

# MARTIN UNIVERSITY

Graduate School

Of

Urban Ministry



*“Transforming the World...One Student At a Time”*

**2171 Avondale Place**

**Indianapolis, IN 46218**

**(317) 543-3137**

[www.martin.edu](http://www.martin.edu)

Revised Summer 2007

**Martin University Urban Ministry Division**  
**Master of Arts Program**

***“Empowering candidates for a lifetime of learning and serving”***

***I. Program Statement***

***Description:*** Martin University’s Urban Ministry Studies program is an advanced educational initiative for religious leaders and laypersons alike. Traditionally, the word *ministry* has been limited to activities of an ordained pastor or of a church. However the Urban Ministries Studies program defines ministry in a much broader context, by offering educational opportunities to all who seek to serve in any ministerial capacity. It includes any number of service oriented activities and professions which may be practiced from a spiritual perspective. This means that the Urban Ministry Studies program is open to all candidates, whether religious leaders or lay persons, who seek to serve others holistically--physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. The degree program does not lead to ordination in any denomination. The Urban Ministry Studies program introduces candidates to traditional and alternative models of ministry rooted in such disciplines as sociology, business, education, psychology, counseling, and the health professions. Though there is but one degree, there are two areas of concentration in which a candidate may pursue proficiency. In this way, the Urban Ministry Studies program prepares candidates to serve both the sacred and the secular communities simultaneously in a variety of ways. The program is designed to equip persons to have a real impact in the religious community and the world.

The Martin University Urban Ministry Studies (UMS) program endeavors to empower students to combat the idolatries of racism, ethnocentrism, classism, and genderisms that are ever present within our society. Those who traditionally have been marginalized by society become infused with academic perspectives through the curriculum of the UMS division.

***Purpose:*** The primary purpose of the Urban Ministry Studies program is to help candidates achieve their personal and/or professional goals within a ministry context.

For those who want to advance into professions and/or vocations whether of sacred or secular ministry, the Urban Ministry Studies program can provide the necessary information and skills. For those who want to do advanced academic work, the Urban Ministry Program can provide the necessary academic training. Whatever one’s goals, this Master of Arts program can help one better understand spirituality and its relationship to, and implications for, other facets of human life. Candidates are therefore encouraged in their studies to explore the many ways in which faith and the spirit of the servant can be embodied in the lives of people, churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and other institutions of

society. The Degree in Urban Ministry Studies can adequately prepare candidates to know their own tradition and participate in others as well.

## ***II. Program Description***

***Degree Program:*** The Urban Ministry Studies program comprises 48 graduate credit hours including 18 hours of Foundation Courses and 30 hours in one of the two required core areas.

***Foundation Courses:*** The program requires Foundation Courses (18 hours) that all candidates must take. Candidates must take at least one foundation course per semester. Each course is three credit hours.

- Research Foundation for Urban Ministry (3 hrs)
- Biblical foundations for Urban Ministry (3 hrs)
- Theological Foundations for Urban Ministry (3 hrs)
- Religions of the World (3 hrs)
- Systems Theory for Effective Ministry (3 hrs)
- Field Education in Homiletics I (3 hrs)

***Residency Requirements:*** Each candidate in the Urban Ministry Studies program must complete a residency requirement at Martin University of at least 24 hours.

***Andragogical Learning:*** Martin University has adopted an andragogical style of learning for its candidates. This means that candidates are individually responsible for what they learn. In keeping with this educational philosophy, the Urban Ministry Studies program requires that candidates do such things as: write individualized learning goals for each class, be responsible for independent learning, take the initiative for peer based learning outside of the classroom, and use instructors as mentors.

***Intensive Seminars/Symposium Studies:*** A critical component of the Martin University graduate school experience and the andragogical educational philosophy are intensive seminar/symposium studies. Such opportunities as independent study, guest lecturers, mentoring, colloquia events, intensive sessions, and symposium studies, open innovative avenues to candidates for the completion of selected core and elective requirements. Throughout the year intensive seminar studies are available in each major area of concentration.

## ***III. Admissions***

The Urban Ministry Studies program is committed to insuring that candidates have a meaningful, enriching and fulfilling degree experience. Individuals from a variety of academic backgrounds and

disciplines are accepted. However, the program requires that candidates must have a B.A. or a B. S. degree from an accredited program of study. The student must have a minimum overall GPA of a 3.0, and must maintain a minimum 3.0 in all course work. The following list details the specific admissions requirements for entry into the Urban Ministry Studies program:

- Applicants must first complete the general admissions process for entry into University.
- Applicants write an autobiographical essay demonstrating their present understanding of the events, persons, messages, and experiences that have been influential in their personal and spiritual development. These essays should be written with a particular focus on the formative experiences that have influenced their present academic/professional interest.
- Applicants write an outline detailing their anticipated learning goals and objectives and their professional aspirations and visions. This outline indicates the candidate's present career goals, explains current academic interest, and identifies the anticipated needs and interests.
- After the admissions application is completed, and basic University entrance requirements are met applicants are interviewed by the chair and other representatives from the department. Upon receipt of the aforementioned admissions materials, a representative from the Urban Ministry Studies program contacts the applicant to schedule the interview.
- If it is determined at a preliminary screening that the application is deficient in some significant way, a representative from the department will contact the potential applicant to give guidance, provide additional support or direction as needed.
- After completion of all application materials, candidates will be notified regarding their application status.

#### ***IV. Progressive Assessment***

To assure that candidates continue through the program in a timely and satisfactory fashion, their personal and professional development is assessed on an ongoing basis and discussed with the candidate at regular intervals. Candidates who fail to register for classes in two successive semesters must reapply for admission to the University before continuing with the UMS program. Additionally, in an effort to ensure a candidate's successful progression through the program, candidates must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA each semester. If a candidate's GPA falls below a 3.0 the candidate will be placed on academic alert, and every effort will be made by the department to identify and remedy any barriers that maybe impeding the candidate's success.

#### ***V. Graduation Requirements:***

***A. Thesis/Comprehensive Project.*** A candidate is to write either a thesis paper and/or complete a comprehensive integrative project at the conclusion of their degree programs. These papers should be academic papers that are scholarly and well researched. They should clearly be reflective of Masters level scholarship. An advisor selected by the department chair will

carefully supervise the paper/project. Due to the nature of this course, its in-depth reading, research, and writing required candidates will be awarded 3 semester hours of credit for successfully completing this assignment. A thesis/comprehensive project proposal must be submitted at least 2 semesters before graduation. The division chairperson must approve this proposal before candidates register for the course.

**B. GPA.** Candidates must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade average.

**C. Mentors.** Each candidate is assigned a mentor to assist and guide all academic matters. Candidates are advised to consult with their mentors at least once each semester and about any academic concerns. The mentor has the responsibility of monitoring the academic progress.

**D. Course Changes.** Mentors serve as advisors to candidates when they are choosing courses and developing degree plans. Any Drop/Adds or other academic changes are initiated through the mentor.

**E. Graduation requirements.** Candidates bear the sole responsibility for the completion of their degree plans, for seeking the mentor's advice, and for having their preliminary graduation requirements approved by the dean of the graduate school. This includes making sure prerequisites and other requirements are met.

**F. Progress.** The mentor retains the candidate's original degree plan, and the candidate keeps a copy. The mentor initiates graduation when a candidate has met all requirements. The mentor communicates with the program chair regarding the candidate's progress.

**Martin University  
Urban Ministry Studies Degree Plan**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **SS#** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Ph.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Ph.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Enrollment Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mentor** \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Cr. Hrs.</b>	<b>Grade</b>
<b>Required Foundation Courses – (18 hrs.)</b>			
UMS 510 Research Methods for Urban Ministry	_____	_____	_____
UMS 511 Biblical Foundations for Urban Ministry	_____	_____	_____
UMS 513 Theological Foundations of Urban Ministry	_____	_____	_____
UMS 521 Religions of the World	_____	_____	_____
UMS 522 Systems Theory for Effective Ministry	_____	_____	_____
UMS 573 Field Education in Homiletics I	_____	_____	_____
<b>Required Core Courses - (30 hrs.)</b>			
UMS 529 Pastoral Care Issues for Clergy & Lay Leaders	_____	_____	_____
UMS 530 Spiritual Foundations for Family Development	_____	_____	_____
UMS 537 Advanced Biblical Studies	_____	_____	_____
UMS 552 Philosophy of Religion	_____	_____	_____
UMS 572 Urban Exp. For Clergy & Lay Leaders	_____	_____	_____
UMS 574 Field Education in Homiletics II	_____	_____	_____
UMS 582 Religious Program Development	_____	_____	_____
UMS 583 Advanced Research and Proposal Writing	_____	_____	_____
UMS 596 Contemporary Theology	_____	_____	_____
UMS 700 Thesis	_____	_____	_____

**(Electives will be offered on certain occasions that can take the place of a particular required course.)**

## ***COURSE DESCRIPTIONS***

### ***Foundation Courses***

#### **UMS 510 Research Foundations for Urban Ministry**

An interdisciplinary seminar for all UMS candidates in which each candidate explores methods of research for social sciences appropriate for the major areas of study. Lays the foundation for a candidate's thesis and/or comprehensive projects. (3 cr)

#### **UMS 511 Biblical Foundations for Urban Ministry**

An interdisciplinary seminar for all UMS candidates in which each candidate explores the biblical roots of ministry. (3 cr)

#### **UMS 513 Theological Foundations for Urban Ministry**

An interdisciplinary seminar for all UMS candidates in which each candidate explores the theological foundations of ministry. (3 cr)

#### **UMS 521 Religions of the World**

Critically studies the role of religion within the world and surveys the major tenets and contributions of the world's 5 major religions that reflected in Western culture. (3 cr)

#### **UMS 522 Systems Theory for Effective Ministry**

Explores Systems Theory and its application to the faith based communities and other systems of service and healing. (3 cr)

#### **UMS 573 Field Education in Homiletics I**

Involves candidates in direct work with congregations and other institutions in the urban setting for the purpose of bridging the gap between theory and practice in preaching. (3 cr)

## **Core Courses**

### **UMS 529 Pastoral Care Issues for Clergy and Lay Leaders**

Explores the increasingly difficult and complex issues faced by Pastors and other leaders in the faith community. Presents the ethical, spiritual, and emotional issues involved especially in providing pastoral care. (3 cr).

### **UMS 530 Spiritual Foundation for Family Development**

Studies the role of family and faith in the process of individual growth and development across the lifespan. This course will explore learning a diverse area of developmental theories including learning theories, cross-cultural perspectives, and personality theories for individuals and families. The overall focus of the course will be to identify variables in the developmental cycle that promote family development and healing. (3 cr)

### **UMS 537 Advanced Introduction to Biblical Studies**

Surveys a wide variety of approaches to Biblical Studies, from pre-critical to historical critical and literary readings, with emphasis in various ethnic and ideological sensitivities. The focus of the seminar will be on academic approaches to the Bible from a wide variety of perspectives. (3 cr)

### **UMS 552 Philosophy of Religion**

Examines basic religious problems such as the nature of humans, the nature of God, and the nature of the world, giving attention to classical proofs for the existence of God, non-traditional views of God, and the question of theodicy. (3 cr)

### **UMS 572 Urban Experience for Clergy and Lay Leaders**

Critically examines methodologies and underlying approaches, and contributive experiences for leaders of the urban community; different topics are explored each semester. (3 cr)

### **UMS 574 Field Education in Homiletics II**

Involves candidates in a second semester with congregations and other institutions in the urban setting with an additional focus on academic and systemic verification of practice and theory in the study of homiletics

### **UMS 582 Religious Education Program Development**

Critically analyzes how to develop religious education programs, utilizing secular and sacred resources in contemporary society. (3 cr)

**UMS 583 Advanced Research and Proposal Writing**

Prepares candidate to develop the necessary research and writing skills for identifying resources and accessing them through grant proposals. (3 cr)

**UMS 596 Contemporary Theology**

Studies selected readings on the leading theologians, who have helped shaped contemporary theology. (Feminist, Liberation and other emerging theological thought). (3 cr)

**UMS 700 Thesis/Comprehensive Paper/Project**

Satisfies requirements for a comprehensive integrative project leading to graduation from the program. Candidate confers with a Thesis advisor to arrange for the topic and plan the process. (P/F = Pass/Fail: 3 cr)