Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL

**Master of Theological Studies *General Plan of Study***

# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

48 semester hours

## Required Common Courses (18 hours)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6500 Hebrew Bible [3] *First year, first semester*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6600 New Testament [3] *First year, second semester*

An approved course [3] in Historical Studies (courses designated in YES) *May be taken at any point.*

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| Sem / Year | Course # | Course Title | Hours |
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An approved course [3] in Theological Studies. (Students are encouraged to take 6801 Introduction to Christian Theology.) *Typically second year*

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An approved course [3] in Ethics (courses designated in YES) *May be taken at any point.*

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An approved course [3] in Religion, Personality and Culture (courses designated in YES) *May be*

*taken at any point*

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## Focus

\_\_\_ **Project 360 Statement** submitted. *By August 1 (or post-24 hours of coursework)*.

By the beginning of their second year, M.T.S. students are required to provide to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, their advisor, and the Director of Vocational Planning and Stewardship a statement about the focus of their studies as it relates to their vocation.

***One*** *of the following:*

**\_\_\_ MTS Portfolio** *Due one month prior to graduation.*

Students who do not elect to complete a program project or thesis must submit a final portfolio one month prior to graduation. The portfolio should contain a

graded assignment, with instructor comments, from a class in six areas of the theological study (i.e., Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East, New Testament and Early Christianity, Ethics and Society, Historical Studies, Theological Studies, and Religion, Psychology, and Culture). Artifacts should be chosen that demonstrate a high degree of competence or mastery of the MTS program learning goals, especially in the student's chosen focus. The portfolio must also include an opening integrative statement (500-1250 words) that addresses how the supporting artifacts and the student's educational experience have met the degree learning program goals.

\_\_\_ **MTS Project/Thesis (3 hours)** *Typically during final semester.*

Students may elect to complete a program project or thesis directed by a faculty member. Students must identify their first reader for the project/thesis before they register for the project/thesis hours. The project/thesis will be a 30-50 page research project giving evidence of original investigation in the area of the program focus. The Project/Thesis bears three semester hours credit.

Students electing this option must submit the Petition to Register for the M.T.S. Thesis or Project (signed by the academic advisor and the identified first reader) before registration occurs for their final semester.

Thesis/ Project students are also encouraged to enroll and participate in DIV7996, the zero-credit M.T.S. Project/Thesis writing workshop offered every Spring.

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| Sem/Year | Course # | Course Title | Hours |
|  | 7999 | Master of Theological Studies Degree Thesis/Project | 3 |
|  | 7996 | M.T.S. Thesis/Project Writing Workshop | 0 |

**Electives (30 hours Portfolio Option or 27 hours Thesis Option):**

Student will select the remaining 30/27 credit hours based on their interests and in discussion with their adviser. [9 credit hours of graduate level courses (5000+) may be taken outside the Divinity School. Cross listed courses do not count against these outside hours.]

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| Sem / Year | Course # | Course Title | Hours |
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\_\_\_ Completion of “**ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire**” *By commencement*