

MA in Pastoral Studies (MAPS)

For more information: (626) 815-5451

NOTE: The Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies program in Korean is not admitting new students for the 2024-25 academic year.

Mission Statement

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) (<https://www.apu.edu/seminary/programs/masters-in-pastoral-studies/>) program prepares women and men for a specialized field of church ministry through a program of study comprising 48 units in biblical, theological, and ministerial studies. An important feature of the program is the intentional integration of academic and experiential components.

Exceptions to Admission Requirements

A limited number of applicants who do not have baccalaureate degrees but have extensive ministerial experience may be considered for admission. For a description of the standards governing this exception, contact Azusa Pacific Seminary. Students admitted under this exception must obtain a *B* or better in their first 12 units of coursework.

Program of Studies

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies requires 48 units of coursework: 28 units of core courses, 12 units in a selected ministry concentration, 3 units of Mentored Ministry, 1 unit for the Community Retreat, and 4 units of a Capstone Project. Most students either concentrate in church leadership and development or urban studies, or decide to use their 12 units of general electives to develop their own areas of interest.

Requirements for the MA in Pastoral Studies, Church Leadership and Development Concentration

Today's hurried, fragmented society calls for healthy, effective ministry leaders. This concentration provides students with education in practical ministry, with particular focus on leadership development and spiritual formation, equipping ministers for the broad, multifaceted needs of the contemporary Church. Concentration outcomes build on the Azusa Pacific Seminary core competencies and MAPS program outcomes.

Concentration Outcomes

- Synthesize the vital role of healthy church management for the empowerment of the laity.
- Develop vocational proficiency and leadership ability.
- Apply ministry principles of Christ-like formation for lifelong ministry effectiveness and personal growth.

Code	Title	Units
Biblical Studies Core		8
GBBL 511	Biblical Interpretation: Exploring Genesis	
Select one of the following:		
GBBL 501	Torah and Prophets: Exodus-2 Kings	
GBBL 532	Paul the Pastor and Theologian	
Theological Studies Core		8
GTHE 584	Christian Theology	
Select one of the following:		
GTHE 503	Church History I	
GTHE 513	Church History II	
Ministry Core		8
GMIN 516	Christian Formation and Discipleship	
GMIN 505	Ministry Life and Leadership	
Integrated Core		4
GINS 542	The Gospels and Christology	
Mentored Ministry		4
GMIN 567	Community Retreat	
GMIN 569	Mentored Ministry ¹	
Church Leadership and Development Concentration		12

GMIN 508	Servant Leadership and Church Management	
GMIN 528	Contemporary Issues in Ministry	
Select one of the following:		
GMIN 588	The Missional Church	
GMIN 628	Seminar in Ministry	
Capstone/Portfolio		4
GMIN 608	Integrative Ministry Project	
Total Units		48

¹ Repeat for a total of 3 units.

Requirements for the MA in Pastoral Studies, Urban Studies Concentration

The North American Church is becoming increasingly urbanized. To prepare students for ministry in the city, this concentration engages them with urban social structures, trends, and ministry strategies. Issues of contextualization, social analysis, and cross-cultural communication will be addressed.

NOTE: This concentration is available only for students in the Spanish-language MAPS program.

Concentration Outcomes

- Evaluate and apply ministry concepts, theories, and methodologies found in the urban setting.
- Develop cultural awareness and sensitivity for ministry in the urban context.
- Analyze the methods of evangelism and discipleship unique to the city.

Code	Title	Units
Biblical Studies Core		8
GBBL 511	Biblical Interpretation: Exploring Genesis	
Select one of the following:		
GBBL 501	Torah and Prophets: Exodus-2 Kings	
GBBL 532	Paul the Pastor and Theologian	
Theological Studies Core		8
GTHE 584	Christian Theology	
Select one of the following:		
GTHE 503	Church History I	
GTHE 513	Church History II	
Ministry Core		8
GMIN 516	Christian Formation and Discipleship	
GMIN 505	Ministry Life and Leadership	
Integrated Core		4
GINS 542	The Gospels and Christology	
Mentored Ministry		4
GMIN 567	Community Retreat	
GMIN 569	Mentored Ministry ¹	
Urban Studies Concentration		12
GMIN 509	Urban Sociology and Christian Ministry	
GMIN 519	Current Issues in Urban Ministry	
Select one of the following:		
GMIN 529	City in Theological Perspective	
GMIN 559	Urban Cross-Cultural Ministry	
Capstone/Portfolio		4
GMIN 608	Integrative Ministry Project	
Total Units		48

¹ Repeat for a total of 3 units.

Requirements for the MA in Pastoral Studies, General Electives Concentration

Code	Title	Units
Biblical Studies Core Courses		8
GBBL 511	Biblical Interpretation: Exploring Genesis	
Select one of the following:		
GBBL 501	Torah and Prophets: Exodus-2 Kings	
GBBL 532	Paul the Pastor and Theologian	
Theology and Ethics Core		8
GTHE 584	Christian Theology	
Select one of the following:		
GTHE 503	Church History I	
GTHE 513	Church History II	
Ministry Core		8
GMIN 516	Christian Formation and Discipleship	
GMIN 505	Ministry Life and Leadership	
Integrated Core		4
GINS 542	The Gospels and Christology	
Mentored Ministry		4
GMIN 567	Community Retreat	
GMIN 569	Mentored Ministry ¹	
General Electives Concentration		12
Capstone/Portfolio		4
GMIN 608	Integrative Ministry Project	
Total Units		48

¹ Repeat for a total of 3 units

Additional Degree Requirements

Supervised Ministry

All students should devote at least eight hours per week, for the duration of the program, to the practice of some form of supervised ministry in an approved church or parachurch field center. In order to graduate, students must maintain at least a 2.7 grade-point average.

Time Limit

The program must be completed within 10 years from the date of admission. APU coursework completed more than 10 years prior to completion of degree requirements is not acceptable toward the degree.

Admission

University graduate admission and program-specific requirements must be met before an application is complete (see Admission to the University (<http://catalog.apu.edu/admissions/>)). **Program-specific application requirements are available online (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>).**

International students should contact Graduate and Professional Admissions (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>) for application procedures.

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this program shall be able to:

1. Model a holy life through spiritual disciplines reflecting a Wesleyan heritage of faith and love.
2. Interpret Scripture with reverent criticism, theological insight, and constructive imagination, beginning with the inductive method of Bible study, for the edification of the Church.
3. Think theologically through the Wesleyan quadrilateral (Scripture, Church tradition, reason, and experience) in a manner that is faithful to the past and responsive to the present.

4. Develop competence in the pastoral responsibilities of teaching, leadership, and pastoral care.
5. Analyze various cultural constructs and global issues in order to provide transformational leadership for the church.
6. Develop competency in design, application, and evaluation of a specialized ministry.