

WHY MACDIV?

Having decided that seminary study is what God is calling you to do, you must still decide which seminary to attend.

There are many fine seminaries to choose from in Canada and the United States, as well as in other nations around the world. We believe, however, that we are second to none in providing the kinds of programs that prepare tomorrow's Christian leaders today. We are striving to be and become a seminary for the twenty-first century church, one that can prepare you for the avenue of ministry God calls you to pursue.

As a fully accredited seminary, McMaster Divinity College is a graduate, professional school dedicated to helping prepare people for Christian leadership with and through the Christian community in Canada and internationally. To this end, students are encouraged to acquire excellence in academic studies, to achieve competence in leadership, to develop essential disciplines of worship and devotion, to grow towards spiritual maturity, authenticity and sensitivity in relationships with God in Christ and with other persons, and to develop a zeal for the presentation of the gospel. This is our mission and purpose.

Our academic programs are designed to challenge you as a student to develop your theology based upon knowledge and understanding of the Bible, history, doctrine and an openness to the Holy Spirit. The College emphasizes, true to its scriptural motto – "In Christ All Things Hold Together" (Colossians 1.17) – the integration of reflection and action, faith and works, praxis and academics. The courses of study are designed to enlarge your understanding of the Bible and the great Christian tradition, as well as the vibrant contemporary situation.

Integral to our rigorous academic studies is an intensive Ministry Formation program. During each term of study for the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree and Diploma in Ministry (Dip.Min.), and as an elective in the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) degree, students take part in supervised learning within congregations or in related situations. The growing and developing student thus shares in an opportunity to gain knowledge of, and to assume responsibility for, effective ministry. Opportunities are also made available for the continuing education of clergy and for studies for laypeople.

Although McMaster Divinity College is baptistic in orientation (with roots in the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec), we are an evangelical seminary open to the entire Christian community and to all those who seek a better understanding of the Christian faith. McMaster Divinity College has high expectations for its students. We invite those who have proven academic abilities (an earned undergraduate degree) to consider our programs. For those who, by virtue of age or first career, have not had the chance to prepare an undergraduate foundation, we have special certificate and diploma opportunities (see the section on degree programs).

McMaster Divinity College today has over 320 students in a range of degree programs, including especially the M.Div. and M.T.S., and the new M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. We also have over 1500 alumni/ae, who continue to serve God in various forms of ministry around the world. McMaster Divinity College has one of Canada's outstanding theological faculties. All of the core faculty members are published scholars, several with international reputations. We have eleven core faculty, all of whom have Ph.D. or Th.D. degrees in addition to ministry-specific professional degrees. The core faculty is supported by qualified and gifted adjunct and part-time faculty who teach in a variety of disciplines. The College's annual budget is in excess of 2 million dollars and endowment and trust funds total almost 20 million dollars, including substantial funds for scholarships, bursaries and other student financial aid. ☺

