Advanced Placement Form

Please read and understand the following before seeking Advanced Placement:

MA, MDiv (residential and hybrid) and MTS students may, on the basis of undergraduate courses, a religion major, or other substantial preparation, be given advanced placement in one or more of the nine required subjects. Such placement normally presumes at least two college courses in a given area (e.g., Old Testament) with a satisfactory grade average and permits the student to fulfill the requirement by electing an advanced course in the same area (e.g., an advanced Old Testament course in place of Old Testament 752). Advanced placement must be granted by the entity named below and cannot occur until after a student matriculates in a Divinity School degree program. Courses taken for advanced placement cannot simultaneously count as a limited elective, or be taken on a pass/fail grading basis. Advanced standing allows a student to substitute a more advanced course for a required introductory level course. It does not result in a reduction in the number of courses required for any degree.

Name of Student: ____________________________

Degree Program: MA resid MDV hybrid MDV MTS Core MTS Focus

Course(s) for advanced placement (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course and process</th>
<th>Course and process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHURHST 750 (required to pass exam)</td>
<td>NEWTEST 754 (approval from Biblical division chair) – see information below</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHURHST 751 (approval from instructor that term)</td>
<td>XTIANTHE 755 (approval from Theology division chair) – see information below</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLDTEST 752 (approval from Biblical division chair) – see information below</td>
<td>XTIANTHE 757 (approval from Theology division chair) – see information below</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLDTEST 753 (approval from Biblical division chair) – see information below</td>
<td>PREACHNG 758 (approval from Ministerial division chair)</td>
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Hebrew/Greek – (approval from the Biblical division chair) Approval should be sent to Academics so that a permission number can be sent to student. Students will not be able to register themselves due to pre-requisites.

This completed form, previous course syllabi, and copy of transcript must be submitted to those named above. Once approved, a copy of this form and approval from the above party should be emailed to: academics@div.duke.edu to be placed in the student’s academic record/any permission numbers sent.

Approval signature of division chair(s) or designated faculty member:

______________________________________________________________________________

2021-2022Division Chairs

Biblical and languages- Brent Strawn
Historical- Xi Lian

Ministerial- Laceye Warner
Theological- Christopher Beeley

Revised August 30, 2021
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Requests for Advanced Placement in Theology Courses

Advanced placement allows a student to waive an introductory course requirement in either Christian theology (XTIANTHE 755) or Christian ethics (XTIANTHE 757) or both, and elect upper-level coursework in their stead. It does not confer course credit. The total number of theological courses required remains the same (i.e., 2 courses, 1 in theology and 1 in ethics). Advanced placement in theological studies may be considered if a course from another institution covers the same material as the Introduction to Christian Theology (XTIANTHE 755) and/or the Introduction to Christian Ethics (XTIANTHE 757).

Students wishing to be considered for advanced placement must submit (1) a PDF copy of the syllabus (or syllabi) from the course/s that substitute for the DDS course/s, (2) a record of the course grade from the substitute course, and (3) a completed advanced placement request form (available from the Office of Academic Programs).

- A student who receives advanced placement must take a course at the 800 level or higher.
- The course in fulfillment of advanced placement must be taken on a graded basis.
- The advanced placement form can be found online under forms and paradigms of the Duke Divinity Website – https://divinity.duke.edu/for-students/academic-resources/forms

It is important that the syllabus provides evidence that the course sufficiently covers the same ground and at the same level. For example, a philosophical based approach to religion that does not treat either the history or nature of Christian doctrine or a significant number of major theological figures would not be a suitable substitute. Likewise, in ethics, a course that does not cover Christian approaches to ethics will also not count as an equivalent.

The theology and ethics introductory courses are ecumenical in scope. Courses with a focus that draw from a very narrow range of source material and theological doctrines may not be considered as suitable alternatives for advanced placement.

Students are reminded that the Divinity School’s introductory theology and ethics courses are graduate-level engagements (1) with a broad range of theological and ethical subjects, (2) from a variety of contemporary critical theoretical perspectives, and (3) with special attention to the theological and moral reflective skills required for Christian ministry. Undergraduate courses often cover certain aspects of these, but rarely an equivalent level, and much less frequently address the dimension suitable for pastoral formation. Most students are therefore well advised to take the Divinity School’s introductory theology and ethics courses even if they have previously done some coursework in theological studies at the undergraduate level. Whatever background they have already gained will enable them to focus more intently on the aspects of these divinity courses that will be new to them.

If you believe, however, that your background does warrant advanced placement in either theology or ethics (or both), please contact Dr. Christopher Beeley, Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of Theology, Anglican Studies, and Ministry.

Revised August 30, 2021
Requests for Advanced Placement in Biblical Courses

Advanced placement allows a student to waive an introductory course requirement and elect upper-level coursework in OT or NT. It does not confer course credit; the total number of courses required in both OT and NT remains the same (i.e., 2 courses in each).

Advanced placement is rarely advisable in biblical studies. The Divinity School’s introductory Bible courses cover much more ground than undergraduate survey courses, even if there is some overlap at times. Divinity courses are graduate-level engagements with (1) the content of the OT and NT and (2) the historical context and literary formation of the biblical books, but also especially with (3) exegetical writing and (4) the theological interpretation of Scripture, particularly with a view towards preaching and ministry. Undergraduate courses often cover certain aspects of #1 and #2, but rarely comprehensively. Much less frequently do they address #3 or #4 in a manner suitable for pastoral formation. Most students are therefore well advised to take the Divinity School’s introductory Bible courses even if they have previously done some coursework in biblical studies at the undergraduate level. Whatever background they have already gained will enable them to focus more intently on the aspects of these divinity courses that will be new to them. A prior single-semester OT course is never considered an adequate replacement for the Divinity School’s year-long OT introduction.

If you believe, however, that your background does warrant advanced placement in either OT or NT (or both), please contact the Biblical division faculty chair, Dr. Brent Strawn.

- A student requesting advanced placement for Fall can write Dr. Strawn near registration time for Fall courses beginning in mid-July.
- Since the NT introduction is taught only during the spring semester, this contact is better initiated during the pre-registration period for Spring courses beginning in mid-October.

Please send the following materials via email to help the professor better understand the academic basis for your request:

- Your undergraduate transcript, showing the biblical courses that you have taken and the grades you received.
- Syllabi from those courses.
- Papers written for those courses, particularly papers demonstrating exegetical competency.

If it is not possible to secure all of these items, do the best you can. The documents you produce will facilitate conversations about the best course of action for you.