program are
1. Broad Field Plan,
2. Education Concentration,
3. Intercultural Studies Concentration, and
4. Leadership Concentration.

See section for “Graduate Degree Plan Requirements” for courses required for specific graduate degree plans. Through various types of research activities, each program is designed to prepare qualified students for a high level of service and proficiency in present and future ministry activities.

Master of arts degree programs require a student to complete 45 credits of graduate courses from the following three classifications:
1. Core courses: 24 credits
2. Plan-specific courses: 12 to 15 credits
3. General elective courses: 6 to 9 credits

A capstone paper (no credit value) is required for all master of arts degrees that do not include a thesis. See section on “Graduate Degree Plan Requirements” for specific course requirements for master of arts degree options.

MA Advanced Standing

Students who have earned credits in religious studies (Bible, theology, ministry, missions) from approved colleges and universities may request exemption from certain required courses in the MA degree program, thus granting them Advanced Standing. Life experience does not qualify for Advanced Standing. The following rules apply to MA Advanced Standing:

1. Full Advanced Standing of nine credits will be granted to students who have earned a bachelor degree from an approved school in a ministry-related field, such as Bible, theology, missions, or ministry. Students with full Advanced Standing will complete 36 credits to earn the MA degree.
2. Advanced Standing cannot exceed nine credits.
3. For students whose degree is not in a ministry-related field, Advanced Standing is considered for undergraduate courses with satisfactory credit value and content in foundational or advanced study in Old Testament, New Testament, and theological subjects. A minimum grade of 80% is required for each qualifying course. The student must submit official transcripts of all undergraduate credits to be considered for Advanced Standing.

4. Advanced Standing must be requested from the Global University Registrar's office prior to enrollment in the first course.

5. Advanced Standing will be granted to qualifying students at the rate of no more than one graduate credit for each two undergraduate credits. Partial course advanced standing will not be granted.


Transfer of Credit from Other Institutions

Global University accepts transfer of up to a maximum of 9 graduate-level credits into a master of arts degree program from other institutions of higher learning with recognized accreditation.

Each course considered for transfer of credit must be compatible in content to the Global University graduate degree or certificate program chosen by the student and must have a minimum grade of B- (or its equivalent). Transferred credits may not be substituted for RES 5023 Graduate Research and Writing: Principles and Practice, RES 6913 Research Methodology, RES 6926 (or degree-plan-specific) Thesis. Any deviation from this policy will be at the discretion of the dean.

Transfer of credit previously awarded will be reevaluated for inactive students who reactivate into a current program of study and active students who change to a different program of study. Only transfer of credit that is applicable to the current program of study will be awarded and appear on student transcripts.

MA in Biblical Studies Outcomes

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies curriculum is designed for the student who desires to preach, write, or teach Bible and theology in a variety of educational and ministerial settings. It is designed to provide training in the exegesis and interpretation of Scripture. The student is required and encouraged to think critically, analytically, and synthetically. Special attention is given to preparing students to teach and minister the uniqueness of the Christian faith from a Pentecostal perspective. Completion of the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies equips the student to do the following:

1. Teach Bible and theology in Bible schools and colleges, Christian schools, and other educational settings
2. Serve effectively as a Christian leader: pastor, missionary, evangelist, writer, and teacher
3. Develop and practice valid systems of biblical hermeneutics and exegesis
4. Develop a strong Pentecostal theological perspective
5. Communicate the gospel message effectively within his or her cultural context and cross-culturally
6. Obtain, through instruction and practice, knowledge and skills to write scholarly and theoretically sound papers for publication
7. Engage in research and studies beyond the Master of Arts degree

MA in Ministerial Studies Outcomes

The Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies curriculum is designed for the student who desires to serve in one of the ministries of the church, especially that of pastor, evangelist, or teacher. In-depth research and studies require and encourage the student to think critically, analytically, and synthetically about ministry-related issues. Special attention is given to preparing students to teach, lead, and minister the uniqueness of the Christian faith from a Pentecostal perspective. Completion of the Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies equips the student to do the following:

1. Minister and serve with professional excellence as pastor, educator, leader, missionary, and support staff within church, missions, and educational organizations
2. Integrate various approaches to biblical and theological studies into ministry
3. Develop and practice valid systems of biblical hermeneutics and exegesis
4. Engage in advanced theological reflection that will improve ministry skills and practice
5. Develop a strong Pentecostal theological perspective
6. Exhibit writing and speaking skills that are necessary in ministerial practice and research
7. Engage in research and studies beyond the Master of Arts degree

Program Change

A student may request a program change at any time. If a degree audit has already been completed, a change of program fee will apply. If a degree audit has not been completed no fee will be charged.

If Global University requests that a student change from one program to another, a change of program fee and / or degree (or certificate) audit fee will not be required.
Time Limit for a Master of Arts Program
A master of arts student should complete all degree plan requirements (including the thesis or capstone paper, as applicable) within seven years from the date of enrollment in the first graduate course with Global University. Changing from one master of arts plan to another does not allow additional time to complete master of arts degree requirements.

Biblical Language Requirements
All students who receive a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (New Testament concentration) are required to complete 9 credits of Greek biblical language. A background in these original languages of the Scriptures is required for some graduate courses and will be helpful for all biblical studies courses.

Some graduate-level biblical language courses require supervised examinations that may include objective and translation components. They may also require subjective evaluation components.

Practicum Requirements
A student may enroll in a practicum as an elective for a master of arts degree according to the respective degree plan options.

A student is expected to engage in at least 45 hours of ministry activities directly related to the practicum requirements and objectives over a three-month period. This is in addition to the time required to complete the required reading and writing elements of the practicum. Specific practicum designs and settings may require a greater time commitment on the part of the student.

The time limit to complete the practicum is six months from the date of enrollment in the course.

Master’s Thesis Requirements
Students who elect to write a thesis as a part of a master of arts degree program will be required to enroll in and write the thesis on an approved subject or topic that is specific to the degree plan the student has chosen.

A student may complete only one thesis for any graduate degree program.

Students who choose to write a thesis are encouraged to begin thinking about a thesis topic immediately after admission to Global University’s Graduate School of Theology.

Enrollment in the thesis and appointment of a thesis committee will be allowed after a student has completed RES 6913 Research Methodology and is within 12 credits of completing all other course requirements for the degree being sought. See the section on “Graduate Course Descriptions” for the thesis course number for a specific degree plan or content area.

Thesis Completion Time Limit
The time limit to complete the thesis is two years from the date of enrollment in the thesis.

Capstone Paper Requirements
A student who does not write a thesis as part of a master of arts degree plan will be required to write and pass a capstone paper in addition to completing the 45 credits required for the specific master of arts degree program chosen. Students will be required to pay a capstone paper submission fee. The capstone paper must be successfully completed within one year after enrolling in the last course for the program and before the end of the time limit specified for the complete program. Complete instructions for completing the capstone paper are available upon request or by download from the Global University website: http://www.globaluniversity.edu/pdf/CapstonePaperRequirements.pdf.