

# **MDiv Field Concentration Guide**

## Master of Divinity Field Concentration Guide

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Current concentrations are available in: church history, theology, ethics, worship, pastoral care and counseling, Christian education, spiritual formation, evangelism, pastoral leadership, African American church leadership (interdisciplinary), LGBTQ studies (in conjunction with Chicago Theological Seminary, CTS), peace studies (in conjunction with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, AMBS), and urban ministry (in conjunction with the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education, SCUPE). Other concentrations may be possible with appropriate faculty consultation and support.

This concentration is listed on the transcript if (1) at least the minimum number of courses is completed, (2) a portfolio is completed and reviewed with faculty during the regular processes of evaluation, and (3) any additional requirements set by faculty in the field are completed. Check with faculty in each field for specific requirements.

### **Procedures for declaring and completing a concentration**

Because of the limited time frame for completion, any student interested in completing a concentration should begin consulting with their advisor during their first year. This will maximize the time available and allow the student to find an advisor in the concentration field as soon as possible in the program.

1. Student first consults with current advisor. This will help the student begin to determine who to approach for completion of the concentration.
2. Student will submit an MDiv Field Concentration Intention Form with the support of the faculty member agreeing to be advisor. This form serves to declare the intention to complete the concentration as well as the request for a new advisor. If uncertain, the student may consult with the director of academic studies/registrar to determine the most appropriate advisor, particularly for concentrations through partner institutions.
3. In consultation with the new advisor, the student will complete a minimum of five courses in the concentration area. Each field is responsible for outlining their own expectations as long as the minimum requirements are met. The requirements for some concentrations are outlined in this guide, especially for those concentrations that are more interdisciplinary or rely on outside partnerships. Any specific requirements that have been set by fields or programs and shared with the registrar's office will be outlined here.
4. A portfolio will be collected from work completed towards the concentration. This portfolio should cover requirements completed for courses related to the concentration and are decided in consultation with the advisor. At a minimum this portfolio is reviewed as a part of all program evaluations (mid-point, when possible, and concentration completion).
5. Upon completion of all requirements, the advisor and field chair sign off on the MDiv Field Concentration Completion Form. The completed form is submitted to the registrar's office and the concentration is added to the student record and becomes a part of the student's transcript.

## Approved concentrations and requirements

Current concentrations are available in: church history, theology, ethics, worship, pastoral care and counseling, Christian education, spiritual formation, evangelism, congregational leadership, African American church leadership (interdisciplinary), ecology and justice (in conjunction with Methodist Theological School in Ohio, MTSO), LGBTQ studies (in conjunction with Chicago Theological Seminary, CTS), peace studies (in conjunction with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, AMBS), and urban ministry (in conjunction with the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education, SCUPE). Other concentrations may be possible with appropriate faculty consultation and support.

The following program requirements related to certain interdisciplinary or partner programs have already been approved.

- **African American Church Leadership**

In consultation with an African American faculty member, complete the following or other approved courses.

- African American Preaching or African American Worship
- Black Theology
- African American biblical Interpretation
- African American Religious History
- African American Ministry

- **Congregational Leadership**

The Congregational Leadership Concentration requires the following areas/courses. At least three of these requirements must have been met or be concurrently enrolled to register for the Advanced Seminar.

- Evangelism: either “Empowering the Congregation for Evangelism” or “Theology of Evangelism”
- Spiritual Formation: One course in the Spiritual Disciplines
- Congregational Leadership: "Pastor and People" or "Church Administration"
- Congregational Leadership or Sociology: "Church Administration" or "Planning & Planting Congregations" or a Sociology of Religion Course
- Congregational Leadership: Advanced Seminar in Congregational Leadership

- **LGBTQ Studies (w/ Chicago Theological Seminary)**

To complete a concentration in LGBTQ Studies, Garrett-Evangelical MDiv students will be required to complete a minimum of five courses that CTS has identified as LGBTQ concentration electives. It is recommended that the courses cover the following areas – Theory, Practice, Biblical background, and Theological background – plus one elective course in LGBTQ studies. Below is a **sample** based on recent and current course offerings. (These courses are subject to change based on CTS course offerings. Consult with advisor and/or registrar when selecting courses.)

- RH/TEC 498 Homosexuality and the Bible
- TEC 410 Queer Theologies
- TEC 441 Theory and Theology of the Church: Feminist, Queer, & Ethnographic Approaches
- LM 482 Queering Worship
- Another approved CTS LGBTQ Studies concentration course

- **Peace Studies** (w/ Anabaptist Mennonite Theological Seminary)  
To complete a concentration in Peace Studies, Garrett-Evangelical MDiv students will be required to complete a minimum of five classes in four different areas – Theory, Practice, Biblical background, and Theological background – plus one elective course in Peace Studies. (These requirements are subject to change based on AMBS course offerings.)
  - BIB 651 Biblical Foundations for Peace and Justice
  - CHM 500 God's Shalom and the Church's Witness
  - THE 550 Introduction to Peace Studies
  - CHM 663 Conflict, Communication, and Conciliation (3 hrs) or  
CHM 543 Education for Peace and Justice (2 hrs)
  - Another approved AMBS Peace Studies program course

Other concentrations may be possible with appropriate faculty support and approval. Whenever possible, it is recommended that new concentrations follow the four area pattern of other concentrations and certifications – Bible, Theology, Theory, and Practice – plus a related elective course. All new concentrations must be supported by an advisor and/or field and approved by the Master's Degrees Committee (MDC). Requests for consideration may be made through the director of academic studies/registrar who will bring proposals to the MDC.

## MDIV FIELD CONCENTRATION INTENTION FORM

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

847.866.3905 | 847.866.3884 fax | 2121 Sheridan Road | Evanston, Illinois 60201 | 800.SEMINARY | www.garrett.edu

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To begin the process of completing a concentration, students would normally work with a faculty member in the field of study to select courses and complete the focused portfolio. Submission of this form indicates the student's intention to complete a focused concentration and serves as their request to change advisors.\*

Please complete this form and obtain the *new advisor's signature* of agreement.

Return this form to the office of the registrar.

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Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

My current advisor is: \_\_\_\_\_

Change my advisor to: \_\_\_\_\_

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New advisor's signature of agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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cc: current advisor

\* Since a field concentration is not required, this does not change a student's degree requirements and students may still graduate without completing the concentration.

(Typing name in signature field and sending from .edu e-mail address constitutes signature.)

**MASTER OF DIVINITY FIELD CONCENTRATION**  
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This concentration is listed on the transcript if :

- the requisite number of courses are completed,
- a portfolio is completed and reviewed with faculty during the regular processes of evaluation, and
- faculty in the field set standards for and approve the completion of the concentration.

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ Has met the requirements for a concentration  
in \_\_\_\_\_ according to the standards set by the field.

Faculty representing the field:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Field chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(Typing name in signature field and sending from .edu e-mail address constitutes signature.)