



BIOLA
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF ARTS IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION
Application for Admission



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Application for Admission

MASTER OF ARTS IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Biola University Office of Graduate Admissions • 13800 Biola Avenue, La Mirada, California 90639-0001 • (800) 652-4652
e-mail: admissions@biola.edu

APPLICATION DEADLINES

The Office of Graduate Admissions must receive all application items no later than the following dates:

Fall: July 1ST

Spring: December 1ST

Note: We encourage you to apply four to eight months ahead of your expected enrollment date. Applications may be submitted after deadlines, but will be considered and processed if space is available and if time allows (a late fee of \$10 is required in addition to the \$45 application fee).

INSTRUCTIONS – Please provide the following:

1. An application fee of \$45 (non-refundable) must accompany the application.
2. Submit two references on forms provided.
3. Request official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. If enrolled at the time application is filed, be sure to request transcripts of work you have finished to date and final transcripts upon completion of your course of study. Transcripts must be official, that is, mailed directly from your college or university in a sealed envelope to the Office of Graduate Admissions.
4. You may use additional paper to complete application questions.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. *International applicants* - Follow the special admissions procedures described in the international graduate student admissions instructions (on the web at: www.biola.edu/grad/international). International students may only apply for fall admission. TOEFL scores and Affidavit of Support are required. The application deadline for international students is June 1st (all materials must be received by this deadline), unless otherwise indicated.
2. *Divorced/Separated/Remarried applicants*: These issues may not disqualify you, however, they have a significant effect on your life and ministry. Therefore, please submit a one to two page statement indicating: the general circumstances (include counseling and attempts at reconciliation) and your view of the biblical teaching on separation, divorce and remarriage and how your situation relates to that teaching. Please reference appropriate biblical passages. What effect do you perceive it having upon your future ministry?
3. *Criminal conviction other than traffic violations*: Having been convicted does not necessarily disqualify you, however, it may have an impact upon your life and ministry. Therefore, on a separate piece of paper, describe the circumstances in full, including date(s) and the name and location of the court(s), nature of the offense(s) and disposition of the case, i.e., sentence imposed, and the impact you perceive it having upon your future ministry.

AFTER YOU'VE FILED

1. You will be assigned to an admissions counselor and notified, by letter, of his/her name. Any questions you have concerning admissions, financial aid, or housing should be directed to your admissions counselor.
2. You will be notified of items needed to complete your file.
3. Upon completion of your file and review by committee, an admission decision will be made. Notification of the decision will be sent by mail.

UPON ACCEPTANCE

1. Validation of acceptance form (mailed with acceptance letter) must be signed and returned.

If your plans change and you do not desire to complete your application, or to enroll if accepted, please notify the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Please keep this sheet for your reference.

We cannot consider your application until ALL items are completed. You may submit items independently.



SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
MASTER OF ARTS IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Application Deadlines:
July 1st (Fall)
December 1st (Spring)
Note: Applications may be submitted after the deadlines...

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Name in full Last First Middle Social Security Number

Home phone: () Work Phone: () Cell Phone: ()

Current mailing address: STREET AND NUMBER CITY STATE ZIP

Permanent home address: STREET AND NUMBER CITY STATE ZIP

E-mail address:

Until what date will mail reach you at current mailing address?

Country of birth Date of birth Ethnicity (optional) Gender

Marital Status: Single Engaged Married Divorced Separated Remarried Date of Marriage

Maiden Name (if applicable) Name of spouse or fiancé (e)

Have you or your spouse ever been divorced or separated? Yes No If yes, attach a statement (as per instructions).

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a traffic violation? Yes No If yes, attach a statement (as per instructions).

Have you previously applied to any of the schools of Biola or studied at any of the schools at Biola?

If yes, which school or program? Approximate date? Student I.D. #

Country of Citizenship Native Language

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of all students whose native tongue is not English (see catalog).

Test Date (if applicable): Score

If you are a foreign national now residing in the US, indicate your current visa status: Student (F-1) Exchange student (J-1)

Permanent resident (card #) Other (specify) Expiration Date of visa

TERM OF ENTRY

Fall (year): Spring (year):

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Please request the Registrar of *each college or university attended* (including community colleges, institutes, and schools you are presently attending) to send an *official* academic transcript directly to: the Office of Graduate Admissions. If the program has not yet been completed *another* transcript must be sent as soon as possible after the degree has been awarded and the BA/BS is posted.

List all schools attended beyond high school

SCHOOL	MAJOR	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	DEGREE

When do you intend to receive your Bachelor’s degree, if you do not already have it? _____

Have you ever been refused admission to, or received disciplinary action from any post-secondary academic institution? _____ If yes, attach statement with details.

If you attended any schools under any other name, please state names: _____

INFORMATIONAL PROFILE AND WRITING SAMPLE

Please submit a written statement which answers the following questions:

- Why do you desire to attend the MASR program and what do you hope to gain from your studies? How does this relate to your vocational objectives?
- List two or three books you have recently read in the area of science and religion, give a one paragraph assessment of each.
- Please list any background that is relevant to the MASR program: Past/current employment, research and publications, thesis, missionary/ministry experience, and details of specific interdisciplinary course work already taken.

CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

Are you currently a member of a church? Yes No Denomination _____

How often do you attend? _____

Name and mailing address of present “home” church _____ Phone () _____

_____ Street and Number _____ City _____ State _____ Zip

How long have you been attending? _____ Pastor’s Name _____

Name the churches with which you have been in fellowship during the past five years and give the dates.

CONVERSION AND CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Do you know Christ as your personal Savior? _____ Date of conversion _____

Does your spouse or fiancé(e) know Christ as personal Savior? _____ Date of conversion _____

Explain in your own words: 1) The Scriptural basis for your salvation; and 2) Briefly describe your conversion experience.

Would you characterize yourself as displaying aspects of mature Christianity? _____ Please explain:

DOCTRINAL POSITION

Have you read the attached Doctrinal Statement of the University? _____

Are you in agreement with the views expressed therein? _____

Are there areas in which you have not formed an opinion? _____ If yes, please explain. _____

Are there areas of disagreement? _____ If yes please explain. _____

REFERENCES

The applicant is required to furnish two references (on Biola reference forms provided): one from your current pastor and one from a professor or from someone that knows your character. Indicate below the names and addresses of the individuals to whom you give the reference forms. Please do not give references to relatives.

PASTOR: Name and address: _____

Title and Church name: _____ Phone: () _____

ACADEMIC/
CHARACTER: Name and address: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: () _____

REFERRAL

Please indicate how you first learned about the Master of Arts in Science and Religion:

Personal referral (by whom?) _____

Printed news story or interview (in which publication?) _____

Broadcast news story or interview (on which radio or television station?) _____

Advertisement (specify newspaper or radio station) _____

Other (please specify) _____

Which was the most significant factor influencing your choice to attend Biola University? (Check one square only.)

- Present Biola student/friend Biola faculty Employer’s recommendation
- Alumni Admissions Contact I was an undergraduate at Biola University
- Visit to Biola University Pastor recommendation Other (please specify) _____

Standards of Conduct

Biola University has long recognized value in maintaining certain behavioral standards that contribute to the atmosphere on campus, foster fellowship with a wide range of Christians and, in many instances, assist in strengthening our Christian testimony to our community. In this light, Biola University asks its students to be supportive of this standard. Please read the attached Standards of Conduct and indicate your intent to abide by these agreements.

WILL YOU ABIDE BY THESE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT WHILE ENROLLED AT BIOLA? YES NO

Biola reserves the right to dismiss a student who, in its judgment, does not conform either to the stated regulations governing student conduct or the expressed principles, policies, and programs of the University.

In making application to become a student at Biola University I agree with the doctrinal and teaching position as described on this application (with my stated exceptions). I pledge myself to abide by the regulations of the administration and faculty; to protect the good name of the school; to preserve and protect the physical properties of the University; and to cooperate with all members of the University family in maintaining a spirit of Christian fellowship.

I certify that all information submitted in the application process including the application supplements (and supporting materials) is my own work, factually true and honestly presented. I understand that I may be subject to a range of possible disciplinary actions including admission revocation or dismissal should the information I certify be false.

Date

Applicant’s signature (required)

Biola University has a strong evangelical Christian commitment and requires that an accepted applicant be an evangelical believer in sympathy with our mission and doctrine. Biola retains the right to extend admission to those, who in our opinion, best fit our mission and doctrine. Biola University does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran’s status.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Inasmuch as the University is interdenominational and yet theologically conservative, the Articles of Incorporation contain a doctrinal statement which is given below:

The Bible, consisting of all the books of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God, a supernaturally given revelation from God Himself, concerning Himself, His being, nature, character, will and purposes; and concerning man, his nature, need and duty and destiny. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are without error or misstatement in their moral and spiritual teaching and record of historical facts. They are without error or defect of any kind.

There is one God, eternally existing and manifesting Himself to us in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our Lord Jesus was supernaturally conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin Mary, a lineal descendant of David. He lived and taught and wrought mighty works and wonders and signs exactly as is recorded in the four Gospels. He was put to death by crucifixion under Pontius Pilate. God raised from the dead the body that had been nailed to the cross. The Lord Jesus after His crucifixion showed Himself to be alive to His disciples, appearing unto them by the space of 40 days. After this, the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven, and the Father caused Him to sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come, and put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the Church.

The Lord Jesus, before His incarnation, existed in the form of God and of His own choice laid aside His divine glory and took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. In His pre-existent state, He was with God and was God. He is a divine person possessed of all the attributes of Deity, and should be worshiped as God by angels and man. "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." All the words that He spoke during His earthly life were the words of God. There is absolutely no error of any kind in them, and by the words of Jesus Christ the words of all other teachers must be tested.

The Lord Jesus became in every respect a real man, possessed of all the essential characteristics of human nature.

By His death on the cross, the Lord Jesus made a perfect atonement for sin, by which the wrath of God against sinners is appeased and a ground furnished upon which God can deal in mercy with sinners. He redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse in our place. He who Himself was absolutely without sin was made to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. The Lord Jesus is coming again to his earth, personally, bodily, and visibly. The return of our Lord is the blessed hope of the believer, and in it God's purposes of grace toward mankind will find their consummation.

The Holy Spirit is a person, and is possessed of all the distinctively divine attributes. He is God.

Man was created in the image of God, after His likeness, but the whole human race fell in the fall of the first Adam. All men, until they accept the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior, are lost, darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, hardened in heart, morally and spiritually dead through their trespasses and sins. They cannot see, nor enter the Kingdom of God until they are born again of the Holy Spirit.

Men are justified on the simple and single ground of the shed blood of Christ and upon the simple and single condition of faith in Him who shed the blood, and are born again by the quickening, renewing, cleansing work of the Holy Spirit, through the instrumentality of the Word of God.

All those who receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and their Lord, and who confess Him as such before their fellow men, become children of God and receive eternal life. They become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. At death their spirits depart to be with Christ in conscious blessedness, and at the Second Coming of Christ their bodies shall be raised and transformed into the likeness of the body of His glory.

All those who persistently reject Jesus Christ in the present life shall be raised from the dead and throughout eternity exist in the state of conscious, unutterable, endless torment of anguish.

The Church consists of all those who, in this present dispensation, truly believe in Jesus Christ. It is the body and bride of Christ, which Christ loves and for which He has given Himself.

There is a personal devil, a being of great cunning and power: "The prince of the power of the air," "The prince of this world," "The god of this age." He can exert vast power only so far as God suffers him to do so. He shall ultimately be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone and shall be tormented day and night forever.

Explanatory Note:

This doctrinal statement, presented here as originally conceived by the founders of the organization, has been and continues to be the stated theological position of Biola University. Where "man" is used, referring to the human race, it includes both genders. In addition, the following explanatory notes indicate the organization's understanding and teaching position on certain points which could be subject to various interpretations:

In fulfillment of God's historical purpose for humanity to rule and establish God's kingdom on earth (Gen. 1:28; Ps. 8:4-8; Matt. 6:10 Heb. 2:6-9), the Scriptures teach a millennial reign of Christ with his saints on earth following his literal return. The nation of Israel, having been redeemed, will play a central role in bringing the blessings of salvation to all nations during the millennium in fulfillment of biblical prophecies (e.g., Is. 2:1-4, 11:1-12; Jer. 23:5-6; Ezek. 37; Amos 9:9-15; Zech. 14; Matt. 19:28; Acts 1:6, 3:19-21; Rev. 20:4-7). Following the millennium, this kingdom will be merged into the eternal kingdom (I Cor. 15:22-28).

Before these millennial events, the believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (I Thess. 4:13-17). The time of this "rapture" is unknown, and thus believers are to live constantly watchful and ready.

The existence and nature of the creation is due to the direct miraculous power of God. The origin of the universe, the origin of life, the origin of kinds of living things, and the origin of humans cannot be explained adequately apart from reference to that intelligent exercise of power. A proper understanding of science does not require that all phenomena in nature must be explained solely by reference to physical events, laws and chance.

Therefore, creation models which seek to harmonize science and the Bible should maintain at least the following: (a) God providentially directs His creation, (b) He specially intervened in at least the above-mentioned points in the creation process, and (c) God specially created Adam and Eve (Adam's body from non-living material, and his spiritual nature immediately from God). Inadequate origin models hold that (a) God never directly intervened in creating nature and/or (b) humans share a common physical ancestry with earlier life forms.

Though there may be many fillings of the Holy Spirit, there is only one baptism which occurs at the time of regeneration. The gifts of the Spirit are given to believers according to the Will of God for the purpose of building up the Church. During the foundational era of the Church (i.e., the time of Christ and the Apostles) God gave special manifestations of the overtly supernatural and miraculous gifts (e.g., tongues, healings, miracles) as "signs" that witness to the validity of those bearing new canonical revelation (c.f. 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4). Beyond the foundational era, God in His sovereignty may grant any spiritual gift and work miraculously for the benefit of His Church at any time.

The Bible is clear in its teaching on the sanctity of human life. Life begins at conception. We abhor the destruction of innocent life through abortion-on-demand.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Biola University is a community of Christians committed to the principles of Christian living found in the Bible and holds that these biblical standards are vital to our individual and corporate relationships. Maintaining these standards contributes to the kind of atmosphere in which quality Christian education and spiritual nurture can best occur, and strengthens the testimony of Biola within both Christian and secular communities. In this light, and given the clear biblical imperative for spiritual self-discipline, the University has established these "standards of conduct" to be observed and upheld, by all members of the Biola community.

Consistent with the example and command of Jesus Christ, we believe that life within a Christian community must be lived to the glory of God, with love for God and for our neighbors. Being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we strive to walk by the Spirit, "crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24). To this end, members of the Biola community are not to engage in activities, which Scripture forbids. Such activities include, but are not limited to, dishonesty, thievery, fornication, adultery, homosexual practice, drunkenness and unscriptural divorce. Scripture also condemns other "deeds of the flesh" such as covetousness, jealousy, pride and lust-sins which the maturing Christian should put off, and replace with "fruit of the spirit": love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (e.g., Luke 10:27; Galatians 2:20, 5:14-24; Ephesians 2:3; 1Corinthians 6:9-10).

As a Christian educational institution, Biola also recognizes the responsibility of its Board of Trustees, faculty and staff to provide examples of maturing Christian character, conduct and attitude to its students and the community at large. Therefore, as maturing Christians, the entire Biola community will strive for the holiness of God (1 Peter 1:13-19), and love Him with all our heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37). In addition, we are called to love our friends and neighbors as God has loved us (Matthew 22:39; 1 John 4:7- 11). We will achieve this calling by walking by the power of the Holy Spirit and avoiding sins clearly forbidden in Scripture (Galatians 5:16-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9- 11; Ephesians 5:1-14). In addition, we will pursue the fruit of the Spirit from our Lord and with one another (Galatians 5:22-24).

When the Bible is not clear regarding a specific behavior, we will be guided by our desire to glorify God in our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and will discern if any of our brothers or sisters in Christ would stumble in their faith (1 Corinthians 8; Romans 14). If our Lord is not glorified or another Christian is harmed or offended by our behavior, then we will freely abstain from that activity, both on and off the campus of Biola. We know that many behaviors are lawful, but not all are profitable (1 Corinthians 10:23-33). Therefore, we will constantly be teachable regarding those activities where the Bible is not clear and will evaluate them in light of our pursuit of holiness and love for our Lord and each other.

Students of Biola are expected to refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco in any form, and from gambling. Furthermore, discernment must be exercised in avoiding all activities that may be spiritually or morally harmful. Individual decisions regarding movies, television programs, all forms of electronic media and other activities are expected to reflect this moral commitment. Biola University does not presume to be a censoring agency for all activities; it does, however, expect tangible evidence of maturing Christian convictions and discerning judgment.

In addition, members of the Biola community will observe Sunday as the Lord's Day and give primary attention to worship, rest, Christian fellowship and recreation, and service.

These standards apply to the student while enrolled in any of the schools or programs of the University on and off campus. Biola therefore reserves the right to discipline or dismiss any student who in its judgment, does not conform to these conduct standards or to other expressed principles, policies, programs and expectations of the university governing student conduct.

2. How long have you known the applicant? _____
 In what capacity have you known the applicant? _____
 How well do you know the applicant? Very Well Rather well Casually Not well
3. Does the applicant currently attend your church? Yes No
4. Does the applicant overemphasize any theological or scientific position? If so, please comment.

5. How does the applicant communicate/relate with others who hold to differing opinions regarding theological or scientific matters?
 Please comment

6. Please provide us with a statement concerning the applicant's spiritual maturity, abilities, personality, character, and professional promise. Also include in your statement an assessment of his or her strengths and weaknesses.

7. Do you see this person as someone whom you would put in a place of ministry leadership? Please comment:

8. We would appreciate your additional comments. Use a separate page if necessary.

9. I recommend this applicant for admission to the Master of Arts program in Science and Religion at Biola University.
 I highly recommend I recommend I do not recommend I recommend with these reservation(s):

10. _____

Your Name (Please type or print)	Signature	Date
Position	Church	
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
E-Mail address	Phone	

SEND DIRECTLY TO:
 OFFICE OF GRADUATE ADMISSIONS
 Biola University, 13800 Biola Avenue
 La Mirada CA 90639
 (562)-903-4752 Fax (562)-903-4709
www.biola.edu/scienceandreligion



MASTER OF ARTS IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Reference: Academic/Character

THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT:

Please provide a stamped envelope addressed to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Biola University (full address on back) to the person completing the reference.

LAST NAME OF APPLICANT (PLEASE PRINT) FIRST MIDDLE OR MAIDEN

ADDRESS

E-mail Phone

Plan to enter Biola University: Fall Spring Year _____ Degree sought at Biola University: _____

NOTE: This form is to be filled out by someone who is not a member of your immediate family

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment) permits students access to certain credentials in their files. Because of the importance of preserving the confidentiality of a reference, the Act permits an applicant to waive his/her right of access to the reference. By signing below, the applicant willingly waives his/her right of access to see this recommendation, knowing that this waiver is NOT required as a condition for admission.

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE NOTE:

The individual named above is applying for admission to the Master of Arts program in Science and Religion in the School of Professional Studies at Biola University. Please note the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act as indicated above. Ours is a Christian institution and our aim is to train only those students who are qualified spiritually and academically. Please be frank and accurate. Thank you for your help. Please use additional paper if necessary.

1. In view of your knowledge of the applicant, how do you assess his or her abilities and character in the following categories as compared to his or her peers?

	NOT OBSERVED	VERY WEAK	FAIR	GOOD	OUTSTANDING
Intellectual ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to work with others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creativity and imagination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spiritual maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knowledge of Scripture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpersonal skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-confidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oral communication skills in English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to analyze problems and formulate solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motivation for proposed program of study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potential for career advancement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aptitude for chosen profession	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diligence and task persistence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(OVER)

