



A student who does not write a thesis as part of a Master of Divinity degree program will be required to write a Theology of Ministry paper in addition to completing the 78 credits required for the Master of Divinity degree program. Students will be required to pay a Theology of Ministry paper submission fee. The student must receive a passing grade on the MDiv Theology of Ministry Paper to graduate the Master of Divinity degree program.

### ***TIME LIMITS FOR THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER***

The Theology of Ministry paper should be submitted before the end of the time limit specified for the complete program. A 6-month extension may be requested by submitting a Request for Student Service form with a Theology of Ministry paper extension fee. An extension request for time to successfully complete the Theology of Ministry paper must be approved by the director of the respective Graduate Studies Office (GSO) and the Dean and should be submitted before the time limit for the program expires.

### ***WRITING THE THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER***

The MDiv Theology of Ministry Paper should be 25 to 30 pages (6,250 to 7,500 words) long and must conform to the format of Global University as presented in the edition of the Global University *Graduate Studies Form and Style Guide* that is current when the student submits the paper. Any exception must be approved by the Dean.

Even though the MDiv Theology of Ministry Paper is not a research paper and does not require new research, the student must utilize the Reflection, Evaluation, and Valuation (REV) Principle as demonstrated in the course work and should include citations from previous readings and previous research as well as Scripture with references to support the theology that is presented in the paper. The paper must be computer printed. English is the preferred language for the paper, but a student may arrange with the director of his or her GSO for the paper to be written and evaluated in his or her primary language. An English summary of 1 to 2 pages (250 to 500 words) should be included if the paper is not written in English.

In the MDiv Theology of Ministry Paper, utilizing the REV Principle and focusing on two or three points from his or her course work that has impacted the student and his or her ministry, the student will synthesize his or her theology of ministry, present a biblical defense for this theology, develop a strategy to integrate theology and personal philosophy into a workable ministry plan for a given cultural setting, and present a plan to solicit feedback to determine the effectiveness of the proposed ministry plan.

#### **A typical MDiv Theology of Ministry paper will:**

1. Describe the student's theology of ministry (6 to 7 pages; 1,500 to 1,750 words)
2. Present a five-year strategic plan for implementing the theology of ministry in the student's current ministry context. The plan should include (a) a description of the ministry context, (b) goals, (c) timelines for achieving goals, (d) identification of potential challenges, and (e) a framework for meeting challenges (17 to 20 pages; 4,250 to 5,000 words)
3. Describe a process for evaluating the implemented strategy (2 to 3 pages; 500 to 750 words).

Each area of discussion should be tied back to the student's course work and appropriately cited.



***PROCESSING THE THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY PAPER***

1. *Submitting the Theology of Ministry paper.* Before the time limit to complete the program expires, the student should submit to the director of the respective Graduate Studies Office his or her completed Theology of Ministry Paper and submission fee with a Request for Student Service form.
2. *Grading the Theology of Ministry paper.* The director will be responsible to select an approved mentor to evaluate the paper according to criteria established by the Graduate School of Theology. The paper will be graded based on the quality of reflection and on the student's ability to integrate into the paper what he or she has learned in graduate-level courses for the Master of Divinity program. It is recommended that a mentor who is selected to grade a Theology of Ministry paper be familiar with the student's graduate-level studies with Global University.
3. *Final processing and approval of the Theology of Ministry paper.* The marked paper and evaluation form should be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School of Theology no later than the fifteenth business day after the student submits the completed paper and fee. The Dean reserves the right to give final approval of the grade assigned to the paper.
4. *Notifying the student of approval of the Theology of Ministry paper.* The International Office of Global University will notify the student in writing of the assessment outcome of the Theology of Ministry paper, either pass or fail. In the event the paper does not meet acceptable assessment standards for approval, the student will be allowed to redo and resubmit the paper. The Theology of Ministry paper must be passed for the student to graduate from the Master of Divinity program.

(Based on Requirements in the 2020 Graduate School of Theology Catalog)

The following page contains the form that faculty will use to grade the Theology of Ministry paper. Students **SHOULD NOT** fill in this form. It is only provided to help students better understand the assignment and how it will be evaluated.



1211 South Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65804, USA

Phone: 1-800-443-1083 (USA); 417-862-9533 (Outside USA)
E-mail: gst@globaluniversity.edu

Student no. \_\_\_\_\_ Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted \_\_\_\_\_ GSO Code \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator faculty no. \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluation criteria should be assessed by assigning a point value that best reflects the subjective observation of the evaluator. All subpoints for each criterion should be considered as a whole to determine point value for that criterion. Point values are based on the following levels of competency.

- 10 points (100%) = excellent level of competency displayed
9 points (90%) = above average level of competency displayed
8 points (80%) = average level of competency displayed
7 points (70%) = poor level of competency displayed
1-6 points (0-60%) = unacceptable level of competency displayed

Evaluation Criteria

Point Value

- 1. Is the ministry philosophy overview stated clearly and concisely?
2. Does the proposed strategy integrate philosophy and degree plan studies?
3. Is the strategy to implement philosophy into ministry manageable, logical, and stated clearly?
4. Is the five-year ministry plan articulated clearly and logically for the target audience?
5. Is feedback methodology logical and feasible for the strategy?
6. Are feedback instruments and methods adequately described?
7. Is application of course content for the specified degree evident throughout the paper?
8. Are relevant references included for course materials and other sources?
9. Writing Style
a. Is the writing style appropriate for the paper?
b. Is the writing style concise?
c. Are all components of the paper clearly and logically organized?
10. Format
a. Are all applicable components of the paper (e.g., title page, proposed plan, appendices, tables, and figures) done according to the Global University Graduate Studies Form and Style Guide?
b. Are feedback instruments included in the paper?
c. Are quotations and source references cited according to Global University format requirements?

Theology of Ministry Paper evaluation (total score for all categories) 0

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluator signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (da/MON/yr, as 10JAN06)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean, Graduate School of Theology, signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (da/MON/yr, as 10JAN06)