

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I= Information Item¹ R= Advise & Respond²

Course Number _____ or Degree Plan(s) Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
 State the requested change and reason. A memo may be attached if more space is necessary.

New degree - designed for people who want to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith. The broad program of study is for those who wish to strengthen their theological foundations, gain greater competence in selected areas of religious knowledge, and for general education purposes. The coursework equips the student with tools for graduate study and provides a flexible curriculum for those who desire advanced study of theological disciplines but whose career goals are not those of professional ministry. The advisor will work closely with the student to determine the shape of their program, particularly Focus Courses that concentrate on a particular area of study or integration appropriate to the student's professional and personal goals. A culminating Capstone assignment gives the student opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the appropriate application of knowledge.

Circle the number that corresponds to the requested change. Degree plan changes are on the second page.

		COUNCIL ³								
	Change to a Course	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	President
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I				I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I				I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I				I	I
4.	Content (substantive change)	A	A	A	I				A	A
5.	Number of hours (lecture, lab, contact)	A	A	A	A				A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I				I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A				A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I				I	I
9.	Course fee(s)	A	--	A	--				A	I
10.	From U to G <i>or</i> G to U	A	A	A	A				A	A
11.	Cross list with another department: U or G level	A	A	A	A				A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A				A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A				A	A
14.	New course — See website for application and process. This change includes combining or splitting a course(s).	A	A	A	A				A	A

Note: When an academic unit does not have a council, the UGEC and/or UUAC will serve as its academic council, depending on the nature of the issue.

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		COUNCIL ³							President	Faculty	Provost	GRAD	UAC	UGEAC	TEC	Deans	College Academic	Dept./School	Board of Trustees
Change to a Degree Plan																			
1.	University Requirements — Change in approved course content ⁶	A	A	A	A			A	--	A	--								
2.	University Requirements — Add or drop a required course from the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A			A	A	A	--								
3.	University Requirements — Add or drop a course from a menu within the University Requirements ⁶	A	--	--	A			A	--	A	--								
4.	University Requirements — Change hours within a menu on the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A			A	A	A	--								
5.	Major — Revision of major ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A			A	--	A	--								
6.	Major — Adopt or change admission requirements	A	A	A	A			A	--	A	--								
7.	Major — Add ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A			A	A	A	I								
8.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A			A	A	A	I								
9.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.																	
10.	GPA — Revise major or cumulative requirement	A	A	A	A			A	A	A	--								
11.	Minor — Revise course selection	A	A	A	I			I	--	I	--								
12.	Minor — Add	A	A	A	A			A	--	A	--								
13.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A			A	--	A	--								
14.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.																	
15.	Degree — Add	A	A	A	A			A	A	A	I								
16.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A			A	A	A	I								
17.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.																	
18.	Any change to a graduate degree program	A	A	A	A			A	--	A	--								

COUNCIL ³										
	Provost-Proposed Change	Provost	Department	Dean	TEC	UAC	Graduate	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	Major/Graduate Program – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I
2.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			--	A	--
3.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I

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COUNCIL ³										
	Change to the Catalog Information	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President
1.	General requirements for graduation including course requirements that are common to all majors for all degrees ⁷	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
2.	Admission requirements	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
3.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
4.	Requirements for graduating with honors	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
5.	Other academic policy changes	--	--	--		A		A	--	A

¹ Councils may request additional information about “Information” items. These items are approved as “Consent Agenda.”

² The Dean and Department should respond to the Provost’s recommendation to close a program in writing. Advise & Respond (R) requires that the voting body should receive the written responses at least one week prior to the vote.

³ All courses that meet University Requirements for general education must go through UGEC. Courses or degrees offered only to students seeking teacher certification must go through the Teacher Education Council. All undergraduate changes must go before the UUAC. All graduate degree plan changes must go through the Graduate Council.

⁴ A minimum of 30 hours is required for a major. A maximum is specified for each degree (e.g., BA, BS). The university minimum for elective hours is 6, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible.

⁵ Program or course changes that apply to any major that includes Teacher Certification will be reviewed by the college, the Teacher Education Council (TEC), and then the UUAC.

⁶ Courses that satisfy ACU’s University Requirements (General Education) will normally have lower-level numbering, be free of prerequisites and co-requisites, appeal to more than one or two majors, and “not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession” (SACS 2.7.3). Departments may request exceptions to the first three criteria.

⁷ The UUAC approved the clarification that “general requirements for graduation” means the enumerated items in the “General Requirements for Bachelor’s Degrees” section of the catalog.

Revised 3-8-17

Curriculum/Catalog Changes Signature Page

Department/School Chair(s)	
<u>Jim Sensing</u>	<u>10-9-18</u>
Signature	Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

College Academic Council(s)	
<u>Christopher R. Hester</u>	<u>10-29-18</u>
Signature	Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Dean(s)	
<u>Sam Schmidt</u>	<u>10-29-18</u>
Signature	Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Teacher Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

General Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Undergraduate Academic Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Graduate Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Provost	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Faculty	
_____ Chair of faculty senate	_____ Approval date

President	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Proposal: MA [TS]—a 36-hour Degree

Description

The MATS degree is designed for people who want to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith. The broad program of study is for those who wish to strengthen their theological foundations, gain greater competence in selected areas of religious knowledge, and for general education purposes. The coursework equips the student with tools for graduate study and provides a flexible curriculum for those who desire advanced study of theological disciplines but whose career goals are not those of professional ministry. The advisor will work closely with the student to determine the shape of their program, particularly Focus Courses that concentrate on a particular area of study or integration appropriate to the student's professional and personal goals. A culminating Capstone assignment gives the student opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the appropriate application of his or her knowledge.

Degree Plan

BIBH (9)	BIBL (9)	BIBD (9)	Focus Courses (9)
BIBH 651 Church Hist 1	BIBL 630 Bib Theol	BIBD 672 Grad Studies	9 hours of electives (600–699), which may, if desired, be focused on <i>Scripture (BIBL/BGRK/ BHEB)</i> , <i>History & Theology (BIBD/BIBH)</i> , <i>Ministry (BIBM/BMIS)</i>
BIBH elective	BIBL 627 Bib Exeg	BIBD 660 Sys Theol 1 or BIBD 678 Phil Relig	
BIBH elective	BIBL elective	BIBD elective	

- Capstone: 3000-word integrative paper responding to a prompt that challenges the student to demonstrate the capacity to apply their studies in ways appropriate to student goals; assessed by two faculty

SLOs

1. Foundations: Students will demonstrate competence in fundamental theological studies
2. Focus: Students will demonstrate competence in a particular concentrated area of study
3. Application: Students will represent how their coursework has enriched their application of theological disciplines

Rationale

- Cf. ACU's MA/MS Biblical & Related Studies: 36-hour interdivisional program (pre-2001)
- Some students would be served best by a non-professional program in theological studies that enriches and deepens theological foundations
- Some students would be served best by a shorter degree;
- Minimal additional resource requirements, principally Advising and Capstone (e.g. no thesis or co-curriculum, such as mentoring, reviews, Con-Ed)
- Distance, residential, or hybrid
- Stacking: some MATS students may be advised to move into MACM/MDiv; some MACM/MDiv students might be more successful in a non-professional degree
- MA[TS] nomenclature rather than MTS to avoid confusion. ATS Standard D: Basic Programs Oriented Toward General Theological Studies (MA, MA [discipline], MTS); cf. Asbury, George Fox, Beeson, etc.