

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES



**SOUTH INDIA BAPTIST BIBLE
COLLEGE & SEMINARY**

COIMBATORE, TAMILNADU, INDIA

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES



The *Master of Arts in Christian Studies* (MACS) at SIBBC&S Online is designed to provide a broad yet structured theological education for individuals seeking to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith. Rooted in Scripture and grounded in theology, the program serves a diverse range of students, lay leaders, ministry workers, educators, and those seeking academic preparation for service in churches, mission fields, or other Christian contexts.

In many parts of India and beyond, there is growing interest in theological education among those who are actively serving in ministry but are unable to relocate for full-time, residential programs. This program meets that need by offering a fully online, accessible, and academically credible graduate degree. It is intentionally designed for those who wish to grow in biblical knowledge, theological understanding, historical awareness, and ministry readiness, while remaining rooted in their own communities of service.

The curriculum follows a carefully sequenced structure across three levels:

- Level 1 lays the foundation with essential tools such as theological research and writing, biblical survey courses, Christian history, world religions, and introductory studies in ministry and missions.

- Level 2 deepens biblical and theological engagement through hermeneutics, focused biblical studies, systematic theology, and Indian church history.
- Level 3 emphasizes integration and practical application, offering courses in Christian leadership, ethics, preaching, apologetics, and a final thesis that allows students to explore a focused area of interest.

By offering this program online, SIBBC&S also seeks to extend theological education to a wider audience, removing geographical barriers while maintaining academic and spiritual depth. The MACS program reflects the seminary's commitment to forming disciples, leaders, and thinkers who are biblically rooted, contextually aware, and equipped to serve in a changing world.

Curriculum of the Program

The Online Master of Arts in Christian Studies program at SIBBC&S is offered with 60 credit curriculum.

Level 1: Foundational Studies (21 Credits)

Lays the groundwork with an introduction to Scripture, history, ministry, global religions, and spiritual formation. Courses include:

- Theological Research & Writing
- Introduction to Old Testament
- Introduction to New Testament
- History of Christianity
- World Religions
- Introduction to Christian Ministry
- Introduction to Missions
- Spiritual Formation

Level 2: Intermediate Studies (21 Credits)

Builds theological depth and interpretive skill through studies in hermeneutics, biblical theology, and doctrinal development. Courses include:

- Biblical Hermeneutics
- Pentateuch
- Synoptic Gospels
- Systematic Theology I
- Systematic Theology II
- Pauline Epistles
- History of Indian Christianity

Level 3: Advanced Studies & Integration (18 Credits)

Focuses on leadership, ethics, communication, and integrating theological learning into ministry through a final thesis. Courses include:

- Homiletics
- Christian Ethics
- Christian Apologetics
- Christian Leadership
- Thesis

Outcomes of the Program

Upon successful completion of the *MA in Christian Studies* program, graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the Old and New Testaments, including major themes, historical background, and theological significance for Christian faith and life.

2. Interpret Scripture responsibly and contextually using sound hermeneutical principles, with awareness of literary forms, cultural background, and theological coherence.
3. Articulate the core doctrines of the Christian faith in a structured and biblically grounded manner, showing understanding of contextual theological perspectives.
4. Engage in theological reflection on contemporary issues, integrating biblical teaching with ethical reasoning and social awareness.
5. Communicate the Christian faith clearly and respectfully in a variety of settings, whether through preaching, teaching, writing, or dialogue.
6. Understand and appreciate the history and development of Christianity, both globally and within the Indian context, and apply historical insights to present ministry challenges.
7. Demonstrate readiness for Christian leadership and service, showing basic competence in pastoral skills, organizational responsibility, and ministry planning.
8. Integrate personal spiritual growth with academic learning, practicing spiritual disciplines, theological humility, and a servant-hearted approach to ministry.
9. Conduct graduate-level theological research, culminating in a well-written thesis that addresses a relevant topic in Christian theology, ministry, or life.

How Education Happens

❖ **Live and Recorded Learning**

At SIBBC&S, we use Zoom video conferencing as a key part of your online learning experience. Zoom is used in multiple ways, for both instruction and interaction. In our live Zoom lectures, you'll join your instructors and classmates in real time. It's an opportunity to learn together, ask questions, and hear different perspectives, just like being in a physical classroom, but from the comfort of your home. In courses that follow a pre-recorded format, you'll be able to watch the lecture videos at your own convenience. These videos are intentionally kept short, allowing you to focus on one topic at a time, especially helpful if you have a busy schedule. In addition to the recorded content, we hold interactive Zoom sessions throughout the courses. These sessions create space for deeper engagement with the material, oral assessments, and collaborative learning.

❖ **Learning Management System (LMS)**

All our courses are hosted on a secure, easy-to-use Learning Management System (LMS). You'll receive your own login credentials, and once inside the LMS, you'll see your courses, weekly lessons, resources, and assignments all in one place. Courses are made available one at a time, allowing you to focus deeply on each course. Once you complete a course, you can take the next course in the following term.

❖ **Course Structure**

Each course is divided into weekly units, and every week includes a combination of:

Live Zoom Lectures or Pre-recorded Lecture Videos

Reading Assignments

Activities (quizzes, assignments, reflections)

Discussion Questions

Everything is carefully structured to help you stay organized, on track, and fully engaged with the material.

❖ **Course Materials and Readings**

Each course comes with a number of downloadable books, carefully selected to support the subject matter. In addition to that, you'll have access to additional reading materials through our Digital Library, so you're never limited by physical access.

❖ **Ongoing Support**

You won't be doing this journey in isolation. Throughout your studies, you'll be supported by course instructors and facilitators who guide you, give feedback, and keep you engaged. Our student services office will assist you with any technical or course-related issues.

How Exams and Assessments Happen

We follow a flexible approach to exams and assessments. Typically, our incoming students are responsible adults who are often involved in ministry or working professionals and managing family responsibilities. Hence, we've designed our

assessments to be both meaningful and manageable, while maintaining integrity in academics.

❖ **Open-Book Exams**

In many of our courses, we use open-book exams. This means we provide descriptive questions through our Learning Management System (Canvas). You can download the questions and in a few days you will have to write and submit your answers. We don't focus on rote memorization. Instead, we prioritise understanding and application. With the examination questions in hand, you can use class notes, lecture videos, and course materials to write your answers as a typed document. These exams are designed to help you think, reflect, and apply what you've learned to real-life situations and ministry contexts.

❖ **Timed Quizzes**

To reinforce your learning throughout the course, we also include shorter, timed quizzes. These may come after a lecture video, a reading, or at the end of a lesson. The quizzes are usually multiple-choice, true/false, or short answer format. You'll complete them directly on Canvas, and many are auto-graded, so you'll receive instant feedback!

❖ **Oral Exams via Zoom**

In several courses, you'll take part in oral assessments through Zoom. These usually happen during weekly group conversations with your course facilitator. You'll answer questions based on the week's lessons and also learn as others share their responses. This is an encouraging

environment, not something to fear! It's a great way for us to assess your understanding, and guide your learning in a personal and interactive setting.

❖ **Written Assignments**

Written assignments form a core part of your learning. You'll be asked to write:

- Term papers
- Reflections
- Sermon manuscripts
- Book reviews
- Essays
- Course projects

These assignments are not just academic tasks, they help you grow in multiple aspects. We'll provide clear guidelines and grading rubrics, and our team is here to guide you each step of the way, helping you write with clarity, depth, and originality.

❖ **Discussion-Based Assessments**

All our courses include online discussion forums where you'll engage with classmates around important questions related to the topic. You'll be expected to post your thoughts, interact with others, and contribute to meaningful dialogue. These discussions are part of your course grade.

Various Formats of the Courses

The Online Master of Arts in Christian Studies program at SIBBC&S combines three distinct course formats, offering students a well-rounded and flexible learning experience. Students will participate in each of these formats throughout their studies:

Fully Pre-Recorded Courses

These courses are entirely accessible on the Canvas Learning Management System. With all lectures and assignments pre-recorded, students have 24/7 access to materials for the full 8-week duration, allowing them to learn at their own pace. A facilitator will be available throughout the course for ongoing support.

Zoom-Based Live Virtual Courses

Some courses are conducted live on Zoom, typically in the evenings, featuring real-time lectures, interactive discussions, and Q&A sessions. This format fosters an engaging and collaborative environment with instructors and fellow students.

Residential Courses (Annually, One Course)

Each summer, students are invited to campus for a five-day intensive course, providing a traditional classroom setting and a hands-on seminary experience in a focused period. Students are required to visit the campus annually for a 5-day immersive experience, strengthening connections

with the community through workshops, prayer services, and events.

Together, these formats create a comprehensive educational experience, allowing students to fulfill their program requirements through a balanced combination of flexible, interactive, and immersive learning.

Duration of the Program

Our program is designed to meet the diverse needs of our students, offering a flexible journey to complete your degree in as little as 2 years or up to 5 years, depending on your personal schedule.

For those eager to progress quickly, you can take two courses simultaneously, while those who prefer a steadier pace can complete one course at a time. Each course generally requires about 15 hours of learning each week. If your goal is to finish within 2 years, you can increase your weekly learning hours to move through the program at an accelerated rate.

Financial Information

The cost of the program has been kept minimal compared to the quality of education provided.

Application fee: ₹350

Admission fee: ₹2000.

Course Registration Fee: ₹7,350 (350 rupees for each course and a total of 21 courses in the program)

Tuition fee: The total tuition fee for the entire program is ₹52,000, but scholarships are made available for all students in need, up to ₹16,000. Students with a scholarship will only pay ₹36,000 for the entire tuition. This means over 24 months, students will be paying ₹1500 per month.

Graduation, Certificate, & Transcript Fee: ₹2000.

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Step-By-Step Guide to Enrolling

Step 1: Review Eligibility Requirements

❖ *Spiritual Commitment*

Must be a born-again follower of Jesus Christ with a sincere desire to grow in knowledge and understanding and be equipped for ministry in service to Christ and His Church.

❖ *Age Requirement*

Applicants should be at least 23 years old.

❖ *Educational Qualification*

A Bachelor's degree from a recognized institution is required. Applicants over 30 years old who do not hold a bachelor's degree may apply if they have at least 5 years of documented ministry experience.

❖ *Technical Requirements*

Must have access to a personal computer and reliable internet connection to participate in online classes and complete coursework.

❖ *Availability & Time Commitment*

Should be available for live classes and interactions from 6:30 PM to 8:15 PM IST on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. (Note: Not all evenings may be used every week, but this is the regular time used for live sessions.) In addition, students are expected to dedicate a minimum of 10–12 hours each week for self-directed learning. Students may choose when to complete these self-directed learning hours, based on their own schedule and preferences.

❖ *Spiritual Mentor*

Must have a local pastor or trusted spiritual leader who can serve as a spiritual & ministerial mentor during the course of study. This mentor will guide and monitor your growth. [Click here to find more details on mentor's role.](#)

❖ *Language Proficiency*

Should have a basic proficiency in spoken English to participate in discussions and express ideas clearly in class and assignments.

Step 2: Submit Application & Required Documentation

After reviewing eligibility requirements in step 1, begin by submitting your online application for the program. Ensure

all information is accurate and complete as you submit your application.

[Click here to go to the application form.](#)

Along with your application or shortly afterward you must email the following documents to the Admissions Office at **admissions.online@sibbc.org** . If you cannot gather everything immediately, you may request an extension by contacting the Admissions Office. All documents must be submitted within three months after enrollment.

❖ ***Educational Certificates (PDF)***

- Scanned copies of 10th, 12th, and degree certificates, along with their respective mark sheets.
- All files must be clear, legible, and in PDF format.
- Photographs of documents will not be accepted.

❖ ***Personal Testimony Letter (PDF)***

- A typed PDF (1–2 pages) that includes:
- Your personal faith journey
- Reasons for pursuing theological studies
- How this program aligns with your spiritual and academic goals

❖ ***Two Reference Forms (Digital Submissions)***

Spiritual & Ministerial Reference Form (Digital Submission)

This reference should be provided by your pastor or spiritual mentor, affirming your commitment to the Christian faith and your suitability for theological studies. Please share the link with your reference—only they should complete and submit it.

Academic/Professional Reference Form (Digital Submission)

This reference should be provided by a previous professor or your employer, or other individual familiar with your ministry passion and character. Please share the link with your reference—only they should complete and submit it.

❖ **Formal Digital Profile Image**

A recent, passport-style profile image with a plain or neutral background.

Acceptable formats: JPEG or PNG.

❖ ***Identification Document (PDF or JPEG)***

Scanned copy of one valid government; such as: Aadhar Card

or Passport or any national identity card. File must be readable and in PDF or JPEG format.

❖ ***Mentor Consent Form (Digital Submission)***

Your chosen spiritual mentor must complete the digital consent form, confirming their willingness to guide you. Here is the link of Mentor Consent Form, please share it with your mentor for direct submission. More details on the

mentor's role and responsibilities are provided on the same page.

❖ ***Ministry Experience Documentation (If Applicable)***

- Required only if you do NOT hold a Bachelor's degree.
- Please provide proof of at least 5 years of ministry experience. This could be a letter from your church or ministry leader detailing the nature and duration of your involvement, plus your responsibilities and contributions.

❖ ***Scholarship Form (If Applicable, Digital Submission)***

This form submission is required if you are not paying the full total tuition of the program or you are in need of financial assistance. Please click here to access the form. Submit it along with the rest of your documents. A maximum of ₹16,000 scholarship is provided for the Master of Arts in Christian Studies Program.

Step 3: Pay Application Fee

- A non-refundable application fee of ₹350 is required to process your application.
- This fee must be paid at the time of submitting your application. You will find the payment link upon your application submission, or you can use think link to make the payment directly.

- Payment Methods: UPI, bank transfer, or credit/debit card.
- Important: Your application will be reviewed only if we receive the application fee.

Step 4: Complete Qualifying Examination

All applicants must complete an Online Qualifying Examination to demonstrate readiness for graduate-level theological study and ministry formation. Details will be communicated to you after reviewing your application.

❖ ***The exam will cover four key areas:***

- English comprehension
- Basic Bible knowledge
- Foundational theological understanding
- Ministry awareness and experience

❖ ***Exam Structure (Total: 2 Hours; 60 Minutes per Part)***

- Part A (50 marks)
 - Multiple-choice questions focused on Biblical knowledge
- Part B (50 marks)
 - A descriptive writing section designed to assess your analytical thinking and understanding of theological and ministry-related concepts.
- Total Score: 100 marks; Minimum Passing Score is 20 marks in each.

- The examination must be completed individually, without outside assistance or resources.
- Detailed instructions and portal access credentials will be provided upon application review.

Step 5: Attend Candidate Assessment Interview on Zoom

Applicants who pass the Qualifying Examination will be invited to a brief Zoom call with the Academic Office.

- This is to learn more about your background, calling, and readiness for ministry training in our online programs.
- You'll receive an invitation for the Zoom meeting within one week of passing the exam.
- Be ready to discuss your faith journey, ministry goals, and ability to balance online coursework with current responsibilities.

Step 6: Admission Confirmation & Next Steps

❖ Admission Confirmation Notice & Fee Payment

- If you are approved after the Zoom interview, you will receive an Admission Confirmation Notice via email.
- Along with that notice, detailed instructions to pay the admission fee will be provided.
- Once your admission fee is received, we will send you a formal Admission Confirmation Email.

- You need to complete the Orientation, Theological Research and Writing course before registering for other courses. After successful completion, you are eligible to register for other courses in the new term.

Links

❖ *To Get started with your Application Today*

<https://www.sibbcs.online/get-started>

❖ *To know about our Master of Divinity Online Program*

<https://www.sibbcs.online/masterofdivinity>

❖ *To know about our MA in Christian Studies Online Program*

<https://www.sibbcs.online/ma-in-christian-studies>

❖ *To know about our Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies Online Program*

<https://www.sibbcs.online/graduate-diploma-in-christian-studies>

Contact Details

Admissions Office,

Ph: +916380873580

Email: admissions.online@sibbc.org

Website: <https://www.sibbcs.online>