

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

Thank you for this opportunity to bring news from MTSO.

Curriculum revision offers shorter paths to degrees

Beginning in the fall of 2024, MTSO will offer incoming master's degree students a slate of revised programs offering clear, achievable paths to their vocations. This curriculum revision will give most students the opportunity to complete their degrees in less time. Under the updated curriculum, the Master of Divinity degree requires 75 credit hours and is achievable in three years. The Master of Theological Studies, MA in Public Theology, and MA in Social Justice require 39 hours and are achievable in two years.

The revised curriculum for each master's degree is organized around four cores: the Values Core, Methods Core, Vocational Electives Core and Integrative Core. Detailed information is available at mtso.edu/degreeupdates.

The MA in Public Theology gets a new name and updated focus

MTSO's newly revised MA in Public Theology degree (formerly the MA in Practical Theology) deepens the knowledge and skills of those working to build societal peace, justice and the common good. The MAPT offers formation for the next generation of practical, public theologians by cultivating abilities for negotiating the dynamic interplay in these areas: Christian heritage, congregational culture, and contemporary society; theological, educational and social science disciplines; and the diversities of human and creaturely existence.

Cross-cultural immersion is expanded

Previously required for the Master of Divinity and MA in Social Justice degrees, cross-cultural immersion trips are now required for all MTSO master's degrees and are covered by tuition. Cross-cultural immersion is not a mission trip. Rather, it is an opportunity to learn from and fully experience another culture, rather than attempting to "help" or impact cultures different from one's own. Trips nurture a global perspective and serve as a foundation for learning to respect the rich diversity of beliefs and practices in the wider church.

Participants in the January 2024 cross-cultural trip visited South Africa. Upcoming destinations include Mexico and Italy.

Danny Russell, director of communications

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