



Statement of Educational Effectiveness

Meadville Lombard Theological School educates students in the Unitarian Universalist tradition to serve as religious leaders in congregations and communities. The learning community strives to create an academic and formation experience that prepares our students to lead in the multicultural, pluralistic society and the global realities of the 21st century.

Through our low-residency educational platform, we offer the following degree programs:

Master of Divinity Degree Program: a 3-year program that educates future ministers in the Unitarian Universalist tradition, emphasizing “learning by doing”. Concentrations available in Chaplaincy and Faith Formation Pedagogy.

Master of Arts in Religion Degree Program: a 2-year program for laypersons who seek an interdisciplinary approach to theological reflection, religious education, and ethical action.

Master of Arts in Leadership Studies: an 18-month program for advanced work in the theory and practice of leadership. Designed for lay leaders who work in various fields that benefit from deeper theological knowledge. Concentrations available in Lay Ministry and Faith Formation Pedagogy.

Dual Degree Program: the MDiv/MALS Dual Degree Program is designed to prepare students to lead across the congregational and community challenges of religious life in our multifaith, multiracial, and multicultural world. This dual degree program allows a student to complete the three-year Master of Divinity Program while completing most of the coursework for a second, experiential-based and research focused Master of Arts in Leadership Studies. Following the MDiv portion of the dual degree, students complete an additional year comprised of an immersion internship plus coursework designed to explore some aspect of ministry more deeply.

Student Satisfaction:

Effectiveness of program in developing areas of personal growth:	MLTS MDiv	MLTS Total	ATS Overall MDiv	ATS Overall Total
Empathy for the poor and oppressed	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1
Concern about social justice	4.8	4.7	4.0	3.7
Enthusiasm for learning	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.3
Insight into troubles of others	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1
Respect for other religious traditions	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.1
Respect for my own religious tradition	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.3
Ability to live my faith in daily life	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.1
Clarity of vocational goals	3.5	3.3	4.0	4.0
Self-confidence	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.1
Self-knowledge	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2
Strength of spiritual life	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.0

1- Not at all effective 2 – Not very effective 3 – Somewhat effective 4 – Effective 5 – Very effective

Effectiveness of program in facilitating skills:	MLTS MDiv	MLTS Total	ATS Overall MDiv	ATS Overall Total
Ability to preach well	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.0
Knowledge of church polity/canon law	4.5	3.1	3.9	3.8
Ability to teach well	3.5	3.4	4.1	4.1
Knowledge of church doctrine and history	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.2
Ability to lead others	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.0
Ability to conduct worship/liturgy	4.7	4.5	4.0	3.8
Ability to interact effectively with those of religious traditions other than my own	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.0
Ability to work effectively within my own religious tradition	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.2
Ability to interact effectively with those from cultural and racial/ethnic contexts other than my own	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.1
Awareness and appreciation of the globalized context in which ministry is practiced	4.7	4.6	4.2	4.2
Ability to relate social issues to faith	4.8	4.7	4.3	4.2
Ability in pastoral counseling	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.9
Ability to administer a parish	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.9
Ability to think theologically	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.5
Ability to integrate insights from science into theology and ministry	4.3	4.2	3.8	3.8
Ability to integrate ecological concerns into theology and ministry	4.5	4.3	3.8	3.7

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Data from 2019-20 ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire.

Placement Data

To be a credentialed minister within the Unitarian Universalist Association, graduates must be approved and granted "Fellowship" by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC). The MFC ranks applicants in Categories 1 through 5 with Category 1 indicating qualification with no contingencies and Category 5 indicating no potential in ministry.

Meadville Lombard has MFC results for 91 out of 104 MDiv graduates from 2016 through 2020. Of the remaining fifteen graduates, six are pending MFC results and the other seven are unknown. Of the 91 MDiv graduates whose results are known, 93% have been ranked in Category 1 or Category 2, meaning that they have passed the MFC and can go forward to ordination.

2019 Graduates	MDiv	MALS	MAR
Vocational Placement	10 (55%)	3 (43%)	0
Non-vocational Placement	2 (11%)	0	0
Further Study	1 (6%)	4 (57%)	0
Seeking Placement	4 (44%)	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	1 (100%)
Total	18	7	1

As reported in the Fall 2019 ATS Annual Report.

Graduation Rates

MDiv Graduation Rate	73.68% (14 out of 19)
MALS Graduation Rate	100% (2 out of 2)

As reported in the Fall 2020 ATS Annual Report. MDiv graduation rate of students matriculating Fall 2014, and MALS graduation rate of students matriculating Fall 2016. No MAR students matriculated Fall 2016.

Time to Completion, May 2020 Graduates

	MDiv	MALS	MAR
<2 years	0	1 (20%)	0
2 to <3 years	9 (53%)	3 (60%)	0
3 to <4 years	3 (18%)	0	0
4 to <5 years	4 (24%)	1 (20%)	1 (100%)
5 to <6 years	0	0	0
6+ years	1 (6%)	0	0
Total	17	5	1

As reported in the Fall 2020 ATS Annual Report.