

# Metro Atlanta Seminary

## Academic Catalog

**Mentoring Students to become Christ-Centered Leaders**

2017-2018

# Metro Atlanta Seminary

---

## Contents

### Page

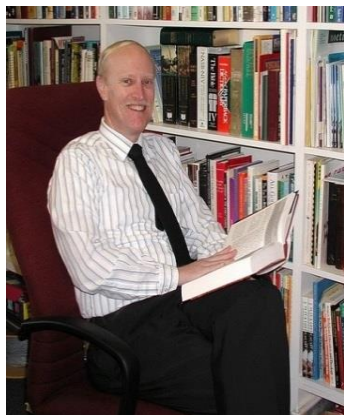
2	Faculty
3	From the President
4	Mission and Doctrinal Statement
5	Student Spiritual Life at MAS
7	Academic Programs
7	Accreditation
8	MAS' 3-Fold Curriculum
	The Student learning in the classroom
	The Student learning in the church and the world
	The Student learning from a mentor
11	For those not having a Bachelor's degree
12	Policies
	Registration
	Tuition and Fees
	Scholarships
16	Course Descriptions
18	Textbooks

# Faculty Information

---

## **Metro Atlanta Seminary**

1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 102  
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043



Dennis Bennett  
Dean of Academics

### Contact Details

Telephone: 678-825-1158  
Fax: 678-825-1159  
E-Mail: [dbennett@pcanet.org](mailto:dbennett@pcanet.org)  
[www.metroatlantaseminary.org](http://www.metroatlantaseminary.org)



Bob Edmiston  
Dean of Students  
Emeritus

## **ADMINISTRATION**

President	Randall Schlichting
Dean of Academics/Registra	Dennis Bennett
Dean of Mentoring	
Dean of Students - Emeritus	Robert Edmiston
Dean of Administration	Randall Schlichting
Financial Officer:	Denise Host

## **FACULTY**

Rev. Dr. Dennis G. Bennett, B.A. M.Div., DRS.	<a href="mailto:dbennett@pcanet.org">dbennett@pcanet.org</a>
Rev. Dr. McKay Caston, B.A., M.Div., D.Min., Ph.D.	<a href="mailto:mckaycaston@gmail.com">mckaycaston@gmail.com</a>
Rev. Robert Carter, M.A.	<a href="mailto:bobc@perimeter.org">bobc@perimeter.org</a>
Rev. Raymond Causey, B.A, M.Div.	<a href="mailto:causeykwbc@aol.com">causeykwbc@aol.com</a>
Rev. Dr. Stephen Estock, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.	<a href="mailto:sestock@pcanet.org">sestock@pcanet.org</a>
Mr. John Evans, B.S., M.Div., Th.M.	<a href="mailto:john@john-evans.name">john@john-evans.name</a>
Rev. Dr. Paul Gilchrist, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.	<a href="mailto:prgil@comcast.net">prgil@comcast.net</a>
Rev. Neil Gilmour, B.A., M.Div., Th.M.	<a href="mailto:neilnancy@bellsouth.net">neilnancy@bellsouth.net</a>
Dr. Thomas Lutz, M.Div. D.Min.	<a href="mailto:tlutz@visionmarketdevelopment.com">tlutz@visionmarketdevelopment.com</a>
Rev. Matthew Means, B.A., M.A.	<a href="mailto:mmeans@wesleyanschool.org">mmeans@wesleyanschool.org</a>
Mr. Benjamin Starr, B.S., M.A., MAR	<a href="mailto:thebenjstarr@gmail.com">thebenjstarr@gmail.com</a>
Rev. Randy Schlichting, B.S., M.A., M.Div.	<a href="mailto:randys@perimeter.org">randys@perimeter.org</a>

# From the President

---

We know that there are a lot of great seminaries in America and across the world. Many are larger, better-funded and more academically rigorous than MAS. We support and applaud each of those institutions for the work they are doing in equipping leaders for the church. At MAS we make no claim to be better. But we do believe we are distinctive. The founders of the seminary held to a few simple values even as we do now.

1. We believe that seminary education should be mentor based. By that we mean that each student should have an older, wizeden person in their life who meets with them regularly, asks them the good questions and helps them gain what they need to be changed and to bless others. There is no substitute for time spent with an older Godly mentor. Mentors at MAS are trained to connect with students and coursework, but to take them to the good news of the gospel through the heart.
2. We believe that classes should be sufficient but not efficient. By that we mean that classes are small, interaction is lively and a shared knowledge is brought to the table. The professor may not know it all, and students certainly will learn from one another. Businessmen and women mix it up with church workers. Young and old learn from one another. It is a glorious thing to see.
3. We believe that every one should be able to go to seminary, debt free, if they have a calling to do so. By that we mean that our fees are minimal and we offer scholarships when needed. We don't enable poor scholarship or stewardship but we teach the way of working out your theology in a practical life manner.
4. We believe that a plumber learns to plumb by unstopping his first toilet. By that we mean that MAS students are required to get out in the field and get their hands dirty, learning as they go. Our practicum serves students well as a framework for changing, not just checking, the box. For those called to ministry it includes teaching, hospital visits, connecting with the world and ministry to many. For those called to business it includes ministry in the marketplace.

There is more. Much more. We would love to share with you or have you visit if you like. Classes meet weekly for 32 weeks per year. Professors are down to earth and we often share a good laugh. By the grace of God, we are mentoring students to become Christ centered leaders for the next generation in ministry and the marketplace.

Gratefully,

*Randy Schlichting*



**Randy Schlichting**  
President

# Mission and Doctrinal Statements

**“Metro Atlanta Seminary was created to educate and mentor students to become Christ-centered so that they will become leaders in the church, fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.”**

Our beliefs lead us to our actions. If we believe God is good, we will act in a way in keeping with that belief: except when we forget, or choose to disbelieve. When we disbelieve, we are called to repent and ask for faith to believe. Throughout church history, leaders have given a snapshot of what we believe and aspire to live out in the Apostle’s Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Heidelberg Catechism. Those reflect what the church believes in part and they contain key aspects of our doctrinal positions. As you join the MAS faculty we want to ask you this, “What do *you* believe?” Some might say that question should be posed to students, and it is. But we as faculty want to continue to ask ourselves what we believe so our faith can be strengthened as we check our hearts. In that vein, we ask that you read our statement of beliefs and then meditate on the practical out-working of them for you as a professor and son as well as a leader. If you find yourself in disagreement with them, come and see us, and let’s talk.

- i. We believe the Bible is the Word of God and revelation of God. We therefore accept the trustworthiness of its historical records as inerrant in its original writings, the authority of its teachings, and the truth of all Christ's utterances contained in it.
- ii. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- iii. We believe in Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is therefore true God and true man.
- iv. We believe our Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect life and died for our sins according to the Scriptures, voluntarily bearing our guilt and suffering as our substitute.
- v. We believe all who believe in Him are now justified by His blood, and shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
- vi. We believe in His corporeal resurrection, His ascension into Heaven, and His present life there as our Priest and Advocate.
- vii. We believe man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. As consequence of the Fall all human beings are born with a sinful nature.
- viii. We believe in the universality and heinousness of sin, in the necessity of being saved by grace, that sonship with God is attained only by regeneration through the Holy Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ.
- ix. We believe in the personality and the godhead of the Holy Spirit Who came down upon earth on the day of Pentecost, and we believe in His offices to convict the world in respect of sin and of righteousness and of judgment, and to indwell believers as their Teacher, Sanctifier and Comforter.
- x. We believe in the Great Commission which our Lord has given to His Church to disciple the world; this is the great mission of the Church.
- xi. We believe in the Great Commandment our Lord gave to us to love others even as He has loved us.
- xii. We believe in that blessed hope, the personal return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- xiii. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; the judgment of the living and of the dead; the everlasting blessedness of the saved; and the everlasting punishment of the lost.
- xiv. We hold to the system of doctrine as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

# Student Spiritual Life at MAS

You have come to MAS to learn and grow in your preparation for your Christian service to the Lord. You will soon discover MAS is a unique place, and you have joined a special family. Not only is MAS renowned for its ministry-oriented training of men and women in the historic evangelical and Reformed faith, but also for its emphasis on spiritual growth and nurturing. It is with this that we are most interested. We want you to become more like Christ as you study at MAS. We want you to know Him and know you more. We want you to be transformed into His image.

The seminary offers a range of programs, taught by a faculty committed to the historic evangelical and Reformed faith, both as creedal affirmation and as living experience. Furthermore, MAS seeks to shape the whole of its corporate life to educate, nurture and mentor men and women to become mature leaders in their Christian vocations wherever in the world the Lord might lead.

MAS places a very high premium on the development of Christian character, and to that end, close contact between students, mentors, and faculty is promoted. Active participation in your home church in worship, and growth in spiritual disciplines, is considered an essential part of the educational process. Mentoring is a critical factor to growth and success, so much so that you cannot graduate without your mentor being in agreement that you are ready.

## **Walking with Christ While in Seminary**

Sadly, some students who have gone to seminary have come out from the experience calling it cemetery. They have been left dry and dusty in their faith. We are committed to having students graduate from MAS who say that it was a rich time for them spiritually, emotionally and academically. We ask that students think about the following areas in their lives as they enter into MAS:

**Your relationship with God** - Busyness of life will kill your relationship with Him. You are “adding on” to your life by taking on seminary studies. So the question is, “What will you set down?” It might be entertainment, social time or recreational reading, but it cannot be time with the Lord. The Lord desires you trust and love him with all your heart (Deut. 6:5; Prov. 3:5) and walk humbly before him (Mic. 6:8). In other words, as you run the Christian race, you are to fix your eyes on Jesus and throw off every sin that entangles (Heb. 12:1-2). It is with such an attitude the Spirit is pleased to work in your life and fulfil the Lord's commands. Such spiritual fruit includes love, patience, kindness, and self-control (Gal.5:22). You are encouraged to read the Scriptures with this in mind, always combining the Word with faith (cf., Heb. 4:2); and continually praying to your Father who loves you and delights in you (Zeph. 3:17; 1 Thess. 5:17). So a daily time with Him is essential and supersedes the reading of any material for class.

**Your relationships with others** - Again, your time at MAS could rob you of relationship with people. We think it is fine for you to see your friends a bit less as you study, but don't neglect your family! We have seen too many in the ministry who have trashed families as they climb to the top. We rather you not. All God commands is summarized by loving others (Gal. 5:14). In the context of MAS, this has special reference to your relationships with other students. We encourage you to look after the interests of your fellow students and in humility consider them more important than yourself (Phil. 2:3-5). Considering the widely differing church and cultural backgrounds of all who come to MAS, your time here will be one of growing to love, accept, and appreciate others different from you. In fact, this diversity is one of MAS's most desired features, a distinctive of our campus life. Please pray for and seek to cultivate loving relationships with everyone in the student body, and not only with those with whom you have most in common.

**Promotion of Spiritual Growth** - The Christian needs constant spiritual nourishment, something only possible in the context of prayerful and systematic Bible study and meditation. A spiritual life not renewed on a daily basis soon withers. It is like a stream soaking away in a desert. Attendance in classes on Bible subjects are no substitute for personal devotions!

**Mentoring** – Mentoring at MAS is distinctive and may be unique. Each student has a mentor who meets with him/her regularly for a time of reflection, sharpening and asking the good questions. Most classes require that you engage with your mentor for some of the assignments due. We want students to rub shoulders with men and women who have hearts and experience. We want you to open up, reveal weaknesses where appropriate and gain strength as an older person points you to Christ. Mentoring at MAS is the heart of who we are and we believe it will be one of the things that will cause you to say that seminary was a rich time for your spiritual life.

**Student Association/Alumni** - As we have mentioned, we believe the MAS experience will mark your life in a spiritually rich way. A large part of that will be through your fellow students. As an enrolled student you are automatically enrolled as a member of the **MAS Student Body**. It is an association of current and former students who gather together regularly to encourage one another, support the work of the school and support each other in their vocational call. The Dean of Students can give you more information.

It is the hope and goal of MAS that students will learn what it means to become more Christ-like and will in fact become more Christ-like in all aspects of their lives. To that end, the goals of MAS are deigned to aid the student in using the means of grace to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk by the Spirit in a way that reflects the image of Christ to the world by being transformed by the renewing of the mind.

- a. By **the basis of faith itself**. In particular, an unequivocal stand on biblical inerrancy, with all that that involves in terms of true Christian assurance. This is seen as a powerful stimulus to spiritual growth.
- b. By **the example of Board members and teaching staff**, all of whom are required to be people of spiritual maturity and understanding, subscribing wholeheartedly to the doctrinal statements and their implications. They sign their agreement to these standards every year.
- c. By **ascertaining**, as far as is possible through references' forms, **that every intending student has been born again** into the Kingdom of God and is already demonstrating spiritual growth. Their past ministry in their homes, local churches and other Christian spheres is assessed.
- d. By **the lectures** in which the Bible is clearly portrayed as the Word of God and taught (so far as may be) with a warm and hortatory spirit.
- e. By formal or informal **sessions of students** with their mentors. These times of fellowship afford an opportunity for pastoral and vocational counselling.
- f. By **attendance at local church services**. MAS students can continue to attend their own home churches. This allows opportunities for service and the ability to be evaluated for suitability for ministry by people who know them well.

# Academic Programs

---

## I Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)



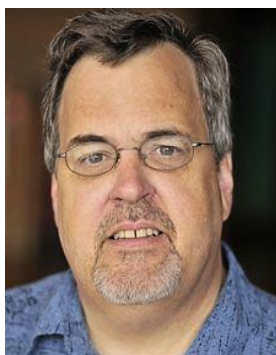
Benjamin Starr

The *Bachelor of Theology* (B.Th.) is a three-year course of study intended to prepare graduates for the Christian ministry. Along with the regular studies in Old and New Testament, Theology, Church History, and Biblical Languages, each student will be required to be heavily involved with a local church and mentor in order to complete the rest of the program known as the “Laboratory/Internship Curriculum.” (See the *Curriculum* section for details.)

The B.Th. is approved by the *Georgia Department of Higher Education Qualifications and Approval Board* based upon the British system, which places a student directly into their major without taking the core courses required in America.

**Entrance requirement:** High School diploma or equivalent

## II Master of Divinity (M.Div.)



Bob Carter

The *Master in Divinity* (M.Div.) is a three-year course of study intended to prepare graduates for the Christian ministry. Along with the regular studies in Old and New Testament, Theology, Church History, and Biblical Languages, each student will be required to be heavily involved with a local church and mentor in order to complete the rest of the program known as the “Laboratory/Internship Curriculum.” (See the *Curriculum* section for details.)

**Entrance requirements:** A bachelor degree from an accredited institution.

## ACCREDITATION

MAS is in the process of seeking accreditation by the Association of Reformed Theological Schools (ARTS). ARTS is an accrediting agency which is applying for status under the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

MAS has been granted permission to offer these degrees from the State of Georgia’s Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission. In response to the proliferation of “diploma mills,” Georgia allows only those institutions recognized by them to offer degrees within their borders.



Tom Lutz



# BACHELOR'S and MASTER'S CURRICULUM

## Curriculum Portfolio Part I – The In-Class Program

Each quarter is equal to 8 weeks. Each credit equals one 70 minute class hour per week for 8 weeks. [24 courses]

REV. 7/8/2017

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> YEAR 2017-2018</b>	1	2	3	4	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR 2017-2018</b>	1	2	3	4	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR 2018-2019</b>	1	2	3	4
<b>BIBLE</b>	Old Testament Survey New Testament Survey	2	2			Hebrew for Bible Study OT Book Exegesis	2	2		2	Greek for Bible Study NT Book Exegesis	2	2		2
<b>SYSTEMATIC AND HISTORICAL THEOLOGY</b>	Doctrine of Scripture Hermeneutics God, Man, Sin Survey of Church History	1	1	2	2	Denominational History Holy Spirit and Salvation Ethics and Leadership	1		2	1	Doctrine of the Church & Worship Person of Christ Work of Christ	1	1	2	
<b>MENTORING PRACTICUM<sup>1</sup></b>		[1] [3]	[1] [3]	[1] [3]	[1] [3]		[1] [3]	[1] [3]	[1] [3]	[1] [3]		[1] [3]	[1] [3]	[1] [3]	[1] [3]
<b>THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE</b>	Sermon Construction or Elective				1	Teaching and Learning Making & Equipping Disciples		1		1	KP Workshop Evangelism/Apologetics				1
	Yearly total hours = 12/[28]	3	3	3	3	Yearly total hours = 12/[28]	3	3	3	3	Yearly total hours = 12/[28]	3	3	3	3

The criteria for evaluating classroom work:

**A** (90-100) = work done by the student *exceeds* what was required in the syllabus

**B** (80-89) = the student has completed every requirement in the syllabus

**C** (70-79) = all work was completed, but could have been better

**I** = the student has not *yet* completed all required work and has been granted extra time to finish

**F** = the student has failed to complete *all* the required work in the time permitted

<sup>1</sup>The practicum is like an apprenticeship or internship. It is time spent doing what has been learned in class. It includes one-on-one training by a mentor in such areas as homiletics, ethics, worship, business, leadership and missions. This includes the checklist of all the activities needed to be completed in order to fulfil this part of the curriculum. See page 9.

# **B.Th. and M.Div. PATHWAY**

## **Curriculum Portfolio Part II – The student learning from a mentor (12 credits/120 hours)**

Who can know the heart of a man? The hope of MAS is, while in seminary, each student will grow spiritually. The purpose of a mentor is to come alongside the student so he/ she gets to know himself/ herself even as he/she gets to know God. Further, a mentor's role is to encourage a student to have a plan for spiritual growth and to work that plan as enabled by the Holy Spirit.

A mentor meets regularly with a student to ask questions, get beneath the surface and help the student learn what it means to develop a deeper relationship with the Lord and others. During this time the mentor may encourage, give wisdom, coach or direct as needed. The mentor will meet with the student and family as needed, communicating through email, text, phone, and face-to-face.

One major objective is for the mentor to help the student develop a written life plan that will become a living, breathing document, to be updated each year with the student's vision for what he or she is to become in Christ. Most importantly, the mentor is the one who checks the heart, by the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, in the hopes the student is changing to become more like Him. The total amount of time spent with the mentor amounts to ten hours per term.

Measuring a person's readiness for ministry is always difficult as it is a subjective judgement. However, after the student and his or her mentor spend 120 hours together, the mentor will have a good idea if the student is prepared.

Because Part II of the MAS Curriculum Portfolio is so mentor based, evaluation is subjective. Grading is by the completion and evaluation of each task required to fulfil the expected track of the student, and is graded as follows:

**A** (90-100) = work done by the student *exceeds* what was required by the mentor

**B** (80-89) = the student has completed every requirement of the mentor

**C** (70-79) = all work was completed, but could have been better

**I** = the student has not *yet* completed all required work and has been granted extra time to finish

**F** = the student has failed to complete *all* the required work in the time permitted

# **B.Th. and M.Div. PATHWAY**

## **Part III – The student learning in the church and the world (practicum = 36 credits)**

Real things happen in the world and not in a classroom. Students must have an opportunity to try their skills and test their abilities so when the real challenges come, they will be ready. The practicum is not so much a simulation or experiment on a bench. It is more the idea of a plumber taking an apprentice along to learn how to unstop a toilet. Hands get dirty. Watching a master, and then trying to do what he or she does, can enable the student to learn to become the master.

Each student will work with his or her mentor to determine the exact details of these requirements so they best match with the type of ministry the student plans to enter.

### **Pastoral Track**

72 hours - Preach/teach 12 times (if WL lead worship)  
60 hours - Spend time with church members  
20 hours - Assist in funeral and wedding  
50 hours - Spend time with the un-churched  
4 hours - Attend X-Press your faith seminar  
4 hours - Attend a presbytery meeting and a committee meeting  
6 hours - Interview lead pastors (if WL worship leaders)  
10 hours - Visit the sick  
8 hours - Develop a working life plan and budget  
40 hours – Engage in missions local or global  
60 hours - Lead a discipleship group  
20 hours - Engage in service to the less fortunate  
4 hours - Attend new member classes and interview new members  
2 hour - Attend a congregational meeting and a session meeting  
360 hours = 36 credits

### **Workplace Track**

72 hours - Teach on a business mission trip; local or global  
60 hours - Interview businessmen who are Christians  
20 hours - Lead Discipleship group with businessmen  
4 hours - Develop of a 5-year vision letter/Kingdom Purpose statement  
16 hours - Develop a Life Plan and Budget  
6 hours - Develop Keys to Significant Success  
10 hours - Development of a personal/departmental dashboard  
8 hours – Develop a Ministry Action plan for work including service project  
20 hours - Attend an Effective Confrontation Workshop  
60 hours - Participation in church ministry  
20 hours - Participation in one community service group  
20 hours - Develop & Implement workplace outreach program  
20 hours - Develop/implement/teach a workplace Bible study/prayer meeting  
20 hours - Develop/Implement a development plan for direct reports  
4 hours - Attend X-press your faith seminar  
360 hours = 36 credit

[Hours listed are minimums.]

The criteria for evaluating Part III of the MAS Curriculum Portfolio (the practicum) is:

**A** (90-100) = work done by the student *exceeds* what was required in the agreed upon practicum work found on the following pages

**B** (80-89) = the student has completed every requirement in the practicum work found Part three of the Portfolio

**C** (70-79) = all work was completed, but could have been better

**I** = the student has not *yet* completed all required work and has been granted extra time to finish

**F** = the student has failed to complete *all* the required work in the time permitted

## **To Interested Students Who do not have a Bachelor Degree**

Students who do not have an undergraduate degree from a college or university are able to enroll in MAS, follow the Master's in Divinity pathway and receive a Bachelor's in Theology degree.

MAS' B.Th. degree is based on the British system. There a student enters right into the student's major without having to take the "core" courses required in the American system. It is presumed courses, such as English Composition and basic math have been completed and learned in high school. This may make work on this level more challenging at MAS. However, since most of our students are coming into the program older, many of these deficits should have been resolved. MAS will do all it can to help each student to be successful in his/her studies.

# Policies

---

In addition to the academic qualifications for the intended program of study, applicants are assessed before entry to establish that they are Christians who are maturing spiritually. They should be in good standing with their local church, and in a reasonable state of health.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ❑ Application – (found on the website) this will determine
  1. genuineness of conversion and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
  2. present involvement in Christian service
  3. a sense of vocation in future service for the Lord
- ❑ Three References who can verify the potential student’s readiness for study and service
- ❑ Photograph
- ❑ Copy of high school diploma or GED (B.Th. candidate only)
- ❑ Transcripts from any tertiary institutions. (A minimum of a bachelor’s degree is required to pursue the M.Div.) (If you wish to transfer credit into MAS please also send along a catalog or website information from that institution. Be sure it includes course descriptions.)
- ❑ \$100 application fee (Must accompany application or paid on the website)

## REQUIREMENTS

- a. Entrance to the Bachelor in Theology requires the following:
  - 1) high school diploma or equivalent
  - 2) The Seminary has a mature entry policy, i.e. a student may be granted mature age exemption if the applicant is 25 or older.
  - 3) Completion and acceptance of the student is based upon the information submitted in the application and from the three references.
- b. Entrance to the Master of Divinity is as follows:
  - 1) The minimum requirement is a completed bachelor’s degree substantiated by the submission of a transcript.
  - 2) Completion and acceptance of the student is based upon the information submitted in the application and from the three references.

## REGISTRATION & ORIENTATION

Students can register for classes online at [www.metroatlantaseminary.org](http://www.metroatlantaseminary.org) As we anticipate the arrival of all new and returning students, MAS arranges a schedule of orientation activities at the beginning of each academic year. We strive to provide an atmosphere of Christian unity and fellowship as the faculty, staff, and returning students help to familiarize new students with the program, and various ministry opportunities.

## TUITION AND FEES

Application Fee.....	\$100
Tuition.....	\$100/Credit
Mentor Fee.....	\$25/Credit
Late Registration Fee.....	\$25
Audit Fee.....	\$50/Credit
Graduation Fee.....	\$200 (payable student’s last term)
Transcript Fee.....	\$15 each after the first two

## **PAYMENT OF FEES**

Students are expected to pay all fees for each term by the first night of class. If a payment schedule is needed, terms can be arranged with the Dean of Administration. All fees must be fully paid before a student can start another term or graduate.

## **SCHOLARSHIP POLICY**

Due to the generosity of Christians committed to the work at MAS, limited funds are available as scholarships. These are awarded for one year and must be applied for and are considered for renewal each year.

The Scholarship Application and Instructions are available on the website.

## **TRANSFER OF CREDIT POLICY**

MAS will accept transfer of credit from many accredited schools. A maximum of ten credit hours may be transferred into the program. Courses and credits must correlate closely with the courses MAS offers including practicum and mentoring.

Credits from MAS have been accepted by several evangelical institutions. A student wishing to transfer credit from MAS to another institution should acquire specific information concerning the policies and procedures of that institution.

## **CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING**

When a student can demonstrate prior learning in a particular subject area, he or she may be exempted from that course by the Faculty Academic Committee. In its place will be a course equal to the amount of credit granted by the prior learning as agreed upon by the student and Dean.

## **REFUND POLICY**

Refunds of tuition will be given on the following basis:

- a. 50% after the first hour of class
- b. 25% after the second hour of class
- c. 0% after the third hour of class

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Metro Atlanta Seminary does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, national and ethnic origin, natural born gender, disability, or age.

## **PRACTICUM AND MENTORING COMPLETION POLICY**

Each student is required to be involved in a local church or Christian ministry each academic year working with his or her mentor as he or she practices what they are learning. The practicum is given as a minimum guide to help the student engage in the church and the world. Successful completion of the practicum, with approval of mentor is a prerequisite for graduation.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

Students are graded according to their quality of work. Beginning in Fall 2016 the grading system will be:

- A** (90-100) = work done by the student *exceeds* what was required in the syllabus
- B** (80-89) = the student has completed every requirement in the syllabus
- C** (70-79) = all work was completed, but could have been better
- I** = all required work has not *yet* completed and has been granted extra time to finish
- F** = the student has failed to complete *all* the required work in the time permitted

## **MISSED CLASS POLICY**

All classes are eight weeks long and 75 minutes each per credit hour. For this reason, students may not pass a course if more than *one* class has been missed, unless permission has been granted in advance by the professor to make up the work.

## **CLASS TIME AND ATTENDANCE**

We view class time not merely as a time of academic instruction, but also as a time of fellowship, when faculty and students together explore the Holy Scriptures, learn God's truth, "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ", and find ways of practically implementing, as soon as possible, what has been learned. To that end, class time is essential and absences must have providential as well as faculty excuse. Students are encouraged to attend all classes, and to be punctual. We operate on a short 8-week term, and therefore attendance is critical to success in any subject. To that end, no student may miss more than one class hour of a one-credit course; 2 class hours of a two-credit course; etc. Students who are unable to attend a class, must contact the professor before the class starts to ask for an excused absence. Students must also contact a fellow student to find out what was missed and what needs to be made up.

## **OUTSIDE CLASS STUDY EXPECTATION**

As a basic guideline, a student is expected to do about two hours of private study for every hour of classroom time.

## **SPOUSES**

Spouses who would like to attend classes as auditors may do so at no charge. However, please remember, auditors are there to listen only and should respect the right of degree seeking students to speak and ask questions.

## **DRESS GUIDELINES**

Students are to dress appropriately, with modesty, and due respect in consideration of others. This simply means we are all to take seriously the vocation of MAS and all who train here, and to have due respect for those of other cultures. (Rom. 14:13ff)

## **GRADUATION POLICY**

To graduate, a student must complete and pass all courses, complete the practicum, and be approved by the mentor.

- a. All required courses are taken and passed.
- b. The student's mentor has signed off on the readiness of the student to being his or her ministry
- c. The student's mentor has signed off on the practicum/internship part of the curriculum, meaning all the required elements on the checklist have been satisfied.

No student will be permitted to graduate unless all outstanding fees have been paid, nor will a copy of their transcript be given or sent until all financial deficits are settled.

## **INSURANCE POLICY**

1. **General** – Metro Atlanta Seminary does not provide personal insurance. It is the student's responsibility to make sure he or she is covered in case of sickness or injury.
2. **Indemnity** – Students, by registering are holding MAS harmless from any liability or any accident.

## **LIBRARY**

Access to great books and papers is important to students. MAS has chosen to own no buildings, which enables us to keep tuition low. Having no building means we cannot have a library. But that does not mean the student does not have access to great books. They can be sourced in the following ways:

- a. The use of public and private libraries
- b. The development of your own libraries, especially within Logos Bible Software
- c. Making good use of the internet, being careful to properly use, notate, and discern that material is accurate.
- d. Talking with faculty who are willing to lend their own books to students.
- e. Checking with your own pastor and see if he has the books you need and if he is willing to lend them.
- f. You also have access to two massive libraries at the Chandler Library at Emory and Columbia Seminar. MAS also has secured right of access to the library at Reformed Seminary.
- g. MAS will, over the next year, investigate the feasibility of becoming part of a librarians association such as ATLA.

## **ORDINATION**

MAS does not ordain anyone to the ministry. MAS believes this is the sole responsibility of the church.



# Course Descriptions

---

## **Old Testament Survey**

This is a study of the OT dealing with its content, message, form and background. The survey will introduce the student to the biblical-theological approach to Scripture, showing how the books of the OT point us to God's Covenant of Grace in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

## **New Testament Survey**

This course is an introduction to the NT writings and their message in the historical, cultural and religious context of the first century. The aim of the course is to give the student an accurate understanding of the primary backgrounds of the NT writings and other related introductory questions that impact on their message. The course comprises lectures, assigned readings, a written assignment and examination.

## **Greek For Bible Study**

The purpose of this course is not to make a person a Greek scholar. Rather, the intent is to give just enough basics of the Greek language to enable the student of the Bible to use the many word study tools written by the Greek scholars.

## **Hebrew for Bible Study**

The purpose of this course is not to make a person a Hebrew scholar. Rather, the intent is to give just enough basics of the Hebrew language to enable the student of the Bible to use the many word study tools written by the Hebrew scholars.

## **Old and New Testament Exegetical Book Studies**

**Prerequisite:** Hebrew for Bible Study (for both OT Exegesis courses) and Greek for Bible Study (for both NT exegesis courses)

These will be chosen by agreement between the seminary and the needs of the students. Two courses in OT and two in NT will be required. These will be taught with two objectives in mind. First will be the plan to cover this course in a way that will enable to student to immediately be able to teach the course to others, complete with application. The second objective is to demonstrate to the students how to use the Greek and Hebrew taught in the Greek and Hebrew for Bible Study courses. Students will be taught how to develop sermons and teaching lessons from the text. Systematic Theology/doctrine will also be covered in a way that will help the student to know how doctrine is developed out of the text.

## **Doctrine of Scripture**

The Doctrine of Scripture forms the first part of a two-part course. Major topics to be covered are: the divisions of Scripture, its revelation, inspiration and illumination; understanding Jesus' view of the Bible as well as its view of itself, canonicity, alleged "errors" in the Bible; and modern translations. The infallibility and inerrancy of all Scripture will be greatly emphasized. The seminary endeavors to teach something regarding all the major positions with respect to the Bible. The seminary's position is summed up by the description "biblical inerrancy". Our objective is to teach from the viewpoint of orthodox Protestantism concerning the Word of God, demonstrating its divine origin, internal harmony and its controlling role in the faith, life and vocation of Christians

## **Hermeneutics**

The second part, hermeneutics, is intended to teach the student to interpret and apply the Bible accurately in our modern context. It will provide a basic model incorporating the main principles of interpretation to enable the student to rightly divide the Word of Truth.

## **Survey of Church History 1 & 2**

This course will enable the student to come away with an understanding of the "time line" upon which God used individuals and events to bring about His desired ends from the end of the first century to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Particular note will be made of the development of doctrine throughout this period.

## **Making & Training Disciples**

It is a command. Our God calls us to make and train disciples but that is much easier to say than to do. This course offers the student and opportunity to explore his or her own issues with the command and to learn from practitioners of making and training disciples. Course work includes actually thinking about who, what, when and where. The instructors deal with myths if evangelism and seek to help the student rest in the decrees of God while laboring in His field.

## **God, Man, and Sin**

This course seeks to explore the nature, character and trinity of the God who has revealed Himself historically in redemption through His inspired Word, and in the enlightening which comes through the Holy Spirit. It comprises the centerpiece of our theological efforts as it has the Triune God Himself, and therefore the impartation of a profound knowledge of Him, as its focus. God as Maker and Upholder is set alongside a study of the humanity; both of our original and fallen

nature, dependence, and destiny. As with all doctrinal courses, the topic is explored along biblical, historical and systematic lines.

### **Person and Work of Christ**

The topic of the Person of Christ is a careful study of the relevant biblical material found in both Testaments, and a survey of the doctrine throughout the period of church history. The study on the Work of Christ is drawn from both Testaments and reaches its climax in Paul's epistles and Hebrews. The study encompasses a treatment of all the important views of the work of Christ, and will be compared with other differing viewpoints advanced over the last 2000 years.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Most courses that are designed to teach teachers to teach usually teach methods of communication (delivery). This is not adequate because the methods used may not reach the learning styles of most of your listeners. In this course we will concentrate first on helping you learn how you learn. Then you will study the characteristics of the other major learning styles. It will be only after this is understood that we can turn to putting together teaching methods that will enable you to reach all the learners you are charged with teaching.

### **The Holy Spirit and Salvation**

This course is intended to give the student a foundational understanding of the doctrine of the Person of the Holy Spirit and his work in the Church from a historical, Biblical and theological perspective. The course is designed so the student may have a foundational knowledge of and a practical appreciation for the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit in his/her own life. An understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in your life should change the way you view how to live a godly life, being dependent on the Holy Spirit

### **Ethics and Leadership**

Does it matter if you take a few paper clips home? Or if you don't tell the person you are selling to all the features or lack thereof for your product. How much do we need to be examples of transparency in the world? This course will explore the reality of the marketplace and the issues surrounding how a Christian can be successful in business.

### **Worship Liturgy and the Sacraments**

This course will examine the subject of corporate worship in the context of the local church. Although the subject of individual worship is certainly of crucial importance, this will only be dealt with as it relates to our corporate worship. What is corporate worship? Do we have to pray? Preach? Sing? What about confession? And how and why are the Lord's Supper and Baptism tied into the whole thing?

### **Denominational History and Polity**

This course will cover the history of the Presbyterian Church from the Reformation to the present, with special emphasis being given to the rise of the Presbyterian Church in America.

NOTE: Anyone taking this course who is from another denomination can write a contract involving the study of their own denomination's history, doctrinal distinctive, and major contributions to the cause of Christ.

### **Sermon Construction - Preaching**

This course will be hands on interactive learning time as students understand the principles, but more importantly the heart of preaching

### **Kingdom Purpose Workshop**

This course will help students discover, define and place into their life grid their Kingdom Purpose.

### **Internship**

The design of this program is to enable to candidate to work directly under a seasoned pastor/mentor. During this time it is expected that the protégé shadow the mentor in all that he does. This will also involve the learning of ministry ingredients not covered in the formal teaching part of this program, such as homiletics, ethics, and counseling.

### **Evangelism/Apologetics**

Every Christian needs to be ready at all times to give a defense for the hope that is in us. This course is meant to help every student to be equipped and trained to witness to anyone without reservation.

# Sample TEXTBOOKS

COURSE	TEXTBOOK
For <b>all</b> courses	Logos Bible Software – Bronze Level Edition (minimum)
Old Testament Survey	Scott, Jack. <i>God's Plan Unfolded</i> . Christian Education Publications, 2011 Fee & Stuart. 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. <i>How to Read the Bible for all it's Worth</i> . Zond. 2014 Hill & Walton. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition. <i>Survey of OT</i> , Zondervan, 2000 Walton, John. <i>Chronological &amp; Background Charts of the OT</i> . Zon.1994
Greek & Hebrew	<i>Learning to Use Greek and Hebrew</i> . Logos Bible Software W. Mounce. <i>Biblical Greek: A Compact Guide</i> . Zondervan, 2011 M. Van Pelt. <i>Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide</i> . Zondervan, 2012
Exegesis of Jonah	Hill & Walton. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition. <i>Survey of OT</i> , Zondervan, 2000 Nixon, Rosemary. <i>Message of Jonah</i> . BST Series. IVP, 2003 Stuart, Douglas. <i>Jonah</i> . Word Biblical Commentary. Nelson, 1987
Exegesis of Nehemiah	Hill & Walton. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition. <i>Survey of OT</i> , Zondervan, 2000 Boice, J.M. <i>Nehemiah</i> . Am Expository Commentary. Baker, 1990 Williamson, HGM. <i>Ezra, Nehemiah</i> . Word Biblical Com. Nelson, 1985
New Testament Survey	Gundry, Stan. <i>Survey of the NT</i> . 5 <sup>th</sup> ed., Zondervan, 2012 Scott, Jack. <i>OT Survey</i> . Adult Biblical Education. CDM, 1985 House, Wayne. <i>Chronological &amp; Background Charts of the NT</i> . Zon.2009
Exegesis of NT Postcards	Gundry, Stan. <i>Survey of the NT</i> . 5 <sup>th</sup> ed., Zondervan, 2012
Exegesis of Titus	Gundry, Stan. <i>Survey of the NT</i> . 5 <sup>th</sup> ed., Zondervan, 2012 Mounce, Wm. <i>Complete Expository Dict</i> . Zondervan, 2006.
Doctrine of Scripture	Harris, R. Laird. <i>Inspiration &amp; Canonicity</i> . Wiph & Stock, 2008 Frame, John <i>Systematic Theology</i> , 2013
Hermeneutics	Dorani, D. <i>Getting the Message</i> , P&R, 1996
History of Christianity	Early, Joseph. <i>A History of Christianity</i> . Broadman/Holman, 2015 Walton, Robert. <i>Chronological &amp; Background Charts of Church History</i> . Zon, 2005
Apologetics	Cowan, Steven B. (ed.). <i>Five Views on Apologetics</i> . Zondervan, 2000
Making and Training Disciples	Packer, JI. <i>Evangelism &amp; Sovereignty of God</i> . IVP, 1961 Winter & Hawthorne. <i>Perspectives....</i> Wm Carry Library, 1999 Hendricks & Hendricks. <i>As Iron Sharpens Iron</i> . Moody, 1995. (Men) Hunt, Susan. <i>Spiritual Mothering</i> . Crossway, 2009 Chester, Tim, <i>A Meal with Jesus</i> , 2011 Pope, Randy, <i>The Answer</i> Schlichting, Randy <i>Minority Rules</i>
Teaching & Learning	LeFever, M. <i>Learning Styles</i> . DC Cook, 1995
<b>All</b> Systematic Theology courses	Frame, John <i>Systematic Theology</i> , 2013
Pastoral Ministry/Internship	Witmer, Timothy. <i>The Shepherd Leader</i> . P&R, 2010 MacArthur, J. <i>Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry</i> . Word, 1995 Prime & Begg. <i>On Being a Pastor</i> . Moody, 2004 Trip, Paul. <i>Dangerous Calling</i> . Crossway, 2012 Witmer, Timothy. <i>M.A.P. for Mentors</i> . Metro Atlanta Presbytery, 2007