



## M.A. (Philosophy & Apologetics)

### Lincoln Christian Seminary

2020-21 (v3-16-20)

Program Director and Advisor: Dr. Richard Knopp

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#### MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

(Philosophy and Apologetics)

The Master of Arts (Philosophy and Apologetics) is designed to help students understand and defend a Christian worldview in the context of classical philosophical problems and contemporary philosophical, religious, and cultural challenges. It offers a balanced approach to the nature of philosophy and Christian apologetics that includes a variety of course options in philosophy, apologetics, and related areas of theology and biblical studies. Students who intend to pursue doctoral work are encouraged to complete a master's thesis.

Master of Arts (Philosophy and Apologetics) graduates will:

1. Comprehend the major questions and contributions of philosophy, especially as they intersect with the Christian faith.
2. Understand and be able to communicate effectively with those who possess a variety of cultural and philosophical mindsets.
3. Recognize and be able to respond compassionately and cogently to criticisms of the Christian faith.
4. Construct and be able to advocate a plausible philosophy that is appropriately informed by divine revelation and theological reflection.

#### MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

The MDiv degree also offers a specialization in Philosophy & Apologetics. It requires 12 semester hours of approved coursework in Philosophy & Apologetics in the 75-hour MDiv degree. (See the list of courses as noted.)

#### Instructors for Program Courses:

- [Richard Knopp](#), Program Director, MA, MDiv, PhD (Univ. of Illinois)
- [Christopher Ben Simpson](#), MA, MA, PhD (Univ. of Nottingham)
- [Bob Rea](#), MDiv, PhD (St. Louis University)
- [Steve Cone](#), MA, MA, PhD (Boston College)
- [Paul Kissling](#), MDiv, ThM, PhD (Univ. of Sheffield)
- [Frank Dicken](#), MDiv, CAS, PhD (Univ. of Edinburgh)
- [Tyler Stewart](#), MDiv, PhD (Marquette University)
- [Zach Breitenbach](#), MA, MBA, PhD (Liberty University)
- [Douglas Jacoby](#), MTS, DMin (Drew University)

#### Program Courses<sup>1</sup>

##### Required Courses<sup>2</sup> (15)

- US 500 Orientation to LCU (0)
- AP/PH 604 Christianity and the Philosophy of Religion<sup>3</sup>
- AP/PH/TH 605 Science, Theology, and Philosophy<sup>3</sup>
- TH 710 Understanding Contemporary Mindsets
- CH 600 Christianity Through the Ages **OR**  
CH 602 Early Christian Centuries<sup>3</sup>
- TH 701 Modern Theology 1

##### Elective Courses (15)

- AP 500 Contemporary Religious Movements
- AP/TH 603 Types of Apologetics<sup>3</sup>
- AP/PH/TH 606 Ethics<sup>3</sup>
- AP/PH 899 Special Issues in Apologetics [or Philosophy]
- AP/PH 900 Research in Apologetics [or Philosophy]
- BT 689 Apologetics (always a NET class)
- PH 602 Ancient Philosophy
- PH 603 Medieval Philosophy
- PH 610 Kierkegaard<sup>3</sup>
- PH 701 Modern Philosophy
- PH 702 Contemporary Philosophy
- PH 714 Metaphysics & Epistemology
- PH 899 Special Issues in Philosophy
- PH 900 Research in Philosophy
- NT 754 Text and Canon of the Bible
- OT 605 Advanced Old Testament Introduction
- OT 899 Violence in the Old Testament
- CH 600 Christianity Through the Ages
- CH 602 Early Christian Centuries<sup>3</sup>
- CH 603 Medieval Christianity
- CH 705 Grace Theology in the Early Church
- TH 600 Systematic Theology (allowed if a student does not have a comparable undergraduate course)
- TH 607 Doctrine of Christ<sup>3</sup>
- TH 787 Theology and Postmodernity
- TH 833 The Trinity
- TH 899 Aquinas<sup>3</sup>

#### Thesis OR Two Additional Courses and a Comprehensive Exam (6)

#### Total (36 hours)

<sup>1</sup> Some courses are cross-listed as apologetics (AP), philosophy (PH), and theology (TH) classes. Students should register for the prefix that best fits their focus and their future academic intentions.

<sup>2</sup> Students who have had upper-division undergraduate coursework comparable to the designated courses and have passed with a "C" or better may substitute another course in the same area with approval from the student's faculty advisor

<sup>3</sup> Can count toward the MDiv 12-hour elective requirement.