



MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL LITERATURE

“ Coming from ORU’s undergraduate theology program, I desired to continue my theological and biblical training here because of the diverse representation of scholars and perspectives. I think ORU epitomizes the ideal environment for post-graduate study and growth in every area of life. I chose Biblical Literature because I want an in-depth understanding and foundation for future academic work and ministry. (S.W.) ”

This degree is designed to prepare students for service in professional contexts, particularly careers in teaching, curriculum development, writing, missions outreach, and further academic study at the doctoral level.

The program is structured to inform the student of the broad spectrum of hermeneutical and exegetical perspectives, tools, and methods to interpret biblical content responsibly and perceptively. In order to better interpret Old and New Testament content, the curriculum helps students develop a working knowledge of biblical languages.

The objectives of the Master of Arts in Biblical Literature are to:

- Provide students with a basic knowledge of biblical languages (Hebrew/Greek) for accurate translation of Scripture
- Instruct students to employ critical methods of exegesis from an informed theological-hermeneutical perspective for sound interpretation of the text
- Prepare students to identify and examine the major OT themes and formulate a coherent OT theology
- Prepare students to identify and examine the major NT themes and formulate a coherent NT theology
- Enable students to relate the critical study of Scripture in its cultural context to selected contemporary contexts
- Prepare students to use biblical critical tools and methods and to integrate coursework in the writing of an advanced research MA thesis in OT/NT
- Promote a biblical-theological understanding of the person, work, and ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Enable students to articulate clearly their ministry/professional calling



ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university or a college recognized by the The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Applicants whose degree is in a field other than Bible or Biblical Studies are required to complete up to 21 credit hours of prerequisite courses in addition to the degree requirements
- Cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- For those whose language of instruction was not English, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 paper-based, 213 computer-based, 79-80 internet-based or the IELTS (minimum band score of 7.0), and submit a score within the past two years

PREREQUISITES (18-21 CREDIT HOURS)

- Required for those who did not have biblical/theological courses in their undergraduate program

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (52.5 CREDIT HOURS)

- ORU Distinctive Courses (3.5 credit hours)
- Assessments (1 credit hour)
- Biblical Literature Concentration Studies (36 credit hours)
- Theological/Historical Cognate (12 credit hours)

ACCREDITATION

- Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS)
- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools

Detailed information is available at gradtheology.oru.edu