

MRE	
Overall Learning Objectives	Degree-level Expectations
<p><b>Foundational objectives.</b> The first phase of the program introduces students to the foundational principles and methods of theological studies.</p> <p><b>Specialized and advanced objectives.</b> The Master of Religious Education program develops students' capacity for critical and constructive theological reflection regarding the content and processes of educational ministry; increases their understanding of the educational, social, and behavioral sciences that undergird educational practice, as well as the cultural contexts in which educational ministry occurs; assists their growth in personal and spiritual maturity; and builds their skills in teaching and in the design, administration, and assessment of educational programming.</p>	<p><u>1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge</u></p> <p><i>Breadth.</i> Students will develop a systematic and discriminating understanding of the Christian heritage, including its scriptures; history; theological themes, issues, and disputes; and cultural and multi-faith contexts. They will also develop a broad understanding of the history and philosophy of education, teaching and learning, administration, and the behavioral and social sciences.</p> <p><i>Depth.</i> Students will develop a focused understanding of the educational, social, and behavioral sciences that undergird educational practice, the cultural contexts in which educational ministry occurs, and the contents and processes of educational ministry.</p> <p><u>2. Research and Scholarship</u></p> <p>Students will be able to use library and information resources in order to identify authoritative primary sources and relevant secondary sources for the study of the Christian religious heritage and the practice of educational ministry. They will be able to apply techniques of enquiry, interpretation, analysis, and construction to these sources in order to test premises and perspectives and to acquire knowledge. They will be able to evaluate current research and interpretation in the study of Scripture, theology, and the history of Christianity, and compare it with established understandings. They will be able to report research systematically and intelligibly, and develop and support a sustained argument in written form.</p> <p><u>3. Level and Application of Knowledge</u></p> <p>In supervised experiences in educational ministry, students will apply classroom learning and skills in research, theological reflection, and communication. They will gain critical perspective on, and practical expertise in, the tasks of education. They will be able to identify an issue in educational ministry in a field or contextual setting, reflect on it critically, situate it theologically, historically, and culturally, and consider and compare alternative educational approaches to it.</p> <p><u>4. Professional Capacity/Autonomy</u></p> <p>Students will develop the intellectual, affective, and professional capacities required for educational ministry, and skills in teaching and in the design, administration, and assessment of educational programming. They will demonstrate moral integrity, sound social skills, personal responsibility and discipline, initiative, and academic integrity.</p> <p><u>5. Level of Communication Skills</u></p> <p>Students will function effectively and collegially in their school community both inside and outside the classroom. They will be able both to appreciate the differing views of others and to convey and support their own views clearly both verbally and in writing.</p> <p><u>6. Awareness and Limits of Knowledge</u></p> <p>Students will be able to make use of insights of the humanities, the social sciences, the arts, and the natural sciences in their study of the several disciplines included within theological education. They will recognize ways in which varied expressions of Christian belief and practice are shaped by cultural contexts and the experience of other faiths. They will recognize the uncertainties inherent in both faith-based and non-confessional academic interpretations of Scripture and Christian teaching.</p>