

Master of Arts Degree Guidelines and Policies for IS-100, Senior Integrative Seminar and Oral Presentation Requirement

Graduating MA students

All graduating MA students must attend the “Senior Integrative Seminar” course, IS-100, in their final semester in the MA degree program. Students must register for the seminar before the close of the drop/add period of their final semester. The course is offered every semester to accommodate students who intend to graduate in December or May.

The Senior Integrative Seminar course is a required 1 credit hour seminar which students must attend during their final semester in the MA degree program. The seminar will meet on two occasions, for a three-hour period each session, during the semester and will be scheduled at a time to accommodate more easily both day and evening students at the same time. Students must attend both sessions to receive the requisite one credit hour. **NOTE WELL: MA students will not be permitted to graduate without having attended BOTH Senior Integrative Seminar meetings.**

The integrative seminar serves as the vehicle for determining whether the student has successfully integrated his or her studies in a cohesive way. The oral presentation provides the opportunity for graduating students to demonstrate how the MA degree has enhanced their ability to perform in work or ministry in which they are already engaged or equipped them for work they aspire to do after graduation. Both seminar sessions will be devoted to the student oral presentations. Students participating in the seminar will serve as a member of the audience at one session and as a presenter at the other session. The MA advisor will make the final determination as to which session a student is assigned to give his or her oral presentation. Students who fail to attend both sessions will not be allowed to graduate. [Non-graduating MA students are welcome (but not required) to attend the presentations, but will not receive course credit for attendance.]

Guidelines for the Oral Presentation

All graduating MA students must give an oral presentation at one of two of the seminar meetings they attend in their final semester before graduation. The objective of this capstone presentation is for students to demonstrate basic theological knowledge, e.g., in Bible, theology, and church history, they have acquired from their course work. The presentation should be 20 minutes in length and will be followed by about 10 minutes for a question-and-answer period.

Content of the Presentation

The oral presentation can consist of a prepared or extemporaneous discussion of the degree to which their coursework has informed their thinking about matters of faith, how they understand their vocation, and how they intend to apply what they have learned.

Format of the Presentation

There is no prescribed format for the oral presentation. Students may do a lecture, more informal talk, incorporate music, the visual arts, or the performing arts. Students may use audiovisual equipment. (If equipment is needed, students should notify the MA advisor 2 weeks before the scheduled presentation to ensure that the equipment is available.)

The capstone event of the MA degree program is an oral presentation. However, occasionally, a student might prefer to write an integrative reflection paper either on a subject of particular interest to them during the course of their studies or on their vocational discernment process to date, instead. Students who wish to exercise this option must submit a petition to do so to the MA advisor the semester before graduation. This petition must justify why a written assignment would better fit their personal context. Students must also secure the agreement of a Wesley faculty member to serve as a reader for the paper. Once both these conditions are met, the MA advisor will make the final determination as to whether to approve this option. Note that approval is not automatic. If the MA advisor approves the written presentation, the faculty reader and student will negotiate the paper length and other details for fulfilling this assignment. If a student is permitted this option, the student must still attend the two senior integrative seminar meetings and will earn only one credit hour for participation in the seminar.

Evaluation Criteria for Presentations

A first-rate presentation might include the following: 1) a little personal background with regard to why one enrolled in the MA degree program; 2) identification of the most meaningful course(s) taken; 3) what the student has learned about himself or herself in terms of their strengths, weaknesses, learning styles, spiritual gifts, etc.; 4) to what extent the student has been challenged academically, emotionally, or spiritually; and 5) how the degree program has served their vocational goals.

The MA advisor will evaluate the student and assign a letter grade (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, or F) for all presentations. **Note well:** Students who receive an “F” for their presentation will fail the Senior Integrative Seminar course and will not graduate.