

M.A. Program Guidelines for New Students

The M.A. Degree at Wartburg Theological Seminary prepares students for a variety of callings through in-depth theological study. The M.A. degree program is designed for possible completion in one full academic year, which includes a fall semester (with prolog week), one January term course, and a spring semester (with prolog week). Students may take additional time as needed in the summer to finish the Capstone Project.

The Academic Advisor serves as the primary guide to the student in designing the shape of their program. Conversation with the Academic Advisor should begin as early as possible after admission to the program. The Academic Dean provides direction to the advisors and students in adapting the program to address unique questions and circumstances. The M.A. Director's role is to provide coordination of the first and second faculty readers who will work with the student on the Capstone Project.

FAQ

1. *May I enroll in a course that does not match the prescribed curriculum?* Yes, this is possible after consultation with the Academic Advisor and the Academic Dean.
2. *How do I enroll in an independent study?* After consultation with the Academic Advisor, the student can ask a member of the faculty to direct an independent study. The Registrar provides the student with an independent study contract form which the student completes in partnership with the instructor.
3. *What is expected during January Term?* Students are expected to enroll in one J-Term course. Students desiring to complete more academic work in January should enroll (in addition to the two-credit January requirement) for an independent study in Spring Semester and may start on that work already in January.
4. *How do I prepare my Capstone Project?* The spring semester course, "Christ in the Neighbor, Christ in the World," accompanies students toward completion of the M.A. Capstone Project (which is itself a 3 credit course), which should be equivalent to a 10-15-page paper on a subject of interest to the student. Students may extend the completion of the Capstone Project into the summer semester as needed.
5. *Do M.A. students make a presentation of the Capstone Project?* Normally, M.A. students do not make a presentation of the Capstone Project. Exceptions are made by the request of the student.
6. *Does the M.A. require Clinical Pastoral Education, Fieldwork, Internship, or a Cross-Cultural Immersion?* No, these are not degree requirements.
7. *Is it possible to enroll in the M.A. program and extend courses into a second year?* Yes, this is possible. While the degree must be completed in five years after initial enrollment, in consultation with the Academic Advisor, M.A. students may choose to enroll for a lighter course load or study part-time and therefore take longer than one year. Students should discuss financial aid implications with the Director of Financial Aid.

M.A. students are valued members of the WTS student body and community. We encourage M.A. students to participate fully in the academic and community life of the seminary. We also encourage M.A. students to initiate connections with one another, students in other programs, faculty, and staff through on-campus opportunities, email, use of Zoom meetings, or other forms of social media beyond what takes place through courses.