



Master of Divinity (Magister Divinitatis – M.Div.)

Program Overview

The Master of Divinity (Magister Divinitatis) at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical and comprehensive graduate program designed as the central formative path for those called to ordained ministry (clergy) or to roles of theological leadership and teaching of the highest responsibility.

This program transcends mere academic study; it is a total immersion in *sacra doctrina* and the practical arts of ministry. Its purpose is to form a theological professional capable of leading, preaching, shepherding, and administering the mission of the Church in complex contexts—uniting the solidity of systematic knowledge with the effectiveness of pastoral action.

The rigorous three-year curriculum encompasses the full spectrum of theological disciplines: Biblical Theology (including original languages), Historical Theology, Systematic Theology (Dogmatic and Moral), and Practical Theology (Liturgy, Canon Law, Pastoral Ministry). The *Field Education* and *Ministerial Practicum* components in the third year ensure the integration of theory with real ministerial experience.

UNICA's *Master of Divinity* forms pastor-scholars and servant-leaders, equipped to meet the challenges of contemporary evangelization and the governance of the faith community with discernment and holiness.

Justification

The *Master of Divinity* is both an ontological and strategic imperative for the Church's mission, representing the gold standard of professional formation for those who exercise the *potestas docendi, sanctificandi et gubernandi* (the power to teach, sanctify, and govern).

1. Consolidation of Ordained Ministry: The program provides future ordained ministers (priests and deacons, or their equivalents in other traditions) with the fourfold theological foundation—Biblical, Historical, Systematic, and Practical—essential for the validity and fruitfulness of their ministry. Piety alone is not sufficient; intellectual rigor is required to guide the flock amid cultural and doctrinal confusion.

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2. Leadership in Governance and Administration: The M.Div. includes formation in Canon Law, Ecclesial Management, and Pastoral Finance. A ministerial leader not only shepherds souls but also manages property, finances, and personnel. This formation guarantees transparency, integrity, and efficiency in Church governance, responding to the modern demands of accountability.
3. Integral Ministerial Fruitfulness: Through *Field Education*, the program ensures that theological reflection is never abstract. Students are immersed in real ministerial practice (parishes, hospitals, chaplaincies), where they learn to articulate Word, Sacrament, and Service (*Kerygma, Leitourgia, and Diakonia*), forming mature leaders who are spiritually grounded and professionally competent for any apostolate.

Institutional Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (*UNICA*) establishes this program as its flagship for professional ministerial formation, integrating academic excellence with pastoral experience.

Mission

To offer a comprehensive and professional ministerial formation that equips ecclesial leaders with systematic theological knowledge and practical skills to exercise a competent, holy, and prophetic ministry in service of the universal Church.

Vision

To be recognized as the reference institution for graduate ministerial formation, renowned for the excellence of its graduates in ecclesial leadership and for their profound synthesis of theological science and the *cura animarum* (care of souls).

Values

Vocation, Integrity, Service, Theological Rigor, Pastoral Charity.

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Program Fact Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Master of Divinity (Magister Divinitatis – M.Div.)
Academic Level	Professional Graduate / Master's Degree
Total Duration	3 years (6 semesters)
Total Credits	90 credits
Average per Semester	15 credits
Modality	Virtual, Hybrid, and Field Education (Seminars, Tutorials, and Ministerial Practicum)
Language Offer	Spanish / English (with mandatory study of Biblical Languages)
Degree Awarded	Master of Divinity — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Graduate Profile

The graduate of the *Master of Divinity* program at UNICA will be a mature theological professional and pastor, capable of:

1. Deep Exegesis: Reading and interpreting Sacred Scripture in its original languages (Greek and Hebrew), applying advanced exegetical methods to preaching and catechesis.
2. Systematic Coherence: Articulating and defending the central dogmas of the faith (Trinity, Christology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology) in dialogue with contemporary philosophical and scientific challenges.
3. Pastoral Leadership: Administering the Sacraments, guiding liturgical worship, offering spiritual direction, and exercising ecclesial governance (Canon Law and Administration) with practical wisdom.
4. Ministerial Competence: Demonstrating proven skills in Homiletics, Adult Education, Pastoral Counseling, and Community Management—evaluated through supervised Field Education.
5. Prophetic Voice: Acting as a leader of thought and action, capable of applying Moral and Social Theology to ethical and political issues in society.



Curriculum by Semester (3 Years — 90 Credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Summary	Emphasis	Prerequisites
1	MDI-501	Theological Prolegomena and Applied Logic	6	Epistemological foundations of Theology and graduate study methods.	Systematic	None
	MDI-502	Biblical Greek I (Koine)	6	Grammar, morphology, and vocabulary for New Testament exegesis.	Biblical / Languages	None
	MDI-503	History of the Ancient and Patristic Church	3	Early Christianity, Ecumenical Councils, and the Church Fathers.	Historical	None
	Total		15			
2	MDI-504	Fundamental Theology: Revelation and the Act of Faith	6	Nature, transmission, and credibility of Revelation in history.	Systematic	MDI-501
	MDI-505	Biblical Hebrew I	6	Grammar, syntax, and basic vocabulary for the Old Testament.	Biblical / Languages	None
	MDI-506	History of the Medieval and Scholastic Church	3	Theological development from Augustine to the High Scholastic period (St. Thomas).	Historical	MDI-503
	Total		15			
3	MDI-601	New Testament Exegesis (Advanced Methods)	6	Critical application of Biblical Greek to Pauline and Synoptic texts.	Biblical	MDI-502
	MDI-602	Systematic Theology: Trinity and Creation	6	Study of the Triune God, creation, and the problem of evil.	Systematic	MDI-504
	MDI-603	Liturgy and Theology of the Sacraments	3	Theological foundations, history, and practice of the Sacraments.	Practical	MDI-506
	Total		15			
4	MDI-604	Old Testament Exegesis (Advanced Methods)	6	Critical application of Biblical Hebrew to the Torah and Prophets.	Biblical	MDI-505
	MDI-605	Christology, Soteriology, and Mariology	6	The person of Christ, redemption, and the role of the Virgin Mary.	Systematic	MDI-602

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	MDI-606	Homiletics and Sacred Rhetoric	3	Principles of effective preaching, structure, and <i>pathos</i> of the <i>kerygma</i> .	Practical	MDI-601
	Total		15			
5	MDI-701	Special Moral Theology and Bioethics	6	Application of moral theology to life, sexuality, marriage, and social justice.	Moral	MDI-605
	MDI-702	Ecclesiology, Eschatology, and Mission	6	The Church as Mystery and Sign, the Last Things, and the missionary mandate.	Systematic	MDI-605
	MDI-703	Canon Law and Ecclesial Governance	3	Introduction to the norms, structure, and administration of the Church.	Practical	MDI-603
	Total		15			
6	MDI-801	Field Education and Supervised Ministerial Practicum	6	Practical immersion with supervision in a ministerial context (parish, chaplaincy).	Practical	MDI-701/702
	MDI-802	Pastoral Theology and Counseling	6	Theory and practice of <i>cura animarum</i> , pastoral leadership, and accompaniment.	Practical	MDI-701/702
	MDI-803	Final Project: Ministerial Project or Thesis	3	Development and defense of an applied project or academic thesis.	Research / Practical	MDI-801
	Total		15			

Methodology and Evaluation

- Integrated Methodology: Synchronous classes, reading seminars in original languages, applied translation exercises, liturgical simulations, and counseling role-plays.
- Field Education: A minimum number of supervised ministerial practice hours (*Practicum*) is required in the sixth semester, with detailed reports and evaluation by both the field supervisor and academic tutor.
- Ministerial Evaluation: Assessment includes academic rigor (papers, exams, written exegesis) and ministerial competence (Practicum evaluation and defense of the Ministerial Project). The Final Project may take the form of either a research thesis or an applied pastoral project.



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Institutional Notes and Regulatory Compliance

The university will adapt documentation and admission requirements in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and current accreditation standards. Admission requires a bachelor's degree and, preferably, previous experience or a clear vocational calling to ecclesial ministry.

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