

Master of Arts in Buddhist Spiritual Care

The Master of Arts in Buddhist Spiritual Care (MABSC) provides students an opportunity to learn and contribute to the new field of professional Buddhist spiritual care. This program provides students and Dharma practitioners with a deeper understanding of how Buddhist philosophy, history, and teaching intersect with social and community engagement and are applicable to the contemporary world.

Earning the MA in Buddhist Spiritual Care can help further the clinical practices of social workers, psychotherapists, spiritual directors, Dharma teachers, temple leaders, and Buddhist scholar-practitioners. This degree also benefits those looking to complete the academic credit hours for APC Board Certification.

As a low-residency program, UWest's MA Buddhist Spiritual Care is designed to meet the needs of working professionals. Two-thirds of the curriculum is offered through synchronous remote coursework, with the remaining one-third offered through on-campus, intensive courses. Students should be prepared to attend on campus for the duration of their second term, beginning with the winter intersession and running for ten weeks of the subsequent spring semester. The other three terms are offered through remote sessions, so students have the convenience of participating from any location that has reliable internet.

The MABSC program is designed to be completed in two years. Although this program can be completed on a part-time basis with approval from the department, courses are designed to be taken in a prescribed sequence, provided in the program outline below. Students who do not complete the full complement of courses each term will extend their time to graduation.

All MABSC students are strongly encouraged to complete one unit of CPE before graduation. Those who complete the program with the optional one unit of CPE are eligible to apply to the Doctor of Buddhist Ministry program.

Students who seek to complete the MABSC as partial fulfillment towards chaplaincy certification or as a pathway towards the Master of Divinity in Buddhist Chaplaincy or doctoral work are required to meet with the academic adviser in order to plan out their course of study.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with an MA in Buddhist Spiritual Care will be able to

- demonstrate in writing an understanding of theory and praxis of Buddhist spiritual formation.
- analyze how different expressions of Buddhist tenets and texts interact with theories and practices of Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counseling skills.
- apply history as well as the teachings and tenets of Humanistic/Engaged Buddhism to reflection on contemporary life.
- demonstrate skills necessary to integrate Buddhist sacred texts, frameworks, and ethics into a Humanistic/Engaged Buddhist work.

Program Requirements

Area	Required Units
Core Courses	24
Spiritual Foundation	12
Buddhist Spiritual Care	12
Electives	12
Total	36

Program Outline

Students are advised to complete coursework to cover APC areas of Pastoral Care & Counseling, Sacred Literature, Ritual/Liturgy, Religious Education, Religious History/Culture, Comparative Religions, Theology/Philosophy, Spiritual Formation, Contemplative Practica.

Below is a sample schedule; students' schedules will vary based on their specific needs.

Semester	Courses	Area	APC Area	Units
Term 1	MDIV 640 Seminar in Buddhist Ministry	Core: Spiritual Formation	Sacred Literature	3
Fall (9 units)	MDIV 650 Pastoral Theology	Core: Buddhist Spiritual Care	Theology/Philosophy	3
	MDIV 655 Spiritual Formation	Core: Buddhist Spiritual Care	Spiritual Formation	3
Winter Intersession* (3 units)	BMIN 620 Engaged Compassion	Core: Buddhist Spiritual Care		3
Term 2**	MDIV 645 Spiritual Care & Counseling	Core: Spiritual Formation	Pastoral Care & Counseling	3
Spring (9 units)	CORE ELECTIVE 1	Elective: Spiritual Formation		3
	CORE ELECTIVE 2	Elective: Spiritual Formation		3
Term 3	ELECTIVE 1	History, Teachings, Tenets		3
Fall (9 units)	ELECTIVE 2	History, Teachings, Tenets		3
	ELECTIVE 3	History, Teachings, Tenets		3
Term 4	BMIN 610 Ethics in Buddhist Ministry	Core: Buddhist Spiritual Care		3
Spring (6 units)	ELECTIVE 4	History, Teachings, Tenets		3

* 10-day Intensive Course

** On-campus, 10-week semester + 1 weekend intensive

Note: Each student completes their final Engaged Buddhist Project during the 2nd year within the supportive structure of two classes, BMIN 610 and BMIN 620.

Core Courses: 24 units required

Students complete 8 classes as indicated below.

Spiritual Formation Core: 12 units required

Students complete the following courses (6 units)

Courses	Units
MDIV 645 Spiritual Care & Counseling	3
MDIV 655 Spiritual Formation for Buddhist Chaplains	3

Students select two of the following courses (6 units)

Courses	Units
MDIV510 Communication Skills for Chaplaincy	3
MDIV 515 Power, Privilege, & Difference	3
MDIV 530 Interfaith Ritual	3
MDIV 540 Sacred Abrahamic Texts in Spiritual Care & Counseling	3
MDIV 565 Buddhist Homiletics	3
MDIV 670 Spiritual Leadership	3

Buddhist Spiritual Care Core: 12 units required

Students complete the following courses.

Courses	Units
BMIN 610 Ethics in Buddhist Ministry	3
BMIN 620 Engaged Compassion	3
MDIV 640 Seminar in Buddhist Ministry	3
MDIV 650 Pastoral Theology	3

Electives: 12 units required

Students select 4 courses (12 units) from the course and categorical options listed below, offered in the areas of History, Teachings and Tenets of Humanistic/Engaged Buddhism, and Ministry. Students may also fulfill elective requirements by taking applicable classes with partner institutions such as the Claremont School of Theology (CST) under a recognized cross-registration agreement.

Substitutions and classes from partner institutions must be preapproved by the student's advisor and department chair.

Course Options

Courses	Units
BMIN 600 Buddhist Issues & Frameworks	3
REL 505 Women in Buddhism	3
REL 506 Buddhism & Gender	3
REL 636 Seminar: Buddhists Texts in Translation	3
REL 641 Topics in Buddhist Studies	3
REL 645 Regional Buddhist Traditions	3

Categorical Options: Approved Courses

Buddhist Meditation: 3 units allowed

Buddhist approaches to & paradigms of meditation & the training of the mind

Courses	Units
REL 521 Buddhist Meditation Practicum	3
REL 530 Topics in Buddhist Meditation	3

Canonical Language: 3 - 6 units allowed; up to 2 courses

Introduction to the script as well as the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the Pali/Sanskrit language with the goal of developing a reading knowledge of Pali/Sanskrit

Courses	Units
PALI 500 A/B First Year Pali	3/3
SNSK 500 A/B First Year Sanskrit	3/3

Comparative Religious Studies: 3 units allowed

Comparative study of the complex religious developments within India or China

Courses	Units
REL 515 Religions of China	3
REL 520 Religions of India	3

Contemplative Practice: 3 - 6 units allowed; up to 2 courses

Select up to two courses from topical seminars in specific area of interest in the study of contemplative practice or investigations of Buddhist contemplative methods, views, and practices as they are articulated within the Tibetan, Chinese, and Pali canon.

Courses	Units
CONT 510 Topics in Comparative Contemplative Practice	3
CONT 520 Topics in Contemplative Practice	3
CONT 540 Contemplation: Pali Canon	3
CONT 550 Contemplation: Chinese Canon	3
CONT 560 Contemplation: Tibetan Canon	3

Service Learning: 3 units

Approved courses:

Courses	Units
MDIV590 Service Practicum	3
MDIV SL 501-506 Service Learning	1

Psychology: 3 units

With program advisor's approval, students may select one 500- or 600-level Psychology course relevant to their area of interest.

Courses	Units
500- or 600-level Psychology course	3

Research Methods: 3 units

Develop essential skills for engaging in research at the doctoral level.

Courses	Units
BMIN 607 Research Methods	3
REL 607 Research Methods	3

Other programs: 3 units

With program advisor's approval, students may select one 470 or higher English course or one 500-level MBA course relevant to their area of interest:

Courses	Units
470 or higher English course or one 500-level MBA course	3

Graduate Project: Buddhist Spiritual Care students complete a graduate project, submitted at the end of their final term. This project is a final paper based on their engaged Buddhist project or ritual. Details regarding this requirement are provided by the program advisor.

Contemplative Hours: MABSC students are required to complete 108 contemplative hours per semester. The program advisor provides details regarding the parameters of contemplative hours and reporting requirements each term.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) (optional): While not required, all students are encouraged to complete one unit of CPE during their enrollment in the MABSC program. One unit of CPE is required for admission to the Doctor of Buddhist Ministry program, so students who may wish to apply to the DBMin after earning their MA in Buddhist Spiritual Care should plan accordingly. CPE units are not applicable to graduation. The program advisor has information regarding CPE opportunities.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete course and program requirements as listed for a total of 36 units with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. A minimum grade of B is required for all courses applied to graduation. Students who do not earn a passing grade may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Degrees are awarded at the close of the semester in which all degree requirements have been completed, the graduate project has been accepted by the department, the Petition to Graduate form has been filed with the Registrar's office, and the graduation fee has been paid.

Credit Limits: Students may apply no more than 6 units (two courses) of Directed Research and Reading and 6 units (two courses) of independent study towards graduation. Students are allowed no more than 12 units of unfinished coursework (i.e., incompletes and withdrawals) over the duration of the program.

Transfer Credit: Up to 6 units may be fulfilled through the transfer of credit from another academic institution. Graduate courses previously applied to a bachelor's degree cannot be applied to graduation.

Time to Degree: Students may choose full- or part-time enrollment and are expected to complete graduation requirements in a timely manner appropriate to the enrollment selected. Students must maintain good standing.

Master of Divinity in Buddhist Chaplaincy

The Buddhist Chaplaincy program provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel as Buddhist practitioners working in the field of professional chaplaincy. The program is designed to meet the needs of those who wish to engage in spiritual care and counseling work and to become properly trained and certified professionals.

The program incorporates the requirements of the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) by offering 72 semester hours covering the nine core educational areas specified by the APC. These nine core areas are 1) ritual and liturgy, 2) comparative religions, 3) religious education, 4) pastoral care and counseling, 5) spiritual formation, 6) religious history, 7) institutional organization and administration, 8) sacred literature, and 9) theology/philosophy.

This program requires regular attendance on campus for classes, group processes, and other events. It is designed to serve local students and is not a low-residency or online program. Applicants should be prepared for long hours spent on campus and intense interaction with fellow students. Living near or on campus is highly recommended.

The Buddhist Chaplaincy program is designed to be completed in two and one-half years. Although this program can be completed on a part-time basis with approval from the department, full-time attendance is strongly recommended to facilitate the student's required spiritual formation. Courses are designed to be taken in a prescribed sequence, provided in the program outline below. Students who do not complete the full complement of courses each term can expect to extend their time to graduation.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with a MDiv in Buddhist Chaplaincy will be able to:

- demonstrate the intellectual and affective capacities to provide pastoral leadership in diverse settings.
- analyze how the different expressions of Buddhism interact with and affect historical, social, and cultural elements within their respective communities.
- apply their understanding of the interplay between Buddhism and other religions and cultures to their pastoral caregiving.
- describe how their ministry addresses social inequities and inequalities.

Program Requirements

Area	Required Units
Core Courses	51
Electives	21
Comparative Religions	6
Religious Education	3
Religious History	3
Sacred Literature	6
Theology/Philosophy	3
Total	72

Program Outline

All students are strongly encouraged to complete their coursework as outlined here.

Semester	Courses	Prerequisites	APC Area	Units
Term 1 Fall (14 units)	Core MDIV 510 Communication Skills for Chaplaincy	None	Pastoral Care/Counseling	3
	Core MDIV 525 Chaplaincy Roles & Competencies	None	Spiritual Formation	3
	Core MDIV GP 501 Group Process 1	None	Spiritual Formation	1
	Core MDIV SL 501 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	None	Comparative Religion	1
	Elec Electives One & Two	Varies		6
Term 2 Spring (14 units)	Core MDIV 540 Sacred Abrahamic Texts in Spiritual Care & Counseling	MDIV510	Sacred Literature	3
	Core MDIV 645 Spiritual Care & Counseling	MDIV510	Pastoral Care & Counseling	3
	Core MBA 560 Managing Nonprofit Organizations	None	Institutional Organization	3
	Core MDIV GP 502 Group Process 2	GP501	Pastoral Care/Counseling	1
	Core MDIV SL 502 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	SL501	Theology/Philosophy	1
	Elec Elective Three	Varies		3
Summer (6 units)	Elec Electives Four & Five	Varies		6
Term 3 Fall (11 units)	Core MDIV 530 Interfaith Ritual	MDIV645	Ritual & Liturgy	3
	Core MDIV 655 Spiritual Formation for Buddhist Chaplains	MDIV645	Spiritual Formation	3
	Core MDIV 675 Advanced Topics in Professional Chaplaincy	MDIV645	Pastoral Care/Counseling	3
	Core MDIV GP 503 Group Process 3	GP502	Pastoral Care/Counseling	1
	Core MDIV SL 503 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	SL502	Comparative Religion	1
Term 4 Spring (14 units)	Core MDIV 515 Privilege, Power, & Difference	MDIV655	Religious History	3
	Core MDIV 565 Buddhist Homiletics	MDIV655	Ritual & Liturgy	3
	Core MDIV 650 Pastoral Theology	MDIV655	Theology/Philosophy	3
	Core PSYCH 600 Group Psychotherapy	MDIV675	Pastoral Care/Counseling	3
	Core MDIV SL 504 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	SL503	Theology/Philosophy	1
	Core MDIV SL 505 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	SL503	Comparative Religion	1
Term 5 Fall (13 units)	Core MDIV 640 Seminar in Buddhist Ministry	MDIV515	Sacred Literature	3
	Core MDIV 670 Spiritual Leadership	MDIV515	Religious Education	3
	Core MDIV SL 506 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	SL504	Theology/Philosophy	1
	Elec Electives Six & Seven	Varies		6
Total Units				72
Total Core				51
Total Elective				21

Core Courses: 51 units required

A minimum grade of B is required for each core course. Students who do not earn a B or higher in a core course may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Substitutions may be accepted with the approval of the student's advisor and department chair.

Comparative Religion: 3 units required

Courses	Prerequisite(s)	Units
MDIV SL 501 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	None	1
MDIV SL 503 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	MDIV SL 502	1
MDIV SL 505 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	MDIV SL 503	1

Institutional Organization: 3 units required

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
MBA 560 Managing Nonprofit Organizations	None	3

Pastoral Care & Counseling: 14 units required

Courses	Prerequisite(s)	Units
MDIV 510 Communication Skills for Chaplaincy	None	3
MDIV 645 Spiritual Care & Counseling	MDIV 510	3
MDIV 675 Advanced Topics in Professional Chaplaincy	MDIV 645	3
MDIV GP 502 Group Process 2	MDIV GP 501	1
MDIV GP 503 Group Process 3	MDIV GP 502	1
PSYCH 600 Group Psychotherapy	MDIV 675	3

Religious Education: 3 units required

Course	Prerequisite	Units
MDIV 670 Spiritual Leadership	MDIV 515	3

Religious History: 3 units required

Course	Prerequisite	Units
MDIV 515 Privilege, Power, & Difference	MDIV 655	3

Ritual & Liturgy: 6 units required

Courses	Prerequisite	Units
MDIV 530 Interfaith Ritual	MDIV 645	3
MDIV 565 Buddhist Homiletics	MDIV 655	3

Sacred Literature: 6 units required

Courses	Prerequisite	Units
MDIV 540 Sacred Abrahamic Texts in Spiritual Care & Counseling	MDIV 510	3
MDIV 640 Seminar in Buddhist Ministry	MDIV 515	3

Spiritual Formation: 7 units required

Courses	Prerequisite	Units
MDIV 525 Chaplaincy Roles & Competencies	None	3
MDIV 655 Spiritual Formation for Buddhist Chaplains	MDIV 645	3
MDIV GP 501 Group Process 1	None	1

Theology/Philosophy: 6 units required

Courses	Prerequisite	Units
MDIV 650 Pastoral Theology	MDIV 655	3
MDIV SL 502 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	MDIV SL 501	1
MDIV SL 504 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	MDIV SL 503	1
MDIV SL 506 Service Learning in Buddhist Chaplaincy	MDIV SL 504	1

Elective Courses: 21 units required

Students must complete at least the designated number of units from each elective area for a total of 21 elective units.

A minimum grade of C is required for each elective course applied to graduation. Students who do not earn a C or higher in an elective course may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Applicable courses are listed below. Students may also fulfill elective requirements by taking applicable classes with partner institutions such as the Claremont School of Theology (CST) under a cross-registration agreement. Substitutions and classes from partner institutions must be preapproved by the student's advisor and department chair.

Comparative Religion Electives: 6 units required

Courses	Prerequisite	Units
CONT 510 Topics in Comparative Contemplative Practice*	None	3
PSYCH 651 Buddhist Psychology & Addiction	Waived	3
REL 515 Religions of China	Waived	3
REL 520 Religions of India	Waived	3
REL 590 Comparative Study of Religion	Waived	3
REL 640 Topics in Comparative Religion*	Waived	3
REL 660 Seminar: Buddhist-Christian Dialogue	Waived	3

Religious Education Electives: 3 units required

Courses	Prerequisite	Units
CONT 540 Contemplation: Pali Canon	None	3
CONT 550 Contemplation: Chinese Canon	None	3
CONT 560 Contemplation: Tibetan Canon	None	3
REL 506 Buddhism & Gender	Waived	3
REL 521 Buddhist Meditation Practicum	Waived	3
REL 530 Topics in Buddhist Meditation	Waived	3

Religious History Electives: 3 units required

Courses	Prerequisite	Units
REL 505 Women in Buddhism	Waived	3
REL 645 Seminar: Regional Buddhist Traditions	Waived	3
REL 670 Spread of Buddhism to Central Asia/China	Waived	3

Sacred Literature Electives: 6 units required

Courses	Prerequisite(s)	Units
PALI 500/501 Pali Language	Previous level PALI	3/3
REL 630 Seminar: Buddhists Texts in Canonical Languages*	Proficiency in given language	3
REL 636 Seminar: Buddhist Texts in Translation*	Waived	3
SNSK 500/501 Sanskrit Language	Previous level SNSK	3/3

Theology/Philosophy Electives: 3 units required

Courses	Prerequisite(s)	Units
CONT 520 Topics in Contemplative Practice*	None	3
REL 506 Buddhism & Gender	Waived	3
REL 540 Buddhist Hermeneutics	Waived	3

*Topics announced each semester. Topical courses may be taken a maximum of three times for credit. Approval required.

Dossier Requirement: Rather than completing a thesis, Buddhist Chaplaincy students are required to submit a dossier that includes copies of the following course assignments:

1. MDIV 565 Buddhist Homiletics dharma talk paper
2. MDIV 645 Spiritual Care & Counseling verbatim
3. MDIV 650 Pastoral Theology ministry paper
4. MDIV 655 Spiritual Formation autobiography paper
5. MDIV 675 Advanced Topics in Professional Chaplaincy project, paper, or power point. These items should be submitted to the department when a student is registering for the final term.

Internship/Clinical Education Requirement: Students are required to participate in a clinical internship during their studies. This requirement is typically met by completing one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). However, another kind of internship may be appropriate depending on the clinical setting in which the student would like to specialize. Military chaplain candidates, for example, have their own unique training. The internship is done under the supervision of the institution the student serves.

That institution may report back to UWest on the student's progress. Students are solely responsible for locating, applying to, and completing their internship but may receive advice and guidance from their advisor. This requirement is in addition to the 72-unit graduation requirement.

Contemplative Practice Requirement: Students are expected to be engaged in some form of meditation, contemplative, religious, or spiritual practice for as many hours a week as they are taking units that semester. (For example, 12 units = 12 hours of practice per week.) Students should check in with their advisor every semester to ensure their spiritual practice supports their spiritual formation as chaplains. Students should also seek the services of professional psychotherapists, dharma teachers, and spiritual counselors to support them through the chaplaincy program.

Other Considerations: While ordination, endorsement, or certification is not required to graduate, it is helpful for students to seek Dharma relationships in order to fulfill these credentials prior to completing the program. Some employers require these credentials. Students are encouraged to have a plan in place for meeting the requirements for ordination, endorsement, or professional certification with whatever chaplaincy organization serves and supports spiritual care work in their chosen work setting. By the time of graduation, for example, students are encouraged to form a relationship with a Sangha who will provide ordination or endorsement from their respective senior Dharma teachers, community, or lineage. UWest does not provide ordination or endorsement as part of the chaplaincy program.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete course and program requirements as listed for a total of 72 units with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. A minimum grade of B is required for core courses and a minimum grade of C or P for all other courses applied to graduation. Students who do not earn a passing grade as specified may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Degrees are awarded at the close of the semester in which all degree requirements have been completed, the dossier has been accepted by the department, the Petition to Graduate form has been filed with the Registrar's office, and the graduation fee has been paid.

Credit Limit: Students may apply no more than 6 units (two courses) of Directed Research & Reading and 6 units (two courses) of independent study towards graduation. Students are allowed no more than 12 units of unfinished coursework (i.e. incompletes and withdrawals) over the duration of the program.

Substitutions: With the approval of the chair, up to 6 units of 400-level undergraduate coursework may be applied to graduation.

Transfer Credit: Up to 6 units may be fulfilled through the transfer of graduate credit from another institution. Graduate courses previously applied to a bachelor's degree cannot be applied to graduation.

Time to Degree: Students are expected to complete graduation requirements in a timely manner and to maintain good standing.