

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

Choose one:

WRS 505 Pentecostal Spirituality: Contemporary Pentecostal and Charismatic Worship	3 cr.
WRS 515 Historical Foundations of Worship	3 cr.
WRS 510 Biblical Foundations of Worship	3 cr.
WRS 520 Pastoring a Worshipping Community	3 cr.
WRS 525 Worship Leadership	3 cr.
WRS 595 Worship Practicum	3 cr.
WRS 599 Capstone Applied Research Project	3 cr.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS BY TRACK

PASTORAL/PREACHING TRACK:

Any two graduate-level LED (Leadership) course offered by the college	6 cr.
Any graduate-level THE (Theology) course offered by the college	3 cr.
Any MTN (Music Technology) elective course offered by the college	3 cr.
WRS 545 The Senior Pastor – Lead Worshiper	3 cr.

WORSHIP LEADER TRACK:

Any two graduate-level LED (Leadership) course offered by the college	6 cr.
Any graduate-level THE (Theology) course offered by the college	3 cr.
Any MTN (Music Technology) elective course offered by the college	3 cr.
WRS 540 Developing and Leading the Worship Team	3 cr.

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will communicate competently through writing that addresses relevant issues in the field of worship studies.
2. 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.
3. Students will manage individual and group relationships within the context of worship leadership in the church.
4. Students will integrate theological knowledge and worship practice within the framework of a Christian worldview and Pentecostal spirituality.
5. Students will demonstrate acquired skills in professional ministerial settings.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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 Leadership 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.

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.

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.