



Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (M.A.B.S.)

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (M.A.B.S.) at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is a graduate program of high academic excellence, designed to train researchers and educators specialized in the critical, exegetical, and theological study of Sacred Scripture. The program aims to transcend pietistic or purely devotional reading by engaging in the methodical research of the foundational texts of the faith.

The Bible is the *norma normans non normata* of the Church—the ultimate norm that is not itself normed—and the inexhaustible deposit of Revelation. In an era of contextual illiteracy, it becomes essential to form leaders capable of accessing the sources in their original languages (Hebrew and Greek), understanding literary genres and historical-cultural contexts, and applying exegetical methodologies (historical-critical, canonical, narrative) for faithful and relevant interpretation.

This two-year intensive curriculum emphasizes research (Thesis) and mastery of Biblical Languages, preparing graduates to:

- Conduct advanced exegesis with direct access to Masoretic and Koine texts.
- Teach at the university level and in theological seminaries or institutes.
- Contribute original research to the global biblical academy through scholarly papers and monographs.
- Inform systematic theology and homiletics with authenticity grounded in revealed sources.

The M.A.B.S. at UNICA is the essential program for those seeking the intellectual authority that flows from mastery of the Word of God.

Justification

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies is justified by the urgent epistemic need to protect the Word of God from two contemporary extremes: fundamentalism (which ignores context and literary genre) and secular reductionism (which strips the text of its theological transcendence).

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The biblical text, though divinely inspired, was written by human authors within specific historical contexts. Therefore, the Church requires scholars of faith with the critical acumen to:

1. Ensure Hermeneutical Fidelity:
In the global theological arena, the credibility of any dogmatic or moral argument depends on sound exegesis. This Master's program provides the linguistic and methodological tools to ensure that theology is built on an unassailable biblical foundation, avoiding *ad hoc* interpretations and anachronisms.
2. Promote Frontier Research:
The vitality of biblical scholarship depends on continuous engagement with new archaeological discoveries, manuscripts, and dialogue with extra-biblical literature (Second Temple writings, Qumran texts, etc.). The program equips students to lead such explorations and contribute to the collective understanding of Scripture.
3. Restore the Theological-Pastoral Dialogue:
Mastery of Scripture is the lifeblood of ecclesial life—liturgy, catechesis, and pastoral practice. By forming biblical experts, the Master's program ensures that kerygmatic proclamation possesses the authority that only arises from a deep knowledge of the Incarnate and Written Word, transforming teaching into an exercise in enlightened prophecy.

Institutional Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) grounds its Biblical Studies program in the conviction that Scripture is the hermeneutical key for understanding both the world and God.

Mission

To form Masters in Biblical Studies with mastery of the original languages, exegetical methodology, and biblical theology—qualified to conduct original research and serve as professors and leaders in the dissemination of the Word of God.

Vision

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To become the leading graduate school of Biblical Studies in the Americas, recognized for the excellence of its exegesis, the quality of its publications, and its contribution to ecumenical and interreligious dialogue.

Values

Truth, Fidelity to Scripture, Linguistic Rigor, Theological Authority, and Research.

Technical Program Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (M.A.B.S.)
Academic Level	Graduate / Master's Degree
Total Duration	2 years (4 semesters)
Total Credits	60 credits
Average per Semester	15 credits
Emphasis	Research, Exegesis in Original Languages
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous seminars, translation workshops, and individual tutoring)
Degree Awarded	Master of Arts in Biblical Studies — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Graduate Profile

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies at UNICA will be qualified scholars and educators capable of:

1. Linguistic Mastery: Reading, translating, and analyzing texts in Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek without exclusive reliance on secondary translations.
2. Critical Exegesis: Applying exegetical and hermeneutical methods (historical-critical, narrative, canonical) for deep and contextual interpretation of any biblical passage.
3. Biblical Theology: Synthesizing the thematic and theological unity between the Old and New Testaments (Salvation History).
4. Original Research: Conceiving, developing, and defending a Master's Thesis that contributes methodologically or interpretatively to a specific biblical corpus.

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5. Teaching and Leadership: Serving as university or seminary professors or as biblical consultants in ecclesial or publishing contexts.

Curriculum by Semester (2 Years — 60 Credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Description	Emphasis	Prerequisites
1	MEB-501	Methodology of Biblical Research I	6	Thesis design, textual criticism, literature review, and digital tools (Logos/Accordance).	Research	None
	MEB-502	Koine Greek I: Grammar and Morphology	6	Linguistic foundations for reading the New Testament.	Languages	None
	MEB-503	Theology of the Old Testament: Torah and Historical Books	3	Thematic study of the Law and the History of Israel.	Theological	None
		Total Credits:	15			
2	MEB-504	Hermeneutics and Exegetical Methods	6	Theories of interpretation and application of historical-critical, canonical, and narrative methods.	Exegetical	MEB-501
	MEB-505	Biblical Hebrew I: Grammar and Syntax	6	Linguistic foundations for reading the Old Testament.	Languages	None
	MEB-506	Theology of the New Testament: Gospels and Kerygma	3	Thematic study of the Gospels and the core of apostolic proclamation.	Theological	MEB-503
		Total Credits:	15			
3	MEB-601	Advanced Exegesis: Pauline Letters in Greek	6	Translation, syntactic analysis, and in-situ exegesis of key Pauline texts.	Languages/Exegetical	MEB-502, 504
	MEB-602	Interdisciplinary Elective I	3	Graduate course in Biblical	Interdisciplinary	None

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				Archaeology, Intertestamental Literature, or Philosophy of Language.		
	MEB-603	Thesis Seminar I (Development and Writing)	6	Intensive supervised work on hypothesis development, methodology, and chapter drafting.	Research	MEB-504, 506
		Total Credits:	15			
4	MEB-604	Advanced Exegesis: Prophets and Wisdom Literature in Hebrew	6	Translation, structural analysis, and in-situ exegesis of key Old Testament texts.	Languages/Exegetical	MEB-505, 601
	MEB-605	Interdisciplinary Elective II	3	Graduate course in Bible and Digital Culture, or Theology of the Canon.	Interdisciplinary	None
	MEB-606	Final Thesis Project	6	Credits assigned to the completion and public defense of the Master's Thesis.	Capstone	MEB-603
		Total Credits:	15			

Methodology and Evaluation

- Bilingual and Exegetical Methodology: Synchronous classes, translation and syntax analysis workshops (Greek and Hebrew), seminars discussing secondary literature, and individual research tutoring.
- Language Emphasis: The program requires high performance in acquiring and applying biblical languages—this is an indispensable requirement for advancement into advanced exegesis courses.
- Final Thesis Project: The program culminates in the presentation of an original Research Thesis (12 total credits from Seminar + Thesis), demonstrating methodological and linguistic mastery, with a genuine contribution to the field of exegesis or biblical theology.



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Institutional Observations and Compliance

Admission to the program requires a Bachelor's degree and demonstrated aptitude for intensive language study.

The university will adapt documents and admission requirements in accordance with State of Texas regulations and the current accreditation standards governing graduate programs.

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