



MTE I Online 2020

Our Approach. MTE I Online addresses the needs of future Westminster students who want to improve their English in order to study theology while remaining in their home countries. Our teachers are dedicated to gospel ministry, immersed in theology, TESL-certified, and highly experienced.

Online learning in MTE uses best practices in online education as well as current second language acquisition theory and research. It also enjoys a solid grounding in a biblical, Trinitarian view of language.

	Program Dates	Program Length	Synchronous Class Time	Time Commitment/Day	No. of Credits
Mastering Theological English I	Sept 2, 2020 - Dec 15, 2020	14 weeks	Approx. 1 hour/day	8 hours	19 cu
Mastering Theological English II	Jan 7, 2021 - May 5, 2021	16 weeks	TBD	8 hours	24 cu

Your School Day. Mastering Theological English is personal: Your teachers will walk alongside you as you learn. Each day begins with meeting in-person with your teachers and classmates. For students in Asian countries, your school day begins the evening before, while students from North and South America will begin their day in the morning with in-person interaction. These daily meetings are set aside to interact in person with your teacher and classmates, to have your questions answered and to connect with others. For more information about the daily schedule, see the document “MTE I Online Typical Weekly Schedule.”

After meeting with your teachers, you will work through a clearly marked path of classroom instruction and activities. Some of the class activities will be done on your own, and some with fellow students through our available chat or video conferencing rooms or by other methods. Teaching assistants will be available at designated hours to answer questions in real time. These instructions and activities are followed by approximately three hours of homework.

In MTE’s Integrated Skills classes, you will focus on developing the language skills you need for theological study. In the Theological English and Critical Reading classes, you will apply these skills by interacting with excerpts from the same texts and having discussions that entering Master’s students are having. In MTE I Online you are improving your English writing and speaking at the same time you are becoming familiar with theological concepts.

In sum, while MTE asks you to make a full-time commitment to working hard every day on all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and applying them in a theological context, it provides full-time benefits as you move to the advanced level of theological English proficiency you will need in seminary.



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Class Descriptions

GRAMMAR WARM-UP

Grammar Warm-Up presents grammar systematically, illustrating grammar points with verses from Scripture. This brief warm-up will introduce important terminology and give you practice.

INTEGRATED FOUR-SKILLS LANGUAGE CLASSES

These classes teach advanced academic skills in English reading, writing, listening, speaking. Grammar skills are also practiced, and there are also practical exercises on theological topics. The purpose of these sessions will be to strengthen and integrate the foundation of students' knowledge and use of English.

THEOLOGICAL ENGLISH

This class is focused on applying the four skills in interaction about theological topics. Lessons will begin with a brief lecture and discussion, followed by in-depth study of a theological reading selection with accompanying discussion and language learning activities. Students will also be assigned Theological English tasks in which they will have an opportunity to practice listening, speaking, or writing about theology.

CRITICAL READING

This class provides a bridge between MTE and the Westminster classroom. The teacher, a Westminster graduate, will help students recognize, analyze, and use argumentation in a theological context.

SPECIAL GUEST LECTURES

Each week, an advanced degree student at Westminster will lecture on a theological topic. These lectures will give students a taste of the type and depth of subject matter they will encounter in their Westminster coursework.

Special Programs

DEVOTIONAL LIFE

In MTE, we believe in the power and necessity of prayer. Prayer unites us as God's people and helps us to care for one another. For this reason, we pray regularly for each MTE student. We also begin student-teacher meetings with prayer. Asking for God's help and guidance in studying the gift of language helps us remember that we are here to do God's work, and he is always with us.

Students are also invited to participate in regular MTE devotionals as well as livestream chapel and Westminster prayer group. A link to Westminster's weekly chapel service will be available on the website.

CONVERSATION PARTNERS

Students pair up with a member of the Westminster community to practice English conversation skills in an informal setting and share each others' lives.