



MA Program Handbook

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I. STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

A. THE GTU CONSORTIUM

The mission of the Graduate Theological Union is to:

- **Educate women and men for vocations of ministry and scholarship;**
- **Equip leaders for a future of diverse religions and cultures;**
- **Teach patterns of faith which nurture justice and peace; and**
- **Serve as an educational and theological resource for local communities, the nation, and the world.**

The GTU is a structurally unique organization that embodies a set of ecumenical and academic ideals. It is comprised of nine denominational or inter-denominational Member Schools, all of which are theological institutions preparing persons for ordination and church leadership. It has an informal but highly significant relationship with the University of California, Berkeley. The GTU is further enriched by the presence of a number of affiliates and programs representing a range of religious traditions and theological perspectives.

Each of the Schools is an autonomous institution with its own faculty, Board of Trustees, and distinctive mission based on its denominational affiliation(s). These autonomous institutions come together in a number of ways to create the GTU consortium. They share a common library. The GTU Consortial Registrar establishes the Master Course Schedule and assigns classrooms for the consortium. The classrooms are largely held in common; some Schools have none, and others have many, which they offer to the consortium. The Schools have open cross-registration agreements. Through the cooperation of all of its constituencies, the GTU provides a full range of resources for theological education.

B. THE MA PROGRAM

The purpose of the GTU Common MA program is to provide a basic understanding of theological or religious studies for further graduate study or for general educational purposes.

The GTU Common MA is an academic degree conferred by the GTU in cooperation with a School of Affiliation. Coursework in the MA Program is by lecture and seminar courses and thesis work. Students are expected to have sufficient preparation in theology or religious studies to enter into seminar work, which is an integral part of the program from its first semester. Please direct any questions about admission to the program to the GTU Admissions Office.

Policies governing the MA Program, as documented in the MA Program Handbook, are established by the GTU Council of Deans and Consortial Faculty. The Deans govern the MA Program and ensure that standards are commonly understood and equitably applied to all MA students. Policies requiring review or change are brought to the Deans for consideration and decision. The Administrative Assistant to the GTU Dean is the Coordinator of the MA Program, and handles the routine administration of the program, including maintenance of this handbook and coordinating GTU student orientations (see also "GTU Administrative Support" below).

<p>Goals of the MA program are that students gain...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Focused knowledge in a chosen area of concentration in the context of the broader disciplines of theological or religious studies. 	<p>Expected outcomes for graduating students are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Demonstrated knowledge in area of specialization. ❑ Ability to understand key issues within area of concentration as related to other disciplines in theological and religious studies. ❑ Ability to relate contemporary issues within a particular religious tradition to broader theological or religious discussions. 	<p>Tools used for student assessment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ One course in each of four areas (Biblical Studies, History, Theology, Ethics). ❑ Four required courses (two at advanced level) in specified area of concentration. ❑ Thesis in area of concentration.
<p>Goals of the MA program are that students gain...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ An ability to conduct research in theological or religious studies at the graduate level. 	<p>Expected outcomes for graduating students are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Ability to develop and sustain a scholarly argument within the area of concentration. ❑ Understanding of and facility with current scholarly research tools, e.g. journal database systems, and other library resources ❑ Capacity to conduct research using primary sources. ❑ Ability to communicate results of research clearly in both written and oral forms of presentation. 	<p>Tools used for student assessment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Two advanced level (4000 or above) courses in area of concentration. ❑ All courses must be taken for letter grade and completed with B- or above. ❑ Examination and evaluation by faculty examiners in foreign languages. ❑ Evaluation of thesis by the thesis committee. ❑ Thesis with oral defense.
<p>Goals of the MA program are that students gain...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Competence and credentials for the possible pursuit of further academic studies in one of the disciplines of 	<p>Expected outcomes for graduating students are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Appreciation for value of study and research to serve vocations of ministry and scholarship. ❑ Ability to present 	<p>Tools used for student assessment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Thesis with oral defense.

theological or religious studies.	theological or religious studies concepts and material clearly and responsibly.	
..... Goals of the MA program are that students gain... Expected outcomes for graduating students are... Tools used for student assessment are:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Critical perspective on a particular religious tradition as it engages theological or religious studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ General knowledge of one particular religious tradition, and selected knowledge of at least one other. ❑ Ability to integrate knowledge of a particular religious tradition into the practice of scholarly inquiry. ❑ Ability to engage in productive dialogue and research with persons of various religious traditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Successful completion of two courses outside school of affiliation. ❑ Approval of thesis by committee.

C. THE SCHOOL OF AFFILIATION

The School of Affiliation (or CIS, CJS, IBS or PAOI) provides the educational ethos, the community of learning, and the liturgical and denominational environment in which MA studies are pursued. The School of Affiliation assesses the academic preparation of incoming students and may require an entering student to take MA Distribution requirements in the first semester in order to establish a foundation for the MA Program, or extend coursework beyond the normal two-year minimum. The School provides academic advising and financial aid and oversees student progress through the degree. Students are counted in the enrollment of the School and the School receives the student's MA tuition (part of which is an administrative fee to GTU). The Dean of the School is typically the one required to sign forms, receive petitions, etc. The student's advisor and Thesis Committee Coordinator come from the faculty of the School of Affiliation. The School and advisor keep the GTU Dean's Office apprised of student progress, but the fundamental advising occurs in the School.

D. ACADEMIC ADVISING

Advisors are assigned to students by the Dean of the School upon admission, and may be changed by the student later (see "Change of Advisor" section). The MA Program Coordinator enters the assigned advisor (and any future changes) into the student's computer record. If no advisor is assigned or chosen, a hold may be placed on the student's registration (see "Holds on Registration" section). The assigned advisor is the student's first link to the faculty of the School. Students should see their advisor during orientation week and should also check in with the Dean and/or Registrar of the School to become oriented to the academic ethos and procedures of the School.

Because the MA Program is an individualized program of study leading to a thesis project, the advisor is key to helping the student design the program. The advisor assesses the student's background and strengths, and the needs of the proposed program, and helps the student design a program that meets their goals and fulfills the course requirements of the program. The student and advisor consult the MA handbook about MA policies and procedures. Policy questions or other questions about the MA handbook should first be directed to the member school dean. If further clarification is needed, consult with the MA Program Coordinator. The advisor meets regularly with the student to advise him/her and oversee progress toward the degree, and helps the student form the MA Thesis Committee and devise the thesis topic. The Thesis Committee Coordinator is chosen by the student and takes the place of the student's advisor.

E. GTU HONOR CODE

The GTU MA Program operates on an honor code. As responsible adults, students police the integrity of their own academic work. By virtue of registration in the program, students pledge to work in accordance with policies, procedures and expectations as defined in the MA Program Handbook and Catalog. Students are expected to avoid plagiarism, which is defined as the presentation of another's ideas, methods, research or words without proper acknowledgment. Students are required to observe the rubrics of exams such as time limitations and closed-book requirements. On-campus exams are not proctored since it is assumed that students will comply with the honor code in good faith. Documented evidence that a student has violated the honor code may result in immediate expulsion from the program.

F. GTU CONSORTIAL AGREEMENT CONCERNING PLAGIARISM (Approved by the Council of Deans, April 2010)

When a student from one GTU school is suspected of plagiarism in a course that the student is taking at another GTU school, the following protocol will be followed:

1. The faculty member teaching the course will notify the dean of the faculty member's school that the student has been suspected of plagiarism.
2. The dean of the faculty member's school will notify the dean of the student's school that the student has been suspected of plagiarism.
3. The faculty member will follow the policy of his or her own school in regard to possible consequences within the context of the course (e.g., failing grade on the assignment, failing grade for the course, etc.).
4. The student's school will be responsible for following its own policy in regard to possible consequences beyond the context of the course (e.g., warning, academic probation, expulsion, etc.)

G. GTU CONSORTIAL AGREEMENT CONCERNING PROTOCOLS FOR RESPONDING TO STUDENT COMPLAINTS (Approved by the Council of Deans, April 2010)

Cross-registration of students in courses within the consortium is a valuable feature of the Graduate Theological Union. The GTU and all the member schools are committed to ensuring that students have appropriate recourse in the event that they have a complaint about some aspect of their experience while taking courses at a school other than their own. The following protocol is to be followed in any such cases, including but not limited to complaints concerning unfair discrimination, cultural insensitivity, sexual harassment, and disputes over grades and other forms of academic evaluation.

1. Each school of the GTU is committed to giving students from all other schools access to its normal complaint process whenever they are taking courses or studying with faculty at the host school.

2. Students are encouraged to attempt to resolve the complaint directly by raising the issue with the individual at the host school whose conduct is the focus of the complaint.
3. If the matter cannot be resolved directly, the student should bring the complaint to the attention of the dean of the student's own school.
4. The dean of the student's school will then contact the dean of the host school in order to help the student determine which policies and procedures at the host school are relevant in the situation.
5. The normal policies and procedures of the host school will be followed, with the added proviso that the dean of the student's school will be kept informed of the progress made in addressing the complaint.
6. At the conclusion of the complaint resolution process, the dean of the host school will report the outcome in writing to both the student and the dean of the student's school.

H. GTU ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Although the primary advising of MA students is done in the School of Affiliation, the staff of the GTU Dean's Office and Office of Student Affairs are happy to help MA students with questions referred from the Schools or on policy issues. The staff is located in two different offices: the Dean's Office is on the third floor of the GTU Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, and the Office of Student Affairs is in the LeConte Building, 2465 LeConte Avenue (the same building that houses the GTU Student Lounge).

1. DEAN'S OFFICE (GTU FLORA LAMSON HEWLETT LIBRARY)

Administrative Assistant to the Dean & MA Program Coordinator (649-2440)

- Maintains MA Program Handbook and forms, noting clarifications and policy changes in each year's update
- Coordinates student orientations (Schools of Affiliation have additional orientation activities)
- Maintains MA student files and computer files
- Processes "MA Program Checklist," "MA Thesis Proposal," "Oral Exam Committee Request," "Thesis Filing Extension Agreement," and "Statement of Intent to Graduate" forms
- Reviews petitions for leave, part-time status, extensions, transfer of credits, change of Schools for MA students and checks with GTU Dean as necessary
- Tracks student progress in annual file review, and evaluates student transcripts for graduation
- Makes appointments with the GTU Dean
- Receives items needing the GTU Dean's signature

Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs (649-2440)

- Coordinates the Council of Deans and the MA Program Subcommittee in governing the Common MA
- Rules on special problems or requests of MA students
- Consults with School of Affiliation on petitions for leave, part-time status, extensions, transfer of credits, change of Schools for MA students
- Students normally see the GTU Dean after being referred for a complex problem or special issue by the Dean of the School of Affiliation

2. STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE (LECONTE BUILDING)

Office Manager/Receptionist for Student Affairs (649-2400)

- Manages switchboard and directs calls
- Provides validation stickers for ID/Library cards for current academic year

- Serves as student health insurance contact person for CDSP, DSPT, GTU, and SKSM
- Assists with the distribution of forms, catalogs, and admissions materials
- Provides administrative support for the GTU Dean of Students, Academic Secretary, and Consortial Registrar
- Manages registration for modern language exams and Professional Development workshops

Academic Secretary (649-2461)

- Helps Assistant to the Academic Dean maintain MA files; maintains doctoral student files (computer and paper)
- Oversees language certification procedures, certifies MA and doctoral language proficiency
- Manages modern and biblical language exam processes including receiving passages and proctoring exams
- Manages process for modern language certification by petition from students
- Manages graduation certification process including receiving theses and dissertations and processing graduation paperwork
- Schedules written examinations and oral defenses for MA and doctoral students

Director of Admissions (649-2465)

- Collaborates with the academic Deans to develop and implement admissions policies and procedures
- Oversees process to arrange visits for prospective students
- Coordinates doctoral and MA admissions process and follow-up
- Produces GTU catalog
- Helps coordinate new MA student orientation
- Handles international student I-20 status issues for incoming CIS, CJS, IBS, and PAOI students

Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs (649-2464)

- Oversees the following offices and staff: academic secretary, financial aid, office manager/receptionist, and consortial registrar
- Oversees the professional development program for GTU doctoral students which includes student elections, workshops (some, open to MA students), grant projects
- Supports doctoral student community building efforts; collaborates with student services staff across the consortium to help build community among all students
- Helps coordinate new MA student orientation
- Plans and coordinates annual MA and doctoral student faculty summer mailings
- Coordinates and advises GTU-wide student organizations
- Oversees modern foreign language and graduation certification for MA and doctoral candidates
- Manages Human Subjects Protocol review process
- Publishes Extended Calendar
- Organizes GTU Commencement
- Oversees international student I-20 issues for current students (CIS, CJS, IBS, and PAOI students)
- Oversees Accommodation Review for Students with Disabilities/Differently-abled Students

Director of Financial Aid (649-2463)

- Manages the development of and answers questions related to financial aid policies and procedures
- Ensures institutional compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid regulations
- Plans and coordinates the annual financial aid application and awarding process
- Determines annual cost of attendance (student budget)
- Determines student eligibility for federal and institutional aid
- Oversees federal student loan processing
- Oversees the administration of the Federal Work-Study program
- Maintains student financial aid files and records
- Counsels students on financial aid eligibility and planning
- Assists students with the completion of financial aid requirements

Assistant Director of Financial Aid (649-2459)

- Assists in the development of and answers questions related to financial aid policies and procedures
- Provides student loan debt management and repayment counseling
- Assists in overseeing institutions' default management programs
- Coordinates on-campus financial aid events
- Oversees publication of the Financial Aid E-Newsletter
- Maintains scholarship resource information
- Assists in the administration of the Federal Work-Study programs
- Determines student eligibility for federal and institutional aid
- Counsels students on financial aid programs and eligibility
- Assists students with the completion of financial aid requirements

Financial Aid Coordinator (649-2469)

- Ensures the completion of student financial aid files
- Assists students with the completion of financial aid requirements
- Determines student eligibility for federal and institutional aid
- Counsels students on financial aid programs and eligibility
- Assists in the administration of the Federal Work-Study programs

Consortial Registrar (649-2462)

- Assists with difficult registration issues
- Manages cross-registration and certifies cross-registration applications with UCB, Holy Names University, and Mills College
- Publishes GTU Directory, and records changes in address or phone
- Issues official transcripts
- Processes student loan deferment certification
- Processes CDSP, PLTS, SFTS, GTU doctoral, IBS MA, CIS MA, CJS MA and certificate students, and special (non-degree) student incomplete petitions, changes in enrollment forms (for changing grading options, adding and dropping courses, or changing units), and change of grade forms
- Schedules courses and assigns classrooms
- Certifies student enrollment to the Veteran's Administration

Registrar's Assistant (649-2403)

- Produces and maintains online course schedule
- Issues I.D. cards and stickers
- Assists with registration issues

II. COMMON MA PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements for the Common MA Program. If your Area of Concentration is in Biblical Languages, Buddhist Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, or Orthodox Christian Studies additional or alternate requirements apply. See the section “Special Concentrations in the GTU Common MA Program” for details. Likewise, if you are in concurrent MA/MDiv programs, see the “Concurrent MA/MDiv Programs” section for additional requirements. The MA Program Checklist (available on the GTU website within the “Students” module along with other MA Program forms) can help you plan your program according to the requirements. Some items listed below do not apply to MA students in Biblical Languages and are so noted.

The MA Program Coordinator performs an annual review of MA student files after receiving grade reports for the spring semester, and sends a memo to the Dean and Registrar of each participating School of Affiliation, alerting them to student progress issues. This memo is also sent to the GTU Dean of Students, Consortial Registrar, Academic Secretary, and Financial Aid Office for their information. The Registrar or their representative is responsible to notify students of issues noted and advise them accordingly.

GENERAL COURSE CRITERIA: Only academic courses of three units or more are counted toward the degree. Additionally, a B- or higher grade must be earned in each course. This means that courses of fewer than three units, courses in Functional Theology (FT) and Field Education (FE), and courses taken Pass/Fail do **NOT** count toward the MA degree.

However, under **extraordinary** circumstances, the Dean of the School of Affiliation, with the approval of the GTU Dean, may allow a student to combine two 1.5-unit courses in the same field of study to count as a 3-unit course as long as there is evidence that the readings, papers, and other assignments required a level of work equivalent to a full 3-unit academic course.

Also, if a student’s program requires academic study and analysis of some practical or functional field, the student may complete a plan of academic reading and writing on the subject in conjunction with the course. Such work should be registered as a Special Reading Course. The student and professor should provide evidence of equivalent work of a 3-unit academic course.

TOTAL COURSE REQUIREMENT: 16 three-unit courses (or the equivalent) are required, two of which are thesis courses (except for MA students in Biblical Languages). The majority of these should be intermediate and advanced courses.

Note: Course numbers refer to course levels as follows:

1000-1999 = introductory
8000-8199 = ONLINE introductory
2000-3999 = intermediate
8200-8399 = ONLINE intermediate
4000-4999 = advanced
8400-8499 = ONLINE advanced
5000-5999 = doctoral and advanced masters
6000-6999 = doctoral only

TOTAL GPA REQUIREMENT: The student’s cumulative GPA must be 3.0 or higher.

COURSE DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT: One course must be taken in each of these Areas: Biblical Studies (BS, NT, OT), History (HS), Systematic & Philosophical Theology (PH, PT, ST), and Ethics and Social Theory (CE, RS). If your Area of Concentration is in one of those Areas and you have fulfilled the Area of Concentration requirement (see below), you have automatically fulfilled the Course Distribution requirement in that Area. Depending on the background of the student or the program, the academic advisor may stipulate additional requirements. **This requirement does not apply to MA students in Biblical Languages, CIS-affiliated MA students or CJS-affiliated MA students.**

AREA OF CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENT: Four courses are required within the Area of Concentration, two of which must be advanced (4000+) level courses. **This requirement does not apply to MA students in Biblical Languages, CIS-affiliated MA students, CJS-affiliated MA students, IBS-affiliated MA students and PAOI-affiliated MA students.**

CONSORTIAL REQUIREMENT: Of the fourteen (3-unit) courses taken to complete the MA Program, two (2) courses must be taken outside the School of Affiliation (or CIS, CJS, IBS, or PAOI). **This requirement does not apply to MA students in Biblical Languages.** Certain UC Berkeley courses may count toward the two outside the School. The academic advisor and the Thesis/Oral Exam Committee Coordinator must come from within the School of Affiliation.

ONLINE COURSES: In order to differentiate between online and local courses, online courses will be numbered in the 8000's in both course listings and transcripts. **No more than five online courses** may be used to fulfill MA requirements, as long as they are three (3.0) unit, letter-grade, academic courses. (The second number in the course number indicates the level. For example, a course numbered 84XX is considered a 4000-level course.)

SUMMER AND INTERSESSION COURSES: Up to two (2) three (3.0) unit academic intercession or summer session courses may be counted toward the MA Program course requirements with the approval of advisor or dean of the school of affiliation.

LANGUAGE COURSEWORK: Foreign European language courses (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish) do **NOT** count toward the MA degree, unless the course involves advanced language work (beyond basic language proficiency) in an academic subject and the student earns a B or better. The following other types of language courses **DO** count toward the degree:

- Specialized languages (for example, Hindi, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Aramaic, etc.)
- Classical languages (Greek, Hebrew, Latin)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT: Proficiency in one foreign language must be certified by exam, coursework, or by petition. See Foreign Language Requirement section for full details.

THESIS REQUIREMENT: Two courses (six units) of thesis work are required; no more than six total units count toward the degree. The thesis must be filed by the deadline. **MA students in Biblical Languages are not required to write a thesis (and so do not take thesis units).**

B. FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

MA students are expected to demonstrate competence in one foreign language no later than the first semester of the second year of residence. Non-native speakers of English may, with permission, certify English as their foreign language. Additional language requirements may be set by the academic advisor or Thesis Committee, depending on the student's proposed program of study. Ordinarily, at the MA level, students are advised to propose programs within the limits

of their linguistic competence and to pursue language study as preparation for more advanced academic work.

MA students must successfully certify their language proficiency before they will be allowed to form their Thesis or Oral Exam Committee; thus it is important to fulfill your language requirement as early in the program as possible. Do not make the mistake of leaving this requirement until the end of your program. You will not be allowed to graduate without meeting this requirement.

Students may fulfill the language requirement through examination, coursework, or petition. If you choose to fulfill through examination, you may attempt to pass the exam in any given language up to a maximum of three times.

MA students in special areas of concentration (Buddhist Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, and Orthodox Christian Studies) may have a different method of certifying language proficiency. (See the “Special Concentrations in the GTU Common MA Program” section starting on page 16 of the handbook.)

ROLE OF LINGUISTIC SKILLS FOR THE STUDY OF THEOLOGY

Without some linguistic skills, it is impossible to pursue academic theology in today’s globalized world. Knowledge of various languages allows one to enter into different perspectives of theological thought that arise from differences of culture and philosophy.

The fostering of language skills is a responsibility of the various professors at GTU. Some professors teach at the doctoral level; many more teach at the master’s level. The GTU Language Committee urges the GTU professors who teach MA courses to encourage students to use languages other than English. The need for students to use linguistic skills is essential whenever the theme of their thesis, in a central way, involves an author whose basic works are not in English, and/or whenever it appears that the student plans to move on to doctoral work. Professors are urged to encourage, at their discretion, MA students to use languages other than English in the normal work of their courses.

LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION BY EXAMINATION

One option is to successfully complete the foreign language exam offered by the GTU Dean of Students office. The purpose of this examination is to certify competence in reading academic theological/ religious research in a modern foreign language, to understand the language’s basic structures and grammar, and to demonstrate an accurate understanding of key sentences in a discussion by means of a translation. Students will have a choice between two 600-word passages. Students will be asked to summarize the main ideas of the passage in 100-150 words, with attention to the coherence of its discussion. Students will also be asked to **translate** 200 of the words in the passage they selected that are highlighted by the examiner, either a contiguous section of the passage, or several key sentences.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANGUAGE EXAMINATION FORMAT

The exam is graded pass/fail and is three and one half hours long. Printed dictionaries may be used during the exam. Grammar and verb charts and personal notes are not allowed. Electronic devices, including electronic dictionaries and computers are also not allowed. GTU certifies proficiency in Chinese, French, German, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish. Students wishing to certify proficiency by examination in other languages must submit a petition to the Dean of Students at least two weeks before the exam including in their petition the name and contact information of a qualified, impartial examiner. The language exam is offered at a

pre-arranged date and time every September, February, and May. Check the GTU Extended Calendar (www.gtu.edu) for specific dates and times.

REGISTRATION FOR THE LANGUAGE EXAM

There is no fee for the exam. Note that this certification, like other MA requirements, must be fulfilled while the student is registered. **You must register for the exam with the GTU Office Manager for Student Affairs (2465 LeConte Avenue, 3rd floor) no later than two weeks prior to the exam.** (For information on Biblical Greek and Hebrew exams, contact the Biblical Studies Area Convener.)

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING THE LANGUAGE EXAMINATION

The GTU Modern Foreign Language Committee has established the following criteria to judge proficiency:

- **Accuracy of Translation:** Examiners are not looking for a polished translation, but expect to see that the student has adequately translated the selected text. Examiners are looking for an appropriate rendering of each word, proper spelling, and verb tenses. Free paraphrasing is not the same as accurate translation.

The verification of a student's ability to translate the selected text involves an understanding of the context, i.e., the theological issues which the text addresses. A rigidly literal translation can indicate that the student does not understand the context. Although the choice of a word or a phrase in the translation may be found in a dictionary, the theological context might disallow that particular choice. The examiner must determine, on the basis of the translated text, whether the student has understood, at least in a general way, the theological context of the text.

- **Accuracy of Comprehension:** As mentioned earlier, the summary of the entire 600-word passage is intended to demonstrate **comprehension** not simply of what the passage is generally about (its topic), but what it says about the topic. In other words, it represents the level of comprehension required to be able to utilize the passage for research purposes: how would the student summarize the main points of the passage in a research paper he/she was writing?
- **Completion of the Exam:** Any examination which is not completely translated is considered a fail. Students must complete the entire exam within the specified time frame. The exam must also be written in a legible form.
- **Evaluation of Errors:** Each language offered has one examiner from the GTU Modern Foreign Language Committee responsible for evaluation. The examiner will indicate on each corrected examination the errors which she/he has found. **Students will fail if they make major errors. Major errors include:**
 - a) Consistent failure to correctly understand or translate key grammatical structures of the language;
 - b) A misconstrual of a sentence (or its grammar) that leads to a domino effect of other misunderstandings throughout the passage;
 - c) A failure to grasp either a major point of the passage, or the author's justification of that point.

DETERMINATION OF FINAL GRADE

The pass/fail grade is determined on the basis of a cumulative judgment of all the errors as described above. Students who pass the exam will fulfill the GTU Foreign Language Requirement and the “pass” will appear on their transcript.

The GTU Dean of Students records the exam result on the computer record, sends a letter notifying the student of the exam result, and sends a copy of the letter and the exam to the MA Program Coordinator to go in the student’s file. Students may request a copy of their exam from the MA Program Coordinator.

MULTIPLE ATTEMPTS TO TAKE AND PASS A LANGUAGE EXAMINATION

Students are permitted to take a given language examination three times. A student may petition for a fourth try either on the basis of further and substantial study of the language, which must be documented; or on the basis that there were extraordinary conditions which caused the third failure. This, too, must be documented. Neither of these petition situations is pro forma. The Committee will consider each request on a case-by-case basis. If the request is rejected, the Committee will provide the student with the reasons for the rejection. The decision will be final.

REQUESTS BY STUDENTS NOT TO SUBMIT COMPLETED LANGUAGE EXAM

On occasion, a student may take a language exam but not wish to submit it for grading. Students may exercise this option with a language no more than two times. Ungraded exams are not counted as attempts. Following two ungraded attempts, a student must submit his/her exam for grading.

RECOURSE BY A STUDENT IN CASE OF FAILURE

A student may contest his/her grade within two weeks after receiving notice of grade. To do this, the student should contact the GTU Academic Secretary to see his/her graded exam. If the student then wishes to petition for reconsideration, he/she must submit in writing the reasons for contesting the grade to the Language Committee via the Academic Secretary. The Committee will assign a second examiner to review the exam, the first examiner's corrections and comments, and the student's petition. If the second examiner disagrees with the grade of the first examiner, a third examiner will be selected, who will review all the material and make a final judgment. The decision of the third examiner will favor either a retention of the grade (failure) or a change of grade (pass).

OFF-CAMPUS LANGUAGE TRANSLATION EXAMINATIONS

Off-campus foreign language examinations may be arranged on a case-by-case basis to accommodate students who live more than a day’s journey from the GTU. The student must live a sufficient distance from the GTU to make it impossible to travel to the GTU, take the exam, and travel home in one day. The student must request approval for an off-site exam from the Dean of Students and comply with the following procedures:

- The student must take the examination on the same day that the general exam is scheduled for all GTU students. The student must register for the exam no later than two weeks prior to the exam.
- The student should arrange for someone, such as a librarian or faculty member, to proctor the examination. The student is responsible to set up a testing situation similar to that of GTU students taking the exam on campus.
- The GTU will send the exam to the proctor via email, fax or overnight mail in time for the examination.

- At the completion of the examination, the proctor sends a copy of the exam to the Academic Secretary via email or fax. The proctor places the original work and appropriate paperwork in an envelope provided by the student, seals it, and signs across the seal. The student will return this, along with a statement signed by the student and proctor that the agreed upon procedures had been followed, to the Academic Secretary via surface mail. The proctor should keep a copy of the exam on file in case the original translation is lost or damaged in transition.
- The exam will be graded by the appropriate examiner for that language along with all the other student exams.
- The student will be informed of the results via email.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION BY COURSEWORK

Students may certify proficiency in a foreign language by coursework. Qualified courses should foster an understanding of the language's basic structures and grammar and develop reading, translation, and comprehension skills at the requisite level for GTU graduate programs.

Pre-Approved Courses: The GTU develops and maintains a list of pre-approved courses that are qualified to evidence proficiency in a modern foreign language. One set of courses on the list are the GTU summer intensive language courses. Students can certify proficiency in French, German, or Spanish by passing the examination offered at the end of the GTU summer intensive language course; the examination is equivalent to the GTU Foreign Language Examination. GTU summer intensive language courses are typically 4 weeks long during the last two weeks of July and first two weeks of August; GTU courses meet 5 days a week, Monday through Friday, for three hours each day (60 contact hours).

Summer intensive language course instructors notify the Academic Secretary with the names of students who took the exam. For those who successfully pass the examination, the Academic Secretary, sends out certification via email, and will update each student's academic files.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION BY PETITION

Students may use other previous or current coursework taken before or during a student's MA program to certify proficiency in a modern foreign language. The Language Committee determines whether or not the petition is appropriate for certification. Students must submit a petition with all appropriate documentation addressed to the Committee for approval, but sent via email to the GTU Academic Secretary. If official record of this work is not in the student's GTU academic file, the student must secure and submit documentation (e.g., for coursework, an official transcript is required). The Committee has identified two alternative forms of language certification which students may use in lieu of the translation exam. **Students must petition to use these methods; approval is not pro forma.**

- **Graduate studies in a foreign language:** If a student matriculated as a graduate student in a foreign university in which the requested language of certification was used for both lectures and written work, and the student received a B grade or equivalent for a minimum of one full-time semester, he/she may petition the Committee to accept this work as evidence of proficiency in that language. Please note that coursework cannot be counted both toward the MA Program credit requirements and used in a foreign language certification petition.
- **Undergraduate studies in a foreign language:** If, within the past five years, a student studied a language at the undergraduate level for four semesters or the equivalent and received in

the fourth semester a B or better grade, he/she can petition the Committee to accept this work as evidence of proficiency in that language. The request should also include evidence that the student continues to use the language.

LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Please see the "Special Concentrations in the GTU Common MA Program" section (starting on p. 15) for guidance in how to meet any special requirements in the areas of Buddhist Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, and Orthodox Christian Studies.

EXCEPTIONS TO STANDARD EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) **Accommodations for Medical Reasons or Diagnosed Learning Disability:** If a student requires special accommodations or arrangements for taking language examinations because of a medical problem or diagnosed learning disability, the student should request a physician or appropriate medical professional to supply the GTU with a statement specifying the specific limitation for which accommodation must be made. The letter or statement from the physician should include an address and phone number so that the GTU Student Affairs Office may make further inquiries in trying to design an appropriate accommodation. The medical statement need not include a specific diagnosis of illness as long as it specifies the disability or limitation which will have to be taken into account in designing an appropriate examination structure/environment for the student. The medical information is confidential, and will not be included in the student's permanent file. Its purpose is merely to assist in the design of an appropriate method for examining the student.
- 2) **Exceptions for Non-native Speakers of English:** Non-native speakers of English may be allowed up to 50% additional time to write their examinations. The degree of time extension should be based on the student's facility in English. The purpose of this extension is to remove or lessen the disadvantage of non-native speakers having to write lengthy examinations in a foreign tongue.

PROCEDURES FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS TO CERTIFY ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

MA students whose native language is not English may certify proficiency in English by means of the TOEFL. The GTU Academic Secretary surveys the TOEFL scores of incoming international students during their first semester. Scores of 550 (written), 213 (computer), 79 (Internet) or higher qualify students to certify proficiency in English as their Foreign Language. The GTU Academic Secretary will send a letter to the student (with a copy to the GTU Dean's office, the Dean and Registrar of the School of Affiliation, and the student's advisor) notifying them of the certification.

Students may also certify primary proficiency in English by submitting a term paper of at least 20 pages in length written for a GTU course to the Dean of the School of Affiliation, along with a written evaluation of the student's written and spoken English language abilities by the faculty member who taught the course. The student should attach a letter to the paper requesting an evaluation of their English skills. The Dean of the School of Affiliation will judge the student's proficiency in written English and may also require a conversation. The Dean of the School of Affiliation will notify the GTU Academic Secretary in writing that the student is proficient in English.

Criteria for determining proficiency will include the following: correct use of English grammar and idioms; correct sentence structure and appropriate division into paragraphs; smooth rhetorical flow; accurate spelling; proper form for documentation.

CERTIFICATION

Students receive confirmation of language certification via email, with copies sent to the student's advisor and the GTU Consortial Registrar, and a copy placed in the student's file. Language certification is noted on the transcript. If certification is not listed on the grade report or transcript and ought to be, students should see the Academic Secretary immediately.

C. SPECIAL CONCENTRATIONS IN THE GTU COMMON MA PROGRAM

1. MA IN BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

The MA in Biblical Languages is a specialization within the GTU Common MA Program. Hence, the policies governing the Common MA normally apply to the MA in Biblical Languages. This section provides a general introduction to the MA in Biblical Languages and outlines requirements unique to this degree.

NOTE: The MA Biblical Languages Coordinator certifies fulfillment of the additional/alternative requirements; the GTU Dean's Office certifies completion of the general requirements on the MA in Biblical Languages Program Checklist.

a. INTRODUCTION

The Biblical Languages concentration is designed especially for highly qualified persons planning to pursue doctoral work in Biblical Studies. The program is also well suited to those students desiring a terminal degree with a concentration in the biblical languages and a firm background in Biblical Studies.

Although the Biblical Languages is designed to prepare students for doctoral work in Biblical Studies, successful completion of the MA in Biblical Languages does not guarantee admission to the PhD or ThD programs of the GTU. The policies of the GTU Common MA apply to persons in the MA in Biblical Languages except as stipulated in this Protocol.

b. APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Admissions requirements to the MA in Biblical Languages are the same as for the Common MA, with the exception that applicants to the MA in Biblical Languages are expected to have some undergraduate preparation in Biblical Studies – minimally, six semester units of introductory courses in Biblical Studies. Students admitted without this minimal background must enroll in Old and New Testament introductory courses in their first year at the GTU. These units do not count toward graduation requirements. A determination on this issue will be made by the MA in Biblical Languages Coordinator normally at the time of acceptance and communicated to the student and their Member School dean and advisor subsequent to admission.

The MA in Biblical Languages Coordinator also determines whether admitted students have sufficient background in theology at the undergraduate level or through another graduate degree in theology for the degree requirement for coursework outside of Biblical Studies to be waived (see below). Students who have prior work in theology should inquire and make an appointment with the MA in Biblical Languages Coordinator before the start of their first semester of coursework in the program. A determination on this issue will be made by the MA Biblical Languages Coordinator and communicated to the student, their Member School dean, advisor, and GTU Dean's Office. The total number of units required remains constant.

Student applications are reviewed by their respective, proposed Schools of Affiliation, Biblical Studies faculty, and the GTU Admissions Committee. Persons who are not accepted to the MA in Biblical Languages degree program may be recommended for admission to the Common MA in

Biblical Studies.

c. ADVISING

Students in the MA in Biblical Languages are assigned advisors in their Schools of Affiliation. In addition, the MA in Biblical Languages Coordinator is available for consultation.

d. COURSEWORK

Language Requirements: MA students with the Biblical Languages concentration are expected to make progress in at least three languages, two classical and one modern. Students are expected to enroll in at least 12 units of coursework for their Major Biblical Language (either Greek or Hebrew); and six units of coursework in their Minor Biblical Language (again, either Greek or Hebrew). In order to meet the language requirement for graduation, the student must earn at least a B+ in **each** course (in Biblical Greek and in Biblical Hebrew) or, through taking the Language Examination offered through the Biblical Studies Area, achieve secondary proficiency in the examination. Students entering the program without previous work in Greek are encouraged to take their first year in the Classics Department at the University of California at Berkeley.

Students with previous, recent language work in Biblical Hebrew or Greek may achieve advanced standing in order to move into more advanced language instruction or to enroll in additional coursework. A determination on this issue will be made by the MA in Biblical Languages Coordinator normally at the time of acceptance and communicated to the student and their Member School dean and advisor subsequent to admission. If a language examination is required, the student will follow the appropriate procedure as outlined in the MA in Biblical Languages section of the Biblical Studies Information Sheet on Biblical Languages (available in the Academic Secretary's office).

Students are also expected to demonstrate proficiency in at least one modern language – French, German, or Spanish; or, for international students whose first language is not English, English. Modern language examinations are offered through the GTU on a regular basis.

Coursework in Biblical Studies: Students are expected to take at least 18 units of coursework in Biblical Studies at the intermediate and advanced levels (i.e., courses numbered 2000-5000). These courses should be distributed across at least two of the three major blocks of literature in each Testament (Law, Writings, Prophets; Gospels and Acts, Pauline Writings, Johannine Literature and General Epistles); and include at least two seminar courses that require major research essays. Although students may (and may be required to) take introductory courses in Old and New Testaments, these do not count toward graduation requirements.

Coursework Outside of Biblical Studies: Students are expected to take at least 12 units of coursework in other disciplines, normally from the areas of History, Theology, and Ethics & Social Theory. However, if a student enters with significant background in theology at the undergraduate level or through another graduate degree in theology, these units may be directed toward collateral disciplines offering integrative possibilities with Biblical Studies (e.g., philosophical hermeneutics, social sciences, rhetoric, etc.).

e. ORAL EXAMINATION

The completion of the MA in Biblical Languages is marked by an oral examination oriented around the student's overall academic work in the program and a major research essay provided by the student for this purpose. Students should consult with their advisor or MA in Biblical Languages Coordinator about the specifics and expectations of the Oral Examination. The **Oral Exam Committee** consists of the student's advisor and one other GTU faculty in Biblical Studies,

outside the student's School of Affiliation; the second examiner should be someone already familiar with the student's work and is selected by the student's advisor in consultation with the student.

In the year of anticipated graduation, at least 90 days prior to the date of the oral examination, the **Oral Exam Committee** should be officially formed. This is done by completing the "Oral Examination Committee Request for Students in Biblical Languages" form which is signed by exam committee members and the MA Biblical Languages Coordinator, and is submitted to the GTU Dean's Office. Four to six weeks prior to the Oral Exam date, the student should submit to both of her/his Oral Exam Committee members a major integrative research essay (i.e., 25-35 pages in length) written for advanced coursework in Biblical Studies. By the thesis defense/oral exam deadline in the appropriate semester (see the Extended Calendar), the Oral Exam Committee should have met with the student for approximately two hours of oral examination concerning the student's work in the program. The forms by which students signal their intent to complete the program (including the "Intent to Graduate" form) are available from the MA Program Coordinator at the GTU Dean's Office or in PDF format on the GTU Website in the "Students" module. **For the most current information on the MA students in Biblical Languages graduation fee, check the GTU website (in the "Students" section).**

2. MA IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

The program requirements for the MA with a concentration in Buddhist Studies follow those of the general GTU Common MA requirements plus nine courses in Buddhism, four of which are required, and five are electives. Required courses are [HR 1515](#) , [HR 1518](#), [HRPH 1614](#), [HR 1630](#). The nine courses in Buddhism are taken in lieu of the usual four "Area of Concentration" courses required of other MA students. Students are not required to take all nine courses in Buddhism at the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

Students concentrating in Buddhist Studies may fulfill the Course Distribution requirement in Biblical Studies with the following courses instead of those in Old Testament, New Testament, or Biblical Studies, if desired: [HR 1614 \(Readings in Early Buddhist Texts\)](#), [HR 1524 \(Buddhist Texts: Pali I\)](#), [HR 3017 \(Readings in Mahayana Texts\)](#), [HR 4566 \(Works of Shinran, I\)](#), [HR 4567 \(Works of Shinran, II\)](#), [HR 4568 \(Works of Shinran, III\)](#).

Foreign language: reading proficiency in a modern or classical foreign language relevant to Buddhist studies. These include French, German, Japanese, Chinese, modern Southeast Asian languages (Thai, Burmese, etc.), and the canonic languages (Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, Chinese). As not all foreign languages are considered relevant to the study of Buddhism, students are to consult with their advisor at the beginning of their program of study concerning their plans for fulfilling this requirement and receive a written confirmation of any exceptions. Reading proficiency is demonstrated in accord with current GTU practice. See the earlier section in this handbook for guidelines concerning language examinations, and other means of demonstrating proficiency. Proficiency is to be demonstrated by the end of the third semester in residence. Students whose native language is not English may fulfill the requirement by means of the TOEFL. (Please see the section "Procedures for Non-Native Speakers to Certify English as a Foreign Language" on p. 14.) Note: ministerial aspirants are required to take Japanese as their modern foreign language, and chaplaincy students may choose Spanish for their modern foreign language.

The IBS Director certifies fulfillment of the additional requirements and the GTU Dean's Office certifies completion of the general requirements on the same Program Checklist.

The Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) is considered the student's School of Affiliation, and the Dean of the IBS is equivalent to the Dean of the member school.

3. MA IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

The MA with a concentration in Islamic Studies is offered by the GTU's Center for Islamic Studies. The primary focus is on the study of contemporary Islam within its theological, historical and cultural contexts. In addition to the core courses in classical Islamic scholarship, students have the opportunity to develop expertise in specific topics such as Muslim Cultures (especially Muslims in America), Islamic Education, or Islam and Media. Interdisciplinary and interreligious approaches to the study of Islam in which Muslims are understood in their diversity and in dialogue with other religious traditions are an implicit part of the program, fostered by the unique environment of the GTU.

The Center for Islamic Studies is considered the student's School of Affiliation, and the Director is considered the Dean. The CIS Director certifies fulfillment of the special CIS requirements and the GTU Dean's Office certifies completion of the general requirements on the Program Checklist.

Sixteen courses shall be taken, two of which are thesis courses. The 14 non-thesis courses should be distributed as follows: 1) one course in a religious tradition other than Islam; 2) one course on each of the following topics: introduction to Islam; sources/foundations of the Islamic tradition; Islam and modernity; 3) five additional courses in Islamic Studies; 4) three electives; 5) two courses in Arabic at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced level. The Arabic language requirement may be fulfilled simultaneously with the other requirements. For example, a student who enters the M.A. program with intermediate or advanced competence in Arabic might use a course on the Qur'an with readings in Arabic to count as both a course on sources/foundations of the Islamic tradition and a course in Arabic. In that case, the student would take an additional elective to fulfill the total number of required courses.

Once the two courses in Arabic are completed, the student is eligible to certify language proficiency. To certify language proficiency, the student first petitions completion of the coursework with the Director of the Center for Islamic Studies with the "Language Proficiency Certification Petition" form. The petition must include a transcript to show that the coursework has been completed. Once the Center Director reviews and approves the petition with her/his signature, the student submits the "Language Proficiency Certification Petition" with the attached transcript to the Academic Secretary. The Academic Secretary will then complete the process of language certification. Once language proficiency is certified, the student can then proceed with forming their Thesis Committee.

4. MA IN JEWISH STUDIES

The MA with a concentration in Jewish Studies is offered by the GTU's faculty in Jewish Studies. The focus is on the history of Jewish thought and spirituality. Jewish/Non-Jewish dialogue is an implicit part of the program, so that the unique environment of the GTU contributes to, and at the same time benefits from such exchanges.

The Center for Jewish Studies is considered the student's School of Affiliation, and the Director is considered the Dean. The CJS Director certifies fulfillment of the special CJS requirements and the GTU Dean's Office certifies completion of the general requirements on the Program Checklist.

Sixteen courses shall be taken, two of which are thesis courses. The 14 non-thesis courses should be distributed as follows: 1) one course in a tradition other than Judaism; 2) two courses in the history of Jewish thought covering the major periods of Jewish history; 3) one course in each of the following periods of Jewish history: Biblical, Rabbinic, Medieval, and Modern; 4) two courses

in Hebrew grammar or reading, at the beginning, intermediate or advanced level. The Hebrew language (grammar or reading) requirement may be fulfilled simultaneously with the other requirements; thus a course in medieval Jewish history with readings in Hebrew satisfies both the medieval requirement and one of the two Hebrew requirements.

Once the two courses in Hebrew grammar or reading are completed, the student is eligible to certify language proficiency. To certify language proficiency, the student first petitions completion of the coursework with the Director of the Center for Jewish Studies with the "Language Proficiency Certification Petition" form. The petition must include a transcript to show that the coursework has been completed. Once the Center Director reviews and approves the petition with her/his signature, the student submits the "Language Proficiency Certification Petition" with the attached transcript to the Academic Secretary. The Academic Secretary will then complete the process of language certification. Once language proficiency is certified, the student can then proceed with forming their Thesis Committee.

Jewish Studies students are required to form a Thesis Committee with the Coordinator from CJS.

5. MA IN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES

The MA in Orthodox Christian Studies allows for focused study of the history, theology, liturgy, spirituality, and praxis of the Orthodox Christian tradition from its origins to the present day. It is not designed to prepare a student for ordained ministry within the Orthodox Church. The purposes of the MA in Orthodox Christian Studies are:

1. to explore and to enrich one's knowledge and understandings of the Eastern Orthodox Church;
2. to provide an academic structure for sustained inquiry into the theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church;
3. to provide a theological foundation for service and leadership within an Orthodox parish or diocesan ministry;
4. to prepare students for academic study at the doctoral level.

The MA in Orthodox Christian Studies is structured to take advantage of the ecumenical and interfaith environment of the Graduate Theological Union. You will study alongside other students from many different faith traditions, thus strengthening your ability to communicate Orthodox Christianity to others and to reflect upon Orthodox Christianity from the perspectives of others. This will prepare you for future engagement with the multi-religious and multi-cultural contexts in which the Orthodox Church finds itself.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The program requirements follow those of the GTU Common MA, with additional stipulations. For details about the Common MA of the Graduate Theological Union and issues not covered by this description please consult the GTU Catalog (www.gtu.edu).

COURSES

Fourteen full courses (42 units) plus 6 units of MA 5000 ("in thesis") are required. At least two of the 14 full courses shall be offered by faculty from other GTU member schools. Students must take one course each in Biblical Studies, History, Theology, and Ethics. Eight courses (24 units) in Orthodox Christian Studies are required for the degree. In the specialized MA, the courses are distributed as follows:

- Orthodox Christianity: History and Theology
- Orthodox Christian Spirituality

- One course in each of the following: History, Liturgy, Theology, and Patristics (may be fulfilled simultaneously with the general distribution)
- Two additional courses in an area of specialization (History, Liturgy, Spirituality, Theology, or Patristics)

Courses taught by GTU faculty that fulfill requirements for this degree will be identified on an annual basis. Courses taught by University of California at Berkeley that will fulfill requirements for this degree will also be identified. MA students may cross-register for one course per semester at the University of California at Berkeley.

LANGUAGE

A student must demonstrate proficiency in at least one language helpful to the study of Eastern Christianity (French, German, modern Greek, Russian, Church Slavonic, Serbian, Arabic, Coptic, etc.) and the thesis topic of the student.

D. CONCURRENT MA/MDIV PROGRAMS

For students desiring a combination of academic and professional programs, the following Member Schools offer the opportunity to pursue concurrent Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs: ABSW, CDSP, DSPT, FST, JST, PLTS, PSR, SFTS, and SKSM. These schools administer the MDiv program, while the MA is governed by the policies of the GTU Common MA Program. Concurrent MA/MDiv programs involve application to and matriculation through **two separate programs**, and successful completion results in two separate degrees.

1. ADMISSION AND MATRICULATION

A Common MA student wishing to enroll in concurrent MA and MDiv programs applies to the MDiv program through the Admissions Office of their School of Affiliation. This process is completely separate from admission to the MA Program, and requires all original documentation (transcripts, etc.). Likewise, an MDiv student wishing to enroll in concurrent programs must apply to the MA Program through the GTU Admissions Office. The School offering the MDiv program is also the student's School of Affiliation. A new student may apply to both at once, then defer the MA Program up to two years while working on the MDiv.

Matriculation in concurrent MA/MDiv programs can be done sequentially (first the MDiv and then the MA), or concurrently. **However, a student must apply and be admitted to the second program before completing the requirements of the first.** Functional theology coursework, required for the MDiv and not applicable to the MA, is ideally taken while the student is registered for the MDiv.

2. UNITS REQUIRED

ATS standards require concurrent MA/MDiv programs to comprise no fewer than 24 units (one academic year) above and beyond the requirements of the School's MDiv program. MDiv degree requirements vary from school to school, ranging from 72 to 124.5 units. The Common MA Program requires a total of 48 units. These 48 units must meet Common MA standards to count toward the MA (see "Program Requirements" section). ATS also requires no fewer than four total years of full-time coursework (a minimum of 96 units; more depending on the School's MDiv requirements) for completion of concurrent MA/MDiv programs. The School of Affiliation certifies which courses may be counted toward the MDiv.

School	MDiv units required	MA units required	Total units required
ABSW	78	24	102
CDSP	72	24	96
DSPT	85.5	24	109.5
DSPT MDiv + <i>Complementary Curriculum</i>	96	24	120
FST	72	24	96
JST	81	24	105
PLTS	84	24	108
PSR	81	24	105
SFTS	81	24	105
SKSM	90	24	114

3. TUITION

Since the completion of concurrent MA/MDiv programs requires no fewer than four years of full-time study, students pay two years of full MA tuition and a minimum of two years of full MDiv tuition. If a student has not completed both programs after paying 48 units of MA tuition and all MDiv fees (which may exceed two years), **he/she pays MA continuing fees for further work.** (See “Continuing Registration” under the Registration heading for further information.)

4. CERTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS

The MA Program Coordinator certifies fulfillment of the MA requirements (on MA Program Checklist) and checks that the student has the correct number of units required to receive both degrees (MDiv units + 24 additional units). The School of Affiliation certifies completion of MDiv requirements.

5. WITHDRAWAL FROM MDIV

If a student decides to withdraw from the MDiv program, and complete the MA only, he/she may submit a Petition to Transfer Coursework form to transfer courses completed in the MDiv program into the MA Program. Only three-unit, academic courses with a B- or higher grade may be transferred into the MA Program. The Dean of the School of Affiliation determines what courses may be counted toward MA requirements and how many of the transferred units (36 maximum) may be applied to the 48-unit MA tuition/residency requirement.

6. TRANSCRIPTS

While in concurrent programs, the student has one transcript listing all coursework completed for both programs. Upon graduation, the student has two transcripts with the same information, one conferring the MA and one the MDiv. Requests for MDiv transcripts go to the Member School; requests for MA transcripts go to the GTU Consortial Registrar.

7. DIPLOMAS

There is a separate diploma for each degree. The MDiv degree is conferred at the Commencement ceremony at the School; the MA degree may be conferred at either Commencement, the School's or the GTU's.

E. CONCURRENT MA PROGRAMS AT GTU AND DSPT

It is possible for qualified students enrolled in the GTU Common MA to enroll concurrently in the DSPT MA program in Philosophy. A detailed protocol for the program is available from the DSPT Dean's Office.

Requirements

- I. Sixty-three units distributed as follows:
 - A. Eighteen academic courses (54 units).

Eight courses come from the core requirements for the DSPT MA (Philosophy) program (four courses in systematic philosophy and two courses in historical philosophy) and 10 courses from those required for the GTU Common MA in theology (four of the former courses are “double counted” as electives for the GTU Common MA in theology).
 - B. Nine units of MA 5000: In Thesis. Three of these units are “double counted” for both programs.
- II. Certification of one foreign language (see section on language certification, page 8).
- III. All students in the concurrent MA program must fulfill the DSPT portfolio requirements as articulated in the DSPT Student Handbook.
- IV. A thesis of about 120 pages.

The student submits the thesis proposal and the signed DSPT “Thesis Proposal Petition” to the DSPT Academic Dean in the usual manner. After the petition is approved by the Regular faculty of the DSPT, the student completes the “Master of Arts Thesis Proposal” form for the GTU Common MA, obtains the signatures of the Deans of GTU and DSPT and files the Request with the GTU Dean’s Office.
- V. An oral defense of the thesis, not to exceed one and one half hours in length, before the two to three-member committee.
- VI. Tuition.

During the first two full-time years in the program, the student pays the full four-semester tuition residency for the Common MA. When this tuition residency has been fulfilled, the student then pays the DSPT per-unit tuition for the remaining 15 units required for the program, plus any additional tuition necessary to cover prerequisites that may be required for the degree. After all unit requirements have been completed (54 units of coursework, 9 units of “in thesis” and any philosophy prerequisites required by the DSPT Admissions Committee), the student then pays continuing tuition under the DSPT tuition schedule for the MA in philosophy until the thesis is successfully defended.
- VII. In no case may the two degrees be finished in fewer than six semesters – with four full-time semesters (@ 12 units each) taken at Common MA tuition, plus 15 additional units taken over the last two semesters at DSPT tuition.

III. GETTING STARTED

A. TRANSFER OF COURSEWORK

If your transfer of coursework was not done during the admissions process, a Petition to Transfer Coursework form should be submitted before or during your first semester in the GTU Common MA Program. Courses to be transferred must appear on official transcripts from the institutions where they were taken. These transcripts will be found in your official GTU file, if received during the admissions process—if not, you must provide them.

Complete the Petition to Transfer Coursework form with courses to be transferred, the type of transfer desired, the signature of the Dean of your School of Affiliation approving the transfer, and your signature, and submit the completed form to the GTU Dean's Office for your official GTU file. A copy will be sent to the GTU Consortial Registrar (with transcripts, if needed), who will apply the courses to your GTU transcript, and to your School of Affiliation.

1. TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Courses that were not used toward a previous degree which are academically appropriate (see details below) for the GTU Common MA may be petitioned for transfer of credit. Transferred courses are entered on the student's GTU transcript for the Common MA Program and become part of the permanent record.

Transfer of credit is limited to 12 units from a School outside the GTU, and up to 36 units, at the discretion of the School from a School within the GTU. **The maximum number of transfer units is 36 units total.** Students should declare their intent to apply for admission to the GTU Common MA Program before completing their second semester of work in another program, so they may be advised about transfer of credit.

Courses eligible for transfer credit fall into three categories: 1) courses taken as a special student or non-degree student; 2) courses taken above and beyond any degree requirements; 3) courses taken for a degree program which the student did not and will not complete. If the courses were taken while a student was in a degree program, their eligibility for transfer based on the above-stated criteria needs to be explicitly addressed.

The courses to be transferred must be academic courses in theology or closely related fields. The student must supply documentation about course requirements. Academic courses should have a substantial reading list, and substantial written assignments and/or examinations. Professional or practical ministry courses are not transferable into the Common MA Program. Courses must be the equivalent of three academic units. 1.5 unit courses may not be counted towards the MA degree. In rare exceptions, two 1.5-unit courses in the same area of study can be combined if and only if it is documented that the amount of reading and written work was comparable to a three-unit academic course. The Dean of the School of Affiliation may request additional information (syllabus or written work) to verify eligibility for transfer.

2. TUITION/RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

The Tuition/Residency requirement is 48 units at full MA tuition. Although the GTU sets tuition rates for the GTU MA, the fee policy should be checked with the School of Affiliation.

Once the Tuition/Residency requirement is fulfilled, students enrolling in additional courses pay the MA **continuing fee**, a flat fee calculated at one-half of full (12 units) tuition. Part-time status is not available once students are paying continuing fees.

3. ADVANCED STANDING

Advanced Standing applies previous academic work to Distribution or Area of Concentration requirements. Normally, Advanced Standing only applies a course to a specified requirement; it does not transfer coursework onto the transcript or apply units toward the Tuition/Residency requirement. However, persons admitted to the MA program who have completed graduate level course work in theological or religious studies may petition the member school dean for permission to apply up to 18 units of this prior course work toward the Tuition/Residency requirement. In addition to transcripts, the member school dean may require further documentation such as course syllabi.

B. FINANCIAL AID

GTU Master of Arts students are jointly enrolled at a School of Affiliation and at the GTU. MA students pay their tuition/continuing fees to their Schools of Affiliation. Buddhist Studies, Islamic Studies, and Jewish Studies students pay their tuition/fees directly to the GTU. Financial aid support comes from the school to which tuition is paid, except for Buddhist Studies students, whose scholarship support comes directly from IBS. The GTU Financial Aid Office, located on the top floor of 2465 LeConte, administers the financial aid services for all of the Member Schools, the Center for Islamic Studies, the Center for Jewish Studies, the Institute for Buddhist Studies, and the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute.

1. TYPES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

The following forms of financial aid are awarded and disbursed annually based on need, the availability of funds and satisfactory academic progress. A student's total financial aid package, including grant or scholarship aid received from an outside organization, cannot exceed the total cost of education as determined by the Financial Aid Office.

a) School-Based Grants and Scholarships

The GTU and its Member Schools offer grants and scholarships for students paying tuition at their school. Students affiliated with ABSW, CDSP, FST, CIS, CJS, PAOI, PLTS, and PSR, - must apply for school-based grants and scholarships through the GTU Financial Aid Office each year. Each school has its own priority deadline and it is the responsibility of the student to apply each year by the Affiliate School's priority deadline for their school. Students affiliated with DSPT, IBS, JST, SKSM, and SFTS, should contact their Affiliate School for grant/scholarship application information.

b) Federal Direct Student Loans

The GTU and its Member Schools participate in the federal Direct student loan program. Eligibility is determined annually and is based on information provided on a student's application for financial aid and on satisfactory academic progress.

A student is not required to demonstrate financial need to receive a **Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan**. The Financial Aid Office will determine the amount a student can borrow up to the annual maximum of \$20,500. The aggregate loan limit for a graduate student, inclusive of outstanding Stafford Subsidized/Unsubsidized loans, is \$138,500.

Interest accrues (accumulates) on an unsubsidized loan at the rate of **6.8%** from the time it is first paid out. The interest may be paid while the borrower is in school and during grace periods and deferment or forbearance periods, or the interest may accrue and be capitalized (that is, added to the principal amount of the loan). Choosing not to pay the interest as it accrues will increase the total amount a borrower will have to repay as interest will eventually be charged on a higher principal amount, once that interest is capitalized. Accrued interest is capitalized once the loan enters repayment.

An additional loan provided under the Direct Loan Program is the **Direct PLUS Loan** for graduate and professional degree students. The terms and conditions include a determination that the applicant does not have an adverse credit history and a fixed interest rate of 7.9%. Before a student will be considered for a PLUS Loan, the Financial Aid Office must have determined the maximum eligibility for Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. The maximum PLUS Loan amount an eligible student can borrow is the cost of attendance minus any other financial assistance received.

The U.S. Department of Education charges a loan fee for a portion of the principle amount of the Unsubsidized loan and Direct PLUS loan. The loan fee is deducted proportionately from each loan disbursement. For the 2013-14 year, the loan fee charged for an Unsubsidized loan is 1.051% of the principle amount. For the Grad PLUS loan the loan fee is 4.204% of the principle amount.

The Direct Loan Program offers several repayment plans that are designed to meet the different needs of individual borrowers. Generally, borrowers have 10 to 25 years to repay a loan, depending on the repayment plan that is chosen. A borrower will receive more detailed information on repayment options during the required student loan entrance and exit counseling sessions. More information about Direct Loan programs and repayment options may be found online at <http://studentloans.gov>.

c) Federal Work-Study

Students at CDSP, GTU, PLTS, PSR, and SKSM, can apply for federal work-study through the GTU Financial Aid Office. Federal Work-Study (FWS) may be available to those who demonstrate financial need based on federal methodology. A Federal Work-Study award may be used for on-campus employment at the Affiliate School, at the GTU Library, or off campus with a non-profit employer. Students from schools not listed above must contact their Affiliate School regarding non work-study student employment opportunities.

d) Private Grants and Scholarships

Information regarding outside grants and scholarships is available on the financial aid pages of the GTU website at <http://www.gtu.edu/admissions/financial-aid>. The **GTU Scholarship Link**, operated and maintained by the GTU Consortial Financial Aid Office, supports students by providing information on funding opportunities for graduate students in theological education.

e) Veterans Administration Benefits

The GTU Consortial Registrar is the certifying official for Veterans Benefits. Students with previous graduate level coursework/training in the program to be pursued will be evaluated upon enrollment and given appropriate credit. Evaluation will be based upon review of academic transcripts. Credit allowed will be recorded in enrollment records, and the length of the program shortened proportionately. In addition, the student and the Department of Veteran's Affairs shall be notified. (Note: All prior graduate level coursework and training will be evaluated.) Upon completion of the course of study a degree will be conferred.

2. ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR FINANCIAL AID

The federal government requires that in order to be eligible for federal student aid (loans and work-study), a student must make satisfactory academic progress, and the school must have a policy for monitoring progress. Federal regulations require that the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy include quantitative and qualitative measure and certification of the completion of work within a maximum time frame.

The qualitative measure of GTU SAP policy requires that an MA student maintain an overall GPA 3.0 (or B). If the MA student's GPA falls below 3.0, the student will be notified that it must be brought back up by the end of the following semester. If the overall GPA has not been raised to a 3.0 by the end of the next semester, the student will not be eligible for any additional financial aid.

The quantitative standard of the GTU SAP policy requires that an MA student make acceptable progress toward completion of the degree within the following maximum time periods (excluding leaves of absence):

MA	6 semesters (Full-time)
	9 semesters (Part-time)
MDiv/MA	10 semesters (Full-time)
	15 semesters (Part-time)

An Incomplete (I) grade must be made up within three weeks of the end of the current semester. Faculty must turn in the grade three weeks after the submission of the student's work. If no grade is turned in by the end of the sixth week after the semester ends, **the "I" will automatically change to a grade of "F"** and will not count toward graduation requirements. If the Incomplete is not made up during the seventh week after the end of the semester, the appropriate forms for students with veteran's benefits will be sent to the VA to correct the previous semester's load.

Waivers for Satisfactory Academic Progress will be considered only under special circumstances (if, for example, the student has suffered undue hardship such as death of an immediate family member, injury or illness of the student). Students requesting an appeal must submit a letter to the Director of Financial Aid and/or Dean of the School of Affiliation. The letter should explain the circumstances which affected the student's academic performance. The Financial Aid Director or the Dean of School of Affiliation may decide to restore eligibility, noting the reasons for doing so in the student's financial aid file.

3. APPLICATION FORMS AND DEADLINES

Eligibility for financial aid is determined on an annual basis. **Students must apply for financial aid each year by the application priority deadline.** Financial aid application forms are made available on the Financial Aid pages of the GTU website (www.gtu.edu) beginning in mid-December of each year. More detailed information regarding financial aid policies and procedures is also available at www.gtu.edu/admissions/financial-aid, including the current priority deadlines for all Affiliate Schools. Students at DSPT, FST, IBS, JST, SFTS, and SKSM should contact their schools of affiliation for school-based grant/scholarship applications and deadlines.

Students who apply after their school's priority deadline may still be eligible to receive Direct Loans. However, a late application may result in the loss of eligibility for limited forms of financial aid including institutional aid and/or federal work-study.

U. S. CITIZENS AND ELIGIBLE NON-CITIZENS

Domestic applicants for federal aid must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor and a Domestic Student Financial Aid Application to the GTU Financial Aid Office by the designated deadline for priority funding consideration. Members of Religious Orders interested in federal aid must also submit a letter indicating financial support from their Superior. Please note that members of religious orders who

receive subsistence support are not eligible for Direct Stafford Subsidized loans. For more information please contact the GTU Financial Aid Office.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students affiliated with ABSW, CDSP, GTU, PAOI, PLTS and PSR may apply for grants through the GTU Financial Aid Office by completing the International Student Financial Aid Application by their school's priority deadline for priority funding consideration. International students affiliated with DSPT, FST, JST, SFTS, and SKSM should consult their School of Affiliation for information on financial assistance. International students are not eligible for federal loans or Federal Work-Study.

The GTU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religious affiliation, age, gender, sexual orientation, or handicap in administering its financial aid programs.

4. PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING FEDERAL LOAN PROCEEDS

- a) If you are receiving a federal loan, you must complete all necessary paperwork with the Financial Aid Office. First-time Direct loan borrowers at the GTU must also complete Direct Loan entrance counseling. This requirement may be completed online at <http://studentloans.gov>. Exit counseling is required of all students in their last semester of registration and of those who otherwise drop below half-time enrollment at any point in the program.
- b) Loan proceeds are received electronically at the beginning of the fall and spring terms and are processed through the Financial Aid Office and posted to student accounts. Students must be registered at least half-time and must have completed all financial aid requirements in order for loan funds to be processed. Refund checks will be issued for any credit balances existing after charges are deducted. Students should contact the Business Office at their School of Affiliation (for MA Students affiliated with CIS, CJS or IBS, contact the GTU Business Office) for information regarding the schedule for their refunds.
- c) A hold placed on your registration will result in a delay in the processing of your loan funds until the registration hold is resolved.

5. GENERAL POLICIES GUIDING THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

The Financial Aid Committees and the Office of the GTU Dean have developed the following operating policies for the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Director and staff adhere to institutional policies and the rules and regulations dictated by the federal government.

- a) Students who meet published application deadlines have priority over late applicants. Late applicants will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as funds allow. Because financial aid funds are fully allocated during initial awarding, there will normally be no grants or work-study available to late applicants.
- b) Full-time enrollment is 12 units or more per semester. Half-time enrollment is six units per semester.
- c) Full-time students who drop to half-time or three-quarters status will have their grant-in-aid reduced in proportion to the reduction of their tuition charge. Federal Work-Study and Federal Direct Loans will be reduced as required by federal law.
- d) Students enrolled less than half-time are **not** eligible to receive any financial aid.
- e) Eligibility for financial aid in summer varies depending on the member school. Check with the Consortial Financial Aid Office for details.
- f) Students receiving funds from non-GTU sources will **not** have their grants reduced **except in cases where total need is exceeded.**

- g) Members of religious orders are eligible to receive grants or scholarships and Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. Members of religious orders are ineligible to receive Federal Work-Study or Federal Subsidized Stafford Loans.
- h) Annual awards will be disbursed equally between the fall and the spring semesters.

6. RETURN OF FEDERAL AID POLICY

Federal regulations require a school to have a written Return of Title IV (Federal Student Aid) Funds policy to be applied to students who withdraw during the term for which federal aid has been received.

When a student terminates enrollment after beginning attendance, that student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds that he or she was originally scheduled to receive. In this case, the amount of Title IV loan assistance earned by the student must be determined. If the student does not complete more than 60% of the enrollment period and the amount of Title IV aid disbursed to the student is determined to be greater than the amount the student earned, the unearned funds must be returned. If the amount disbursed to the student is less than the amount the student earned, and for which the student is otherwise eligible, he or she may receive a Post-withdrawal disbursement. After the 60% point in the period of enrollment, a student has earned 100% of the Title IV funds he or she was scheduled to receive during the period and a return is not required.

The Return of Title IV funds calculation is completed by the Financial Aid Office in accordance with the federal regulations set forth in the [Higher Education Act of 1965](#) and the [Return worksheet](#) provided by the Department of Education. To determine the amount of earned and unearned aid, the Financial Aid Office will calculate the percentage of the enrollment period the student completed. If any amount of aid is determined to be unearned, institutional charges are then used to determine the portion of the unearned Title IV aid that the school is responsible for returning. The Financial Aid Office will include all appropriate institutional fees in the Return calculation. The institutional charges used in the calculation usually are the charges that were initially assessed for the entire period of enrollment. Initial charges may only be adjusted by those changes the Business Office made prior to the student's withdrawal (for example, for a change in enrollment status unrelated to the withdrawal).

Once the Financial Aid Office determines the amount of unearned aid that the school is responsible for returning, the student and the Business Office will be notified. The e-mail and/or written letter to the student will specify the amount of aid that must be returned to the Title IV loan program by the school and the amount that must be repaid by the student in accordance with the terms outlined on his or her federal Master Promissory Note. If the school's portion of the funds to be returned creates a balance due on the student's account, the student will be billed for the amount due.

7. DEFERMENT OF PRIOR STUDENT LOANS

To defer prior student loans, students must be enrolled at least half-time. Students should make sure that their lenders are aware of their proper enrollment status by contacting them regarding any enrollment changes. Each Member School submits current enrollment information to the National Student Loan Clearinghouse each term. This information is accessible to major lenders and loan servicers but there is a time lag in reporting. Lenders may not receive updated enrollment information until mid-semester. Perkins loans typically require the completion of a deferment form, available from the school that issued the Perkins loan. If you have outstanding federal student loans, to ensure your lender is aware of your current status, be sure to respond to any mail directed from your lender/servicer. It is your

responsibility to verify deferment procedures with your lender(s) and to comply with your lender(s) deadlines to avoid defaulting on your loans. Likewise it is your responsibility to give the appropriate deferment forms to the Registrar in a timely manner, along with an appropriately addressed mailing envelope for each form. Deferment forms are available in the Financial Aid Office and in your school's Registrar's office.

C. STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

For the most current information on the student health insurance offered by the GTU, please check the GTU website in the "Students" section.

D. REGISTRATION

1. GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MA students must **register** by the General Registration deadline published in the Extended Calendar **OR** request part-time status, request a leave of absence, or formally withdraw from the program before the end of the General Registration deadline. (See the appropriate handbook section for the policy and instructions on each of these options.) Late fees will apply after the General Registration deadline. MA students who do not register, take a leave of absence, withdraw, or respond to inquiries from their School of Affiliation regarding their status in the program will be terminated. A student whose program has been terminated may petition for reinstatement within two years. This process will be the same as for withdrawn students, but if reinstated, terminated students pay a reinstatement fee of \$150 and may be liable for intervening tuition, up to 100%.

The GTU Master Course Schedule is available on the GTU website and in PDF format immediately prior to Early Registration for the next academic year. The online Course Schedule is updated frequently to reflect changes, cancellations, and additions, and is always the best and most current source for course information. A collection of syllabi is kept on the reserve shelves in the Library to provide you with further information about most courses. Read the "Registration Instructions" section of the Course Schedule for step-by-step directions on how to register online, and the "Fall Information" and "Spring Information" sections for information on deadlines and PIN codes required.

2. CONTINUING REGISTRATION

If a student has registered and paid MA tuition for two years (or a total of 48 units) and has not yet completed the program, he/she automatically enters "continuing registration" status. While in continuing registration, students must be registered for at least 12 units per semester and may **not** register for part-time status. Tuition for students in continuing registration is half of regular MA tuition and is payable to the School of Affiliation. Students in continuing status can take courses as well as work on the thesis. If all course requirements have been completed, a student may choose to register for 12 units of "MA5000: In Thesis" or 12 units of "MA 5005: MA, Biblical Languages concentration Language Preparation" only.

3. HOLDS ON REGISTRATION

A hold may be placed on a student's registration due to unmet financial obligations to the GTU or a Member School, for library fines, for academic progress issues, or because no faculty advisor has been assigned or chosen, according to the student's computer record. The student will not be permitted to register until satisfactory arrangements have been made with appropriate offices. Transcripts for students in arrears will not be released until satisfactory arrangements have been made with appropriate offices. Diplomas of graduating students will not be released until all financial obligations to the GTU and Member Schools have been met. Students in violation of policies at a Member School (including debt to any School), are ineligible to register for classes or

receive other benefits at that School, and are not eligible to register or receive benefits or services at any other member institution of the GTU.

4. INTERSESSION

Students should consult with their School of Affiliation regarding the option of and cost for registration for Intersession courses.

5. SPECIAL READING COURSES

Registering for a Special Reading Course requires some steps beyond those needed to register for other courses. When you are taking a Special Reading Course, you will need to get a Special Reading Course form and follow the directions on it. Remember that Special Reading Courses are not designed to take the place of regular courses, but rather to supplement them. A Special Reading Course:

- may not be used for MA Course Distribution requirements, but up to two may be used for electives as long as they are three (3.0) credit courses with appropriate academic requirements and course levels. (Exceptions can be granted by the member school dean, who reports that decision to the GTU Dean's Office.)
- may also be the means to add academic content to practical ministry courses (which do not count toward the MA degree) and thus earn academic credit.
- may also be the means to "upgrade" an introductory or intermediate class to an advanced level by doing additional work as assigned by the professor. (The course will be designated SRC8888 both on the SRC form and on your transcript.)

Special Reading Course forms are available at the Registrar's Office at your School of Affiliation. They must have the signature of the Instructor and other signatures required by your school. **COMPLETED SRC FORMS ARE DUE TO YOUR REGISTRAR DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD.** Any SRC forms received after the end of Late Registration will require a Change in Enrollment form along with the SRC and will be assessed the regular "change" fee. The GTU Dean's Office must have an approved copy of Special Reading Course form in the student's file in order to evaluate the course's application to program requirements. This form can also be found on the GTU website.

6. STUDENT ID/LIBRARY CARD

Photo IDs for incoming M.A. students will be issued by the GTU Consortial Registrar's Office during orientation. The registrar at your school will then place a sticker on the card confirming registration for the upcoming semester. Incoming students should then take this card to the GTU Library Circulation Desk in order to have it barcoded (in order to receive library privileges). CIS and CJS Students: bring proof of registration to the Receptionist or GTU Consortial Registrar on the third floor of 2465 LeConte building. Books cannot be checked out of the GTU Library without a bar-coded ID/Library card. Since Early Registration occurs in the previous semester, the time to acquire the sticker for your Library card will vary. If you are registering early for spring semester, you can get your sticker before General Registration of that term from the Registrar's Office at your school. If you are registering early for fall, you can get your sticker (generally in mid-late August) shortly before General Registration.

7. THESIS FILING/ORAL EXAM EXTENSION AGREEMENT

You must be registered in any semester in which you will complete a requirement for your program (i.e., forming the Thesis or Oral Exam Committee, language certification, defending your thesis or taking your oral exam), and you should complete all MA Program requirements (except for the final semester's courses) by the thesis-filing deadline of the semester in which you intend to graduate. However, if you do not complete all the requirements by the filing deadline,

the Dean of your School of Affiliation may grant you a Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension as long as you have confirmed with each member of your thesis/exam committee that they are willing and available to work with your proposed schedule. **(NOTE: thesis or oral exam committee members are not obligated to serve during breaks in the academic calendar.)** This extension will allow you to graduate in the following semester **without registering or paying the continuing registration fees for that semester** by meeting several conditions as listed below. If the Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension Agreement form is submitted and any of the stated conditions are not met, the student will be liable for tuition to the School of Affiliation for the entire semester.

- Submitting a Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension Agreement form (available at the GTU Dean's Office or on the GTU Website),
- Completing all course requirements by the end of the late registration period of the semester in which you wish to graduate,
- Satisfactorily completing and filing an MA Program Checklist with the MA Program Coordinator,
- Meeting the Tuition/Residency requirement (48 units at full MA tuition),
- Successfully defending the thesis (or passing the oral exam, for MA students in Biblical Languages) by the end of the late registration period of the semester in which you wish to graduate. A successful defense is defined as passing "with honors," "as it stands," or "with minor revisions." (Please see the "Thesis/Oral Exam Result Certification" section on page 43 for the criteria.)
- Filing the thesis by the filing deadline for the semester in which you wish to graduate.

Warning: This will affect your loan repayment. If you do not register for that semester, the last month of the previous semester will mark the end of your status as a student regarding loans. The six-month countdown (grace period) before repayment of loans will begin at that time, not at graduation. If you have any questions, please consult the Financial Aid Office.

8. TUITION PAYMENT

Directions for paying tuition are outlined in the Master Course Schedule. Full-time MA students pay full tuition for the first two years of the program. After that time they pay continuing registration fees. (See "Continuing Registration" section.) Concurrent MA/MDiv students pay MDiv tuition the first two years, and MA tuition the next two, if they are doing academic work those years, as opposed to full-time field placement. If you are receiving a federal loan or a work-study grant, follow the procedures outlined in the Financial Aid section.

9. UCB CROSS-REGISTRATION

MA students may register for one course each semester at the University of California, Berkeley. These courses may count as electives toward the completion of the MA degree, and they also count as courses outside of the School of Affiliation. (In general, courses at the graduate and upper division level are eligible to be considered MA Program electives. In order to consider lower division courses, the Dean of the School of Affiliation must be petitioned.) In some circumstances, UCB courses may fulfill an Area requirement; a student who would like a UCB course to satisfy an Area requirement should petition the Dean of the School of Affiliation who sends a copy of the accepted or rejected petition to the GTU Dean's office for review and filing. Courses taken in preparation for fulfilling the general language requirement may not count toward the 14 required courses. Please be aware that cross-registration is a privilege dependent on availability of space in courses and departmental policies at UCB. Given budget constraints at UCB, course accessibility may be limited. You must be enrolled at least half-time, and in at least one GTU course in order to cross-register at UCB. Taking courses at UCB involves some very specific procedures. Keep in mind that the UCB semester starts earlier than the GTU semester.

Only one form is required for cross-registration. This form is available from the Receptionist or Consortial Registrar on the third floor of 2465 LeConte, or from the registrar of your School of Affiliation. The form must be signed by the dean of your School. Fill in the top part of the form clearly and completely. Make sure that the control number is clearly written. If the course you're taking also requires you to be enrolled in a separate lab or discussion group, you must also include the control number for the lab or discussion group. Without the control number/s you will not be registered for the course; they are absolutely necessary.

You must also get the signature of the actual instructor offering the course in order to be registered for the class. UCB course information is available at <http://schedule.berkeley.edu>. Turn in the completed form to the Consortial Registrar by the deadline announced in the GTU Extended Calendar. This is a firm deadline. Any change in enrollment status for a cross-registered course can be problematic if you do not follow directions carefully. If you want to add or drop a class, or change your grading option, paperwork has to be filled out for both UCB and GTU. The GTU Consortial Registrar has all the forms needed for any change in enrollment. Please note that the UCB deadlines are not flexible in any way.

10. OTHER CROSS-REGISTRATION INSTITUTIONS

Cross-registration with Mills College and Holy Names College is also available. See the Consortial Registrar about these options.

IV. MAINTAINING OR CHANGING YOUR ACADEMIC STATUS

The GTU Common Policy is noted first for each item, and various exceptions at different schools are specified below it.

AUDITS

Common Policy: Audits are posted to the student's transcript.

ASBW	Permission of the instructor is required. See current ABSW fee schedule and auditor policy.
CDSP	Audited courses included on transcript if student registers for course.
DSPT	Permission of the instructor is required. Students must register for an audit. Fee is full tuition per course except as noted in the DSPT Student Handbook.
FST	Fee is full tuition per course.
GTU	Audits are included on transcript if student registers to audit a course. Fee is full tuition per course.
JST	Permission of the instructor is required. Students must register for an audit. Fee is full tuition per course.
PLTS	Permission of the instructor is required. Students must register for an audit. Fee is partial tuition per course.
SKSM	No audits permitted.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please keep your address current at the GTU (Student Affairs Office Manager-Receptionist, 649-2400) and at your School of Affiliation.

CHANGE OF ADVISOR

A student may choose an academic advisor other than the one assigned when they began their program. The advisor must be a faculty member within the School of Affiliation and with expertise in the student's area of concentration. The student should speak with the faculty member with whom they wish to work, to confirm their willingness to accept a new advisee, then write a letter to the Dean of their School notifying them of the change, with a copy to the GTU Dean's Office, where the change will be made in the student's computer record. If there is any problem with the change, the student will be notified.

If the student needs help choosing an advisor whose work is more compatible with their interests, they may make an appointment with the Dean of their School, speak with their current advisor, or consult the Faculty Resource Book, available at the Academic Secretary's office.

DSPT	To change academic advisors, students must submit a written petition to the DSPT Academic Dean. Upon approval by the Academic Dean, DSPT will notify the GTU Dean's Office.
FST	To change academic advisors, students must submit a written request to the FST Academic Dean after speaking to the faculty member proposed as the new advisor. Once the Dean has approved the change, FST will notify the GTU Dean's Office.
PLTS	The change academic advisors, students must submit a change of advisor form petition to the Associate Dean of Academic Administration and Community Life. Upon approval by the Associate Dean, PLTS will notify the

	GTU Dean's Office.
SFTS	To change academic advisors, students must obtain the Request for Change of Advisor form from the Registrar's Office. Upon approval by the Academic Dean, SFTS will notify the GTU Dean's Office.
SKSM	Students must petition the involved faculty to make advisor changes. (Process is found in SKSM Student Handbook.) Notice to the GTU Dean must still be made.

CHANGE OF AREA OF CONCENTRATION

Requests to change your Area of Concentration should be written to the Dean of your School of Affiliation, with a copy to the GTU Dean's Office. The Dean of the School will send a copy of their response to the GTU Dean's Office. Changing your concentration to Buddhist Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Orthodox Christian, or Biblical Languages requires additional approval by the dean of IBS, director of CIS, CJS, or PAOI, or the MA Biblical Languages program coordinator. You will want to meet with them for advising before requesting a change into their Area. They will then send a copy of their response to the GTU Dean's Office for review, filing, and posting in the student's computer record.

CHANGE OF ENROLLMENT (ADDING AND DROPPING)

Common Policy: Change of enrollment (adding a class, dropping a class, or changing the grading option or units) from General Registration through Late Registration are done using WebAdvisor. After late registration (the end of the second week of instruction) all changes of enrollment require the use of the paper "Change of Enrollment" forms. On the form students must obtain the signatures of the instructor offering the course, their Dean and Business Office, and will be assessed a fee set by their school of affiliation for each change. No change in enrollment will be permitted after the tenth week of the term, except under circumstances approved by the Dean or an appropriate committee of the student's school.

ABSW	See current ABSW fee schedule and Policy and Procedures manual.
CDSP	Dean and Business office signatures not required. Petition to C&E committee required after the tenth week, including approval of the student's advisor. Fee of \$50 is charged for each change in enrollment.
DSPT	Fee of \$50 is charged for each change in enrollment.
FST	Fee of \$50 is charged for each change in enrollment.
GTU	Business Office signature not required. Common MA students follow the policies of their School of Affiliation. [CIS, CJS and IBS are \$50 and PAOI is \$20.]
JST	Fee of \$25 is charged for each change in enrollment.
PLTS	Fee of \$50 is charged for each change in enrollment.
PSR	Fee of \$50 is charged for each change in enrollment.
SFTS	Substantive changes require the approval of the Dean. Fee of \$50 is charged for each change in enrollment.
SKSM	Fee of \$50 is charged for each change of enrollment.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL OF AFFILIATION

In rare cases a student may wish to change the School of Affiliation after admission to the program. Requests for such transfer need to be made in writing to the Dean of the new School of Affiliation, with a copy to the GTU Dean, the Dean and Registrar of the current School of

Affiliation, and the Registrar of the new School of Affiliation. The petition should clearly state the reasons for the transfer, and should summarize how far along the student is in the program (how many semesters have been completed).

The student must also submit a Petition to Transfer Coursework form requesting the application of units from the old School to the Tuition/Residency requirement at the new School. (See the Tuition/Residency requirement section for full details.) The student should also check with the Financial Aid office for financial implications of the change.

The new School may request a copy of the student's GTU file from the GTU Dean's Office in order to facilitate their decision about admitting the student to their School. If the Dean of the new School of Affiliation approves the petition, they must also assign the student a new academic advisor from their faculty. The Dean then sends a copy of the accepted or rejected petition which includes the name of the newly assigned advisor for review and filing to the GTU Dean's office (where the change will be made in the student's computer record) and to Dean of the School from which the student is transferring.

WARNING: Students in violation of policies at a Member School (including debt to any School), and are thus ineligible to register for classes or receive other benefits at that School, are not eligible to register or receive benefits or services at any other member institution of the GTU.

EXTENSIONS

If the four-year time limit is to be exceeded, students must petition in writing for a program extension, based on specified extenuating circumstances, before they may register for another semester. The petition should be made to the Dean of the School of Affiliation, stating the reason for requesting the extension and including a realistic and detailed schedule of completion of the program, which has been approved by the student's advisor. (This schedule should be consulted in future advising to monitor progress.) A copy of the accepted or rejected petition is sent to the GTU Dean's office for review, filing, and posting in the student's computer record. If the student does not petition for an extension, a hold may be placed on the student's registration until the extension is granted (in writing, with a copy to the GTU Dean's Office). **(NOTE: Students are required to redo or re-certify all work more than seven years old.)**

F/FAILING GRADE

Grades of F/Fail remain on the student's transcript unless the member school has a different policy.

INCOMPLETES

Common Policy: Students are responsible for finishing their work within the term. Students must petition to take an incomplete no later than the last day of the term. (Petition forms can be found on the GTU website.) Incomplete work is due to the instructor by the third (3rd) Friday after the term. The instructor is required to submit a new grade by the sixth (6th) Friday after the end of the term. The incomplete becomes an "F" if no new grade is received by the end of the sixth week. Students should consult their school handbook for any variation to this Common Policy.

LATE REGISTRATION

Common Policy: The deadline for late registration is the end of the second week of instruction, and is subject to a penalty fee set by the student's school. No registrations will be accepted after the second week except upon petition by the student to their dean.

ABSW Fee: \$100	FST Fee: \$100	PLTS Fee: \$100	SKSM: no fee
CDSP Fee: \$100	GTU Fee: \$100*	PSR Fee: \$100	
DSPT Fee: \$100	JST Fee: \$100	SFTS Fee: \$100	

*GTU Common MA students will be assessed the fee of their School of Affiliation.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

A student who is unable to continue academic work must submit a Leave of Absence form for each semester of leave to the Dean of the School of Affiliation specifying grounds of personal, medical, or financial exigency so that the Dean may determine if the leave is warranted. The Dean of the School grants or denies the request, signs the form and returns it to the GTU Dean's office for review, filing, and posting in the student's computer record. The Dean of the School will also communicate the decision in writing to the student. **If a leave is not officially requested, approved and on file in the GTU Dean's Office each semester the student is away, the student may be terminated when they do not register for classes.**

A leave of absence requires a break in all academic work including library privileges, coursework, examinations, thesis work, and interaction with faculty. It is not appropriate to take a leave of absence to work on a thesis.

Students with an outstanding balance at the GTU Business Office will not be approved for a leave of absence in good standing.

LIMITS ON LEAVES

Students are not normally granted more than four total semesters of leave, and no more than two semesters consecutively, in the course of their degree program. Accrediting agencies require institutions to enforce a reasonable continuity in the program. Leaves of absence taken once matriculation in the MA Program has begun do count toward the total four years allowed in the program. (Semesters deferred before beginning the program are not considered leaves and do not count.) If it becomes necessary for a student to request an extension of their program beyond the four-year limit, further explanation of leaves taken may be required.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FEE

Students who request their leave by the deadline will be charged a \$100.00 administrative fee for each semester. Students requesting a leave after that deadline will be charged an additional late fee. (The School of Affiliation establishes the late fee amount.) Both fees are payable to the School of Affiliation. This is an incentive for students to get information in on time for the Schools to submit their enrollment reports to federal accrediting agencies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF LEAVES

Students are advised to consult with the Financial Aid Office about whether a leave is the best financial decision. Students with educational loans need to check carefully that a leave will not jeopardize their deferment of payment. Payments on all state and federal loans may go into repayment within six months.

CANNOT GRADUATE WHILE ON LEAVE

Students cannot graduate while on leave of absence. They must be registered in the semester in which they graduate unless they have paid tuition in the previous semester and successfully defended the thesis or passed the oral exam (for students in the Biblical Languages concentration only) by the end of late registration of the next semester and filed the thesis by the filing deadline in the semester they intend to graduate.

PART-TIME STATUS

Students wishing to register for fewer than 12 units may petition in writing the Dean of the School of Affiliation (with a copy to the GTU Dean) for part-time status, with an explanation of both the reasons and the percent reduction requested (3/4 time, 1/2 time, 1/4 time). If the Dean approves the petition, the student will be notified in writing (with a copy to the GTU Dean's Office for review, filing, and updating the student's computer record), and the student will be expected to take the reduced course load.

Part-time status is not available to students in continuing registration. Keep in mind that some GTU Schools only allow half-time or full-time status. Be sure to clarify with your School of Affiliation.

Students receiving financial aid are advised to consult with the Financial Aid Office before deciding to enroll part-time. Financial aid is reduced by the same proportion as the reduction from full-time status, i.e., half-time students receive one-half the aid. All financial aid is canceled if you drop below half-time. Reduction below half-time status also places most loans into repayment.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS

MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE

MA students in course work are considered to be in good academic standing when a cumulative grade point average of "B" or better is maintained. It should be noted, however, that all course grades must be "B-" or higher. GPAs are reviewed each semester by the School of Affiliation Dean.

MAXIMUM TIME FRAMES

Full-time MA students are expected to complete the program within the following maximum time periods (excluding leaves of absence):

MA	8 semesters
MDiv/MA	12 semesters

PROBATION AND REINSTATEMENT

Following a determination that progress standards have not been met, the student will be placed on probation for one year. If the student regains satisfactory progress, they will be reinstated. If the student fails to meet the standards after one year of probation, they will be withdrawn from the program.

TERMINATION OF MA PROGRAM

MA students who do not register, take a leave of absence, withdraw, or respond to inquiries from their School of Affiliation regarding their status in the program will be terminated. The MA Program Coordinator is responsible to close the student's file and computer record. A student whose program has been terminated may petition for reinstatement within two years. This process will be the same as for withdrawn students; if reinstated, such students must pay a \$150.00 reinstatement fee and may be liable for intervening tuition, up to 100%.

TIME LIMIT

Two years of residence are required for completion of the MA, but maximum time for completion is four years (eight semesters) of full-time work. MA students at some **Schools** (check with the School of Affiliation as to the availability of that option) may elect to do concurrent MDiv programs at their Schools of Affiliation. The total time required will be determined by the demands of the two degrees combined, but, in accordance with ATS standards, it will in no case be less than a total of four academic years and must be one year longer than the MDiv program. If the student is granted tuition credit, the four-semester minimum time required is reduced by one semester per 12 units (see “Tuition Residency” section below).

TUITION REQUIREMENTS

TUITION RESIDENCY

You are required to pay 48 units at full MA tuition. This is the equivalent of paying for 16 three-unit classes, during the fall and spring semesters. Students should consult with their School of Affiliation to find out whether Intersession courses can be used to fulfill tuition residency as well as course requirements.

CONTINUING REGISTRATION

If, after completing your tuition residency, you have not finished all the other requirements for the degree, you move into continuing registration status. Students with this status pay half of the full tuition rate and are entitled to enroll in classes as well as prepare for the thesis. They should be registered for at least 12 units in each semester of continuing registration. If the course work requirement has been completed but the thesis requirement has not, you may register for 12 units of “MA 5000: In Thesis.”

WITHDRAWAL

To withdraw from the program, the student sends a letter to the Dean of the School of Affiliation. The Dean of the School of Affiliation will send a copy of the letter to the GTU Dean’s Office for review, filing, and posting in the computer record. The student will be formally withdrawn from the program as of the date of the letter. The MA Program Coordinator is responsible to close the student’s file and computer record. Withdrawal may affect a student’s eligibility for disbursed and/or anticipated federal financial aid. See the Return of Federal Policy for the implications of withdrawal on financial aid. Students with an outstanding balance with the GTU Business Office will not be approved for withdrawal in good standing.

Withdrawal severs the relationship between the student, the School of Affiliation and the GTU. Committees are dissolved. It is intended to be a permanent decision. Withdrawn student files are kept for seven years and then destroyed.

If a student has withdrawn, they may petition the Dean of the School of Affiliation for reinstatement within two years. Such petitions are extraordinary; there is no presumption of a right to reenter, and the following should be kept in mind:

- The Thesis Committee will have been formally dissolved; faculty are under no obligation to return to the Committee.
- Language exams passed more than seven years prior to reinstatement may have to be revalidated; the process of revalidation is determined by the faculty.
- The School of Affiliation will be asked to make a formal decision on whether or not to reinstate, in consultation with the GTU Dean.

- In questions of protocol, it will be assumed that the reinstated student will be bound by the catalog and policies current at the time of reinstatement.
- Students will be liable for a \$150.00 reinstatement fee.

Two years after having withdrawn, students requesting re-admission have to reapply through the MA admissions process. They would normally be required to redo or re-certify all work more than seven years old.

V. COMPLETING YOUR PROGRAM

A. GTU COMMON MA PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**This overview assumes a four semester (beginning in a fall and ending in a spring semester), full-time (12 units per semester) program. Part-time (PT) and concurrent MA/MDiv students' timelines would be structured differently.

FIRST SEMESTER

- Appointment with your advisor to discuss your program goals and ask any questions about the MA Program
- Begin to track your requirements using your **MA Program Checklist** (Biblical Languages, Buddhist, Islamic, Jewish, Christian Orthodox Studies each have own particular checklist)
- Think about the timeline that is needed to complete the program requirements
- Plan on how you will fulfill the foreign language requirement
- See the GTU Extended Calendar on the GTU website, www.gtu.edu, "Students," then click on "Calendars" to gain access to the link (along with other relevant calendars)

SECOND SEMESTER

- Review your Program Checklist with your advisor and discuss with her/him your plan for formulating a thesis topic
- Fulfill the foreign language requirement through examination, coursework or petition (see the GTU Extended calendar for examination dates)
- Establish a research strategy and seek out resources such as the GTU Library Reference Librarian and inquire about GTU Library Workshops

THIRD SEMESTER

- Review your Program Checklist with your advisor and discuss your progress with your thesis topic formulation and timeline
- If you have not already done so, fulfill the foreign language requirement through examination, coursework or petition (see the GTU Extended calendar for examination dates)
- Complete your thesis proposal and form your Thesis Committee with the **Thesis Proposal** form. MA students in Biblical Languages form an Oral Exam Committee with the **Request for Oral Exam Committee for MA Students in Biblical Languages** form. Either is submitted to MA Program Coordinator. (Forms are due 90 days before the date of your thesis defense or oral exam.)
- Register for thesis units (except Biblical Languages students) and use this time to do concentrated work on your thesis. Keep your Thesis Coordinator and other Committee Members informed of your progress.
- Meet with the MA Program Coordinator to evaluate your MA Program Checklist
- By the end of the semester turn in your **Intent to Graduate** form to the MA Program Coordinator

FOURTH SEMESTER

- You are still enrolled in 12 units of coursework and completing your thesis
- Meet with your Thesis Coordinator and communicate with your other Thesis Committee Member(s) about your progress and timeline toward your defense or oral exam date
- If you have not already done so, complete your **MA Program Checklist** and meet with the MA Program Coordinator to be sure you will meet all the MA Program requirements for graduation

- Complete the **Statement of Readiness and Scheduling Request** form at least 4-6 weeks before your proposed defense or exam date and turn in to the Academic Secretary to schedule your defense or oral exam
- Thesis filing deadline for Fall graduation is October 1 and for Spring is usually the first Friday of April (see Extended Calendar for exact date)
- Defense must be done at least two weeks prior to the filing deadline. The Oral Exam (for MA students in the Biblical Languages concentration) must be done by the filing deadline for a spring graduation.
- If you will not be able to defend and file your thesis or take your oral exam by the spring filing deadline, submit a **Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension Agreement** form to the MA Program Coordinator and defend your thesis or take your oral exam by the late registration deadline the following fall semester. (You will not have to register/pay for that following semester in this case.)

B. PROGRAM CHECKLIST

This form is a tool you and your advisor can use to assess your progress in meeting program requirements and plan ahead toward graduation. By the end of the third semester of full-time study, you should make an appointment with the MA Program Coordinator to go over your Program Checklist. You may have a copy of the completed Checklist for your records, if you wish.

Before you come in for your appointment with the MA Program Coordinator, indicate on your most current grade report from which school/center the instructor who taught the course is affiliated. If your area of concentration is Buddhist Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, or Orthodox Christian Studies, you must have your center director review and sign your Program Checklist where indicated. If your area of concentration is Biblical Languages, the MA Biblical Languages Coordinator must review and sign your Program Checklist also. These signatures verify the courses you have taken fulfill the requirements in your particular area of concentration.

If you have any questions, it is wise to ask the GTU Dean's Office well in advance, so that you do not have to spend an extra semester fulfilling a last requirement. We recommend having the MA Program Coordinator examine your Program Checklist during the third semester of full-time work, when you could still drop or add a course to meet an overlooked requirement.

C. ORAL EXAMINATION

MA students in the Biblical Languages concentration are required to do an oral examination instead of a thesis. However, the oral exam schedule is the same other Common MA Students use for defending and filing the thesis. Additionally, similar forms are employed such as the "Request for Oral Exam Committee for MA Students in Biblical Languages" in requesting an exam committee, and the "Statement of Readiness & Scheduling Request" used to schedule the oral exam.

Speak with your advisor or MA Biblical Languages Coordinator regarding expectations for this exam, look for MA in Biblical Languages deadlines in the Extended Calendar, and read the following sections on the MA Thesis noting items that apply to your examination (an effort has been made to highlight those items.)

D. MA THESIS

MA students (not MA students in Biblical Languages) are required to submit a thesis that represents the equivalent of at least two three-unit courses. The MA thesis is expected to show the competence of the student for independent investigation, scholarly judgment, and creativity. It should demonstrate that the student is able to deal with research materials and to organize a problem in acceptable academic form. A general understanding of the problem is required as well as knowledge of the standard reference works and journals that focus on the subject. An adequate bibliography must be included. **A thesis must consist of 75 to 90 pages.**

All requirements for the thesis—forming the committee, passing the oral defense, and filing the thesis—must be completed while the student is registered (unless you have completed a Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension Agreement—see that section for details). The student must be enrolled to consult with professors about the thesis. Your defense should be done at least two weeks before the thesis filing deadline so you have time to complete revisions.

1. SELECTING A THESIS TOPIC

The thesis topic, **which must be in the student's area of concentration**, is drawn up in consultation with the Thesis Committee, and must be approved by them. It is essential that the Thesis Committee be appointed during the planning stages of the thesis so they have a chance to express concerns about any substantial issues before the thesis is fully in progress. All members should have the opportunity to give input into the conceptualization and organization of the thesis.

2. FORMING A THESIS OR ORAL EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

The "MA Thesis Proposal" form with attached thesis proposal or "Oral Exam Committee Request" form must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the defense or oral exam (see the Extended Calendar for the thesis filing deadline). This is normally around the same time you do your Program Checklist, during your third semester of full-time work. You must fulfill your Foreign Language requirement before officially forming your committee. If you have any trouble forming your committee, please consult with your advisor or the Dean of your School of Affiliation for assistance. This form requires your signature, signatures of your committee members indicating their willingness to work with you, and signatures of the Dean of your School of Affiliation (**or MA Biblical Languages Coordinator for Oral Exam Committees**), and the Dean of GTU. The deans' signatures certify that you have complied with the rules for formulating a committee, that they are comfortable with your choice of committee members, and that they are confident that these particular scholars can be helpful to your work.

MA students are required to have **two members** on the Thesis Committee, both regular GTU (Core Doctoral or Consortial, not Adjunct or Visiting) faculty. The Coordinator must be from the School of Affiliation with competence in the student's area of concentration. The second reader can also be from the School of Affiliation, though students are encouraged to choose a faculty member from another member school to facilitate ecumenical and interreligious engagement. A third reader, who may be required by the Thesis Coordinator or may be elected as an option by the student, may be from inside the GTU, or outside the GTU with approval. An outside reader's curriculum vitae must be submitted with your Thesis Proposal form for the deans' consideration, unless they are a regular UC Berkeley professor. (Adjunct and visiting UCB professors must submit a CV.) **All readers must hold a doctorate or equivalent degree.** Outside readers are expected to have a publishing/teaching record, and, preferably, an academic appointment. Check the notebook in the Academic Secretary's Office to see if your outside reader has already been approved to serve on thesis committees.

MA students in Biblical Languages are required to have two examiners, from two different GTU Schools, on their Exam Committee; one is the student's advisor and the other is a faculty member in Biblical Studies from another member school. The committee is approved by the MA Biblical Languages Coordinator and the GTU Dean.

Submit the completed "MA Thesis Proposal" or "Oral Exam Committee Request" form to the MA Program Coordinator, who will send you confirmation that your committee is approved by the Deans (with copies to your committee members), directions for scheduling your defense, information on where to find guidelines for the physical format of your thesis, and other forms required for completing your degree and graduating. The MA Program Coordinator sends a copy of your form to the Academic Secretary, with whom you will schedule your defense date. The original form goes into your official GTU file. If during this process a problem with your committee is detected, you will be contacted immediately to begin the process of rectifying the error.

Note: If your research for the thesis involves human subjects, there are strict guidelines and a review procedure to follow. Read the following section carefully and follow these directions before beginning your research.

3. MA THESIS PROPOSAL

For all MA students other than those in the Biblical Languages area, the request to form a thesis committee should be accompanied by a thesis proposal that has been developed in consultation with the proposed committee members and approved by them.

The proposal should be no more than 3 double-spaced pages with one-inch margins and 12 point readable type. Footnotes should appear at the bottom of the appropriate page(s), in the same 12 point readable type, and can take up to but not exceed 2 inches of space above the bottom margin. The footnote should be single spaced; the space between two footnotes should be double spaced. The proposal should include the following sections and accompanying headings in the following order:

- **Scope and Nature of Thesis:** Define what the project is about, the field in which it is located, background of the topic, outer limits (things that the thesis will not cover that might be expected).
- **Thesis Statement:** In one or two sentences, state what the work will attempt to demonstrate or accomplish (that is, if not accomplished, the thesis changes drastically). Put another way: explain where the weight of the thesis lies.
- **Methodology:** Explain the theoretical frameworks and specific methodological tools that will be used for research and/or analysis. This is not a question about how the text/research will be organized.
- **Significance:** Discuss the significance of the work within the discipline and possibly other communities (religious, local, political, national, etc.) and possibly for the scholar. Clarify the distinctive contribution of this thesis and the student's role as author.
- **Chapter Outline:** Give a clear indication of what each chapter of the thesis will include. (NOTE: the chapter outline must comply with the spacing requirements of the proposal, that is, double and not single spaced text.)
- **Short Bibliography:** In addition to the 3 page proposal, the student must include a short bibliography consisting of at least 15 entries representing the most significant works/materials that will be used in the research/work, including at least 3 entries in languages other than English.

4. RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

Students who intend to use human subjects as part of their thesis research (e.g., qualitative research, such as interviewing) must develop a “Human Subjects Protocol” to assure that human subjects will be treated in a manner consistent with their dignity and autonomy, that subjects consent freely and in an informed manner to participate in the research, and that human subjects are either not at risk or are protected from any risks or harms posed by the research. Students should consult the “**Guidelines and Procedures for Review of Research Involving Human Subjects,**” available in the “Students” module on the GTU website, for the criteria necessitating a protocol and details about the process.

If a protocol is required, students must receive approval from a member of the Human Subjects Protocol Review Committee. **Approval must occur prior to beginning the research, normally as soon as possible following certification of foreign language and formation of thesis committee.**

5. THE DEFENSE/ORAL EXAM

You must be registered in the semester in which you defend the thesis (unless you have signed a Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension Agreement – see that section for details). If the course requirements have been completed, you may register for “in thesis” units only.

The defense should be scheduled at least two weeks before the filing deadline to allow ample time for revisions. **For MA students in Biblical Languages, the exam may be scheduled anytime up to the thesis defense deadline, as the exam is graded Pass/Fail and no revisions are required.** Of course, the time required between the defense and the filing deadline will depend on the amount of revision that the Thesis Committee deems necessary: some theses require no revision and can be filed immediately, while others need major revisions. It is up to you to gauge how much time you will need to revise your thesis. It might be helpful to show one or more Thesis Committee members your work as it develops, chapter by chapter, so that you can have a better idea how the defense will go.

At least eight weeks before you wish to defend the thesis (or take the oral exam for **MA students in Biblical Languages**), contact your committee members to arrange a date and time, and write this on a “Statement of Readiness and Scheduling Request” form. The Thesis Committee Coordinator or Primary Examiner must sign this form, to confirm that you have worked with your committee at least 90 days and that the thesis is ready to defend (or you are ready to take the oral exam). The MA Program Coordinator signs to show that you will be completing all other MA Program requirements by the end of the semester and are in fact eligible to defend your thesis or take your oral exam. Submit the “Statement of Readiness and Scheduling Request” form to the Academic Secretary four to six weeks before the defense or exam. S/he will confirm with you and your committee members that a room has been reserved for you at the time requested (or let you know if there is any conflict). You should pick up your paperwork from the Academic Secretary prior to the exam and return it to her/him with your exam result and appropriate signatures after the exam.

You must also submit the final draft of your thesis (or research paper for **MA students in Biblical Languages**) to your Thesis (or Oral Exam) Committee members four to six weeks prior to the defense so that they have ample time to read it. (You and your committee will need to agree on how “final” the draft must be. In some cases, directors want you to be able to incorporate minor revisions suggested during the defense into the final version; in other cases, they may want you to have a close-to-perfect copy for the defense.)

Ask your Thesis Committee Coordinator or Primary Examiner about the format for the defense/oral exam: what will happen, the order of events, etc. Generally, three hours are allowed, but unless there are problems requiring extended discussion, the defense or exam itself takes about two hours.

If you have an outside committee member who is unable to attend the defense, or the second GTU member is on sabbatical out of the Bay Area, one member of the committee may participate in the defense by means of a conference call. Having a faculty member send in written questions for the defense is not sufficient. You must request a conference phone from the GTU Academic Secretary when you schedule your defense. (Not all defense rooms have jacks that will accommodate the conference phone, and there is only one conference phone, which cannot be two places at once.) You are responsible for the phone charges, which are considerably less expensive than an airplane ticket and easier to arrange. You are required to bring the outside reader's phone number and a calling card on day of the defense so that your outside reader can be contacted for the conference call. Occasionally a student needs audio-visual equipment for a defense. There is such equipment and a suitable room available in the Library – check with Library staff well in advance to make arrangements.

6. THESIS FILING/ORAL EXAM EXTENSION AGREEMENT

You must be registered in any semester in which you will complete a requirement for your program (i.e., forming the Thesis/Oral Exam Committee, language certification, defending your thesis or taking your oral exam), and you should complete all MA Program requirements (except for the final semester's courses) by the thesis filing deadline of the semester in which you intend to graduate.

However, if you do not complete all the requirements by the filing deadline, the Dean of your School of Affiliation may grant you a Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension as long as you have confirmed with each member of your thesis/oral exam committee that they are willing and available to work with your proposed schedule. **(NOTE: thesis or oral exam committee members are not obligated to serve during breaks in the academic calendar.)** This extension will allow you to graduate in the following semester **without registering or paying the continuing registration fees for that semester** by meeting several conditions as listed below. If the Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension Agreement form is submitted and any of the stated conditions are not met, the student will be liable for tuition to the School of Affiliation for the entire semester.

- Submitting a Thesis Filing/Oral Exam Extension Agreement form (available at the GTU Dean's Office and on the GTU website),
- Completing all course requirements by the end of the late registration period of the semester in which you wish to graduate,
- Satisfactorily completing and filing an MA Program Checklist with the MA Program Coordinator,
- Meeting the Tuition/Residency requirement (48 units at full MA tuition),
- Successfully defending the thesis (or passing the oral exam, for MA students in Biblical Languages) by the end of the late registration period of the semester in which you wish to graduate. A successful defense is defined as passing "with honors," "as it stands," or "with minor revisions." (See "Thesis/Oral Exam Result Certification" in the next section for the criteria.)
- Filing the thesis by the filing deadline for the semester in which you wish to graduate.

Warning: This will affect your loan repayment. If you do not register for that semester, the last month of the previous semester will mark the end of your status as a student regarding

loans. The six-month countdown (grace period) before repayment of loans will begin at that time, not at graduation. If you have any questions, please consult the Financial Aid Office.

7. THESIS/ORAL EXAM RESULT CERTIFICATION

The Thesis Committee may grade the defense as follows: approved with honors, approved as it stands, approved subject to minor revisions, returned for major revisions, or rejected (major rewriting required). Your Thesis Committee Coordinator will mark the result on a “**Certification of Master’s Thesis**” form immediately after the defense and the student returns it to the Academic Secretary.

An oral exam (for students in the Biblical Languages area of concentration only) is graded pass/fail only, and a “**Certification of Oral Exam**” form is submitted by the student to the Academic Secretary immediately following the exam.

The defense or oral exam is not complete until one of these forms is submitted.

The distinction “**with honors,**” according to the Council of Deans (February 5, 1997), is granted to theses deemed to be outstanding works at the master’s level, distinguished by their scholarly sophistication, creativity, and clarity of expression, and whose oral defense has reflected these characteristics. There must be a unanimous vote by all examiners for a thesis to qualify for honors.

If **approved as it stands**, there must be agreement among all members of the thesis committee.

If **minor revisions** are required, they must be approved by one of your Thesis Committee members (agreed upon by the other members), who will submit a supplementary letter of approval to the Academic Secretary when the paper is properly revised. The degree cannot be awarded until this final approval is recorded.

If **major revisions** are required, they must be approved by all members of the Thesis Committee and a second copy of the “**Certification of Master’s Thesis**” form, signed by all members, must be submitted. The degree cannot be awarded until this final approval is recorded. (If defending the thesis by extension, the student will be required to pay tuition for that semester in order to graduate.)

If the thesis is **rejected and major re-writing required**, another oral defense is scheduled and another copy of the “**Certification of Master’s Thesis**” form must be submitted.

8. FILING THE THESIS

There are two graduation dates, one in October and one in May. The corresponding thesis filing deadlines are in early October and April. Exact filing deadlines are found in the GTU Extended Calendar. **The thesis and all supplementary materials must be submitted by the thesis filing deadline for graduation in that semester. The filing deadlines are not flexible. Students who do not file by the deadline will not graduate that semester.**

Go to the GTU Website (in the “Students” module) for the link to the most current information on fees for thesis filing and the MA in Biblical Languages graduation fee. Remember that the thesis can be filed only after it has been defended and any necessary revisions made, with the approval of the proper Thesis Committee members.

Theses must be typed according to the *Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition, by Kate Turabian, revised by Wayne E. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams and the University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff, published by University of Chicago Press, 2013. **Two typographically correct copies of the MA thesis bearing the approval signatures of the student's Thesis Committee, and the Library Reference desk (which certifies it is in proper form) are to be submitted to the Academic Secretary in two separate envelopes.** These copies must follow the guidelines found in the document "Master's Thesis and Doctoral Dissertation Guidelines" located on the GTU website in the "For Students" section. **The page limit for a thesis is 75-90 pages.**

On or before the filing date, submit two copies of your thesis and a one-paragraph abstract (summarizing the thesis) to the Academic Secretary. Abstracts of theses and dissertations of students intending to graduate are submitted in a report to the GTU Board of Trustees for approval of degrees. Abstracts do not need to follow the thesis format guidelines.

E. GRADUATION

1. PAPERWORK

You must file an "**Intent to Graduate**" form at the beginning of the semester in which you plan to graduate (September 1 for fall graduation, January 15 for spring).

On or before the day of your thesis defense or oral exam, you must see Gloria Motley, the Academic Secretary (2465 LeConte, third floor), to obtain all necessary paperwork for proceeding toward graduation. Several signatures will be required before you are permitted to graduate.

2. PROCEDURES

Once all requirements are fulfilled (except perhaps current coursework), your thesis is filed, all fees are paid and all necessary forms are submitted, your name will be added to the GTU graduation list. Because the MA is granted by the GTU in cooperation with the School of Affiliation, both the School of Affiliation and the GTU must approve the degree. Check with your School regarding their graduation deadlines and procedures.

The MA Program Coordinator must certify that all program requirements have been completed before you receive your degree. If you are completing coursework in the final semester, your name will go on the graduation list for approval, and you may participate in GTU ceremonies, but you will not receive your degree until your final grades have been reported and your requirements thus officially fulfilled. At that time the MA Program Coordinator will sign off on your Program Checklist, approving you to receive your degree, which will then be mailed to you.

In the event that there is still unfinished work at the end of the semester for Spring prospective graduates, the student must petition for an Incomplete. If the petition is approved, the deadline to submit unfinished work must be met (three weeks after the end of the semester) else the student jeopardizes her/his graduating status for that semester.

Please be sure the Academic Secretary has a current address for you, as she will be sending your diploma.

3. COMMENCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commencement announcements will be available from the GTU Academic Secretary by early April. Each graduate may request, at no cost, up to 10 announcements. More may be available after the office has received all the requests.

4. GRADUATE RECEPTION

We urge you to bring your friends and family and join your peers and colleagues (MA, ThD, and PhD graduates) at the graduate reception sponsored each year by the GTU President's Office. The reception features refreshments and a time for your Thesis Committee Coordinator (or Primary Examiner for MA in Biblical Languages) to say a few words about your work and your future plans.

5. COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

MA students are invited to attend the School of Affiliation commencement and/or the GTU commencement. Be sure to inform each about your intention to attend. We hope that all students will plan to attend the GTU commencement.

It is traditional for the advisors, if they are available, to hood their advisees at graduation. Schools differ with regard to whether graduates are hooded at commencement or not. Check with the School of Affiliation about their practice. At GTU commencement, each graduate is hooded individually by their advisor. You should ask him or her, but be sure that the GTU Academic Secretary is informed in advance of hoodings for the GTU commencement, because that will affect their place in the faculty processional.

The cap and gown for the GTU ceremony may be rented from the GTU Academic Secretary. The deadline for renting cap and gown is normally in March; the exact deadline will appear in your graduation mailing, which you will receive IF you fill out an Intent to Graduate form. The GTU hood may be purchased or borrowed from the Dean of Students' Office; contact the GTU Academic Secretary.

VI. STUDENT RESOURCES

GTU AFFILIATES AND PROGRAMS

A variety of specialized centers, programs, and institutes have become a part of the life and identity of the GTU. Some of these organizations originated within and have been sponsored by the GTU; others have entered into informal association or contractual affiliation with the GTU from outside.

As a group, the affiliate organizations and programs provide important perspectives and resources to the GTU community. They 1) broaden the ecumenical and interreligious representation in the GTU beyond the denominations represented in the Member Schools; 2) express and advocate the interests of women and ethnic minorities within the GTU—academically, culturally, and socially; 3) conceive, sponsor, and produce forums, public lectures and conferences, bringing outside scholars and religious leaders into conversation with the GTU community.

The GTU catalog has brief descriptions of the GTU affiliates and programs. Listed below is some information which highlights ways in which each affiliate or program may be of assistance to master's students.

CARE: THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS, RELIGION, AND EDUCATION

CARE's purpose is to encourage and develop programs, interrelations, and scholarship in the arts and religion. The Center creates courses, conferences, publications, videos, and exhibitions which center on the relation between the two fields of art and religion. Consultations are held for creating and strengthening cooperative academic programs in art and religion as well as for developing programs in churches, synagogues, and other religious communities. An organization of CARE Fellows meets annually at the time of the national American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature conference to discuss current developments in arts and religion and to advise CARE. Incorporated in 1987, CARE formally affiliated with GTU in 1995. *Contact: 510.849.8935, info@care-gtu.org.*

CIS: THE CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

The purpose of CIS is to enhance the presence and work of Muslim scholars and students within the GTU, and to build an academic platform that will help scholars and students of many faiths to understand Islam as a living world religion. Working in cooperation with several GTU member schools, CIS offers introductory and advanced courses in Islamic history, theology, philosophy, culture, arts, and religious practice. The center sponsors conferences, symposia, workshops and research projects that foster interfaith dialogue and scholarly exchange in order to build bridges of understanding across religious divides. It also serves as a liaison with local Muslim communities and study centers, especially with Muslim religious leaders who wish to strengthen their knowledge in areas such as pastoral counseling, pastoral psychology, homiletics, and interfaith scholarship. *Director: Munir Jiwa. Email: cis@gtu.edu.*

CJS: THE RICHARD S. DINNER CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

CJS's chief contribution to the GTU is providing interchange between Jewish and Christian scholars and promoting Jewish-Christian relations by encouraging Christian as well as Jewish students to participate in Jewish Studies. Only those students enrolled in the MA in Jewish Studies program have formal affiliation with CJS, but all students are welcome and encouraged to take their courses and join in their programs. Besides its respected regular faculty, the Center

often has distinguished visiting faculty. It also offers course work with UCB faculty specializing in Jewish Studies. In addition, GTU students can benefit from the many cultural and educational events sponsored by CJS that involve and serve the Bay Area Jewish community. **Director: Naomi Seidman. Office: 2465 LeConte. Phone: 510.649.2482; e-mail: cjs@gtu.edu.**

CTNS: THE CENTER FOR THEOLOGY AND THE NATURAL SCIENCES

Since its inception in 1981, the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences has actively encouraged a creative and interactive dialogue between theology and the natural sciences. CTNS programs promote this dialogue through research, teaching, and public service. The scientific interests of CTNS lie in mainstream research in physics, cosmology, evolutionary and molecular biology, and environmental sciences. The theological focus is on the living beliefs and practices of those who stand within the rich Western religious traditions. Doctoral, MA, and MDiv level courses are taught at the GTU by Prof. Robert John Russell and other faculty associated with CTNS. The Center supports doctoral and post-doctoral research. CTNS convenes international research conferences, public forums, and parish teaching events in the Bay Area. Through its J.K. Russell Fellowship, CTNS annually invites a senior scholar in science and religion to the GTU community for rigorous dialogue, teaching, and study. The Center is an affiliate of the GTU with an international membership of over 600. Its quarterly publication, *Theology and Science*, features scholarly articles and book reviews in the field, and the quarterly *CTNS News* keeps members informed of science and religion events around the world. Student memberships are offered at a discount. **Director: Robert Russell. Phone: 510.848.8152. Fax: 510.848.2535; e-mail: ctnsinfo@ctns.org.**

IBS: THE INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

The purpose of IBS is to provide a program of education and training for students wishing to pursue a career in the Shin Buddhist ministry, and for those wishing to study the Shin Buddhist tradition at the graduate level; to foster the development of Shin Buddhist thought in the religious, philosophical and social context of contemporary America. IBS offers a three year program of study of focusing on Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies and culminating in a degree of Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies, which is academically accredited and jointly administered with the GTU. This core program offers in addition a systematic treatment of other Buddhist traditions, a precise study of the writings of Shinran, and preparation in classical and modern Japanese. Students wishing to study other Buddhist traditions may take the Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies as a two-year program. IBS publishes *Pacific World*, an annual journal that treats a broad range of subject matter, including religious, cultural, historical and social/political topics, bearing on the Pure Land Buddhist tradition. The Institute also hosts symposia, conferences, and colloquia promoting the development of contemporary Shin Buddhist thoughts. IBS was affiliated with GTU in 1985. **Dean: Richard Payne. Phone: 510.809.1443. Fax: 510.809.1433; e-mail: instituteofbuddhiststudies@shin-ibs.edu.**

NCB: NEW COLLEGE BERKELEY

New College Berkeley offers programs and certificates in lay studies with an evangelical orientation. **Executive Director: Susan Phillips. Office: 2029 Durant Avenue. Phone: 510.841.9386. Fax: 510.841-9776; e-mail: newcollege@aol.com**

PAOI: THE PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS ORTHODOX INSTITUTE

Incorporated in 1981 as the St. John the Divine Orthodox Divinity Institute, in affiliation with the GTU, its name was formally changed to the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in 1987. In 1993, by formal action of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, it was named a Patriarchal Institute. PAOI is directly under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, and is representative of the various Orthodox jurisdictions in the country. Its purpose is to embody a strong and visible presence within the

GTU, interpreting the ancient and rich tradition of the Christian East. Its primary objective is to be an important center for the study and dissemination of Orthodox thought and culture. The Institute supports a full professorial chair at the GTU, the Alexander G. Spanos Chair in Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Course offerings are listed in the GTU Master Course Schedule. This faculty position enriches the possibilities for study of Orthodox Christianity by students throughout the GTU and provides programs in continuing education for Orthodox clergy. The Institute's library contains one of the best collections of materials relating to Eastern Orthodoxy in the United States, including more than 100 journals and serials. Endowment support provides for the Annual Distinguished Lectureship Series, symposia and other lectures covering the full range of Eastern Orthodox history, thought, and culture. The Chapel of St. Demetrios, located at the Institute, is the site for the regular celebration of the Divine Liturgy and provides a campus ministry for Orthodox and other students at the GTU and UC Berkeley. *Director: Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias. Office: 2311 Hearst Avenue. Phone: 510. 649.3450. Fax: 510.841.6605; e-mail: paoi@ses.gtu.edu.*

SAT: THE SCHOOL OF APPLIED THEOLOGY

SAT is a sabbatical program for ministers. Its courses are all workshops or short modules that are essentially condensed versions of many regular GTU courses (e.g. on pastoral counseling; the Enneagram; Scripture). These courses are not open to GTU students. *Location: 5890 Birch Court, Oakland, 94618. Phone: (510) 652-1651; 800.831.0555. Fax: 510.420.0542; e-mail: admissions@satgtu.org.*

CAL REC. CLUB ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS (UC BERKELEY)

CAL REC CLUB MEMBERSHIPS FOR GTU STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

As a student, faculty, or staff member of the GTU you are welcome to join the Cal Rec Club, the Recreational Sports Facility's membership program. The Cal Rec Club Membership Office is located at 2301 Bancroft Way, Berkeley Campus. For more information visit <http://calbears.berkeley.edu>, email crcinfo@berkeley.edu, or call 510.642.7796.

Cal Rec Club Membership Benefits

- Cybex Weight Machines and Complete Free Weights
- Complimentary Day Use of Lockers
- StairMasters, Treadmills, Concept II Rowing Machines
- Handball, Racquetball, Squash Courts
- Precor Elliptical Trainers, LifeCycles
- Court and Field Reservation Services
- Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis
- Newly Renovated Outdoor Track
- Weekend Orientations to Fitness Equipment
- Tennis Courts in Several Campus Locations
- Equipment Rentals and Pro Shop
- Wide variety of fitness and strength training classes including yoga, cardio kickboxing, studio cycling, Tai Chi, etc.
- Swimming at Spieker, Hearst, Golden Bear and Strawberry Canyon Pools
- Personal Trainers

The Department of Recreational Sports also offers discounts in the following programs: CAL Aerobics, Studio Cycling, Sports Clubs, instructional classes and services with Cal FIT, Cal Massage Therapy, outdoor activities with Cal Adventures.

Enrollment & Fees

GTU Students \$140/summer \$140/semester

Faculty & Staff \$54/month or \$648 for entire year (\$50 initiation fee)

CRC memberships are sold at the RSF Cashier's Station, 2301 Bancroft. Memberships are sold in semester cycles. To join, students must present a photo ID and a GTU ID card with a current registration sticker; thus, you may not join for a semester until you have registered, paid your fees, and received a current registration sticker. GTU faculty and staff must provide a photo ID and proof of associate affiliation for each semester of membership. Half and full size permanent lockers are available for an additional fee.

Cal Rec Club Membership Policies

- For entry into the RSF, all CRC members will be required to present their CRC membership card.
- The fee for a replacement card is \$15 (no cost for new card when renewing membership).
- Cancellation of membership must be requested at the CRC office within 72 hours after joining. After the third business day, no cancellations or refund requests are accepted.
- Membership cards are non-transferable, and members may be required to present a photo ID along with the CRC card. Sharing membership cards will result in a fine and possible termination of membership.

- The RSF will be closed on University holidays and occasionally for special events and maintenance. Membership fees are established with these closures taken into consideration.
- Members are required to clear assigned lockers within 2 weeks from expiration date of their membership. Members will have access to the RSF and usage of day lockers until the expiration date.
- Members must observe the CRC membership policies, as well as the rules and regulations of the RSF.

CHAN ESSAY CONTEST

All students in the GTU and its member schools are eligible to submit work for this prize of around \$2500, established in 1987 by the Lionel Chan Family Endowment. Submissions are due by September 15, and the topic alternates from year to year. In the fall semester of odd-numbered years, the topic is "Identity and Practice across Religious Boundaries: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice that is common to two or more religions (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc." In the fall semester of even numbered years, the topic is "Religion and Economics." To enter, students submit an original essay, a term paper for a course, or a chapter of a thesis or dissertation with an introduction and conclusion to frame it as an independent essay. The GTU Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee select recipients for this award. There is no application form.

CONSORTIAL EVENTS

There are several consortium-wide events during each academic year that are important for building the GTU community and ritually reaffirming the ideals of the consortium. These events, scheduled in the Extended Calendar and announced in the Dean's Newsletter, are:

GTU WELCOME RECEPTION

This Opening Reception is normally held the third week of classes in September. Traditionally, new students, new faculty, and GTU visiting scholars are the special guests at the reception.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE

Each year the faculty of the Member Schools nominate distinguished faculty from outside their school who they feel embody the scholarly standards, teaching excellence, and commitment to ecumenism that define the GTU. The nominations are considered by the Council of Deans who elect the person to give next year's Distinguished Faculty Lecture (usually in November).

READING OF THE SACRED TEXTS

"What Makes a Text Sacred?," John Pairman Brown's presentation for the Friends of GTU's Flora Lamson Hewlett Library in 1993, gave rise to a series of explorations of sacred texts. Each year since then, the Friends have invited a speaker with a particular connection to a "sacred text," written or oral, traditional or new, within a canon of scriptures or drawn from outside a religious tradition. The presentations, usually held each February, provide fresh insights into the words that shape our sense of the sacred. They are open to the general public as well as to the GTU community.

SURJIT SINGH LECTURE ON COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND CULTURE

This endowed lectureship is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Surjit Singh who was dean and professor of Christian Philosophy at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. The Singh Lecture brings to the GTU a distinguished scholar/church leader to address religion and culture from a

cross-cultural perspective. This is one of the major interreligious or “broader ecumenical” events of the GTU year.

GTU COMMENCEMENT

GTU Commencement is held on the second Thursday of May. There is a formal academic procession, including the school banners, music, student speakers, and a celebration of the achievements of our graduates.

COUNSELING SERVICES

While there are many Bay Area resources for counseling services, one Counseling Center addresses their services to the GTU community.

THE CALIFORNIA COUNSELING INSTITUTE

The California Counseling Institute has an office in San Francisco, located at 4614 California Street. The institute provides psychotherapy for people facing a variety of life situations, including relationship and family concerns, career choices, depression, anxiety, financial pressures, life transitions, losses, and grief. The Institute is dedicated to the healing transformation that the disciplines of psychotherapy and religious spirituality can offer persons who seek to grow as individuals and as individuals in relationships. The Institute has its roots within the Judeo-Christian heritage of the Episcopal Church. Church people and those not affiliated with church structures or traditional religious beliefs are welcome. For information call 510.704.8046 or check out their website, <http://www.californiacounseling.org>.

FACULTY

The faculty are your most important resource for succeeding in the MA Program. The resources of the GTU faculty are immense in their range and variety—giving both an interreligious/ecumenical dimension and a broader intellectual dimension to theological education. The GTU has a common Master Course Schedule and cross-registration agreements among its members. Thus the approximately 700 courses taught annually by 135 consortial faculty and over 100 adjuncts will almost all be resources for your studies (keep in mind that practical courses in ministry and 1.5 unit courses do not count toward the MA requirements).

The GTU ecumenical structure enhances the education of our students. Whether or not your topic of interest is defined denominationally, we believe that a perspective from a second denomination, order, or religion assists in the formation of a critical perspective on one’s studies. Thus you are encouraged to consider having one member of the Thesis Committee come from outside the School of Affiliation.

You will thus want to take some courses with faculty outside of your School of Affiliation to learn more about their approaches and to consider them as potential Thesis Committee members. A helpful resource for students in finding faculty to work with them is the GTU website: www.gtu.edu, which includes pertinent information about GTU faculty, their research interests, and publications.

LIBRARY : FLORA LAMSON HEWLETT LIBRARY, GTU

LIBRARY RESOURCES

THE LIBRARY WEB SITE

<http://www.gtu.edu/library>

Information about our hours and other services may be found on the GTU Library web site. From the home page, you may link to GRACE, the GTU Library catalog, to electronic resources available via the Internet, to tutorials and handouts on a variety of research topics, or to other useful sites on the Internet. Notices regarding special closings or other news will also appear on the library's home page.

HOW TO GET A LIBRARY CARD

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - See 'Borrowing Privileges'

Students, faculty, and staff should bring their GTU ID card with the current semester's registration sticker to the Circulation Desk in the library. The ID card will be barcoded and laminated; you can then use it as your library card. You may wait until the first time that you wish to check out books to do all this.

The GTU Library card may be used for borrowing materials from both the Hewlett Library in Berkeley (commonly called "the GTU Library") and its branch library at the San Francisco Theological Seminary ("the SFTS Library").

Fines are charged on overdue, lost, or damaged materials. For more information about recalling materials, placing holds, or other borrowing procedures, see the web page above.

GRACE, THE LIBRARY CATALOG

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - Select 'GRACE' button

You can see what materials the library owns by searching the library's online catalog, GRACE. Books may be looked up by author, title, subject, keyword, form/genre or call number. Searches can be further restricted by using Advanced Keyword Search. Books in the GTU Library are arranged on the shelf according to the Library of Congress call number system, the system used by academic libraries in the U.S.

RESEARCH DATABASES

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - See 'More Electronic Resources'

The GTU Library subscribes to databases that provide access to journal indexes, full-text journal articles, electronic encyclopedias, and images. These databases are available via the Internet. Database use is limited to GTU students and faculty, and to others holding a current GTU library card. Remote access from home is restricted to GTU students, faculty, visiting scholars, and staff.

RESERVE BOOKS

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - Select 'GRACE' button

Books or articles placed on reserve for a class are shelved at the Circulation Desk. To request an item on reserve, you must know its call number. Look up the call number on GRACE, either by the course number or the professor's name. See the special links on GRACE under Course Reserves.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - See 'Library Services - Reference Desk'

The Reference Desk is located on Level 2 of the GTU Library and is staffed during the day, Monday through Friday. Please see the website for posted hours. Reference staff is ready and willing to help library users. For example, we can show you how to:

- use GRACE and electronic databases
- find a book or journal article
- get started on a research project

If you are away from the school, reference questions can be directed to the desk by phone at 510-649-2501, by email at libref@gtu.edu or by using the online Ask a Librarian form. Circulation issues should be directed to 510-649-2500.

WORKSHOPS

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - See 'Library Services'

Library workshops, conducted in the Teaching Lab on Level 2 of the GTU Library, are offered in the fall and spring. Topics include: searching the library catalog, using databases to find journal articles and book reviews, and getting started on Biblical research. See the current semester's schedule and a full description of each workshop on our webpage.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - See 'Students'

Materials not found at the GTU Library, UC Berkeley Library, or from the University of Santa Clara (which requires a separate special request) can be obtained for you from another library. This service is called Interlibrary Loan (ILL). ILL requests may be made at the Reference Desk or by completing an ILL request online. This service is only available to GTU students, faculty, visiting scholars, and staff.

AUDIO-VISUAL MEDIA AND MICROFORMS

The Library has a variety of non-book materials: videos, DVDs, CDs, audiocassettes, filmstrips, kits, and slides. To see if we have a specific title, look it up on GRACE. Most materials circulate, but they may also be viewed or listened to in the Audiovisual Room on Level 2 of the GTU Library.

The microfilm and microfiche collection and reader/printer are located on Level 1. Copies made from the reader/printer are 15 cents per page and may be paid for at the Circulation Desk.

COMPUTERS IN THE LIBRARY

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - See 'Library Services - Technology'

At the GTU Library, four GRACE stations are located around the circular atrium. There are six stations on the east and west sides of Level 2 for general use such as Internet and word processing. Time limits are set on these stations. Wireless is also available in the library. The Teaching Lab on Level 2 is reserved for class and workshop use only.

At the Branch Library at SFTS, computers in the public areas may be used for searching GRACE, databases, or the Internet. A computer lab adjacent to the library is available for additional use.

PHOTOCOPIERS

Photocopy machines are located on Levels 1 and 2. These machines accept copy cards, which may be purchased from a vending machine located on the book return desk on Level 2, or you may use cash.

STUDY AREAS

On Level 1, two study rooms are available to GTU students and faculty for group or personal study. A sign-up sheet and keys for these rooms are kept at the Circulation Desk.

LOCKERS

GTU students may check out a locker from the Circulation Desk at the beginning of each semester. Lockers are located on Level 1. Please note that the number of lockers is limited and available on a first come basis.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY LIBRARY AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

<http://www.gtu.edu/library> - See 'Borrowing Privileges'

Pick up a handout at the library or see the library website for a description of the resources available to GTU students at these libraries. GTU students may borrow materials from these libraries at no charge.

The libraries of the GTU and UCB have a cooperative agreement for borrowing materials: UCB depends on the GTU Library in some fields, and the GTU Library depends on the UCB Library in others. Depending on your interests and the courses you take, the collections of the UCB Library may be an important part of your work.

LIBRARY SAFETY

Please be especially mindful of your possessions while visiting the library. We suggest that you take the same precautions that you would take when visiting any public place. Do not leave personal belongings out of your sight, be sure that your most valuable belongings are marked with your name and other identifying information, and make a habit of studying with a friend or in an area where other students are located. The Library will not take responsibility for theft, damage or loss of property.

As you would in any urban environment, please be especially observant when walking to and from the library after dark. If possible, walk with others. If returning to a car, always have your keys ready and check the surroundings.

GTU STUDENT LOUNGE

All students are invited and encouraged to use the student lounge. The lounge is located on the first floor of the GTU Building at 2465 LeConte Avenue. This is the same building that houses the student affairs offices.

The lounge is available from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday when the GTU is in session. Students can access the LeConte building through the front door during business hours (9 a.m. until 5 p.m.).

The lounge is primarily reserved for casual use, although it is possible to hold occasional events in the lounge. The lounge has free wireless access for all students in the consortium.

The basement of the LeConte Building has additional lounge space and a kitchen area including a refrigerator and microwave oven. Student mailboxes are located in the basement, as are bulletin boards where information on upcoming events is posted.

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Consortial IT Services (CITS) will create an email account for you hosted on Google Apps for Education if your school is participating in this program. Common M.A. students, except those affiliated with JST and SFTS will be given a CITS created account by the member school/center. (JST and SFTS students receive email accounts created/administered by their schools and so should contact them directly with questions.) CIS-MA, CJS-MA, IBS-MA and PAOI-MA students are also provided email accounts using this mechanism through GTU.

The Google system provides not only email, but additional services such as calendaring, chat and word processing applications. The account will be set up before you register and you will receive notice concerning how to log in and set it up at the email address you gave us when applying for admission. Additionally, information is distributed about your account during orientation.

This account is your official school email address and as such will be used by your school and the GTU Academic Dean's Office to contact you directly, and distribute important general announcements that will not be communicated by any other medium. It is essential that you set-up your account and check it regularly; or, if you prefer, set the account up to forward all incoming email to another email address that is checked often. Please note that you must log in to the account directly at least once a year to insure that it is not suspended for lack of activity (this applies even if email is forwarded automatically to another account).

For more information on how to access and other functions of your email account, please see the following link: <http://www.gtulink.edu/Home/student-email-accounts>

MA students affiliated with one of the member schools or other centers or affiliates should check to see how these institutions use email to communicate with students.

COMMUNICATIONS

WEBSITE

A wealth of information about the GTU consortium, the library, member schools, faculty, and GTU programs can be found on the GTU website. Visit the website for news of alumni, faculty, and students; the most complete and updated events calendar; consortial chapel services; recent lectures and addresses; and more (www.gtu.edu).

insight

insight is a monthly e-newsletter providing quick news about the GTU for all in the GTU community.

CURRENTS

Currents is an annual publication that includes feature articles about various aspects and personalities of the GTU consortium. *Currents* is an excellent way to get a feel for the consortium and where it is headed, and also to expand your general knowledge of the richness and vision of

the GTU. Current is emailed to students, faculty, and staff and is available at www.gtu.edu. [Print versions of Currents are available around the GTU.](#)

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

The Dean's Newsletter is issued the first week of September, October, November, December, February, March, April, and May, and is electronically delivered to your email box. This newsletter includes news of significant consortial events and activities, issues and developments in the Dean's Office, deadlines, and award opportunities. *The Dean's Newsletter* is also posted on the GTU website.

BULLETIN BOARDS

There are a number of bulletin boards in the GTU which contain key information, and on which you can post information or messages for others. For key information, watch:

- The GTU Student Affairs Bulletin Boards posts job and fellowship opportunities, reminders about workshops and conferences, flyers about specific courses offered throughout the consortium, and other student-related announcements. There are bulletin boards located in the basement of the GTU LeConte Building, Center for Jewish Studies (2nd floor), and Student Affairs Offices (3rd floor) in the LeConte Building.
- The Library Bulletin Board at the end of the circulation desk, which has a detailed posting of events for the GTU community (maintained by the Circulation Desk staff). If you have items for posting, please leave them at the Circulation Desk.
- The Library Bulletin Board near the New Books Shelves, which lists events in the Bay Area (maintained by the Circulation Desk staff). If you have items for posting, please leave them at the Circulation Desk.

DIRECTORY

Published each fall after the student data cards have been entered into the computer, the GTU Directory gives addresses and phone numbers of Schools and offices in the consortium, and the home addresses and phone numbers of all staff, faculty, and students who have authorized the publication of that information. The GTU Directory is distributed electronically as a PDF document in early fall semester via email. Please make sure that you have activated your school assigned email account, if relevant, or your email address is kept current so that you will receive the directory.

GTU EXTENDED CALENDAR

The GTU Extended Calendar, found on the GTU Website, lists the major academic deadlines, the dates, times and locations of major events and lectures, and the dates of library closings.

SCHOOLS, AFFILIATES, CENTERS

Each School, affiliate and center has its own publications and newsletters. If your background and professional direction create a special interest in certain Schools, affiliates, or programs in the consortium, be sure to visit them and get on their mailing lists.

GET INVOLVED

The Marketing and Communication department for the GTU is always interested in contributions that MA students can make to these and other GTU programs and publications. If you are interested in becoming a member of the editorial team, want to recommend events, assist in our social media efforts or have any other ideas, please email communications@gtu.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES

BEATITUDES SOCIETY

We are Christians who feel called to lives of servant leadership. **We have a narrow focus and an audacious mission:** we develop and sustain emerging Christian leaders at seminaries and divinity schools who will make a prophetic witness for justice, compassion and peace. As student members graduate and move out into the world to work, we hope to build a **network of professional Christian leaders** who will take the Beatitudes spirit into their life and work. We have no litmus test for membership other than a commitment to embody the teachings of Jesus, particularly as they concern social justice, poverty and peacemaking.

For more information, please visit the Beatitudes Society web site, <http://www.beatitudessociety.org/>.

GTU APPLIED ETHICS THINK TANK

The GTU Applied Ethics Think Tank is a student-run consulting group that helps corporate and nonprofit organizations with sustainability, moral or ethical problems (both dilemmas and internal performance gaps), social awareness and responsibility, organizational conduct and training. For more information please go to the group's website, [Ethics Think Tank](#).

KOREAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GTU Korean Student Association (GTU KSA) is a group established to serve Korean-American and Korean students pursuing various degrees from GTU member schools. The main purpose of the Association is to share Korean cultural heritages with GTU community and to foster the interaction among the members. Due to the diversity in denominations, GTU KSA facilitates the networking and an ecumenical dialogue among the membership. The students actively participate in local Korean congregations in the Bay Area and bring theological richness to the churches.

The activities of GTU KSA include traditional Korean Dinners, area discussions, and public lectures. The Association also leads worship services for GTU member schools as well as cultural celebrations for the community. *Contact: Kiwook Min, (kmin@ses.gtu.edu).*

PSR CHORALE

The PSR Chorale is open to all GTU students, faculty, spouses and friends. No audition is required, although the director personally interviews each member, which includes a vocal warm-up. The Chorale provides training in choral singing, which may give practical experiences for work in the ministry. It is also offered as a course in music and liturgy. The Chorale practices on Monday evenings at 6:40 p.m. in the PSR Chapel, and performs for Tuesday morning Chapel services and for two major liturgies per year ("Advent Lessons and Carols" and the "Spring Sing"). For more information, please call Aeri Lee, 510.849-8271.

QMUNITY@GTU (QUEER COMMUNITY AND ALLIES AT GTU)

QMUNITY@GTU is a social group for the seminaries and Centers of Distinction in the GTU consortium providing students and faculty a safe space for sharing thoughts, ideas, issues of identity and concerns in our community in addition to providing training and social events. For more information please go to the group's website to request more information, <http://groups.google.com/group/gtuqmunity>.

TREES

The Theological Roundtable on Ecological Ethics and Spirituality (TREES) is a GTU student-based religious organization raising awareness about issues that impact the ecological future of the earth.

UC BERKELEY NIGHT ESCORT SERVICE

The UCB Night Escort Service also services GTU. They will walk you to your car, a shuttle bus, public transportation, or home if you live nearby. Call **642-WALK (9255) from 6:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.** Boundaries for the service are: Vine (north), Derby (south), Milvia (west), Highland Place (northeast), and Prospect/Hillside (southeast). For more information see this page on the UCPD website: http://police.berkeley.edu/programsandservices/campus_safety/index.html.

VII. ALUMNI RESOURCES

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

The completion of your work here need not mean the end of your association with the Graduate Theological Union. Upon graduation, you are admitted without charge to the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association has a twofold mission: to maintain and strengthen the ties between the GTU and its graduates, and to increase national and international awareness of the GTU through its alums.

Appendix 1: COMMON WISDOM AND ADVICE

A. ON BEING AN MA STUDENT

The MA student is a graduate student engaged in an academic program of study and reflection. The MA is not the structured, guided general education of undergraduate studies. Faculty presume that the MA student is mature, intellectually motivated, has basic study skills, and self-discipline.

The PhD and ThD degrees are the primary mission of the GTU faculty, but the MA student benefits from the courses and academic resources amassed for these degrees. Although the program is structured with requirements, it is also deliberately flexible to allow each student to work with an academic advisor to design a program that fits their goals. More like the doctoral programs in this regard, it is an individually tailored course of study leading to a specialized piece of research and reflection—the MA thesis.

Students are urged to use the freedom of the program, under the close guidance of their advisors and their School of Affiliation faculty, to explore the academic opportunities of the GTU.

B. ESTABLISHING YOUR TIME LINE

Your first months here are a good time to get to know faculty and other students in the program—particularly those in your Area of specialization. Give yourself some time to get adjusted, to land here, to get the “feel” of the place.

Talk to the faculty who offer courses on topics that you are interested in, ask questions, soak up impressions and facts. Get to know your advisor: in most cases, they will be a very good source of information. Also, go to the Library and check on reserve materials for courses you may be interested in taking at some point in your program. And test the data that you gather from the faculty, Master Course Schedule, catalog, and reading list against what other students have to say about their own experiences here.

During the first semester, work to create a (tentative) time line for your program. This is best done in conversation with your advisor. Within the framework of this proposed time line, you can begin to see what type of study needs to be done first, second, etc. By beginning to fill in the pieces of the “big picture” as you see it, decisions along the way become easier to make.

Early in your second year, you and your advisor should review your progress toward completion of requirements and draw up a sound plan for completion. It is advisable to review the MA Program Checklist with the MA Program Coordinator in the second year so that you are confident that you will have completed requirements in a timely fashion.

C. IMPORTANCE OF COURSES/FACULTY/OTHER STUDENTS

1. COURSEWORK

Taking courses is not just about learning material. Learning the material covered in a course is important, certainly, but there is more to course work in a well-planned GTU master’s program. There is great value in a classroom setting simply because it creates an opportunity for people to get to know one another.

2. FACULTY RELATIONSHIPS

The classroom is the context in which the faculty will get to know you and your work, and you will get to know the faculty. This is important as you look forward to the eventual formation of your Thesis Committee. Faculty members are much more likely to be willing to work on your Thesis Committee if they already have some experience of you, your academic interests, and your capabilities. And knowing a faculty member's style and area of specialization is valuable information, helping you to make wise and confident decisions.

3. STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

Other students are also a great source of information on the GTU master's program. Where better to meet them than in the classroom? When gathering information about courses and faculty, do not overlook the ever-present, often-changing oral tradition. "The word on the street" has time and again helped both new and continuing students to make wise choices in their programs. Additionally, there are opportunities to use technology to make student-to-student connections. A Gmail Google Group, *gtumastudents*, owned by the MA Program Coordinator was created for students to make contacts via email on a voluntary basis. Invitations to join this group are sent at the beginning of each semester.

D. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

The language requirement must be fulfilled before you can form your Thesis Committee. Some common wisdom may help you in dealing with the language requirement.

1. GOALS OF LANGUAGE STUDY

Beyond the fact that everyone must fulfill the requirements, you would do well to decide on your own personal goal regarding language study. Do you want to do only what is necessary to satisfy the requirements as quickly as possible? Do you want to acquire a usable skill, even a highly developed skill for your future work? Consider the needs of your field or area of research, and if you plan to continue your academic career. Ask your professors and other students about their experiences in language study.

2. PREPARATION

The following suggestions may help reduce any anxiety you feel about taking the language exams.

Coursework

Courses are useful to help prepare for the translation exam, and some may also serve to fulfill the foreign language requirement.

Practice Exams

Practice translating previous exams; though some exams are more difficult than others, this may help you measure your progress concretely. You can find examples of the 400 word exams in the GTU Library (Ref. BV 4070.G763 L3; in green binders). They allow you to see the range of exams given and to test your own skills against them.

Talk with Students who have taken the Exam

Talk with as many people as possible about the experience of taking whatever exam you intend to take. This includes mainly students, but faculty may also be of help.

Tutors

Tutors are readily available; check bulletin boards and other channels of communication for information. The GTU Student Affairs Office may have a list of a few tutors in some languages who have been recommended by other students.

3. EXAM STRATEGIES

Some strategies may be helpful to you when you take the exam.

- Take some time to **look over the two texts from which you may choose one to translate.** Often the subject matter will influence your ability to follow the article's argument and thus to provide a good translation. Shorter does not always mean easier.
- Try to balance conveying the overall coherence and sense of the article with attention to specific words and phrases to be translated. **It is important that your final product read well in English while accurately translating the original language.**
- **You are allowed three hours for the exam. Consider ahead of time the best way to use the time allotted:** whether you will do better to work fast through a first version, then take time to "polish" and recopy; or to work slowly with little need to revise or recopy.
- **Finish translating the entire passage.** Failure to do so automatically means failure of the exam.

A Final Word: No matter what this stage of the program means for you, the common wisdom is to get through it as early as you possibly can. Putting off this requirement can severely impede your progress in the program.

E. THESIS

1. HOW TO SELECT A TOPIC

Perhaps one of the most difficult steps in the thesis process is selecting a topic. Some students have already formulated a question in their minds before entering their MA Program while other students need some time to explore various areas of interest. In either case, your first year of graduate work at the GTU generally raises many important questions, each containing the seeds of a potential thesis topic.

You might begin by making a list of subjects that have sparked your interest and that you might like to spend more concentrated time studying. Once this list has been generated, it is time to begin narrowing it down. Here are some things that you might want to consider in making this decision.

Determine the Feasibility of Doing This Study

- Are there adequate library and faculty resources available for your research?
- Do you have the methodological skills and tools to work well with the material?
- Is the topic manageable?
- Is it so limited that you will not be able to say anything substantial about it or is it so broad that you cannot get a handle on what aspects are important enough to investigate?
- Do you have a clear enough focus to adequately address it in a reasonable time frame?

Determine Your Level of Interest in This Study

- Does this topic engage you?
- Will you be able to sustain interest in this topic for the long-haul, through the research and through the writing?
- Does it have some connection with your life (previous to graduate school or in the future)?
- Will this study in some way contribute to your professional plans?

Determine the Intellectual Merit of This Study

- Will your thesis make a contribution to your academic field?

- Will it help to clarify some issues for your own intellectual development?
- A thesis normally will not involve original *discovery*, but it does require disciplined reflection.

Clearly, no one topic will be able to fulfill all these qualifications; however, it should have a strong grounding in each of these areas.

2. HOW TO PICK A THESIS COMMITTEE

Identifying your Thesis Committee members is the next logical step after your thesis topic has been selected.

Which faculty have the expertise my topic requires?

Generate a list of professors working in your chosen field or in a related field by consulting the catalog, faculty pages on the GTU website, or by seeking the recommendations of other students and professors. Make appointments with them to introduce yourself and your topic. Afterwards, go through your list of professors and ask yourself: How do I feel about working with this individual? Am I comfortable with this person and is this person comfortable with me? Does this person have a genuine interest in me and my work? **Do not forget that your Thesis Committee Coordinator must come from your School of Affiliation and the second member can either be from a GTU School outside your School of Affiliation or from your School of Affiliation. Check with your Thesis Committee Coordinator to see if a third member is required; if so the third member can be from either inside or outside the GTU (with proper credentials).**

Does this person have time to work with me?

Will this person be available for the duration of my project or are they retiring, going on sabbatical, etc.?

How do the potential members of my Thesis Committee get along with each other?

It is important that the members of your **Thesis Committee** work well together and that they think along similar lines. Obviously, members will have differing opinions and that is both healthy and expected. However, you do not want to get yourself in the position of writing three different pieces of work. Be sure that your Thesis Committee Coordinator concurs with your choice of the other **Thesis Committee** members.

3. HOW TO WORK WITH THE THESIS OR EXAM COMMITTEE

Set up an initial meeting with each of your Thesis Committee members and decide how you are going to work together. If this is not possible, clarify the issues listed here with each of them. If there are serious differences in expectations, work these out with your Thesis Committee Coordinator (or Primary Examiner for MA students in Biblical Languages). As for many other students, this may be your first time working with an academic committee and you may feel a bit awkward and perhaps even intimidated by negotiating with a professor face to face. Relax. Much of the anxiety is simply in not knowing what to expect. Therefore, begin by clarifying your expectations. By the end of your first meeting, all parties should clearly understand how they will be contributing to this thesis project.

Positive Thesis Committee interaction is no accident. Producing clear expectations that are mutually agreed upon during the initial meetings with your committee members is key to a successful committee experience. Therefore, we have provided some suggested questions that may help you in clarifying working relationships with your committee members.

- When can Thesis Committee members expect to see some of your work? Create a time line for your thesis with your committee members.
- How much lead time does each professor need to examine your work? Obviously, a lot depends on how lengthy your work is and at what time of year you turn it in. Do not expect to be a professor's top priority. You may, in fact, need to do some reminding. Both graduate students and professors have tight schedules. However, this is your project and what gets done is largely due to your initiative. Planning for these types of delays can relieve some of the stress for both you and your committee members.
- Ask your professor about their style of feedback. Will it be written or verbal or both?
- What kind of work should be turned in? Only turn in work that has already been proofread and is in an acceptable academic form.
- How much work should be turned in at a time? This question varies depending upon your stage in the writing process and what kind of time line you have worked out with your individual committee members.

During the initial stages of your writing, you will probably want to consult more frequently with Thesis Committee members as you begin focusing in on your project. However, it is not uncommon for second or third readers to wait until after your thesis is completed before actually reviewing it. Perhaps, too, it is important to ask yourself, "How often do I need feedback?" Some people need more direction and encouragement than others. However, to avoid any last-minute surprises, it is a good idea to let your committee critique your work at regular intervals.

Remember to use your Thesis Committee members' time wisely. Come prepared for your meetings and have your questions ready. Keep in mind that the more clearly you are able to state your needs, the more likely you are to have them met.

4. RESEARCH

Once your topic has been clearly identified and your Thesis Committee members are in place, move on to your research. Begin by identifying your primary bibliographic resources. Your Thesis Committee members can help you with this task. Selecting key sources is perhaps the most time saving task you can accomplish. Most people, when beginning research on a topic they are passionately interested in, want to read everything they can get their hands on. However, unfocused research may cost valuable time. Once your thesis outline has been created, decide which sources you will use for each chapter. As your work progresses, your plan, of course, may change. The point is to set some limits by deciding which materials contribute most to your project.

Also, be sure to consult with the GTU library staff. They can acquaint you with the latest research tools and techniques, again saving you a great deal of time and energy.

5. WRITING

Eventually, you will look down on your pile of notes and look up at the calendar and ask yourself, "Am I done with my research?" Of course not! Research is never done; but there comes a time when you simply have to draw the line and commit yourself to the writing process.

This is your work! Writing a thesis is plain hard work—and work which has its own kinds of "blocks", including writer's block. The reprint from UCB's "The Graduate" called "Writing Your Thesis" (available from the Academic Secretary in the Student Affairs Office and at UCB's Graduate Division Office) offers some valuable tips for getting the writing done. To summarize its main point: write!—no_matter how little at a time or how much what you write

seems like what you “ought” to be writing, just get something down on paper. And for GTU students, many of whom feel called to other work, another key point is to “respect thesis writing as your job”, for whatever time you have decided to spend on it in a given day or week.

6. TYPING THE THESIS

Before your writing gets underway, you will need to determine your typing and computer needs.

- 1) **Word Processing Services:** Know your budget and the physical format requirements for your thesis (physical format requirements are detailed in the document, “Master’s thesis and doctoral dissertation guidelines” available on the GTU website) before you begin searching for a typing service. Consult with people you know for possible recommendations and check local bulletin boards in and around the GTU. Some people offering word processing services are former GTU students and they are already familiar with the standard GTU thesis format. In either case, there are good word processing people available. Larger projects, like a thesis, generally take a week to be typed. Remember this when attempting to meet your scheduled deadlines.
- 2) **Computer Needs:** A practical matter: Think through the computer system or other means with which you will produce your thesis. Does it have all the capabilities you will need not just to begin but to finish? This includes memory capacity, capability of handling long documents, bibliographical capabilities, print quality. If you plan to work on one system but produce the final copies on another system, be sure the two are compatible and will not require you to make too many last-minute adjustments. Laser printers, for example, often require different formatting and pagination than other printers. Finally, plan to keep multiple copies of your work in various places as you go along. There are too many horror stories of lost manuscripts, erased or flawed disks, etc.

7. DEVELOPING A WRITING SCHEDULE

Time management skills become increasingly important when working independently. Some students, while formulating their semester course schedules, find it helpful to incorporate blocks of time for their writing as they would for any other course they planned on taking. Only you know how much time you are going to need to complete your thesis. Develop your own personal time line. Chances are you will need to readjust your time line as you go along, but this gives you a framework in which to begin. Map out your deadlines for each chapter and share the prospective dates with your Thesis Committee members so they know when they can expect to see some of your work. You may also want to consider sharing your deadlines with others who will help support you in keeping them.

8. FORMING A SUPPORT NETWORK

Working independently for long periods of time can become lonely and frustrating at times. Some students have found it helpful to meet with other MA thesis writers in order to share ideas and offer one another support. There may be a thesis writers or other MA student group at your school of affiliation; check with your advisor or other administrator at your school. If none exists, ask some friends at other member schools and perhaps you may be able to join a group there.

9. YOUR DEFENSE

Once your research and writing have been completed, try to relax for the defense. You will not, of course, want to be completely idle in the weeks beforehand. Do review your work, and especially try to anticipate areas of it that one or more of your committee members will

want to question you about or challenge you. Some students find that they can actually discuss these points with the members beforehand—at least to get some idea of potential problems or discussion topics.

Appendix 2: GTU INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES ON THE GTU WEBSITE

For the full and current text of these policies, check the GTU website and look under “Academics.” In the drop down menu, hit the “Registrar” link and scroll to “Policy Statements” on the page. Exceptions are noted below.

- ACCOMODATIONS FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED STUDENTS (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES) - On GTU homepage, scroll to the bottom of the page under “Students” and hit “View More” link. See the “Student Life” section.
- CAMPUS SAFETY AND CRIME REPORT
- CONSORTIAL REGISTRATION POLICIES: INCLUDES LATE REGISTRATION, CHANGES OF ENROLLMENT, INCOMPLETES
- EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
- FERPA
- GTU TUITION REFUND POLICY
- GTU/HNC CROSS-REGISTRATION AGREEMENT
- GTU/MILLS COLLEGE CROSS REGISTRATION AGREEMENT
- GTU/UCB CROSS-REGISTRATION AGREEMENT
- HANDICAPPED ACCESS
- MANDATORY DRUG-FREE NOTIFICATION
- CAL (UCB) RECREATION CLUB - On GTU homepage, scroll to the bottom of the page under “Students” and hit “View More” link. See the “Student Life” section.
- RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS