

Welcome to YDS!

About the M. Div. degree

- The M.Div. degree at YDS requires 72 credits distributed over five areas of study. M.Div. requirements include the following:
 - AREA ONE (Biblical Studies): **Twelve credit hours** distributed between **Old Testament** and **New Testament**. Elementary Hebrew and Greek do not meet this requirement.
 - AREA TWO (Theological Studies): **Twelve credit hours** including at least one course in **Theology**. Only three hours can be counted towards Area Two credit from work in Denominational Courses.
 - AREA THREE (Historical Studies): **Nine credit hours**, 6 of which must include two of the following courses: **REL 712, REL 713, REL 714, REL 715**. Only three hours of Denominational History courses may be counted towards the Area Three requirement
 - AREA FOUR (Ministerial Studies): **Twelve credit hours** including the basic Preaching course, **REL 812**.
 - AREA FIVE (Comparative and Cultural Studies): **Nine credit hours**
 - At least one course (three credit hours) in a **non-Christian Religion** or the relationship between Christianity and other religions (must be so designated).
 - At least one course (three credit hours) in **Christian Ethics** (must be so designated)
 - At least one course (three credit hours) that either focuses on or significantly integrates material on **class, gender/sexuality, race/ethnicity, disability, and/or global/cultural diversity** (must be so designated).
 - The 9-hour workshop **Negotiating Boundaries in Ministerial Relationships** (pre-requisite for Supervised Ministries placements)
 - **Supervised Ministries** (see Bulletin for details). Credits taken towards the Supervised Ministries requirement are counted for elective credit only. Only 15 credits may be applied to the MDiv through supervised ministries (including CPE)
- M.Div students must also participate in the **Portfolio and Assessment Requirement**
- Elementary language courses may be counted towards M.Div. degree requirements (as electives only) if the language is necessary for reading original texts of the Judeo-Christian tradition or if, in consultation with the student's adviser and the Academic Dean, the language is deemed necessary to the pursuit of a specified course of ministerial or other professional development.

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.
- Reading courses may count toward distributional requirements (but not as fulfilling particular requirements within the area).
- Reading courses 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.
- M.Div. students also have the option of writing a one or two semester thesis for elective credit.

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

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

Collaborative study at YDS

Joint Degree study

M.Div. and M.A.R. students may work simultaneously toward a YDS degree and a degree in another school of Yale University. Currently, YDS has agreements for joint-degree programs with the Yale schools of

- Environment
- Law
- Management
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Public Health

YDS also has joint-degree programs with the Schools of Social Work of

- University of Connecticut
- Yeshiva University

In all cases where concurrent degrees are sought, admission to the school must be obtained through the normal admissions processes established by each school. Students interested in joint degree study within Yale should consult the admissions offices of each school prior to application to either program since some programs require that students apply, and be accepted to, both degree programs at the same time. Some programs require that students matriculate in that program prior to matriculation in the Divinity degree.

In most cases, the period of study required to complete two degrees is less (usually by one year) than would be required to complete those degrees if they were pursued independently. Tuition, fees, and financial aid are arranged each semester or year through the school of the student's primary enrollment.

Exchange study

One-term or yearlong (depending on the program) exchange programs exist between YDS and

- Westcott House theological college in Cambridge, England
- Heidelberg, Freiburg, and Tübingen universities in Germany
- Singapore's Trinity Theological College
- the Divinity School of Chung Chi College (Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The exchange programs are limited to 2nd or 3rd year M.Div. and 2nd year M.A.R. students and credits earned are governed by YDS policy on transfer credits.

Hispanic Summer Program

YDS is a sponsoring institution of the Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), an ecumenical program in Theology and Religion, whose mission is to supplement and enrich the theological and ministerial education being offered in seminaries and universities. Each summer, the HSP offers a two-week program of graduate theological education through 3-credit courses taught by a variety of Latinx faculty from seminaries and universities across the country. The HSP is an "itinerant" program, hosted by a variety of ATS-accredited sponsoring institutions across the US or Puerto Rico. The program is open to Latinx students and non-Latinx students interested in ministries in Latinx contexts. Courses taken through the HSP by YDS students are transcribed by the host institution and are transferable to the student's YDS degree in accordance with YDS' transfer credit policies.