

SUSTAINABILITY, MDIV/MA JOINT DEGREE

The Master of Divinity/Master of Arts in Sustainability joint degree acknowledges the growing demand for professionals in religious leadership venues who have the knowledge and the skills to lead communities to respond to critical ecological and other social issues. Congregations and other religiously affiliated organizations are increasingly interested in sustainability concerns and seek leaders who can guide their efforts to respond to these concerns. Knowledge from the biological, physical, chemical, and earth sciences are critical to any working professional who designs and implements sustainability practices. The humanities and social sciences incorporate information about spirituality, religious beliefs, and an understanding and appreciation of our relationship to the natural world. The MDiv/MA is designed to be completed in seven semesters and one summer of study.

Requirements

The degree is designed to be 93 credit hours completed in seven semesters plus one full summer session (based on full-time enrollment).

Students are required to complete 48 hours toward the Master of Divinity Degree.

Code	Title	Hours
Biblical Studies		
BIB 521	Old Testament Interpretation I	3
BIB 522	Old Testament Interpretation II	3
BIB 541	Introduction to New Testament	3
BIB 542	Interpreting New Testament Letters	3
or BIB 543	Interpreting New Testament Gospels	3
Biblical Studies elective		3
Historical and Theological Studies		
HIS 501	History of Christianity	3
HIS 502	History of Christianity II	3
THS 501	Christian Theology	3
Theology elective		3
THS 521	Foundations of Christian Ethics	3
or THS 522	History of Theological Ethics	3
Ministerial Studies		
MIN 501	Art of Ministry I: Introduction to the Life and Work of Ministry	2
Select 16 credit hours of the following:		16
Proclamation (1-3h)		
Relational Care (1-3h)		
Community Building (1-3h)		
Formation (1-3h)		
MIN 561	Faith, Food, Health, and Community	
Any Ethics elective		
Requirements Specific to the Master of Arts in Sustainability Degree		
SUS 701	Global Human Systems	3
SUS 702	Sustainable Organizational Mgt	3
SUS 703	Natural Science for Sustainability	3
SUS 704	Environmental Law & Policy	3

SUS 706	Applied Sustainability: Creativity and Impact	2
Any Sustainability elective		3
Requirements Shared by the Two Degree Programs ¹		
MIN 602A & MIN 602B	Internship Reflection Seminar and Internship Reflection Seminar ²	3
SUS 706 & MIN 706	Applied Sustainability: Creativity and Impact and Directed Reflection in Applied Sustainability ³	3
Research Thesis or Extended Practicum ⁴		4
General Electives		
Select 18 hours of electives.		18

Ordinarily, students will take 9 elective credits in Divinity and 9 elective credits in Sustainability.

- These courses constitute the integrative foundation of the joint degree.
- In consultation with advisers from both degree programs, students will complete one, 200-hour internship placement in a setting in which they can utilize and explore sustainability concerns.
- These courses provide opportunities for students to experience sustainability in action in a variety of settings. Students will enroll in the course through the sustainability program and will be assigned a divinity faculty mentor to facilitate directed theological reflection on the experiences. The Practicum in Applied Sustainability is taken in lieu of the second MDiv internship placement requirement.
- This requirement, taken in the summer term, combines capstone courses from both degree programs. Students will prepare a research thesis, under the guidance of a faculty adviser on a topic approved in advance by the sustainability program director and the associate dean of academic affairs of the School of Divinity. Alternatively, students may participate in a summer practicum or internship. If they select that option, they will meet with a faculty adviser periodically to discuss their internship, which will culminate with a written reflection on their experience submitted to a designated faculty person in one of the two programs. The research thesis/extended practicum is taken in lieu of the third-year capstone course requirement in the MDiv program.

Policies and Procedures Advising

Students will be assigned a primary faculty adviser from each of the degree programs. The Sustainability Program Director and the associate dean of academic affairs for the School of Divinity will consult on appropriate advising for joint degree students. During the semester preceding the thesis or capstone project, the primary adviser from each degree program will meet with the student to discuss appropriate program and course options. If a student chooses to complete the degree program with a capstone project (extended practicum), the Sustainability Program director and the Art of Ministry director will work together to determine a placement and placement activities. If a student elects the thesis option, one of the student's primary advisers or a faculty mentor with experience in the student's area of research will oversee thesis development.

Continuing Eligibility

Continuing eligibility requirements prior to the student's enrollment in the thesis or capstone project during the final summer term will be based on School of Divinity continuing eligibility policy. Prior to beginning the thesis or capstone project, a committee composed of student faculty advisers from both programs, the Sustainability Program director, and the School of Divinity Academic Dean will consider a student's overall performance to that point and determine by consensus if the student is suited to continued candidacy. Once a student enters the final phase of the joint degree program, the academic committee will evaluate the thesis or project and determine whether to award the degree. If the committee requests revisions, the student will return a satisfactory thesis or deliverable within the following semester in order to graduate.