


**HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership: MA in Religious Studies - Apply Today**


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June 30, 2025



# HJ International

GRADUATE SCHOOL for  
PEACE and PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Building Effectiveness in Ministry and Public Leadership



**HJ International**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL for  
PEACE and PUBLIC LEADERSHIP


## Earn Your MA in Religious Studies

Deepen your understanding of the  
Judeo-Christian and Unification  
tradition. Gain theological and practical  
insights into the major world religions  
and their impact on today's society!


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✓ Generous Scholarships

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[MA in Religious Studies](#)



## FEATURED COURSE

**Seminar in Unification Studies:**  
Providential History of the  
Korean People

**Dr. Thomas Selover**  
Adjunct Professor of  
Asian Religion



**Fall Classes Begin August 25**



**APPLY NOW!**

Contact Steven Boyd  
Dean of Enrollment Management  
[s.boyd@hji.edu](mailto:s.boyd@hji.edu)



### **New HJI Course Explores the Korean Epic as a Spiritual and Theological Treasure**

In the fall 2025 semester HJI is excited to offer a unique course diving into *The Epic History of the Chosen Han People of Korea*, which is emerging as a powerful resource for Unification theological reflection, teaching, and preaching.

In this course, students will take a closer look at the story of the Korean Epic through reading and media, while also exploring the deeper roots of Korean and East Asian history, religion, and culture. Along the way, the course will wrestle with big questions—about identity, “chosenness,” prophecy, and how God’s hand moves through history.

The first part of the course traces the early journey of the Korean people, even before they were seen as “chosen,” and highlights how traditions like Confucianism, Buddhism, and Korean shamanism helped shape their spiritual path. The second part focuses on the Korean Epic’s fulfillment—through the birth of the Only Begotten Daughter, the Holy Wedding with the Returning Messiah, and the vision and reality of *Cheon Il Guk*.

It’s a fresh and meaningful way to connect faith, history, and purpose—and to see how

the Korean Epic speaks to our lives and mission today.

The course is taught by Dr. Thomas Selover, HJI Class of 1977. Dr. Selover received his Doctor of Theology from Harvard University with studies in comparative religion and East Asian religion and culture. He also served as President of SunHak Graduate University. Currently he and his wife Grace are leading PWPA International and are serving on a national team of education advisors for FFWPU North America.

**If this course sparks your interest, we invite you to consider enrolling this fall!** Whether you're looking to deepen your theological understanding or explore the roots of our faith tradition in a new light, this course offers a rich and engaging experience. To apply, click on the link below.

[Apply Today!](#)



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## What Our Students Say



“The professors are excellent: challenging and attentive to student needs, bringing a personal touch to online classes. With students from across the globe, a wide array of fascinating viewpoints are shared!

**Mark Lincoln, USA**

“If you are thinking about joining HJI, I truly advise you to. At HJI you will meet elite professors who will help you to understand your potential, and HJI is a great place for all ages!

**Majlinda Ziko, Albania**



For more information about HJI, email [admissions@hji.edu](mailto:admissions@hji.edu)  
To apply to HJI [click here](#)

[All HJI Programs](#)

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# Master of Arts (M.A.) in Religious Studies Program

The M.A. in Religious Studies is a broad-based degree program suited for students who wish to gain extensive knowledge of the Christian tradition and its impact on society, supplemented by wide-ranging knowledge of the world's religions. The program enables students to integrate their own faith perspective with in-depth knowledge of the broader Judeo-Christian tradition and its manifestations in contemporary social and cultural realities. This prepares them to be more effective witnesses for their faith in today's multi-faith environment and to practice in a wide variety of ministries. It also equips them for positions in non-governmental bodies dealing with the religious issues that are often at the root of conflict.



The program's foundation courses are a theological curriculum that provides a broad knowledge of scripture, theology and history in the Christian tradition. The MA in Religious Studies Program has four concentrations, each with distinct purposes: The Concentration on Unificationism equips students with an in-depth understanding of its teachings, theology, scriptures and history, such as is required of aspiring leaders in the Unification movement. The Concentration in Public and Non-Profit Leadership equips students with skills needed to work effectively in civil society and non-governmental organizations. The Concentration in Interfaith Peacebuilding provides a theological and intercultural understanding in several religious traditions with focused examination on the nexus of religion and peacebuilding. The Concentration in Theological Studies is suitable for students who wish to pursue a general study of Christian theology, biblical studies and church history. Students may choose one or more of these concentrations.

Students who do not select a concentration may use elective courses to prepare for specific vocations such as counseling, education, church leadership, or those calling for specialization in a particular religious tradition. The M.A. in Religious Studies is also a natural entrance point for further graduate studies in religion, ministerial professions and the social sciences.

The program can be completed in two years of full-time studies, however, students choosing to enroll only part-time will require an extended time frame to graduate.

## Graduation Requirements

To be awarded the M.A. degree, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- 42 credit hours
- A minimum grade point average of 2.50
- Mid-Program Review
- A Masters Thesis or Project, presented in the Masters Colloquium in the final term prior to graduation, or for student with the Public and Non-Profit Leadership Concentration, an Internship with a substantial theological reflection and report

## FOUNDATION COURSES

Students are required to take four required foundation courses:

SCR 5131 Hebrew Bible

SCR 5141 New Testament Foundations

LTR 5131 History of Christianity I or LTR 5132 History of Christianity II

THE 5635 Introduction to Divine Principle or THE 5631 Divine Principle in Depth



and a choice of two of the following three:

LTR 5141 World Religions and the Encounter with Christianity

THE 5131 Systematic Theology

THE 5141 Ethics and Social Justice

## MASTERS PROJECT

Masters Thesis, Project or MIN 5190 Field Education Internship (for students with the Public and Non-Profit Leadership or the Interfaith Peacebuilding concentration only) (3 credits)

MIN 5804A & MIN 5804B Masters Colloquium (not required for students using Field Education as capstone) (0 credit)

Any one course cannot satisfy both a Master of Arts in Religious Studies foundation requirement and the concentration requirement.

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## Concentration in Unification Studies

As one of the two academic concentrations, Unification Studies guides students to a more focused and in-depth understanding of the theology, philosophy, guiding principles and history of the Unification Movement. Unification students in particular will have the opportunity to study and investigate their own faith more deeply. Students will be able to choose from a wide range of courses including the History of the Unification Movement, the Life and Thought of Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han Moon, and the Divine Principle. This concentration prepares students for various ministries in the Unification Movement, including church leadership, education, public relations, and ecumenical and interfaith ministries.

The following course requirements apply to all students taking this concentration. Courses listed are for 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

Three courses from:

LTR 5151 The Unification Movement

LTR 5503 Unification Worldview and Society

LTR 5622 Life and Thought of SMM and HJHM

EDU 5604 Unification Apologetics

MIN 5601 Unification Ritual and Traditions

THE 5601 Unification Theology

THE 5602 Towards a Theology of the Only-Begotten Daughter

THE 5611 Unification Philosophy

Three 1-credit practica in Teaching:

EDU 5601 Practicum in Teaching Divine Principle (1 credit)

EDU 5605 Practicum in Teaching VOC (1 credit)

EDU 5606 Practicum in Teaching Unification Thought (1 credit)

## Concentration in Public and Non-Profit Leadership

Since the end of the Cold War, the role of civil society and nongovernmental organizations has grown dramatically. Multilateral Institutions such as the World Bank, the United Nations, and regional organizations are increasingly reliant on Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and NonGovernmental Organizations (NGOs) to provide leadership in addressing natural disasters, health crises, human trafficking, and other social problems. The HJI Public and Non-Profit Leadership concentration focuses on professional competencies in public leadership, in governance, in conflict analysis and resolution, in financial management, and in human resource development. Besides theory, students can gain a practical and experiential perspective in this concentration through an internship experience. The Concentration in Public and

Non-Profit Leadership prepares students to assume leadership roles in the faith-based as well as the public non-profit sector.

The following course requirements apply to all students taking this concentration. Courses listed are for 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

Four courses, including but not limited to:

MGT 5101 Conflict Analysis and Transformation

MGT 5302 Management of Non-Profit Organizations

MGT 5303 Leadership and Organizational Planning

MGT 5304 Leadership in the Social Sector

MGT 5311 Marketing

MGT 5331 Human Resource Management

MGT 5401 Financial Management for NPOs

MGT 5501 Brand Management

MIN 5107 Leadership and Congregational Development

Field Education:

MIN 5190 Field Education Internship (counts as capstone requirement, replacing the Thesis/Project)

## Concentration in Interfaith Peacebuilding

This concentration takes students through a process whereby they gain a valuable understanding of “the other” in today’s world with the goal of developing a more harmonious and peaceful world and an identity as a human family. As one a professional concentrations, students will undertake both a theoretical and experiential study of interfaith peacebuilding.

This concentration prepares students for various professional roles in religious organizations, NGOs and the public sector, including ministries of peace and justice, ecumenical and interfaith ministries, education and teaching, peacebuilding ministries, public service at the interface of religion and public policy, and consulting and other specialized roles to facilitate conflict resolution and cross-cultural understanding.

The following course requirements apply to students taking this concentration. Courses listed are for 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

Two courses in the area of Peacebuilding from the following list:

THE 5132 Theology of Peacebuilding

LTR 5503 Unification Worldview & Society

LTR 5513 World Religions & Global Conflict

PST 5101 Conflict Analysis and Transformation

PST 5131 Peace & Conflict Studies

PST 5141 Diplomacy & Faith-based Diplomacy

PST 5143 Unification Approaches to Peace

PST 5301 Restorative & Transitional Justice

PAS 5701 Multicultural Counseling

Two courses in the area of Religion and Interfaith Relations from the following list:

MIN 5106 Ecumenism and Interfaith

LTR 5515 Interfaith Peacebuilding and the UN



MIN5724 Interreligious Prayer in Ministry

SCR 5151 World Scriptures & World Peace

Or a course in a religious tradition other than one's own, for example:

LTR 5402 Jewish-Christian Relations

LTR 5411 Islam

LTR 5412 Muslim-Christian Relations

LTR 5431 Buddhism

SCR 5701 The Qur'an

Unification Studies courses do not count for this requirement.

Field Education:

MIN 5190 Field Education Internship (counts as capstone requirement, replacing the Thesis)

## Concentration in Theological Studies

Theological Studies is an academic concentration in which students broaden their academic background in Religious Studies by embarking on a more indepth look at the Bible, Christian Theology, Church History and Living Traditions. This concentration effectively prepares students for doctoral studies or further studies in Christianity. It also prepares students for education and teaching in the Christian church and for ecumenical and interfaith ministries.

The following course requirements apply to all students taking this concentration. Courses listed are for 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

Four courses in the area of Scripture, Theology or Church History, including but not limited to:

SCR 5302 The Prophets

SCR 5311 Genesis

SCR 5412 Life and Teachings of Jesus

SCR 5413 Life and Letters of Paul

LTR 5131 History of Christianity I or LTR 5132 History of Christianity II (if not taken as foundation course)

THE 5311 Modern Theology

## Korean Track

The Korean Track is designed for Unificationist students who want to integrate their study at HJI with developing facility in the Korean language. Students in this track take 6 credits of Korean language at HJI and can receive up to 6 transfer credits for subsequent Korean courses taken at Sun Moon University or Sunhak UP Graduate University in Korea.

The following course requirements apply to all students taking this track. Courses listed are for 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

LAN 5161 Korean 1

LAN 5162 Korean 2

6 transfer credits for Korean language courses taught in Korea



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Campus:





# Welcome to the Application Center



Please use the form below to begin your application:

- Fill in all fields
- Upon clicking “Submit”, you will be asked to verify the Email address you provided.
- Next, you will receive an Email with a link directing you to fill out the full application.

Note: You will be able to return via the link provided as many times as you need. Completed fields will be automatically saved.

Application

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First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Email

Confirm Email

Phone

☐ Use for text messaging  
(US/Canada only)

Start Application







## Academic Programs

HJ International serves students of the Unification and the Christian tradition and welcomes students from all of the world's religions. Many international students come to HJI in order to receive theological education within an American cultural milieu. This adds to the rich diversity of the HJI community.



HJI offers four graduate degree programs. HJI also offers a six-course (18-credit) [Certificate in Unification Leadership](#).

The [Doctor of Ministry \(D.Min.\) Program](#) is a non-residential program aimed at developing ministerial leadership and public leaders at an advanced level. Courses are taught through intensives over a two year period. Students then take one to three years to complete their dissertation project. Student have a choice of two concentrations.

The [Master of Divinity \(M.Div.\) Program](#) is a three-year course of full-time study (12 to 15 credits per semester) to prepare men and women for church and pastoral leadership.

The [Master of Religious Education \(M.R.E.\) Program](#) is a two-year program of full-time studies (12 credits per semester plus a summer or winter internship of 2 credits) that prepares students for a variety of lay ministries. It prepares students for educational ministries and work within their faith community and emphasizes sound principles of religious educational programming. This program is no longer offered and interested students are encouraged to consider the Master of Arts in Religious Studies or the Master of Divinity.

The [Master of Arts in Religious Studies \(M.A.\)](#) is a two-year advanced academic degree of full-time studies (12 credits per semester) that provides students with an understanding of the Judeo-Christian and Unification tradition as well as theological and practical insights into the major world religions and their impact on today's society. The M.A. in Religious Studies offers students a choice of four concentrations that address life in today's intercultural and interreligious global community. The concentrations are Interfaith Peacebuilding, Public and Non-Profit Leadership, Unification Studies and Theological Studies. It is also an ideal degree for those students wishing to pursue either doctoral studies or further study in a specific field of theological inquiry.

The [Master of Arts in Peace Studies](#) is a 42-credit graduate degree program that is available fully online. By taking two courses each term and during the summer, students can complete the program in two and a half years. Students are only accepted in this program in the fall of each academic year. The program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed by peace professionals. It dedicates particular attention to the study of conflict analysis and



transformation and pays special attention to the impact of religion and culture on intra-state and inter-state relations. The program is designed for individuals who intend to pursue careers in public service through intergovernmental organizations, government agencies and non-governmental organizations. The faculty and staff in the program work collaboratively with the Universal Peace Federation, a Unification-related NGO with more than 120 national chapters, which holds general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.



Campus:  
4 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 563-6647



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