

Master of Arts: Thanatology Major

Coordinator: Dr. David Sherbino | 416.226.6620, ext. 6741 | dsherb@tyndale.ca

The Master of Arts in Thanatology explores the biblical and spiritual resources available in grief and bereavement, and provides knowledge and skills for assisting those facing or coping with grief and death from the perspective of both the dying and the bereaved. The study of thanatology examines the grieving process, ethical issues surrounding death and dying, cultural, gender and societal attitudes towards death, the issues facing both the dying and the bereaved, and the place of ritual and memorialization.

The MA Thanatology students who also desire the designation of Certified Thanatologist Pastoral Specialist (CTPS), granted by the Canadian Council for Professional Certification, may complete all the educational requirements within the MA degree requirements with a minimum of six courses in thanatology plus an internship of 260 hours.

MA Thanatology Learning Outcomes:

1. Articulate the basic foundational principles of pastoral thanatology theory and practice.
2. Identify common ethical issues related to the end of life from a biblical, theological, and pastoral perspective with individuals and families.
3. Examine different cultural and gender approaches to grief and mourning.
4. Identify biblical and spiritual resources to support individuals and families as they grieve their losses.
5. Equip students with practical skills through the internship experience enabling them to be certified as pastoral thanatologists.
6. Develop and lead educational programs on grief and bereavement for the general population as well as professional groups.

Master of Arts: Thanatology Major		Courses
Biblical Studies		4
BIBL 0501	Biblical Interpretation	
OLDT 0511	Old Testament Theology and History	
NEWT 0522	New Testament Theology and History	
OLDT ____	Old Testament course OR NEWT ____ New Testament course	
Theology and Christian History		3
THEO 0531	Systematic Theology	
THEO 0646	Theology of the Human Person	
HIST 0561	History of Christianity I OR HIST 0562 History of Christianity II (recommended)	
Ministry Formation		3
LEAD 0510	Leadership Development	
MISS 0782	Gospel, Church and Culture	
SPIR 0700	Spiritual Formation	

continued

Thanatology Major Courses		7
PAST TH51	Spiritual Care of the Dying and Grieving	
PAST TH53	Disenfranchised Grief	
PAST TH54	Cultural and Gender Dynamics in Grief, Death and Dying	
PAST TH57	Thanatology Skills Lab*	
PAST TH_	Thanatology course	
PAST TH_	Thanatology course	
INTD 0701	Internship	
Elective		1
Total Course Requirements		18

**Note: Students who had completed COUN 0601 & 0602 Pre-Internship Counselling Skills Lab I & II previously may be eligible for Advanced Standing with credit.*

Notes:

1. To complete the program in two years requires nine courses per year.
2. Students are normally expected to complete the MA Thanatology within seven years of beginning the program.
3. All MA Thanatology students must complete a year-long internship normally during the last year of study. The internship is administered by the Tyndale Seminary Internship Program (TSIP).