

A Guide to Advising and Transitioning Graduate Students into the Revised Standard M.Div., M.Div. Specializations, M.A. Degrees, and Graduate Certificates

I. General Guidelines

1. The Registrar is ultimately responsible for the advising and transitioning of graduate students into the revised Standard M.Div., M.Div. Specializations, M.A. degrees, and graduate certificates. He will confer with the Graduate Dean, Associate Graduate Dean, Division Chairs, and Regional Associate Deans as may be needed.
2. Courses are to be substituted on the same level (e.g., electives for electives) and using other courses within the division of origination and oversight (e.g., CESW6365 Death, Loss, and Grief may not substitute for PATH5331 Pastoral Ministry, but PATH5333 Christian Ministry may substitute for PATH5331). Exceptions allowed for courses from one division to substitute for courses from another division are those listed as options in the revised Standard M.Div. (e.g., CEEF6310 Teaching the Bible may substitute for PREA5300 Proclaiming the Bible).
3. After July 31, 2011, the revised Standard M.Div. of 84 hours will take the place of the Standard M.Div. of 91 hours and will be used in advising students about course registration, academic planning, and qualifying for graduation (and the revised M.Div. Specializations, M.A. degrees, and graduate certificates will take the place of the corresponding Specializations, M.A. degrees, and graduate certificates in the 2010-11 Graduate Catalog).
4. A student may change from an M.Div. Specialization to the revised Standard M.Div., in order to maintain desired progress toward qualifying for graduation. However, once a student makes such a choice, he or she must stick with the choice.
5. Through July 31, 2011, the residency requirement for graduate students will remain as 30 hours (of which 12 hours must be earned by Extension Center students on the New Orleans main campus, including the course MISS5331 New Orleans Missions: Disaster Relief Training and Experience). After July 31, the residency requirements will remain at 30 hours (of which 18 hours must be earned by Extension Center students on the New Orleans main campus). Note: after July 31, 2011, students will not be required to take MISS5331 as a part of the residency requirement.
6. Students who need one hour of elective course credit may take COOP5100 NOBTS, SBC, and the Cooperative Program for that credit after July 31, 2011.
7. If a student took a course required in the 91-hour Standard M.Div. that has changed in course credit hour value in the revised 84-hour Standard M.Div. (e.g., from 3 hours to 2 hours or from 2 hours to 3 hours), the student will have taken the course under the 84-hour M.Div. (and will have either an extra hour of elective credit or will need to take an additional hour of elective credit).

II. Allowed Course Substitutions

1. After July 31, 2011, allowed course substitutions can include those course options listed in the 84-hour revised Standard M.Div., as follows: Philosophy of Religion or Christian Apologetics, Pastoral Ministry or Christian Ministry, Christian Ethics or Biblical Ethics, Proclaiming the Bible or Teaching the Bible, and Preaching Practicum or Teaching Practicum.
2. After July 31, 2011, other allowed course substitutions may include the following:
 - a. Speech Principles and Techniques (3 hours) for Preaching Practicum (2 hours) or Teaching Practicum (2 hours)
 - b. Servant Leadership (2 hours) or Basic Church and Education Administration (3 hours) for Church Leadership and Administration (3 hours)
 - c. Christian Ministry in the 21st Century (1 hour) or Supervised Ministry 3: Church Revitalization Practicum (1 hour) for Church Revitalization (2 hours)
 - d. Contemporary Discipleship Models (3 hours) or Disciple Making through Small Group Ministry (3 hours) for Discipleship Strategies (2 hours)
3. After July 31, 2011, course substitutions for required Specialization courses in the revised M.Div. Specializations will be handled according to the current approval process by the Registrar conferring with the appropriate Division Chair (or utilizing course substitutions already approved by the division).

III. Notes

1. The Registrar may suggest that certain courses be added to the Graduate Course Schedule for Summer 2011 or to the Schedule for 2011-12, if adding such courses could facilitate the transitioning of students or their graduation plans for December 2011 or May 2012.
2. After July 31, 2011, students in the 84-hour Standard M.Div. degree plan who take Proclaiming the Bible must take Preaching Practicum, and those who take Teaching the Bible must take Teaching Practicum.

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