

Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies

1. Purpose of the Degree

The purpose of the degree of Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies is to offer graduate level degree offering advanced work in classical archaeological disciplines: Archaeological methods, fieldwork, archaeology, history and backgrounds of Bible lands, ancient biblical and cognate language ¹The MA in Archaeology and Biblical Studies is a degree, unlike the MDiv, that is designed specifically to train students to utilize the social sciences in biblical interpretation. Students will not take any of the pastoral ministry, missions, nor exegetical courses of a typical seminary program. Nevertheless, it is expected that candidates will have a strong Christian calling and purpose for ministry. Students are prepared to control both disciplines—Archaeology and Biblical Studies—thus preparing our graduates to pursue an advanced degree in a broad range of programs or teach in a humanities based discipline, bible college, or a seminary. Students will take courses from the following disciplines: anthropology, archaeology, archaeological method and theory, history, and language.

The target audience for the Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies degree are those students who desire an intensive program of biblical studies, the ability to function professionally in the field of archaeology and/or pursue further academic work at the doctoral level.

2. Primary Goals of the Program

The Southwestern Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies program seeks to produce students who: 1) Have a broad based training in the Humanities; 2) are introduced to methods and theories in social sciences and their contributions to biblical studies; have practical training in field archaeology and material studies; are competent to integrate archaeological data into the interpretation of the Bible; and 5) think and behave Christianly and practice both personal and corporate spiritual disciplines. ^[2]

As a result of the goals listed above, students who complete the Southwestern Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies will accomplish the following four Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students are required to complete courses in Anthropology, History, Archaeology, and Geography. ^{[3] [8]}
2. During their MA program, students will have over 300 hours of internship in field schools, museum studies, and/or labwork. ^{[4] [5]}
3. Students will be required to have at least one (1) excavation season. ^{[6] [11] [12]}
4. Students will become active members in the scholarly guild and be exposed to current research in the discipline. ^[7]

The goals and student learning outcomes are designed to address the following priorities.

Core Knowledge—students will have a wide range of knowledge about the disciplines of archaeology and biblical archaeology, specifically how these disciplines interface. They will become familiar with key concepts, terms, and theories.

Skill acquisition—students will be required to learn in a real world setting by participating in a field school overseas in the Middle East. They will also be required to take a minimum of two lab courses that require them to process and handle material culture. This skill acquisition will be facilitated by the holdings of the Charles C. Tandy Museum and the Tel Gezer Archaeological Field School. [6], [9] [11] [12]

Career Orientation—students are informed that the MA in Archaeology and Biblical Studies is not designed as a terminal degree but is a stepping stone for a PhD. The degree requires a thesis which demonstrates their ability to conduct research from primary data and engage with theories and methods in the larger field of biblical archaeology. The thesis facilitates and makes them competitive and attractive candidates for PhD programs. The faculty counsel and encourage students to become members of the professional guild. In addition, students are encouraged to become members of professional organizations and attend and present papers at national and regional meetings of the profession. The thesis requires students to submit a curriculum vitae and their future potential for research and goals are discussed at the thesis defense.

Lifelong learning—students will leave our program with a plan and an ethos for learning throughout the rest of their lives with emphasis upon adapting to the changing modern world.

Christian worldview and engagement—students will understand the importance of coalescing their academic achievements in the context of their service to the church, denomination and body of Christ. This priority is enhanced by the participation of of chapel and the spiritual life of the student body on campus. They will also become active members of a local church. This priority is facilitated by the required courses: Spiritual Formation 1 and 2 (SPFTH 3101 and 3111).

3. Program Content, Duration, and Location

3.1 Content

Students will participate in a curriculum that requires them to take courses in at least five (5) disciplines: archaeology, anthropology, sociology, history, and ancient languages.

E.3.1.1 The degree is made up of 56 hours of course work including 21 hours of archaeology and archaeological method, 15 hours of biblical backgrounds and history, 6 hours of biblical and cognate languages, 6 hours of electives, 2 hours of spiritual formation and 6 hours of thesis preparation. Courses will include both classroom lecture format and field work components. As a part of the degree requirements students will participate during the summer months in the excavation of an archaeological dig site in Gezer. Dr. Steven Ortiz is the supervisor of the work at this site.

3.1.2 Students will complete a thesis as a part of the elective requirements for the degree. The MA(ABS) thesis should demonstrate the student's ability to design a viable research project, pursue the research in relative independence, and write with clarity and force. An acceptable thesis should go beyond the description of data and include critical evaluation and interpretive judgment. The thesis addresses a topic for which the student has devoted a significant number of elective hours. Along with the thesis the student submits a CV.

The student selects a faculty thesis supervisor prior to beginning work on the prospectus. A thesis prospectus, not to exceed 10 pages, must be approved by the thesis supervisor before the student begins to write the thesis. The student is required to submit the approved prospectus to the office of the Associate Dean for Masters Programs. The student should work closely with the thesis supervisor throughout all stages of the thesis work. The student must submit the thesis at least 60 days prior to the anticipated date of graduation. The thesis supervisor and second reader will evaluate the thesis and determine the grade (passing grades: B- and above). A student who receives a failing grade will have an opportunity to revise and resubmit the thesis during the following semester.

The thesis must adhere to the *Southwestern Seminary Manual of Style*. On matters not specifically addressed by the *Southwestern Seminary Manual of Style*, the thesis should adopt a clear and consistent style. Students at the thesis writing stage must enroll in MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES 5010 - MA (ABS) Continuous Enrollment during the fall and spring semesters of thesis work. Students who submit the thesis during the summer must enroll in the course during the summer.

3.1.3 The study of languages is required for the Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies. Prerequisites for the program require nine (9) units of biblical Hebrew (one and ½ academic years) and twelve (12) units of New Testament Greek (two academic years). Students are not required to have completed these languages upon acceptance into the program but they are required to have taken these language requirements by the completion of their graduate program. In addition, the program of study requires an additional six units (two courses) of biblical and cognate language study that requires one of these languages as a prerequisite for the course.

3.2 Duration

The degree requires two academic years of full-time study (ca. 12 hours a semester). If students do not come with the required prerequisites, an additional year of study would be required. The prerequisites are not required to be completed prior to starting the MA program with the exception of those courses that require prerequisites to take. It is possible to enter the MA program without prerequisites and hence complete the degree in three years if the student takes a course of study that accounts for taking the prerequisite

courses early in their matriculation so that they will not be hindered from taking advanced courses at the end of their studies.

3.3 Location

Seminary policy requires that a majority of credits toward all graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degrees awarded by Southwestern must be earned at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary [1] Since the Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies is a specialized degree, courses are only taught at the main campus in Fort Worth. A student would have to be in residence at the Fort Worth Campus to complete their program of study.

4 Admission and Resource Requirements

4.1 Admission

4.1.1 Admission requirements require a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, a GPA of 3.0 or higher and 42 hours of specific course work in biblical studies, Greek, Hebrew and systematic theology.

The Director of the MA in Archaeology and Biblical Studies will serve as the faculty advisor. The student should meet with the advisor prior to registration each semester. After the advisor has signed the degree plan and the course request form, the student brings both forms to the office of the Associate Dean, whose assistant registers the student on the date assigned by the Registrar's office. All changes in course selections must be approved by the Associate Dean.

A Masters degree student from an accredited institution may transfer up to 25 hours into the MA(ABS). SWBTS students desiring to change from another degree to the MA(ABS) may apply eligible courses to the degree.

<u>Prerequisite Courses</u>	<u>SWBTS</u>	
<u>Undergraduate</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Basic Old Testament I & II (OLDTS 3313/3323)	6	3-6
Basic New Testament I & II (NEWTS 3313/3323)	6	3-6
Greek (GREEK 3313/3323, 4313/4323)	12	12
Hebrew (HEBRW 4313/4323/5003)	9	9
Systematic Theology I & II (SYSTH 3003/3013)	6	6
Hermeneutics (BIBST 3203)	3	3
Total	42	36-42

Undergraduate survey courses may range from three to six hours and fulfill the prerequisite if the course content is comparable to the Southwestern equivalent. Admitted students who have not satisfied the prerequisites must do so at the beginning of

the program. The prerequisites may be fulfilled by taking bachelors-level courses in The College at Southwestern program or masters-level courses in the Seminary program. Students must demonstrate proficiency in these courses before credit will be granted.

4.1.2 Admission to these degrees should be offered to students whose background and academic records indicate the ability to engage in graduate-level study for academic pursuits or personal development.

4.2 Distinctive Resources Needed

4.2.1 Faculty description

The institution employs competent faculty members qualified to accomplish the mission and goals of the institution. When determining acceptable qualifications of its faculty, primary consideration is given to the highest earned degree in the discipline. The institution also considers competence, effectiveness, and capacity, including, as appropriate, undergraduate and graduate degrees, related work experiences in the field, professional licensure and certifications, honors and awards, continuous documented excellence in teaching, or other demonstrated competencies and achievements that contribute to effective teaching and student learning outcomes. For all cases, the institution is responsible for justifying and documenting the qualifications of its faculty. The faculty in the MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES program are qualified to teach at the graduate level and are competent not only to carry out the seminary's mission but also to help the seminary achieve its aspirations. All faculty meet or exceed the criteria for competency established by SACS.

Faculty for the program are currently serving in the Division of Biblical Studies and include one person with the PhD in archaeology and one faculty member who holds the PhD in Old Testament studies and Hebrew and is currently enrolled in a PhD program in archaeology. This faculty is further augmented by the faculty of the Biblical Studies Division and the Theology Division of the School of Theology who bring substantial and relevant expertise in ancient near eastern history and languages as well as biblical studies, and who collectively have conducted dozens of on-site study trips throughout the Middle East and broader Mediterranean world. Faculty are required to be active members of the scholarly guild and have current research projects. Dr. Steven M. Ortiz is the principal investigator and co-director of the Tel Gezer Excavation Project. Dr. Eric Mitchell is the principal investigator and director of the Tel Gezer Regional Survey Project. Both projects provide research projects for students in the MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES program.

Professional Affiliation: Southwestern is a member of the American Schools of Oriental Research. Founded in 1900, ASOR is a non-profit organization dedicated to the archaeology of the Near East. ASOR's mission is to initiate, encourage and support research into, and public understanding of, the peoples and cultures of the Near East from the earliest times. ASOR supports research of the history and archaeology of the eastern Mediterranean through its publications, the annual meeting, scholarships and fellowships

the affiliated overseas research centers and the committee on archaeological research and policy.

The MA in Archaeology and Biblical Studies is supported by the Seminary's extensive library holdings which currently house over 500,000 printed books, over 95,000 bound periodicals, over 6500 current periodical subscriptions, over 28,000 microforms, over 35,000 audiocassettes/CDs, over 8700 videocassettes, over 320,000 music scores, over 550 computer databases, and over 95,000 types of other materials. The library has a staff of 60 full-time equivalent personnel: 12 librarians, 8 full-time staff and 40 student staff. The library has seating for 1166 readers, 17 microfiche readers, 25 computers dedicated for databases, 54 computers for general use, 10 DVD readers, 23 VCRs and 40 phonographs/tape decks/CD players. Specific to this M.A. research program is a large complement of resources that have been an integral part of Southwestern Seminary's collection development policy (since 1910) for the biblical studies curriculum, specifically biblical archaeology and backgrounds.

Further supplementing the library's holdings is the Tandy Archaeology Museum, consisting of a collection of antiquities from the site of ancient Timnah, on loan from the State of Israel's Department of Antiquities. [9] Included in the Roberts Library's museum is an archaeology lab with representative artifacts, tools, work stations, and displays.

Field School Research: In addition to the on campus resources of the Tandy Archaeology Museum, the seminary supports an overseas field School (The Tel Gezer Excavation Project) which provides hand on archaeological field experience for our students. This field school provides scholarships and staff positions for students.

4.2.2 Students are assigned a faculty advisor from the archaeology department. Upon acceptance into the program, the director meets with each student to advise on potential jobs in the field. Annual students meet with their advisor to discuss progress. At these advisement meetings students are encouraged to participate in professional societies and publications.

5 Educational Evaluation

5.1 The MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES has an extensive in-house mechanism for evaluating student learning and the extent to which learning goals of courses and degree programs are achieved. The faculty identifies expected outcomes, assesses whether it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in each of the following areas: educational programs, including student learning.

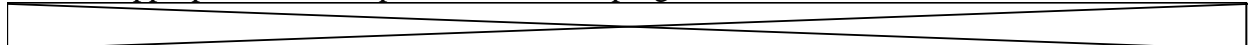
Students complete course evaluation forms at the end of each semester for each course. These forms ask students to evaluate themselves, instructional effectiveness, professors, and courses regarding the accomplishments of objectives. In addition, during the Spring semester of 2008, in accordance with our emphasis on assessment, Master of Arts in

Archaeology and Biblical Studies students fill out an additional questionnaire based on the specific assessment evaluation for that period.

5.2 The MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES faculty identifies student learning outcomes, annually assesses whether the program has achieved those outcomes, and uses the assessments to improve the program. The assessment is a dynamic process with multiple feedback loops to identify areas that need improvement and to make adjustments based on the data collected.

Annual Academic Program Assessment: Program assessment is a critical part of Southwestern's continued focus on institutional effectiveness. Southwestern has a rigorous process of program review and assessment that ensures that expected outcomes are clearly defined and measurable and are used for improving education. The MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES program is assessed annually. The MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL STUDIES program has recently finished its second assessment cycle (2009). The first assessment (2008) addressed Student Learning Outcome #3 (Field Based Learning). A meeting was held with the archaeology faculty to determine if students had the opportunity to have hands on archaeological experience. It was determined that we had not defined what is an acceptable outcome and proposed a minimum of 300 hours of labwork. It was also determined that our 2 year course of study was divided between theory courses in the first year of study and practical courses in the second year. Changes to the course offerings were made so that there is a balance of course offerings. In the Spring of 2009, the annual academic program assessment addressed the student learning outcomes #1 (core knowledge) and #6 (Active Members in the scholarly guild).

Evaluating Student Learning through Faculty Annual Reports: Every spring, Southeastern faculty members are required to complete an annual report. Based on the learning objectives in organized courses, faculty are now asked to provide a narrative that summarizes the assessment activities undertaken during the reported year, a brief description of what factors may have influenced the results of those activities, and what actions faculty intend to take to improve student learning. These documents are discussed with the appropriate dean, department head, or program head in a face-to-face review.



Supporting Documentation:

1. Notification to the Commission on Colleges Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
2. Assessment Plans for all Master's Programs: Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies.
3. Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies Degree Plan.
4. Course Syllabi for Courses ARCHE 4203, ARCHE 4303,
5. Course Syllabi for ARCHE4403, and ARCHE 5203
6. Archaeological Field School: www.gezerproject.org

7. Meeting Notes and Student Spring Survey
8. Master of Arts in Archaeology and Biblical Studies Course Descriptions
9. Charles C. Tandy Museum
10. State of Israel-Tandy collection
11. ASOR Excavation Project Affiliation
12. IAA Excavation License
13. ASOR Institutional Consortium Affiliation