

THE UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS  
MASTERS OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES PROGRAMME

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## I. Recognition

The University of Dallas (UD) is the only private, Catholic university in North Texas. With more than 3,000 students, the University offers undergraduate and graduate programs in liberal arts, sciences and business. Founded in 1986, the School of Ministry, which is part of UD's Braniff Graduate School, is widely recognized as an important centre for learning theology, developing pastoral skills, and fostering spiritual growth to meet the needs of area dioceses for professional ministers for church leadership.

The University of Dallas is ranked 15 amongst institutions of higher learning in the American West, according to USNews.com's survey of America's Best Colleges 2008.<sup>1</sup>

The University of Dallas' School of Ministry is the only Catholic school in the country to offer its entire Master of Theological Studies degree program online.

The University of Dallas is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the School of Ministry is a member of the Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry and the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.

Upon graduation, the graduate certificate will list the University of Dallas as the governing body dispensing the MTS.

## II. Main Faculty

- Dr Brian Schmisek, PhD (Catholic University of America)
- Dr Matthew Ogilvie, PhD (University of Sydney)
- Dr Juliet Mousseau, PhD (St Louis University)
- Dr Daniel Luby, STD (Pontifical University of St Thomas)
- Dr John Norris, PhD (Marquette University)

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<sup>1</sup>. [http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/directory/brief/drglance\\_3651\\_brief.php](http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/directory/brief/drglance_3651_brief.php)

### III. Admission

#### Programme in Theological Studies

Designed to give students the tools for the practical application of theological knowledge, the **Master of Theological Studies (MTS)** offers a course of study for those students interested in reflecting on seminal theological questions.

#### Academic Pre-requisites

1. **You must have a Bachelor's degree in order to pursue a Master's degree at the School of Ministry (UD).** You do not need a Bachelor's degree to pursue a Certificate (with the exception of the Program in Catholic School Leadership).
2. You must have had a **minimum undergraduate grade point of 2.5 (on a 4.0) for admittance.** If you cannot meet this minimum requirement, you may be required to complete appropriate credits and/or directed individual study prior to or after full acceptance. Your application will then be reviewed and assessed, taking into consideration other applicants and the number of positions available. As a part of the application process, up to nine graduate credits with a grade of 'B' or better can be approved for transfer from similar programs at accredited institutions.
3. **Every student must demonstrate an aptitude for pastoral studies.** An "aptitude" for pastoral studies means that you've had some background in your undergraduate work in either the liberal arts, theology or religious studies, or that you have had some ministerial experience or completed a diocesan program of formation.

Those who do not intend to seek a degree with School of Ministry may use the Special Student Application Form (auditing students).

Deadlines for receipt of applications are July 15 for the fall semester, and November 15 for the spring semester. To apply after these dates, please contact our office manager at (888) 447-4777; 972-721-4118, or [ministry@udallas.edu](mailto:ministry@udallas.edu)

#### Necessary Documents for Application

1. Copies of academic transcripts
2. Three letters of recommendation
3. Essay response to either:
  - a) A theological reflection essay (Neil Ormerod, *Introducing Contemporary Theologies: The What and the Who of Theology Today*, Orbis Books);
  - b) A biographical essay on faith and life experience; or
  - c) A statement of goals and objectives.



## V. Curriculum

### Study Periods

Spring	Jan to May
Summer	Mid June to Mid August
Autumn	Aug to Dec

### Workload

Each class is different and will contain a different course workload and lecture schedule. Course readings will similarly be stipulated by the course instructor and will vary.

### Core Modules

- 6311. Liturgy and Sacraments.** The liturgy in the life of the Church. The biblical, historical, and theological foundations of the liturgy and the sacraments. The role of RCIA in the ongoing life of the church. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*
- 6312. Moral Theology.** The fundamentals of moral theology in Aquinas' terms that the moral life is becoming friends with God. How can human beings best relate to God, others, one's self and the world. Decision-making, the formation of conscience, natural law, moral principles and norms, and the role of the scriptures. Some basic elements of bio/medical ethics and the tenets of the social teaching of the church. *Veritatis Splendor*
- 6313. Systematic Theology.** An overview of key aspects of systematic theology including revelation and faith, ecclesiology, Trinitarian theology, Christology, and Christian Anthropology.
- 6314. Church History.** The life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Early Church. Roman Christianity. Constantine. Rise of the papacy. Great Schism. Reformation. American Catholicism. Vatican I. Vatican II. Saints of the church. Prominent councils. Theological developments.
- 6320. Theological Reflection.** Forms a basis of spirituality for the minister. A discipline designed to recognize God's activity within the context of ministry. Systematic reflection on one's spiritual journey. Dialogue between personal experience and scripture, church history, lives of the saints, church teaching, and the lived faith experience of the people of God.
- 6321. Old Testament.** Study of the theologies of the Old Testament in light of its historical, social, and cultural setting. Application of those theologies to modern ministerial and practical contexts. *Dei Verbum*
- 6322. New Testament.** Study of the theologies of the New Testament in light of its historical, social, and cultural setting. Application of those theologies to modern ministerial and practical contexts. *Dei Verbum*

*Students must choose 5 elective modules in addition to the 7 core modules listed above.*

*Faculty members are qualified to teach systematic theology, biblical studies, Church history, historical theology, and moral theology.*

*If enough students [an estimate of 20] do decide to enrol in the MTS programme and are able to attain a consensus as to the number and the type of modules to be undertaken per semester, there is a possibility of tailoring a customised programme to run for the next 3 years, which could go beyond the elective modules listed below.*

*The following elective modules have recently been added:*

- *Science and Theology - Ogilvie*
- *Fundamentalism and Catholicism - Ogilvie*
- *Women in Christian History - Mousseau*
- *Comparative Theologies - Ogilvie*
- *Historical Theology: Trinity, Christology, Grace - Norris*
- *Ministry in the Church - Luby*
- *Religion and Terrorism - Ogilvie (to be offered first time 2009)*

### Elective Modules

**6325. Paul's Letter to the Romans.** Theology and historical import of Paul's Letter to the Romans including Jesus Christ, justification, original sin, God's relationship to Israel, Reformation issues, and recent interpretations.

**6326. Gospel of Mark.** Mark's Gospel is thought to have been the first written. Its audience was probably Roman Christians who had experienced severe persecution under Nero. Participants in the course will delve into the gospel and consider its historical setting, its portrait of Jesus, and its attempt to apply the message of Jesus to a (then) contemporary situation, first-century Rome. The class will be highlighted by trips to sites significant for the study of early Christianity in Rome.

**6330. Ministry in the Church.** The ministry of Jesus as model of pastoral ministry. Scriptural foundations of ministry. Development of ministry in the Catholic tradition. Origins of Catholic pastoral theology. The method/s of pastoral theology. The person and role of the minister. Spirituality and Ministry. Vatican II and US Bishops' documents on lay ecclesial ministry, ordained ministry, and the permanent diaconate. Women in ministry. Multi-cultural models of ministry. Collaborative ministry. Evangelization. *Gaudium et Spes, Lumen Gentium.*

**6331. Pastoral Administration and Management.**

**6333. Pastoral Application of Canon Law.** Canon Law and Marriage. Process of Nullity/ Marriage Jurisprudence. Sacramental ministry. Minister as administrator. Canonical Dimensions of the Sacraments. Diocesan Church and Structure of Parish. Rights and Obligations of the Christian Faithful. Protection of Rights and Penal Procedures. *Code of Canon Law*

6334. **Liturgical Leadership.** Concepts of *communio* and *ecclesia*. Models of building community. Parish liturgical life. Presiding at prayer. The scope and role of a liturgy committee.
6336. **Catechetics and the Development of Faith.** History and theology of catechetics. The content, methods, curriculum of contemporary catechesis. Stages of faith and its maturation in the human person. Age-appropriate catechesis.
6338. **Models of Catechesis.** RCIA as model for the catechetical journey. Family catechesis. Youth and Young adult catechesis. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Small Christian communities. Adult education. Ecclesial documents on catechesis. Multi-cultural models of ministry.
6342. **Health Care Ethics.** The central moral norms and principles of the Catholic moral tradition and Catholic teaching that are relevant to the questions and issues faced in health care today. Analysis of issues, principles, and norms that are at the forefront in the fast changing medical field. Study the Religious Directives for Health Care approved by the USCCB.
6360. Ecclesial Documents on Catholic Schools.
6361. The Catholic School Principal.
6362. Instructional Leadership.
6363. Organizational Leadership and Planning.
6364. Non-Public School Finance and Development.
6365. Non-Public School Law.
6366. Internship (CSL).
- 6V71. Pastoral Ministry Practicum.
6375. Preaching Christ in Advent/Christmas
6376. Preaching Christ in Lent/Easter
- 6V77. Special Topics.
- 6V78. Clinical Pastoral Education (C.P.E.)
- 6V90. Capstone

#### Ongoing Workshops

6141. Principles of Youth Ministry.
6142. Practices of Youth Ministry.
6143. Foundations for Ministry Leadership.

- 6144. Skills for Christian Leadership.
- 6145. Evangelization and Catechesis.
- 6146. Justice and Service.
- 6147. Prayer and Worship.
- 6148. Pastoral Care.
- 6149. Youth Ministry Capstone.
- 6151. Principles of Family Ministry.
- 6152. Systems Theory: Foundations for Ministry and the Minister.
- 6153. Practices of Family Ministry.
- 6154. Skills for Christian Family Ministry Workshop.
- 6155. Evangelizing and Catechizing Through the Family Life Cycle.
- 6156. Dignity of the Human Person/Human Sexuality.
- 6157. Justice, Service, Advocacy in and through the Family.
- 6158. Spirituality of Leadership.
- 6159. Family Ministry Capstone.
- 6160. Risk management and reduction.
- 6161. Volunteer recruitment and management.
- 6162. Organizational development and strategic planning.
- 6163. Media relations and public relations.
- 6164. Adult learning styles and Christian formation.
- 6165. Evaluating catechetical materials.
- 6166. Spiritual direction and pastoral counseling.
- 6167. Marriage preparation programs.
- 6168. Field advocacy and petitions for nullity.
- 6169. Order of Christian Initiation.
- 6170. Order of Christian Funerals.
- 6171. Presiding at Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest.

- 6172. Presiding at Liturgy of the Hours.
- 6173. Presiding at seasonal liturgies.
- 6174. Para-liturgies and devotions.
- 6175. Preaching Cycle A.
- 6176. Preaching Cycle B.
- 6177. Preaching Cycle C.
- 6178. Ministry internship.
- 6179. Multiculturalism.
- 6180. The person and role of the minister.
- 6399. Pastoral Ministry Project.

## VI. Method of Learning

### *Online Learning Process*

#### Recorded Lectures

Class lecture videos are pre-recorded live. Transcripts of the class in Microsoft Word, course documents, Microsoft Powerpoint notes and assignments are available for download online.

#### Discussion Rooms

Participation in the discussion board is a required part of the course. Each week you will be set some discussion questions. You will be expected to post your answers on the discussion board. Your answers and subsequent responses will form part of your assessment for the course.

Depending on the professor and class demand, "live chat" may be available. This chat is optional. It is **real-time text-based interaction** between the professor and any students who wish to raise questions needing an immediate response.

#### Writing Lab

Send the draft of your paper as an attachment in an e-mail. You will receive the edited paper in an e-mail sent back to the address from which you sent the paper. Our graduate writing tutors will read your paper, make suggestions and corrections, and send it back to you within four days. They will not edit every mistake or difficulty, but they will note wherever there are problematic elements, suggest possible corrections, and give general and specific suggestions about grammar, structure, logic, and analysis

#### Visiting Lecturers

Possibility of visitations by faculty from the University of Dallas to conduct some sessions on-site in SMOTA, depending upon the number of students and resources available.

#### System Requirements

- Powerpoint 2003 or powerpoint viewer 2003
- A PC using Windows XP
- Internet Explorer 6, or later;
- Windows Media Player 9, or later;
- High-speed internet connection, such as DSL, Cable or Fibre Optic.

*In addition to this basic distance learning programme offered by the University of Dallas, further opportunities are available to supplement the distance learning experience in SMOTA*

#### Local Expertise

Qualified local clergy and religious will be invited to conduct supplementary sessions on-site in SMOTA. Such sessions would provide the opportunity for students to find

mutual support and encouragement. These sessions would also establish a forum for students to discuss issues in a learning environment.

#### Library Resources

SMOTA has a corporate membership with the theological library at Trinity Theological College – 490 Upper Bukit Timah Road – which offers a balanced and extensive collection of books, encyclopaedias, journals, and magazines.

### *Onsite Learning Process*

The option remains open for local students to study onsite at the University of Dallas without any change to status or course fees. Students thus have the freedom to decide what portion of the MTS programme to study online or onsite.

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## VII. Evaluation

Exams are taken online.

Coursework and criteria of evaluation dependent upon subject and lecturer.

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## VIII. Completion

The MTS programme is set up such that a part-time student could take one module a semester for six years (one module per semester); however, most only take three years to complete (2 modules per semester) Full-timers finish in two years (3 modules per semester).

## IX. Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is the MTS programme being offered by SMOTA?**

*The MTS programme is being offered in SMOTA in response to the priorities raised by the Parish Assembly held in Feb 08 – namely, the need for more faith formation. The MTS programme is one such formal avenue for adults to embark upon in pursuing faith formation and personal development.*

*By supporting this MTS programme, the parish is hoping to encourage a theological culture in the parish, wherein a theologically mature body of parishioners would be able to contribute in deeper and wider ways to the life and the growth of the parish and the Church in Singapore.*

### **How does SMOTA plan to support the MTS programme?**

*Whilst the MTS programme is conceived of as an individual distance learning programme, SMOTA has identified several areas in which the distance learning experience might be improved upon and supported. This includes organising supplementary face-to-face lessons that can be conducted in SMOTA by qualified local clergy and religious, as well as making available library resources.*

### **Are there any onsite or residential requirements?**

*No, none at all. Our aim in designing the Online Masters degree was that our online education would be every bit as good as onsite education. We've employed the very best technologies to realize that aim. For that reason, there are no onsite or residential requirements (though we'd still love to have you visit us on campus if you're in town!).*

### **When can I start?**

*You can start the program at the beginning of any semester or Summer. In the case of SMOTA, we are hoping to meet the intake deadline of mid-November 08 in order for students to begin in the Spring semester of 09.*

### **Which degree/s can I do online?**

*The entire Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree can be done online. A number of courses for the other degrees (MRE, MPM, MCST, MCSL) can also be done online.*

### **Do I have to be online at a particular time?**

*No. Lecture videos and discussions are "asynchronous." You can access the course any time of the day or night that suits you. You need to watch the lecture and participate in groups discussions every week, but the time or days of week are of your choosing.*

### **Can I change between online & onsite studies?**

*Yes! Because onsite and online courses follow the same syllabi, are taught by the same professors and require the same readings, you can change between online or onsite studies. In fact, some of our onsite students who have to be away temporarily switch to online studies while they are away!*

### **Is the programme accredited?**

*Unequivocally Yes! University of Dallas is regionally accredited by SACS. Regional accreditation is the "gold standard" of accreditation in the USA.*