



Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E.)

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E.) at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is a rigorous graduate program designed to prepare leaders, administrators, and scholars in the pedagogical praxis of faith. This program focuses on the critical intersection between theological depth and contemporary educational methodologies (pedagogy, andragogy, and didactics), with the goal of catalyzing transformative spiritual formation (*paideia*) across diverse contexts.

The modern Christian educator must transcend the mere transmission of information to become an agent of discipleship—capable of designing learning environments that model a coherent biblical worldview. This program equips graduate students with heuristic and systematic tools to evaluate, design, and implement curricula that promote integral growth and vocational service.

This two-year intensive program combines in-depth study of biblical-theological foundations with human development psychology and organizational theory, preparing professionals to:

- Assume leadership in educational institutions (schools, seminaries).
- Lead training and development ministries in local churches.
- Design teaching materials and strategies for all ages and cultures.
- Conduct applied research for the evaluation and continuous improvement of educational programs.

The M.A.C.E. at UNICA is the sine qua non program for those seeking to professionalize their educational vocation in service of the *Regnum Dei* (Kingdom of God).

Justification

The Master of Arts in Christian Education is justified by the paradigmatic crisis in how the Christian faith engages culture, demanding a qualitative leap from rote instruction toward Education for Transformation (*Mathetes*).

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Today's context is marked by a functional spiritual illiteracy, where faith has become privatized and disconnected from public and professional life. In response, the Church needs architects of formation who:

1. Re-signify Theology as Telos: Christian education must serve as the *executive arm* of theology, translating doctrine into lived experience. It is necessary to overcome the dichotomy between the pulpit (theory) and the classroom (application), forming leaders who understand pedagogy as an intrinsically theological task.
2. Lead Sustainable Educational Systems: The continuity and accountability of educational ministries (Bible schools, chaplaincies, youth missions) depend on strategic management and robust curricular design. The program professionalizes such management, ensuring that human, financial, and technological resources are optimized for enduring spiritual impact.
3. Research and Cultural Discernment: The Master's program introduces rigorous research methods to evaluate the effectiveness of educational models in light of emerging realities (Neuroscience, Digital Culture, Globalization). Our graduates become expert evaluators who apply heuristic reasoning to discern the best pathways for Christian worldview formation in a pluralistic and complex environment.

Thus, the M.A.C.E. represents a strategic investment in the Church's maturity and prophetic mission, ensuring that the next generation of believers will be intellectually robust and spiritually grounded.

Institutional Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) reaffirms its commitment to the formation of the whole person (intellect, will, and spirit) through graduate education.

Mission

To form Masters in Christian Education with a profound theological foundation and mastery of educational theory and practice, capable of leading integral formation, designing transformative curricula, and conducting research that serves the Church's evangelizing mission.

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Vision

To be the leading graduate institution in the professionalization of Christian education, recognized for the excellence of its graduates in ministry leadership and their contributions to the global theological-pedagogical dialogue.

Values

Truth, Transformation, Practical Wisdom, Discipline, and Integrity.

Technical Program Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E.)
Academic Level	Graduate / Master's Degree
Total Duration	2 years (4 semesters)
Total Credits	60 credits
Average per Semester	15 credits
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous seminars, curricular design workshops, and leadership practicums)
Language Offer	Spanish / English (emphasis on theological and pedagogical sources in English)
Degree Awarded	Master of Arts in Christian Education — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Graduate Profile

Graduates of UNICA's Master of Arts in Christian Education will be educational leaders with a theological vision, equipped to:

1. Theological-Pedagogical Mastery: Synthesize key doctrines (Christology, Ecclesiology) and the theology of discipleship to ground all educational practice.
2. Advanced Curriculum Design: Conceive, structure, and assess transformative curricula addressing the full life cycle (childhood, youth, and adult andragogy).
3. Strategic Leadership: Ethically lead and manage human talent and institutional resources in educational or ecclesial settings, applying principles of school administration and governance.

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4. Applied Research: Employ research methodology to conduct needs assessments, evaluate program effectiveness, and propose evidence-based pedagogical innovations.
5. Spiritual Accompaniment: Integrate developmental psychology and pastoral counseling into the educational process, facilitating vocational discernment and spiritual maturity among learners.

Curriculum by Semester (2 Years — 60 Credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Description	Emphasis	Prerequisites
1	MAC-501	Theological Foundations of Christian Education	6	Education as <i>paideia</i> and discipleship: biblical and systematic bases.	Theological	None
	MAC-502	Theory of Teaching and Learning (Pedagogy and Andragogy)	6	Learning models, constructivism, and didactics of faith.	Educational	None
	MAC-503	Applied Research Methodology I	3	Introduction to research design, protocols, and quantitative/qualitative approaches.	Research	None
		Total Credits:	15			
2	MAC-504	Biblical Theology of Spiritual Formation	6	Exegesis applied to discipleship processes in the Old and New Testaments.	Theological	MAC-501
	MAC-505	Human and Spiritual Development Psychology	6	Theories of development, identity formation, and pastoral counseling.	Psychological	MAC-502
	MAC-506	Applied Research Methodology II	3	Data analysis workshop, research ethics, and literature review preparation.	Research	MAC-503
		Total Credits:	15			
3	MAC-601	Leadership and Administration of Educational Ministries	6	Strategic planning, human resource management, and ecclesial governance.	Leadership	MAC-505
	MAC-602	Interdisciplinary Elective I	3	Graduate course in Ethics of Technology, Sociology of Youth, or Philosophy of Education.	Interdisciplinary	None
	MAC-603	Curriculum Design, Evaluation, and Assessment	6	Curricular models, backward design, and educational program evaluation.	Educational	MAC-505
		Total Credits:	15			

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4	MAC-604	Interdisciplinary Elective II	3	Graduate course in Digital Communication and Didactics, or Applied Moral Theology.	Interdisciplinary	None
	MAC-605	Thesis Seminar / Final Capstone Project	12	Intensive supervised work for the preparation and public defense of a research thesis or professional intervention project.	Capstone	MAC-603
		Total Credits:	15			

Methodology and Evaluation

- Project-Based and Blended Methodology: Synchronous classes, case-study seminars, hands-on curricular design and assessment workshops, and individualized thesis research mentoring.
- Emphasis on Applied Research: The program requires a Final Graduate Project (12 credits), which may take the form of either:
 - An original research thesis (contribution to knowledge), or
 - A Professional Intervention Project (design and implementation of a curriculum or assessment system).
- Continuous Evaluation: Based on curricular prototypes, institutional diagnostic reports, academic papers, and public defense of the Final Graduate Project.

Institutional Observations and Compliance

Admission to the program requires a Bachelor's degree and, preferably, prior experience or a clear calling to educational/pastoral ministry. UNICA will adapt documents and admission requirements according to State of Texas regulations and the accreditation standards applicable to graduate programs.