



BERKELEY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

2021-22
ACADEMIC
CATALOG

Revised September 2021

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ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE CALENDAR 2021 - 2022

FALL SEMESTER, 2021

August 23 – September 3	Orientation Week
August 23 – September 3	General Registration Fall Semester 2021
September 6	Labor Day: Administrative holiday / Library closed
September 7	Instruction begins for Fall Semester 2021
September 4 – 17	Late Registration Fall Semester 2021
October 25 – 29	Reading Week
November 8- 19	Early Registration for Intersession 2022 & Spring Semester 2022
November 25, 26 closed	Thanksgiving: Academic & Administrative holiday / Library
December 17	Fall Semester 2021 ends
December 25	Christmas: Administrative holiday / Library closed
December 20 – January 1	GTU Administrative holiday / Library closed
January 1	New Year's: Administrative holiday / Library closed

INTER-SESSION, 2022

Jan 3– Jan 28 course)	Inter-session 2022 (General Registration prior to first day of the course)
January 17 /Library closed	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Academic and Administrative holiday

SPRING SEMESTER, 2022

January 17 – January 29 General Registration for Spring Semester 2022

January 31 Instruction begins for Spring Semester 2022

January 30 – February 11 Late Registration Spring Semester 2022

February 21 **Presidents' Day:** Academic & Administrative holiday / Library closed

March 21 – 25 Spring break

April 2 **Good Friday:** Academic & Administrative holiday / Library closed

April 15 **Easter:** Library closed

April 4 – 15 Early Registration for Fall Semester 2022

May 20 Spring Semester 2022 ends

May 30 **Memorial Day:** Administrative holiday / Library closed

July 4 **Independence Day Observed:** Administrative holiday / Library closed

MISSION OF BST

BST: a laboratory creating communities of Christian hope, justice and reconciliation.

Our mission is fulfilled in partnership with the American Baptist Churches, USA and the Graduate Theological Union. We gladly welcome and actively recruit students from more than 22 other Christian traditions.

Our mission is supported by a faculty that is representative of the constituencies we serve, competent in scholarship, skilled in teaching, experienced in ministry, and dedicated to the work of the Christian church.

HISTORY OF BST

In 2021, Berkeley School of Theology (BST) will celebrate its 150th anniversary. As a charter member of the Graduate Theological Union (1962), BST was founded in 1871 and remains at the center of Baptist and ecumenical theological education in the far west of the United States. The seminary is affiliated denominationally with the American Baptist Churches in the United States (ABCUSA). Prominent American Baptist leaders in America include the founding father of Rhode Island, Roger Williams; businessman, John D. Rockefeller and educator, Laura Spelman Rockefeller; social gospel theologian, Walter Rauschenbusch; U.S. Presidents Warren Harding and Harry Truman; Civil Rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr.; and U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee (BST Board member). Though steeped in the historic “free church” heritage, BST admits students from a variety of BST admits students from a variety of denominational and religious traditions here in the U.S. and around the world.

In the early 1840's, while California was still a part of Mexico, the Baptist Home Missions Society (BHMS) sent its first mission-workers to the Bay Area with the specific mandate to inaugurate educational institutions. Those early dreams were waylaid until 1863 when the first educational convention of the new Baptist association was held in San Francisco. Berkeley School of Theology traces its lineage to this visionary spirit of BHMS that was also establishing Baptist educational institutions for men and women freed from slavery and Native Americans seeking education. Colleges like Moorehouse, Spelman,

Ottawa, and Bacone College, along with Berkeley School of Theology, were all established by BHMS in the spirit of liberty and justice for *all*. Indeed, an early president of Berkeley School of Theology was one of four ministers to preach at Abraham Lincoln's funeral, while another Baptist educator would soon become the eighth president of UC Berkeley just down the road. The Sather Gates and land-mark Campanile (bell-tower) at the heart of the UC Berkeley campus speaks to Baptist philanthropy, leadership and commitment to higher education in Northern California and at Berkeley School of Theology.

Berkeley School of Theology was chartered in 1871 as California College. The pioneering and innovative spirit of its founders has guided it through a series of transformations and name changes throughout its 150-year history. As one of California's earliest colleges, the school was first located in Vacaville and then moved to Oakland in 1887. In 1912, California College relocated to Berkeley, changing its name to Berkeley Baptist Divinity School (BBDS). Three years later this school merged with the Pacific Coast Baptist Theological Seminary, which had begun instruction in 1890 at the First Baptist Church of Oakland and had moved to Berkeley in 1904. For the next fifty-three years (1915-1968), the school carried the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School name, even as it merged once again with California Baptist Theological Seminary (CBTS) in Southern California. CBTS had been founded in 1944 at Temple Baptist Church in Los Angeles, later moving to Covina in 1951. In 1968, the new two-campus institution was renamed American Baptist Seminary of the West. Not long thereafter, the Southern California CBTS faculty joined the faculty in Berkeley (1974) where, together, they could share in the resources of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU). In December of 2019, the Board of ABSW, after a ten-year process of study and deliberation, changed the name of the institution to Berkeley School of Theology, to reflect its expansive mission.

Today, as a member of the GTU, Berkeley School of Theology offers its students a myriad of resources through the largest partnership of seminaries and graduate schools in the United States. BST students may take advantage of the strength of its historic Baptist heritage as well as interdisciplinary religious thought, study, and practice through cross-registration at other GTU seminaries. In addition, BST students have access to one of the finest theological libraries in the world, an uncommonly large faculty of distinguished scholars, and the resources of the University of California, Berkeley. Through the GTU, students can pursue BST degrees as well as the Ph.D., Th.D., and M.A.

ABOUT BST

BST's programs manifest its vision and mission. The seminary offers a BA Equivalency in Spanish and English (recognized by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)) a Master of Divinity (with the option of taking up to 50% of the course work in Korean; ATS accredited), a Masters in Community Leadership (ATS accredited), a 100% online Masters in Theological Studies (ATS accredited), and also participates with the GTU in offering a Master of Arts, and PhD degrees in cooperation with the eight member schools (all fully ATS and WASC accredited degrees), and its own Doctor of Ministry program (with English, Spanish and Korean tracks; ATS accredited).

The BST academic programs have been created to train students in 4 skill sets and in 4 thematic tracks:

4 Skill Sets	4 Tracks
Critical Thinking	Creative Church & Community
Communications	Spirituality & Resilience
Leadership	Justice & Reconciliation
Formation	Border Crossing

4 Skill Sets

Critical Thinking

- Tools for research & Exegesis
- Principles of Hermeneutics
- History of religious traditions
- Modern & Post-modern theologies

Communications

- Homiletical Presentations
- Public & Community Presentations
- Writing & Publishing
- Pedagogies

Leadership

- Pastoral Responsibilities & Skills

Community Organizing & Leadership
Leadership Styles & Preferences
Organizational Development

Formation

Personal Formation
Spiritual Formation
Pastoral Formation
Professional Formation

4 Thematic Tracks

Creative Church & Community

- People become involved in churches when they feel a sense of authentic community and spiritual connection. They need to feel a sense of *belonging*. In this track of the curriculum students will be equipped to create authentic, diverse communities by addressing topics such as organizational change, church renewal, conflict resolution, congregational and communal care, spiritually grounded and ethical leadership, and more.

Spirituality & Resilience

- The work of ministry is rewarding, but it's also difficult. Leaders need to know how to cultivate deep resources for their spiritual, emotional, and professional well-being. They also need to know how to equip communities with these same kinds of resources. In this track of the curriculum students will learn to draw on scripture, history, prayer, communal practices, pastoral care, trauma studies, communication skills, the arts, and other valuable resources to support environments where they can flourish—and thereby help others flourish as well.

Justice & Reconciliation

- Justice is love in action. Reconciliation is justice embodied. God's love inspires this work. In this track of the curriculum, students will grapple with the justice demands of the gospel, develop strategies for long-term, engaged justice work: (verb) eco-justice and sustainability studies; learn to articulate their own public theologies: incorporate insights from the rich histories of social justice movements; become familiar with

restorative justice, and grow in their confidence to address, through intersectional analysis, contemporary issues of injustice in local, national, and global contexts.

Border Crossing & Bridge Building

► Social segregation is an insidious systemic problem that continues to cause deep and lasting conflict. As one of only a few multicultural theological schools in the United States, accredited by the Association of Theological Schools, BST is uniquely positioned to equip students in the border-crossing skills so desperately needed for healing work today. In this track of the curriculum students from diverse backgrounds will develop intercultural skills through praxis-oriented courses; self-directed, inventive projects; and innovative internship opportunities. Students will also gain valuable skills using digital resources for the common good, including podcasting, social media, and other emerging technologies.

Students also have access to certificate programs including: Arts & Religion, BA Equivalency; Buddhist Chaplaincy; Women's Studies in Religion, Black Church/Africana Studies, Asian/Oceanic Studies, Jewish Studies, Islamic Studies, Hindu Studies; Orthodox Christian Studies; Swedenborgian Studies; and Public Theology.

Core courses (and some electives) in the curriculum(s) are taught by BST faculty. Students are encouraged to take elective courses offered by the faculties of the seven additional GTU seminaries, eleven GTU centers, and UC Berkeley. All GTU students, including BST students, may also take courses at Holy Names University (including the HNU affiliate, the Sophia Center) and at Mills College. Experience in the context of ministry is an integral part of the core curriculums.

The BST student-body is comprised of both full-time and part-time students. Many commute from off-campus residences, and many maintain daytime employment while enrolled at the seminary. The seminary, therefore, schedules classes online, during evening hours as well as during the daytime. The curriculum likewise, is flexible to accommodate part-time and evening commuter students as well as resident and full-time and online students. Our student body is comprised of men and women who represent diversity in

cultural and ethnic backgrounds, age, denominational affiliation and theological thought and practice.

BST Location and Facilities

The BST campus is located on the south side of the University of California campus in Berkeley, California. BST campus buildings house faculty and administrative offices, several classrooms, a student lounge and study area, a chapel, and student/faculty apartments. Across the University campus to the North (a twenty-minute walk) are located the GTU library and administrative offices, as well as campus buildings of several other GTU-related seminaries. The BST campus is handicapped-accessible.

Campus Visit

Applicants are strongly urged to arrange for a personal interview on campus. The selection of an educational institution is an important decision. A personal interview and tour of the campus is by far the best way for a prospective student both to evaluate BST and to demonstrate to the seminary his or her serious interest in the school. This visit can be scheduled with an email, telephone call, or letter to the Office of Admissions.

Email: admissions@BST.edu; Telephone: 510.841.1905 x 229

BST Office of Admissions
2606 Dwight Way
Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

The Graduate Theological Union (GTU)

The GTU is an educational consortium, established for a two-fold purpose: to offer programs of study leading to graduate degrees in theology and to function as an instrument of collaboration and cooperation among its member schools, centers, affiliates, and institutes. Presently the GTU is comprised of six Protestant and two Roman Catholic seminaries and more than ten centers, institutes, and programs. BST is a founding member of the GTU and has been a fully participating school since the GTU was formed in 1962. BST shares resources, including a common registrar and library, with the GTU consortium.

The BST—GTU Connection

BST, like each seminary within the GTU, admits its own students, designs its own professional programs, and grants its own professional degrees. All cooperative programs within the consortium are developed and carried out through the Union. Through this cooperative arrangement, an BST student is eligible to register in virtually all courses offered by the participating seminaries, centers, institutes, and affiliates. The faculties of the various member schools constitute the faculty of the Graduate Theological Union consortium.

The GTU consortium offers PhD and MA programs as a collective. Persons interested in these programs should write to the Admissions Office of the GTU, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709, (510)649-2400 or go online to www.gtu.edu.

The BST—University of California Connection

The physical proximity of the University of California gives the students easy access to the UC resources available on an open exchange basis to students and faculty of the GTU consortium. In addition to the considerable variety of cultural events offered week by week through this distinguished university, complimentary library privileges are extended to students at BST and the other members of the consortium. In addition, with certain restrictions, degree students may cross-register into courses in the Graduate Division and in the College of Letters and Sciences of UC Berkeley. Such courses, while they appear on the BST transcript with the regular UC denotation, do not automatically fulfill unit requirements for BST degrees. Interested students are encouraged to work closely with their academic advisors to ensure course selections that both meet program goals and strengthen their educational experience. Inquire at the BST Registrar's Office for authorization and procedural details since pre-registration is required.

The BST—Holy Names University and Mills College Connection

Students may be able to enhance their BST/GTU education with classes taken at Holy Names University (including the HNU affiliate, the Sophia Center) and Mills College, both in Oakland, California. Interested students are encouraged to work

closely with their academic advisors to ensure course selections that both meet program goals and strengthen their educational experience.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

The GTU has a common library which serves the needs of students and faculty of all participating schools, centers, institutes, and affiliates. The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library has absorbed and organized the library resources of its participating member schools, and now provides members of the GTU community ready access to more than 700,000 holdings in theology and religion, including 450,000 volumes, more than 1200 periodical subscriptions, and 292,000 microforms, audio visual materials, and a growing number of online resources. It is one of the largest and most diverse theological collections in the United States.

The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, acclaimed for its architectural design, provides a light and pleasant study space for students and faculty. Art shows and other exhibits add to the beauty of the space and to the contemplative environment.

In addition to the resources of the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, faculty and students of schools affiliated with the GTU are granted complimentary borrowing privileges at the libraries of the University of California. The UC library collection includes extensive holdings in theological and philosophical literature; and its four million books in addition to countless periodicals, documents, maps, recordings, newspapers, microfilms, and other materials make it the third largest academic library in the United States.

BST DEGREE PROGRAMS

BA Equivalency

Definition

BST's Training in Christian Leadership programs (TCL) are designed to provide a fast track to an accredited master's degree in leadership training for church and community. The programs are three-tiered beginning with a 6 course

Certificate in Community Leadership (CCL) training that builds toward a 20 course BA Equivalency Certificate (BCL), that then builds toward an accredited Master's degree (MCL, MDiv, or MTS [completely online]).

Los programas en español del Entrenamiento en Liderazgo Cristiano (ELC) de BST están diseñados para brindar capacitación ministerial formal a los líderes y pastores de la iglesia. Los programas tienen tres niveles, comenzando con un Certificado en Estudios Ministeriales de 6 cursos que se puede aplicar a un Certificado de Equivalencia de Licenciatura de 20 cursos, que luego se suma a un título acreditado de Maestría en Divinidad.

Objectives

The successful student will gain introductory knowledge of:

A breadth of basic theological and liberal arts perspectives
Methods for literary and biblical interpretation
Proficiencies for the practice of ministry
Strategies for leadership in culturally and religiously diverse contexts
Essentials of the justice demands of the Gospel (morality and ethics)

Requirements

- **2 LINGUISTIC TRACKS & 3 levels of MINISTERIAL TRAINING**
- 1 yr certificate program
 - 6 courses from the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Equivalency Curriculum for a 1 year certificate
- 3 yr B.A. Equivalency program
 - 20 courses offered over 3 years
- 5 to 6 yr B.A. Equivalency & Master's
 - All course work recognized and accredited by ATS
 - Courses geared toward the working student: nights, weekends, and intensives (or) in Daytime cohorts—online and remote formats.
 - B.A. Equivalency courses offered at a significantly reduced rate
- **Cohorts in Spanish & English**

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Definition

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is the basic professional degree program designed to help prepare men and women for church ministry, chaplaincies or other specialized ministries. It meets the ordination requirements of numerous denominations including the American Baptist Churches USA and the Progressive National Baptists. It also provides an appropriate background for further graduate study in theology and religion.

The MDiv program is designed for persons who have completed an accredited undergraduate Bachelor of Arts or Science degree. At least three years of full-time course enrollment, for a total of 78 semester units, is required to complete the degree. The full-time course load is a minimum of 9 to 12 units (normally three to four semester long courses). Students may enroll on a part-time basis, thereby extending the length of time for completion of the degree to a maximum of six years.

Requirements

- ▶ 78 Units
- ▶ Core Introductory Courses (48 units)
 - ▶ Bible Old Testament
 - ▶ Bible New Testament
 - ▶ Theology
 - ▶ Constructive Theology
 - ▶ History
 - ▶ Homiletics & Worship
 - ▶ Ethics
 - ▶ Writing/Technology
 - ▶ Inter-cultural
 - ▶ Pastoral Care
 - ▶ Leadership
 - ▶ Using Biblical Languages
 - ▶ Capstone Project
 - ▶ Internship (6 units)
- ▶ Electives (21 units)
 - ▶ Emphasis = 12 units in one of the four tracks

Masters in Community Leadership (MCL)

Definition

The Masters in Community Leadership (MCL) is a basic professional degree program designed to help prepare men and women for church and community service in ordained and non-ordained capacities.

The MCL program is designed for persons who have completed an accredited undergraduate Bachelor of Arts or Science degree. At least two years of full-time course enrollment, for a total of 48 semester units, is required to complete the degree. The full-time course load is a minimum of 12 or 9 units per semester. Students may enroll on a part-time basis, thereby extending the length of time for completion of the degree to a maximum of four years.

Requirements

- ▶ *48 units*
- ▶ *Core Introductory Courses (30units)*
 - ▶ *Bible OT*
 - ▶ *Bible NT*
 - ▶ *History*
 - ▶ *Ethics*
 - ▶ *Theology*
 - ▶ *Writing/Technology*
 - ▶ *Inter-cultural*
 - ▶ *Internship (6 units)*
- ▶ *Electives (18 units)*
 - ▶ *Emphasis = 12 units in one of the four tracks*

Master's in Theological Studies (MTS)

Definition

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is an 100% online program for graduate students seeking to dive deeply into theological reflection on the academic emphasis of their choosing as they prepare for a type of specialized ministry, community work or for further education. The MTS is typically

completed within a minimum of 18-24 months. Students may enroll on a part-time basis, thereby extending the length of time for completion of the degree to a maximum of four years.

Requirements

- ▶ 42 Units
- ▶ Core Course (6 units)
 - ▶ Navigating the Complexities I & II (6 units)
- ▶ Electives (36 units)
 - ▶ Minimum 2 courses outside BST
 - ▶ Minimum 5 courses inside BST
 - ▶ 1 inter-religious course
 - ▶ 1 capstone course
 - ▶ Chosen emphasis: *12 units in one of the four tracks*

Common Master of Arts

Definition

The Common MA is an academic degree offered in cooperation with the member schools and centers of the GTU. The program provides ecumenical and interreligious learning opportunities, and students have access to courses offered throughout the consortium, and many courses at UC Berkeley. The purpose of the program is to provide a basic understanding of theological or religious studies for further graduate study or for general academic purposes.

Objectives

The Common MA is offered in several fields of study related to theology and religion, including specialized offerings in Biblical Languages, Buddhist Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Dharma Studies, and Orthodox Christian Studies.

The MA student is required to affiliate with a member school, or a participating academic center or institute. The primary academic base for the MA is the school of affiliation, chosen according to study interests and/or denominational ties. Students select a specific academic field or Area of Study as the focus of their MA work. At present BST is receiving applications for the MA degree in biblical studies, biblical languages, historical studies, homiletics, liturgical studies, systematic theology, religion and psychology, and interreligious study.

The Common MA is a two-year degree program requiring a total of fourteen 3-unit academic courses plus six units of thesis work. All MA students are required to demonstrate proficiency in at least one modern foreign language early in the second year of residence. Non-native speakers of English may, with permission, certify English as their second language. Two courses must be taken outside the student's school of affiliation. The thesis generally flows from the student's chosen concentration and is required to be 75-90 pages in length. Students are required to complete the following courses:

Requirements

MA applicants should request all application materials and additional information from the Graduate Theological Union admissions office. Information can also be found at gtu.edu/admissions/applying. Each applicant affiliates with their school of choice. Make sure to mark BST as your school of choice. The program details follow:

- 48 Units
 - Core Requirements
 - 1 course in Research Methods
 - 1 course in Interreligious Studies
 - 1 course in Sacred Texts & Their Interpretation
 - 1 course in Historical & Cultural Studies of Religion
 - 1 course in Theology & Ethics
 - 1 course in Religion & Practice
 - 4 courses (at least 2 at 4000 level or above) in chosen concentration
 - 4 elective courses

The GTU Admissions Office

gtuadm@gtu.edu

Concurrent MDiv/MTS, MCL, or MA Degrees

Students may also opt to do the MDiv and the MTS, MCL or the Common MA degrees concurrently. Students who select this option are allowed to share one year of full-time course work (24 units) in common between the two degrees for a total of 102 units for the MDiv/MCL or MA degrees or 96 units for the MDiv/MTS degrees. This is the equivalent to at least four years of full-time course work (24 to 27 units per year), or a student may enroll on a part-time

basis, thereby extending the length of time for completion of the concurrent degrees for a maximum of seven years. As with the concurrent MDiv/MTS, MCL, or MA degree, the particulars for this option must be worked out with the student's faculty advisor.

Doctor of Ministry Degree (DMin)

Definition

BST's newly revised Competency Based Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program puts the student in the driver's seat. Doctoral students, working within a cohort led by expert faculty mentors, will customize their programs to gain credit for life experience while developing a variety of pedagogical methods to achieve mastery of core required competencies. Through BST's DMin program students will have access to the rich academic resources of the Graduate Theological Union and UC Berkeley.

Requirements

The program requirements consist of the equivalence of two years of course work (eight 3-unit courses) plus the completion of a praxis oriented project and dissertation. The course and dissertation requirements are outlined below.

- ▶ *30 Units*
- ▶ *Core Courses (9 units)*
 - ▶ *Becoming Culturally Relevant: Parts I & II*
 - ▶ *Research Methods*
- ▶ *Electives (15 units)*
 - ▶ *Cohort and Competency based*
- ▶ *Project Implementation & Thesis Writing (6 units)*

Students are normally introduced to the DMin program through an initial core intensive: Becoming Culturally Responsive: Part I. Over the next two years the student will be required to attend two additional intensive: Becoming Culturally Responsive: Part II and Research Methods. The full-time student should normally plan to meet with their mentor led cohort groups throughout the three-year program to complete their advanced level competencies and to create, implement and write up their dissertation project.

The DMin typically requires no less than three years or more than six years for completion. As of summer 2015 Doctor of Ministry students have become eligible for financial aid.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Policies and Procedures

Printed information is available on the BST webpage and in the Registrar's Office regarding such matters as standards of satisfactory academic progress and course grading, substitution of core course requirements, grievance procedures, etc. This information is published in the *BST Admissions, Registration and Academic Life Policies and Procedures Handbook*, which is available online at www.BST.edu or by requesting a copy from the Registrar.

Berkeley School of Theology informs students of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. This Act, with which the institution intends to comply fully, was designed to protect the privacy of education records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Students also have the right to file complaints with the Family Policy Compliance Office concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the Act.

Local policy explains in detail the procedures to be used by the institution for compliance with the provisions of the Act. Copies of the policy can be found in the Registrar's Office. The policy is also printed in the *BST Admissions, Registration, and Academic Life Policies and Procedures Handbook*.

Faculty Advisors

Each student who is enrolled in a degree program is assigned a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors assist students in making their way through the curricular requirements, in selecting courses that best fit students' needs and interests, and in clarifying academic policies and procedures. Regularly scheduled appointments are made by students with faculty advisors at designated times during orientation week just preceding the start of the fall semester, and again near the end of fall semester. Students are required to consult with their faculty advisor each semester before registering for courses. Other appointments, at mutually agreed upon times, may take place throughout the academic year.

ADMISSIONS

While BST has a formal relationship with the American Baptist Churches USA, the seminary encourages applicants from other Christian denominations and traditions. It is the policy of BST not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, physical disability, sexual orientation, and/or national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, student activities, employment or admission policies, in the administration of its grant and loan programs, or in any other school-administered programs. This policy complies with requirements of the Internal Revenue Service Procedure 321-1, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments as amended and enforced by the Department of Health & Human Services.

For application materials, please email, call, or write to the BST Admissions Office:

Email: admissions@BST.edu; Telephone: 510.841.1905 x 229

BST Admissions Office
2606 Dwight Way
Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

BA Equivalency Admissions Process

Admissions Requirements

The application process for the BA Equivalency in English or Spanish includes submission of:

1. Completed application form
2. 500 word auto-biographical description of educational and career goals
3. Reference from the applicant's pastor

Application Deadlines

Completed applications will be considered at any time prior to four weeks before the start of a semester.

MDiv/MCL Admissions Process

Admissions Requirements

MDiv, MCL, MTS applicants should possess an accredited BA or BS degree. Students in other academic circumstances should contact the Admissions Office to learn whether exceptions can be made.

The application process for the MDiv, MCL & MTS degree programs includes the submission of:

1. Completed application form
2. Non-refundable \$40 application fee
3. Autobiographical statement (questions are provided in application form)
4. References from two college professors*
5. Reference from pastor
6. Official transcripts of all academic work beyond high school

International Students additionally submit:

7. I-20 Request Form & Certificate of Finances

* Applicants who have been out of college or graduate school for over five years may instead request references from two business or professional persons.

Background Check Policy

BST partners with churches and local agencies to provide a thorough educational setting that is both theoretical and practical. For the sake of our mission and the larger mission of the Church, BST is committed to strengthening congregations and agencies in becoming safe places and being a safe place itself for all students, staff, faculty, and associated individuals. In order to best fulfill these commitments, each applicant shall be required to submit a signed release form authorizing BST and any third party selected by BST to perform a background check. Admittance to a degree program will be conditional until such background check is completed and cleared.

Application Deadlines

Completed applications will be considered at any time prior to four weeks before the start of a semester.

Please note that if you are applying for financial aid, the priority deadline is **April 15th** before Fall semester starts. Any request made after this date will be considered based on availability.

Applications are valid for 2 years before enrollment. All documents submitted become the property of BST and are subject to the rules of confidentiality and privacy outlined in the Buckley amendment passed by the U.S. Congress in 1987.

MTS Admissions Process

The Admissions Process for the MTS degree is similar to that of the MDiv and MCL degrees (described above) with the exception that it does not require a background check.

Common MA Admissions Process

The admission process for the Common MA degree offered jointly with the GTU is processed by the GTU Admissions office. GTU Common MA Applicants: Prospective students are encouraged to submit their applications by the priority deadlines listed below in order to receive consideration for institutional grants. Though applications received after the priority deadline will be considered for admission, financial aid offerings may be limited after the priority deadline. When applying, you will be asked to choose your seminary of affiliation. Please contact the BST Office of Admissions to determine if BST is a good fit for you.

Application materials can be requested from the GTU Admissions Office:
Email: gтуadm@gtu.edu; Telephone: 510.649.2460 or 800.826.4488

The GTU Admissions Office
2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94709

Doctor of Ministry Admissions Process

Admissions Requirements

DMin applicants should possess an earned accredited Master degree or equivalent. Exceptions may be made for students in other academic circumstances, which will be determined during the admissions process.

DMin applicants must submit a completed application as follows:

1. Completed application form
2. Non-refundable \$40 application fee
3. Autobiographical statement (questions are provided in application form)
4. Two academic references*
5. One ordained church official reference (pastor, denominational leader, etc.)
6. Official transcripts of all academic work beyond high school
7. Submit a Resume / CV showing all related church work you have completed

International Students additionally submit:

8. I-20 Request Form & Certification of Finances
9. Affidavit of Support

Applicants need to submit an Affidavit of Support so the school can issue the I-20 form to them. This form acts as proof that you are financially capable of managing your stay in the United States. The Affidavit of Support is completed by the student's sponsor, which must be a US citizen, showing sponsorship for the Visa applicant. The completed Affidavit of Support demonstrates that the sponsor has enough income or source of money and is willing to support the applicant while he/she is staying in the US.

10. Application fee of \$80.00

* Applicants who have been out of the college or graduate school for over five years may instead request references from two business or professional persons.

Application Priority Deadlines

January Cohort: November 1

June/July Cohort: April 15

Prospective students are encouraged to submit their applications by the priority deadlines listed above in order to receive consideration for institutional grants. Though applications received after the priority deadline will be considered for admission, financial aid offerings may be limited after the priority deadline.

Applications are valid for 1 to 2 years before enrollment. All documents submitted become the property of BST and are subject to the rules of confidentiality and privacy outlined in the Buckley amendment passed by the U.S. Congress in 1987.

Transfer Students

Students from accredited theological schools who wish to become candidates for the MDiv, MCL or MTS degrees with advanced standing must meet the regular admission requirements. No grade less than B- may be transferred for credit. To receive an MDiv or MCL degree, a minimum of 28 units of work must be completed at BST. To receive an MTS degree a minimum of 21 units of work must be completed at BST.

For information on MA transfer credit, refer to the GTU MA Program Handbook available on the [GTU website](#) or by contacting the GTU admissions office: gtuadm@gtu.edu; Telephone: 510.649.2460 or 800.826.4488

Unclassified Students

- a. Persons whose application for admission to an BST degree program is pending, having not been completed prior to the deadline for a semester's registration.
- b. Persons not enrolled in an BST degree program who are taking courses for audit or for credit under special circumstances, such as continuing education (non-CEU) or enrollment in a degree program from another school outside of GTU.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

The dean and faculty of BST determine which classes will be offered for CEU credit each year and the amount of credit to be given. Special rules apply. Contact the Registrar.

International Students

Applications from citizens of other countries are encouraged; however, prospective international students should be aware that extremely limited opportunities for employment and financial assistance are available to them and should thus arrange for financial support from their denominations or others in their home country and in the USA.

In addition to the regular admission requirements, international students who are not native speakers of English will be required to submit a minimum score of 550 written, 213 computer-based, or 79 internet-based on the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language).

International students seeking admission must submit all necessary materials for the school to issue an I-20 form. This includes a Certification of Finances form, other pertinent financial information, and dependent information (if applicable). After receiving an I-20 form, students are responsible for obtaining their own student visas to enter the United States and for compliance with all pertinent requirements of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Students Eligible for VA Benefits

The BST 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 official 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 Veterans Affairs shall be notified. (Note: all prior graduate level coursework and training not used to satisfy another degree will be evaluated.) Upon completion of the course of study a degree will be conferred. Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress as described in the *Admissions, Registration, and Academic Life Policies and Procedures Handbook*.

HOUSING

BST has campus housing in the form of 1, 2, and 3-bedroom apartments. Apartments are located on campus within walking distance of the local shopping district, University of California, GTU schools, and public transit. BST housing units are managed by an independent company; students who wish to live in housing must contact the management company directly. BST students can also inquire about student housing at sister GTU schools. All contact persons are listed on our website at <http://BST.edu/section/view/housing>.

TUITION AND FEES (2021-2022)

Tuition is set annually by the Board of Trustees of the Berkeley School of Theology. While the trustees are committed to keeping tuition affordable, students should plan for annual increases in tuition and fees.

The following tuition and fee schedule apply to the 2021-2022 academic year.

Master of Divinity/Masters in Community Leadership/Masters in Theological Studies

- Tuition for full time MDiv students is \$18,746 (based on 26 units for the academic year)
- Tuition for full time MCL or Certificate students is \$17,304 (based on 24 units for year)
- Cost per unit is \$721.00

Fees (in addition to tuition)

Student Fees	Per Semester
Student Association Fee	\$15
Education Fees	\$250
Application Fee	\$40 – Domestic—paid once during admissions process \$80 – International—paid once during admissions process
Internship Assessment Fee (MDiv/MCL)	\$65 – paid in first semester
Graduation Fee	\$200 – paid in last semester

Master of Arts (BST/GTU) (tuition rates are for 2021-2022)

For additional MA fees see Graduate Theological Union catalog or GTU website at
www.gtu.edu

Category	Fee
GTU Common MA (first two years)	\$780 per credit
MA continuing relations fee (after two years)	\$4665 per semester

BST Doctor of Ministry

- DMin degree is a total of thirty (30) units
- For the 2021-2022 academic year, 4 three (3) unit DMin courses is \$7200. Cost per unit is \$600.

DMin Fees (in addition to tuition)

Category	Fee
Education Fee	\$150 – Paid per term
Continuing Fee (after 30 units)	\$750 – per January and June term
Graduation Fee	\$200 – Paid in last semester
Dissertation Binding Fee	See http://gtu.edu/library/students/thesis-dissertation-approval – paid after successful dissertation defense (minimum three copies)

Auditor Fee/Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Category	Fee
Cost per course unit	\$150
1.5 Unit Course	\$225
3.0 Unit Course	\$450

Other Financial Considerations

All bills are due and payable at time of enrollment. All financial obligations must be met or arranged for prior to enrollment in the next semester. Grades are issued, degrees conferred, and transcripts issued only after all accounts are settled. BST accepts e-check, check, money orders, and cash or credit card payments. Master-level degree students must enroll in minimally six units per semester to be eligible to apply for financial aid.

HEALTH INSURANCE

If you are enrolled for nine (9) or more credits in any one semester, you must provide proof of health insurance.

FINANCIAL AID

Berkeley School of Theology is committed to providing theological education to all students at the most reasonable cost possible. Sources of financial assistance to students include BST tuition scholarships, denominational grants, Graduate Plus Student Loans, and on-campus work study jobs. BST also participates in the VA Yellow Ribbon Program. Domestic Students who want to apply for financial aid must complete the FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FASFA form may be submitted online by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov. BST school code is G01120.

Fall and Spring Terms Applications:

To be eligible for financial aid students must be enrolled at least half time, be in good standing and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher (Master's level) or 3.0 or higher (Doctoral level). Students placed on probation will be denied Federal Student Loans until the probation has been removed. Students should refer to the Berkeley School of Theology Financial Aid Handbook for additional information regarding Financial Aid policies.

Summer Financial Aid:

Summer period is considered the trailer to the academic year. An application for summer aid does not constitute an-application for financial aid for the academic year starting in September. To apply for financial aid for fall (September - December), you must complete the appropriate Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov and or the International Student Financial Aid Application at: <https://www.bates.edu/financial-services/files/2020/08/2021-22-International-Student-Financial-Aid-Application.pdf> for more information.

For eligibility for BST Summer aid, the following conditions apply:

The student must be enrolled in the MDiv, MCL, MTS, or DMin programs. For Common MA students: up to two (2) three (3.0) unit academic intersession or summer session courses may be counted toward the MA Program course requirements with approval of your advisor or the dean.

For Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Domestic or International Student Financial Aid Application. Visit <http://www.BST.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Financial-Aid-Handbk-July.2016.pdf> for more information.

For Federal Direct Loans, you must be enrolled at least half-time (6.0 credits for BST MDiv, MCL and MTS degree student, 3.0 credits for the DMin students, and 6.0 for Common MA students) over the course of the summer session and you must complete a Summer Aid Application.

For BST Scholarship Aid you must be enrolled in at least one BST Summer Session course. There is no minimum enrollment requirement for summer scholarship aid eligibility.

International Applicants

Complete and return the International Student Financial Aid Application along with bank statements for the past three months and a copy of your US tax return if applicable on or before April 15. The application can be saved, completed electronically and emailed as an attachment to admissions@BST.edu.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students must be in good standing and maintain a GPA of 2.5 (masters) and 3.0 (doctoral) to receive financial assistance. Students who are placed on probation will be denied Government Guaranteed Student Loans until the probation has been removed. Students should refer to the *Berkeley School of Theology Admissions, Registration, and Academic Life Policies and Procedures Handbook* for additional information regarding Financial Aid policies.

BST Scholarships/Grants

Based on demonstrable financial need, Master's degree students are eligible to receive up to 45% of their tuition as financial aid when taking six (6) or more units per semester. Doctor of Ministry degree students are eligible to receive up to 45% of their tuition as financial aid when taking three (3) or more units per semester. Students are required to apply for Financial Aid through the BST Financial Aid Office. Courses taken by auditors and Unclassified students do not qualify for financial aid.

Seminarian Support Program

In addition to tuition aid grants, by working through the American Baptist Home Missions Societies in Valley Forge, PA, American Baptist students who have been members of an American Baptist church for a minimum of one year have the opportunity to make their own requests for direct scholarship aid from any member congregation or ABC organization.

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies can match funds raised by students on a dollar for dollar basis up to \$1000 per student per year (which would provide a potential total of \$2,000 per student in addition to the usual BST tuition grant). The exact amount can vary from year to year, based on the number of students who apply for SSP monies. Continuing ABC students who

are carrying 9 to 12 units for the MDiv degree are eligible for these matching funds. New students beginning the MDiv program have an August 1 deadline for fall semester and a January 1 deadline for spring semester. Payments are sent directly to the seminaries to be credited to each student's account.

On Campus Work Study Jobs

Work-study jobs are another source of financial aid, and a limited number of positions are available on campus. For information regarding work-study positions, please contact the BST Business Office.

VA Yellow Ribbon Program

The Berkeley School of Theology will participate in the VA Yellow Ribbon Program during the 2021-2022 Academic Year. The seminary has agreed to provide a tuition scholarship of 3 qualifying veterans during the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

Students will be considered to receive the Yellow Ribbon Award on a first come first serve basis. Students who are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program must submit a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the Office of the Vice President. The priority deadline is August 1. Students will receive notification from the Berkeley School of Theology if they are selected to receive the Yellow Ribbon Award.

Federal Direct Loans

If financial obligations exceed anticipated resources and tuition aid scholarships/ grants, students may fill out the proper forms obtained from the BST Admissions Office to apply for Federal loans. All such information is confidential.

The Berkeley School of Theology participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program. Through the Direct Loan program, an eligible graduate student may borrow an Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and/or a Graduate PLUS Loan to help finance the cost of education, including the costs for books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and other expenses that are part of the official cost of attendance.

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 about repayment options during the required student loan entrance and exit counseling sessions.

Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan

A student is not required to demonstrate financial need to borrow a Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan. The annual loan limit, the maximum amount a student may borrow in a single academic year, is \$20,500. The lifetime borrowing limit for a graduate student (inclusive of Stafford subsidized loans and Stafford loans borrowed at the undergraduate level) is \$138,500.

The interest rate for a Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan disbursed on or after July 1, 2006 is fixed at 6.8%. Interest accrues (accumulates) on an unsubsidized loan 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. Accrued interest is capitalized once the loan enters repayment. Repayment begins 6-months after a borrower graduates or otherwise drops below half-time enrollment.

An origination loan fee of 1% is deducted from the total amount of each Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan disbursement.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

An additional loan provided under the Direct Loan Program is the Direct PLUS Loan for graduate and professional 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%. An origination loan fee of 4% is deducted from the total amount of each loan disbursement. Before a student will be considered for a PLUS Loan, the Financial Aid Office must determine the student's 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 repayment period for a Direct PLUS Loan begins at the time the PLUS loan is fully disbursed, and the first payment is due within 60 days after the final disbursement. However, a borrower may defer repayment while enrolled at least half-time. For Direct PLUS Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2008, a borrower may also defer repayment for an additional six months after ceasing to be enrolled at least half-time.

General Information

All bills are due and payable at the time of registration. Payment plans are available upon approval by the Chief Financial Officer. All financial obligations must be met or arranged for prior to enrollment in the next semester. Grades are issued, degrees conferred, and transcripts issued only after all accounts are settled.

Students who answer God's call to the Christian ministry make a serious commitment of their time, talents and finances. The seminary shares the conviction of the Association of Theological Schools that the individual student must pull together many resources to cover the cost of seminary education: personal savings and assets, summer employment, part-time employment, scholarships from home churches and other organizations and family assistance (parents and spouse).

FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Core Faculty

Ronald D. Burris—B.A., University of California; M.A., Fuller Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union--Associate Professor of Church History

Jennifer W. Davidson—B.A., Eastern University; M.Div., Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union—Professor of Theology and Worship

LeAnn Snow Flesher--B.A., University of Minnesota; M.Div., Bethel Theological Seminary; M.Phil., Ph.D., Drew University--Professor of Biblical Interpretation, Vice President of Academics and Dean of the Faculty.

Valarie Miles-Tribble—B.S., Hampton University; MPH, University California Berkeley; M.Div., Berkeley School of Theology; D.Min., San Francisco Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Walden University School of Management, Leadership, and Organizational Change—Associate Professor of Ministerial Leadership and Practical Theology

Sangyil (Sam) Park—B.Th., M.Th., Methodist Theological Seminary in Korea; M.Div., Drew University; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union—Professor of Preaching and Director of the D. Min. Program

Faculty

Ambrose Carroll —B.A., Florida Memorial College; M.Div., Morehouse School of Religion; M.B.A., Golden Gate University; D.Min., United Theological Seminary--Ecological Studies

Liliana Da Valle—M.Div., Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; D.Min., Andover Newton Theological School; DBA, Candidate, Walden University--Ministerial Leadership

Horacio R. Da Valle—M.Div., Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; D. Min., Andover Newton Theological School; Th.D., Graduate Theological Union—Theology and Ethics

James Grandison III—B.S., University California, Davis; M.T.S., Boston University; Th.M., Boston University; Ph.D. Candidate, University of Konstanz--Theology and Ethics

Brenda Guess—B.A., University of San Francisco; MA, Graduate Theological Union; EdD, Nova Southeastern University—Chancellor, LIAT

Byung-June Hwang—B.A., Methodist Theological University; M.Div., Wesley Theological Seminary; Th.M., Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University—Practical Theology

Fontella White Irons—B.A., Central Michigan University; M.A., Syracuse University; Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University—New Testament

Youngil Kim—B.Th., Methodist Theological Seminary, Seoul; M.Div., The Graduate Seminary at Philips University; D.Min., Drew University; Ph.D., Graduate School at Loyola University of Chicago—Ethics and Society

Jeff Kunkel - B.A., University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; M.Div., Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; widely published writer, literary website: JeffKunkel.org—Theological Writing

Michael Ray Mathews—B.A., University of Southern California; M.Div., Berkeley School of Theology—Public Theology

César Melgar – B.A., DeVry Institute of Technology; M.A., Northern Theological Seminary; M.A., Wheaton College; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union –Biblical Studies

Randle Richard Mixon, B.A., Columbia College, NYC; MDiv, Berkeley School of Theology; MS, California State University, Hayward; PhD, Graduate Theological Union—Pastoral Care

Pedro Pablo Morataya — B.A., Instituto Nacional por Madurez, Guatemala; M.Div., D.Min., San Francisco Theological Seminary--Practical Theology

Marie Onwubuariri — B.A., Suny at Binghamton; M.Div., American Baptist Seminary of the West; D.Min., American Baptist Seminary of the West-- Practical Theology and Intercultural Studies.

Eric Sias—B.A., University of Texas at Austin; M.A., Yale Divinity School; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union—Biblical Studies

Jacqueline Thompson — B.A., University California Berkeley; M.Div., Howard University; D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary -- Public Theology and Preaching

Margareth Valui — B.A., M.A., Delhi University; M.A., Northern Seminary; D.Min., Berkeley School of Theology -- Ministry and Technology

Wung Valui — B.A., North East Hill University; M.A., Delhi University; M.Div., Northern Seminary; D.Min., Ashland Theological Seminary -- Ministry and Technology

Robert A. Wilkins—B.A., University of Southern California; M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary; Certificate, Executive Program for Non-profit Leaders, Stanford Graduate School of Business; D.Min., Candidate, San Francisco Theological Seminary—Community Leadership and Practical Theology

Aidsand Wright-Riggins – B.A., California State University at Fullerton; M.Div., American Baptist Seminary of the West; D.Min., Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union – Public Theology

Daeseop (Daniel) Yi – B.A., Korea University, Seoul; M.Div., Presbyterian Univ & Theological Seminary, Seoul; M.A.T.S., San Francisco Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union – Spiritual Formation

Faculty Emeriti

BST has six Emeriti Faculty Members

Eldon G. Ernst--B.A., Linfield College; B.D., Colgate Rochester Divinity School; M.A., Ph.D., Yale University--Distinguished Senior Professor of American Church History

Eduardo Font—B.A., California Baptist College; M.A., University of California at Riverside; M. Div., International Theological Baptist Seminary; Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles

Nancy Hall--B.A., San Diego State University; M.Div., Berkeley School of Theology; D.Min., San Francisco Theological Seminary--Associate Professor of Ministry and Director of Contextual Education

Margaret McManus—B.A., Our Lady of the Lake College; M.A., Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union—Associate Professor of Historical and Theological Studies

Keith Russell—B.A., Sioux Falls College; B.D., Colgate Rochester Divinity School; M.S.T., D.Min. New York Theological Seminary—President and Professor of Pastoral Theology

J. Alfred Smith Sr. – B.S., Western Baptist College; B.D., M.Th., Missouri School of Religion; M.Th., American Baptist Seminary of the West; D.Min., Golden Gate Theological Seminary – Distinguished Senior Professor of Preaching and Church Ministries

Administration

James E. Brenneman -- BA, MDiv, MA, PhD; President
LeAnn Snow Flesher -- BA, MDiv, MPhil, PhD; VP Academics/Dean
Charlotte Tullos – BA, MA, PhD; VP Marketing and Admissions
Yvonne Watson -- BA, MS, CPA; Vice President and CFO

Staff

John George, Superintendent of Plant and Facilities
Sam Fielder, Executive Assistant to President and VP of Advancement
Katrina Croswell, Registrar and Assistant to the VP of Academics
Regina Pridgeon, Director of Business Administration
Alan Roselius, Maintenance Technician
Lia Rochill, Assistant Director of Admissions
Sabrina Perkins, Assistant Director of Financial Aid / Recruiter

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