Graduate Studies in

Bible and Ministry

Frank Guertin
Academic Director, MACP,
College of Bible and Ministry
Graduate Studies in Bible and Ministry

- Master of Arts in Christian Practice

C. Leonard Allen, Dean, College of Bible and Ministry
Frank Guertin, Academic Director, MACP, College of Bible and Ministry

The College of Bible and Ministry has a long history of training for ministry. Programs continue to equip ministers for work with congregations, train teachers for religious instruction and empower professionals for leadership roles with nonprofit Christian organizations. Graduate studies with the college provide advanced theological learning primarily focused on practical ministry contexts.

Our graduate program, the Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.), has three primary features:

1. **Engagement with the Scriptures**: The Bible is the wellspring of Christian imagination for ministry. The M.A.C.P. gives you a deeper understanding of the Scriptures and introduces you to some of the essential tools used by theologians to explore the many textures of God’s Word.

2. **Personal Formation**: The M.A.C.P. also focuses on your own relationship with God and how personal faith interacts with broader ministry efforts. The spiritual formation component provides resources for an individual’s growth as it intersects the activities of everyday life.

3. **Missional Expression**: Christian practices should reflect the purposes of God’s Kingdom in the world. Students will be challenged to creatively engage their ministry contexts and to develop a disciplined missional response to the needs they have contact with.

The M.A.C.P. offers broad flexibility to design a course of study appropriate to your situation in life. Within the 30-hour program, students can couple their 15-hour core theological training with other graduate certificates and emphases available at Lipscomb University or choose additional course work from the Hazelip School of Theology. This blending ability intentionally allows you to think carefully about your professional and personal needs and then study accordingly.

**Admission Policies and Procedures (M.A.C.P.)**

Applicants to the College of Bible and Ministry must submit the following:

1. **Application Form.** Each applicant must complete an application form. The application form is available at lipscomb.edu/admissions/grad then click on Apply by Program to complete the online application.

2. **Application Fee.** Each application should be accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee ($75 for international students).

3. **References.** Letters of reference are required as follows: one from a college or university administrator or professor, one from a professional supervisor/employer and one from a church leader or minister.

4. **Official Transcript(s).** Each applicant must submit an official transcript, showing degree conferral when appropriate, from every school attended.

5. **Health Form.** Each applicant must submit a completed health form signed by a health care provider. (To print a copy of the health form, visit www.lipscomb.edu/healthcenter/forms.) This form must be submitted directly to University Health Services.

6. **FERPA.** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act affords students certain rights of access to educational records. Even those who are independent of parents must submit this form prior to enrollment.
7. **Goals Statement.** A 750-1000 word expanded goals statement is required, concerning the applicant’s religious heritage, career goals and how the College of Bible and Ministry will contribute to the achievement of those goals.

8. **TOEFL.** The Test of English as a Foreign Language is required for international students. (See section titled International Students for more information.)

All application items should be submitted to the College of Bible and Ministry office at least three weeks prior to the first day of class in which the student plans to enroll. Forms should be mailed to the College of Bible and Ministry, Lipscomb University, One University Park Drive, Nashville TN 37204-3951.

**Student Classifications**

Students are admitted to graduate courses in one of five categories:

1. **Graduate Student:** one who has satisfied all admissions requirements. (Average of 2.75 on undergraduate work, acceptable standardized exam scores.) A student with an incomplete admission file will be accepted to the program at the discretion of the program director but will be placed on an academic hold which will prevent registration for the following semester. Once the proper admissions documents have been received, the hold will be removed and the student will be allowed to register for the following semester.

2. **Conditionally Admitted Student:** one who has been admitted conditionally, at the discretion of the program director, without satisfying all admission requirements. Students admitted with the following criteria may be required to complete a minimum of nine hours of graduate work with a grade of “B” or above.
   a. From an unaccredited school or with a substandard GPA or standardized test score.
   b. A transfer student with a graduate GPA between 2.50 and 2.74. The transfer student must be in good standing at the previous institution attended.
   c. As a student who has not completed a bachelor’s degree program. The transfer student must be in good standing at the previous institution attended.

3. **Non-Degree Student:** one who has been admitted to graduate studies and has met all admission requirements except GPA or standardized exam score. The student may take up to nine semester hours for graduate credit. Those hours may be applied toward a master’s degree if the student makes a grade of “B” or better in the courses taken for credit and if all admission requirements (GPA and entrance test score) are met and the student is formally admitted to a graduate program as a degree-seeking student.

4. **Visiting Student:** one who is currently enrolled as a student in good standing at the post-bachelor’s level at another graduate school, wishes to take courses at Lipscomb and desires to have transcript evidence of course work done at Lipscomb provided for the school of primary enrollment.

5. **Probationary Student:** one who has been re-admitted to a graduate program following academic suspension from the program.

Admission to a program does not imply admission to candidacy for the master’s degree. Only those students who meet the requirements for “graduate student” described above are eligible for candidacy.

**Transfer of Courses**

Although graduate credit hours may be transferred from another accredited institution, a maximum of nine hours will be counted toward the M.A.C.P. degree. The director or appropriate faculty member of the graduate program will evaluate the course(s) being proposed for transfer and make a determination of suitability. No course with a grade below a “B” will be considered for transfer. No more than half of a student’s hours from a completed degree may be transferred.

**Documentation**

Students are required to provide satisfactory documentation of personal identification for off-site learning experiences required in many programs of graduate study at Lipscomb University. Failure to provide proper credentials will result in failure to complete the desired course of study. For complete policy, see section entitled Required Documentation for Off-Site Learning Experiences in the opening section of this catalog.
Academic Policies

Course Load
A student enrolled for nine hours per block is considered a full-time student. A student enrolled for six hours is considered a half-time student. No student will be permitted to enroll for more than nine hours per block without special approval from the director of the graduate program.

1. Good Academic Standing: To remain in good academic standing, the student must maintain a cumulative 2.75 GPA and a 2.75 GPA on the most recent 12 semester hours of work.

2. Probation: Should the student’s cumulative graduate GPA fall below 2.75, he or she will be placed on academic probation. A student on academic probation will not be allowed to enroll for more than six hours during any term in which the probation applies.

   The probationary student is required to achieve a 2.75 cumulative GPA by the time the student has completed the next nine hours of course work. Courses may be repeated to achieve the requisite GPA. If the requisite GPA is attained, the academic probation status will be removed.

3. Suspension: If the requisite GPA is not attained, the student will be suspended from graduate studies at Lipscomb for the following semester, after which the student may apply for readmission. The student may be required to appear before an academic graduate committee.

   A graduate course in which a student has earned a “C” or “F” may be repeated. In such cases, only the higher grade will be used to compute the student’s GPA. Failing grades will provide no credit toward the degree but will be included in figuring scholarship level, unless replaced with a higher grade by repeating the course(s). A 2.75 GPA must be maintained to be eligible for financial assistance.

4. Appeals: Appeals to suspension decisions should be made in writing to the associate provost for academic development and graduate studies. Appeals must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Monday of the week before classes begin for the term during which the student wishes to be readmitted.

Degree Completion Requirements (M.A.C.P.)

Statute of Limitations
All requirements for the M.A.C.P. degree should be completed within a six-year period from the time of initial matriculation.

Candidacy
Admission to a program does not imply admission to candidacy for the master’s degree. During the course of pursuing the theology degree, the student must be admitted to “candidacy.” For admission to candidacy the student must satisfy the following:

   1. Complete all required undergraduate deficiencies if admitted conditionally.
   2. Complete at least twelve hours of graduate work.
   3. Maintain a 2.75 GPA on all courses taken toward the requirements for the degree with no incomplete grades.
   4. File a degree plan/application for candidacy in the graduate program office which meets all requirements and is approved by the administrator of the graduate program and the dean of the college.

   After admission to candidacy and approval of the degree plan, any changes in the degree plan must be approved by the director of the graduate program and the dean of the college. The application for candidacy should be filed with the College of Bible and Ministry office after the student has completed 12 hours in the program.

Minimum Credits
The M.A.C.P. requires 30 semester hours exclusive of hours accumulated to satisfy academic deficiencies.

Minimum GPA
The minimum cumulative grade-point average for all graduate education programs is 3.00 for all graduate courses taken for graduate credit while pursuing the degree. No grade below a “C” is acceptable. Such grades will not apply toward degree completion.
Graduation
Students must register for GN 999X the semester in which all course work will be completed for graduation. Students who do not file their intent to graduate form in the registrar's office by the end of the first week of their last semester may be delayed in graduating.

Graduate students receiving degrees are hooded during the May and Dec. commencement exercises.

Appeals
Any exceptions to the above stated requirements would require approval via the appeal process established by the graduate academic leadership team.

Financial Information

Tuition and Fees for 2014-15

*Basic charges* per semester:

- Tuition per semester hour of graduate credit ........ $500
- Certificate tuition per semester hour .................... $500
- Tuition to audit with credit ....... 50% of regular tuition

*Special Fees*

- Application fee .... $50 ($75 for international students)
- Graduation fee .................................................. $195
- Printed refund check fee ...................................... $25
- Returned check fee ........................................... $30
- TouchNet (monthly payment) ..................................... $60
- Enrollment fee per semester
- Withdrawal fee ................................................ $195

*Effective May 1, 2014*
Master of Arts in Christian Practice Course Requirements
(30 hours)

The Master of Arts in Christian practice degree combines theology course work with certificate programs from conflict management, pastoral counseling, pastoral care and the aging as well as emphases in nonprofit management and theological instruction. This offers students opportunities to train for a variety of ministries with skill sets appropriate to those contexts. Fifteen core hours in theology are required as well as a non-credit course that introduces theological research.

- CHPR 5000 Introduction to Theological Studies (non-credit)
- CHPR 6103 Understanding the Old Testament
- CHPR 6203 Understanding the New Testament
- CHPR 6403 Thinking Theologically
- GB 5553 Spiritual Formation and Guidance
- GB 5643 Missional Strategies in Emerging Culture

Certificate options for completion are as follows:

Conflict Management (15 hours)
See Conflict Management section in this catalog.

Pastoral Care and the Aging (15 hours)
See Aging Services Leadership section in this catalog.

Pastoral Counseling (15 hours)
See Psychology and Counseling section in this catalog.

The MACP also has two emphases available:

Theological Instruction Emphasis (15 hours)
See Theology section in this catalog for course descriptions.

Three hours in Old Testament scripture, chosen from the following:
- GB 5103 Genesis
- GB 5133 Deuteronomy
- GB 5153 Samuel
- GB 5203 Psalms
- GB 5223 Isaiah
- GB 5233 Jeremiah, Lamentations
- GB 5253 Minor Prophets

Three hours in New Testament scripture, chosen from the following:
- GB 5303 Synoptic Gospels
- GB 5323 Johannine Literature
- GB 5333 Romans, Galatians
- GB 5343 Corinthians
- GB 5363 General Epistles
- GB 5383 Revelation
- GB 5An3 Seminar in Bible

Three hours in theology and history, chosen from the following:
- GB 5423 Historical Theology I
- GB 5433 American Church History
- GB 5443 Historical Theology II
- GB 5503 Systematic Theology
- GB 5Cn3 Seminar in Theology
- GB 5Dn3 Seminar in Historical Theology

Six hours of electives, taken from the above and/or from the following:
- GB 5563 World Religions
- GB 5583 Gospel and Culture
- GB 5Jn3 Seminar in Christianity and Culture

Other courses from Hazelip School of Theology may be considered for elective credit, subject to approval by the director of the MACP program.
Nonprofit Management Emphasis (15 hours)
See Business section of this catalog for course descriptions.

Twelve hour core:
BU 6403  Introduction to Nonprofits
BU 6413  Marketing, Fundraising, and Resource Development in the Nonprofit Sector
BU 6933  Accounting for Professional Services
BU 6533  Leadership and Organizational Behavior

One from the following:
BU 6503  Leading Teams and Groups in Organizations
BU 6763  Leading Change
ICM 5013  Negotiation and Settlement Processes

Course Descriptions

CHPR 5000  Introduction to Theological Studies (non-credit)
This course introduces students to the basic research tools and writing styles necessary for graduate studies in theology. This class should be taken with the first six hours of study.

GB 5533  Spiritual Formation and Guidance (3)
Focusing on the indispensable personal spiritual formation of the ministry student, this course also trains one to lead and direct others in deepening their devotion to God and more fully participating in His work in the world. This course considers both personal and congregational settings.

GB 5643  Missional Strategies in Emerging Cultures (3)
A practical theological analysis of contemporary efforts to be and become missional churches—in both domestic and international settings. The study includes biblical foundations, historical implications and contemporary applications. Emphasis is given to the mission of the church in postmodern and cross-cultural contexts.

CHPR 6103  Understanding the Old Testament (3)
This course provides an introduction to the study of the Old Testament. Students will learn about the nature of the Old Testament writings, including their genres, their historical background and critical issues. Attention will be given to methods of interpretation for understanding the Old Testament in its historical context and for contemporary Christian life.
CHPR 6203  Understanding the New Testament (3)
This course provides an introduction to the study of the New Testament. Students will learn about the nature of the New Testament writings, including their genres, their historical background, and critical issues. Attention will be given to methods of interpretation for understanding the New Testament in its historical context and contemporary Christian life.

CHPR 6403  Thinking Theologically (3)
This course provides an introduction to the study of Christian theology. Students will study theological method, the sources of theology and several noted theologians in Christian history. Attention will be given to learning basic theological themes and the ability to incorporate theology into contemporary Christian life.

Bible and Ministry Core Faculty

Mark C. Black, B.A. (Freed-Hardeman University), M.A., M.Th. (Harding University Graduate School of Religion), Th.M. (Princeton Theological Seminary), Ph.D. (Emory University), Associate Dean of Hazelip School of Theology, Professor of New Testament

Terry R. Briley, B.A. (Lipscomb University), M.Ph., Ph.D. (Hebrew Union College), Professor of Old Testament and New Testament

John Mark Hicks, B.A. (Freed-Hardeman College), M.A. (Western Kentucky University), M.A.R., Ph.D. (Westminster Theological Seminary), Professor of Theology

Earl Lavender, B.A., MA. (Lipscomb University), Ph.D. (St. Louis University), Professor of Theology and Ministry

Josh Strahan, B.A. (Lipscomb University), M.Div. (Abilene Christian University), Ph.D. (Fuller Theological Seminary), Assistant Professor of Bible