

COURSE INSTRUCTION METHODS

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

DISTANCE LEARNING

The Master of Arts degree in Christian Apologetics requires a total of **36 units**.

- 20 of the 36 units are offered through **modular courses** with a two-week summer residency component (module).
- 16 of the 36 units are offered through **specialized distance courses** and **elective options** (no residency needed).
- Other options (arranged courses, special weekend seminars) are described on page 2.

The descriptions below provide more information on what is involved in each class. While the course syllabi contain all the information about the course requirements, this description of instruction methods may guide you as you select your classes.

What is a modular course, and how does it work?

- Modular courses are 2-unit courses that follow a Spring-Summer-Fall series. Students begin the modular course in the Spring by enrolling in “Part A” of a selected modular course. Students participate in online discussion groups via Blackboard to communicate with faculty and fellow students, and keep up with reading requirements and assignments using the course syllabus and the At-A-Glance Calendar as a guide.
- Following the Spring semester, students attend a 2-week summer module session on Biola University’s campus (typically mid-July) to complete their residency. The students attend lectures that correspond with the courses he or she took during the spring. (**Note:** 20 units toward the degree must involve an on-campus residency component. The modular courses are the most typical way of meeting this requirement. Weekend seminars are another way of meeting this requirement. See page 2 for more about weekend seminars.)
- After the summer session, students will take the corresponding “Part B” for those same modular courses during the Fall semester. Students will once again participate in online discussion groups and readings, and will prepare research projects and papers as assigned by their instructors.
- These modular courses are typically taken in groups of five, which we refer to as “**Track One**” or “**Track Two**”. Each of the first four topics in both Track One and Track Two is held for a 4-week stint during the 16-week semester, while the readings and assignments for the fifth Special Topics courses are due at the end of the term. This means that students do not participate in nor complete work for all five courses simultaneously.
- Shown below are the modular courses that comprise Track One and Track Two. (Please note that Track One is not a prerequisite for Track Two. While students often take Track One their first year and Track Two their second, this is not a requirement.)

Track One – 2-unit courses

AP 629 MD/ Scientific Apologetics *or* Elective
 AP 643 MD/ Cultural Apologetics
 AP 626 MD/ Ethics
 AP 691 MD/ In Defense of the Resurrection
 AP 680 MD/ Special Topics in Apologetics

Track Two – 2-unit courses

AP 529 MD/ Scripture: Authority, Canon, & Criticism
 AP 541 MD/ Essential Christian Doctrine I
 AP 542 MD/ Essential Christian Doctrine II
 AP 625 MD/ Philosophy of Religion *or* Elective
 AP 680 MD/ Special Topics in Apologetics

- Students earn 2 units for each modular course. However, these 2 units are divided between the Spring and Fall semesters. Students earn 1 unit for each of the five “Part A” courses in the Spring and 1 unit for each of the five “Part B” courses in the Fall. No credits units are earned during the summer session.

What is a specialized distance course, and how does it work?

- Specialized distance courses require no time on campus. They are held within the parameters of a given semester (that is, they are not spread across a Spring-Summer-Fall series).
- These courses involve listening to recorded lectures, reading requirements, and completing exams or research papers. There is typically a fee for course materials, which include lecture recordings and outlines.
- These 3-unit courses are offered as specialized distance courses:

AP 521 MD/ Survey of Genesis – Malachi	3 units
AP 522 MD/ Survey of New Testament (Gospels)	3 units
AP 522 MD/ Survey of New Testament (Epistles)	3 units
AP 550 MD/ Historical Theology	3 units
- In addition, AP 510 Apologetics Research & Writing is a **1-unit course** that involves taped lectures, required coursework, and participating in online discussion. This course lasts for 5 weeks during the semester. It provides a helpful foundation for other courses, and we recommend that students take this course in their first semester.

What other course options are there? How can I take elective courses?

In addition to the listed modular courses and specialized distance courses listed above, there are a few other ways that student can earn credit.

- **AP 628 MD/ Why God Allows Evil:** This is an elective modular course that can be substitute for a selected course in Track One or Track Two listed above. This **2-unit** course follows the same Spring-Summer-Fall progression (described above) as the other modular courses.
- **AP 522 MD/ Survey of New Testament (Gospels *or* Epistles):** We are able to offer two options for completing your New Testament requirement. Either Gospels or Epistles will meet the requirement, while students may choose to take the additional course as a **3-unit** elective course.
- **Defending the Faith Lecture Series:** This series is comprised of outlines and audio recordings of previous lecture series. Each series includes eight unique lectures from top apologists in their field of specialty. Each 2-unit course requires listening to the lectures, reading two textbooks, and completing a final overview quiz and two essays. A **maximum of 6 units** may be earned through the Defending the Faith Lecture Series. There is a course fee for materials and shipping.

AP 604 MD/ Defending the Faith Series I	2 units
AP 604 MD/ Defending the Faith Series II	2 units
AP 604 MD/ Defending the Faith Series III	2 units

- **Arranged Courses: Directed Study, Project, or Internship:** Students may propose a project related to the defense of the Christian faith that may involve teaching, writing, research, debating, video/audio productions, an internship with an apologetics organization, or an apologetics related ministry. These courses may or may not be distance courses, depending on the arrangement with the advisor. To request an arranged course, please notify the Apologetics department by calling 888.332.4652 or speaking with your advisor. These arranged courses can earn **1 to 6 units** each.
- **Special Weekend Seminars:** The special weekend seminars are intensive classes offered on the Biola campus for a three-day period (Thursday evening, Friday evening, all day Saturday) during the semester. Modular students are welcome to attend the seminars at Biola for those three days and then finish the required coursework from the convenience of their home. These courses are typically offered two or three times each semester, and each can earn **2 units** of credit. Please consult the latest class schedules by logging on to <http://www.apologeticsevents.com> or http://wisdom2.biola.edu/register/static_schedule for the upcoming seminar options that are available. **Note:** These on-campus weekend seminars count toward meeting the students' 20-unit residency requirement. They can be substituted for elective courses in Track One and Track Two (as seen above).