

## **Master of Divinity/Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.Div./M.A.C.E.)**

Union Presbyterian Seminary offers this dual degree program to prepare students for dynamic pastoral and educational ministry. Students in this program plan to make Christian education a significant part of their ministry, whether or not they seek ordination. Students may earn both a Master of Arts in Christian Education degree and a Master of Divinity degree (M.Div./M.A.C.E.) in four years on the Richmond campus, or seven years on the Charlotte campus. With the written permission of the associate dean for academic programs or the dean of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus, students may take up to eight years to complete the degrees.

Dual degree graduates serve as associate pastors of Christian education, youth ministers, chaplains, campus ministers, camp and conference directors, “solo” pastors with a full range of responsibilities, and in other roles.

### **Goals**

In order to be faithful to our particular vision of theological education for the 21st century, the Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty has adopted the following goals for the M.Div./M.A.C.E. dual degree program.

#### **A. Scripture and Christian Theological Traditions**

- 1) Our graduates demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the Old and New Testaments, understand their normative significance for Christian life, faith, and witness, and interpret scripture faithfully in contemporary contexts.
- 2) Our graduates are appropriately responsive to confessional traditions of the church and to the needs of all people to hear messages of God’s justice and grace for today.
- 3) Our graduates know the classic and contemporary theological traditions of the Christian church, especially in its Reformed expressions, and think theologically about their life and ministry and the life and ministry of congregations.

#### **B. Cultural Context**

- 1) Our graduates comprehend the broad development of Christian thought from antiquity to the present.
- 2) Our graduates are skilled in assessing the symbols, power structures, organizational patterns, and cultural values of societies in which ministry occurs. They have the knowledge and skills to read the culture of a congregation and its setting in community, and to make connections between cultural analysis and theological discernment.
- 3) Our graduates are sensitive to developmental, family, and cultural influences on children, youth, adults, and older adults and have the capacity to design and maintain appropriate educational programming.

- 4) Our graduates embrace a global perspective on the church's mission and ministry.
- 5) Our graduates understand that faithful ministry involves knowledge of and engagement with a world that is not the church, but that is God's world. Aware of the contributions of their own traditions of learning, they are not reluctant to engage in dialogue between the theological and educational dimensions of their ministerial discipline, and in dialogue with other fields of knowledge.

#### C. Pastoral, Educational, and Public Leadership

- 1) Our graduates communicate the gospel with clarity and conviction in ministries of preaching and liturgical leadership that are (a) informed by the theological tradition of the church and (b) engaged with contemporary realities, needs, and challenges.
- 2) Our graduates are able to conceptualize the field of religious education, understand and discuss foundational questions for the field, and reflect critically on current issues in educational ministry.
- 3) Our graduates teach, design, assess, and administer educational programs.
- 4) Our students provide leadership with competence, integrity, and self-awareness, and know when and how to make referral to appropriate professionals. They are also able to provide effective leadership with various kinds of groups.
- 5) Our graduates are able to foster educational ministry in a variety of settings using a variety of media.
- 6) Our graduates value and practice an integrated approach to ministry that enhances the complementary strengths of the teaching and preaching offices of the church.

#### D. Life-Long Learning

- 1) Our graduates articulate their call to ministry with clarity. They discern vocational contexts in which they can express their gifts, interests, and faith commitments in appropriate and faithful ways.
- 2) Our graduates commit themselves to a continuing relationship with the living God and have the knowledge, piety, and skills to enable spiritual and moral growth in themselves and others.
- 3) Our graduates plan a disciplined program of personal, spiritual, and professional development.
- 4) Our graduates value ministry as a collegial endeavor.

#### Admission

The basic academic requirement for admission is a bachelor's degree from a four-year regionally accredited college or university in the United States, or an equivalent educational credential from another country. A qualified applicant gives evidence of commitment to the church and its ministry, is emotionally mature, has sound academic preparation, has a clear or developing sense of call, articulates interest in and commitment to both educational and pastoral dimensions of ministry, demonstrates leadership ability, and exhibits the potential to integrate the resources of the two degree programs. There are additional requirements for admission; see [chapter 6](#).

#### Advising

Each student in the program will be assigned a faculty advisor.

#### Academic Program

##### Requirements for Graduation

A student must take 28 required courses (including language courses) and at least 12 elective courses. A minimum of four years of full-time study is necessary to complete the M.Div./M.A.C.E. degree program. Information regarding course loads and full-time status for every degree program can be found in [chapter 4, Academic Procedures and Regulations](#).

Each M.Div./M.A.C.E. student shall participate in a portfolio-based assessment process, as described in the Student Handbook. This assessment process provides structured opportunities that support intentional, reflective integration of the academic work of students with their personal, spiritual, and vocational formation.

**Required Courses (28 credits)**

Courses are required in the following areas:

- Biblical Languages
- Biblical Studies
- Theology, Ethics & History
- Practical Theology/Education and Ministry
- Supervised Ministry

***Biblical Languages (4 credits):***

- Elementary Hebrew I & II (BIB001-002 or 003)
- Elementary Greek I & II (BIB004-005 or 006)

***Biblical Studies (5 credits):***

- Old Testament I & II (BIB211 & 311)
- New Testament I & II (BIB221 & 321)
- Elective in Biblical Studies

***Theology, Ethics, and History (6 credits)***

- Theology I & II (THE101 & 201)
- Introduction to Christian Ethics (THE102)
- History of Christianity I & II (HST101 and HST201)
- Contemporary Theology and Education (INT263)

***Practical Theology/Education and Ministry (9 credits)***

- The Christian Life (EDU166)
- Understanding Congregations and Agencies (EDU168)
- Teaching Ministry of the Church (EDU186)
- Theory for Education in Religion (EDU263)
- Aspects of Human Growth and Development (EDU272)
- One EDU elective for at least one credit chosen by student
- Introduction to Pastoral Care (PRA102)
- Preaching and Worship (PRA103)
- Elective in Preaching and/or Worship

***Supervised Ministry (4 credits required)***

Students must earn at least four, but no more than six, supervised ministry credits for graduation. Ordinarily, of the four required supervised ministry credits, two should be earned in a parish setting and two in a non-parish context. The Office of Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning must approve all supervised ministry courses in advance.

**Elective Courses (12 credits)**

(including at least one elective in Preaching and/or Worship)

**Portfolio-based assessment process** (Required for graduation; earns no credit.)

**Total 40 credits**

**Master of Divinity/Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.Div./M.A.C.E.) at Charlotte**

The M.Div./M.A.C.E. degree program is also available through the Charlotte campus. Degree requirements in the Charlotte and Richmond academic programs are the same. The Charlotte program is designed for part-time, non-residential students who ordinarily attend classes on Friday and/ or Saturday.