

MDiv Degree Learning Goals

Students are expected to demonstrate:

1. the ability to think critically, constructively, and intersectionally about the relationship between social context, history, and the Christian faith.
2. attentiveness to and insights about their personal and spiritual formation and sense of vocation.
3. critical, constructive, and interdisciplinary competence in the academic study of religion, as represented in the M. Div. curriculum.
4. competence in the ministerial arts appropriate to their vocational goals.
5. competence in putting theory and practice in conversation with each other.
6. the ability to connect these competencies to pressing contemporary concerns, especially those articulated in the School's Commitments.

MTS Degree Learning Goals

Students are expected to demonstrate:

1. the ability to think critically, constructively, and intersectionally about the relationship between social context, history, and religion.
2. thoughtful articulation of the connection between their course of study, their individual formation, and their vocational goals.
3. critical and constructive competence in the academic study of religion, as represented in the MTS curriculum.
4. the ability to connect these competencies to pressing contemporary concerns, especially those articulated in the School's Commitments.
5. in the MTS Concentration Plan of Study, competency in
 - a. putting theory and practice in conversation with each another and
 - b. in thinking across disciplines, as represented in the MTS curriculum.

ThM Degree Learning Goals

Students are expected to:

1. Achieve advanced competency and deepened knowledge in an area of theological specialization by demonstrating advanced knowledge of the field, addressing its historical and contemporary, local and global contexts, and integrating VDS's Commitments into that understanding.
2. Evidence the capacity to undertake critical inquiries, engage in constructive actions, and hold effective conversations in the student's future ministerial and/or academic endeavors.
3. Produce a substantive research project, the ThM thesis, that effectively defines its question, deploys an appropriate methodology, analyzes the

data/material critically and carefully, and provides a constructive argument appropriate to the theological area.

D Min Learning Goals

Students will demonstrate:

1. Competency in the specific practice(s) of ministry taught in the D.Min. track in which they are enrolled [Integrative Chaplaincy].
2. Ability to do independent research in theological discipline(s) and/or practice(s) of ministry appropriate to the D.Min. track in which they are enrolled [Integrative Chaplaincy].
3. Advanced ability to reflect theologically on the practice of ministry and to connect theology to practice.
4. Advanced ability to use what they learn in their D.Min. program in ethically and spiritually sound ways appropriate to their ministerial context.
5. Insightful attention to issues of diversity as they manifest in their ministerial context.