

Master of Arts (Apologetics)

Vocational Calling

To serve as a teacher, researcher, and/or writer in the field of Christian apologetics. The Master of Arts (Apologetics) is an academic degree, intended to prepare the student for entry into the PhD program. It can be earned through residential and non-residential study.

For further information, please contact:

- Dr. Jeffrey B. Riley (Curriculum Coordinator)
- Dr. Robert Stewart (Concentration Advisor)
- Academic Advisor in the Registrar's Office

Basic Ministerial Competency Component (29 hours)

Biblical Studies Component (12 hours)

Greek Exegesis courses 6 hours

Hebrew Exegesis courses 6 hours

Students with elementary and intermediate Greek and Hebrew credits at the collegiate level are able to go directly into advanced Greek and Hebrew exegesis courses. Through the Baptist College Partnership Program, such students may automatically receive transcribed credit at NOBTS for elementary and intermediate Greek and Hebrew. Applicants who cannot earn credit in elementary and intermediate Greek and Hebrew through the Baptist College Partnership Program must earn these credits as a condition of graduation.

Historical Studies Component (5 hours)

History of Christianity: Early-Medieval* 2 hours

History of Christianity: Reformation-Modern* 3 hours

NOBTS, SBC, and the Cooperative Program **

Theological Studies Component (6 hours)

Systematic Theology 1 3 hours

Systematic Theology 2 3 hours

Philosophical/Ethical Studies Component (6 hours)

Philosophy of Religion 3 hours

Christian Ethics* OR Biblical Ethics 3 hours

*Credit for some courses may be achieved through the Baptist College Partnership Program.

**All graduate students must take this course during orientation in their first semester; however, students will not receive a credit hour or be charged for the course.

Notes: The Seminary's accreditation agency (ATS) has approved this degree to be offered as an all-online degree. The degree may be earned either residentially or non-residentially, or through a mixture of both.

The faculty recommends strongly that apologetics students attend the January Defend the Faith conference, which features some of the nation's top apologists. Students can earn up to six hours of course credit toward this degree each year through the Defend the Faith conference.

Program Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of and ability to communicate biblical, theological, and historical truth in settings that require a defense of the Christian faith.
2. Students will demonstrate critical and constructive thought processes in cultural and apologetic engagement.
3. Students will demonstrate personal and spiritual maturity as Christian apologists.
4. Students will demonstrate effective skills in research and writing.

Apologetics Core and Electives Component (18 hours)

Apologetics Core (9 hours)

Christian Apologetics 3 hours

The Problem of Evil 3 hours

Logic 3 hours

Apologetic Electives (9 hours)

Note: Electives may be taken from the following categories within the Theological and Historical Studies Division: Islamic Studies, Philosophy of Religion and Apologetics.

Summative Evaluation Component (3 hours)

Theological Research and Writing Seminar 3 hours

Note: Only students within 18 hours of graduation may register for this course.

Total Required: 50 hours

Academic Requirements

The 50-hour course requirement of the MA (Apologetics) degree is intended to introduce students to a broad range of theological disciplines necessary for further studies in apologetics research. Students in the degree must maintain a 3.5 GPA. Those who do not maintain this standard will be on academic probation after the first semester that their GPA drops below 3.5 and will be dismissed after the second consecutive semester below a 3.5 average.

PhD Eligibility

Students who complete the MA (Apologetics) are eligible to apply for the PhD at NOBTS. Students should, however, refer to all current admission requirements for Research Doctoral Programs to ensure the MA (Apologetics) meets the criteria for specific majors.