

Assessment Plan

2021-22



SEM - Master of Arts in Theological Studies

University Mission: George Fox University, a Christ-centered community, prepares students spiritually, academically, and professionally to think with clarity, act with integrity, and serve with passion.

Program Mission: George Fox Evangelical Seminary is a multi-denominational, evangelical, university-based seminary committed to equipping women and men academically, spiritually, emotionally, and theologically for ministry in the church and world.

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies program is designed for men and women who desire graduate study in the field of theological studies with an emphasis in biblical studies, Christian history and theology, Christian Earthkeeping, or an integration of these emphases.

Alignment With GFU Mission: Seminary programs support primarily the university's core themes of 'Excellence in Professional Preparation' and 'Christ-Centered Community.'

Degree Outcomes:

- Grow in the ability to analyze pertinent texts and materials
- Develop the capacity to think critically
- Learn research, writing, and communication skills
- Integrate and demonstrate these learnings through a summative project/thesis
- Be formed holistically, both academically and spiritually

Assessment Lead: Melissa Ramos

Outcome: Summative Evaluation Tool

D.2.2 In addition to course work, these degrees should require a concluding exercise that allows for a summative evaluation; this exercise may be a thesis in the area of concentration, a comprehensive examination, or another summative process of evaluation.

Outcome Status: Active

OutcomeType: Association of Theological Schools

Assessment Tools

Capstone Assignment - MATS Thesis evaluation tool (Active)

Target: We are in the midst of developing a tool by which thesis advisors can measure progress from proposal to finished-product stage

Schedule for Data Collection: term in which students finish thesis (usually spring)

Schedule for Data Analysis & Reporting: months following term in which students finish thesis (usually summer)

Related Goals

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Departmental - We hope our pre-PhD students will be as prepared as they can be for doctoral work.

Outcome: Religious Heritage

ATS Standard A.2.2 Religious heritage: The program shall provide structured opportunities to develop a comprehensive and discriminating understanding of the religious heritage. Instruction shall be provided in Scripture, in the historical development and contemporary articulation of the doctrinal and theological tradition of the community of faith, and in the social and institutional history of that community. Attention should be given both to the broader heritage of the Christian tradition as such and to the more

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specific character of particular Christian traditions and communities, to the ways the traditions transcend particular social and cultural settings, and to the ways they come to unique expression in them.

Outcome Status: Active

OutcomeType: Association of Theological Schools

Assessment Tools

Writing Assignment - NT2 final assignment/essay (Active)

Target: 75% of students will score 80+% on exam

Schedule for Data Collection: End of spring term annually

Schedule for Data Analysis & Reporting: Summer term annually

OT1 exegetical assignments (Active)

Target: Majority of students will show improvement from first to last exegetical assignment

Schedule for Data Collection: End of fall term annually

Schedule for Data Analysis & Reporting: End of spring term annually

Writing Assignment - NT1 final assignment/essay (Active)

Target: 75% of students will score 80+% on exam

Schedule for Data Collection: End of fall term annually

Schedule for Data Analysis & Reporting: Spring annually

Related Courses

BIST 506 - Old Testament I

Related Goals

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Departmental - We hope our pre-PhD students will be as prepared as they can be for doctoral work.

Outcome: Cultural Context

ATS Standard A.2.3 The program shall provide opportunities to develop a critical understanding of and creative engagement with the cultural realities and structures within which the church lives and carries out its mission. The program shall provide for instruction in contemporary cultural and social issues and their significance for diverse linguistic and cultural contexts of ministry. Such instruction should draw on the insights of the arts and humanities, the natural sciences, and the social sciences. MDiv education shall engage students with the global character of the church as well as ministry in the multi faith and multicultural context of contemporary society. This should include attention to the wide diversity of religious traditions present in potential ministry settings, as well as expressions of social justice and respect congruent with the institution's mission and purpose.

Outcome Status: Active

OutcomeType: Association of Theological Schools

Assessment Tools

Writing Assignment - CHTH 509 Final Assignment - NOTE: This is a new assessment tool. The previous course (CHTH 513) is no longer offered. It was replaced with CHTH 509. (Active)

Target: 80% of students will score 80% or above on this assignment by the end of the term

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Schedule for Data Collection: End of spring term annually

Schedule for Data Analysis & Reporting: Summer annually

Outcome: Personal and Spiritual Formation

ATS Standard A.2.4 Personal and spiritual formation: The program shall provide opportunities through which the student may grow in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness. Ministerial preparation includes concern with the development of capacities: intellectual and affective, individual and corporate, ecclesial and public that are requisite to a life of pastoral leadership. The program shall provide for spiritual, academic, and vocational counseling and careful reflection on ministerial roles such as leader, guide, and servant of the faith community. The program shall provide opportunities to assist students in developing commitment to Christian faith and life (e.g., expressions of justice, leadership development, the devotional life, evangelistic witness) in ways consistent with the overall goal and purpose of the institution's MDiv program.

Outcome Status: Active

OutcomeType: Association of Theological Schools

Assessment Tools

SFAD 560 Summative/Final Project, (Active)

Target: 80% of students will score 90+% on both papers

Schedule for Data Collection: End of fall term annually

Schedule for Data Analysis & Reporting: Spring Annually