



Graduate School of Theology

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COLLEGE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

KEY STRENGTHS

- The Graduate School of Theology is one of the largest programs at ACU, serving approximately 300 students.
- Graduates have been accepted into many of the most prestigious doctoral programs in the world (including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Duke, Emory, Notre Dame and Oxford Universities).
- More than 95 percent of graduates find employment in ministry settings or gain acceptance into graduate schools.
- All of the graduate faculty hold doctoral degrees.
- Weekly graduate chapel provides an important opportunity for students and faculty to worship together.
- In 2002, the Graduate School of Theology received accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools, the primary accrediting agency for theological education.
- Faculty members meet regularly with students in mentoring groups.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
- Master of Arts in Missions
- Master of Arts (New Testament, Old Testament, History and Theology)
- Master of Divinity
- Doctor of Ministry

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Preaching
- Educational ministry
- Youth and family ministry
- Associate ministry
- Research and university careers in theology and ministry
- Domestic missions
- Foreign missions

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Off-campus courses offered in the Dallas area.
- Internet courses are available.

Research and ministry centers

- Center for Youth and Family Ministry
- Center for Restoration Studies
- Center for Church Enrichment

Certificate programs

- Ministerial counseling
- Conflict management

Scholarships available

- Substantial financial aid grants are given to most students. Awards are based on undergraduate GPA, recommendations, and graduate entrance exam scores.

FACILITIES

The Biblical Studies Building, dedicated in 1989, is one of the most impressive, beautiful and functional buildings of its type anywhere in America. Its 16 classrooms range from 20-seat seminar rooms to a 340-seat auditorium. These classrooms have been equipped with the latest video, audio and computer equipment to enhance instruction and administrative operations. Their size and arrangement are ideal for classes of varying styles.

Graduate chapel takes place in the Chapel on the Hill. Massive windows with 280 shades of faceted glass surround this 350-seat chapel. Its aesthetic appeal and acoustical design provide a rich atmosphere for worship. It also serves as the "lab" for preaching classes.

The Graduate Commons, located within the Graduate School of Theology, provides a place for student-faculty or student-student interaction, conversation and fellowship. The Quiet Place consists of seven small rooms for retreat, meditation, renewal and prayer. The Hall of Servants is a large atrium appropriate for student conversations and study.

Students have access to computer terminals for academic work, research and Internet services. The library is part of a consortium which allows students the ability to do extensive research in preparation for courses.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Dr. Lynn Anderson, D.Min., 1990; Hope Ministries, Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Jeffrey Peterson, M.A., 1987; professor of Bible and New Testament, Austin Graduate School of Theology, Austin, Texas.

Max Lucado, M.S., 1983; popular Christian author; preacher, Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Rick Marrs, M.Div., 1976; professor of Old Testament, Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif.

Dr. Carl Holladay, S.T.B. (M.Div.), 1969; associate dean, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

RECENT GRADUATES

Jay Hawkins, M.Div., 2000; preaching minister, Caldwell Church of Christ, Caldwell, Idaho.

Mark LaValley, M.Div., 1997, D.Min candidate; preaching minister, Westside Church of Christ, Beaverton, Ore.

Stephen Johnson, M.Div., 1996, D.Min., 2000; assistant professor, Abilene Christian University.

Edwin Choy, M.S., 1995; preacher, Singapore.

Chris Benjamin, M.Div., 1994; preaching minister, West-Ark Church of Christ, Fort Smith, Ark.

John Grant, M.Div., 1994; associate minister, Alameda Church of Christ, Norman, Okla.

Chris Heard, M.A., 1993; Ph.D., assistant professor, Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif.

Jeff Childers, M.Div., 1992; Ph.D., 1996, Early Church History, Oxford University, Oxford, England; assistant professor, Abilene Christian University.

Curt Niccum, M.Div., 1992; Ph.D., New Testament studies, Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind.; assistant professor, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond, Okla.

Scott Sager, M.Div., 1990; minister, Preston Road Church of Christ, Dallas, Texas.

Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah, M.A., 2000; principal, Heritage Christian College, Accra, Ghana.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Faculty members in the Graduate School of Theology participate actively in professional organizations, such as the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Church History, the American Academy of Homiletics, and the Association of Theological Field Educators. Many have held national office. Most have presented papers at national conventions and contributed articles to professional journals. Several have edited professional journals.
- Additionally, faculty members are involved in ministry among churches all over the world. Many are involved in church and ministry consultation. Faculty members are in frequent demand for workshops, seminars and lectureships. Most contribute to popular Christian journals, papers and magazines.
- ACU's graduate Bible faculty has received numerous research grants and participates in international research endeavors such as the "Acts Project," an effort by textual critics to research the wording of the Book of Acts, a project headed by ACU faculty.

FACULTY

Jack R. Reese, Ph.D., *professor, dean, College of Biblical Studies*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1973; M.S., University of Oklahoma, 1976; M.A., ACU, 1978; Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1988.

James W. Thompson, Ph.D., *professor, associate dean of the Graduate School of Theology*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1964; M.A., ACU, 1965; B.D., Union Theological Seminary, 1970; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1974.

Frederick Aquino, Ph.D., *assistant professor*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1989; M.Div., ACU, 1993; M.A., ACU, 1995; Ph.D., Southern Methodist University, 2000.

Jeff W. Childers, Ph.D., *associate professor*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1989; M.A., M.Div., ACU, 1992; M.S.T., University of Oxford, 1993; Ph.D., University of Oxford, 1996.

Craig Churchill, *adjunct professor, theological librarian*; B.S., Texas A&M University, 1987; B.A., Institute for Christian Studies, 1989; M.S., Abilene Christian University, 1991; M.Div., ACU, 1992; M.L.S., University of Texas, 1994.

Kenneth L. Cukrowski, Ph.D., *associate professor, associate dean of the College of Biblical Studies*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1984; M.A., ACU, 1985; M.Div., Yale Divinity School, 1987; S.T.M., Yale Divinity School, 1988; Ph.D., Yale University, 1994.

Ian A. Fair, Ph.D., *adjunct professor*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1968; M.A., University of Natal, 1972; Ph.D., University of Natal, 1974.

Douglas A. Foster, Ph.D., *professor, director of the Center for Restoration Studies*; B.A., Lipscomb University, 1974; M.A., Scarritt College, 1980; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1986.

Mark Hamilton, Ph.D., *assistant professor*; B.A., Freed-Hardeman College, 1986; M.Div., Abilene Christian University, 1990; M.A., ACU, 1991; Ph.D., Harvard University, 2000.

Edward F. Mathews, D.Miss., *professor*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1962; M.A., ACU, 1969; M.Miss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1970; S.T.B., Abilene Christian University, 1971; D.Miss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1980.

Timothy Sensing, Ph.D., *associate professor*; B.S., Purdue University, 1980; M.Th., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1984; D.Min., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1992; Th.M., Duke University, 1994; Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 1998.

Charles A. Siburt, D.Min., *professor, director of the Doctor of Ministry program*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1968; M.Div., ACU, 1971; D.Min., Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 1978.

Kent Smith, D.Min., *adjunct professor*; B.A., Harding University, 1977; M.A.R., Harding Graduate School of Religion, 1984; D.Min., University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, 1989.

John T. Willis, Ph.D., *Burton and Sissy Coffman Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1955; M.A., ACU, 1956; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1966.

David Wray, D.R.E., *associate professor, chair, Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry*; B.S., Abilene Christian University, 1967; M.S., ACU, 1970; D.R.E., Temple Baptist Theological Seminary, 1996.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the Department

James Thompson, Ph.D., *Associate Dean*
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About ACU and Admissions

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