

Values

Mission Focused: The primary purpose of the graduate programming at Olivet's School of Theology and Christian Ministry is clear. The focus for all programs within the graduate programming is the "missio dei," the mission of God. The underlying theological claim is that the in-breaking Kingdom of God in this world is to be proclaimed in word and witnessed in action through the Church. The constitutive cake requires a trim commitment to God's "good-making" of the world, the redemption of all things.

Praxis Oriented: Graduate programming seeks to prepare students with the practical skills and competencies necessary to flourish in their respective fields and ministries. However, this commitment is reflected in a commitment to "praxis"—practical application with subsequent reflection. Students will be taught to ensure that the practice of ministry is always understood within a robust theological/biblical framework and authentic to one's participation in the local church/missional setting.

Spiritually Formative: Christian ministry and leadership requires a commitment to a holistic approach to well-being. Recognizing that in a rapidly changing environment with increasingly complex and contentious terrain, ministers of the Gospel must be provided spiritually formative practices and relationships to sustain longevity in bearing a faithful and credible witness to God's Kingdom. It's the intention of the faculty that students emerge from programming with a deep and abiding sense of virtue, a commitment to spiritually enriched rhythms, and a confidence that they've been mentored by a faculty that's as concerned with how they've been formed as they are with how well they've been informed.

Theological Integrity: The graduate programming of the STCM is committed to a Wesleyan/Arminian/Holiness theological tradition. Coursework assumes students must recognize that to avoid a theological echo-chamber, the broader Christian tradition and its many theological voices should be considered necessary conversation partners to enhance tradition's robust theological identity and appreciate the texture and richness of Christian theology. Graduate studies demand students learn to think critically and assess generously the variety of voice represented in the programming.

Intellectually Challenging: Graduate programming at Olivet Nazarene University demands a high level of commitment to both the quantity and quality of work commensurate with advanced degrees. Students should demonstrate proficiency in research, critical reflection, clarity of argumentation, and integration of course material into their practice of faith and ministry.

Affordably Accessible: Olivet Nazarene University maintains a commitment to ensure a high-quality education with a Christian purpose at an affordable rate. In keeping with that commitment, the graduate programming of the STCM offers a wide array of quality programs and coursework at a cost lower than many of its competitors. In addition, we seek to eliminate unnecessary barriers to a quality graduate education requiring travel and relocation. Utilizing an entirely online delivery system of content (with the exception of the Master of Arts in Religion), programs are an online mix of asynchronous and synchronous courses.