

Oral Roberts University Graduate School of Theology and Ministry
Distance Education Program
ABC of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Academic Advisement: How do I know what courses to take?

- All entering students should enroll in the following courses their first semester:
 - PRFT 055 (2.0 credit hours).
 - GTHE 517 Seminar in Theological Research (online) (3 credit hours)
- To enroll in additional courses, compare the current course schedule with your degree plan sheet and enroll in course(s) needed.
 - Course schedules available on the [Class Pages](#) website (see “Class Pages” below.)
 - Degree plan sheets available at <http://degreeplansheets.oru.edu/>
- Also see “First Semester” below.
- Students will be assigned an academic advisor right after the drop/add period, but they are welcome to discuss their questions with any professor in their degree program in the meantime.

Advanced Standing: See Transfer Credit below

Asynchronous and Synchronous Learning: What’s the Difference?

- Asynchronous online learning allows students to view instructional materials each week at any time they choose and does not include a live video lecture component. The seminary’s online courses fit in this category.
- Synchronous online learning means that students are required to log in and participate in class at a specific time each week.¹ Blended courses fit this category.

Blended courses: What are they?

- Blended A courses begin with the new semester and go for seven weeks online. They also include a weekly virtual face-to-face component by Zoom every Tuesday or Thursday evening of the seven weeks, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., CST.
- Blended B courses begin in mid-semester. Like blended A courses, they go for seven weeks online and include a weekly virtual face-to-face component by Zoom every Tuesday or Thursday evening of the seven weeks, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., CST.
- Students can consult course schedules and syllabi calendars to see what day their course will meet virtually.
- No travel is needed for these courses.
- See Courses, online.

¹ <https://online.osu.edu/resources/learn/whats-difference-between-asynchronous-and-synchronous-learning>

Class Pages – Grad Theology Website

- Class Pages is a website created exclusively for ORU Grad Theology students.
- It includes information on course schedules, graduation, and much more.
- To access: www.oru.edu > menu > student hub > class pages > grad theology-modular

Contact Information

- Grad Theology Recruiter, Kurt Lee, kulee@oru.edu, or 918.495.6328.
- ORU Assistant Registrar, Christine Welden, cwelden@oru.edu or 918.495.6205.
- Grad Theology Financial Aid help: 918.495.7089
- ORU International Office: Lisa Edwards, ledwards@oru.edu or 918.495.6529
- Grad Theology Modular Office, Deborah Foster, defoster@oru.edu, or 918.495.6088
- Grad Theology Program Coordinator, Distance Education & Assessment, Marlene Mankins, mmankins@oru.edu or 918.495.6096
- Grad Theology Modular Director, Dr. Tim Ekblad, tekblad@oru.edu

Course, online: How long do fully asynchronous online courses meet?

- Graduate Theology online courses meet for 14 weeks or the entire semester. There is no on-campus component.
- All course information and instructions are found in the D2L course shell.
- Contact your course professor with questions.

Course schedules: How do I know what courses are offered each semester?

- Course schedules are posted on the grad theology [Modular Class Pages](#) website for each semester.
- Compare the schedule with your degree plan sheet and see which offered courses you need.

Course Syllabi

- Syllabi are posted online one to two months before a semester begins.
- At times, a course may be offered both residentially and online in the same semester, so be sure to choose the proper CRN # and course section for the online course. (Residential courses usually have a section of 01 or 02; online courses have a section of W01, W01, and blended courses have a section of 1B1 or 2B1, etc.)
- Syllabi may be accessed before the semester begins at syllabi.oru.edu. Be sure to choose the correct syllabus indicated as “online.”

Degree plan sheets

- Degree plan sheets are available at <http://degreeplansheets.oru.edu/>
- Select academic year (fall/spring) and Theology & Ministry (Graduate)
- Students follow the degree plan of the academic year they entered the program.
- Contact the Modular office if you need help.

Dress Code

- ORU has a dress code for students, faculty, and staff.

- Please refer to the ORU student handbook at: <http://handbook.oru.edu/section-2/university-regulations/#dress-code>

Email, ORU

- Your acceptance letter from the graduate Admissions office should contain detailed instructions on how to set up your ORU email account.
- Please note that once you are accepted, only your ORU email will be used for all future correspondence with the school.
- If you need help, you may also contact ORU's I.T. department:
 - Phone: 918.495.6321
 - Email: studenthelpdesk@oru.edu
 - Twitter: @ORU_IT
 - Website: <http://it.oru.edu>

Enrollment

- Students enroll in courses on [Vision](http://vision.oru.edu) (vision.oru.edu).
- Go to Registration Steps and Enrollment. This will show the steps that need to be completed to have full registration completion.
- To enroll in courses, click on Registration Quick Links and Look up Classes to Add.
- When selecting terms, fall semesters go from August to December; spring semesters go from January to April; summer semesters are in the 5th summer session. (Do not select terms with “online” or “mini sessions” in it.)
- Follow screen prompts
- Use the current course schedule (on class pages) to see what's offered each semester. Compare with your degree plan to see what you need. Then enroll.

Full Time Student Status

- The full-time course load for master's level students in the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry is 9 hours in the fall and spring
- Full-time is 6 hours in the summer.

International Students

- If you are an international student with an F1 visa taking classes from the USA, remember that it is your responsibility to maintain your legal status in the country. In this case, it means that you are required to attend in-person classes at ORU every five months. In other words, you would be out of status with immigration if you go longer than five months without physically coming to ORU to attend a class. Please keep that in mind as you plan for the next semesters and plan accordingly. (ORU International)
- Students should contact Lisa Edwards in the ORU International Office for international students' questions and status at ledwards@oru.edu or 918.495.6529.

ORU Student Handbook

- The ORU Student Handbook is available at <http://handbook.oru.edu/>

- Although much of the information is geared toward undergraduate students, university information for all ORU students is also included.

Textbooks

- To find the required books for your course(s), refer to the course syllabi at syllabi.oru.edu (or go to www.oru.edu > student hub > course syllabi).
- You can also go to the ORU bookstore at <https://www.bkstr.com/oralrobertsstore/home> and follow the screen prompts to order your course textbooks.

Transfer Courses/Advanced Standing Credit

- To apply for advanced standing and/or transfer credit, students must fill out an Application for Advanced Standing/Transfer Credit and submit it, along with other required documents, to gradtheoacademics@oru.edu.
- The application is available on the grad theology Class Pages website, or you can request one at gradtheoacademics@oru.edu. Complete instructions are included.
- Students may also petition and upload form to it. Petitions are available at petitions.oru.edu.

Vision

- Vision is ORU's student enrollment and registration system, also used to set up ORU e-mail accounts, access grades and transcripts, update address information, etc.
- Follow instructions in your graduate Admissions acceptance letter on how to login and set up your account.
- Use your ORU single sign-on to log in.
- See Enrollment above.