Columbia Theological Seminary is educating imaginative, resilient leaders for God’s changing world.
Columbia Theological Seminary is pleased to announce that we are now receiving applications for our newly focused Master of Theology (ThM) program for admissions starting in the fall of 2016. The ThM is a one-year program for students who already have the MDiv degree or its equivalent and who wish to deepen their understanding of a particular area of study through reflection, research, and writing for the service of the Church.

Previous graduates of this program have gone on to teach, lead churches, and pursue doctoral studies in a variety of areas. This new version of our program features even more focus on developing research skills through close work with faculty mentors in research of mutual interest. In order to attract and nurture students whose research interests are closely aligned with those of the current faculty, we have developed five possible areas of focus for students to consider. These areas are based on some of our faculty strengths and do not fully encompass the breadth of opportunities for this degree program—but we hope prospective students will find themes here that resonate with their own theological questions.

The proposed areas of focus for ThM study include:

**Old Testament Wisdom Literature**

Students will have opportunity to explore Wisdom literature in Israelite and cognate ancient Near Eastern traditions. Study of biblical texts, Second Temple Jewish literature, and Hellenistic Jewish and early Christian texts will allow students to trace the trajectory of the Wisdom tradition in the ancient world. Scholars in this area will guide and mentor students in careful exegesis of texts, investigation of their reception histories, and the analysis of various contemporary theological interpretations.

**World Christian Theologies**

Students will have opportunity to explore particular trajectories in contemporary Christian theological reflection, especially in African, Indian, North American, and Asian-American traditions, including postcolonial approaches. Scholars in these fields will mentor students in understanding historical and missiological roots as well as contemporary theological expressions of Christianity in a multi-religious world. Interested students may pay particular attention to the distinctive theological gifts of Reformed Protestantism to this global conversation.

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*The ThM program at Columbia Theological Seminary was pivotal in my development as a scholar. Coming from the MDiv program, exploring an in-depth thesis with the help of both great faculty and collaborative colleagues both instilled confidence in me that I could pursue doctoral studies and prepared me for the rigors of a PhD program.*

— **Brian Powers**  
(MDiv ’09, ThM ’11)
The Church and Creation Care

Students will have opportunity to explore biblical literature with a particular eye to ecological questions in the contemporary world. Scholars in Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Christian ethics will guide students in careful exegesis of texts, exploration of their history of interpretation, and contemporary ethical reflection on how scripture might inform faithful Christian responses to environmental crises today.

Reformed Protestant Theologies

Students will have opportunity to explore specifically Reformed approaches to Christian theology, both historically and in the present day. Scholars will mentor students in understanding historical roots of Reformed Protestantism, in various expressions from the 16th century to the present. Students in their research projects may elect to focus on a historical figure or movement, a particular theological doctrine, or a constructive theological theme.

Sex, Gender, and the Church

Students will have opportunities to explore biblical, theological, and ethical approaches to sexuality and gender. Faculty will guide students in careful reading of biblical and historical texts, exploration of various contemporary theological and ethical reflections, and will encourage faithful Christian responses to the various issues of human sexuality that confront the church today.

Inquiries and applications are welcome!

For further information about the ThM program, please contact our director Dr. Martha Moore-Keish at Moore-KeishM@ctsnet.edu. For information about the application and admissions process, contact Betsy Lyles, Director of Recruitment and Admissions, at LylesB@ctsnet.edu.

The ThM program at Columbia Theological Seminary was an invaluable year that not only aided in my discernment process, but also helped develop my skills in research and writing. After finishing my MDiv, I had trouble deciding whether to pursue further education or to go into ministry. The ThM provided the academic rigor I sought within in a context of deep concern for the church. I came out of the ThM program feeling better equipped both as a scholar and a pastor, which undoubtedly continues to shape me as I now work on my doctoral studies.

—Sheldon Steen
(MDiv ’12, ThM ’13), now studying for his PhD at FSU in Religions of Western Antiquity
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