

MASTER OF ARTS IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY **URBAN MINISTRY CONCENTRATION**

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The MA in Practical Theology with a concentration in Urban Ministry is about bringing the love and compassion of God to people in all settings, seeking their welfare and making a difference. After spending three months this summer doing urban ministry in the Mississippi Delta, I am greatly convinced I am in the right program. My experience was very challenging, but very rewarding: learning how to reach these people not only changed their lives, it changed mine and my perspective forever. I would never trade that for anything in the world! [J.S.] ”

This specialized program prepares students for effective ministry in urban contexts. Traditionally, such contexts were seen as only inner city environments; however, an urban ministry setting today is one that also takes place in suburban and rural locales. It is comprised of the complex issues and problems associated with a diversity of race, income, culture, and language in multi-ethnic and multi-cultural communities throughout the world.

In addition to a strong biblical and theological foundation, the curriculum is flexible in order to prepare leaders for the demands of ministry in churches, para-church organizations, and various urban ministries for both professional and lay practitioners. The concentration provides opportunity for the expression of individual interests through specialized research and projects. The practicum will encourage students to seek both national and international opportunities for supervised practice.

This program is designed to prepare individuals for potential careers in pastoral, workplace, humanitarian, missions, relief, and social justice ministry, which will afford students the opportunities to serve their communities and creatively and effectively share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The objectives of the Master of Arts in Practical Theology/Urban Ministry concentration are to:

- Prepare candidates with a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations.
- Prepare students to increase competence and understanding in the Word of God by utilizing basic methods of biblical interpretation.
- Provide a basic knowledge of the contents and methods of Christian theology.
- Provide a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures with their significance in the history of Christianity.
- Integrate theological reflection and practice through internship opportunities.
- Enable students to articulate clearly their ministry/professional calling.
- Promote a biblical/theological understanding of the person, work, and ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- Prepare students to understand and communicate effectively the Gospel in all urban contexts.
- Enable students to develop skills and practical ministry strategies applicable to multi-cultural urban ministry settings.
- Enable students to demonstrate relevant and effective leadership strategies in complex urban ministry settings.
- 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 Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)
- Cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.5 or higher
- An official entrance exam score is required (waived for those who hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution): Miller Analogies Test (minimum score of 396) or the Graduate Record Exam (minimum combined score of 300 for verbal and quantitative sections)
- 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 (0-3 CREDIT HOURS)

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (47.5 CREDIT HOURS)

- ORU Distinctive Courses (4.5 credit hours)
- Urban Ministry Concentration (18 credit hours)
- Assessments (1 credit hour)
- Urban Ministry Electives (9 credit hours)
- Biblical and Theological Foundations (15 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

