



# MASTER OF ARTS IN MODERN AND AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY

at Abilene Christian University

48

Number of credit hours

24

Months average time to completion



On campus in Abilene, Texas

## Master of Arts Track in Modern and American Christianity

The Master of Arts track in Modern and American Christianity is a 48-hour, research-oriented degree designed for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of historic expressions of Christianity, specifically from the 16th to the 21st century. The degree introduces students to the fascinating and complex development of global Christianity over the last five centuries.

## Why the Master of Arts Track in Modern and American Christianity?

The Master of Arts in Modern and American Christianity focuses on the influence of the Protestant Reformation, the rise of missions, and the global spread of Christianity. This includes the spread and progression of Christianity in America, as well as examination of specific traditions such as the Stone-Campbell tradition and the Ecumenical Movement. This degree is especially well-suited for students who plan to pursue study at the Ph.D level, or work in related research fields.

## Why the Master of Arts Track in Modern and American Christianity at ACU?

- Excellent faculty dedicated to rigorous academics and mentoring of students.
- Students are advised and mentored by Dr. Douglas Foster, a world-class, widely published scholar of church history and the Stone-Campbell Movement.
- Graduates have successfully pursued doctoral study at some of the world's most prestigious universities, including Harvard, Notre Dame, Emory, Yale, Princeton, Oxford, and Fuller Theological Seminary.

## Degree Process

The M.A. track in Modern and American Christianity is a 48-hour thesis program. Students who have extensive preparation at the undergraduate level may apply the following upper-division courses (maximum of 18 hours) toward the 48-hour degree: Church History (3 hours), Philosophy or Theology (3 hours), Greek (6 hours), and Hebrew (6 hours).

By the end of the second calendar year of the program, students must complete an exam over the English Bible, including basic knowledge of outlines and themes of each book, key interpretative issues and selected texts. During the final semester of course work, each student must complete and defend a thesis.

## Admission Requirements

1. A completed application and application fee;
2. Official transcript(s) from all colleges you've attended;
3. A cumulative undergraduate approximate B average or higher in the area of focus or related area and evidence of an overall productive GPA;
4. Two letters of recommendation; and
5. A writing sample, three to five pages in length (typed, double-spaced) following the guidelines on the GST website, [acu.edu/gst](http://acu.edu/gst).

## Affordability and Financial Aid

Financial assistance is available for both residential and non-residential students in the Graduate School of Theology. Every applicant is encouraged to submit the scholarship application. Scholarships are awarded based on prior academic achievement and financial need.

Graduate assistantships may also be awarded to residential students. Graduate assistants receive a stipend and are required to work eight hours a week. This combination of generous scholarships covering a majority of graduate educational costs, the potential to work as a graduate assistant, and the low cost of living in Abilene, Texas, allows students to finish their programs without the stress of unmanageable debt.

## Degree Requirements

### Core Curriculum (27 hours)

- 6 hours of an appropriate language
- GST Orientation
- Systematic Theology I
- History of Christianity I: Early and Medieval
- History of Christianity II: Reformation to Present
- Critical Interpretation of the New Testament
- Critical Interpretation of the Old Testament
- Thesis (6)

### Modern and American Christianity Curriculum (15 hours)

- Systematic Theology II
- Research Problems
- Issues in Global Christianity
- History of Christianity in America
- Advanced Restoration History
- 6 hours of electives

## Accreditation

Abilene Christian University's Graduate School of Theology is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada to award the following master's and doctoral degrees: M.Div., M.A. in Christian Ministry, M.A., D.Min., and M.A. in Global Service. Contact the Commission on Accrediting at 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15275 or call 412-788-6505 for questions about the accreditation of ACU's Graduate School of Theology.

## Contact

For more information concerning the Master of Arts track in Modern and American Christianity at ACU, please contact Kester Smith at 325-674-3735 or [gst@acu.edu](mailto:gst@acu.edu).

## Program Advisor

**Dr. Douglas Foster**  
[fosterd@acu.edu](mailto:fosterd@acu.edu)

