

may be retaken only once. A student who has completed 32 credits but has not finished all degree requirements must register for GSEM688 (no credit) until all requirements are met.

**Advancement to Candidacy.** Upon completion of 50 percent of the course work, a student should apply for advancement to candidacy. Forms are available in the office of the director of the MA program. The forms should be completed by the student and approved by the director of the MA program and the dean of the Seminary.

**Time Limits.** A student must complete the requirements for the MA in Religion degree and graduate within six years of first enrolling in the program regardless of admission classification.

**Academic Advisement.** The director of the MA in Religion program, in cooperation with department chairs, assigns academic advisers in the student's area of specialization. The selection of the remaining course requirements is monitored by the director.

**Certification for Teaching.** Students who plan to teach religion in a Seventh-day Adventist academy or in a secondary school are urged to consult as early in the program as possible with the director of the MA program and the university certification officer regarding qualifying for SDA teaching credentials. See pp. 246, 247 for more information about recommended methods courses in Bible teaching designed to meet the certification requirements.

#### AREAS OF EMPHASIS

**Archaeology and History of Antiquity.** OTST510, 604, 614. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from GSEM570, NTST615, 635, 680, 684, 689, 690, OTST514, 605, 615, 630, 635, 690.

**Biblical and Cognate Languages.** OTST625 and one of the following: NTST608, 678, or 696. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from NTST606, 618, 626, 646, 665, 678, 690, 696, OTST545, 555, 558, 565, 612, 626, 654, 658, 659, 660, 680, 685, 690.

**Church History.** CHIS674 and any three from among 600, 640, 650, 655, 665. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits may include any other CHIS offerings, or GSEM578, or up to two courses from among THST624, 625, 628, MSSN676.

**Intertestamental (Jewish) Studies.** NTST525, 635, 684 or 689. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from NTST615, 618, 626, 680, 690, 696, OTST614, 625, 626, 627, 654, 659, 690.

**Jewish and Muslim Faiths.** OTST627. A course is to be chosen from each of the following groups: Apologetics/comparative religion—MSSN530, 650, 660, or CHMN587; History—ANTH478, CHIS630, or HIST450; Language/literature—OTST626, 654, 658, or NTST626; Theology/Ethics—HIST450, OTST620, or THST644.

**Mission Studies.** MSSN610 or 676. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from MSSN.

**New Testament Studies.** An advanced course in language chosen from among NTST608, 678, or 696; a course in New Testament theology; a course in New Testament exegesis (in addition to NTST678 if that course is taken to satisfy the language

requirement); a course in New Testament backgrounds to be selected from among NTST615, 635, 654, 680, 684, 689. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from NTST courses or GSEM570, 610.

**Old Testament Studies.** OTST625; two courses in Exegesis; a course in Archaeology and History of Antiquity. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from OTST courses or GSEM570 or 610.

**Theological Studies.** Regardless of which sub-section of theological studies is selected for emphasis—Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, or Philosophy and Ethics—the following courses are required: THST550, 619, and 624 or 628. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from THST courses or GSEM534 or 610.

**Electives.** A student may select courses approved for academic graduate degrees provided there is a correlation with the student's chosen area of study.

#### PROGRAMS OFFERED AT AFFILIATION AND EXTENSION SITES

Depending on the availability of adequate research library facilities and qualified teaching staff, an affiliated school may be authorized by the seminary faculty to offer some or all of the areas of emphasis listed above with the research orientation or the general academic orientation. Contact the director of the MA program for details on the Affiliation and Extension Programs.

**Biblical-Theological Studies.** This area of emphasis is available only with the general academic orientation at Affiliation and Extension Centers. In addition to the degree requirements outlined above, the following are required: two NTST courses, two OTST courses, two THST courses, a course from either CHIS or MSSN. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from any of the above disciplines.

**Adventist Ministry Minor.** A minor in Adventist Ministry is available at Affiliation and Extension centers only. Eight credits may be selected from appropriate CHMN courses.

## MTh: Master of Theology

Randall W. Younker, *Director*

The Master of Theology is an academic degree that provides the opportunity for full-time specialized study beyond the Master of Divinity degree. The MTh degree requires a minimum of 32 credits of 500-, 600-, and 800-level courses. The purpose of the MTh degree is to provide specialized training in a major area of study with a cognate area closely related to the major area of emphasis. MTh students are advised by the chair of the department, or his/her appointee, and the director of the MTh Program. The MTh degree is offered in the following areas of emphasis with the required language noted:

*Christian Ministry:* Greek or Hebrew\*  
*Church History:* Greek or Hebrew\*  
*New Testament:* Greek

*Old Testament:* Hebrew

*Theology and Christian Philosophy:* Greek or Hebrew\*

*World Mission:* Greek or Hebrew\*

\*If Latin or another ancient language is substituted for Greek or Hebrew, the student must have taken Greek and Hebrew at the MDiv level.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the MTh program is recommended to the program director by the department offering the applicant's desired area of emphasis. To be eligible for admission the student must hold a Master of Divinity degree (or its equivalent) from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary or another approved seminary or university with a final grade point average above 3.00 (on a 4.00 system), provide evidence of ability to engage in academic postgraduate study by supplying an acceptable research paper in the area in which further work is to be pursued, and demonstrate language proficiency in the following areas:

1. **Biblical Languages.** Applicants to the MTh degree program must demonstrate advanced-level competence in either Greek or Hebrew as noted in the table above. The required competence may be demonstrated either by examination or by passing an advanced-level course in the chosen language with a grade of B or better.
2. **Modern Languages.** Applicants to the MTh degree program must demonstrate (either by examination or by class work—FREN505 or GRMN505) a reading ability in either French or German (unless the language is the student's native and regularly used language).

Any language substitutions must be warranted by the student's program. Such substitutions require the approval of both the department chair in the area of emphasis and the MTh Program Director.

Students should complete the language prerequisites before beginning the program. If the prerequisites are not completed before the beginning of the second semester, the student is not permitted to continue his/her work in the program.

**Admission Procedure.** Applicants must submit those items specified in the Graduate Programs Admission section of this bulletin on p. 38, and the general Seminary admission requirements on p. 277. In addition, they should submit transcripts of MDiv course work.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the scholarship standards in the Graduate Programs Academic Information section of this bulletin (p. 41), students must fulfill the following requirements for the MTh degree program:

- Complete a minimum of 32 credits (including 8 credits for thesis but not including language prerequisites) with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above.
- Take GSEM620 (to be done the first time the course is offered after enrollment in the program if the student has not previously taken this course or its equivalent).
- Select a major area of emphasis from among those listed above and complete 16 credits in that area.
- Select a cognate area from those listed above and complete 6-8 credits in this area which supports the area of emphasis.
- Take sufficient electives, if needed, to complete the 32-credit program.
- Take a 5-to-8-hour written comprehensive examination either

toward the end of the student's final semester of course work or during the semester immediately following completion of course work. Normally, this examination is prepared by two faculty members from the department offering the area of emphasis (two sections totaling 75% of the examination) and a faculty member from the department offering the cognate area (one section constituting 25% of the examination). These examiners are appointed by the emphasis-area department; notification of the appointment is sent to the Program Director.

- Complete a 8-credit thesis.

If the student fails to pass the comprehensive examination, he/she is allowed to rewrite the section or sections failed (with new questions) after adequate time for preparation as determined by the chair of the department offering the major area of emphasis in consultation with the examiners. A failed examination may be retaken once. If the student fails a second time, he/she is asked to withdraw from the program.

A report of the examination results (and of any retake results) is sent by the department chair in the major area of emphasis to the MTh Program Director who notifies the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies of these results.

**Thesis Requirements.** All students seeking an MTh degree must

- Complete a 8-credit thesis. The program director, upon recommendation of the department chair in the student's major area of emphasis, appoints an MTh thesis committee consisting of two faculty members, normally from the department in the area of emphasis, to guide the student's preparation of a thesis. One of the two committee members is designated as the student's faculty adviser.
- Give evidence in the preparation of the thesis that he/she is capable of independent research using adequate sources. The thesis should demonstrate the student's skill and maturity of judgment in the discovery, organization, and evaluation of evidence. Procedures for writing a thesis are outlined under requirements for the MDiv degree in the Thesis Option section (p. 283). However, MTh students should register for 3 or more credits each term for at least two terms.
- Conduct a successful thesis defense. The defense is conducted by an MTh thesis defense committee consisting of the two faculty members who guided the thesis and another faculty member appointed by the Program Director. The director presides without voting at the defense. If the thesis is found unacceptable, the department of the student's major concentration decides whether the student may write another thesis.

The defense of the thesis occurs no later than four weeks before the degree is to be conferred. No defense is scheduled during the final two weeks of a term or when the university is not in session.

Students who have not finished the thesis after completing 8 thesis credits must register each semester for GSEM668 (no credit) until the thesis is defended successfully and final approval is received.

**Transfer Credits.** A maximum of 6 semester credits of post-MDiv academic work with grades of B (3.00) or above may be transferred from an approved seminary or university if applicable to the student's program. Transfer is authorized by the department offering the student's major area of emphasis with the approval of the MTh Program Director.

**Time Limit.** A student must complete the requirements for the MTh degree within six years of first enrolling in the program, regardless of admission classification. Transfer credits for which advanced standing is requested must have been taken within this time limit.