



Called to Serve.
Empowered to Lead.



SMU | PERKINS
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Pursue Your Higher Calling at Perkins

Dear Prospective Student,

On behalf of our community of faculty, staff and current students, I welcome your consideration of Perkins School of Theology as the next step on your vocational journey. As you discern which degree program, concentration and location — Dallas or Houston-Galveston — best fits your future goals, I'd like to tell you what is distinctive about Perkins and why I hope you'll choose to join us.

We are a diverse and welcoming community — an exception in an increasingly polarized world. Perkins honors the unique worth of each individual as we prepare students with rigorous theological study and real-world internship experience. As you become part of Perkins, you will play an increasingly meaningful role in a community of lively dialogue that encourages deep thought and honest reflection. It is our expectation that you will graduate not only with a clearer understanding of your own beliefs, but also with a broader and more sympathetic understanding of the beliefs of others. The world needs persons of genuine conviction who can build bridges and work across divisions.

Perkins empowers servant leaders, providing educational opportunities for both clergy and laity to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came “not to be served but to serve” (Matthew 20:28). The call to serve is deeply countercultural, but it is one of Scripture's most distinctive and important messages. Perhaps the shape of your vocation is not yet clear to you, but any truly Christian vocation — whatever its form — is a vocation of service. Responding to this call requires both faith and character as well as knowledge and skills. All of these elements are part of a Perkins education and essential to a lifetime of fruitful ministry.

This is what we value and the kind of environment you can expect at Perkins. It is my hope that you will join our community — a community committed to the vocation of service for the benefit of both the church and the world.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig C. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig C. Hill
Dean and Professor of New Testament





Degree Programs at Perkins

There is a Perkins degree to fit your call and empower your ministry.

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

The Master of Divinity is the first professional ministry degree. Many students prepare for ordination to word, sacrament, order and service. Graduates will lead Christian congregations and serve in other ministries. The M.Div. fills three full-time years with coursework and internship. Seventy-three term hours of academic credit are distributed in Bible, Christian heritage, theology and ministry studies.

- Build your own theological foundation in a two-semester, team-taught course.
- Broaden your prayer and devotional life in first-year spiritual formation groups and seminary worship.
- Become your best preacher by practicing in a small class.
- Choose a concentration for your studies or customize your own concentration.
- Follow your path in ministry as clergy, laity, seminary peers, mental health professionals and Perkins faculty partner with you in developing your leadership on nine-month internship.

Learn more: smu.edu/mdiv



"I'm forever grateful for my Perkins education. It provided me with the foundation and tools for a lifetime of ministry."

Adam Hamilton (M.Div. '88), Founding Pastor, United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas

Degree Programs at Perkins

The Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.)

The Master of Arts in Ministry is a contemporary program preparing students for specialized ministry in community and congregations. Graduates bring specialized preparation to nonprofit ministries or serve as a specialist on church staffs. The M.A.M. fills two full-time years with 49 hours of coursework and internship. Each student completes one area of concentration in the degree.

- Broaden your prayer and devotional life in first-year spiritual formation groups and seminary worship.
- Deepen your Christian conscience for your life as a social entrepreneur.
- Explore the Scriptures and your Christian heritage for the heroines and heroes of your specific ministry.
- Follow your specialized path in ministry as clergy, laity, seminary peers, mental health professionals and Perkins faculty tell you the truth during a nine-month internship.

[Learn more: smu.edu/mam](https://smu.edu/mam)



"I decided to pursue the M.A.M. degree with the concentration of nonprofit management because I have been the executive director for The Agape Clinic for eight years, and I felt that the focus of this program would make me a better leader. From my application essay on Servant Leadership to the way the professors are opening my heart to hear God's plan for me, I am becoming a better "me" every day. I know that through what I am learning the Clinic will be able to heal and care for so many more, because their leader is learning to follow Christ's example of truly serving those in need as he did with love."

Stephanie Bohan (M.A.M. '20)
Executive Director of The Agape Clinic, Dallas

Degree Programs at Perkins

The Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.)

The Division of Music of the Meadows School of the Arts and Perkins School of Theology combine to invite you to study in the Master of Sacred Music degree program. The M.S.M. prepares you for professional church music leadership. Graduates of the M.S.M. program are prepared to bring theological discernment to worship and the musical leadership of ensembles in the church and community. The M.S.M. fills two full-time years with 48 term hours of work. Some students may undertake a longer program, which can result in ordination as deacon or an additional degree from Meadows.

The M.S.M. degree:

- Prepares the church musician to lead congregations and musical ensembles in worship effectively in a variety of musical styles.
- Provides pedagogical skills to teach all age levels.
- Develops relationships with musical and clergy peers through biblical, theological and liturgical studies.
- Engages students in a deep study of both Western musical traditions and music from the global Christian communities.

Learn more: smu.edu/msm



“My time at Perkins was and always will be a spiritual ‘thin place’ — a place where Christ was made manifest time and again. My M.S.M. degree melded theological dignity, musical excellence and liturgical design in ways that have opened doors for me to enliven worship both within and beyond the church walls of my community. No other school I considered allowed me to be a scholar, a virtuoso and a pastoral artist like Perkins. The Perkins community — and my M.S.M. professors and colleagues, in particular — fanned into flame gifts, talents and dreams that, until that point, I knew I possessed but had no idea how to activate to bring the reign of God to earth.”

Rebecca E. Garrett (M.S.M. '13), Director of Worship,
White Rock United Methodist Church, Dallas

Degree Programs at Perkins

The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.)

The Master of Theological Studies provides basic understanding of the theological disciplines as a foundation for further graduate study, for enhancement of lay leadership roles or for personal enrichment. Students complete foundational courses, an area of concentration, add courses toward their goals and write a thesis for a total of 48 term hours. The Perkins faculty and Bridwell Library become exhilarating companions on your theological journey.

- Get answers to the questions you have accumulated in your faith journey.
- Learn why church leaders think and talk the way they do and find your own voice.
- Read Scripture, Christian classics and important contemporary works with the guidance to understand and integrate their lessons.
- Follow an established concentration in Church Music and Worship.
- Pursue the degree in Latino/a settings in Spanish.
- Return to your calling with strength and confidence for leadership.

[Learn more: smu.edu/mts](http://smu.edu/mts)



“When I first came to Perkins, it was for my own personal enrichment. I never anticipated how much it would enrich my work. I think you’ll find that the passion of the professors and the other students will ignite something in yourself— maybe that you’ve been missing.”

Dodee Frost Crockett (M.T.S. '03)
Managing Director
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Dallas



Degree Programs at Perkins

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) (Offered in English and Spanish)

The Master of Theology is a 24-term-hour second theological master's degree for students enhancing their ministry through advanced study, examining a specific interest in Christianity or preparing for doctoral studies. Advanced understanding and research strategies are goals of the Th.M. Mid-career furloughs, sabbaticals or professional ministry transitions may provide the opportunity for Th.M. studies.

- Pursue the advanced electives you longed for in your previous seminary journey.
- Take cohort-based intensive courses designed for seasoned church and academic leaders and developed specifically for the Spanish-language Th.M.
- Produce a thesis or portfolio of work to crystallize your study of your chosen question.
- Go as far as you can in guided reading with your chosen professor.
- Complete additional denominational or Ph.D. admissions requirements and receive a second master's degree for the work.

[Learn more: smu.edu/thm](https://smu.edu/thm)







Degree Programs at Perkins

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

The Doctor of Ministry requires 30 term hours taken over three years while continuing to work in full-time ministry. On-campus sessions meet in January and June. D.Min. is for ministers whose higher calling is calling. Again.

- Return to the joy of learning from a superior faculty, while also learning from peers who have rich ministry experience.
- Relish the rhythm of established ministry and structured study that blesses your year.
- Complete a concentration in Vocational Direction, Organizational Leadership or Community Building.
- Get back to faith-based theological study that enhances your ministry in the church.
- Research and perform a ministry study in which you make a written contribution to the practice of ministry.

Learn more: smu.edu/dmin



"I began the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program a month after launching Joy Tabernacle A.M.E. Church in Dallas, Texas. The exceptional teaching by the faculty, the tremendous resources provided in each course, and the opportunity to develop a doctoral project that explored new paradigms for Christian worship and preaching proved essential toward strengthening my sense of vocation in this new context. I attribute, in large measure, Joy Tabernacle's becoming one of our denomination's fastest-growing churches in Texas, and the fastest-growing church in our annual conference, to the grace of God revealed through the instruction I received at Perkins."

Rev. Dr. Michael W. Waters (M.Div. '06, D.Min. '12),
Founder and Senior Pastor, Joy Tabernacle A.M.E. Church, Dallas

Degree Programs at Perkins

The Doctor of Pastoral Music (D.P.M.)

The Doctor of Pastoral Music is a 39-term-hour degree designed for Master of Sacred Music or equivalent degree graduates who are experienced church musicians. Classes are offered in concentrated formats that allow students to maintain their positions in congregations or other church-related institutions. The D.P.M. degree focuses on renewing vocation, equipping for changes in the profession of church music and adding skills in the performance of music in worship.

- Learn from an experienced and diverse faculty from Perkins School of Theology and Meadows School of the Arts.
- Build from your church music experience in a new ecumenical group of pastors and musicians.
- Stretch into advanced study in liturgy, congregational song, worship leadership, performance skills, deeper theological understanding of church music, incorporation of worship arts, current church music trends and music in the community and other cultural contexts.
- Seek and provide peer feedback on the practice of music ministry.
- Write a thesis after a supervised practicum in your current leadership position.

Learn more: smu.edu/dpm





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Houston-Galveston Extension Program

Students in Perkins School of Theology's Houston-Galveston Extension Program may earn the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) degree completely on-site through a groundbreaking distance-education program. Through intensive and hybrid courses, students from the Houston-Galveston region — or those who travel to Houston twice per semester — can earn the M.Div. in three years or the M.A.M. in two years by following this plan:

- Students must take all courses offered: three courses per semester (fall, spring, summer)
- The basic M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees (no standard concentrations or certificates) are offered. Completion of standard concentrations may require travel, although students may build customized concentrations;
- Students are required to be physically present for 20 hours of face-to-face instruction — 10 hours at the beginning and end of each semester — per class;
- All residential classes include a community meal;
- Some courses will be offered in one-week intensives, typically in the January Term or summer.

The program, which enables students to attend seminary while still employed full- or part-time, will reduce the strain on students' time and finances while providing quality instruction from Perkins' full-time faculty.

Located in Houston, one of the most socially, culturally and economically diverse cities in the United States, this unique program allows students to take advantage of an extraordinary range of opportunities for Christian ministry, both as clergy and laity.

The classrooms for the program are located in three Medical Center venues in Houston and one venue in Galveston: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main Street; Houston Methodist Hospital, 6565 Fannin Street; and St. John's United Methodist Church (Downtown), 2019 Crawford Street; and Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 2803 53rd Street at Avenue U, in Galveston.

Fulfill Your Call to Serve

ACADEMICS AND FACULTY

Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University sets the standard for institutions dedicated to preparing servant leaders for the transformation of the world. Our exceptional faculty includes 30 professors, renowned in their scholarly fields and diverse in denominational affiliation, gender, race, ethnicity and culture.

Within this unique mix of perspectives and interests is a shared commitment to prepare leaders for a life of service in varieties of settings. Perkins professors won't teach you what to think; they will teach you how to think theologically. They will challenge and nurture students with theological rigor, spiritual formation and real-world experiences. Our goal is to model a community engaged in faith's search for understanding and preparation for ordained and lay ministries.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Approximately 75 percent of our students receive financial assistance in the form of fellowships, scholarships or grants. Additional awards are available for students from several annual conferences in the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church as well as for children and spouses of United Methodist clergy. Recognizing the significant financial investment in a theological education, Perkins is committed to working with you to make your theological degree affordable.

BRIDWELL LIBRARY

The Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology, among the finest theological libraries in the nation, is one of the many academic resources available to Perkins students.

Bridwell Library houses more than 375,000 volumes in religion, theology and related fields in print and digital formats. Library facilities include computer labs and wireless service, comfortable reading rooms and special-needs computer stations. In addition to the general collection, the special collections holdings contain more than 50,000 rare books and manuscripts. Particular strengths of the special collections include theology, church history, textually and historically significant editions of the Bible, Methodistica, Wesleyana and early printing.

Bridwell Library, along with our renowned faculty, is at the core of Perkins' reputation for academic excellence as a leader in theological education.



*Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.
For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.*

– Mark 9:35



A Welcoming Community

Community Life

Perkins School of Theology is a welcoming community of faith — an exception in an increasingly polarized world. Perkins nurtures diversity and honors the unique worth of each member. At Perkins, you will have the opportunity to build relationships that extend far beyond graduation. Perkins is a place where we study, learn, grow, worship and experience God together.

Opportunities abound for conversation and fellowship with students, faculty and staff. Community life is enhanced by weekly worship, community lunch, informal discussion sessions, a variety of student groups and small class sizes meeting in rooms designed to maximize the effective use of educational technologies. In addition, students have the opportunity to engage with innovative outreach programs and ministries throughout the metro Dallas and Houston areas.

Worship and Spirituality

Perkins Chapel serves as the centerpiece and primary setting for worship at Perkins School of Theology and Southern Methodist University. The chapel plays a vital role in spiritual formation and leadership education, offering a sacred space for instruction in preaching and for practicing and experiencing a broad range of worship expressions.

The program in Spiritual Formation also is an integral part of theological education at Perkins. It will prepare you for ministry that incorporates personal formation, experience with the variety of spiritual disciplines and the ability to facilitate the growth of others. You will acquire a growing capacity for integrating the spiritual, theological and social dimensions of life.

At Perkins School of Theology, you will gain a balance of academic preparedness and hands-on learning to equip you for ministry and leadership in the church of the 21st century.

Southern Methodist University and Dallas, Texas

Perkins School of Theology at SMU is one of five University-related schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. Founded in 1911, SMU is a private university of nearly 12,000 students, offering strong undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in the humanities and sciences; business; the performing, visual and communication arts; engineering; education and human development; law; and theology

City Life

Located near the heart of Dallas, Texas, Perkins School of Theology at SMU is convenient to the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) lines providing access to points of interest throughout the city. Popular Dallas destinations include Deep Ellum and Uptown West Village for entertainment, shopping and restaurants. The American Airlines Center at Victory Park showcases great sports and entertainment events. Many convenient hotels, restaurants and shopping centers are within walking distance from campus. Dallas is home to a wide range of faith communities, as well as cultural amenities connected with the arts, sports, outdoor and fitness activities. Discover the essence of higher learning, vital ministry and real experience.



***Move fully into the life of service to which
God has called you.***

***Discover Perkins. Begin your journey here
and apply online: smu.edu/perkins/apply***

Empowering Effective Servant Leaders

PERKINS INTERNSHIPS

The Perkins Intern Program is nationally recognized as an exemplary program in preparing persons for effective Christian ministry. Perkins interns integrate the knowledge and theological reflection disciplines learned in the classroom with the practical demands of providing resourceful, faithful leadership within a congregation or ministry agency.

Working with one of our full-time Intern faculty members, you will be placed in a paid internship designed to maximize learning opportunities within a hands-on ministerial experience. While interns perform the various tasks of ministry and systematically reflect upon their experiences, a mentor pastor provides both professional and theological supervision; a lay teaching committee offers regular feedback; and the Internship Seminar, led by the Intern faculty and a mental health professional, creates opportunities for sharing ministry stories and receiving support and guidance. The internship, a course requirement for the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Ministry degrees, is nine months long, taking place over consecutive fall and spring terms of one academic year.

GLOBAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (GTE)

The Perkins Global Theological Education program will prepare you to lead others to engage in cross-cultural ministries both inside and outside the United States. Short-term immersion courses provide firsthand experience in learning from and with other cultures, as well as building the intercultural relationships critical to contemporary Christian mission.

The GTE program provides a unique opportunity to reflect on the theology and spirituality of cross-cultural ministry toward the goals of both personal growth and a more faithful partnership in our global community.



Who We Are



ABOUT **60%**
UNITED METHODIST,
with more than 20 other
denominations represented



STUDENT BODY
OF MORE THAN
300 STUDENTS



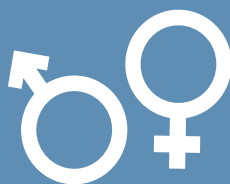
LOCATED IN
DALLAS, TEXAS,
with an extension program
in Houston-Galveston



FACULTY OF 30: 40% female and more than 1/3 representing
minority ethnic groups, providing internationally recognized scholarship,
teaching and church leadership



MORE THAN
1/3 OF STUDENTS
REPRESENT MINORITY
ETHNIC GROUPS



APPROXIMATELY
50% MALE
50% FEMALE



ALUMNI NETWORK
ACROSS THE GLOBE, FROM
AUSTRALIA TO ZIMBABWE

A LEADER IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH RELATING TO
SPANISH-SPEAKING CONTEXTS AND CULTURES,

with our Mexican American and Hispanic-Latino/a Church Ministries Program and the
Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions



Servant Leadership

Answering God's call to servant leadership, through professional or lay ministry, is a life-changing experience. Whether your ministry takes the form of preaching from the pulpit, expressing faithful witness through sacred music or working to ensure equality and justice for all of God's people, Perkins walks beside you on your journey, as you discern, test and nurture your gifts to realize the full potential of your calling.

At Perkins, you will play a meaningful role in a community of lively dialogue that encourages deep thought and honest reflection. You will learn from and with a diverse faculty of world-renowned scholars and theologians dedicated to helping you live your vocation. Our curriculum blends theological rigor and spiritual growth with real-world internship and leadership experiences, and its locations in Dallas at SMU, or in Houston-Galveston at its extension campus, offer an extraordinary range of opportunities and learning experiences.

As you become part of the Perkins community, you are joining an academy for the whole church in the whole world. An exception in an increasingly polarized world, Perkins daily embodies the biblical mandate to love our neighbors.

Perkins School of Theology is committed to those called to serve so that they might be empowered to lead.

Called to Serve. Empowered to Lead. | smu.edu/perkins/apply



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SMU will not discriminate in any employment practice, education program or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. SMU's commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. The Executive Director for Access and Equity and Title IX coordinator has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies.