

MASTER OF ARTS IN CONTEXTUAL WITNESS AND INNOVATION

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Master of Arts in Contextual Witness and Innovation is to equip persons for competent leadership in some form of specialized ministry outside traditional congregational roles with an emphasis on being a part of the new “mission” in which Christian witness occurs through a variety of means and in public venues. The Master of Arts in Contextual Witness and Innovation degree at George W. Truett Theological Seminary provides a basic foundation of study in creating social and economic change by way of innovative practices while at the same time giving witness to Jesus Christ. The Master of Arts in Contextual Witness and Innovation will empower students to think creatively about pressing societal issues and equip graduates to innovate solutions for prevailing economic, social, and environmental issues from a Christian perspective. The degree consists of a minimum of 38 hours and normally requires one year (including the summer session) of full-time 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 Contextual Witness and Innovation 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 George W. Truett Theological Seminary will possess foundational skills in the study of content, context, and interpretation of Christian Scripture, particularly as these pertain to social innovation.
- Graduates of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary will possess foundational skills in the study of both the content and context of the larger Christian tradition, particularly as these pertain to vocation and work.
- Graduates of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary will demonstrate active engagement with cultural context and social needs in ways that inform and enrich the practice of Christian witness.
- Graduates of the 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 George W. Truett Theological Seminary will demonstrate competency and capacity for integrating theology and ministry leadership in varied contexts.

Requirements for a Master of Arts in Contextual Witness and Innovation

Code	Title	Hours
Spiritual Formation		
PRTH 7101	Spiritual Formation I	1
PRTH 7102	Spiritual Formation II	1
Theological Core		
THEO 7340	Introduction to Christian Scriptures	3
THEO 7345	Introduction to Christian Theology	3
WOCW 7385	Introduction to Christian Witness and Mission	3
Contextual Witness and Innovation		
WOCW 7379	Models and Practice of Christian Social Innovation	3

WOCW 7383	Cross Cultural Living and Communication	3
WOCW 7388	Evangelism: A Contextual Approach	3
WOCW 7390	Contextual Innovation Lab	3
WOCW 7391	Vocation and Work	3
Christian Tradition		
THEO 7396	The Baptist Identity ¹	3
or WSLY 7310	Wesleyan Theology and Doctrine	
or WSLY 7320	Wesleyan History & Polity	
or WSLY 7330	Wesleyan Worship & Sacraments	
Mentoring		
MENT 7V00	Mentoring in Ministry	9
Total Hours		38

¹ This course is required for all students receiving a Baptist scholarship.