

Mature Student Policy: Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies programs



The minimum requirement to be eligible for admission to the Master of Divinity (MDiv) or Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program is **a bachelor's degree from a recognized university.**

Applicants holding a bachelor's degree from a **non-recognized institution** must provide, in support of their formal application, a sample research paper (approx. 10 pages) from their earlier degree. Domestic and international applicants **without a bachelor's degree** may apply as a mature student. In addition to providing the formal application, you must:

- Be at least 25 years of age
- Describe in a written statement how your life experiences (work, ministry, educational) can be seen as equivalent to a university education. You may wish to include life achievements such as volunteer work or leisure time activities. Indicate any educational or organizational skills you have developed. Specify how you feel you have prepared yourself for university and why you feel you will be successful. Include any changes you have made, or will make, to ensure you are able to manage your studies.

Once the applicant's file is complete, including the documents noted above, it is reviewed by an Admissions Committee comprised of the Dean of Theology and two full-time members of the Faculty of Theology. If the Admissions Committee recommends that the application proceed, it will determine whether the applicant should be interviewed as the last step before a decision is made and communicated to the candidate. The Faculty of Theology reserves the right to request an interview of any applicant regardless of program or concentration.

We usually recommend such applicants consider starting part-time, especially if you've been out of school for a few years. With part-time, you can take up to 0.5 or 3.0 courses (1 to 6 semester courses) between September and April. A full-time student can take up to 5.0 full courses (10 semester courses) per year. After studying part-time in your first year, you can ask to switch to full-time for the rest of your studies. You should discuss this with your Faculty's academic counselling to decide what option is right for you. It is also highly recommended that you seek support from Writing and Learning Services in areas such as effective writing and research skills.

Students admitted to the M.Div. or MTS program without a bachelor's degree from a recognized post-secondary institution, like all M.Div. and MTS students, are subject to minimum progression and graduation requirements. Failure to meet these requirements may result in withdrawal from the program.

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