

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

ACTS Seminaries

The Associated Canadian Theological Schools (ACTS) is an association of six seminaries (Canadian Baptist Seminary, Canadian Pentecostal Seminary, Canadian Theological Seminary, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Northwest Baptist Seminary, and Trinity Western Seminary) working together—an arrangement often called a cluster or a consortium. As a whole, the ACTS consortium constitutes the Graduate School of Theological Studies of Trinity Western University. Degrees in the consortium are offered conjointly, that is, by the University and the participating seminary together. In this way ACTS students receive the best of university education and professional seminary training. TWU maintains membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and in June 1997, ACTS became an accredited member in the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

Admissions Information

All degree programs normally require an undergraduate degree or equivalent as a prerequisite for admission. Because the particular nature of the bachelor's degree may vary, applicants should consult the specific description of each degree program. In addition, each candidate must show evidence of personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and of submission to His will, as well as the positive recommendation of his or her church congregation. All students must agree to the Responsibilities of Membership of the University and signify this by their signature on it. The seminaries which constitute the Associated Canadian Theological Schools admit students of any race, nationality, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made available to students within ACTS.

ACTS Degree Programs

Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries (M.Div.)

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is a three-year program which prepares students to become godly leaders, people with a love and compassion for others, based on a strong commitment to Jesus Christ and the Word of God, and possessing the essential leadership skills which equip them as pastors to energetically strengthen, revitalize, and multiply communities of effective worshipping and ministering believers in Canada and around the world.

Track options:

Apologetics; Bible; Bible/Theology; Church Planting; Church Ministries; Cross-cultural Ministries; History; Pastoral Ministry; and Theology.

Graduate Program in Counselling (M.C.)

ACTS offers a Master of Counselling (M.C.) degree requiring a 68 sem. hr. course of study. The M.C. degree is a professional, non-thesis degree aimed at individuals who desire a seminary-based counsellor education program with a strong emphasis on spirituality and theological integration.

Graduate Program in Theological Studies (M.T.S.)

The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) is a two-year research program designed for those who wish to pursue Christian service but who do not find the professional degrees (Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Church Ministries) entirely appropriate. It may be an important step in entering a doctoral program, if an individual has an appropriate undergraduate major (e.g., History, Religious Studies) and a desire to teach. It may also assist those entering other vocational areas congruent with their undergraduate training, e.g., teaching in a Christian school, missions, leadership development, etc.

Track options:

Apologetics; Church History; General Bible: New Testament; Old Testament; and Theological Studies.

Graduate Program in Cross-Cultural Ministries (M.A.)

The purpose of the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Cross-Cultural Ministries is to develop leaders who have sensitivity to diverse worldviews, who can engage in cross-cultural ministries effectively, and who can partner with national or ethnic leaders and agencies as supportive facilitators, so that communities of New Testament believers are strengthened. A servant visionary leadership mindset is developed for success in global Christian ministries and for the equipping of others. This two-year program seeks to prepare committed individuals, convinced of the uniqueness of Christ and the urgency of the Great Commission, for the new paradigm of ministry partnership with national church leaders so that churches based upon New Testament principles can be established and strengthened throughout the world.

Track options:

Mission Skills; Church Planting; Leadership; Literacy; Religions and the Gospel; and Research (Thesis).

Graduate Program in Applied Linguistics and Exegesis (M.L.E.)

The Master of Applied Linguistics and Exegesis (M.L.E.) is a two-year program designed to provide a thorough knowledge of the techniques of applied linguistics and biblical exegesis. Exegetical skills are developed through the study of biblical languages and intensive interaction with the biblical text. Graduates are prepared for effective cross-cultural communication and ministry with focus in Bible translation or literacy. This degree program is offered by ACTS in cooperation with the Canada Institute of Linguistics.

Graduate Program in Christian Studies (M.A.)

The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Christian Studies is a two-year program designed to assist a person who possesses an undergraduate degree or equivalent to develop a coherent, biblical worldview, strengthen his or her spiritual disciplines, learn significant leadership skills, and demonstrate a measure of expertise in theological and ministry disciplines. Graduation requires the completion of a graduating essay.

Track options:

Apologetics; Bible; Bible/Theology; Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care; Church Ministries; Church Planting; Cross-cultural Ministries; History; Korean Worldview Studies; Pastoral Ministry; and Theology.

Graduate Program in Theology (M.Th.)

The Master of Theology (M.Th.) is a specialized, post-M.Div. program of 30 sem. hrs. The program concentrates on producing graduates who are competent in understanding, exegeting, applying, and communicating the Word of God and who are able to make a significant contribution to biblical scholarship.

Postgraduate Program in Pastoral Ministry (D.Min.)

The Doctor of Ministry degree is a professional development degree designed for people who have earned a Master of Divinity or the equivalent and who are actively engaged in pastoral ministry or evangelism. It requires significant attention to theory, but outcomes in view are professional. It is not an in-sequence degree. That is, it may not be pursued immediately following the Master of Divinity degree until the student has completed at least three years of full-time ministry. It is an in-service degree in that a student must be involved in regular ministry during the time of enrolment. The essence of the Doctor of Ministry degree program is not found in the courses and thesis project per se. It becomes a reality as one reflects on and implements program content in the ministerial context. This program also provides opportunity for students to explore leadership and spiritual formation in depth. It is cohort-based and is designed for completion in four years.

Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies

The one-year (30 sem. hrs.) Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies provides students who are actively engaged in ministry and witness with a quality master's level theological and biblical education combined with advanced integration in practice. This program is also designed for those wishing refreshment and upgrading of academic and professional life experience. The Graduate Diploma offers flexibility to meet individual in-service needs, especially for those students desiring a non-thesis program. If students work closely with their advisors, a large part of this program could be applicable to a more advanced degree. An undergraduate degree or its equivalent is normally required for admission.

Track options:

Apologetics; Bible; Bible/Theology; Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care; Church Ministries; Church Planting; Cross-cultural Ministries; History; Korean Worldview Studies; Pastoral Ministry; and Theology.

Note: A track is comprised of at least 12 sem. hrs. of course work in a specific area of study.

Application Procedures

Students must register in one of the six seminaries. Students who belong to one of the participating denominations normally enrol in their respective seminary. Students from other denominations are assigned to one of the seminaries unless the student specifically indicates a preference. Applicants should note carefully the specific admissions requirements of each program.

Prospective students should apply using the application and references forms available from the ACTS Admissions Office or ACTS web site, submitting all educational and other documents as stated on the form. The application fee is payable on submission of the application form. It is the policy of ACTS Seminaries to welcome students from other denominations into its programs as facilities permit.

The Admissions Committee considers each application together with the other relevant documents and informs the candidates of their status as soon as possible. At the direction of the committee, candidates may be asked to attend a personal interview as part of the admissions process.

More Information

Contact ACTS Admissions Office.

*Tel: 604.513.2019 (local)
1.888.468.6898 (toll free)*

Email: acts@twu.ca

Web site: www.acts.twu.ca