



# Urban Ministry Studies Graduate Course Catalog

MARTIN UNIVERSITY  
2016-2018

**Martin University**  
**Urban Ministry Studies Graduate**  
**Program Handbook**

**2016 - 2018**

**2186 North Sherman Drive**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46218**

**Martin University**  
**Community Services Department Graduate Program in Urban Ministry Studies**  
**Master of Arts Degree**

**Program Rationale and Purpose**

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 the activities of an ordained pastor or of a church. However, the Urban Ministry Studies program defines ministry in a much broader context by offering educational opportunities to all who seek to serve and to be empowered for a lifetime of service and training. This means the Urban Ministry Studies program is open to all who want to serve others holistically—helping them to grow strong physically, emotionally, socially, intellectually, morally and spiritually.

While not leading to ordination in a particular faith tradition, as an accredited program, the Urban Ministry Studies program can strengthen a person's position for ordination. It introduces students to traditional and alternative models of ministry rooted in such disciplines as sociology, economics, education, and psychology as well as biblical studies, theology and Christian spirituality. The Urban Ministry Studies program carries with it the potential to prepare students to serve either in the sacred or the secular community.

Moreover, Martin University's Urban Ministry Studies program endeavors to empower all students as leaders to effectively combat the idolatries of racism, ethnocentrism, classism, and gender prejudices that are ever present within our society. The program seeks to empower those who traditionally have been marginalized by society and to enable them to become informed and educated. In a word, the program is designed to equip servant-leaders to transform their local communities and their world.

**Urban Ministry Studies Program Description**

**Degree Program:** The Urban Ministry Studies program comprises 48 graduate credit hours in the area of leadership for ministry. The program is designed to be started in the Fall semester. Students, however, are admitted prior to the beginning of any semester. General, on-going consultation between the student and their assigned mentor is expected throughout the graduate school experience.

**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 candidates do such things as: write individualized learning goals for each course, demonstrate responsibility for independent learning, take the initiative for peer based learning outside of the classroom, and use instructors as mentors.

## Admission to the Program

Individuals interested in pursuing graduate study in Urban Ministry at Martin University must have earned a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited program of study with a minimum GPA of 3.0. In certain circumstances, however, a lower GPA may be acceptable with provisional acceptance. The Urban Ministry Studies program is committed to insuring all candidates have a meaningful, enriching and fulfilling degree experience. Individuals from a variety of academic backgrounds and disciplines are accepted.

The following list details the specific admissions requirements for entry into the Urban Ministry Studies program:

1. Applicants must first complete the general admissions process for entry into University with the Office of Admissions. This includes completing the initial application form, paying an application fee, having all prior college transcripts forwarded to Martin University.
2. Applicants must arrange for three typed letters of recommendation to be sent independently to the school from individuals who know them well and can comment with clear and objective insight upon the applicant's ability to successfully complete graduate level work.
3. Applicants must type and submit a five-hundred (500) word essay that addresses
  - why they wish to pursue a graduate program in Urban Ministry at Martin University,
  - what experiences have influenced them most in their personal and spiritual development,
  - why those experiences have been influential
  - A clearly, enumerated list of the personal and professional goals.

When the applicant's packet of application materials is complete, the Office of Admissions will forward the completed packet to the Chairperson for the Department of Humanities and Professional Studies. The Department Chair will review the application and forward it to the Religious Studies Faculty Selection Committee for review. A decision will be made regarding acceptance into the Graduate Urban Ministry Program following this review process. Some applicants may be contacted for a formal interview with the Chair and/or members of the Selection Committee before a decision is made. Applicants will receive notification of their acceptance status soon after a decision is made. Applicants should expect to receive this notification within two weeks of the completion of their application packet.

A notification of **Full Acceptance** indicates the applicant has met all criteria to be admitted as a graduate student in the Urban Ministry Studies program. The new student will be assigned a graduate faculty mentor whose job will be to advise the student regarding degree planning and course selection. Once the student has met with his or her mentor, the student may enroll in graduate courses.

**Notification of Provisional Acceptance** indicates the applicant is deficient in some of the criteria required for full acceptance into the Urban Ministry Studies graduate program. In cases of provisional acceptance, the student may enroll in classes as a graduate student and expect conversion to full acceptance status only when the noted areas of deficiency are corrected. In such cases, students are allowed to take graduate level courses. However, the student's performance in these courses does not apply to requirements for the graduate degree unless until, the student achieves full-acceptance into the graduate program.

**Provisional acceptance must be changed to full acceptance within two (2) full-term semesters (i.e., Fall and Spring) of enrollment at Martin University or the student must start the application process again.**

Finally, notification of Non-Acceptance status indicates the selection committee members do not believe the applicant meets the criteria necessary to successfully complete the graduate program in Community Psychology.

University Urban Ministry Studies program in any semester and complete the basic forty-eight (48) hour program detailed below. More specifically, the Urban Ministry Studies program has outlined several learning outcomes students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of the program. These learning outcomes are as follows:

1. Students will demonstrate active growth in personal faith, maturity, integrity and public witness.
2. Students will demonstrate active growth as researchers, writers and as leaders in urban ministry.
3. Students will demonstrate increased knowledge of the Christian tradition and, indeed, other major religious traditions.
4. Students will demonstrate the capacity for critical and constructive reflection, especially biblical and theological reflection, regarding the challenge, content and process of urban ministry.
4. Students will demonstrate an increased knowledge and understanding of the context of urban ministry as well as the various disciplines that undergird it.
5. Students will demonstrate an increased knowledge and understanding of how to do ministry as well as how to train leaders in urban ministry.
6. Students will demonstrate increased knowledge of-and skill in-the design, implementation, and assessment of urban ministry as a Christian leader.

### **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. Additionally, in an effort to ensure a candidate's successful progression through the program, candidates must adhere to the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) listed on page 23 of the Course Catalog.

Every effort will be made by the department to identify and remedy any barriers that may impede the candidate's success.

## **Graduation Requirements**

**Thesis/Comprehensive Project:** In order to graduate, a candidate must successfully complete either a thesis or a comprehensive, integrative project at the conclusion of their degree program. In the case of the thesis, it shall be well researched, well written, scholarly, and it shall add to the body of knowledge in one's academic discipline or sub-discipline. In the case of the project, it too shall be well-researched, well-written, scholarly, and shall add to the body of knowledge in one's academic discipline or sub-discipline, and it shall function as a practical tool to address a specific problem related to one's own urban setting as well as a tool for the constructive transformation of that setting. Both documents shall reflect clearly graduate level scholarship.

An advisor selected by the department chair will carefully supervise the student's work. Due to the nature of this course, its in-depth reading, research, and writing requirements, candidates will be awarded three (3) semester hours of credit for its successful completion. A thesis or a comprehensive project proposal must be submitted and approved at least two (2) full semesters before graduation. The Chairperson must approve this proposal before candidates register for the course.

**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 academic progress.

**Course Changes:** Mentors serve as advisors to candidates when they are choosing courses and developing degree plans. Any Drop/Add or other academic changes are initiated through one's mentor.

**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 Chairperson of the graduate school. This includes making sure prerequisites and other requirements are met.

**Progress:** The mentor retains the candidate's original degree plan, and the candidate will keep 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.

**Incomplete Grading Policy:** A student is eligible for a grade of incomplete only when an emergency or other reason beyond his/her control prevents completion of a course near the end of an academic term. Students must meet the following conditions to be considered for an incomplete grade:

The student must request in advance a grade of incomplete from the instructor of the course and must make arrangements for completing the coursework with the instructor.

1. At the time of the incomplete request, the student must have completed at least sixty percent of the academic semester (10 weeks in a 16 week semester). Incompletes are not available for Intensive courses or summer semester. At the time of the incomplete request, the student must have a grade of "C" or better in the course (instructor must provide evidence of satisfactory work).
2. At the time of the incomplete request, the student must be in compliance with all course requirements as outlined in the course syllabus, including attendance requirements
3. The instructor of a course initiates an incomplete request. Instructors will complete the Academic Action Form and submit request and documentation to the Department Chair. The V.P. for Academic Affairs must make final approval.
4. Adjunct instructors may not give an incomplete but must refer the student to the department chair.
5. A student will be required to submit documentation of the reason(s) the student is not able to complete the coursework. The student and instructor must complete an "Agreement for Completion of Course" form outlining specific work required for course completion and expected date of completion. "Incompletes" must be completed within six weeks of the approval date. After six weeks, failure to meet this deadline will result in an automatic F for the course.

**Grade Change Policy:** Grade change issues are to be addressed according to the following protocol:

1. A student grievance regarding a grade must be made and signed by the student within 30 days of the issue of the grade. Grade change forms are available in the Office of Academic Affairs. A grievance made after 30 days will not be considered.
2. If the grievance is not resolved between the student and the faculty member, the student may appeal next to the chair of the department that offered the course. If the grievance is not resolved amongst the student, the faculty member and the Department Chair, the student may appeal to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services. The decision of the Vice President is final. No grade dispute may be appealed to the President of the University.
3. Grievances involving other student code of conduct issues, students, student organizations, events, facilities are to be referred to the Department of Student Services.
4. Students are not to contact the President's office regarding any grievance procedures. If a grievance is deemed serious enough to require the President's attention, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services will inform the President.

## Required Core Classes for MA in Urban Ministries Studies

The completion of the Core Courses results in 39 credit hours. The remaining (9) credit hours can be obtained by taking graduate level courses outside of the Urban Ministry program (e.g., Community Psychology).

The following Core Courses are required and must be passed with a grade of "B" or better.

UMS 505	Preparation for Ministry
UMS 515	Leadership Models for Urban Ministry
UMS 567	Church and Issues of Sexuality and Gender
UMS 570	Morality and Ethics
UMS 571	Developing Mission Driven Ministries
UMS 575	Multicultural Issues in Urban Ministry
UMS 577	Dynamics of Poverty Affecting Urban Ministry
UMS 580	Economics Factors Affecting Urban Ministry
UMS 583	Advanced Research and Proposal Writing
UMS 600	Urban Evangelism
UMS 625	Political Issues in Urban Ministry
UMS 637	Field Education
UMS 700	*Thesis

**\*Students must have completed 30 hours to begin work on the Thesis. Upon completion of the 30 hours the thesis can begin in any semester.**

Course Rotation by Semester  
MA in Urban Ministries Studies

Fall Semester 2016

UMS 505	Preparation for Ministry
UMS 515	Leadership Models for Urban Ministry
UMS 571	Developing Mission Driven Ministries
UMS 567	Church and Issues of Sexuality/Gender
UMS 700	Thesis

Spring Semester 2017

UMS 570	Morality and Ethics Ministry
UMS 577	Dynamics of Poverty Affecting Urban Ministry
UMS 580	Economics Factors Affecting Urban Ministry
UMS 637	Field Education (ARR)

Summer Semester 2017

UMS 575	Multicultural Issues in Urban Ministry
UMS 600	Urban Evangelism
UMS 625	Political Issues in Urban Ministry

UMS 700 Thesis

Fall Semester 2017

UMS 505 Preparation for Ministry  
UMS 515 Leadership Models for Urban Ministry  
UMS 571 Developing Mission Driven Ministries  
UMS 567 Church and Issues of Sexuality/Gender  
UMS 700 Thesis

Spring Semester 2018

UMS 570 Morality and Ethics Ministry  
UMS 577 Dynamics of Poverty Affecting Urban Ministry  
UMS 580 Economics Factors Affecting Urban Ministry  
UMS 637 Field Education (ARR)

Summer Semester 2018

UMS 575 Multicultural Issues in Urban Ministry  
UMS 600 Urban Evangelism  
UMS 625 Political Issues in Urban Ministry  
UMS 700 Thesis

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **UMS 505 Preparation for Urban Ministry (3 Crs)**

Students will begin to address questions related to Christian ministry in the urban setting, questions related to their character, self-understanding, faith and development, cultural preferences, leadership and spiritual transformation as well as the role of the faith community in identifying, clarifying and developing one's vocation.

### **UMS 510 Research Foundations for Urban Ministry (3 Crs)**

This course is an interdisciplinary seminar for all UMS candidates in which students will explore the research methods most appropriate for their major area of study. They will consider compiling a working bibliography, evaluating quantitative and qualitative sources, writing research notes, outlining, writing drafts, plagiarism, and so forth—all in preparation for their thesis and/or comprehensive project.

### **UMS 513 Biblical and Theological Foundations for Urban Ministry (3 Crs)**

This course is an interdisciplinary seminar for all UMS candidates in which, each student explores the city in a global context and through historical, biblical, and theological perspectives. The purpose of such an exploration is to better understand the city. Special attention will be given to the student's construction of a rationale for doing ministry as a leader and their use of social scientific disciplines to analyze their ministry setting and to create a plan of action for them to act as an agent of transformation in that setting.

**UMS 515 Leadership Models for Urban Ministry (3 Crs)**

The course identifies a variety of personalities who have taken on Ministry as a vocation and created/organized a work that serves as a model to be emulated for the benefit of people who are in need

**UMS 521 Religions of the World (3 Crs)**

This course is a critical examination of the worldviews of the five major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It also is a critical examination of six dimensions of all religions: the experiential, mythic, doctrinal, ethical, ritual, and social. In addition, students will use one of these six dimensions as a perspective to examine in greater depth a particular faith tradition of their own choosing, to write about that tradition in light of that particular dimension, and to submit their findings for professional, peer review.

**UMS 522 Systems Theory for Effective Ministry (3 Crs)**

This course will explore Systems Theory and its application to the faith based communities. It also will explore other systems that may assist leaders to effectively combat persistent problems in ministry or to help bring healing and wholeness to one's own life, ministry, and faith community.

**UMS 529 Pastoral Care Issues for Clergy and Lay Leaders (3 Crs)**

This course will explore the increasingly difficult and complex issues faced by pastors and other leaders in the faith community. It will address a variety of issues that arise when one attempts to provide pastoral and especially spiritual care for others.

**UMS 530 Spiritual Foundation for Family Development (3 Crs)**

This course will study the role of family and faith in the process of individual growth and development across the lifespan. It also will explore different developmental theories including learning theories, cross-cultural perspectives, human developmental theories, moral development theories, social developmental theories, 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, healing and wholeness.

**UMS 534 Multi-Cultural Issues in Urban Ministry (3 Crs)**

The course studies the social and cultural foundations of the way people act as individuals, in families and within the range of different groups. The intention of the study is to focus on how ministry can bring community out of stratification.

**UMS 535 Group Process for Pastoral Care and Counseling (3 Crs)**

This course is designed to expose the student to the processes involved with group therapy/process. The course examines theory, technical and ethical behavior. In addition to these, it examines the stages of group development, group dynamics, the role of the leader in a group, and recognition of the various types of group processes.

**UMS 552    Philosophy of Religion** (3 Crs)

This course will utilize original texts to examine basic religious problems like: the existence of God, the problem of evil, the attributes of God, miracles and revelation, death and immortality, faith and reason, religious pluralism, and religion and ethics. Moreover, the goal of this examination is not to understand these important issues solely within an abstract, theoretical framework but to connect them to the everyday narratives of our own lives as well as to the lives of those around us.

**UMS 567    Church & Issues of Sexuality & Gender** (3 Crs)

This course is a historical introduction into the major theological, sociological, and philosophical issues in the evolution of the role of sexuality in the thought and practice of the church. The course employs such perspectives to reflect on some of the major contemporary issues confronted by the church in the area of human sexuality.

**UMS 570    Morality and Ethics** (3 Crs)

This course will be a systematic examination of, and reflect upon, the moral life as it has been rooted traditionally in the Christian Scriptures. It also will examine contemporary issues like abortion, justice, euthanasia, war, capital punishment and other significant social and technological trends. Within this context, explicit attention will be given to the development of leadership character and what it means to live a virtuous life.

**UMS 571    Developing Mission Driven Ministries** (3 Crs)

The course clearly defines Ministry beyond the confines of a congregational initiative. The goal of the study is to emphasize that people who have passion and vision to serve can develop a Ministry outside of and separate from a congregation.

**UMS 572    Urban Experience for Clergy and Lay Leaders** (3 Crs)

This course will critically examine the methods, underlying approaches, and contributive experiences of both clergy and lay leaders as they lead their faith communities in the urban setting. Depending upon the academic specialty of the Instructor and the interests of the students, the content may vary from semester to semester.

**UMS 580    Economic Factors Affecting Urban Ministry** (3 Crs)

The course investigates how past and current economic factors influence the availability of revenues for providers of Urban Ministry to be effective in the delivery of services.

**UMS 582    Religious Education Program Development** (3 Crs)

This course will critically review ways to develop religious education programs by using both faith based and secular resources in our modern and post-modern society. Special attention will be given to the importance of the individual student's understanding, applying and adapting their own philosophy and theology of education, including their own understanding of human nature, the basic problem(s) of human nature, and the basic solution(s) to the basic problem(s) of human nature.



**MARTIN UNIVERSITY  
DEGREE PLAN FOR  
MASTERS OF ARTS IN URBAN MINISTRY**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SSN:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enrollment Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST YEAR**

**Fall Semester**

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>	<i>Grade</i>
UMS 505	Preparation for Ministry	3	_____
UMS 515	Leadership Models for Urban Ministry	3	_____
UMS 567	Church & Issues of Sexuality & Gender	3	_____
UMS 571	Developing Mission Driven Ministries	3	_____

**Spring Semester**

UMS 570	Morality & Ethics	3	_____
UMS 577	Dynamics of Poverty Affecting Urban Ministry	3	_____
UMS 580	Economic Factor Affecting Urban Ministry	3	_____
UMS 637	Field Education (ARR)	3	_____

**Summer Semester**

UMS 575	Multicultural Issues in Urban Ministry	3	_____
UMS 600	Urban Evangelism	3	_____

UMS 625 Political Issues in Urban Ministry 3

UMS 700 Thesis 3

**SECOND YEAR**

**Fall Semester**

UMS 700 Thesis 3

Elective 3

Elective 3

## **MARTIN UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL TEACHING UMS COURSES**

### **Larry W. Smith, D. Min.**

B.S. Psychology, University of Maryland

M.Div. Theology, Christian Theological Seminary

D.Min. Pastoral Care and Counseling, Christian Theological Seminary