



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Began program: \_\_\_\_\_

First Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Emphasis: \_\_\_\_\_

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The completion of the Mastery Checklist is a requirement for graduation.

### **Purpose**

McMaster Divinity College's niche for its MA program is to develop graduates who are motivated and empowered by the resources and life of the Christian tradition, and are on their way towards doctoral studies or advanced competence in theological studies for the Church, the academy, or society. As developing scholars, graduates will have broadened and deepened their knowledge base and skills, and demonstrated the disciplined thought indicative of a research-level MA degree. As evolving teachers and communicators, whether for academic settings or other ministerial or professional roles, they will have increased their ability to effectively communicate their research and learning in seminar and professional settings. As maturing persons, they will be establishing life patterns that will continue to serve them well and help them to grow professionally.

The requirements below are listed under the headings of scholar, communicator, and person.

### **Program Standards and Progress**

Each MA student is a unique person with a singular set of strengths and interests that will be developed and evaluated by the student's supervisor. The supervisor will establish the unique requirements to best prepare the particular student. In common with all who earn a MA from McMaster Divinity College will be achievement of at least the following standards with excellence. This checklist is the guiding document by which the student and supervisor will track the student's progress and achievement of the program requirements. When the supervisor ascertains that a standard has been achieved, she or he initials and dates that standard. Sign-offs can be on the basis of evident accomplishment before enrolment. Since each standard is to be met with excellence, it is expected that the supervisor will sign off on each requirement. In exceptional cases where the supervisor has some question about the standing of the student, the Graduate Studies Committee will confirm whether the standard has been met. Eventually the checklist will also serve as a helpful template for faculty recommendations on behalf of the student.

## Responsibility for Completion

It is the student's responsibility to progress toward the degree and the supervisor's responsibility to evaluate that progress through measurable and achievable goals. Both supervisor and student should track accomplishments with the supervisor holding the official record and providing regular copies to the student and committee members. By April 30 of each year in the program, the supervisor will send to the Registrar's Office a copy of this checklist for each of her or his students. As electronic documents and digital signatures are introduced into this process, the Registrar may have access to the form in its current state at any time. The form should be signed and dated by the student, as well, to indicate and document an awareness of her/his standing. The supervisor should initial that at least the minimum requirements found in the MA/PhD Handbook have been met. If not, please note here, or include in an attachment what is missing.

Year One \_\_\_\_\_ Year Two \_\_\_\_\_ [Year Three \_\_\_\_\_ Year Four \_\_\_\_\_]

Supervisor signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## KNOWING

**SCHOLAR: Knowledge base, skills, and structured thought developed at the level of a research-level MA degree.**

### Courses:

Supervisor Grades Term

Completed the following courses with a B- or better course grade:

Research Methods (6 units) \_\_\_\_\_

MA Seminar in area of emphasis (6 units; BS, MS, or TS)

OR: substitute 2 courses at the 3-unit level

Course(s): \_\_\_\_\_

MA Seminar in area of emphasis (6 units; BS, MS, or TS)

OR: substitute 2 courses at the 3-unit level

Course(s): \_\_\_\_\_

MA Seminar in area of emphasis (6 units; BS, MS, or TS)

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

MA Seminar in area of emphasis (6 units; BS, MS, or TS)

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: 5 Courses (or 30 units)

Research competence in Greek or Hebrew, minimum 1 year

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis:**

Thesis Topic approved by supervisor.

\_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Proposal approved by faculty.

\_\_\_\_\_

**BEING**

**MATURING PERSON: Life patterns established to continue to serve well and grow professionally.**

Demonstrated consistent connection to the life of the church or church-related ministries for at least one year of residency. Location, start and end dates:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Over the time of working with the student, the supervisor has seen evidence of interpersonal skills important to professional service, such as engaged listening, conveying accurate praise and criticism with grace, being able to speak the truth in face of opposition, and working as a team with others.

\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate can articulate the way the program has shaped his/her theology.

\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate and supervisor have engaged in a discussion, after the first year, about the student's discernment of vocational calling, and the student's plans for implementation of program outcomes after graduation.

\_\_\_\_\_

**DOING**

**TEACHER/COMMUNICATOR: Increased ability to communicate effectively in seminar and professional settings.**

Has joined one of the most important professional societies in one's research discipline.

Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Has presented research at MDC's TRS (Theological Research Seminar) or other equivalent organization (regional or national society meeting, etc.).

Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis contributes useful knowledge to the field as recognized by the supervisory committee and the Academic Dean. \_\_\_\_\_

Successful oral examination of thesis. \_\_\_\_\_

Has prepared a professional resume and curriculum vitae. \_\_\_\_\_

Knows how to compose an effective cover letter. \_\_\_\_\_

Has established a list of three referees ready to speak on her or his behalf:

Name, title, institution

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**The above requirements can be changed by McMaster Divinity College.**