

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY AND SPORTS STUDIES (M.A.T.S.S.)

## Purpose of the Degree

The Master of Arts in Theology and Sports Studies at George W. Truett Theological Seminary provides a theological foundation, contextually-relevant formation, and cultural literacy so that Christians can engage with and lead the people and culture of sports in thoughtful, faithful, and responsible ways. The degree consists of a minimum of 39 hours, all of which can be completed online, and normally requires at least two years of study to complete.

## Primary Goals of the Program

The George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University creates a learning environment that shapes scholar-ministers for the Church in the historic orthodox Christian tradition. The Seminary does so in the larger context of a major national research university with a confession rooted in the historic Baptist tradition.

As evidence of the Seminary's commitment to both its ecclesial and educative contexts, Truett Seminary creates an intentional learning environment that promotes formation, deepens knowledge and embraces praxis. These three areas—being, knowing, and doing—prove equally foundational and absolutely essential for holistic ministerial formation.

Graduates of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary should be:

- Persons with a developing sense of calling and a growing dedication to the mission of God in the world;
- Persons with a deepening commitment to the life of the church;
- Persons who are continually being formed as followers of Christ, committed to integrating the Christian practices into daily life (e.g., worship, prayers, study, service);
- Persons of high ethical standards regarding their relationship and responsibility to self, family, congregation, colleagues, community, and creation.

Graduates of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary should know:

- The narrative of Scripture including the contours of the biblical stories of Israel, Jesus Christ, and the church, as well as the central themes of creation, fall, redemption, mission, and recreation that shape the narrative;
- The Great Tradition (and traditions) of Christian thought;
- Baptist history and doctrine, while developing an appreciation for the wider ecumenical community;
- Appropriate means for articulating the Christian faith in light of the context in which she or he ministers.

Graduates of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary should be able to:

- Demonstrate competency in basic ministry skills;
- Interpret accurately the Christian Scriptures and apply them effectively to ministry tasks;
- Reflect critically and theologically upon the acts and experiences of Christian ministry;

- Lead others in spiritual formation and discipleship;
- Practice contextual evangelism;
- Participate effectively in God's mission locally and globally;
- Exercise skillful care of people in the midst of crises, but more broadly, through all stages of life;
- Relate effectively and authentically as a human to humans in the common concerns of life;
- Demonstrate appropriate self-care.

## Student Learning Outcomes

The M.A. in Theology and Sports Studies program at Truett Seminary seeks to achieve holistic student development by equipping students through theological and biblical reflection, spiritual formation, ministry service, and contextual engagement. The outcomes for this degree include:

- Graduates of the MA in Theology and Sports Studies from George W. Truett Theological Seminary will possess foundational skills in the study of content, context, and interpretation of Christian Scripture as it relates to understanding and engaging in sports.
- Graduates of the MA in Theology and Sports Studies from George W. Truett Theological Seminary will possess foundational skills in the study of both the content and context of the place of sports within the larger Christian tradition.
- Graduates of the MA in Theology and Sports Studies from George W. Truett Theological Seminary will demonstrate active engagement with cultural context and social needs related to sports in ways that inform and enrich the practice of Christian witness.
- Graduates of the MA in Theology and Sports Studies from George W. Truett Theological Seminary will engage in patterns of practice and belief that will inform and enrich the spiritual life of the minister.
- Graduates of the MA in Theology and Sports Studies from George W. Truett Theological Seminary will demonstrate competency and capacity for integrating theology and ministry leadership in varied sports contexts.

## Master of Arts in Theology and Sports Studies Degree Requirements

### Master of Arts - Recommended Plan of Study\*

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
THEO 7340	Introduction to Christian Scriptures (Online)	3
PTSM 7392	Sports and Christianity in Historical Perspective (Online)	3
PRTH 7101	Spiritual Formation I (Online)	1
		<b>Hours</b>
		<b>7</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
THEO 7345	Introduction to Christian Theology (Online)	3
PTSM 7366	Soul Care in Sports (Online)	3
PRTH 7102	Spiritual Formation II (Online)	1
		<b>Hours</b>
		<b>7</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
PTSM 7333	Integration of Faith and Sports (Online)	3

PTSM 7390	Organizational Leadership in Sports (Online)	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
PTSM 7352	Theological Ethics of Sports (Online)	3
WOCW 7385	Introduction to Christian Witness and Mission (Online)	3
PRTH 7103	Spiritual Formation III (Online)	1
<b>Hours</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
THEO 7396	The Baptist Identity (or elective - Online) <sup>1</sup>	3
PTSM 7380	Studies in Sports Culture (Online)	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
MENT 7V00	Mentoring in Ministry	6
<b>Hours</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>39</b>

\* The course sequence above is recommended for students who hope to finish in two years. However, students have the option to complete the program at a slower pace if so desired.

<sup>1</sup> This course is required for all students receiving a Baptist scholarship.