



Buddhist Chaplaincy

Master of Arts in Buddhist Spiritual Care *(Pending WSCUC approval)*

The Master of Arts in Buddhist Spiritual Care program (MABSC) offers students an opportunity to learn and contribute to the new field of professional Buddhist spiritual care. Buddhist spiritual care can help further the clinical practices of social workers, psychotherapists, spiritual directors, Dharma teachers, temple leaders, and Buddhist scholar-practitioners. The program provides students and Dharma practitioners with a deeper understanding of how Buddhist philosophy, history, and teaching intersect with social and community engagement and are applicable to the contemporary world. This degree also benefits those looking to complete the academic credit hours for APC Board Certification.

As a low-residency program, this program is offered through a combination of online, remote, and on-campus courses. Students may expect to complete two-thirds of this program online, with the remaining one-third attended on campus.

The MABSC program is designed to be completed in two years. Although this program can be completed on a part-time basis with approval from the department. Courses are designed to be taken in a prescribed sequence, provided in the program outline below. Students who do not complete the full complement of courses each term can expect to extend their time to graduation.

All MABSC students are recommended to complete 1 unit of CPE before graduation. Those who complete the program with the optional 1 unit of CPE are eligible to apply to the Doctorate of Buddhist Ministry program.

Students who seek to complete the MABSC as partial fulfillment towards chaplaincy certification or as a pathway towards doctoral work are recommended to meet with the academic adviser in order to plan out their course of study.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with an MA in Buddhist Spiritual Care will be able to

- demonstrate in writing an understanding of theory and praxis of Buddhist spiritual formation.
- analyze how different expressions of Buddhist tenets and texts interact with theories and practices of Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counseling skills.
- apply history as well as the teachings and tenets of Humanistic/Engaged Buddhism to reflection on contemporary life.

- demonstrate skills necessary to integrate Buddhist sacred texts, frameworks, and ethics into a Humanistic/Engaged Buddhist work.

Program Requirements

<u>Area</u>	<u>Required Units</u>
Core Courses	24
Spiritual Formation	12
Buddhist Spiritual Care	12
Electives	12
Total	36

Program Outline

Spiritual Formation Core: 12 units required		
Course Title	Units	Description
Complete both classes: 6 units		
MDIV 645 (campus) Spiritual Care & Counseling	3	Introduces theories and practices for clinical spiritual care and counseling work. Special attention is paid to literature in the field of healthcare chaplaincy about medical ethics, measuring effective care, and working in diverse settings.
MDIV 655 (remote) Spiritual Formation for Buddhist Chaplains	3	Examines the ways influential thinkers have understood stages of transformation in spiritual development. Students explore the ways in which significant works may deepen their own personal practice as well as their approach to chaplaincy
Select two classes: 6 units		
MDIV510 (campus) Communication Skills for Chaplaincy	3	Examines the fundamental skills necessary for relating with others in the context of chaplaincy. Explores such topics as basic attendance, deep/reflective listening, family map, teamwork, giving/receiving feedback, conflict resolution, and group process.
MDIV 515 (campus) Power, Privilege, & Difference	3	Expanding on MDIV511, explores how to effectively relate with groups and systems. Examines such topics as male privilege, racism, multicultural competency, mediation, diversity, responsibilities, roles and relationships, and communication patterns
MDIV 530 (campus) Interfaith Ritual	3	Examines the ritual components and qualities of competencies required for professional care and counseling today. Students develop the awareness and tools to work within the multicultural and multi-religious environment of today's hospitals, prisons, etc.
MDIV 540 (campus) Sacred Abrahamic Texts in Spiritual Care & Counseling	3	Provides a macroscopic view of sacred Abrahamic texts and their content, as well as resources for further exploration in order to help the Buddhist practitioner develop some comfort working with these texts in the context of Buddhist chaplaincy
MDIV 565 (campus) Buddhist Homiletics	3	Introduces the art of writing and giving dharma talks. Students identify styles and methods to help them in their own homiletic work while exploring how to relate the professional imperatives of chaplaincy with the imperatives of a Buddhist faith
MDIV 670 (campus) Spiritual Leadership	3	Introduces the history, key texts, and practice of pastoral theology. Students gain background and methods necessary to make their own contributions to this area of writing. Students explore important texts for the particular chaplaincies in which they work.

Buddhist Spiritual Care Core: 12 units required		
Course Title	Units	Description

BMIN 610 (online) Ethics in Buddhist Ministry	3	Advanced examination of the relationship between professional and personal ethics in the area of ministry.
BMIN 620 (online) Engaged Compassion	3	Examines the aspects of spiritual maturity as defined by developed meditation and ritual life, understanding of edge states, perspective taking, and spiritual bypass as seen in traditional and contemporary texts.
MDIV 640 (online) Seminar in Buddhist Ministry	3	Explores unique and particular issues in Buddhist chaplaincy. Attention is given to an overview of scriptures across Buddhist traditions that have informed ministry, spiritual care and counseling techniques, and the chaplain's personal spiritual practice.
MDIV 650 (campus) Pastoral Theology	3	Introduces the history, key texts, and practice of pastoral theology. Students gain background and methods necessary to make their own contributions to this area of writing. Students explore important texts for the particular chaplaincies in which they work.

Electives in History, Teachings and Tenets of Humanistic/Engaged Buddhism, and Ministry: 12 units required		
Course Title		Description
BMIN 600 (online) Buddhist Issues & Frameworks	3	Advanced critique of the history, key texts, and practice of Buddhist ministry. Students explore the background and issues that contextualize their research area.
MDIV (online) Service Learning	3	Apply chaplain skills in real-world settings through service-learning projects, written reflections, reading, instructor check-ins, and class-based discussion/ reflection groups. Approved courses: MDIV590 Service Practicum (3 units) or 3 courses from MDIV SL 501-506 Service Learning (1 unit each)
REL 505 (online or campus) Women in Buddhism	3	History of women in Buddhism, including their roles, status, education, value, & leadership. The course examines changes in the status of Buddhist women over time & examples of the female sacred & of women regarded as exemplary models.
REL 636 (campus) Seminar: Buddhist Texts in Translation	3	Analysis & close reading of one or more Buddhist literary works in English translation, supplemented with relevant secondary scholarship.
REL 641 (online or campus) Topics in Buddhist Studies	3	Seminar in special area of interest in Buddhist Studies.
REL 645 (campus) Regional Buddhist Traditions	3	A regional study of Buddhism & Buddhist traditions. Regional focus is announced each semester & may include India, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, & East Asia.
Buddhist Meditation (campus)	3	Buddhist approaches to & paradigms of meditation & the training of the mind. Approved courses: REL 521 Buddhist Meditation Practicum REL 530 Topics in Buddhist Meditation
Canonical Language (campus)	3 - 6	Introduction to the script as well as the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the Pali/Sanskrit language with the goal of developing a reading knowledge of Pali/Sanskrit. Approved courses: PALI 500 A/B First Year Pali SNSK 500 A/B First Year Sanskrit
Comparative Religious Studies (campus)	3	Comparative study of the complex religious developments within India or China Approved courses: REL 515 Religions of China REL 520 Religions of India
Contemplative Practice (online or campus)	3 - 6	Select up to two courses from topical seminars in specific area of interest in the study of contemplative practice or investigations of Buddhist contemplative methods, views, and practices as they are articulated within the Tibetan, Chinese, and Pali canon. Approved courses: CONT 510 Topics in Comparative Contemplative Practice CONT 520 Topics in Contemplative Practice CONT 540 Contemplation: Pali Canon CONT 550 Contemplation: Chinese Canon CONT 560 Contemplation: Tibetan Canon
Psychology (online or campus)	3	With program advisor's approval, students may select one 500- or 600-level Psychology course relevant to their area of interest

Research Methods (online or campus)	3	Develop essential skills for engaging in research at the doctoral level. BMIN 607 Research Methods Focuses on quantitative and qualitative research methods relevant to the student's area of research. REL 607 Research Methods Covers the full process of writing a research paper through final presentation of research results. Introduces library-based and electronic resources and relevant software applications.
Other programs (online or campus)	3	With program advisor's approval, students may select one 470 or higher English course or one 500-level MBA course relevant to their area of interest

Core Courses: 24 units required

A minimum grade of B is required for each core course. Students who do not earn a B or higher in a core course may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Substitutions may be accepted with the approval of the student's advisor and department chair.

Elective Courses: 12 units required

A minimum grade of C is required for each elective course applied to graduation. Students who do not earn a C or higher in an elective course may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Students may also fulfill elective requirements by taking applicable classes with partner institutions such as the Claremont School of Theology (CST) under a cross-registration agreement. Substitutions and classes from partner institutions must be preapproved by the student's advisor and department chair.

Graduate Project

Buddhist Spiritual Care students submit a final paper on their engaged Buddhist project or ritual to the department. Details regarding these requirements are provided by the program advisor.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) (optional)

While not required, all students are encouraged to complete one unit of CPE during their enrollment in the MABSC program. One unit of CPE is required for admission to the Doctor of Buddhist Ministry program, so students who may wish to apply to the DBMin after earning their MA in Buddhist Spiritual Care should plan accordingly. CPE units are not applicable to graduation. The program advisor has information regarding CPE opportunities.

Graduation Requirements

Students may choose full- or part-time enrollment and are expected to complete graduation requirements in a timely manner appropriate to the enrollment selected. Students must maintain good standing.

Students must complete course and program requirements as listed for a total of 36 units with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. A minimum grade of B is required for all courses applied to graduation. Students who do not earn a passing grade may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Students may apply no more than 6 units (two courses) of Directed Research and Reading and 6 units (two courses) of independent study towards graduation. Students are allowed no more than 12 units of unfinished coursework (i.e., incompletes and withdrawals) over the duration of the program.

Up to 6 units may be fulfilled through the transfer of credit from another academic institution. Graduate courses previously applied to a bachelor's degree cannot be applied to graduation.

Degrees are awarded at the close of the semester in which all degree requirements have been completed, the graduate project has been accepted by the department, the Petition to Graduate form has been filed with the Registrar's office, and the graduation fee has been paid.