

TORONTO SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

M.A. HANDBOOK



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Updates will be posted on the TST website at www.tst.edu

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In 2014-15, the Toronto School of Theology underwent changes in the governance and administration of its graduate (advanced degree) programs. The policies and procedures described in this Handbook now fall under the jurisdiction of either the Graduate Studies Council (GSC) or the administrative structures of the Graduate Centre for Theological Studies (GCTS). The GSC and GCTS do not plan on further revisions to this Handbook. Students, faculty and staff should contact the GCTS Office (tstadv.degree@utoronto.ca or 416-978-4050) regarding the application and administration of Handbook policies and procedures within TST's new structures.

September 2015

TORONTO SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Program Handbook
Master of Arts in Theology (M.A.)

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Introduction

The Master of Arts in Theology (M.A. in Theology) program is designed to provide students with graduate-level competence in several areas of theological study and to offer opportunities for advanced work in areas of particular interest to the student. The M.A. in Theology is designed as a four-semester (two-year) program, consisting of twelve courses, language requirements and the completion of a master's thesis. Normally, candidates will take twelve courses in three semesters and complete a master's thesis in the final semester (the equivalent of four courses). The program may be completed on a full-time or part-time basis.

Each M.A. student works under the supervision of one of the four academic departments and within one of the four fields of study. The *Biblical Department* supervises programs in the field of biblical sources, with two areas of concentration: Old Testament and New Testament. The *Historical Department* supervises programs in the field of the history of Christianity. The *Pastoral Department* supervises programs in the field of pastoral praxis, with five areas of concentration: homiletics, pastoral theology, religious education, liturgy, and Christian spirituality. The *Theological Department* supervises programs in the field of theology, with three areas of concentration: systematic theology, philosophical theology / philosophy of religion, and Christian ethics. These fields of study are addressed in an ecumenical context and in relation to the wider world and to other religious faiths.

This handbook is the official statement of the academic policies and procedures for the M.A. program.

1 Advanced Degree administration

1.1 Advanced Degree Council (ADC)

Academic policies for the M.A. in Theology are established by the Advanced Degree Council (ADC) of the Toronto School of Theology (TST). Members of the ADC are appointed from the participating colleges, the departments, the University of Toronto and the Advanced Degree Students Association. ADC policies as they pertain to the M.A. program must be congruent with the accrediting standards of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS); and government statutes and regulations. Unlike some of the other AD programs, the M.A. is not granted jointly with the University of Toronto nor has it been presented for approval by the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies (OCGS). Nevertheless, ADC policies in general are congruent with the Memorandum of Agreement among the TST, the participating colleges and the University of Toronto and with the policies of OCGS. Academic policies are administered collaboratively by the Director of Advanced Degree Programs of the TST (GCTS Director), by the Director of Advanced Degree Studies in the student's college of registration (college AD Director), and by the academic department in which the student is registered. M.A. students are not considered students of the University of Toronto under the terms of the TST/UofT Memorandum of Agreement, and do not enjoy the same rights and privileges granted by the UofT to students in TST's conjoint programs.

1.2 The participating colleges

Every M.A. student must be accepted into one of the six participating theological institutions ("colleges"), and every applicant for admission must choose a college. The colleges are Emmanuel College (United Church of Canada), Knox College (Presbyterian Church in Canada), Regis College (Roman Catholic, Society of Jesus), the Faculty of Theology of the University of St.

Michael's College (Roman Catholic, Basilian Fathers), the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Trinity College (Anglican) and Wycliffe College (Anglican). The colleges do not establish independent program requirements for the M.A. They support their advanced degree communities in various ways and administer bursaries.

1.3 The departments

Every M.A. student must be accepted into one of the four TST departments, and every applicant for admission must choose a department. The four departments are the Biblical, the Historical, the Pastoral, and the Theological.

1.4 Policies and regulations

This handbook constitutes the authoritative statement of ADC policies and regulations. A decision to waive or relax an ADC regulation in an individual case may be made only by the ADC, and then only by exception for compelling reasons. This handbook also includes many policies and regulations of the departments. A decision to waive or relax a regulation which is identified as a departmental regulation may be made only by the department concerned. In accepting an offer of admission, the student becomes subject to all rules, regulations and policies contained in the Handbook and assumes the responsibility to become familiar with its contents.

1.4.1 Subsequent changes. During the course of a student's program it is to be expected that the ADC will make decisions about requirements, policies or procedures that will result in changes to this Handbook. With respect to program requirements, a student is normally governed by the requirements that were in place when he or she first registered in the program. Students cannot be bound by changes in program requirements, though they have the right to opt into any change if they wish. Most changes in policy and procedures, however, will be applicable to all students once they have been incorporated into the Handbook, especially those that involve TST structures (e.g., committees, thesis examination procedures) or that are mandated by the terms of our ATS accreditation (e.g., course or program evaluation). It is the student's responsibility to stay informed about changes to the Handbook and to seek advice when unsure as to which edition of the Handbook is applicable. If a student feels that he or she has been put at a disadvantage by changes in policy or procedure, he or she can petition the ADC to allow the original Handbook to be followed in this instance or to make other appropriate accommodations.

1.4.2 Requests, petitions and appeals. A "request" is an initiative taken by a student with the purpose of taking advantage of a provision allowed under the terms of the Handbook. A "petition" is an initiative whose purpose is to seek an exception to some Handbook regulation. An "appeal" is an initiative whose purpose is to seek a change to an academic decision which affects a student adversely and which he or she considers to be unjust or inappropriate.

1.5 Location

The GCTS Office of the TST is located at 47 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3. Phone: 416-978-4050; e-mail: tstadv.degree@utoronto.ca.

1.6 Conferral of degrees

The M.A. is conferred by the Senate of the University of St. Michael's College under the authority of statutes and regulations of the province of Ontario. It is not conferred conjointly with the University of Toronto.

2 Rationale of the M.A. program

2.1 Purpose of M.A. studies at TST

The M.A. program requires no previous theological studies and thus is similar in some respects to the basic degrees offered by individual TST colleges. But since it moves students quickly to the point where they are able to participate in advanced degree seminars, it is considered an advanced degree. Accordingly the M.A. provides excellent preparation for doctoral studies. The M.A. student works in a collegial and collaborative context, while also developing skills and resources for independent study. Students plan their program under the guidance of their faculty adviser (normally the AD Director of their college of registration), who will ensure that course selection reflects the ecumenical nature of TST.

2.2 Fields of study and areas of concentration

Four fields of study with corresponding areas of concentration are available for M.A. students in TST.

The following two areas of concentration are administered by the *Biblical Department* within the field of biblical sources.

2.2.1 Old Testament. This area includes the language, literature, hermeneutics, theology and historical context of the canonical Old Testament, as well as related and parallel literature in the ancient Near East, and the history of interpretation.

2.2.2 New Testament. This area includes the language, literature, hermeneutics, theology and historical context of the canonical New Testament, as well as related and parallel literature in the contemporary eastern Roman Empire, and the history of interpretation.

The following field of study is administered by the *Historical Department*.

2.2.3 History of Christianity. "History of Christianity" is understood in the broadest sense to include the variety of Christian traditions over the ages and throughout the world as expressed in Church, thought, and society. The department primarily accepts students who wish to prepare theses in some aspect of the following areas in the history of Christianity: Early; Western Medieval; Byzantine; 16th, 19th and 20th century European (including British); United States; Canadian.

The following five areas of concentration are administered by the *Pastoral Department* within the field of pastoral praxis.

2.2.4 Homiletics. Homiletics is concerned with the history, theory and practice of preaching in relation to hermeneutics, Biblical studies, theology, liturgy, rhetoric and the life of the church.

2.2.5 Religious education. Religious Education is concerned with the philosophy and theology of education, the history of religious education in the various traditions of the Church, and with practical and theological reflection on the various forms of developmental psychology and educational theory, as well as the influence of education in many dimensions of church life.

2.2.6 Pastoral theology. Pastoral Theology is concerned with the interpretive interplay between foundational theological issues and the practical contexts of the pastoral functions of the church. It is also concerned with psychological and sociological theory and the practice of pastoral care in relation to Christian theology.

2.2.7 Liturgy. Liturgy is concerned with the historical, biblical, theological and pastoral dimensions of worship in Christian tradition, including the study of textual sources, ritual and ceremonial practices, and liturgical art, architecture and music.

2.2.8 Spirituality. Christian Spirituality is concerned with the history and practice of the spiritual life, as well as with its theoretical and practical connections with other theological disciplines and with other areas of specialization such as psychology.

The following three areas of concentration are administered by the *Theological Department* within the field of theology

2.2.9 Systematic theology. The study of Christian beliefs, systems of doctrine, and teaching, and their relation to other areas of thought.

2.2.10 Philosophy of religion / philosophical theology. The central concern in this area is the interface between philosophy and theology. Attention is focused on those areas of theological reflection given to the relational placing of Christian theology rather than to its content. While not minimizing the task of theology in interpreting the uniquely revelational, kerygmatic content of the faith, the philosophical mode of theologizing seeks to develop a theological hermeneutic which takes account of the created order and the manifold phenomena of human consciousness in both secular and religious contexts.

2.2.11 Christian ethics. Christian ethics includes foundational, medical, sexual and social ethics. Christian ethics is closely related to and overlaps with Systematic Theology. In the unitary enterprise of “faith seeking understanding within the community of the Church and humankind,” the TST program in Christian ethics is focused on the appropriate engagement with the challenges to Christian faith in our day. At the same time, Christian ethicists do theology in dialogue with other disciplines in an interdisciplinary and practical manner.

The following area of specialization is administered by any one of the four departments, depending on the student’s particular area of interest.

2.3 Joint M.A./M.Div. program

Some member colleges of the Toronto School of Theology permit students to earn the M.A. and M.Div. degrees concurrently. Admissions procedures and program requirements for each degree must be met as stipulated in the TST’s Basic Degree Handbook and M.A. Handbook, though a specified number of courses can be used as credit towards both degrees (see 7.2.2; 7.4.1). The joint program requires a minimum of four full years of study.

2.4 Academic year

The program is structured chronologically according to the academic year. Each academic year begins immediately after Labour Day and is divided into three trimesters: fall (September to December), winter (January to April), and summer (April to August). Unless otherwise specified, the term “year” refers to any twelve month period beginning in September, January, or April, a period which includes three trimesters.

2.5 Specific learning outcomes

The Advanced Degree Council, working in conjunction with the departments, has developed a detailed statement of intended outcomes, which is intended to describe the knowledge, capabilities and personal attributes of a typical graduate. This statement of learning outcomes can be found in the Appendix.

3 Admission

3.1 Requirements for admission

Applicants for admission must meet the following minimum requirements.

3.1.1 Application for admission. The applicant must complete and submit an application for admission on the prescribed form, either in hard copy or electronically through the TST website (www.tst.edu).

3.1.2 Application fee. The applicant must submit an application fee in the amount prescribed by the GCTS Director.

3.1.3 Fluency in English. An applicant whose first language is other than English must provide evidence of ability to comprehend, speak and write English at the graduate level. One of the following will constitute *prima facie* evidence of such ability. (1) Evidence of an earned degree from a recognized post-secondary institution where the language of instruction and examination is English. (2) A satisfactory result on the Test of English as a Foreign Language. Applicants requesting the transmittal of results should use the TST institution code 0655 and the department code 99. On the paper-based TOEFL, the minimum satisfactory score is 600 with a 5.0 in the Test of Written English (TWE). On the computer-based TOEFL, the minimum satisfactory score is 250. On the internet-based TOEFL, the minimum satisfactory total score is 100, with at least 22 on the Writing section and 22 on the Speaking section. (3) A grade of B in the advanced (level 60) Academic Preparation course in the English Language Program of the School of Continuing Studies of the University of Toronto, or equivalent standing at a comparable institution.

Nevertheless, even where an applicant has met the above standards, the Admissions Committee of the ADC may require or consider additional evidence of fluency in English. Even after a student has been admitted to studies, the GCTS Director may require additional evaluation of the student's fluency in English and may prescribe a course of additional study in English as a foreign language. In this case, the student will withdraw without penalty from the courses in which he or she is registered. The GCTS Director is required to take action under this paragraph when requested by a student's doctoral supervisory committee or college AD Director, or by the professor of a course in which a student is enrolled.

3.1.4 Prerequisite education. The applicant must have a baccalaureate degree, normally in Arts, from a recognized college or university (or must provide evidence of having completed equivalent studies under a different educational system) with at least a high second-class standing (i.e., B+). **The Toronto School of Theology reserves the right to determine whether or not credentials of other degree-granting institutions meet the standards for its admissions programs.**

The applicant must arrange for copies of all official transcripts of post-secondary studies to be sent directly to the GCTS Office. Transcripts issued to the student or unofficial transcripts are not normally accepted. However, where a TST college has an original transcript on file for the applicant, the GCTS Office will accept a copy certified as true by the college registrar.

3.1.5 Additional departmental requirements.

3.1.5.1 History Department. An applicant proposing to specialize in the history of Christianity must show evidence from her or his previous degree programs of adequate preparation in historical studies. The department interprets historical study broadly to include

not only courses in history departments but also other courses using an historical approach, offered in other departments of the humanities and the social sciences. Applicants for the M.A. program should normally have taken at least ten semester courses in historical studies at a postsecondary level. An applicant who lacks sufficient course preparation may, in some cases, be admitted as a Special Student, Category 2, in order to take further courses preparatory to full admission. Such courses may be taken at the undergraduate or basic degree levels, and may not be used for credit towards the M.A.

3.1.6 Competence or proficiency in languages other than English.

3.1.6.1 Competence and proficiency defined. Competence in a language is the ability to read correctly theological texts of moderate difficulty in that language with the use of a dictionary. It is the level of skill normally acquired by the satisfactory completion of two semester courses in the language at university level. Proficiency is a level of skill normally acquired after four semester courses in the language at university level. To be credited with competence applicants need to have received a grade of at least B- (70%) (or equivalent in other grading schemes) in such courses, while Biblical Department applicants require a grade of at least B+ (77%) (or equivalent in other grading schemes) to be credited with competence or proficiency in biblical languages.

3.1.6.2 Language prerequisites (admissions). While there are in-program language requirements (see 5.1 below), there are no language prerequisites for the M.A. in Theology.

3.1.7 Letters of reference. The applicant must arrange for two letters of academic reference to be sent directly by the referee to the GCTS Office. Reference forms are not provided. Referees should comment candidly and specifically about the applicant's qualifications to pursue and complete graduate studies.

3.1.8 Statement of purpose. The applicant must submit a brief statement (between one hundred and five hundred words) outlining his or her academic interests and academic purposes.

3.1.9 Optional documentation. The applicant may submit scores from the Graduate Record Examinations.

3.2 Procedures

3.2.1 Administration. Applications for admission are administered by the GCTS Office. Decisions on applications are made by the Admissions Committee of the AD Council.

3.2.2 Departmental approval. Each application for admission is considered by the applicant's proposed department of study. The Admissions Committee can make an offer of admission only with the approval of the department concerned.

3.2.3 College approval. Each application is also considered by the applicant's proposed college of registration. Applicants are advised to contact the Director of AD Studies at their proposed college of registration, preferably prior to the application deadline, and to request information about the college's resources and requirements for AD studies, including financial aid. The Admissions Committee can make an offer of admission only where a participating college agrees to admit the applicant.

3.2.4 Deadlines. An application for September admission into the M.A. program, including all supporting documentation, must be received by December 16. Late applications received on or before March 31 will be considered if space permits.

3.2.5 Criteria for decisions on admission. After determining that the applicant meets the minimum requirements for admission to the M.A. program, the ADC Admissions Committee will consider the following additional criteria before making an offer of admission:

- The applicant's grades in all previous post-secondary education. Particular weight is accorded to the prerequisite degrees and recent programs of study.
- The applicant's academic background in the stated area of interest.
- The potential of the applicant for advanced study as attested in the letters of reference.
- The quality of the applicant's statement of academic purpose.
- The availability of qualified supervisors in the applicant's proposed area of research.
- Evidence that the applicant is likely to complete the program.

3.2.6 Financial assistance. Scholarships and other forms of financial assistance are administered by the participating colleges.

3.2.7 Offers of admission. When an application for admission is complete, it is brought to the next meeting of the Admissions Committee of the ADC. The Committee may decide (a) to approve the application and offer admission, (b) to offer admission in another program, department, or college, or as a special student, (c) to seek further information, or (d) to decline the application. The AD Director will write the applicant accordingly, with a copy to the college and department concerned. An offer of admission will indicate the languages (if any) in which the applicant is deemed to have demonstrated competence or proficiency, and the conditions (if any) which have been attached to the applicant's admission. If the applicant considers that he or she has competence in a language not noted in the letter of admission, he or she should advise the AD Director in the college of registration, so that the matter can be adjudicated.

3.2.8 Acceptance by the applicant. After receiving an offer of admission, the applicant must accept it by the date stipulated in the letter, which will be about five weeks following the date of the letter. If the applicant accepts the offer of admission, she or he may also be required by the college of registration to remit a non-refundable confirmation deposit. This deposit will be applied to the tuition fees charged for the student's first term of studies.

3.2.9 Deferral of matriculation. Applicants offered admission into the degree program may not defer matriculation (i.e. initial registration). Applicants desiring to pursue studies in a subsequent year must apply again for admission into the program.

3.2.10 Lapsed offers. Where an applicant fails to respond to an offer of admission by the date stipulated (3.2.8), or without notice fails to register at the time stated in the offer of admission, or, in the case of a deferral, fails to signify or reaffirm an intention to register (3.2.9), the offer of admission lapses. The applicant may by letter request a renewed offer of admission. The letter will be treated as a new application for admission. Documentation that is still current and on file does not need to be replaced or re-submitted.

3.3 Request for reconsideration

An applicant may request the reconsideration of a decision by the Admissions Committee of the ADC. Such a request must be made by the applicant in writing to the AD Director in a letter delivered or postmarked within thirty-five days (for overseas students, within forty-five days) of the postmarked date of the communication of the decision in question. The request must state in full the grounds for the request. The Admissions Committee will consider the request and make a

determination. Decisions made by the Admissions Committee concerning admission and related matters are not subject to appeal under the terms of section 11 of this Handbook.

3.4 Fulfilment of conditions

The applicant must provide evidence by the July 1st prior to September registration that any and all conditions attached to the offer of admission have been satisfied, or else must advise the GCTS Office on the steps being taken to fulfill the conditions. The most common such conditions are (1) completion of a degree in process with satisfactory academic standing, and (2) facility in the English language. Thus, where such conditions have been attached, the student must arrange for final transcripts of academic study, or English language examination results, as appropriate, to arrive in the GCTS Office by the July 1st deadline. Only after conditions have been met will the GCTS Office certify the student to the University of Toronto as eligible to register.

3.5. Transfer into the M.A. program from a Basic Degree program

Students in a Basic Degree Program at TST who wish to transfer to the M.A. Program should first consult with their college AD Director to determine that they meet the entrance requirements of the M.A. (see 3.1) As part of this consultation the college AD Director should consider whether the student's academic performance in the Basic Degree program is indicative of an ability to do Advanced Degree work. If the college AD Director supports the transfer, he or she should obtain support for the transfer from the student's desired department through the ADC departmental representative and then forward a letter to that effect along with certified copies of all post-secondary transcripts in the student's college file to the GCTS Director. The GCTS Director will forward the petition to the ADC for approval. On the recommendation of the school AD Director and the GCTS Director, a student may receive credit towards the M.A. for any of the five introductory courses (see below, 7.4.1) that have been successfully completed while registered in a Basic Degree Program.

3.6 Transfer into a Joint M.A./M.Div.

Students transferring into the joint M.A./M.Div. program should follow the procedures outlined in 3.5.

3.7 Limitation

In admitting a student to the M.A. program, the TST does not guarantee to maintain a place for the candidate in the program. A student who is not deemed qualified to continue in the program may be asked to withdraw.

4 Special Students

An applicant who has not been admitted as a regular student in the M.A. program may for good reason be admitted to take courses as a special non-degree student.

4.1 Categories of Special Students

4.1.1 Special Student Category 1 (SS1). Where an applicant for admission to the M.A. program is deemed to have minor deficiencies in educational preparation or requirements, the Admissions Committee of the ADC may admit the applicant on probation for one or two semesters under this category. If at the end of this time the student has satisfied the terms of the probation, the special status will be removed and she or he will be given regular student status. The courses which the student has completed and the semesters during which the student has taken full-time studies under category SS1 will count towards the fulfilment of

course and residence requirements for the M.A. degree. A student may not be registered as SS1 for more than one year.

4.1.2 Special Student Category 2 (SS2). Where an applicant for admission to the M.A. program is deemed to have potential for studies at the M.A. level but significant deficiencies in educational preparation or requirements, the Admissions Committee of the ADC may admit the applicant to take prescribed preparatory work. The courses which she or he completes under category SS2 are not credited towards the requirements for any degree, nor is the period of study credited towards the residence requirement for the M.A. program.

4.1.3 Special Student Category 3 (SS3). The GCTS Director may admit a student to full-time or part-time occasional studies to take courses for credit with the permission of the instructor. These courses will not, however, be counted towards the requirements for any advanced degree program in the TST. SS3 students are not permitted to take reading and research courses.

4.1.4 Special Student Category 4 (SS4). In exceptional and compelling circumstances, late applications to the M.A. program will be considered for special action. If, in the opinion of the GCTS Director, the AD director of the college for which application is made, and the representative of the department for which application is made, the applicant clearly meets the requirements for admission, the GCTS Director may admit him or her as an advanced degree student in category SS4. The student may take courses which will be credited to the M.A. program if and when he or she is admitted as a regular student. The application of the student must be considered by the Admissions Committee of the ADC at its next scheduled meeting.

4.2 Restrictions

4.2.1 Change of status. Any change of student status under 4.1 must be approved by the ADC upon recommendation of the school of registration.

4.2.2 Expiration of special student status. No student may be registered as an advanced degree special student for more than two semesters. Upon recommendation by the GCTS Director and approval of the ADC, students who have not satisfied the admission terms or conditions under 4.1 may have their registration in the program terminated.

5 Research language requirements

Competence in languages other than English supports students and graduates in their specialized research and assists them in taking their place in international theological conversation. (Competence and proficiency are defined in 3.1.6.1.)

5.1 Languages required

5.1.1 Basic language requirement. Every MA student must demonstrate competence in one language, in addition to English, selected from among ancient languages or modern languages necessary for their research. The student's college AD Director determines the required language. The language, and a brief statement of its relevance for the student's research, shall be recorded in a letter sent to the GCTS Director. The language then requires the final approval of the GCTS Director.

5.1.3 Additional language requirements in the Biblical Department. Before M.A. students begin Biblical Department electives, they should have competence in **both** biblical Hebrew and biblical Greek, and before they present a thesis proposal they should have demonstrated proficiency in the language of the Testament of major interest.

5.2 Acceptable evidence of skill

Skill in research languages may be demonstrated in the following ways.

5.2.1 Transcript evidence. A student who has completed recognized postsecondary courses in a language within four years prior to making application for admission to the M.A. program may by submission of transcript evidence be deemed by the Admissions Committee of the ADC to have demonstrated skill in that language.

5.2.2 Language examination. A student may demonstrate skill in a language by taking an examination in that language administered by the TST. Examinations usually take place in September and in April. Information on language examinations, including dates of invigilation and examples of previous examinations, is available from the GCTS Office. Arrangements for special examinations in a language other than Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German and French can be made with the GCTS Office.

5.2.3 Coursework. A student may demonstrate skill in a language by the satisfactory completion of a language course at the TST, the University of Toronto, or another recognized post-secondary institution. TST offers non-credit courses in theological German, French and Latin. Courses taken at such institutes as the Goethe Institute or Alliance française do not in themselves serve as fulfilling TST requirements, but students might choose to take such courses to prepare for a TST examination.

5.2.4 Other evidence. In the case of a modern language, the college AD Director may write a letter attesting to the student's native ability or fluency. The *Exemption from Language Requirements Form* is to be used.

5.2.5 Competency, proficiency and expertise. In order to demonstrate skill in a language students in the Biblical Department must achieve or surpass minimum grades in coursework or exams for biblical languages according to the following levels: Competence: B+ (77%); Proficiency: B+ (77%); and Expertise: A- (80%). For students in the Pastoral, Historical and Theological departments, and for the modern language requirement for students in the Biblical department, Competence is defined as achieving a minimum grade of: B- (70%). Competence normally requires transcript evidence, with the above minimum grades, of at least two semesters of university level courses, while Proficiency requires at least four semesters of university level courses. Expertise may only be demonstrated by departmental exam (See also Sec. 3.1.6).

6 Candidacy

6.1 Maintaining candidacy

After entering the M.A. program, the student becomes a degree candidate, and is expected either to maintain candidacy until all degree requirements are satisfied, or withdraw from the program.

6.1.1 Demonstrating continuing involvement in the program. The normal way to maintain candidacy is to demonstrate continuing involvement in the program, which the student can do by meeting at least the following minimum requirements. (1) The student must ensure that he or she has a current program registration in each trimester of study. For information on registration procedures, see the appropriate sections below (7.6, 7.7, 7.9.5, 8.2.1, 8.3.1). (2) The student must pay prescribed fees in a timely fashion. (3) The student must be in contact at least once a year with a professor who has a supervisory role over his or

her studies, such as a thesis supervisor. (4) The student must maintain a current and valid postal address, as well as a valid email address, and must ensure, by providing current information to their college Registrar, that TST has access to these addresses. Students are expected to monitor and retrieve their mail, including electronic messaging account[s], on a frequent and consistent basis. (See 6.1.4.)

6.1.2 Leave of absence. A student who will not be continuing his or her involvement in the program for a period of time may maintain candidacy by requesting and receiving a leave of absence. A student may apply for a leave of absence at any point in his or her program by completing the *Request for Leave of Absence Form*, obtaining the approval by signature of the AD Director in his or her college of registration, and submitting the form to the GCTS Office. The GCTS Director may then grant the leave of absence, and approval will not be unreasonably withheld. At the student's request, TST officials will treat as confidential the reason given by the student for seeking the leave of absence. Leaves are normally granted for a year beginning in September or January. A student who desires a leave of absence for more than one year must submit a new petition for the second year. A maximum of two years of leave of absence may be granted under this paragraph. Further leave can be granted only by the ADC for compelling compassionate reasons. Time taken out from the program under a leave of absence is not calculated towards the time limit for the completion of the program. A student on leave of absence does not register, does not pay fees, has no library privileges, and may make no demands upon faculty resources.

6.1.3 Lapsed candidacy. Where on September 30th a student has failed to meet the requirements for maintaining candidacy for the current academic year, the AD Director of the college of registration shall make a reasonable effort to contact the student in order to determine whether the student intends to maintain candidacy or to withdraw. Where no contact can be made or no satisfactory response answer is received, the student's candidacy lapses. The student is then withdrawn from the program. A student may later petition for re-admission to the program; each such petition will be considered on its own merits. In addition, candidacy lapses in the case of a student who has exceeded the maximum time limit for the completion of the degree, including extensions.

6.1.4 Email communication. Email to the account recorded on college registration systems (like ROSI) by the college Registrar, and/or the postal mail system, are the principal means of communication between the TST and the student. A student's failure to monitor his or her email account recorded on ROSI will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to receive official correspondence from the TST, its colleges, or its faculty members. An email message from TST, its colleges, or its faculty members providing information or requesting timely response will be considered as delivered on the day that it is sent to the student's email account of record. A student has the right to forward his or her electronic mail account to another electronic mail service provider address but remains responsible for ensuring that all TST electronic message communication sent to the account recorded on ROSI is received and read. The student is required to honour the principles of the University's expectations concerning use of information and communication technology as articulated in the guidelines on Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology (available on the web site of the Office of the Vice-President and Provost: <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca>, and follow the links).

6.2 Full-time/part-time status

An M.A. student may complete the degree program entirely on a part-time basis. However, under provincial government regulations, for purposes of funding, the student's college must declare to the government whether the student is studying on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis.

6.2.1 General rule. An M.A. student or a Special Student is considered full-time during the trimester if he or she is taking three courses for advanced degree credit.

6.2.2 Exceptions. An M.A. student or Special Student taking fewer than three courses may still be considered full-time if he or she is also completing language requirements, completing course requirements, or working on the thesis. In such cases, the criteria for full-time studies are as follows:

- a) The student is pursuing studies as a full-time occupation and identifies himself or herself as a full-time student.
- b) The student is designated by the college of registration as a full-time student and is reported as such to the GCTS Office.
- c) The student is geographically available and works on-campus regularly. If the student proposes to be off campus for a period of more than four weeks during the term, he or she must obtain the written permission of his or her supervisor, but must remain under supervision.
- d) The student is considered to be full-time by his or her supervisor.
- e) The student submits to the registrar of the college of registration a signed statement testifying that he or she is a full-time student. The statement will be worded in a manner similar to the following: "I regard myself as a full-time student. I regard my other time commitments as being compatible with the demands of full-time study." If the statement is submitted for the academic year, then the student is expected to remain a full-time student for the summer trimester.
- f) The student's program adviser sends an annual report to the GCTS Office on the progress of the student and must include in the report a statement that the student is judged to be engaged in full-time studies.

6.3 Study outside TST.

A student may petition to be permitted to fulfill certain program requirements by doing work at the advanced degree level outside the TST systems. The student must show that such external study will strongly support his or her educational objectives for the program, and that appropriate external courses are available. The student's faculty adviser and the student's department must both signify their support of the petition before it can be considered by the GCTS Director, who then has the authority to grant it. No more than half the courses counted towards the student's degree requirements may be external courses. The registrar of the student's college of registration will advise how the external courses will be reported in the student's academic record.

6.4 Time limits

6.4.1 General rule. The minimum term of study for an M.A. student is two years. The maximum term of study for an M.A. student is six years.

6.4.2 Program extension. A student requiring more than six years to complete the program must complete the *Request for Program Extension Form*, obtain the approval by

signature of the AD Director of the college of registration, and submit the form to the GCTS Office. Once the form is countersigned by the GCTS Director, the program extension is granted. A program extension is normally granted for one year beginning in September or January. A student who desires a program extension for more than one year must submit a new petition for the second year. A maximum program extension of two years may be granted under this paragraph. Further program extensions can be granted only by the ADC for compelling compassionate reasons.

6.5 Withdrawal

A student wishing to withdraw from the program must complete the *Withdrawal from Program Form* and submit it to the registrar of the college of registration, which will in turn notify the GCTS Office. A student who withdraws may petition for readmission at a later date; each such petition will be considered on its own merits.

7 Course requirements

7.1 Faculty adviser

The student's faculty adviser is normally the AD director of the student's college of registration. The faculty adviser assists the student in designing a course of studies, with attention to her or his educational objectives as well as to general and departmental program requirements. The adviser must authorize the student's course of studies. The adviser can recommend waivers or relaxations of regulations to the department (in the case of departmental regulations) or to the ADC (in the case of ADC regulations). When necessary or appropriate, the adviser may refer the student to another faculty member for advice or supervision.

7.2 Advanced standing, transfer of credit, advanced placement

7.2.1 Definitions. Advanced standing means that the student is exempted from taking one or more course units normally required in the program in consideration of the student's previous studies (including earned degrees). Transfer of credit means that the student receives one TST course credit for each equivalent course credit received at another recognized institution. Transfer credit cannot be given for courses which also have been used or will be used to meet the requirements of a degree which the student has earned or will earn elsewhere. Advanced placement means that the student is exempted from taking certain courses normally required in the program, but must take other courses to make up the total number of credits required in the program. Courses recognized under the provisions of advanced standing, transfer of credit or advanced placement normally must have been completed within five years of a student's registration in the program.

7.2.2 Award of advanced standing or transfer of credit. Students who already possess an M.Div. or an M.T.S. may receive advanced standing for any or all of the introductory 1000-level courses (see below, 7.4.1). Students without an M.Div. or M.T.S. may be awarded transfer credit for any or all of the introductory 1000-level courses. Courses taken outside TST need to be equivalent to the required TST course, providing a foundational survey of the subject area. Such awards may be made on admission by the ADC Admissions Committee. After the student's admission, the award is recommended by the college AD Director, using the *Request for Advanced Standing / Transfer Credit Form*, and approved by the GCTS Director. Doubtful cases are referred to the AD Council.

7.2.3 Advanced placement. Students who in their prerequisite degree have the equivalent of one or more of the required 1000-level courses may be permitted to substitute courses in the same area at the 2000- or 3000-level. To be considered an equivalent, a course should provide a foundational survey of the subject area. Advanced placement is normally decided by the faculty adviser, in consultation with instructors of the required courses in question.

7.3 Types of courses

7.3.1 Levels of courses. M.A. students take five courses at the 1000-level (basic degree courses) and the remainder at the advanced degree level. There are three types of advanced degree courses. (a) Courses numbered in the 5000s, usually called 5000-level courses, are regularly scheduled on the TST timetable and are intended exclusively for advanced degree students. Only in cases of exceptional ability and academic background in the area will a basic degree student be allowed to register for a 5000-level course, and then only with the written permission of the instructor, the student's Basic Degree Director and the TST Advanced Degree Director. If accepted into a 5000-level course basic degree students must complete the advanced level requirements of the course and will be graded on the same basis as advanced degree students in the class. In the Pastoral Department certain 5000-level courses may be expanded to three hours per week, with basic degree students included in the first two-hour session (in which they will register for a 3000-level credit). The purpose of this arrangement is to offer a laboratory setting for the discipline and for lessons in pastoral pedagogy. (b) 6000-level courses are regularly scheduled on the TST timetable, but may include, and usually will include, basic degree students who are fulfilling lesser requirements for a 3000-level credit. In exceptional cases a basic degree student may be allowed to register for a 6000-level course, with the written permission of the instructor and the student's Basic Degree Director. If accepted into a 6000-level course basic degree students must complete the advanced level requirements of the course and will be graded on the same basis as advanced degree students in the class. (c) 7000-level courses are reading and research courses at the advanced degree level. Such courses are not a standard part of the curriculum and professors are not required to supervise them; each 7000-level course must be individually reported to the department concerned and, in some departments, must also be individually approved. A 7000-level course requires work equivalent to that of a 5000-level or 6000-level course.

7.3.2 Course scheduling. Regularly scheduled (5000-level and 6000-level) courses meet for two hours a week during the trimester for a total of fourteen or fifteen weeks including reading week and examination week (except for the three-hour courses in the Pastoral Department described in the previous paragraph).

7.4 Required courses

7.4.1 General requirements. M.A. students are required to take a total of twelve courses, in the following categories:

a) One course at the 1000-level, providing a foundational introduction to the subject area, in each of the following areas:

History of Christianity (introductory courses at a 2000-level are also allowed [2010, 2210])

Theological foundations

Hebrew Scriptures / Old Testament

New Testament

Christian ethics

b) SMJ5500 Research Methods, offered by the faculty of the University of St. Michael's College

c) One course from offerings at the 5000 or 6000 level in any of the four departments of the Toronto School of Theology dealing with the intersection of Theology/Religion and any of the following: (1) World Religions (e.g. another religion, comparative religions, inter-religious dialogue, etc). (2) Humanities (e.g., art, literature, philosophy, political studies, etc.), (3) Social Sciences (e.g., anthropology, economics, psychology, sociology, etc.,) or (4) Physical Sciences (e.g., cosmology, ecology, health sciences, etc.).

d) Five elective courses in the area of specialization (biblical, historical, pastoral, theological). At least two of these courses must be at the 5000 level, the remainder at the 5000, 6000 or 7000 level (except for some biblical language courses for students in the Biblical Department; see 7.4.2.2). No more than two 7000 level courses may be taken for credit towards the M.A.

7.4.2 Departmental requirements concerning electives

7.4.2.1 Electives in the Theology Department: Students concentrating in theology are expected to take at least four of their elective courses in the department. Two of these courses must be at the 5000 level.

7.4.2.2 Electives in the Biblical Department: Students concentrating in the Biblical area must take four of their elective courses in the department. Two of these courses must be at the 5000 level. Up to two courses in Greek or Hebrew beyond the introductory level can serve as electives.

7.4.2.3 Electives in the Historical Department: Five courses are required from the Historical Department, one of which is TSH5001HF (Historiography). Other courses chosen will demonstrate (1) a balance among history of thought, institutions and relations outside Christianity, and (2) a variety of periods, traditions, and areas.

7.5 Language courses

Courses in Biblical languages may be taken for credit, but they do not count towards the total courses required for the degree (except for those specified in 7.4.2.2).

7.6 Course registration

7.6.1 General registration procedures. The student must register for courses online through the "Repository of Student Information" (ROSI) at the University of Toronto website. There are three periods for course registration in the academic year, one before each of the three trimesters. Dates vary from year to year; students may enquire from the GCTS Office or the registrar's office of the college of registration.

7.6.2 Limited enrolment courses. For any course with limited enrolment, students may register on the ROSI system. Registration for limited enrolment courses is on a first come, first served basis.

7.6.3 Courses requiring the instructor's permission. Where a course description indicates that the permission of the professor is required for registering in the course, the student cannot register for the course through ROSI, but must contact the instructor for permission and instructions on enrolment.

7.6.4 Reading and research courses. A student registering for a reading and research

(7000-level) course must fill out a reading course form in consultation with the instructor, obtain the proper signatures, and bring it to the registrar of the college of registration.

7.7 Audited courses

A full-time student may audit courses without additional charge. A student may audit a course by informal arrangement, in which case the only requirement is the permission of the instructor. Alternatively, a student may formally register as an auditor in the course, so that the audited course appears on her or his academic transcript. In this case the student must complete the *Registration for Audited Courses Form* and submit it to the registrar of his or her college of registration. The permission of the instructor is required before or at the beginning of the course. For an attestation that the student has participated in an audited course, the following conditions must be fulfilled: (a) The student is fully qualified to take the course and is present for and participates in the class according to the policy set by the instructor. (b) The student completes all readings and in-class assignments. (c) The student does not write a final examination or submit materials for evaluation that would be equivalent to a final examination.

An audited course may not later be converted to a credit course.

7.8 Grading scale

The grade scale is as follows:

A+ (90-100)	Exceptional
A (85-89)	Outstanding
A- (80-84)	Excellent
B+ (77-79)	Very Good
B (73-76)	Good
B- (70-72)	Acceptable
FZ (less than 70)	Failure (FZ)

As a rule, letter and number grades are assigned for all courses. In addition, the following non-grade course reports may be entered on ROSI by the college registrar subject to the policies in Sec. 7.9:

INC (Permanent Incomplete). This is assigned in special circumstances where course requirements have not been completed but a failing grade is inappropriate or unwarranted (e.g., medical reasons, extenuating circumstances, change in a student's situation). INC carries no credit for the course and is not considered for averaging purposes. This course report is subject to the conditions contained in Sec. 7.9.4.3.

SDF (Standing Deferred). This is assigned when a student has been granted an extension to complete the requirements for a course. SDF carries no credit for the course and is not considered for averaging purposes.

WDR (Withdrawn). This is assigned when a student has withdrawn from a course with no academic penalty, subject to the conditions in Sec. 7.9.4.3.

7.9 Course deadlines

Professors are responsible to ensure that clear deadlines are established for the completion of all course work, within the parameters outlined below. Students are responsible for submitting all work for each course by the established deadline or seeking an extension from the professor.

7.9.1 Prima facie deadline. The *prima facie* deadline for the completion of work in a course is the last day of the examination week for the trimester in which the course is taken.

7.9.2 Grade Submission. Coursework must be completed and grades submitted by the dates noted below. However, some colleges have established earlier deadlines (than those noted below) for the completion of coursework and the submission of grades. Instructors and students are bound to the earlier dates.

Jan. 12, 2016	Fall session (Y, H) courses
April 22, 2016*	Fall/Winter session (Y) and Winter session (Y, H) courses *For students receiving degrees at May convocation, grades must be submitted well in advance of this deadline.
July 15, 2016	May/June summer session courses
Sept. 5, 2016	July/August summer session courses and extended reading and research courses

Instructors may prescribe penalties for late completion of work and for failure to complete work, provided that these penalties are announced at the time the instructor makes available to the class the methods by which student performance shall be evaluated.

7.9.3 Coursework Extensions. Students are expected to meet the course deadlines of the instructor offering the course and are advised to plan their research projects accordingly. Students who find themselves unable to meet deadlines for completing coursework can, under certain conditions, receive extensions for completing the work after the dates set by the college in which the course is offered.

7.9.3.1 Petitions. The authority to grant an extension for the completion of work in a course beyond the original TST or college deadline (whichever is earlier) for that course rests with the student's college AD Director, not the instructor of the course. Nevertheless, the instructor's signature is required for course extension requests to be processed. Students will petition their college AD Director for extensions, using a standard form provided by TST at: www.tst.edu (under "Resources and Forms").

The deadline for requesting an initial extension is the college deadline for completion of coursework and grade submission for courses offered in the relevant session.

A student on extension who is unable to complete the required coursework in the extension period specified by the college AD Director may apply to their college AD Director for a continuation of the extension (subject to the time limits and deadlines for extensions, set out below); however, the student must make such a request before the expiry date of the extension period in place.

7.9.3.2 Grounds. Legitimate reasons for an extension can be academic in nature (e.g., unexpected problems of research in a course) or non-academic (e.g., illness). In order to ensure as much uniformity and fairness as possible in the granting of extensions (or continuations of extensions), the relevant college AD Director must be reasonably certain that:

1. the reasons for the delay are both serious and substantiated: the student must provide a statement detailing the reasons, together with a physician's letter in the case of illness;
2. the student would not be granted an unfair academic advantage over fellow students in the course;
3. the student would not be placing in jeopardy the normal and satisfactory completion of new coursework; and
4. the student does have a reasonable chance of completing outstanding requirements within the time to be allotted.

7.9.3.3 Time Limits. If a college AD Director grants a petition for an extension, she/he must specify an extension period, which is not to run beyond the TST deadline for completion of coursework and grade submission following the original college deadline for the course. Thus, the TST deadlines for course extensions are as follows:

April 22, 2016	Fall session (Y, H) courses
Sept. 5, 2016	Fall/Winter session (Y) and Winter session (Y, H) courses
Jan. 4, 2017	Summer session courses and extended courses

A college AD Director may grant a continuation of an extension that is already in place provided that it does not extend the total period of the extension beyond the foregoing deadlines.

Extensions beyond these deadlines will require the approval of both the college AD Director and the GCTS Director.

7.9.3.4 Course registration with one or more SDFs. If a student has been granted an extension beyond August 31, he or she may register for no more than three courses in the fall semester. If a second extension should be granted, a student may register in no more than two new courses for the fall semester. A student who registers at the beginning of the academic year for courses in the spring trimester will be required to drop courses which are excess according to this regulation, if SDFs have not been completed in the fall trimester. Compliance with this regulation does not necessarily affect the student's full-time status.

7.9.4 Failure to meet deadlines. If a student has not submitted any outstanding coursework by an established deadline (either the course deadline or other approved extension deadlines), the professor's submitted grade shall be the actual grade earned in the course, calculated with zero assigned to any coursework that is still incomplete. The use of non-grade course reports, such as WDR or INC, and amendments to submitted grades in such cases, must be approved by the GCTS Director.

7.9.5 Registration procedures for extended completion of coursework. A student who has taken all courses required for his or her program but has not yet completed all coursework or language requirements is not permitted to proceed to the thesis stage. Such a student, during the time she or he is continuing work on the requirements of the course stage,

will be registered at the beginning of each academic session with the course placeholder code TSZ7777YY "Research". The student cannot enter this placeholder code directly in the ROSI registration system; registration must be done by the registrar of his or her college of registration.

7.9.6 Deadlines for courses taken outside the TST. A student taking a course offered by an entity outside the TST is bound to the policies of that institution.

7.9.7 Grade average.

All courses must be completed with a grade of at least B- (70%) to be credited to the required courses of an M.A. program. Further, the student must obtain an overall average of at least B+ (77%) on all courses required in the M.A. program, with no grade below B- (70%) in any course, in order to proceed to the thesis stage. If a student receives a failing grade (FZ or less than 70%) in any course, the student's college and department will review the student's performance in the program and make recommendations to the ADC. The recommendation will normally be that the student's candidacy be terminated. If there are extenuating circumstances or other legitimate considerations, however, the college or department may recommend that the student be allowed to continue under certain specified conditions. (The conditions should include an indication of whether and how the failing grade will factor into the decision to allow the student to proceed to the thesis stage of the program.) The ADC will make a final determination about the student's status in the program. If the student is allowed to continue, he or she must repeat the relevant course or replace it with another course, and obtain a satisfactory grade. The failing grade will continue to appear on the student's record.

8 The Thesis

Following the satisfactory completion of required coursework and language study, M.A. students research and write a thesis. Students are advised to meet with the AD Director at their college of registration to ensure that they have completed all requirements and to consult about the thesis stage of the program.

8.1 The thesis director and the thesis examination committee

Thesis Director. The initial association of the student and the prospective thesis director is a process of mutual selection, though the initiative usually lies with the student to seek out a faculty member willing to serve in this capacity. The thesis director must be a professor with advanced degree status. **Thesis Examination Committee.** The thesis examination committee is composed of the thesis director, and two other readers with advanced degree status. This committee is recommended by the department and appointed by the ADC.

8.2 The thesis proposal

The student prepares a thesis proposal in consultation with the thesis director.

8.2.1 Registration. Students can submit a proposal for approval in the semester in which they complete their coursework and other requirements for the degree. Students whose other degree requirements have been completed but whose thesis topic has not yet been approved register for TSZ8888YY (Thesis Proposal).

8.2.2 Refinement of a thesis topic.

8.2.2.1 Criteria for an acceptable thesis topic. An acceptable thesis topic will meet the following criteria. (a) The topic relates to an area recognized by the department. (b) There is a sufficient body of material concerning the topic to warrant a thesis. (c) The

disciplinary method to be employed is appropriate and comes within the scope of the department. (d) If the topic relates to a living author or recent event or issue, the topic is recognized as significant and secondary literature exists in regard to it. (e) The topic is sufficiently focused and manageable to allow the student to develop a thesis statement which can be persuasively argued on the basis of primary evidence within the scope of between 12,500 and 30,000 words. (f) The student has sufficient skills in the requisite languages and auxiliary disciplines.

8.2.2.2 Research involving human subjects. Research involving human subjects is subject to the standards and policies established by the Office of Research Ethics at the University of Toronto. All such research requires approval from either the TST or the University's Research Ethics Board.

8.2.3 Form and contents of the thesis proposal.

8.2.3.1 Constituent parts. The thesis proposal must contain the following elements.

8.2.3.1.1 Title page. This includes the thesis title, the student's name, the name of the thesis director, the student's program, the student's department, the student's college of registration, and the date of submission.

8.2.3.1.2 Introduction. The most important part of the Introduction is the thesis statement, setting out in the briefest possible form the exact proposition or hypothesis which the thesis will demonstrate. The Introduction also provides the context necessary to show why the thesis statement is important. To this end it identifies the research question and describes its broader setting in academic research. It gives attention to previous enquiry and available secondary literature (the *status quaestionis*). The Introduction should also include a description of the project as a whole.

8.2.3.1.3 Methodology. This section describes the relevant primary literature and the methods to be used for interpreting it. It gives a rationale for the method and indicates how it will be used to generate dependable conclusions and verify the thesis statement.

8.2.3.1.4 Procedure. This section describes how the exposition will be developed, including how it will be organized by chapters or areas, with a brief topical description of what is to be covered in each chapter or area. The interrelation of these chapters or areas ought to be described briefly as well.

8.2.3.1.5 Implications. Depending upon the student's department, the theological, biblical, historical or pastoral implications of the study must be clearly and concisely set forth in the proposal.

8.2.3.1.6 Bibliography. A working bibliography must be presented. It should be appropriately categorized; in all cases the primary and secondary literature should be distinguished, and other divisions may be appropriate as well.

8.2.4 Length. The thesis proposal should be no more than 4000 words in length, not including bibliography.

8.2.5 Evaluation. Once the thesis proposal is completed to the satisfaction of the thesis director, the thesis director will forward the proposal to the other members of the thesis examination committee. The other readers will report their findings to the thesis director as soon as possible. In the Biblical Department, once the proposal has been approved by the thesis committee, it is sent to all members in Old Testament, if the thesis is in Old Testament, and to

all members in New Testament, if the thesis is in the New Testament, and considered at the next meeting of the department. If revisions are advised by the readers (or the department, in the case of students in the Biblical Department), the student must submit a revised version of that proposal on the same subject area within three months from the date that the original proposal was declined. Failure of the revised proposal to meet the approval of the committee (or department) will result in the student's withdrawal from the program. The director will report the acceptance or non-acceptance of the thesis proposal, using the *Thesis Proposal Approval Form*, to the TST GCTS Office, the department, and the student's school of registration, and will forward a copy of the final version of the thesis proposal to the TST GCTS Office. The thesis director is responsible for informing the student of the decision on the proposal within the week following the meeting in which it was considered.

8.3 Thesis writing and examination

8.3.1 Registration. A student beginning work on a thesis completes the *Course Enrolment Form and Worksheet* in the Registrar's office of his or her college of registration during the registration period of the first trimester following the approval of the thesis proposal.

8.3.2 Form.

8.3.2.1 Conformity with proposal. The structure of the thesis should accord as closely as possible with that contained in the thesis proposal.

8.3.2.2 Length. The text of the thesis, excluding bibliography and appendices, shall be at least 12,500 and no more than 30,000 words (not including the bibliography). Should a thesis exceed 30,000 words, no professor is under obligation to read or examine it, nor is the TST obliged to find a professor who is willing to do so.

8.3.2.2 Style. The thesis must conform to the AD style regulation (see section 9), and spelling must be consistent with a recognized Canadian standard.

8.3.2.3 Title page. The title page of the thesis shall include the following elements: (a) the title and subtitle (on the upper third of the page); (b) specification of the degree program, according to the sample form following, as appropriate; (c) the student's full legal name as on ROSI (no nicknames, diminutives, or aliases); (d) the year of submission (at the bottom of the page); (e) notice of copyright.

8.3.2.3.1 Sample form of degree specification for an M.A. thesis. A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of ... College and the ... Department of the Toronto School of Theology. In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Theology awarded by the University of St. Michael's College.

8.3.2.4 Abstract. The thesis must include a brief abstract of the thesis on the page following the title page.

8.3.2.5 Table of contents. The thesis must include a table of contents on the page following the abstract.

8.3.2.6 Bibliography. The thesis must include a bibliography at the end. The bibliography must distinguish primary from secondary sources in separate categories. It may include sub-categories as appropriate.

8.3.3 Technical requirements. Theses/dissertations submitted for evaluation, and eventual T-Space submission, shall adhere to the formatting requirements of the TST "Thesis

Template,” found at: <http://www.tst.edu/academic/thesis-submission-convocation-information>.

8.3.4 Approval of the thesis director. When the thesis director is satisfied that the thesis is ready for examination, he or she sends a letter to the GCTS Office certifying that this is the case. Before submitting the thesis, the student should be assured that the thesis director is satisfied that it is ready to go forward. Nevertheless, if the director is not so satisfied, the student may, after advising the director of his or her intention to do so, seek the permission of the GCTS Director to send the thesis to examination without the approval of the director.

8.3.5 Submission of copies. After the thesis is approved by the thesis director, the student submits to the TST GCTS Office three unbound, double-sided copies of the manuscript, individually contained in letter-size expandable and re-sealable envelopes. The expandable envelopes should be of a high enough quality for the thesis to be shipped to the examiners and for the examiner to carry it around for at least two months. The envelope should have a flap. The GCTS Office will distribute the copies of the thesis to the readers. Only the TST GCTS Office has the authority to distribute copies of theses to readers; evaluations of theses otherwise distributed will not be recorded.

8.3.6 Deadline. While theses may be submitted at any time, for those wanting to graduate at the convocation in November the deadline for submission is June 1. Even if the student meets the deadline, no guarantee can be given that unforeseen circumstances will not prevent the student from graduating at the next convocation. If possible, therefore, the student should submit the thesis well in advance of the deadline.

8.3.7 Examination. The completed thesis is examined by the thesis examination committee (see. Sec. 8.1). The examiners shall report within one month of their receiving the thesis. Each examiner will submit a written report and, on a separate page, a number and letter grade for the thesis to the GCTS Director, who will average the grades reported and assign that grade to the thesis. In order for the thesis to merit a pass, the three assigned grades each need to be at least B- (70%) and the average of the three grades needs to be at least B (73%). The examiner should also provide a list of any minor corrections (e.g., typographical errors, stylistic changes) that should be made before a student submits the bound copies. If an examiner feels that there are revisions that need to be made before a grade can be assigned, he or she should provide the GCTS Office with a written description. If there are problems with the reports (e.g., a disparity in the assigned grades), the GCTS Director may call the examiners together for consultation. The consultation may include the student if the GCTS Director feels that this is appropriate. The examiners may pass the thesis, fail it, or ask that it be revised as a result of the consultation. If revisions are to be made before a grade can be assigned, the student should submit a written indication of the changes that have been made (normally a general description plus a list of pages, though a highlighted version might also be acceptable).

8.3.8 Emendations. After the examination of the thesis, the student must prepare a final version of the thesis with the typographical corrections directed by the examiners of the thesis.

8.3.9 Clearance for graduation.

8.3.9.1 Application to graduate. Students must apply to the college which will grant the degree to graduate at the convocation ceremony immediately following their

eligibility to graduate. Candidates for graduation must then follow the regulations in effect at that college regarding convocation. A student is eligible to graduate when he or she has met (a) all program requirements for the degree, and (b) any additional graduation requirements imposed or enforced by his or her college of registration or the college granting the degree.

8.3.9.2 Deposit of copies of the thesis. When the student has made such revisions as have been required by the thesis examination committee, he or she must upload the final digital version of the thesis onto T-Space, the University of Toronto's on-line digital repository, and submit a Library of Canada Archives Theses Non-Exclusive License Form in hard-copy to the TST GCTS Office. Such uploads must be done well in advance of a college's date of convocation. TST colleges will not confer the degree until the TST GCTS Office has confirmed that the digital thesis has been successfully uploaded onto T-Space. Some colleges encourage the submission of a hardbound copy prior to graduation (Students should consult with their college registrar). Instructions and deadlines about digital thesis submissions and T-Space are available through the TST GCTS Office (see <http://www.tst.edu/academic/thesis-submission-convocation-information>).

8.3.9.3 Conditions on graduation. Some TST Colleges will not confer the degree before appropriately bound copies of theses in sufficient number have been deposited.

8.3.9.4 Student Indebtedness. A college may suspend a student's eligibility to graduate, and may withhold a student's diploma and academic transcripts, where the student has outstanding tuition fees, unpaid library fines, or other indebtedness to the college, another TST college, or the University of Toronto.

9 Papers and theses

9.1 Paper and printing

Essays for courses and seminars and thesis proposals must be printed from a word-processing file or typewritten in double-spaced format on good quality white paper. Theses are to be printed from a word-processing file in double spaced format on good quality white paper with a laser or laser-quality printer.

9.2 Style regulation

Essays, thesis proposals, and theses are to be prepared according to the rules of style in the latest edition of Kate L. Turabian et al., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations* (7th ed.; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). This may be supplemented by *The Canadian Style: Guide to Writing and Editing* (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2008). Chapter 14 of the latter work, "Elimination of Stereotyping in Written Communication," is a helpful guide to the avoidance of stereotyping on sexual, racial or ethnic grounds and to the "fair and representative depiction of people with disabilities." Students should follow the Thesis template provided on the TST website prior to T-Space submission:

<http://www.tst.edu/academic/thesis-submission-convocation-information>. See also the guidelines for unbiased language on the University website (go to <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice> and follow the links). TST supports the policy of inclusive language and urges the use of inclusive language in all academic assignments.

9.3 Proofreading

The student is responsible for accuracy in typography, spelling, punctuation, word divisions, and grammar, and for proper style. An instructor may deduct marks from an essay for defects in

any of these respects. An examiner of a thesis may require that the thesis be returned to the student for revisions of defects in any of these respects, resulting in the postponement of the examination of the thesis. Thesis proposals and theses must be entirely free of error in all of these respects.

10 Tuition fees and other charges

A schedule of fees is published annually by the Committee of Representing Members of TST (CORM), which comprises the heads of the TST theological colleges.

11 Academic appeals

11.1 General considerations

11.1.1 Right of appeal to TST. An MA student of a member college of the TST may appeal a grade or an academic decision which affects him or her adversely and which he or she considers to be unjust or inappropriate. Appeals may be made concerning grades for courses or papers, decisions of a supervisor, results of language examinations, evaluation of theses; decisions about a student's continuation in a program, or any other decision involving academic requirements and regulations as they pertain to a student. An appeal may also be made by a person not currently registered who was registered at the time the adverse grade was submitted or the adverse decision was taken, unless the student has since graduated from the degree program.

11.1.1.1 Exceptions. Decisions made by the Admissions Committee concerning admission and related matters are not subject to appeal.

11.1.2 Standard. The standard of review is reasonableness.

11.1.3 Guiding Principles. The implementation of all appeals shall be informed by the principles identified in the policy document of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto entitled "Guidelines for academic appeals within divisions," which is available from the website of Governing Council. These principles may be summarized as (a) diversity, equity, and accommodation; (b) consistency; (c) flexibility; (d) transparency and timeliness; (e) fairness and confidentiality; (f) the goal of academic excellence. Deadlines defined in this section may be adjusted to accommodate the particular circumstances of the appeal and to avoid inappropriate prejudice to the student, the college or colleges involved, and the TST. The student may raise matters of concern at any time during the process of appeal without fear of disadvantage.

11.1.3.1 Timely resolution. All parties involved in an appeal have the right to expect timely progress of an appeal through its several stages and a timely resolution. Accordingly, students, faculty members, administrative bodies and any others involved in an appeal have a responsibility to be aware of the pertinent timelines and to respond appropriately. Where warranted by particular circumstances, however, the TST Registrar has the authority to waive or extend deadlines. The TST Registrar may consult with the TST Director.

11.1.3.2 Confidentiality. Students are assured that throughout the process they can raise matters of proper concern to them without fear of disadvantage and in the knowledge that privacy and confidentiality will be appropriately respected. Documentation and other evidence related to the appeal are confidential, meaning that only those persons have access who require it for the performance of their duties in respect of the appeal.

11.2 Channels of Recourse

11.2.1 Steps

Dispute Concerning	Step 1: Informal Resolution	Step 2: Initial Appeal	Step 3: TST Appeal	Step 4: St. Michael's Appeal
Grades	Instructor of course	Department	Academic Appeals Committee of ADC	St. Michael's
Supervisor	Supervisor	Department	Academic Appeals Committee of ADC	St. Michael's
Thesis Examination	Not applicable	Not applicable	Academic Appeals Committee of ADC	St. Michael's
TST language exams	Instructor of course	GCTS Director	Academic Appeals Committee of ADC	St. Michael's – PhD and MA
Biblical Department Examinations	Instructor	Department	Academic Appeals Committee of ADC	St. Michael's
Termination of Candidacy	Not applicable	Not applicable	Academic Appeals Committee of ADC	St. Michael's
Other	GCTS Director	Department, if appropriate	Academic Appeals Committee of ADC	St. Michael's

11.2.2 Informal and Formal resolution. Every attempt should be made to resolve the matter informally (Step 1 in the table above). Students are encouraged to meet with an appropriate adviser (GCTS Director, College AD Director, faculty supervisor, dean of students, etc.) in order to acquire information and to receive advice about the process. If that attempt is unsuccessful, then the matter may proceed to a formal appeal at Step 2.

11.2.3 Disputed grade. A student who questions a grade received in a course, on a TST language examination or on a Biblical department language examination must first address himself or herself to the instructor or examiner submitting the grade in question. If the student is not satisfied with the explanation given or the steps taken to remedy the situation, he or she can appeal the matter further—in the case of TST language examinations, to the GCTS Director;

in other cases, to the department concerned, addressing the appeal to the department Chair. If the disputed grade is based on written work, the department (or, in the case of TST language exams, the GCTS Director) will appoint a second examiner to provide an opinion. If the disputed grade is not based on written work, the department will normally appoint a committee of two to investigate and report to the department. If the student is not satisfied with action taken at the level of the department, he or she has the right to appeal the matter to the ADC (following the procedure outlined in 11.4).

11.2.4 Disputed decision of the supervisor and dispute regarding language regulations except for decisions made by the ADC Admissions Committee. In respect of the matters named, the student has recourse first to the department of registration, and initiates the appeal by letter to the chair of the department at Step 2. If the student is not satisfied with the explanation given or the steps taken to remedy the situation, he or she has the right to appeal the matter to the ADC (following the procedure outlined in 1.4).

11.2.5 Disputed evaluation of the thesis. The student may appeal the evaluation of a thesis to the ADC at Step 3 (following the procedure outlined in 1.4).

11.2.6 Timelines. The student must begin the process of appeal within three months of receiving the ruling, evaluation, or grade in question. If the appeal is to an individual (professor, GCTS Director), a written response should be provided within thirty calendar days. If the appeal is to an academic body (department, ADC Academic Appeals Committee), the appeal should first be considered at its next regular meeting following seven calendar days following the receipt of the appeal, and a written response should be provided within sixty calendar days.

11.2.7 Right of appeal to the Advanced Degree Appeals Committee at the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College. All M.A. students have the right to appeal the final result of a TST appeals process (Step 3) to the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, who will convene the Advanced Degree Appeals Committee at the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College to hear the matter. Further information is available from the Dean of the Faculty of Theology.

11.3 TST Advanced Degree Academic Appeals Committee

11.3.1 Jurisdiction. The TST Advanced Degree Academic Appeals Committee hears academic appeals from TST MA students. It has power to issue the final decision, subject to the provision in 11.2.7.

11.3.2 Membership. At the start of each academic year, the ADC shall appoint an Academic Appeals Committee consisting of five persons. To hear an appeal from an MA student, the Committee consists of one faculty member of the ADC, two other members of the AD faculty, a St. Michael's faculty member, and an AD student. One of the TST faculty members will be appointed by the ADC as chair of the Academic Appeals Committee. In addition, the ADC should identify at least one alternate member for each individual on the committee. Alternate members may be called on by the ADC in situations where a conflict of interest has been identified or where a regular member is unable to serve. Student members and alternates are identified in consultation with the Advanced Degree Students Association. The TST Registrar is a non-voting member who serves as Secretary. The Appeals Committee's decisions are made by a simple majority of the five voting members of the committee (with the chair having a right to vote).

11.4 Procedures for TST Appeals

11.4.1 Initiation of the Appeal. The student (or former student qualified under paragraph 11.1.1) initiates the appeal by filling in the form provided on-line at www.tst.edu. The submission of an appeal should include the following: identification of the decision being appealed; name or names of the person or persons who made the decision, if known; the resolution being sought; reasons that the original reason is thought to be incorrect and that the proposed resolution is more appropriate; list of supporting documentation, if any; and copies of the supporting documentation in the student's possession. The appellant is advised to consult the student legal assistance centre on campus or other qualified counsel when preparing the statement of appeal (see <http://life.utoronto.ca/get-help/rights-responsibilities/>).

In the case of a matter under paragraphs 11.2.3 and 1.2.4, the appeal must be received by the Registrar within three months of the appellant's receipt of notification of the decision made by the department at Step 2. In the case of a matter under paragraph 11.2.5, the appeal must be received by the TST Registrar within three months of the date of the oral defence.

The above time limits can be extended at the discretion of the TST Registrar at the request of the appellant. The TST Registrar may consult with the TST Director.

11.4.2 Right of Withdrawal The student may withdraw the appeal at any time.

11.4.3 Withdrawal due to Non-Response. If the student initiates an appeal, but does not respond to a request for revision of the appeal or to attempts to schedule an appeal hearing within ten business days, the appeal will be considered withdrawn. The TST Registrar will notify the student in writing that the TST has withdrawn the appeal because of non-response.

11.4.4 Additional Documentation. In filing an appeal, the student gives permission for all those involved in adjudicating the appeal, including administrative staff, to have access to records that are or may be relevant to the matter of the appeal, including records relating to himself or herself. The student should make disclosure at an early stage of any and all information relevant to the disposition of the appeal.

11.4.5 Acknowledgment of receipt. Within ten business days of the receipt of the appeal by the TST Registrar's Office (or, in the period between June 1 and August 31, within sixty calendar days), the TST Registrar sends a letter to the appellant acknowledging receipt of the appeal. If the Registrar identifies any deficiencies in the appeal or its documentation, the Registrar may set a deadline by which such deficiencies must be addressed if the appeal is to go forward. The letter should also indicate that the appeal will be conducted according to the regulations set out in this Handbook.

11.4.6 Response of interested parties. Within ten business days of the receipt of the appeal by the TST Registrar's Office (or, in the period between June 1 and August 31, within forty-five days), the TST Registrar sends the appellant's statement to those named in the appeal or otherwise directly concerned in the appeal and/or the person having responsibility for the previous decision, and invites a response in writing. Such parties have thirty days in which to file their response. This period of time can be extended at the discretion of the TST Registrar at the request of the responding parties. Copies of all such responses are copied to the appellant.

11.4.7 Offering alternative resolution. When all the information from both sides of the dispute is on hand and has been seen by all parties concerned, the GCTS Director shall ask the parties to consider mediation, arbitration, or other informal avenues for resolution.

11.5 Hearings

11.5.1 Purpose. The purpose of the hearing is to assist the Academic Appeals Committee in forming an understanding of the circumstances relevant to the appeal. The hearing is intended for the resolution of a dispute and is not intended to be adversarial.

11.5.2 Arrangement of the hearing. If the matter has not otherwise been resolved, and when the TST Registrar has received responses from all interested parties under paragraph 11.4.6 (or when the deadline for responses has passed), the TST Registrar arranges a hearing of the matter before the Academic Appeals Committee at a reasonable time, giving the student notice at least seven days in advance of the date, time, and place of the hearing. Normally the appeal should be heard within sixty days of the receipt of the appeal.

11.5.3 Procedures for the Hearing. The usual procedure at the hearing is as follows:

- The Chair will explain the procedures at the hearing and the expected timeframe (appeals are usually allocated half a day).
- The student appellant presents his/her case and calls witnesses, if any, to provide information on his/her behalf.
- The Chair asks if the panel members or the respondent parties wish to ask any clarifying questions of the appellant.
- The respondent parties have the opportunity to present their case and call any witnesses.
- The panel members and the appellant are asked by the Chair if they have any clarifying questions they wish to ask the respondent parties.
- The parties present closing statements.
- The parties leave the hearing and the panel deliberates.
- The panel releases a decision with reasons within thirty days following the hearing.

11.5.4 Disposition. The Academic Appeals Committee may:

- send a decision back to the decision-making body for reconsideration;
- take any action that was available to the decision-making body at the time it considered the petition; or
- deny the appeal.

11.5.5 Decision. The decision of the Academic Appeals Committee is final and the Academic Appeals Committee has power to issue the decision. The chair of the Academic Appeals Committee will communicate the decision in writing within thirty days to the appellant, the respondent, and the GCTS Director. The letter accompanying the decision from the Registrar will remind the appellant of the right of further appeal. An MA student has the right to appeal to the University of St. Michael's College (see 11.2.7)

11.5.6 Further reporting. The TST Registrar will communicate the decision to the ADC.

12 Discipline and complaints

12.1 Academic discipline

Every M.A. student registered in the TST or in one of the participating colleges is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the college and TST in respect of academic matters, including plagiarism, forging of academic documents, and cheating on examinations or papers. The offences and sanctions are prescribed in the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. In the application of the *Code of Behaviour*, the roles, rights and duties therein appointed to the

Dean and the department chair are to be exercised by the head (dean, principal, or president) of the college in which the student is registered. Copies of the full *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* are available through the GCTS Office and on the website of the University of Toronto (go to <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca> and follow the links). A record of cases disposed under Sec.i.(a.) (Divisional Procedures) of the Code of Behaviour, and of the sanctions imposed, shall also be sent to the GCTS Director.

12.2 Harassment

Complaints about harassment based on gender or sexual orientation are guided by the *Policies and Procedures: Sexual Harassment* of the University of Toronto, and should be directed to the appropriate college authority.

12.3 Code of Student Conduct

Students have an obligation to make legal and responsible decisions concerning their conduct. The TST and its member colleges have no general responsibility for the moral and social behaviour of its students. In the exercise of its disciplinary authority and responsibility, the TST recognizes that students are free to organize their own personal lives, behaviour, and associations subject only to the law and to TST regulations that are necessary to protect the integrity and safety of TST's activities, the peaceful and safe enjoyment of university housing by residents and neighbours, or the freedom of members of the TST to participate reasonably in the programs of the TST and its member colleges and in activities in or on the TST and TST college premises.

In the application of the *Code of Student Conduct* in TST colleges, the roles, rights and duties therein appointed to the Dean and the department chair are to be exercised by the head (dean, principal or president) of the college in which the student is registered. In situations where TST Member Institutions have existing community standards, TST will consult with the U of T's Office of the Vice-Provost Students concerning the appropriate application of the Code of Student Conduct, their existing community standards, or some combination of the two.

Non-academic offences are defined in the University's *Code of Student Conduct*. The code addresses offences, procedures, interim conditions and measures, and sanctions. The full text of the *Code of Student Conduct* is available on the University of Toronto website at www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/studentc.htm.

12.4 Grievances

12.4.1 Matters for grievance. Any member of the TST faculty, TST staff or TST student body may lodge an informal or formal complaint when that member has reason to believe that TST or anyone acting on behalf of TST has acted in a way that is inconsistent with any of the established policies of TST for faculty, staff, or students and that has hindered the member's ability to perform his or her duties effectively. Grievances include, but are not limited to:

- (a) non-academic grievances against TST faculty members;
- (b) grievances against TST staff members;
- (c) non-academic grievances against TST students that do not fall under any discipline codes;
- (d) dissatisfaction with non-academic TST administrative decisions or policies;
- (e) grievances regarding TST facilities, offices, services;
- (f) a policy or procedure of TST contravened.

12.4.2 Eligibility for grievance. A formal grievance complaint under paragraph 12.4.1 may be lodged by any faculty member, staff member, student, or voluntary member of a

committee or board of the TST, or by a person who has been so within the previous eight months.

12.4.3 Informal complaint. Before a formal grievance procedure is initiated, every effort should be made to resolve the dispute through an informal discussion with the person immediately involved or that person's supervisor. The complaint should be discussed within fifteen working days of the incident or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The person to whom complaint is made shall make an appropriate response to the complainant, either orally or in writing, within one week of the discussions; and if the person to whom complaint is made is the supervisor, then the supervisor shall respond also to the person against whom the complaint is made.

12.4.4 Responsible person for formal grievance. A formal grievance complaint is made in the first instance to the TST Director. If the grievance complaint is against the TST Director, it is made to the chair of the TST Grievance Committee.

12.4.5 Determination of jurisdiction. If the responsible official determines that the complaint is not within the jurisdiction of the TST, she or he declines to accept the complaint, and may suggest to the grievor an alternate means of redress.

12.4.6 Grievance Committee. The TST Grievance Committee comprises four members, of whom one is designated the chair. The Committee includes representatives from faculty, administration and staff. Members are appointed to three-year overlapping terms by the TST Director, with at least one new member being appointed each academic year; the Director shall inform the Board of Trustees of the appointment at the Board's first meeting in the fall trimester. A quorum of three of the four members including the Chair is necessary to hear a case. Should one of the committee members or the Chair be either the grievor or the one being grieved against, an alternate will be appointed. Decisions of the Grievance Committee shall be by simple majority. The Chair shall have a second vote in case of a tied decision.

12.4.7 Formal grievance stage. The first stage in any formal grievance procedure is to complete a *TST Grievance Form* in which the complainant states the matters in dispute, the provision or interpretation of the policy that has been violated, the efforts which have been made to resolve and redress the grievance, and the remedy sought. The form must be signed by the grievor and presented to the Chair of the Grievance Committee (or his or her alternate if the chair is the one being grieved against).

The person grieved against must within two working days receive notice of the grievance and a copy of the grievance form. The person grieved against has the right to be represented by an agent or advocate.

The parties should be allowed to attempt to resolve the grievance before the Grievance Committee meets. The chair of the Grievance Committee may recommend a means of resolution.

In any event the Grievance Committee must convene a hearing within fourteen calendar days of the receipt by the chair of the formal grievance. Copies of all documents and the grievance form are to be submitted to all members of the Committee and to all interested parties before the hearing. The hearing is conducted by the chair of the Grievance Committee, unless the chair is the person against whom the grievance has been lodged, in which case the meeting is chaired by an alternate. At the hearing the grievance form will be presented to the Committee after which any affidavits of the circumstances of the grievance will be considered, and any witnesses heard and cross-examined. Parties to the grievance may be accompanied by a colleague or advocate. Parties to the grievance and their advocates must be present throughout the proceedings. Witnesses

appear only while giving evidence.

Within two weeks of hearing the formal grievance, the Committee shall make a report on the facts with recommendations as to any remedy, penalty or action to be taken. These recommendations will then be forwarded to the Director of TST for her or his decision. If the Director of TST is the one being grieved against, the recommendations shall be forwarded to the chair of the Board of Trustees. All agreements settled at the formal complaint stage shall be in writing and signed by the parties concerned.

If an employee chooses not to grieve a particular situation or withdraws a grievance at any stage, such action or lack of action shall not prejudice other grievances. No decision of the Grievance Committee shall set a precedent for settling future or pending grievances.

Confidentiality shall be maintained at all stages of the grievance process.

12.4.8 Appeals. Should either party to the grievance wish to appeal the decision of the Director of TST, a written appeal must be presented to the Chair of the Grievance Committee, who will invite responses from the other parties, and submit the appeal, the replies, and other documentation to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for their final adjudication of the matter. If a member of the Executive Committee is either the one who instituted the grievance or the one being grieved against, he or she is replaced by another member of the Board.

12.4.9 Records of grievances. Records of formal grievances and their disposition will be kept in the office of the TST Director and will be made available, subject to privacy provisions, for review by the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada, and other appropriate persons.

APPENDIX – MA in Theology: Statement of Intended Outcomes

NOTES:

1. In keeping with the ongoing nature of the outcomes assessment process, this document is a work in progress, subject to ongoing change.
2. In what follows “ability” is used as a general term, without regard to specific levels. More specific levels of ability are indicated by the terms “awareness,” “familiarity,” “competence” and “proficiency,” representing a scale of increasing levels.
3. In the section “Knowledge of the area of concentration,” different levels of the proportion of the area of concentration with which a student is expected to be familiar are indicated by the terms “moderate,” “significant,” “major” and “whole,” representing a scale of increasing levels. More precise descriptions of what these terms represent is left to the determination of each department. These terms are also used in section 4 to indicate different proportions of the graduates of the program.

Basic Statement

Graduates of the MA program will have acquired an introductory awareness of the fields of theological study and sufficient level of **knowledge in their area of concentration**, together with a sufficient level of **ability with the requisite scholarly tools and skills**, that they will have been able to undertake and complete a project of **specialized research**; a major proportion of graduates will be equipped to undertake **further studies at the doctoral level**, and all of them will be equipped to enter or to prepare for, or will be better equipped to return to, other vocations for which a solid grounding in a specific area of theological study is necessary or beneficial.

Elaboration

1. Knowledge of the area of concentration

Graduates of the MA program will have attained	so that they will be able	MEANS OF DEMONSTRATION
1.1 an introductory awareness of the fields of theological study, and of some aspect of the relationship between theological study and the humanities or social sciences,	to provide for interested outsiders a brief but clear description of how their area of concentration fits into the context of theological inquiry and how it relates with some aspect of the humanities or social sciences (such as might be appropriate, for example, for an MA SSHRC application);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transcripts from prerequisite degree</i> • <i>1000-level courses</i> • <i>Required course dealing with the intersection of theology or religion and another discipline</i>
1.2 basic familiarity with a significant number of subjects within their area of concentration, as outlined in the departmental description of the field,	to provide, for the professor of a 5000-level seminar in any of these subjects, a description of their purposes in taking the seminar that would demonstrate their readiness to participate in a seminar designed in the first instance for doctoral students;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1000-level course in the area</i> • <i>Research methods course</i> • <i>Electives at the 6000 level</i>
1.3 competence in several of the subjects within their area of concentration,	to provide for those with knowledge of the area a description of how their proposed thesis topic relates to current scholarly discussion of these subjects (such as might be appropriate, for example, for an MA thesis proposal);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Five electives</i> • <i>Thesis proposal</i> • <i>Thesis</i>
1.4 proficiency in one subject	to undertake and complete a project of specialized research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Thesis</i>

2. Ability with scholarly tools and skills

Graduates of the MA program will have attained	so that they will be able	MEANS OF DEMONSTRATION
<p>2.1 competence in one ancient or modern language (in addition to English) pertinent to theological scholarship</p>	<p>to read theological texts of moderate difficulty in that language with the aid a lexicon, accurately and at a moderate rate of speed;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transcript evidence of previous study</i> • <i>Language course taken during the program</i> • <i>TST language exam</i>
<p>2.2 in addition, for students in the Biblical Department, proficiency in the language of the major Testament and competence in the language of the other</p>	<p>to carry out thesis research and meet requirements for entrance to a doctoral program;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transcript evidence of previous study</i> • <i>Language course taken during the program</i> • <i>TST language exam</i>
<p>2.3 competence in the use of a library and the construction of a bibliography</p>	<p>to produce bibliographies appropriate to each of the levels of knowledge described above;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Work in prerequisite degree</i> • <i>Research Methods course (SMJ5500)</i> • <i>Research papers</i> • <i>Thesis proposal</i> • <i>Thesis</i>
<p>2.4 familiarity with pertinent electronic and web-based resources and skills</p>	<p>to make appropriate use of such resources at a level of competence in their own area of research;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Blackboard / U of T portal component of courses</i> • <i>Library resources and training sessions</i>
<p>2.5 proficiency in the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear and effective communication in both oral and written forms; • the construction of a logical argument; • the making of informed judgments on complex issues; • the use of standard conventions of style for scholarly writing 	<p>to produce standard forms of graduate-level scholarly engagement, both written (e.g., seminar research paper) and oral (e.g., seminar presentation, response to an oral presentation), of a quality consistent with the requirements of a 5000-level course.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Work in prerequisite degree</i> • <i>Class presentations</i> • <i>Research papers</i>

3. Ability to carry out specialized research

Graduates of the MA program	so that they will have	MEANS OF DEMONSTRATION
<p>3.1 will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attained proficiency in one subject, together with competence in a cognate area or method, where appropriate; • gained an understanding of the nature and process of research (identification of a research question or problem; construction of an appropriate method of investigation; collection of primary evidence and secondary sources; formulation of a thesis or claim; constructing a reasoned argument on the basis of evidence in support of the claim); • developed a critical awareness of and competence in the methodologies appropriate to their field; • learned how to apply the requisite scholarly tools and skills (see the previous section) 	<p>conceived, designed, carried out and completed a research project (thesis) that demonstrates an ability to understand and engage pertinent aspects of current scholarly discussion in the area of concentration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Thesis proposal</i> • <i>Thesis</i>

4. Preparation for further study or vocational occupation

4.1 Doctoral study

<p>A major proportion of the graduates of the MA program will have acquired sufficient skill, ability and experience</p>	<p>that they will be equipped to undertake further studies in their area of concentration at the doctoral level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>MA transcript, demonstrating that they meet the entrance requirements for the TST Th.D./Ph.D. program</i>• <i>Evidence of acceptance (TST records, graduate survey) into a doctoral program, either at TST or elsewhere</i>
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4.2 Other vocational occupation

<p>Graduates of the MA program will have acquired sufficient skill, ability and experience</p>	<p>that they will be equipped to enter or to prepare for, or will be better equipped to return to, other vocations for which a basic understanding of theological study is necessary or beneficial. (The following is a representative, but by no means exhaustive, list of such vocations: positions in church ministry for which ordination is not a prerequisite; para-church agencies; teaching at a secondary school level; library work, especially in theological libraries; journalism; social work; health care).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Survey of graduates.</i>
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