Master of Arts in Christian Education
Master of Arts in Christian Education/Youth Ministry
Curriculum

VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Master of Arts in Christian Education  
Master of Arts in Christian Education/Youth Ministry  
Curriculum

Virginia Theological Seminary offers two programs of study leading to a degree of Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE) or Master of Arts in Christian Education/Youth Ministry (MACE/YM). These programs support the church’s ministry of Christian education by providing professional formation for lay people or clergy who work in parishes and schools.

The MACE programs are designed for professional Christian Educators and Youth Ministers who remain employed during the academic year while completing degree requirements. Both programs are offered during an intensive summer semester in June and July. During that semester, students can enroll in one to four courses, attending either one two-week session or two two-week sessions. Dormitories and food services are available during that time, along with access to the VTS computer lab, the Center for the Ministry of Teaching, and the Bishop Payne Library.

Both MACE programs require 54 credit hours. Of the 54 hours, 42 (14 courses) will be at VTS and 12 will be a combination of extension and elective coursework. Degree work can be completed in a minimum of three years or a maximum of seven years from the date of enrollment.

In the MACE program, students will complete a field education project (3 hours) and thesis (3 hours). Students are required to take at least 3 elective hours at another accredited seminary or other educational institution.
The MACE/YM program is offered in partnership with Kanuga Conferences in Henderson, North Carolina. Students in the YM concentration can take the remaining 12 credit hours as practicum work at Kanuga, or in combination with a supervised mission experience (4 hours) or thesis project (4 hours).

**Seminary Courses**

The on-campus coursework for both programs includes intense study in Old and New Testaments, Church History, Theology, Ethics, Liturgics, and Christian Education. Courses for students in MACE/YM program are specifically designed for youth ministry and working with adolescents. Courses are taught by Seminary faculty, Kanuga staff, and qualified adjunct instructors.

Students within commuting distance to the Seminary in either degree program may take courses part-time during the regular academic year or the January term in addition to those offered in the summer.

**Application Procedures**

Applicants for the MACE or MACE/YM programs must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and demonstrate the ability to do graduate level study by taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Those who currently hold a Master of Divinity or Master of Theological Studies degree from Virginia Seminary or another accredited seminary will complete 30 hours of Christian Education or Youth Ministry requirements.

The program is open to applicants from all denominations. The Locke E. Bowman Scholarship Fund supports students pursuing the MACE or MACE/YM degrees.
Requirements for the Master of Arts in Christian Education Degree

**Required Credit Hours: 54**
(Students may enter the program in any year.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1:</th>
<th>Year 2:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Church History 4 credits</td>
<td>Introduction to Old Testament 4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Development 3 credits</td>
<td>Theory/ History of Christian Ed 3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Christian Ethics 4 credits</td>
<td>Intro to Anglican Worship 4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Administration 1.5 credits</td>
<td>Youth Ministry 1.5 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Education 1.5 credits</td>
<td>Children’s Ministry 1.5 credits</td>
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**Year 3:**
- Introduction to New Testament 4 credits
- Human Growth and Development 3 credits
- Introduction to Theology 4 credits
- Group Process 3 credits

**Additional Courses:**
- Field Education Project 3 credits
- Thesis Project 3 credits

**Electives:** Students will take 6 hours of additional electives. They may choose Teaching in the Church (3 credits) or Readings in Christian Education (3 credits). They must take at least 3 credit hours at another accredited seminary or educational institution. Students may also take courses at VTS during the regular academic year or January term.
Requirements for the Master of Arts in Christian Education/Youth Ministry Degree

Required Credit Hours: 54
(Students may enter the program in any year.)

At Virginia Seminary

Year 1:
- Introduction to Church History 4 credits
- Adolescent Development and Spirituality 3 credits
- Introduction to Christian Ethics 4 credits
- Vision for Youth Ministry 3 credits

Year 2:
- Introduction to Old Testament 4 credits
- Christian Formation 3 credits
- Intro to Anglican Worship 4 credits
- Strategies for Youth Ministry 3 credits

Year 3:
- Introduction to New Testament 4 credits
- Group Process 3 credits
- Introduction to Theology 4 credits
- Building Skills for Ministry 3 credits

Practicum

At Kanuga (some of the possible experiences):
- Attend Adults Who Work With Youth Conference
- Attend Christian Formation Conference
- Staff of Outreach Camp
- Chaplain of Trailblazers Adventure

Other

Students may design the following in conjunction with Seminary faculty advisors:
- Supervised Mission Leadership Experience
- Thesis Project
Questions and Answers About MACE and MACE/YM

Q. How long will it take to earn a MACE or MACE/YM Degree?
A. Most graduates have spent 4 to 5 years working toward their degrees. A few students have completed their work in three years, while some have taken seven years (the maximum time allowed). The program is flexible to meet the needs of students who may have scheduling conflicts due to family and work commitments.

Q. How many courses do students have to take each summer?
A. If students are unable to attend either session of the summer semester, they can request inactive status without penalty. Those attending the summer term can register for as few as one course or as many as five courses, depending on what is being offered.

Q. How much time do students spend on summer coursework before and after the summer term?
A. Usually students receive reading lists for summer courses in mid-February. They can order books through the campus bookstore and receive the student discount. They are expected to complete all of the readings by the time they arrive on campus. Students are given a month to six weeks to complete papers and other assignments after the summer term is over.

Q. Do MACE and MACE/YM students have the same privileges as other students at the Seminary?
A. MACE and MACE/YM students have the same rights and responsibilities as other students as outlined in the VTS Student Handbook. During the summer term, they have full borrowing privileges at both the Center for the Ministry of Teaching and the Bishop Payne Library. Internet access is available at the computer lab, library, and in each dorm room. Seminary email addresses are given to each student, and technical support for using the Seminary computer system is available. MACE and MACE/YM students are issued picture identification cards and are included in the campus directory.
Q. How many summers do MACE/YM students go to Kanuga?
A. MACE/YM students will go to Kanuga Conferences in Henderson, North Carolina, for one to three summers in June before the summer term at VTS. Students will determine the way they complete these requirements with their faculty advisor. Previous experience and leadership in youth ministry will be considered.

Q. Are the MACE and MACE/YM programs accredited?
A. Both MACE programs are fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

Q. Is any scholarship aid available for students in the MACE or MACE/YM programs?
A. Students in both programs receive an initial grant from the Locke E. Bowman Scholarship Fund. Students who maintain a B average will continue to receive the scholarship. Many dioceses and parishes also may provide scholarship assistance for students.