

# Welcome to YDS!

## M.A.R. Comprehensive and Concentrated – a quick picture

### What's the difference?

- Both degrees require 48 credits.
- The comprehensive MAR distributes coursework in each of five areas of study: 6 credits each in Area One (Biblical Studies), Area Two (Theological Studies), Area Three (Historical Studies), Area Four (Ministerial Studies) and Area Five (Comparative and Cultural Studies), and 18 Elective credits.
- The concentrated MAR allows concentrated study in one of 16 areas: Asian Religions; Black Religion in the African Diaspora; Ethics; Hebrew Bible; The History of Christianity; Latinx and Latin American Christianity; Liturgical Studies; New Testament; Philosophical Theology/Philosophy of Religion; Practical Theology, Religion and the Arts; Religion and Ecology; Second Temple Judaism; Theology; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and World Christianity/Missions.

### How do I know what courses to take?

- Degree planning sheets are available for the comprehensive MAR and each of the concentrated degrees.
- Though each concentration has specific distributional requirements, the degree is highly individualized; the specific course of studies for each student is mapped out by the student and adviser together. Before graduation, students in the concentrated M.A.R. degree submit to the Registrar a completed copy of their planning sheet which has been reviewed and signed by their adviser.
- M.A.R. students are required to participate in a program assessing their progress. Each student builds an online portfolio of work that demonstrates progress toward the degree's learning goals.

### Can I switch degrees once I have been admitted?

- Requests to switch from the MAR comprehensive to the MAR concentrated program require an application and will be considered in February of each year. Requests to switch from the MAR concentrated to the MAR comprehensive will be considered any time after the student's first semester of study.
- The program transfer must be supported by the student's adviser (in the case of a switch into a concentrated M.A.R., an adviser in the concentration) and must be approved by the Academic Dean.

### *Other degree considerations*

### Can I take courses in other parts of the University?

YDS students are invited and encouraged to explore course options in other departments and programs in the University, with the following advisements:

- Registration in undergraduate courses requires an agreement between the course instructor, the student, and the YDS Academic Dean that extra work be performed by the student (usually an extra or extended paper) in order to bring the work load to graduate level.
- Half of each term's work must be taken in the Divinity School, and courses taken outside of the Divinity School must be clearly relevant to the student's professional or vocational goals.

### Are there any opportunities for personalized or directed study?

- Reading courses are available to all students in good standing following their first year of study (exceptions may be made for MAR students who have done exceptional work in their first term).
- Reading courses may count toward distributional requirements (but not as fulfilling particular requirements within the area).
- A Reading course may not be offered for any subject currently available in the YDS curriculum.
- Reading courses may be requested of any full-time faculty member at Yale.
- Only one Reading course may be taken by a student each semester or equivalent (for part-time students).
- M.A.R. students also have the option of writing a one or two semester thesis.

*This is a quick reference guide only. For complete program information, see the YDS Bulletin online at:*

<http://catalog.yale.edu/div/>

*Welcome to YDS!*  
*About the S.T.M. degree, including the S.T.M. for Ministry Professionals*

- The S.T.M. degree at YDS requires 24 credits and may be taken in one year or distributed over 2, 3, or 4 years.
- The S.T.M. student is expected to plan, submit for approval, and pursue an integrated program designed to serve a specific educational or vocational purpose and a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of courses taken must be related to a designated field of concentration (candidates using the program as a general preparation for ministry may request a waiver of the normal requirements that there be a specific area of concentration). There are no distributional requirements.
- The S.T.M. requires a thesis (one or two semesters), project, or extended paper.
- S.T.M. students may not take courses CR/NC and must earn at least an HP in every course.
- Normally, elementary foreign language study will not be credited toward S.T.M. degree requirements. Such courses can, however, be recorded on student transcripts.
- Students in the S.T.M. for Ministry Professionals program spend the first semester in full-time residency; the remainder of the degree may be completed through a combination of week-long residential intensive courses and the independent project, thesis, or extended paper required of all S.T.M. students.

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- Registration in undergraduate courses requires an agreement between the course instructor, the student, and the YDS Academic Dean that extra work be performed by the student (usually an extra or extended paper) in order to bring the work load to graduate level.
- Half of each term's work must be taken in the Divinity School, and courses taken outside of the Divinity School must be clearly relevant to the student's professional or vocational goals.

**Are there any opportunities for personalized or directed study?**

- Reading courses are available to S.T.M. students at any time.
- A Reading course may not be offered for any subject currently available in the YDS curriculum.
- Reading courses may be requested of any full-time faculty member at Yale.
- S.T.M. students have the option of writing a one or two semester thesis or project under the direction of both a first and a second reader.

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