

**UNION**



# Master of Divinity Program

One Degree...



# Four Pathways



# Start Your Journey Today!

# Master of Divinity Program Overview

M.Div. students come to Union with diverse religious backgrounds, academic interests, and vocational aspirations. Sometimes students' interests and plans change as they learn, grow, and progress through the program. That is why Union has designed a flexible M.Div. curriculum that provides students with options for satisfying degree requirements.



## At a Glance:

**3** years

**78** credits

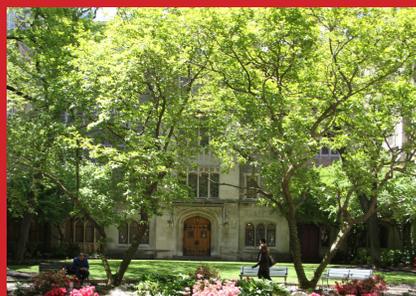
**131** students

**31** faculty

**13** concentrations

**Thesis?** optional

**\$23,670** tuition



### Application Deadlines

1/15/18 – Priority Deadline

5/15/18 – Final Deadline

Keep reading to  
learn about  
Union's 4 M.Div.  
Pathways!

# 1 Ministerial Leadership

The Ministerial Leadership pathway is designed for students pursuing ministry within traditional religious contexts. Students seeking to work in ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries are advised to choose this pathway. Ministerial Leadership students complete a range of courses in five fields of study: Bible, History, Systematic Theology/Ethics, Practical Theology, and Interreligious Engagement.

While the Ministerial Leadership program is designed to equip students in the traditional areas of pastoral expertise, instruction itself is anything but conventional. In Bible courses, seminarians learn at the cutting edge of critical biblical scholarship, empire-critical theory, and receive a deep grounding in the historical realities that undergird and inform Scripture.

Church history courses are geared towards understanding the historical tension between liberatory Christian movements and times in which Christianity made itself complicit to evil. Instruction in systematic theology and ethics is as robust as it is contemporary, fusing ancient wisdom with cutting-edge anti-racist, feminist, LGBTQ and postcolonial social theory. Students have ample opportunity to lead Union's daily chapel services, where worship expresses the variety of Union students' many faith traditions. Exploration is encouraged, and service elements range widely; from fire-dancers to high liturgy.



**OPTION B:** Students who feel called to work in secular settings can alter their coursework accordingly. These students are exempt from some traditional M.Div. coursework less applicable to non-ecclesial contexts. Instead, students take a comparable array of classes designed to develop leadership skills, public speaking, and the ability to address injustice through the rhetoric of moral values.



# 2

# Anglican Studies

(Episcopal Divinity School @Union)

Today, visionary and transformative theological education is more important than ever in developing leaders who build thriving and effective church ministries. The nation, the world and the church need leaders who embody the kind of pastoral humility, prophetic vision and principled witness that can address the complicated social and moral challenges of our time.

Located at the global crossroads that is New York City, Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) at Union Theological Seminary (Union) is a place that nurtures this kind of leadership. As an institution, EDS@Union will carry forth EDS' mission of dismantling racism and working for social justice, which is at the core of the Jesus Movement that Presiding Bishop Michael Curry urges us to embrace. Informed by the global richness of Anglican and Episcopal traditions, the program prepares students for ministerial vocations that will transform both them and the diverse ministries they serve and create.

Students will develop core competencies in the six canonical areas of study, including scripture, church history, Christian theology, ethics, liturgy and worship, Episcopal Church polity and ministerial practice, and will also participate in a required spiritual formation program. In addition to a rigorous theological education, EDS@Union students will be grounded in worship, prayer, and practices of spiritual accountability. Planning and leading Eucharist, morning prayer, and evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer and other liturgical resources will be required for EDS@Union students, who will work with a prayer partner as well as participate in quiet days and peer formation groups.



# 3

## Buddhism & Interreligious Engagement

This program prepares students for diverse leadership roles working with and in Buddhist communities, as well as bringing Buddhist practices and principles to communities that may not identify as Buddhist. These roles include religious and spiritual leadership; chaplaincy\* at universities, hospitals, or prisons; professional counseling; teaching; and careers in interreligious/interfaith cooperation, policy-making, and social justice advocacy.



Students take at least 27 credits to form a solid foundation in Buddhist tradition. These core courses focus on foundational sources, disciplines, practices, diversity, and contextual realities of the Buddhist tradition. Required courses include: Buddhist Religious Thought and Practice; Introduction to Buddhist Meditation Practices; Socially Engaged Buddhism; and further courses that focus on specific Buddhist texts. The program also provides sustained exposure to other religious traditions, and instruction on how to promote constructive and healthy interreligious engagement.

In keeping with Union's broader curricula, the Buddhism & Interreligious Engagement program intentionally interrogates social disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality and other marginalizing forces. Integrated throughout many courses, the goal is to cultivate an ability to respond to these disparities with analytic rigor, historical consciousness, sensitivity to tradition, equanimity and compassion. Students also benefit from attendance at Union's Buddhist conferences and public events.

\*Note: Board certification as a chaplain generally requires an M.Div., four units of CPE, and endorsement from a national organization (such as the Buddhist Churches of America).



# 4 Islam & Interreligious Engagement

This program prepares students for diverse leadership roles working with and in Muslim communities. These roles include religious and spiritual leadership; chaplaincy\* at universities, hospitals, or prisons; professional counseling; teaching; and careers in interreligious/inter-faith cooperation, policy-making, and social justice advocacy.

Students take at least 27 credits to form a solid foundation in Islamic tradition. These core courses focus on foundational sources, disciplines, practices, diversity, and contextual realities of the Islamic tradition and Muslim Practice. Required courses include: The Qur'an: Engaging a Sacred Text; Islamic

Religious Thought and Practice; Islamic History; Islam and Religious Diversity; and Women, Islam and Interpretation. The program also provides sustained exposure to other religious traditions, and instruction on how to promote constructive and healthy interreligious engagement.

In keeping with Union's broader curricula, the Islam & Interreligious Engagement program intentionally engages social disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality and other marginalizing forces. Integrated throughout many courses, the goal is to cultivate an ability to respond to these disparities with analytic rigor, historical consciousness, sensitivity to tradition, and compassion. Students also benefit from attendance at Union's Muslim public events, organized through Union's ISJIE center. Previous speakers have included Dr. Simran Jeet Singh and Dr. Su'ad Abdul Khabeer.

\*Note: Board certification as a chaplain generally requires an M.Div., four units of CPE, and endorsement from a national organization (such as the Buddhist Churches of America).

