



Revised: August 27, 2009

Frequently Asked Questions about the MA in Theology and Culture (MATC) degree at Northwest University:

Q: Can I work and attend school at the same time?

A: Yes, it's possible but you will need to budget your time wisely. The MA in Theology and Culture has been designed to work into the busy schedules of ministry professionals and lay leaders who wish to deepen their understanding of the juxtaposition between theology and culture.

Q: How are the courses in the MA in Theology and Culture (MATC) delivered?

A: Core courses within the program are offered on Friday nights and all day Saturday during the school year. During the summer, core courses are offered in Tuesday-Friday intensives (8:00 AM—5:00 pm). Electives may sometimes be offered at other times such as weeknights during the year and the Friday night and all day Saturday intensives during the summer. The current schedule for this semester's MATC classes is available at the Northwest University website: <http://www.northwestu.edu/ministrygrad/matc/schedule.php>

Q: Do courses in the MATC have pre-session and/or post-session assignments?

A: With many of the classes, particularly classes that meet in the three Friday/Saturday sessions and those using the four day (Tuesday-Friday) intensives during the summer, there will be usually be pre-session and post-session work. Typically, that might include about 800 pages of pre-session reading (~50% of the course's reading) plus some written assignments due when the class begins. Final papers may also be due shortly after the final class meeting. Some classes may not require any pre or post session work, check the individual course syllabus for details.

Q: Who are the professors for the MATC program?

A: The MATC program at NU draws its professors primarily from our distinguished resident faculty. Our NU professors have distinguished themselves through earning doctorates from leading universities and seminaries in North America and the United Kingdom. We also feature a number of distinguished adjunct professors, many of whom teach at other institutions and their addition to our faculty further enriches your graduate theological experience. The one commonality that all of our professors have besides excellent academic qualifications to teach at the graduate level is that they all have a deep and abiding spiritual experience and connection to the local church that connects them to ministry practice as well as scholarship. Many of our professors are frequent pulpit guests, author books, scholarly papers, journal articles, and have lectured in many additional venues.

Q: Do I have to have a Bible or Ministry undergraduate degree to enroll in the MATC program?

A: No, you are not required to have an undergraduate degree in Bible or Ministry. We accept people into our program who possess an accredited undergraduate degree providing they hold a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Q: Is there financial aid available?

A: Yes, the MATC program is eligible for federal financial aid (loans) as long as students remain within the federal guidelines regarding course load, etc. Please contact our Financial Aid Office for further information.

Q: How long will it take me to complete the program?

A: The MATC is designed to be completed in as little as 24 months with full-time enrollment, although most students will take longer, especially if they are going part-time. We expect that most MATC students will take approximately 48 months to complete the program if they are attending it on a half-time basis. In order to remain "on track" all students will need to follow the prescribed sequence of cohorts exactly.

Q: Will I be able to have access to the services at NU even though I travel from a distance to attend classes?

A: You will be able to access information databases (such as our library) as well as connect to our Northwest website that will provide many services. Concerning libraries, you will be able to arrange to check out books through interlibrary loan, a feature available with public libraries. Questions about how to use Interlibrary Loan can be addressed to Leslie Engelson, Library Liaison to the College of Ministry, Northwest University. Her phone number is 425-889-5339 and email is leslie.engelson@northwestu.edu

You will also have a site coordinator who will serve as the liaison between the site and Northwest University. Many services are also only a phone call or an email away. All in all, we will do our very best to provide high quality services even though you are at an extension site. In other words, you will still receive a very high quality education!

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