

# WORSHIP STUDIES

MASTER OF ARTS  
PROGRAM (33 CREDITS)

The Master of Arts degree in Worship Studies is designed for worship leaders, music pastors, church musicians, lead pastors, associate pastors, missionaries, and laypersons interested in pursuing graduate Studies in worship. Each course in the program will focus on unchanging Biblical truth as a basis for assessing the appropriateness and usefulness of traditions and innovations in worship.

Through this program Pentecostal spirituality is understood in both its unique distinctive and its historical connections with the classic Christian spirituality of the apostles, the church fathers, and the reformers. Emphasis will be placed on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in private and public worship.

The degree is a total of 33 credits and can be completed in approximately two years entirely online. Each course is three credit hours.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS - ALL TRACKS

WRS	500	Introduction to Worship Studies
WRS	505	Pentecostal Spirituality: Contemporary Pentecostal and Charismatic Worship
WRS	510	Biblical Foundations of Worship
WRS	515	Historical Foundations of Worship
WRS	520	Pastoring a Worshipping Community
WRS	525	Worship Leading
WRS	595	Worship Practicum
WRS	599	Capstone Applied Research Project

## PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will perform quality academic research in the field of worship Studies using the most advanced and up to date scholarly works, and prepare them for entry into additional degree programs and doctoral Studies.
2. Students will integrate theological knowledge and worship practice within the framework of a Christian worldview and Pentecostal spirituality.
3. Students will describe the historical foundations of worship and be able to identify the societal influences upon such developments.
4. Students will demonstrate acquired skills in professional ministerial settings.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS BY TRACK

### PASTORAL/PREACHING TRACK

- Any graduate-level LED (Leadership) course offered by the college (3 cr.)
- Any graduate-level THE (Theology) course offered by the college (3 cr.)
- WRS 545 The Senior Pastor – Lead Worshiper (3 cr.)

### WORSHIP LEADER TRACK:

- Any graduate-level LED (Leadership) course offered by the college (3 cr.)
- Any graduate-level THE (Theology) course offered by the college (3 cr.)
- WRS 540 Developing and Leading the Worship Team (3 cr.)

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **WRS 500 Introduction to Worship Studies 3 credits**

This course serves to introduce the student to the expectations of post graduate work, the chief distinction being one of sources. As graduate students, they are expected to do original work based on primary sources. The principle primary source for the study of worship is the Holy Bible. This course will begin with a survey of the scriptures as a library of works on worship.

The course will also introduce a method of theological reflection, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral and will conclude with original research on a ministry problem in the student's local ministry.

### **WRS 505 Pentecostal Spirituality: Contemporary Pentecostal/Charismatic Worship 3 credits**

This course will be an exploration of Pentecostal life and ministry. Emphasis will be placed on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in private and public worship. The history and practice of 20th/21st Century Pentecostalism, including the charismatic and Praise and Worship renewals of the last 50 years will be examined. Current trends will also be analyzed. The course will conclude with a research project on a contemporary theme.

### **WRS 510 Biblical Foundations of Worship 3 credits**

The Biblical Theology of worship is presented in this course. The unity and contrasts of the Old and New Covenants, the seven biblical models of worship, and definitions of key New Testament terms will be explored.

### **WRS 515 Historical Foundations of Worship 3 credits**

The history of the church, prior to the 20th Century Pentecostal Revival, will be examined with an eye to changing worship expressions and methods through the centuries. Each era of the church will be analyzed in the light of scripture and patterns of conflict and resolution will be explored. The course will conclude with a research project on an historical subject.

### **WRS 520 Pastoring a Worshipping Community 3 credits**

Issues of church planting, renewal and growth will be the emphasis of this course. Key questions of the building of community, the flow of authority and responsibility in the local church, and the use of the arts in worship will be explored. The course will conclude with a research project on a contemporary ministry challenge.

### **WRS 525 Worship Leading 3 credits**

The planning and leading of public and private worship throughout the year will be the focus of this course. The distinct yet complimentary roles of the senior pastor, the worship leader and the worship team (including technicians) will be explored. The course will conclude with a series of worship services, planned and lead by the student.

## ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **WRS 540 Developing and Leading the Worship Team: Vocalists, Instrumentalists 3 credits**

This course will explore the ministry of those making the music and operating the technical equipment of the contemporary worship service. The recruitment, preparation, and spirituality of these highly skilled individuals will be the focus of this class.

### **WRS 545 The Senior Pastor—Lead Worshiper (Preaching track) 3 credits**

This class will examine the challenges of the senior pastor as the Lead Worshiper of the congregation. The pastor establishes the context for the worship service and must also manage the calendar of worship. He/she must also take the lead in structuring and encouraging the private worship of the congregation. Leadership of paid staff and volunteers will also be emphasized.

### **WRS 595 Worship Practicum 3 credits**

Students will choose a ministry project directly related to his/her ministry. A supervisor will be approved by the college to work individually with the student in the preparation and presentation of the ministry project. Appropriate records of the project should be submitted to the college upon completion. For the Minister of Music this project might be a musical presentation at his/her church. For the Senior Pastor this project might be a teaching series on worship.

### **WRS 599 Capstone Applied Research Project 3 credits**

With the capstone project, students will demonstrate skills acquired in the masters program which include theological reflection, methodological implementation, assessment of findings, and recommendations for ministry. The research problem should be rooted in the local church and the findings made available to The University of Valley Forge Library. The paper will be presented according to the standards of UVF requirements. A handbook will be provided with the criteria for the project.