
INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Seminary & Graduate School Established 1949



2021-2022 Catalog

Revised June 2021

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Introduction

Welcome to the Institute of Buddhist Studies



The Institute of Buddhist Studies is a leading American Buddhist graduate school and seminary that provides graduate-level education across the full breadth of the Buddhist tradition, with specialized training in academic studies of Buddhism, Buddhist chaplaincy, and Jōdo Shinshū Buddhist ministry.

In addition to numerous graduate degree and certificate programs, IBS produces excellent and innovative scholarship, and fosters engaged and inclusive community through conferences, symposia, and other events of interest for scholars and practitioners alike.

This catalog contains the most current information on our degree and certificate programs, academic policies, and student support programs. Whereas this catalog is comprehensive, it should be used in conjunction with other handbooks and information located on the IBS website or available from the GTU, especially in regards to tuition and the GTU-administered M.A. program.

This catalog is in effect for the 2021-2022 academic year, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

IBS's administrative offices and classrooms are located inside the
Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Avenue
Berkeley, California 94704 USA

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Telephone: 510.809.1444
Facsimile: 510.809.1443
info@shin-ibs.edu

Office Hours: M-F, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
See [Academic Calendar](#) for Academic and Administrative Holidays

A Word from the President



Established in 1949 as a center for Shin Buddhist ministerial education, IBS today offers masters-level degrees and certificate programs in the full breadth of the Buddhist tradition, while maintaining its

specialization in Pure Land and Shin Buddhist Studies.

IBS graduates have gone on to become ordained Shin Buddhist ministers in North and South America and Japan. Other graduates now serve as chaplains in hospitals, prisons and the military, while others have embarked on careers as Buddhist scholars. This diverse student body and approach to Buddhist education is unique in North America, preparing students to be thoughtful and creative leaders in a complex and changing world.

IBS is associated with a number of religious and educational institutions. Its primary religious connection is with the Buddhist Churches of America and Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha. IBS is also a member school of the Graduate Theological Union, a richly diverse consortium of graduate schools and seminaries representing a range of religious traditions. Other important partners include Ryūkoku University in Kyoto, Japan, Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts in Taipei, Taiwan and the Sati Center for Buddhist Studies.

Gassho,
Rev. David Matsumoto, PhD
President, Institute of Buddhist Studies

A Word from the Dean

The Institute of Buddhist Studies grew out of a desire to educate American-born Buddhists for ordination in the Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha tradition of Shin Buddhism. This denominational affiliation, however, is tempered by the American context. American Buddhists and those seeking to study Buddhism in America, are located in a necessarily diverse and pluralistic culture which informs their understanding of the tradition. Thus, the mission of the IBS has developed over time to include graduate education in the entirety of the Buddhist tradition.



This mission is expressed through providing our students with a broad base of knowledge upon which to build a depth of specialization. Whether our students are seeking to specialize in Jōdo Shinshū studies, Sōtō Zen studies, or Theravada studies, they approach their studies by first being well grounded in the breadth of the Buddhist tradition as a whole. In preparing our graduates for further academic work or careers in ministry or chaplaincy, we seek to expose students to the wide diversity of Buddhist and religious cultures from across the globe.

Our educational programs then prepare ministers, chaplains, and scholars to become public leaders and further the development of Buddhism and Buddhist Studies in the contemporary world.

Scott A. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs

History of IBS

The beginnings of the Institute of Buddhist Studies can be found in the early history of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), a branch of the Japanese Pure Land Jodo Shinshu Honpa Hongwanji-ha headquartered in Kyoto. In 1930, under Bishop Kenju Masuyama, a training program and residence center for English-speaking ministers was established in Kyoto, Japan. An educational program of lectures and correspondence courses began in the mid-1930s, operated out of BCA headquarters in San Francisco. Because the need for English-speaking ministers increased after World War II, in 1948 Bishop Enryo Shigefuji established a monthly study class at the home of Mrs. Shinobu Matsuura. The program was open to any person interested in Buddhism; however, its main purpose was to prepare ministerial aspirants for the rigors of study in Japan.

In 1949, as part of the 50th anniversary of the BCA, the program was expanded and moved to the Berkeley Buddhist Temple where it became known as the Buddhist Study Center (BSC). The BSC was placed under the guidance of Rev. Kanmo Imamura, resident minister of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple.

In 1958, the BCA resolved to establish a ministerial training center in the United States where all instruction would be conducted in English. Prior to this, all ministerial candidates were trained in Japan. Rev. Imamura was appointed to establish such a program at the BSC. Rev. Masami Fujitani took over the directorship soon afterward and developed the educational program (1958-1963); Rev. Imamura returned to serve a second term (1963-1967).

In October 1966, the BCA acquired a building on Haste Street in Berkeley, and the BSC was renamed the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), incorporating with the State of California as a graduate school and Buddhist seminary. The Haste Street location was the home of the IBS for twenty-two years prior to moving to its second location on Addison Street. Bishop Shinsho Hanayama (Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University) and Bishop Kenryu Tsuji played vital roles in the early stages at the Haste Street campus. Rev.



Jane Imamura stands outside the recently opened Buddhist Study Center at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, circa mid-1950s.



Haruyoshi Kusada served as Executive Director from 1968 to 1983, laying the educational foundation for the graduate program.

In February, 1985, under the guidance of Bishop Seigen Yamaoka, the IBS became an affiliate of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), a unique consortium of graduate schools and Christian seminaries and one of the largest concentrations of ministerial and theological educational resources in the world

In 1986, Dr. Alfred Bloom, a noted Shin Buddhist scholar, was appointed Dean and Head Professor. Dr. Bloom retired in 1994, and Dr. Richard K. Payne was appointed to the position of Dean.

After having its administrative offices located in Mountain View for over a decade, IBS moved back to Berkeley in 2006. With its new offices and classroom space in the Jodo Shinshu Center, the IBS has experienced renewed growth and vitality over the past decade. This growth has included the expansion of its programs, a new Buddhist chaplaincy program, the addition of several new certificate programs, and the appointment of new faculty.

After serving as Dean for twenty-five years, Dr. Payne stepped down from this position in 2016. The Board of Trustees delegated his responsibilities to the newly appointed President, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, and Dr. Scott Mitchell, Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs.

In 2020, the Institute of Buddhist Studies was granted initial accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission.

In 2021, IBS became a member school of the Graduate Theological Union.

Mission Statement

To provide graduate level education in the full breadth of the Buddhist tradition with specialized education supporting Pure Land and contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies, while advancing Jōdo Shinshū Buddhist ministry and Buddhist chaplaincy.

Institutional Learning Objectives

Creatively combining liberal arts and scholar-practitioner models of education, the Institute of Buddhist Studies:

- ▶ through educational programs grounded in critical thinking and academic freedom, empowers students to become effective and engaged scholars, teachers, ministers, and chaplains;
- ▶ through publications, scholarship, and research programs, promotes engagement with the Buddhist tradition and contributes to the public good;
- ▶ through institutional partnerships and in community, fosters an awareness, respect, and appreciation for Buddhist, religious, and cultural diversity.

Executive Staff & Board of Trustees

Rev. Marvin Harada, BCA Bishop

Chancellor

Executive Staff

Rev. Dr. David Ryo Matsumoto

President and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Scott A. Mitchell

Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs

Ms. Linda Shiozaki

Director of Finance

Please see the [IBS website](#) for a staff directory and contact information.

Board of Trustees

Dr. Leroy Morishita, Chair

Mr. Jeffery Folick

Dr. Patricia Hiramoto

Rev. Jerry Hirano

Ms. Cheryl K. Ikemiya

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Rev. Dennis J. Shinseki

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Ex-Officio Members

Rev. Marvin Harada

BCA Bishop

Dr. Kent Matsuda

BCA President

Rev. Harry Bridge

BCA Ministers Association

Accreditation & Effectiveness

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WSCUC)

Institute of Buddhist Studies is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 1001 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 402, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001.

Institute of Buddhist Studies' listing on the WSCUC website can be located here:

<https://www.wscuc.org/institutions/institute-buddhist-studies>.

The most recent WSCUC Commission Action Letter, February 2020, can be found here:

https://www.shin-ibs.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CAL_200226_IBS_SAV2.pdf.

Educational Effectiveness

The Institute of Buddhist Studies is committed to the highest standards of educational effectiveness in all of its academic programs. Measures of educational effectiveness include graduation rates, the length of time that students take to complete their degrees, and placement after graduation in positions appropriate to their vocational objectives.

Please visit [our website](#) for graduation rates and times to degree for the M.A.B.S. and M.Div. programs.

For information on the GTU M.A. program, please visit the [GTU website](#).

Educational Programs



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Our Educational Model

Recognizing the many ways students come to IBS, we've developed programs that provide both flexibility and structure to meet our students' diverse personal and professional goals. Four paths of study are supported by three baskets or levels of education across our certificate and degree programs.

Four Paths

Buddhist ministry: IBS has been educating Jōdo Shinshū ministers for over seventy years and now also supports Sōtō Zen and Theravada Buddhist ministerial education.

Buddhist chaplaincy: for more than a decade, IBS has been a leader in Buddhist chaplaincy education. As an accredited institution, our M.Div. degree meets the APC requirements for board certification.

Pre-doctoral study: grounded in academic Buddhist studies, many of our students have completed Masters degrees at IBS and continued their educations at the doctoral level, earning PhDs from the GTU, USC, Stanford and beyond.

Personal enrichment: our programs have always provided space for students charting their own paths. With a firm foundation in Buddhist history and thought, a wide range of electives and advanced seminars, and thoughtful academic advising and support, our programs can serve the needs of those students who simply want to learn more about Buddhism, need specialized knowledge for careers as psychotherapists and counselors, or as leaders in the nonprofit sector.

Three Baskets

Foundational education refers to the “full breadth” of the Buddhist tradition mentioned in our mission statement. Here, students learn about Buddhism's historical origins and spread across Asia and the world while contextualizing specific Buddhist traditions (such as Jōdo Shinshū, Sōtō Zen, and Theravada) within that broad history.

Further study allows students to build on this foundational knowledge by focusing on specific traditions, areas of study, or disciplines. Whether through sustained study of a specific lineage or teacher (the writings of Shinran, for example), or language study (Buddhist Japanese say), students will gain deeper insight into their chosen area of study.

Contextual education further connects the academic study of Buddhism and its practical application beyond IBS's programs. Whether students intend to become ministers or chaplains, scholars or teachers, or leaders in their communities, our programs provide the means for students to develop and integrate connections between Buddhist thought and Buddhist practice. Students will also develop relevant skills to be of service to their communities and the public.

The four paths form the basis of tracks of study in our Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies and Master of Divinity degree programs. And our stackable curriculum is interwoven with the three baskets, allowing students to complete a certificate program and apply those units toward a degree program.

Enrollment Options & Admissions

Choosing a path: What are my options?

There are many ways to start your education at the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Once you have reviewed the information on our website and in this catalog, you may be ready to apply directly to a certificate or degree program. Some students begin by auditing a class or taking one for credit as a special student. Here are the different options for enrollment and general information about the admissions process.

Be sure to review certificate and degree program-specific admissions requirements, as well as information on tuition and scholarships. Most students can expect a 50% or more reduction in tuition if they apply for a scholarship.

Degree Program Applications

Application deadlines for degree programs students are:

- ▶ March 1 for fall admission
- ▶ November 1 for spring admissions

See the section on degree programs for more information and program-specific admission requirements.

Certificate Program Applications

The application deadline for certificate programs is generally two weeks before the start of the academic term. See the section on certificate programs for more information and program-specific admission requirements.

Special Student Status

Students who do not wish to matriculate in a degree or certificate program may apply for status as a special student.

Special student status is reserved either:

- (1) for students preparing to enroll at IBS as a degree program student; or
- (2) for students wishing to take classes for credit to transfer to another institution.

In either case, ordinarily a student can take **no more than two courses** as a special student.

Special students are expected to be able to work at the graduate level, and are required to fulfill all academic work expected of other students in the classes they take. They receive most privileges accorded to degree program students, with the exception of academic advising and library privileges. Special students must abide by tuition and fee schedules and other academic policies contained in this catalog.

The application for special student status is available on the IBS website.

Auditing a course

Some courses are open to enrollment by auditors. No grade is given to the auditor, nor is any record of attendance maintained by the Institute. Transcripts are not available for audited classes. Auditor status does not include library privileges or academic advising. Permission to audit a course is always at the discretion of

the instructor. Whereas auditors can expect to work at the graduate level, attend all class sessions, and participate in discussion, the instructor's first priority will always be to regular students. The auditor shall not expect to receive any guidance, feedback, or advising from the instructor.

Contact the IBS Registrar to audit a course.

Online and Hybrid Courses

Each semester, IBS offers a number of online courses which run the length of a regular semester and may be either synchronous or asynchronous. Online courses are listed as 8000-level courses in the course schedule. Students should contact the faculty of record to determine what delivery method will be used for any given course.

Additionally, some courses are available as "hybrid" courses, wherein students may participate in a real-world class via video conferencing. Permission to join a class via video conferencing is always at the discretion of the instructor.

Students at a distance should review the Expectations for Online Learning before enrolling in an online course or program.

At present, IBS does not offer a fully online degree program. Degree programs have residency requirements or limits on the number of online courses that can be used to satisfy graduation requirements. All students should expect to spend some time in Berkeley.

Some students may wish to consider the stackable curriculum to meet degree program and residency requirements.



The Admissions Process

The application process serves two functions: first, it ensures that applicants have the necessary prior education or experience to succeed in a graduate-level program; second, it ensures that the institution has the necessary courses, programs, and faculty to support a student and their chosen path of study.

Prior experience: an applicant can demonstrate their ability to do graduate-level work in a number of different ways — through prior education, degrees, or coursework, standardized test scores, letters of recommendation, and so forth. You should be prepared to submit transcripts of prior coursework and degrees. Strong letters of recommendation from past professors or those who can speak to your intellectual abilities are a plus. If you have relevant prior experience — such as extensive language training, publications, or other certifications — let us know. The Admissions Committee reviews all of this information to make sure that you're prepared to do the level of academic work required in a graduate program.

Remember that each program has slightly different admissions requirements, so be sure to review those carefully. For example, if you're applying to the Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies or the M.Div. with aspirations to be a Buddhist Chaplain, a letter from a supervising minister or Buddhist teacher may be helpful. If you've taken the GRE, feel free to submit your test scores; but we know that not everyone performs well on standardized tests, so GRE scores are not required for IBS's programs. (Note that they are required for the GTU MA.)

Institutional support: just like the Admissions Committee wants to make sure you're prepared to do graduate-level work, we also need to make sure we can support you and your professional or personal goals. Does the IBS offer courses, programs, or have faculty or research resources in your chosen area of study? To answer that question, spend some time reviewing our catalog, looking at our faculty pages, and the degree and certificate program descriptions. And then write your statement of purpose with this information in mind.

Your statement of purpose is crucial; this is how we find out what your goals are and decide whether or not we're able to support you. Again, each program is different — if you're interested in pursuing a career in Buddhist Studies (going on to get a doctorate and become a university professor, for example) and are applying to the M.A.B.S. program, your statement should have a clearly defined research area and you should reference the faculty and resources here at IBS that can support you. If you're planning on becoming a Buddhist chaplain, discussing the type of work you want to do or your prior service or connection to a Buddhist community is helpful.

Remember, our goal at IBS is to support and encourage our students through their program and beyond by preparing them to be effective scholars, ministers, and chaplains. The application process is intended to make sure we're the right place to serve your needs and that you're prepared to take this next step in your education. Whatever information you can provide helps us ensure we're the right place for your academic success.

Stackable Curriculum

Our stackable curriculum is flexible to meet the diverse needs of our students and their various paths into and from the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Students may benefit from completing a certificate and applying those units toward the completion of a degree program, or they may elect to enroll in a degree program from the start. Our programs are ready to support students and their personal and professional needs. [See related policies regarding advancement through the program.](#)

Year one: Certificate programs in Shin, Zen, Theravada or Buddhist Studies, Buddhist chaplaincy, or Buddhism and psychology.

Year two: Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies

Year Three: Master of Divinity

	Programs	Courses & Requirements
Year One: Foundational Education	Certificate programs in: ▶ Buddhist Studies (online) ▶ Jōdo Shinshū Studies (online) ▶ Sōtō Zen Studies (online) ▶ Theravada Studies ▶ Buddhist Chaplaincy ▶ Buddhism and Psychology	Buddhist Traditions of South Asia Buddhist Traditions of East Asia Certificate-specific foundational courses Unit requirements vary by program
Year Two: Further Study	Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies	Methods in Buddhist Studies Specialized courses in declared track Language study as appropriate Research-based thesis
Year Three: Contextual Education	Master of Divinity	Advanced seminars in chaplaincy and/or Buddhist pastoral care Contextual education courses and/or Clinical Pastoral Education Research-based thesis or project

Certificate Programs



The Institute of Buddhist Studies' certificate programs may be completed (1) as stand-alone programs; (2) as the first part of a longer program of study as per our stackable curriculum; or (3) concurrently within a degree program. Certificate program students who wish to continue on to a degree must petition for advancement. Students admitted into a degree program who wish to complete a concurrent certificate need to inform the IBS Registrar in writing of their intention to complete a concurrent certificate.

Admissions requirements for all certificate programs are:

1. Evidence (transcripts) of relevant prior study or coursework such as previous Buddhist Studies courses or a Bachelor's degree (B.A.).
2. Two letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's ability to do graduate-level work, familiarity with Buddhist thought and/or practice, and relevant prior study or experience. For the Shin Buddhist Studies Certificate, one letter from a supervising minister is recommended.
3. Statement of purpose (approx. 300-500 words) that includes (a) your reasons for pursuing graduate studies at IBS; (b) your specific academic interests and how they fit with the faculty and courses at IBS; (c) your personal or professional goals and how you see this certificate supporting them; (d) how your relevant academic background or prior experience prepares you for your proposed course of study at IBS.
4. Non-refundable application fee: \$15

Applicants for all certificate programs can submit all application materials online at our website www.shin-ibs.edu/apply. An application will not be reviewed until all materials have been submitted, including the application fee. Applications are generally due no later than two weeks before the start of the semester. See the [academic calendar](#) for deadlines.

Online Certificate in Buddhist Studies

The Certificate in Buddhist Studies introduces students both to the history of the Buddhist tradition as well as the academic field of Buddhist Studies.

This program is intended for those seeking a systematic introduction to the Buddhist tradition, especially lay Buddhist leaders and ministers or priests seeking continuing education opportunities. Curriculum includes courses on Buddhist history, practice, ethics, and modern expressions.

This fully online program may be completed in as little as one semester; most students enroll part-time, taking as few as one course per semester.

The certificate is overseen by Scott Mitchell, Dean.

Program Requirements

Students must complete a total of four, 3-unit courses chosen in consultation with their advisor.

There is one required course, offered every fall semester:

- ▶ HR-8107: Introduction to Buddhism and Buddhist Studies

Students enrolled in the GTU MA or member school programs are welcome to complete the Certificate in Buddhist Studies as a concurrent, on-site program. Contact the program director for more information.



Online Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies

The purpose of this certificate program is to enable its participants to develop an increased ability to understand and transmit the significance of the Shin Buddhist teachings in the contemporary world.

Moreover, the Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies program provides persons with an educational grounding in areas specified by the Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha as requisite for receiving *kyōshi* certification.

Since 1949 one of the primary missions of the Institute of Buddhist Studies has been to provide a comprehensive program of education and training for persons aspiring to enter the Shin Buddhist ministry in the West. The significance and effectiveness of that effort has long been recognized by the Buddhist Churches of America and the Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto, Japan. As a result, over the years scores of IBS graduates have been able to receive *tokudo* ordination, *kyōshi* certification and *kaikyōshi* status as overseas Shin ministers from the Hongwanji.

The BCA has recognized the importance of expanding the scope and availability of the Shin Buddhist ministry in order to meet the changing needs of its temples. The minister's assistant program (MAP) represents the BCA's response to that situation. Persons who wish to receive *tokudo* or *kyōshi* ordination or serve as ministers in BCA temples should contact the minister at their local temple or the Office of the Bishop of BCA. The IBS Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies has been developed in order to provide an educational foundation for those on this path.

The certificate is overseen by the Program Director, Rev. Harry Bridge.

This program may be completed as part of an on-site degree program. Please contact the program director for more information.



Program Requirements

Students must complete a total of eight, 3-unit courses for a total of 24 units. All courses must be taken for credit and passed with a B- or better. Audited courses may not count toward fulfillment of the certificate requirements. Please see the IBS catalog for further information regarding course credit, audited classes, and related policies.

The program's eight required IBS courses (with the corresponding Hongwanji requirement) are:

- ▶ HRPH-1614: Introduction to Shin Buddhist Thought (真宗教義 1)
- ▶ HR-3017: Readings in Mahayana Texts: The Three Pure Land Sutras (仏教教義1)
- ▶ HRHS-3250: The Seven Pure Land Masters: History of the Pure Land Tradition (仏教教義 2)
- ▶ HRHS-3075: History of the Shin Buddhist Tradition: Premodern (真宗史)
- ▶ HRHS-1515: Buddhist Traditions of South Asia (仏教史 1)
- ▶ HRHS-1518: Buddhist Traditions of East Asia (仏教史 2)
- ▶ HRPH-4566: Works of Shinran I (or Works II or III with permission of the Dean) (真宗教義 2)
- ▶ HRIR-2000: Buddhism and World Religions (宗教概説)

Online Certificate in Sōtō Zen Buddhist Studies

The Certificate in Sōtō Zen Buddhist Studies is intended for two types of students: (1) IBS degree (M.A., M.A.B.S., or M.Div.) program students who wish to demonstrate substantive knowledge of Soto Zen history, teachings and practice. basic knowledge of Sōtō Zen Buddhist studies, history, and practice; and (2) students from outside the IBS, particularly Sōtō Zen priests, lay and monastic teachers and students, who wish to enhance their engagement with the tradition and their communities through systemic graduate level study. Students will develop the ability to place critical scholarship in relationship to received teachings, mutually benefiting both the study and practice of Sōtō Zen Buddhism.



Students who complete this program will:

- ▶ Locate Sōtō Zen Buddhism within the larger history of Buddhism as a whole
- ▶ Be able to articulate Sōtō Zen teachings, texts and practices, and texts in relationship to other Ch'an and Zen traditions both historically and in the contemporary world.
- ▶ Be able to articulate the relevance of Sōtō Zen teachings and practices for and in contemporary settings.
- ▶ Develop and apply critical reasoning and academic writing skills within a practice-based community

The certificate is overseen by the Program Director, Rev. Dr. Daijaku Kinst.

This program may be completed as part of an on-site degree program. Please contact the program director for more information.

Program Requirements

Students must complete a total of six, 3-unit courses within three years to complete the certificate. (In-degree program students may complete the course requirements within the timeframe of their degree program.)

Required courses include:

- ▶ HRHS-1515: Buddhist traditions of South Asia
- ▶ HRHS-1518: Buddhist traditions of East Asia
- ▶ HR-3040: Zen Buddhism
- ▶ HR-3017/8317: Readings in Mahayana Texts (when subject is a Zen text)

Plus two elective courses selected in consultation with the program director. Final papers should be on a topic related to Sōtō Zen Buddhist studies.

Certificate in Buddhist Chaplaincy

This program is available as a stand-alone certificate supplementing significant previous academic and/or clinical studies. This certificate is appropriate for students wishing to pursue a chaplaincy career in hospice or health care, prison outreach, or the armed services. The certificate indicates that the student has completed a course of study focusing on the application of Buddhist thought and practice in pastoral care and chaplaincy.

The certificate is overseen by the Chaplaincy Program Coordinator, Rev. Brent Beavers.

Program requirements

Students must complete a total of eight, 3-unit courses within three years to complete the certificate.

Required courses include:

- ▶ HR-1515: Buddhist Traditions of South Asia
- ▶ HR-1518: Buddhist Traditions of East Asia
- ▶ HRPS-3076: Buddhist Pastoral Care I
- ▶ Any Pastoral Care course from another GTU school

Plus four elective courses selected in consultation with the program director to meet individual students' specific needs.



Certificate in Theravada Buddhist Studies

The Certificate in Theravada Buddhist Studies is intended for two types of students: (1) IBS degree (M.A., M.A.B.S., or M.Div.) program students who wish to demonstrate a knowledge of Theravada Buddhist studies, history, and practice; and (2) students from outside the IBS, particularly Theravada practitioners, who wish to enhance their engagement with the tradition and their communities by obtaining a systematic graduate level education in Theravada Buddhist studies.



Students who complete this program will:

- ▶ Locate Theravada Buddhism within the larger history of Buddhism as a whole
- ▶ Study Theravada Buddhist texts and practices using critical methodologies
- ▶ Develop critical reasoning and writing skills through academic writing and reflection

The certificate is offered in cooperation with the Sati Institute of Theravada Studies and overseen by the Program Director, Dr. Diana Clark, in cooperation with Dr. Scott Mitchell, Dean.

Program Requirements

Students must complete a total of six, 3-unit courses within three years to complete the certificate. (In-degree program students may complete the course requirements within the timeframe of their degree program.)

Required courses:

- ▶ HRHS-1515: Buddhist traditions of South Asia
- ▶ HRHS-1518: Buddhist traditions of East Asia
- ▶ HR-1596: Introduction to the Study of Theravada Buddhist Traditions
- ▶ HR 1615/8160: Readings in Early Buddhist Texts

Plus two elective courses selected in consultation with the program director. Final papers should be on a topic related to Theravada Buddhist studies.

Certificate in Buddhism and Contemporary Psychology

The Certificate in Buddhism and Contemporary Psychology is intended for two types of students: (1) IBS degree (M.A., M.A.B.S., or M.Div.) program students who wish to focus their studies on the intersection of Buddhist understandings of consciousness and contemporary psychology; and (2) students from outside the IBS, particularly ministers, lay and monastic teachers, therapists and chaplains, who wish to enhance their engagement with the tradition and their communities by obtaining a systematic graduate level education in Buddhist studies.

Students who complete this program will:

- ▶ Engage Buddhist understandings of consciousness as a foundation for conversation with contemporary psychology and cognitive studies
- ▶ Apply critical methodologies to the study of Buddhist texts and practices
- ▶ Develop critical reasoning and writing skills through academic writing and reflection

The certificate is overseen by the Program Director, Dr. Richard K. Payne.

Program Requirements

Students must complete a total of six, 3-unit courses within three years to complete the certificate. (In-degree program students may complete the course requirements within the timeframe of their degree program; in-degree program students may substitute other courses for the Buddhist traditions sequence.)

Required courses include:

- HRHS-1515: Buddhist traditions of South Asia
- HRHS-1518: Buddhist traditions of East Asia
- HRPS-8320: Psychological Aspects of Buddhism I
- HRPS-3016: Psychological Aspects of Buddhism II

Recommended courses include:

- Third course from Psychological Aspects sequence
- Topics in Buddhism and Psychology
- Other courses with Dean's approval

This program is not currently accepting students for the 2021-22 academic year. Please contact our offices for updates or more information.

Degree Programs



The Institute of Buddhist Studies offers three graduate degree programs:

- ▶ Master of Divinity (M.Div.)
- ▶ Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies (M.A.B.S.)
- ▶ Master of Arts, with a concentration in Buddhist Studies, administered by the Graduate Theological Union (GTU M.A.)

Application deadlines for all three degree programs are:

- ▶ March 1 for fall admission
- ▶ November 1 for spring admission

** Students are encouraged to apply by the March 1st deadline to receive consideration for some institutional grants.*

Applicants for the M.A.B.S. and M.Div. degrees can submit all application materials online at our website www.shin-ibs.edu/apply. An application will not be reviewed until it is complete, including all letters of recommendation, transcripts, application fee, and other required documents. Please see individual degree program descriptions for full application requirements.

Applicants for the M.A. degree should contact the [GTU Admissions Office](#) directly regarding questions and application materials. See the GTU website (www.gtu.edu) for specific application instructions.

Be sure to read about the [admissions process](#) to get a good understanding of what a successful application looks like.

Degree Program Comparison

Degree Program					
	MDIV	MABS	GTU-MA(1)		
Length of program	72 units/3 years	48 units/2 years	48 units/2 years		
Foundational Education (required courses)	HRHS-1515: Buddhist Traditions of South Asia				
	HRHS-1518: Buddhist Traditions of East Asia				
	HRPH-1614: Introduction to Shin Buddhist Thought				
Methodology course (2)	HR-1630	HR-1630	MA-1000		
Language requirement	Optional	Suggested (3)	Required		
Program track or specialization (4)	Other breadth requirements; electives coursework; curricular tracks; or concurrent certificate				
Practical education (5)	Contextual education CPE Units MAP Pub. Speak.	Publication Teaching Colloquia Public Speaking			
Capstone project	Thesis/project proposal				
	Thesis				

Notes:

- (1) GTU degree program requirements are set by the GTU Council of Deans and are subject to change. Consult the GTU website and MA Program Handbook for the most updated information.
- (2) Students in the M.Div. and M.A.B.S. are required to complete HR-1630, Methods in the Study of Buddhism. GTU MA students are required to complete MA-1000.
- (3) Formal language study is strongly encouraged for the M.A.B.S. program, especially those students on the “pre-doc” track. Students may apply units of language study to the degree’s unit requirement.
- (4) Students focus their studies in a variety of ways from specific M.Div. curricular tracks, declared M.A.B.S. program track, or a concurrent certificate program. M.A.B.S. tracks have additional course requirements.
- (5) IBS is committed to providing extracurricular professional development opportunities for its students; items listed here are suggestions and not a guarantee of specific programs. Please consult with your Academic Advisor or the Dean’s Office for more information.

Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies

What made my experience at the Institute of Buddhist Studies special was how the faculty create a space where critical engagement is paired with profound respect, a space where novelty and tradition can be considered equally and deeply.

Thomas Calobrisi, Class of 2016

The Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies (M.A.B.S.) provides students an opportunity to deeply engage Buddhist history, thought, texts, and practices as a foundation for further academic study at the doctoral level or professional service in a religious community, the nonprofit sector, or other areas. The program is built on a foundation of academic Buddhist studies in a practitioner-friendly environment, allowing for intellectual growth connected to communities of practice and vocation. As part of our stackable curriculum, students who have already completed an IBS certificate program may continue their studies in the M.A.B.S. either as a precursor to further study or for their own intellectual growth. The program has four distinct tracks, detailed below, and may be completed in two years of full-time study. Students may also enroll part-time and complete the program at their own pace. Institutional scholarships are available for all eligible students.



Program learning outcomes and assessment

In completing the M.A.B.S., students will:

- ▶ develop academic research skills to gain and demonstrate foundational knowledge of Buddhism's history, traditions, texts, practices, and doctrines;
- ▶ demonstrate and strengthen these skills through specialized study of a specific area or discipline of Buddhist studies; and
- ▶ write and defend a research-based capstone project or thesis which applies acquired knowledge and skill to their career goals of service or further study.

All students are required to complete 48 units for completion of the degree, maintain a 3.0 GPA and receive a B or better in all required courses, and write and defend a research-based thesis.

Admissions Requirements

The admissions process is meant to determine that an applicant is prepared to successfully complete a graduate-level course of study and that the Institute can support the applicant's academic goals. Successful applicants may demonstrate their preparedness to do graduate-level work in a variety of ways including a strong statement of purpose; letters of recommendation that speak directly to an applicant's academic skills; prior academic study, prior language study, or other relevant experience; and, optionally, standardized test scores such as the GRE. Specific admissions requirements are:

1. A Bachelor's degree (B.A.) or its equivalent from an accredited college or university; coursework in Buddhist Studies, religious studies, or other relevant prior coursework is strongly recommended.
2. Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's ability to do graduate-level work and familiarity with Buddhist thought and/or practice. Choose people who can speak knowledgeably and articulately about your academic and intellectual potential and will write specific letters. Academic references are not general character references.
3. A statement of purpose of approximately 500 words that includes (a) your reasons for pursuing graduate studies at IBS; (b) your specific academic interests and how they fit with the faculty and courses at IBS; (c) your professional goals and how you see the M.A.B.S. supporting your professional goals or further academic study; (d) how your academic background prepares you for your proposed course of study at IBS.
4. Non-refundable application fee: \$40

Optionally, applicants may submit GRE scores from the past five years. GRE verbal score should be at least 150 and writing score of 4 or above. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to have some prior formal language study in any of the Buddhist canonical or vernacular languages.



Graduation Requirements

Unit Requirement

All students are required to complete 48 units for completion of the degree, including 6 units of “in thesis.” Up to 24 units from a certificate program may be used in support of this requirement as per IBS’s stackable curriculum.

All students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and receive a B or better in all required courses.

All students must complete a research-based thesis project. Six units of “in thesis” must be completed as part of this requirement as time to write the thesis and work the student’s advisor.



Required Courses

All students must complete the following 4 courses (some of these courses may be completed as part of a certificate program):

- ▶ HRHS-1515/8151: Buddhist Traditions of South Asia
- ▶ HRHS-1518/8152: Buddhist Traditions of East Asia
- ▶ HRPH-1614/8140: Introduction to Shin Buddhist Thought
- ▶ HR-1630: Methods in the Study of Buddhism

Upon admission to the program, students will be expected to declare a track of study (see below). Each track has additional course requirements.

Master’s Thesis

The M.A.B.S. program culminates in a Master’s Thesis, defended no later than the middle of the student’s last semester in residence. For more information, please review “Movement Through the Program” below and “The Master’s Thesis Handbook” available on the [IBS website](#).

Satisfactory GPA

Students must maintain an overall grade point average of B or better and receive Bs or better in all required courses to complete the program.

Languages, Texts, and Translations

Students who intend to pursue further academic study or apply to a PhD program are strongly encouraged to begin formal language training in any of the Buddhist canonical languages (i.e., Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese, Tibetan) and related research languages of Buddhist Studies (i.e., Japanese, French, German). With the Dean’s permission, students may take up to 12 graduate-level (or graduate-level equivalent) units of language study which may count toward the 48 units for graduation. Please consult with your advisor within the first semester of study to determine which language(s) may be appropriate.

Student's Responsibility

It is the student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with all requirements and policies pertaining toward the completion of the M.A.B.S. program. Students are encouraged to review the catalog, handbooks and checklists available on the [IBS website](#), and to consult with their academic advisor early and often to ensure that they meet all graduation requirements in a timely fashion.

Program Tracks

Upon entrance into the program, students should be prepared to meet with their academic advisor, declare a track of study, and complete courses required for their respective tracks. Additional requirements for the tracks of study are as follows, and some of these requirements may be completed as part of a certificate program as per IBS's stackable curriculum.

Shin Buddhist Ministry

For students wishing to pursue ordination and service in BCA churches or temples or to develop substantive knowledge of Jōdo Shinshū history, thought, and practice for further doctoral study, the following courses are required.

- ▶ HRHS-3250: Seven Pure Land Masters
- ▶ HR-3017/8317: Three Pure Land Sutras
- ▶ HRPH-4566/8453: Works of Shinran I
- ▶ HRHS-3075/8307: History of Shin Buddhism: pre-modern
- ▶ HRIR-2000: Buddhism and World Religions

Plus six electives chosen in consultation with advisor (usually remaining Works of Shinran courses and/or Japanese language study).

** Note that students preparing for Buddhist ministry, priestly, monastic, or other ordination from other Buddhist traditions may substitute these requirements with courses supporting their own Buddhist education and ministerial development. Sōtō Zen ministerial aspirants, for example, may complete the Certificate in Sōtō Zen Buddhist studies, take courses focused on the Zen tradition, the writings of Dōgen, and history of Japanese religions. Please consult with your advisor and have a plan of study approved by the Dean.*

Buddhist chaplaincy

For students pursuing careers or service as Buddhist chaplains, or for those with some prior study or experience as chaplains, the following courses are required.

- ▶ PSHR-3076: Buddhist Pastoral Care
- ▶ PSHR-5160: Topics in Buddhist Pastoral Care
- ▶ HRCE-3002/8340: Buddhist ethics
- ▶ A textual study course

Plus seven electives chosen in consultation with advisor.

** Note that students who are interested in pursuing APC certification as professional chaplains may need to complete an additional year of study and/or the M.Div. program. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the Chaplaincy Program Coordinator and/or their academic advisor to ensure that this course of study meets their professional goals.*

Pre-doctoral study

For students pursuing advanced academic degrees, usually at the doctoral level, this track provides for additional language study and/or translation work.

- ▶ HR-3300: Terms, Texts, and Translations
- ▶ Language study and/or coursework (either at IBS or via institutional partnerships)
- ▶ Electives chosen in consultation with advisor

Personal enrichment

Students without specific professional goals, those who want to design their own course or study, or those interested in personal or intellectual growth have the option of not declaring a specific track listed above. In this path, the student must meet with their advisor early in their program and design a course of study that best supports their interests or personal goals. This course of study must be approved by the Dean.

Curriculum map

Students in the M.A.B.S. program will:

1. develop academic research skills to gain and demonstrate foundational knowledge of Buddhism's history, traditions, texts, practices, and doctrines;
2. demonstrate and strengthen these skills through specialized study of a specific area or discipline of Buddhist studies; and
3. write and defend a research-based capstone project or thesis which applies acquired knowledge and skill to their career goals of service or further study.

		PLO1	PLO2	PLO3
Foundational Education	HRHS-1515	X		
	HRHS-1518	X		
	HRHS-1614	X		
	HR-1630			X
Degree program track	Track-specific advanced seminar		X	
	Electives and other coursework		X	
Capstone project	Thesis proposal			X
	Thesis			X

Movement Through the Program

The M.A.B.S. program is designed so that students can complete their studies in two years of full-time (12 units per semester) coursework. A normative timeline to completion of the degree follows. Students who enroll part time or participate in the Exchange Programs will need to adjust their timeline accordingly. And some program requirements may be completed as per the stackable curriculum model. Please work with your Academic Advisor closely to ensure that all deadlines are met and that you progress toward graduation.

Semester 1

Enroll in 4, three unit courses, including HRHS-1515 Buddhist Traditions of South Asia, and HRPB-1614 Introduction to Shin Buddhist Thought.

Meet with Academic Advisor to map out program, discuss possible thesis/research projects, and interest in language study. Declare track in writing via email to Dean and Registrar.

Semester 2

Enroll in 4, three unit courses, including HRHS-1518 Buddhist Traditions of East Asia and HR-1630

Begin the process of identifying members for the thesis committee

Semester 3

Enroll in 3, three unit courses, including HR-1630 (if not taken previously), and three units of “in thesis”

Formalize thesis committee and write thesis proposal

Begin writing thesis by end of term and expect to continue writing and getting feedback on drafts

Semester 4

Enroll in 3, three unit courses and three units of “in thesis”

Finish “defense draft” of thesis early in the term; schedule thesis defense with Committee and Office of the Registrar

Defend and file thesis no later than deadline listed in the GTU Extended Calendar—note: these deadlines are not negotiable.

Master of Divinity

The chaplaincy program at IBS not only gave me a quality educational experience, it also provided me with an opportunity to participate in an ecumenical Buddhist community journeying together in spiritual formation. Even after graduating, I continue to regard the IBS sangha as among my most enriching and enlightening communities. I'm so grateful for the life-long spiritual friendships I formed at IBS!

Trent Thornley, class of 2014

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Degree is a 72-unit graduate professional degree which prepares students to engage fully and with confidence in ministry, chaplaincy, and related professions as well as further academic work. The M.Div. program provides a unique opportunity for students to build a rich and nuanced understanding of Buddhist traditions at a Buddhist seminary, and, through its relationship to the GTU and its member schools, a well informed understanding of other faith traditions and the dynamic religious and spiritual landscape of contemporary society. Diversity and dialogue are an essential part of the program and support its aim — to develop skilled, thoughtful and effective leaders grounded in the Buddhist tradition, able to think critically and respond constructively to the needs of a changing world.

Students from all Buddhist traditions are welcome in the IBS M.Div. program. Those seeking ministerial ordination in a specific tradition should consult with their community to ensure course work meets ordination requirements. For those students wishing to prepare for Jōdo Shinshū ministry and/or professional chaplaincy, specialized tracks of study provide additional structure to the M.Div. program. Additionally, students may consider completing a concurrent certificate program to guide and focus their studies.

M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes

Students in the M.Div. program will:

- ▶ demonstrate foundational knowledge of Buddhist history, literature, thought, practice, and ethics as the basis for effective ministry, chaplaincy, or religious leadership;
- ▶ identify and articulate ministerial skills appropriate to their professional goals, using a range of Buddhist and non-Buddhist sources, and demonstrate how these skills apply to their ministry;
- ▶ gain specific, in-depth, knowledge of the teachings and practices of their own Buddhist tradition and express a well-articulated understanding of how that knowledge serves as a guide and resource for their ministry;
- ▶ relate their own tradition to multi-religious, multi-cultural, and multi-Buddhist contexts to support effective engagement with diverse communities; and
- ▶ produce research projects and demonstrate communication skills through writing, public speaking, and dharma talks.

Admissions Requirements

The admissions process is meant to determine that an applicant is prepared to successfully complete a graduate-level professional degree program and that the Institute can support the applicant's academic goals. Successful applicants may demonstrate their preparedness to do graduate-level work in a variety of ways including a strong statement of purpose; letters of recommendation that speak directly to an applicant's academic skills; prior academic study, prior language study, or other relevant experience; and, optionally, standardized test scores such as the GRE. Specific admissions requirements are:

1. A Bachelor's degree (B.A.) or its equivalent from an accredited college or university; or evidence of having completed equivalent studies under a different educational system.
2. Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's ability to do graduate level work, prior academic experience, and/or prior Buddhist training or experience (such as service to a temple), as appropriate. Choose people who can speak knowledgeably and articulately about your prior academic or other relevant experience as well as your potential professional goals.
3. A statement of purpose of approximately 500 words that includes (a) your reasons for pursuing graduate studies at IBS; (b) your specific academic interests and how they fit with the faculty and courses at IBS; (c) your professional goals and how you see the M.Div. supporting you; (d) how your academic background or relevant prior experience prepares you for your proposed course of study at IBS.
4. Non-refundable application fee: \$40

Optionally, applicants may submit GRE scores from the past five years. GRE verbal score should be at least 150 and writing score of 4 or above. Applicants may also provide evidence of relevant prior professional or academic experience or prior language study.



Graduation Requirements

All students are required to complete a range of courses across six subject areas to provide a foundational basis for Buddhist ministry, chaplaincy, and religious leadership in an increasingly interfaith and intercultural world.



Unit Requirement

A total of 72 units is required to complete the M.Div. degree program, usually divided between 22 three-unit courses plus 6 required “in thesis” units, usually taken the last two semesters of study.

Required and Elective Courses

All students are required to complete the following four courses with a B or better:

- ▶ HRHS-1515/8151: Buddhist Traditions of South Asia
- ▶ HRHS-1518/8152: Buddhist Traditions of East Asia
- ▶ HRPH-1614/8140: Introduction to Shin Buddhist Thought
- ▶ HR-1630: Methods in the Study of Buddhism
- ▶ HRIR-2000: Buddhism and World Religions (or another IR course with Dean’s approval)

Additionally, students must complete one course from each of the following six (6) subject areas:

1. Buddhist history (course codes HR, HS)
2. Buddhist ethics (CE, FT, RS)
3. Buddhist literature/texts (any course whose primary focus is the study of a Buddhist text)
4. Buddhist practice/ritual (FE, LS, HM)
5. Buddhist ministry (HRCE-3014)
6. Buddhist pastoral care (HRPS-3076)

Students are also required to complete at least 3 but not more than 9 units of Contextual Education (course codes FE). Please refer to the “Contextual Education Manual” on the [IBS website](#) for additional information.

Jōdo Shinshū Ministerial Students

Students pursuing ordination as Shin Buddhist ministers are also required to complete the “Works of Shinran” sequence of courses. Consult with your academic advisor and/or the Shin Buddhist Ministerial Program Coordinator for more information.

Buddhist Chaplaincy Students

Students in the Buddhist Chaplaincy program are also required to complete PSHR-5160: Topics in Buddhist Pastoral Care; and one additional course in pastoral care either at IBS or one of the GTU

member schools. Consult with your academic advisor and/or the Buddhist Chaplaincy Program Coordinator for more information.

Research-based thesis or project

The M.Div. program culminates in a Master's Thesis, defended no later than the middle of the student's last semester in residence. For more information, please review "Movement Through the Program" below and "The Master's Thesis Handbook" available on the [IBS website](#).

M.Div. Foreign Language Policy

Whereas no language competency is explicitly required for M.Div. students, an understanding and appreciation of the textual history of the Buddhist tradition is a central aim across all our degree programs. Students are thus strongly encouraged to take the "Texts, Terms, and Translations" course, offered biennially.

Additionally, IBS recognizes the practical necessity of language study for our ministerial and chaplaincy students. Ministerial students are therefore strongly encouraged to engage in Japanese language study while in residence. Chaplaincy students are strongly encouraged to develop language skills relevant to their career goals. Students should consult with their Academic Advisor within the first semester of study to determine which language(s) may be appropriate.

In some cases, up to 12 units of graduate level language courses may be used toward the unit requirement for the M.Div. program, with prior approval of the Dean.

Satisfactory GPA

Students must maintain an overall grade point average of B or better and receive Bs or better in the above four required courses to complete the program.

Student's Responsibility

It is the student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with all requirements and policies pertaining toward the completion of the M.Div. program. Students are encouraged to review the catalog, handbooks and checklists available on the [IBS website](#), and to consult with their academic advisor early and often to ensure that they meet all graduation requirements in a timely fashion.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Curriculum Map

The program learning outcomes (PLOs) of IBS's M.Div. program are best understood as a set of interesting goals, not steps in a linear progression through the program. Students come to IBS with a variety of life experiences, enroll as both full- and part-time students, and thus proceed through the program at their own pace. Knowledge and skills acquired at one phase of the program are sharpened and refined in later stages, and students thus have the opportunity to return to areas of study for further engagement and refinement.

Students in IBS's Master of Divinity program will:

Outcome	Assessed in part through
PLO1 demonstrate foundational knowledge of Buddhist history, literature, thought, practice, and ethics as the basis for effective ministry, chaplaincy, or religious leadership	Written assignments (final research papers) submitted in the two-semester "traditions" sequence (HRHS1515 & HRHS1518)
PLO2 identify and articulate ministerial skills appropriate to their professional goals, using a range of Buddhist and non-Buddhist sources, and demonstrate how these skills apply to their ministry	Evaluations completed by student and supervisor for a field education or approved extracurricular program (e.g., MAP, Sati)
PLO3 gain specific, in-depth, knowledge of the teachings and practices of their own Buddhist tradition and express a well-articulated understanding of how that knowledge serves as a guide and resource for their ministry	Final paper or project submitted either to the Buddhist Pastoral Care course or the Buddhist Ministry Course (PSHR3013 or HRCE3015)
PLO4 relate their own tradition to multi-religious, multi-cultural, and multi-Buddhist contexts to support effective engagement with diverse communities	Final paper or project submitted to the Buddhism and World Religions course or other approved inter-religious studies course (HRIR2000 or other IR course)
PLO5 produce research projects and demonstrate communication skills through writing, public speaking, and dharma talks	Thesis proposal (usually completed during the Methods course) and final thesis/capstone project (HR1630 or MA1000 plus thesis)

Movement Through the Program

The M.Div. program is designed so that students can complete their studies in three years of full-time (12 units per semester) coursework. A normative timeline to completion of the degree follows. Students who enroll part time or participate in the Exchange Programs will need to adjust their timeline accordingly. And some program requirements may be completed as per the stackable curriculum model. Please work with your Academic Advisor closely to ensure that all deadlines are met and that you progress toward graduation.

Semester 1

Enroll in 4, three unit courses, including HRHS-1515 Buddhist Traditions of South Asia

Meet with Academic Advisor to map out course of study; discuss potential contextual education field sites; discuss possible avenues of research for the thesis.

Semester 2

Enroll in 4, three unit courses, ideally including HRHS-1518 Buddhist Traditions of East Asia

Semester 3

Enroll in 4, three unit courses, being attentive to program requirements.

Locate contextual education field site.

Semester 4

Enroll in 4, three unit courses, being attentive to program requirements.

Complete contextual education (CE) units.

By end of the academic year, student should begin conceptualizing thesis project

Semester 5

Enroll in 3, three unit courses, including Methods course (if not taken previously), and three units of "in thesis"

Begin writing thesis/project, expect to continue writing and getting feedback on drafts

Semester 6

Enroll in 3, three unit courses and three units of "in thesis"

Finish "defense draft" early in the semester; schedule defense with Committee and Office of the Registrar

Defend and file final project no later than deadline listed in the GTU Extended Calendar—note: these deadlines are not negotiable.

Master of Arts (Buddhist Studies concentration)

The Concentration in Buddhist Studies at the Graduate Theological Union

A necessarily interdisciplinary and often cross-cultural field, the study of Buddhism at the GTU is well balanced with anthropological, cultural, and area studies perspectives. Students may choose to focus on one or more Buddhist traditions from the origin of the tradition to the present, studied in historical-cultural contexts, in Asia or the West. Faculty have close working relationships with the Buddhist studies groups at both the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford, providing students ample opportunity for professional growth.

The **Master of Arts** is an academic degree offered in cooperation with the member schools and Centers of the GTU. The program provides ecumenical and interreligious learning opportunities, and students have access to courses offered throughout the consortium, and many courses at UC Berkeley. The purpose of the program is to provide a basic understanding of theological or religious studies as preparation for doctoral study or as an academic foundation for secondary school teaching, educational or social justice ministries, or religious leadership in the non-profit sector.

Students who complete the MA program will be able to demonstrate focused knowledge in the field of study represented by a chosen concentration; demonstrate general knowledge of several different approaches to theological and religious studies; engage in respectful dialogue with practitioners of another religious tradition; and produce research projects, each with a clearly formulated thesis statement that is supported by appropriate evidence from primary and secondary sources and communicated in an effective scholarly presentation.

GTU MA students are required to affiliate with a member school (such as the **Institute of Buddhist Studies**), and students in the Buddhist Studies concentration will affiliate with IBS. Their advisor will be a member of the IBS faculty, and the IBS will serve as their primary intellectual community. Students in the Buddhist Studies concentration are eligible for IBS institutional scholarships and grants.

The GTU MA is a two-year degree program requiring a total of fourteen 3-unit academic courses plus six units of thesis work. Early in the second year of residence, all MA students are required to demonstrate proficiency in at least one modern foreign language relevant to their field of study as determined by their advisors with the approval of the member school dean or center/affiliate director. Non-native speakers of English may, with permission, certify English as their second language. Two courses must be taken outside the student's school of affiliation.

Students wishing to complete the GTU MA with a concentration in Buddhist Studies should consult the GTU website and contact the GTU Admissions Office. Whereas this catalog has made all good faith efforts to present accurate information, the GTU catalog and MA Handbook will always contain the most up-to-date and relevant information on degree program admissions and graduation requirements.

Expectations for Online Learning

In order to succeed in IBS's online courses and certificate programs, students should be computer literate and have access to the following technology:

1. Regular access to a computer and a reliable internet connection.
2. An email account which will be used to verify a student's identity when logging into the Moodle learning platform.
3. A modern web browser to access the Moodle platform (Chrome and Firefox are more reliable on PCs; the most recent version of Apple Safari on Macs) as well as to do online research. Mobile app versions of Moodle (such as for tablets or the iPad) generally have limited features; we recommend students access Moodle via a laptop or desktop computer.
4. A PDF reader such as Adobe Acrobat or Apple Preview.
5. A word processing program such as Microsoft Office.
6. The ability to listen to and watch audio and video files on your computer.
7. Many online courses combine synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous modalities. Synchronous courses will require you to make time in your schedule to meet with your instructor and classmates similar to an on-site course. Synchronous meetings are usually conducted via Zoom or other video conferencing software.

Technical support

IBS utilizes the Moodle learning platform administered by the Graduate Theological Union. The GTU offers ample technical support for students and faculty. Once logged into your Moodle account, you will find both resource pages as well as a chat box to speak to a staff person for assistance. The chat feature is also included on the GTU library webpage.



Exchange Programs & Affiliated Institutions

Due to the COVID-19 situation, exchange programs may not be accepting students during the 2021-22 academic year. Please contact the Dean for more information.

Exchange Programs

The Institute of Buddhist Studies is pleased to provide the following student exchange programs for our regular degree program students, giving them the opportunity to study Buddhism either in Japan or Taiwan.

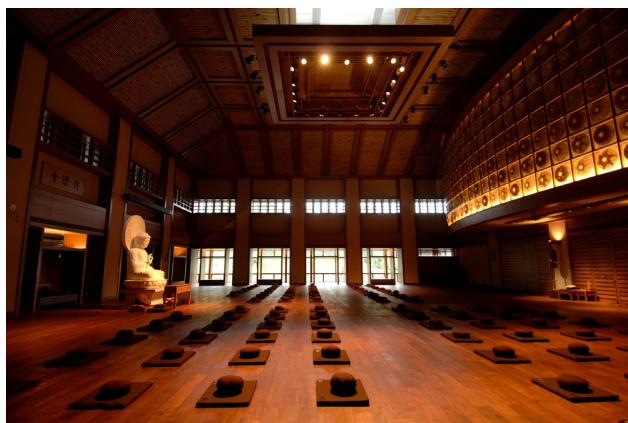
Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan



Each year two students from IBS are able to study Buddhism at Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan. This program is open to degree program students only.

Up to twelve units of credit may be earned in this program. Grounding in conversational and basic reading Japanese is required. Opportunities to study Japanese language are available through this program, but for all other coursework the language of instruction is Japanese. Tuition and fees for this program are the same as for regular IBS classes, and are payable directly to IBS. Housing is provided by Ryukoku University. Transportation, food and other incidentals are at student's own expense.

Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts Taipei, Taiwan



Each year two students from IBS are able to study Buddhism at Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts (DILA), located just outside Taipei, Taiwan. This program is open to degree program students only.

Up to twelve units of credit may be earned in this program. Grounding in conversational and basic reading Chinese is recommended, but not required. The program provides opportunities to study Buddhism in English and to simultaneously study Chinese language. Tuition and fees for this program are the same as for regular IBS classes, and are payable directly to IBS. Food and housing are provided by DILA. Transportation, study materials, other food and incidentals are at student's own expense.

Affiliated Institutions

INSTITUTE OF
BUDDHIST
STUDIES



Graduate
Theological
Union

Graduate Theological Union

Founded by ecumenical pioneers in 1962, the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley, California, is the largest and most diverse partnership of seminaries and graduate schools in the United States. The interfaith approach attracts leading theologians, scholars of religion, and students from around the world who are pursuing new models for inter-religious collaboration in teaching, research, ministry, and service.

Study at the GTU is intellectually challenging and rich in resources. As a consortium, we have the largest theological faculty in one location in the United States. Students pursuing a Ph.D., D.Min., or M.A. share a world-class library, access to more than 700 courses across member schools and academic disciplines, and a strong sense of community. Here, honest exchanges arise, world views expand, understanding deepens.

The GTU is both a graduate school and a consortium of schools, as well as an agency for a variety of special programs and services. In its educational programs, the GTU draws upon its founding theological communities and works cooperatively with the University of California, Berkeley. Structurally, the GTU is a distinct entity, governed by an independent Board of Trustees, which includes members nominated by the participating seminaries. It is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Senior College and University Commission. It is also a member of the Council on Graduate Studies in Religion.

GTU Member Schools

There are currently nine member schools of the Graduate Theological Union:

- ▶ Berkeley School of Theology (BST)
- ▶ Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP)
- ▶ Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT)
- ▶ Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS)
- ▶ Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University (JSC-SCU)
- ▶ Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University (PLTS-CLU)
- ▶ Pacific School of Religion (PSR)
- ▶ San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS)
- ▶ Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM)

The Institute of Buddhist Studies became a member school of the GTU in 2021.

IBS is the first non-Christian seminary to join the consortium bringing true religious diversity to the GTU community at all levels, from the Board of Trustees to faculty and students.

The GTU is fully committed to the principles of academic freedom as set forth by those associations and by the American Association of University Professors. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religious affiliation, age, sex, or handicap in its employment policies or in the administration of its educational programs, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school administrative programs. For the M.A. and Ph.D. programs administered by the GTU, faculty members of the schools constitute a single graduate faculty.

The GTU Doctoral Program

The IBS does not offer a Ph.D. program. However, students completing either the M.A. or M.A.B.S. programs are strongly encouraged to apply for admission to the GTU Ph.D. program with a concentration in Buddhist Studies. While the Ph.D. program is a completely separate entity, M.A. students have the opportunity during their tenure to work with GTU faculty, allowing them to become familiar with the GTU culture. IBS is committed to encouraging capable students interested in pursuing the doctoral degree.

University of California, Berkeley

Through a cross-registration arrangement between GTU and UCB, IBS degree program students are able to take courses for credit (one course per semester) at UCB. The Department of Asian Languages, Department of South and Southeast Asian Languages and the Religious Studies groups, in particular, offer a wide range of courses in religion, Asian thought and languages that complement the GTU and IBS course offerings. Students may further take advantage of the resources available at Stanford University, located in Palo Alto, California with its strong programs in East Asian Buddhism and religions.



Center for Buddhist Education

Inspired by Shinran Shonin's legacy, the mission of the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) is to provide diverse learning opportunities to deepen the understanding and appreciation of Buddha's wisdom and compassion among Sangha leaders and the broader community.

CBE organizes a number of educational programs throughout the year and across North America. CBE is primarily responsible for the Minister's Assistant Program which prepares women and men for Buddhist leadership in their sanghas and ordination from Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto, Japan.

IBS cooperates with CBE to host academic and educational programs (such as the Pacific Seminar) as well as the MAP program and other practicum series for Shin Buddhist ministerial aspirants.

Sati Institute for Theravada Studies

The Sati Institute for Theravada Studies, in the Insight Meditation tradition and lead by Jennifer Block, Gil Fronsdal, and Paul Haller, balances scholarly inquiry with serious meditation practice. The Institute of Buddhist Studies has partnered with the Sati Institute to provide both Buddhist chaplaincy education and the Certificate in Theravada Studies.

International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies

The International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies (IASBS) was founded in 1982 with the objective of developing Shin and Pure Land Buddhist Studies and facilitating exchange of views and information among its members. It is the only worldwide organization focused on Jōdo Shinshū and Pure Land Buddhist studies.

Members are scholars and academics, priests and laypersons affiliated with the Jōdo, Jōdo Shinshū, and other Pure Land Buddhist traditions as well as scholars with an interest in Buddhist studies and religious studies more generally. The IASBS welcomes participation of those with wide range of interests and specialization within and beyond Pure Land Buddhism.

The Institute of Buddhist Studies has long been a supporter and partner of the IASBS; many of our faculty have been long-time members of the Association, and IBS assists the IASBS in the production of the Association's journal, *The Pure Land*.

IBS students, especially those studying Shin Buddhism or preparing for careers in the ministry, are encouraged to become members of the Association.

Ryukoku and Ohtani Universities

Representing the Nishi and Higashi branches of Jōdo Shinshū, Ryukoku and Ohtani Universities are among the top Buddhist universities in Japan.

IBS has strong institutional connections to both universities allowing for scholarly exchanges and collaborative research projects, and a student exchange program with Ryukoku University.

The Faculty of IBS

Core Faculty

Rev. Dr. Daijaku Judith Kinst

Noboru and Yaeko Hanyu
Professor of Buddhist Chaplaincy
PhD. and M.A., California Institute
of Integral Studies
B.A., Occidental College



Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji

Assistant Professor of Shin
Buddhist Studies
Ph.D. and M.A., Ryukoku
University
M.A., Institute of Buddhist
Studies
B.A., University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley



Dr. Nancy G. Lin

Associate Professor of Himalayan
and South Asian Studies
Ph.D., University of California,
Berkeley
M.A., Columbia University
A.B., Harvard University



Dr. Richard K. Payne

Yeah Numata Professor of
Japanese Buddhist Studies
Esoteric Buddhism
Ph.D., Graduate Theological
Union
M.A., Nyingma Institute
B.A. and M.A., San Jose State University



Dr. Scott A. Mitchell

Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai Professor of
Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Studies
Ph.D., Graduate Theological
Union
M.A., Institute of Buddhist Studies
B.A., San Francisco State University



Research Fellows

Research Fellows have an ongoing relationship with the Institute, provide additional scholarly expertise, and are able to serve on thesis committees.

Dr. Gil Fronsdal

Buddhist Chaplaincy Training
Program and Theravada
Buddhist Studies



Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra

Jōdo Shinhū Buddhist Studies



Dr. Natalie F. Quli

South Asian Buddhism and
Anthropology of Buddhism



Program Coordinators

Program Coordinators Support students in specific certificates or tracks of study and professional development.

Rev. Brent Beavers

Chaplaincy Program
Coordinator



Rev. Harry Bridge

Shin Buddhist Ministerial
Program Coordinator



Emeritus Faculty

Rev. Dr. Seigen H. Yamaoka

M.A. and Litt.D., Ryukoku University
M.R.E. and D.Min., Pacific School of Religion
B.A. California State University, Fresno

Adjunct Faculty

Adjunct Faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year are:

- ▶ Thomas Calobrisi, Modern Buddhism, Method in Buddhist Studies
- ▶ Prof. Diana Clark, Theravada Buddhist Studies
- ▶ Rev. Taigen Leighton, Zen Buddhism
- ▶ Rev. Charlie Korin Pokorny, Buddhist Philosophy and Zen Buddhism
- ▶ Grace Ramswick, Buddhist Studies and South and Central Asian Buddhism
- ▶ Luke Thompson, Buddhist Japanese
- ▶ Dr. Emily Wu, Buddhism and World Religions, Chinese Religions
- ▶ Bhante Seelawimala, Theravada Buddhism

Course Offerings

Please consult the IBS [website](#) for courses being offered in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Course Numbers	
1000	Introductory level courses
2000-3000	Intermediate level courses
4000	Advanced level courses
5000-6000	Doctoral level courses
8000	Online courses (second number represents course level)

Courses required for most of our degree and certificate programs are offered on a rotating basis according to the following schedule. Consult the IBS website and your academic advisor prior to registration to ensure you are meeting program requirements.

Course	Offered every...
HRHS-1515 Buddhist Traditions of South Asia	fall semester
HRHS-1518 Buddhist Traditions of East Asia	spring semester
HR-8107 Intro to Buddhism and Buddhist Studies	fall semester
HRPH-1614 Intro to Shin Buddhist Thought	fall semester
HR-3040 Intro to Zen Buddhism	every spring
HR-1630 Methods in the Study of Buddhism	fall semester
HRHS-3250 Seven Masters	every other spring, alternating with HR-3017
HR-3017 Three Pure Land Sutras	every other spring, alternating with HRPS-3250
HRIR-2000 Buddhism and World Religions	usually every fall
HRHS-8307 History of the Shin Tradition	every fall

Introductory Courses

No background expected. These courses provide basic introductions to the area of study.

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM AND BUDDHIST STUDIES

HR 1501, HR 8107

This course introduces the student to the Buddhist tradition and the academic study of Buddhism. The course covers the development of Buddhism across Asia, its history, major texts, lineages, practices and doctrines. Secondarily, we will discuss the academic discipline of Buddhist studies, its own historical development, methodologies, orientations and assumptions. It is required for the Certificate in Buddhist Studies.

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHIST MEDITATION

HR 1508

An examination of samatha and vipassana methods of Buddhist meditation.

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHIST THOUGHT

HR 1510

Introduces the major ideas of Buddhist thought in the context of contemporary religious and philosophical discussions. Recommended for introductory study.

BUDDHIST JAPANESE I

HR 1512, HR 8145

Introduces basics of Japanese grammar, vocabulary, kana and kanji, and dictionary work, including both Buddhist vocabulary and dictionaries. Work with paragraph length selections from modern popular Japanese publications on Buddhism.

BUDDHIST JAPANESE II

HR 1513, HR 8146

Continues to develop technical Buddhist vocabulary in modern Japanese. As well as referencing classical Japanese, the Buddhist terms in Sanskrit and Chinese related to key technical terms will also be introduced. More complex grammar and longer selections will be worked with.

BUDDHIST TRADITIONS OF SOUTH ASIA

HRHS 1515, HRHS 8151

Introduces the Buddhist traditions as they originate in India and developed throughout south and southeast Asia. First half of the required year long introductory survey of the entire Buddhist tradition. Usually offered each fall semester.

BUDDHIST TRADITIONS OF EAST ASIA

HRHS 1518, HRHS 8152

Introduces the Buddhist traditions transmitted to East Asia and the development of new traditions. Second half of the required year long introductory survey of the entire Buddhist tradition. Usually offered each spring semester.

BUDDHIST TEXTS: PALI I

HR 1525

An introduction to the language of the Pāli Tipikaka. Grammar lessons are based on the language of the early nikayas (sutta collections). By the end of the first semester, students can expect to have a firm grasp of basic Pāli grammar, a working vocabulary of roughly 600 words, and competency in reading standard prose passages of nikaya material with minimal assistance.

BUDDHIST TEXTS: PALI II

HR 1511

Intermediate level Pāli grammar and extensive readings drawn from the early nikayas (sutta collections). By the end of the second semester, students can expect to have a firm grasp of Pāli grammar and competence in reading complex passages of prose and verse nikaya material. Pre-requisite: Pāli I or equivalent. Auditors with faculty permission.

LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF THE BUDDHA

HR 1550

Course examines the life and fundamental teachings of Śākyamuni Buddha, providing an understanding of the Buddha's time and world. It then follows the developments in the story of the Buddha as the popularity of Buddhism increases and it spreads throughout Asia. Recommended for introductory study.

LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF THERAVADA BUDDHIST MASTERS

HR 1551

Course examines the life and fundamental teachings of Buddhist Masters in the Theravada traditions, providing an understanding of how the teachings have been practiced and passed down by the Buddhist Masters in South East Asia. It then examines contemporary Buddhist Masters, in Asia and in the West. Recommended for introductory study.

RITUAL, PRACTICE AND CEREMONY IN BUDDHISM

HR 1570

This course will examine ritual and practice in the Buddhist tradition, as well as a practicum session devoted specifically to chanting. Topics will include the relationship between practice, doctrine, and ritual, ritual architecture, and historical and modern examples of ritual practice. Offered every other semester.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THERAVADA BUDDHIST TRADITIONS

HR 1596

This course will survey the traditions of Buddhism commonly referred to as Theravada, with reference to their doctrine, development, and concrete localizations throughout South and Southeast Asia, as well as the contemporary West. We will also interrogate the shifting representations of these traditions that emerge in their interface with modernity. The course will incorporate both foundational primary texts and representative secondary scholarship in an attempt to broadly chart the living and historical dimensions of these traditions and the terms of their contemporary study.

INTRODUCTION TO SHIN BUDDHIST THOUGHT

HRPH 1614, HR 8140

Introduces the major ideas of Shin thought in the context of contemporary religious and philosophic discussions. Required course. One of the following is needed as prerequisite: HR 1510 Introduction to Buddhist thought, HR 1550 Life and Teachings of the Buddha, or instructor's permission.

READINGS IN EARLY BUDDHIST TEXTS

HR 1615, HR 8160

Texts selected by instructor from the early Buddhist tradition. May include Pāli and early Mahayana texts, read in English translation. May be repeated for credit when a different text is chosen for study.

METHODS IN THE STUDY OF BUDDHISM

HR 1630

A survey of different approaches to the study of Buddhism, including textual, anthropological, sociological, historical, and bibliographic. Particular attention will be given to contemporary critical studies, appropriate historical and social contextualization of doctrinal claims, and relations between Buddhism and other religions in the modern world.

SHIN BUDDHIST SERVICES AND CEREMONIES

FE 1810

Teaches chanting and ceremonial required for ministerial service in the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha tradition. Ministerial aspirants are required to take this course, offered every other semester.

Intermediate Courses

More specialized, some background expected. Primarily for M.A. level students.

BUDDHISM AND WORLD RELIGIONS

HRIR 2000

Contextualizes the history, thought, and practice of Buddhism within the broad sweep of world religions, historically and contemporarily.

CONCURRENT FIELD STUDY – SELF PLACEMENT

FE-2400

1.5 hours per week on-campus class and 4.5 hours per week on-site basic field education. 1 semester long course. Fulfills Field Education requirement. Pass/Fail only. To enroll, student must have made arrangements for an approved field education placement with the Field Education advisor. [Auditors excluded]

BUDDHISM AND THE WEST

HR 2849, HR 2850, HR 8344

This course surveys the history of Buddhist traditions in the West. Beginning with 19th century colonial contact and Asian immigration through 21st century global exchanges, we will explore the various ways that Buddhists, Buddhist communities, and Buddhist ideas have come to and developed in Western contexts. Previous Buddhist studies courses helpful but not required.

MEDITATION IN THE THERAVADA TRADITION

HR 2990

Meditation practice is important to the path of liberation taught in Theravada Buddhism. The core meditation practices of Theravada Buddhism have their origin in the teachings of the Buddha. This seminar will present core principles, teachings, and practices of meditation that are found in the early Pāli discourses as well as in later Theravada Buddhism, including the West. Meditation techniques will be assigned for regular home practice. Grading will be based on a mid-term take home essay, and a final research paper; short reflective essays and a meditation journal are required for completing the class. The class is suitable for M.A. and M.Div. students.

HISTORY OF THE PURE LAND TRADITION

HRHS 8350

The standard Shin Buddhist tradition in Japan traces its origins only to delimited parts of the earlier Pure Land inheritance, especially the textual works of Nagarjuna, Vasubandhu, T'an-luan, Tao-ch'o, Shan- tao, Genshin and Honen. This course is intended to create a broader framework for understanding Shin Buddhism because Shin really cannot be understood in isolation.

SHIN BUDDHIST THEOLOGY

HR 8457

An examination of a range of theological issues raised by a contemporary consideration of Shin Buddhist thought, focusing on questions of ethics, human nature, faith and salvation. Lecture and seminar format. Required preparation: HR 1614 Introduction to Shin Buddhist thought, or faculty permission.

BUDDHIST ETHICS

HRCE 3002, HRCE 8340

A survey of the role of ethical teachings in Buddhism. Together with meditation (*samādhi*) and wisdom (*prajñā*), ethics (*sila*) is considered to be one of the foundations of awakening.

CHINESE BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY

HRPH 3006

Study of one of the schools of Chinese Buddhist thought, such as Huayan, Tiantai, Sanlun, Chan, and Mijiao. While reading primary sources in translation will be central, attention will also be given to textual, doctrinal, historical, and social aspects of the different philosophical traditions. May be repeated when a different school is being studied.

JAPANESE BUDDHISM

HRHS 3009

This seminar will focus on Japanese Buddhism in the modern period. Format: seminar. Evaluation: Participation and term paper.

INDIAN BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY

HRPH 3011

Study of one of the schools of Indian Buddhist thought, such as abhidharma/abhidhamma, Madhyamaka, Yogācara, and tathāgatagarbha. While reading primary sources in translation will be central, attention will also be given to the textual, doctrinal, historical, and social aspects of the different philosophic traditions. May be repeated for credit when a different school is being studied.

BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY

PSHR 3013

This two-semester sequence of training is offered by the Sati Center (Redwood City, CA) in affiliation with IBS. Over the course of ten months, through discussion, readings, meditation, and internship, the student will not only learn about chaplaincy, but begin to develop the necessary skills and understandings for compassionate service to others who are in need, whether they are Buddhists or not. Course limited to IBS students. Both semesters must be completed for credit to be awarded. NOTE: To be accepted in the course, a separate application must be submitted directly to the Sati Center with a \$50 application fee. Student will be interviewed, and if accepted, will pay a separate tuition for two semesters to the Sati Center. Faculty Consent required; interview required; auditors excluded.

ISSUES IN BUDDHIST MINISTRY

HRCE 3014

Explore the difficulties and direction in Buddhist Ministry within the Western context. Also, through a person-centered educational process, explore ways and means to develop one's personal ministry for the west. Course is for MA or MDiv students with an emphasis on ministry.

TIBETAN BUDDHISM

HRHS 3014, HR 8301

A survey of the history, teachings, doctrines, practices, and textual traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. Attention will also be given to basic introduction to the traditions of Indian thought that form the basis for the polemical nature of Tibetan scholasticism.

CRITICAL HISTORIOGRAPHY OF BUDDHISM

HRPH 8465

The West has been interacting with Buddhism for many centuries, but it is only in the past couple of decades that a truly sophisticated (postmodernist, post colonialist) sense of intercultural hermeneutics has been applied to this history. Having a deep critical awareness of the selected, constructed nature of perceptions of "Buddhism" is essential to having any understanding of what Buddhism has meant and can mean in the West.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF BUDDHISM I: FOUNDATIONS IN BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGICAL THOUGHT

HRPS 8320

An examination of the development of psychological theories in the abhidharma, Yogācara and tathāgatagarbha systems of thought, particularly through the reading of primary sources in translation. May be repeated for credit when different primary texts are being studied.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF BUDDHISM II: INTERFACING WITH WESTERN PSYCHOLOGY

HRPS 3016

Explores the similarities and difference between classical Indian Buddhist psychological thought (abhidharma, and Yogācara) and Western psychologies. Of particular concern is the question of whether the two kinds of systems have the same fundamental ideas about human existence, conceptions of the self, our relations with others, and the structure of the mind.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF BUDDHISM III

HRPS 8322

This course presents Buddhist psychologies as they evolved over the centuries, and Psychology in its several forms in the Anglophone literature. Many of the topics of particular importance in the Buddhist traditions find parallels, resonances, or denials in modern American psychology. The developments of Buddhist psychology found in Yogacara, Tathagatagarbha, Madhyamaka, and subsequent traditions are considered.

READINGS IN MAHAYANA TEXTS

HR 3017, HR 8317

Introduces a major Mahāyāna sūtra or śastra in English translation. May be augmented with work on text in canonic language(s). Usually alternates annually between the three Pure Land sūtras (required of ministerial aspirants) and other Mahāyāna texts. HRHS 1515 Buddhist Traditions of South Asia and HRHS 1518 Buddhist Traditions of East Asia are recommended as background. Fulfils the textual studies (Biblical Studies or Sacred Texts) requirement for the GTU MA.

READINGS IN THERAVADA TEXTS

NEW COURSE

Introduces and closely examines major Theravada sutras in English translation. May be augmented with work on text in canonic language(s). HRHS 1515 Buddhist Traditions of South Asia and HRHS 1518 Buddhist Traditions of East Asia are recommended as background. Fulfils the textual studies (Biblical Studies or Sacred Texts) requirement for the GTU MA.

HISTORY OF THE THERAVADA BUDDHIST TRADITIONS

NEW COURSE

This course studies how the different Theravada Traditions become established as the religious and cultural centers in various South and South East Asian countries. It also delves into the subsequent history of these traditions in their homelands and in their spread to the West. Introduction to Theravada Traditions required.

ZEN BUDDHISM

HR 3040, HR 3041, HR 8150

A survey of the history, teachings, doctrines, practices and textual traditions of Zen Buddhism as this tradition developed in China, Korea, Japan, and its contemporary transmission to the West. Socio-historical aspects of the tradition's development and history will also be considered.

ISSUES IN SHIN BUDDHIST MINISTRY

HRFE 3076

Explores the difficulties and direction of Shin Buddhist Ministry within the Western context.

BUDDHIST JAPANESE III

HR 3060

This course introduces high intermediate Japanese grammar. It is focused on understanding compound and complex sentences. We also analyze why subjects and phrases are omitted in typical Japanese sentences. Students will acquire the knowledge of multiple language equivalents (Sanskrit, Chinese, Tibetan) and the corresponding concepts within Buddhist thought. Students will continue to build upon knowledge of Buddhist terminology and kanji.

BUDDHIST JAPANESE IV

HR 3061, HR 8359

Students will be required to read extended text selections in Japanese. Discourse level grammar and sentence analysis will be studied in depth. Students will continue to build upon knowledge of Buddhist terminology and kanji. This course also introduces basics of classical Japanese.

HISTORY OF THE SHIN BUDDHIST TRADITION: PRE- MODERN

HRHS 3075, HRHS 8307

This course examines the history of the Shin Buddhist tradition focusing on the formation of the tradition by Shinran and its revitalization by Rennyo, as well as further developments into the Tokugawa era. Required of ministerial aspirants. HRHS 3250 History of the Pure Land Tradition: Seven Masters recommended as background.

HISTORY OF THE SHIN BUDDHIST TRADITION: MODERN

HRHS 3074, HRHS 8309

This course takes the history of the Shin Buddhist tradition forward from the seven masters. Required of ministerial aspirants. HRHS 3250 History of the Pure Land Tradition: Seven Masters recommended as background.

BUDDHIST PASTORAL CARE I

PSHR 3076

Examines the application of Buddhist thought in the context of a pastoral counseling relationship. Just as the Buddha adjusted his teaching to the needs of his audiences, attention will be given to individual situations as the frame for counseling, in contrast to the imposition of doctrinal views. Ethical and legal limitations on the counseling relation will be covered.

SCIENCE AND BUDDHISM

HR 3100

Examination of the relation between modern science (as method, as accepted theories, as institution), and Buddhist thought. The development of scientific thought within Buddhism itself will also be considered. For example, cosmologies, engineering, embryology, and logic, all form important contextualizing elements of the Buddhist path to awakening.

ESOTERIC BUDDHISM

HR 3101

A survey of the history, teachings, doctrines, practices, and textual traditions of esoteric, or tantric, Buddhism. Particular focus may be given to Indian, Tibetan, Chinese, or Japanese forms of esoteric Buddhism. As appropriate attention will also be given to basic introduction to the traditions of Indian tantra that provided the religious context for the development of the Buddhist tantric tradition.

TOPICS IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITIONS OF EAST ASIA

HRPH 3242

Specialized topic related to the history of Buddhist thought and practice as it developed in East Asia is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different. HRHS 1518 Buddhist Traditions of East Asia recommended as background.

TOPICS IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITIONS OF SOUTH ASIA

HRPH 3243

Specialized topic related to the history of Buddhist thought and practice as it developed in South Asia is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different. HRHS 1515 Buddhist Traditions of South Asia recommended as background.

TOPICS IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITIONS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

NEW COURSE

Specialized topic related to the history of Buddhist thought and practice as it developed in South East Asia is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different. HRHS 1515/ HRHS 8151 Buddhist Traditions of South East Asia recommended as background.

TOPICS IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITIONS OF CENTRAL ASIA

NEW COURSE

Specialized topic related to the history of Buddhist thought and practice as it developed in Central Asia, selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different. HRHS 1518/HRHS 8152 Buddhist Traditions of East Asia recommended as background.

SEVEN MASTERS/HISTORY OF THE PURE LAND TRADITION

HRHS 3250

The Shin Buddhist tradition traces its origins to the works of Nagārjuna, Vasubandhu, Tanluan, Daochuo, Shandao, Genshin and Hōnen. This course examines their contributions to the development of Shin Buddhism. Required of ministerial aspirants. HRPH 1614 Introduction to Shin Buddhist thought recommended as background.

TERMS, TEXTS, AND TRANSLATIONS

HR 3300

A study of the key terminology of Buddhist studies across the tradition, the ways in which texts are studied, and issues of translation. These issues have all been central for the understanding of Buddhism as it has moved from one society to another, and this course examines how they affect the interpretation of Buddhism in the present.

ADVANCED FIELD STUDY – CPE (3 UNITS)

FE-3400

CPE placement in a student chosen site in coordination with the Field Education advisor is required. Student is responsible for all application material and fees related the CPE application process. Completing 1 unit of CPE (full time or extended) fulfills the Field Education requirement and is equivalent to 6 academic units. Student must submit mid-term and final evaluations from CPE advisor in order to earn credit. [Auditors excluded]

Advanced Courses

Very specialized. Background study definitely expected. May be taken by both M.A. and Ph.D. level students.

TOPICS IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITIONS OF JAPAN

HRHS 4540, HRHS 8454

Specialized topic related to the history of Buddhist thought and practice as it developed in Japan is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different. HRHS 1518 Buddhist Tradition of East Asia recommended as background.

TOPICS IN JAPANESE RELIGIONS

HRPH 4543, HRHS 8450

Specialized topic related to the history or thought of Japanese religions is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different. HRHS 1518 Buddhist Traditions of East Asia recommended as background.

ISSUES IN THE SHINSHU TRADITION

HR 4547

Examination of an issue of instructor's choice from the historical study of the Shinshū tradition. May be repeated for credit when topic is different.

TOPICS IN SHIN BUDDHIST THOUGHT

HR 4548

Examination of a topic of instructor's choice drawing from the interactions between Shin thought and contemporary thought and society. May be repeated for credit when topic is different.

TOPICS IN THERAVADA BUDDHIST THOUGHT

HRRS 4551

Examination of a topic of instructor's choice drawing from the interactions between Theravada thought and contemporary thought and society. May be repeated for credit when topic is different.

THERADADA BUDDHISM

HRHS 4550

This survey course provides students with a solid foundation in the history, doctrines, and practices of Theravada Buddhism. In addition to sampling authoritative texts and reviewing the historical development of Theravada, we will discuss contemporary practices, particularly in terms of lay-monastic relationships. Special attention will be paid to Sri Lanka, particularly the legacy of British occupation and the development of "Protestant Buddhism" or "Buddhist modernism."

NEMBUTSU: SHIN PRACTICE

HR 4551

An examination of the issue of practice in Shin Buddhist thought, culture and life. Will examine historical and doctrinal developments of the notion of practice in Pure Land thought, Shinran's unique perspective on the nembutsu of Other Power, and contemporary approaches to Shin Buddhist practice in Asia and the West. Prerequisites: HR 1614 or instructor's permission.

TOPICS IN BUDDHIST THOUGHT

HRPH 4556, HRPH 8455

Examination of a topic of instructor's choice from the history of Buddhist thought, such as philosophy, psychology or social thought. As appropriate, primary source materials will be employed in the study of the topic. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different.

TOPICS IN BUDDHIST PRACTICE

HRPH 4558

Examination of a topic of instructor's choice from the history of Buddhist thought, such as meditation, ritual, or debate. Where appropriate, primary source materials will be employed in the study of the topic. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different.

WORKS OF SHINRAN, I: SHORTER WRITINGS

HRPH 4566, HRPH 8453

Introduction to the teachings of Shinran through a study of his shorter writings. Course will utilize the English translations of Shinran's works to support the study of the original texts. HRPH 1614 Introduction to Shin Buddhist thought, and at least one year of college level Japanese language study (minimal level: ability to use character dictionary), or instructor's permission are prerequisites. Course required for ministerial aspirants. Fulfills the textual studies (Biblical Studies or Sacred Texts) requirement for the GTU MA.

WORKS OF SHINRAN, II: TEACHING, PRACTICE, AND REALIZATION

HRPH 4567, HRPH 8454

Introduction to the teachings of Shinran through a study of his major treatise. Course will focus on the doctrinal content of the text, making use of the English translation. HRPH 1614 Introduction to Shin Buddhist thought, and at least one year of college level Japanese language study (minimal level: ability to use character dictionary), or instructor's permission is prerequisite to enrollment. Course is required for ministerial aspirants. Fulfills the textual studies (Biblical Studies or Sacred Texts) requirement for the GTU MA.

WORKS OF SHINRAN, III: TEACHING, PRACTICE, AND REALIZATION, CONTINUED

HRPH 4568

Continuation of the study of Shinran's major treatise focusing on the Japanese original. HRPH 4567 Works of Shinran, II or equivalent as determined by instructor is prerequisite to enrollment. Course is

recommended for ministerial aspirants. Fulfills the textual studies (Biblical Studies or Sacred Texts) requirement for the GTU MA.

WORKS OF SHINRAN, IV: TANNISHO

HRPH 4569, HRPH 8456

Introduction to the teachings of Shinran through a study of a key summary of his thought. Course will utilize the English translation to support the study of the original text. HRPH 1614 Introduction to Shin Buddhist ought, and at least one year of college level Japanese language study (minimal level: ability to use character dictionary), or instructor's permission is prerequisite to enrollment. Course is required for ministerial aspirants. Fulfills the textual studies (Biblical Studies or Sacred Texts) requirement for the GTU MA.

RYUKOKU LECTURE SERIES

HRPH 4576

Featuring a visiting professor from Ryukoku University, these lectures focus on different topics each year. Usually offered in the spring semester. Course may be repeated for credit.

ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS: EFFICACIOUS BUDDHIST PRACTICES IN COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS

PS 4390

Working with social groups of any kind — temple sanghas, meditation groups, hospitals, jails — requires specialized knowledge and skills. Buddhism began as a group, the sangha, and has a 2,500 year history to draw on for efficacious practices in relation to groups. In addition, contemporary society creates additional responsibilities for any religious leader, whether identified as a minister, priest or chaplain. This course is designed to provide knowledge regarding contemporary legal requirements, working with group dynamics, basics of organizational procedures, understanding finances, and related issues. This will be set in the context of the long tradition of Buddhist practices for creating effective institutions.

EXCHANGE STUDY PROGRAM

MA 5020; UP TO 12 UNITS

For study at the IBS a late Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan, or at Dharma Drum Buddhist College in New Taipei, Taiwan; open to IBS and GTU students only. In order for exchange programs to be recorded on the permanent academic record, students must be registered for this course. Registration is necessary for students who wish to receive academic credit for their work in the exchange program or who wish to be eligible for financial aid or deferment while they participate in the exchange program. (Written permission of IBS administration required.)

MAHAYANA BUDDHIST TEXTS

HR 5510

Textual study and analysis of a Mahayana Buddhist text, selected by instructor. May be repeated for credit when text is different.

TOPICS IN BUDDHISM IN THE WEST

HRHS 5526

Specialized topic related to the introduction of Buddhist thought and practice is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different.

TOPICS IN BUDDHIST PASTORAL CARE

PSHR 5160

Specialized topic on the relation between pastoral counseling and Buddhist thought and practice is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different.

TOPICS IN BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY

NEW COURSE

Specialized topic on the relation between chaplaincy and Buddhist thought and practice is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different.

THEORY AND METHOD IN THE STUDY OF BUDDHISM

NEW COURSE

Examines selected example/s of different approaches to the study of the Buddhist tradition. Provides critical background to such approaches so as to allow the student to understand the presuppositions inherent in each. May focus on one or more approach for in-depth study, at instructor's discretion.

TOPICS IN BUDDHISM AND PSYCHOLOGY

NEW COURSE

Specialized topic on the relation between psychology or psychotherapy and Buddhist thought and practice is selected by instructor. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different.

ISSUES IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION

HR 6006

Seminar examining six contemporary books in the study of religions. Participants critique each book, and then discuss its implications for their own work.

TOPICS IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

HRPH 6016

Advanced seminar focusing on a topic of instructor's choice. Course may be repeated for credit, if topic is different.

SPECIAL READING COURSE

SRC 9999

Individual students may select a topic to explore on their own. Bibliography and study is overseen by a member of the IBS core faculty, who is responsible for evaluating work produced. Independent study may be taken only with the approval of the student's advisor and the Dean. Independent study courses are to be used only to augment the regularly offered curriculum with study required by the student's

preparation for thesis. A maximum of one directed studies course per year may be taken (i.e., 3 units per 24 units of program requirements).

TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN PRESENCE

CERS 4875

New technologies are broadly reshaping human relationships—the ways in which people are or are not present with each other. In this seminar, we will engage resources available across the academic study of religion and theology to examine, critique, and productively address these impacts. In doing so, we will explore the important roles that religion scholars and theologians might play both in shaping public understandings of technologies' impacts on presence and in shaping the technologies themselves. The seminar was part of Public Theologies of Technology and Presence, program and research initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation and hosted at the Institute of Buddhist Studies from 2018-2021.

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Academic Support & Student Life

Offices of the Dean and Registrar

The Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs and the Registrar and Director of Student Services work cooperatively to oversee the academic program and course schedule, organize student orientations and commencement ceremonies, track student progress through degree and certificate programs, and review requests for incompletes, leaves of absences, proposals, and other necessary policy and procedural concerns brought by the student. Students are encouraged to check with the Registrar first with general questions regarding admissions, registration, forms and deadlines.

The Registrar further works with the IBS Haste Street Dormitory manager regarding housing options.

Communication and Registration

Students should provide the IBS registrar with their current email address and should expect occasional emails from the Office of the Dean regarding policy updates, event announcements, or other official communications from the Institute.

Students should also subscribe to the Institute's email list, including the Dean's Newsletter, to receive important announcements and information. To sign up for the newsletter, visit this link: <http://eepurl.com/bOHPxr>

IBS registration happens via our online student portal, [Populi](#). Once admitted, students will receive a Populi account and instructions on how to register for classes. Note that GTU uses a different student portal; students enrolled in the GTU M.A. should contact the GTU Registrar for instructions.

Who to Contact with Questions

Questions about admissions or enrollment?

Contact Helen Tagawa, Registrar

Questions about the IBS Dorm?

Contact the [Dorm Manager](#)

Questions about a specific class?

The best thing to do is to contact the instructor of record. Faculty contact information is listed on the [IBS website](#).

Questions about which classes to take?

Contact your advisor. Your advisor is here to help you navigate the program and make sure you meet all program requirements.

Questions about registration?

If you're in the GTU MA program: John Seal.

If you're in any other IBS program:
Helen Tagawa.

Questions about library resources?

Contact the IBS Librarian Sayaka Inaishi or the reference librarians at the GTU library.

Questions about scholarship?

All IBS students are eligible for [institutional scholarships](#). Students need to re-apply each year in the spring. The application is available on the website.

Students in the GTU MA program are also eligible for federal student loans. MA students need to contact the GTU financial aid office for more information.

Library and Research Resources

IBS students have the use of the GTU Library. Upon their first registration, students receive a student identification card which will then need to be registered with the GTU Library. Each following semester, upon registration, students will receive a renewal sticker for that semester.

The Graduate Theological Union Library was created in 1969 when each of the nine member schools contributed its collection to form a common library. The combined collections of the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library in Berkeley and the Branch Library at the San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) in San Anselmo number more than 695,000 items. The Library also holds 188 archival collections.

The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, acclaimed for its architectural design, provides a light and pleasant study space for students and faculty. Tables, carrels, and comfortable arm chairs offer a variety of quiet environments for scholarly work. Art shows and informative exhibits add to the attractiveness of the study areas.

The collections of the library reflect the ecumenical spectrum of the GTU and the diversity found within Christian religious groups as well as within world-wide Christianity. Judaism is an area of emerging collection strength. Of the other great religions, Buddhism has general coverage, and Hinduism and Islam are represented within the collections as well.

Areas of the collection receiving special attention include spirituality, interfaith dialogue, women and religion, racial-ethnic minorities, inculturation, theology and the arts, and theology and the natural sciences. The Archives provide primary research materials on religion in the West and Pacific Rim with interest in ecumenism, inter-religious activity, ethnic plurality, and women in religion. The collection also includes GTU institutional records. The composite collection of the Library has not only the breadth to support the full range of theological programs, but also an impressive depth in many areas of religious studies and theology.

Free borrowing privileges at the University of California, Berkeley assure excellent support in disciplines such as philosophy, history, sociology of religion, art and art history, music, classics, literature, education, and psychology. The C. V. Starr East Asian Library, part of the UC Berkeley library system, contains one of the most comprehensive collections of materials in East Asian languages in the United States. Its



combined holdings, totaling over one million volumes in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and other East Asian languages, make it one of the top two such collections.

The Green Library at Stanford University also opens the doors of its rich collection to GTU students and faculty. Even with about eight million library volumes freely at their disposal, students and faculty will require materials not owned by the libraries of the GTU or UCB. In those cases the Library will seek to borrow items from other libraries through interlibrary loan.

In addition to its printed, microform, and audio-visual resources, the Library offers access to a wide array of on-line resources. GRACE, the Library's on-line library catalog provides information regarding the Library's holdings. Students may access GRACE via the internet (<http://grace.gtu.edu/>). Bibliographic databases in religion and related disciplines, such as psychology and education, aid in the searching of journal literature. Convenient access to UCB's on-line library catalog speeds up the process of locating materials. GRACE, UCB's on-line catalog, and an organized selection of other electronic resources related to religion and theology are accessible through the Library's website (<http://www.gtu.edu/library>).

The Reference staff provide a number of services to students and faculty. Assistance with research and use of library materials is offered at the Reference Desk in the Library, by telephone, email, and regular mail. Reference Librarians teach workshops on such topics as the research process and the critical evaluation of resources and prepare specialized instruction for classes and informal groups. Individuals may also use the Paper and Thesis Help (PATH) service to work closely with a Reference Librarian in planning their research.

Rare Book Room and Masatoshi Nagatomi Collection

The Institute of Buddhist Studies' Rare Book Room contains an extensive collection of Buddhist materials and resources for the academic study of Buddhism and religion.

In 2008, IBS received a generous gift on behalf of the family of the late Prof. Masatoshi Nagatomi which adds greatly to our collection.

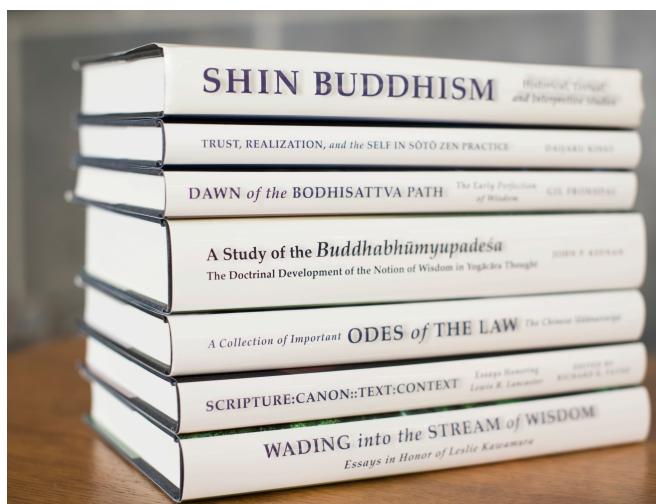
The Rare Book Room is not currently open to the public as we are in the midst of reorganization and cataloging the materials. Please check our website for updates.

Research Projects and Publications

In addition to our graduate degree and certificate programs, the Institute of Buddhist Studies produces excellent and innovative scholarship via institutional publications, faculty research, and collaborative programs and projects. Of particular note are:

Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies

A peer-reviewed and open-source journal



Pure Land Buddhist Studies Series

A book series published in partnership with the University of Hawai'i Press focusing on Pure Land Buddhist studies scholarship

Contemporary Issues in Buddhist Studies

A book series focusing on Buddhist studies broadly defined

The Ten Thousand Things

A blog featuring writings by current and past students, faculty, and guest scholars

Our [website](#) has many resources and information on current and past projects.

Many of our public lectures are recorded and available for viewing via the Institute's [Vimeo channel](#).

Student Groups and Events

Organized by the Chaplaincy Program Coordinator, the monthly Formation Meeting provides a space for chaplaincy and ministerial students to connect, mutually support one another's progress through the program, and discuss topics relevant to their professional development, spiritual growth, and Buddhist pastoral care.

The Graduate Student Symposium, held annually in the fall, provides a venue for current IBS and GTU students to present their work, connect with graduate students and senior faculty, and to further professional development. The event is overseen by the Dean and a student in the Buddhist Studies concentration of the GTU doctoral program. The Symposium is supported, in part, by the Numata Foundation (BDK).

The annual Spring Colloquy provides an opportunity for advanced students in the ministerial and chaplaincy programs to present and celebrate their work prior to graduation.

The annual Ryukoku Lecture held in March brings a distinguished member of Ryukoku University's faculty to Berkeley to present on topics relevant to Shin Buddhist Studies or general Buddhist Studies. The lectures may be held in conjunction with a for-credit course (HRPH 4576).

In co-operation with the BCA's Center for Buddhist Education, IBS co-hosts the Pacific Seminar, held biannually in the winter and summer, a multi-day event that brings Buddhist teachers and scholars together to discuss topics relevant to Buddhist study and practice. IBS and CBE also co-host a symposium during the annual BCA National Council Meeting.

Contact the Dean's Office for additional information regarding student groups or other events. The [Dean's Newsletter](#) is also a valuable source of information on IBS's public events.

Housing and the Haste Street Dorm

Housing is available to single IBS single students at the Haste Street Dormitory with preference given to full-time, degree program students. Housing application is to be made during admissions application procedure. Applications for residence are due by May 15th for the following academic year or Fall term, and October 15th for the following Spring term. Replies to applications will be made by July 1st, and December 1st, respectively.



IBS dormitory residency contracts are for a full year, unless prior arrangements are specifically made. The term of the contract is 15 August of one year to 14 August of the next. Dormitory rent includes cost of all utilities, garbage collection, shared kitchen facilities and normal maintenance. Washer and dryer are on the premises.

Rents and deposits are subject to change, the amounts given here are estimates based on recent history, not a firm offer of rental rate.

Single room (per month): \$700 to \$900, plus a security/cleaning deposit. Students wishing to reside in the dormitory should contact the dormitory manager or Registrar directly.

The Dormitory has a limited number of rooms available, so not every IBS student can be accommodated. The IBS undertakes no responsibility for finding housing for students, and does not assist in the location of housing.

The Berkeley area has many housing options with rents typically ranging from \$1000 to \$2000 per month for a shared room, studio, or one bedroom apartment. Students are encouraged to start early in their housing search.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, housing at the IBS dorm may be limited or unavailable during the 2021-22 academic year. Please contact the Registrar for additional information.

Transportation

The IBS is located south of the University of California, Berkeley, and is accessible from the Downtown Berkeley BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) station and several AC Transit bus lines.

See [Campus Location](#) for a detailed map of the IBS, GTU, and the downtown Berkeley area.

Academic Policies

Academic Freedom Policy

The Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) affirms that academic freedom is essential for institutions of higher education, and that it is the policy of the IBS that both faculty and students be free to express their views on academic matters freely, though within the confines of common courtesy. In other words, the views of others are to be treated with respect, and disagreements are to be addressed with reason and information. At IBS academic freedom means that faculty and students may engage in research, scholarship, or other creative work in order to expand knowledge, to publish research findings, to teach and to learn in an atmosphere of free inquiry and free expression.

Academic freedom, however, entails certain duties and responsibilities. Faculty members are free to conduct research, write, and engage in other creative work, and then to publish or otherwise make the results of their work public. Faculty are also entitled to teach and discuss topics relevant to their faculty assignments with the goal of educating their students. In the same way, students are free to conduct research, write and engage in other creative work in pursuit of their studies. Freedom in research, writing, publishing and teaching requires a commitment to accuracy and integrity on the part of both faculty and students.

Faculty and students are members of the public, members of a learned profession, and members of an educational institution. When a faculty member or student speaks or writes as a citizen, he or she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline. Both faculty members and students should remember, however, that the public may judge the profession and institution by their utterances. Both faculty and students should always seek to be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and be clear that he or she is not speaking for the institution.

Residential and Online Unit Policies

In order to differentiate between online and on-site courses, online courses will be numbered in the 8000s in both course listings and transcripts. No more than seven online courses may be used to fulfill GTU MA requirements, as long as they are three (3.0) unit, letter-grade, academic courses. As always, GTU MA students must consult the GTU MA Handbook and other policy documents for the most current information and policies.

Whereas IBS offers both online and hybrid courses, not all required courses are offered in these modalities. M.A.B.S and M.Div. students should expect to spend at least a full-time semester in residence in Berkeley.

Continuing Registration

If a M.A.B.S. or GTU M.A. student has registered and paid tuition for two years (or a total of 48 units), and if a M.Div. student has registered and paid tuition for three years (or a total of 72 units) and has not yet completed their program, they automatically enter “continuing registration” status. While in continuing registration, students must be registered for at least 12 units per semester and may not register for part-time status. Tuition for students in continuing registration is half of regular full-time tuition.

Students in continuing status can take courses as well as work on their thesis. If all course requirements have been completed, a student may choose to register for 12 units of “in thesis” only.

Transfer Credits

Courses that were not used toward a previous degree may be petitioned for transfer of credit. Transferred courses are entered on the student’s transcript and become part of the permanent record.

Transfer of credit is limited to 12 units from a school outside the GTU/IBS, and up to 36 units from a school within the GTU or a IBS certificate program, at the discretion of the dean. The maximum number of transfer units is 36. Students should declare their intent to transfer units before completing their second semester of work.

Courses eligible for transfer credit generally fall into three categories: 1) courses taken as a IBS special student or non-degree student; 2) courses taken above and beyond any degree requirements; 3) courses taken for a degree program which the student did not and will not complete. Whereas courses may meet the degree program unit requirement, they may or may not be used to meet any specific course requirements.

GTU M.A. students must familiarize themselves with relevant policies in the GTU MA Handbook.

See the Stackable Curriculum section for related policies and options for students.

Stackable Curriculum Petition to Advance

The stackable curriculum gives students the choice to apply directly to a degree program or to start with a certificate program and apply those units toward a degree. Students who wish to continue their studies from a certificate program to a degree program must petition for advancement.

Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor or the certificate program director (this is usually the same person) to discuss their intentions and options. The student’s advisor will help the student to discern their personal or professional goals and how the M.A.B.S. or M.Div. degree might support those goals.

Students have one year from the completion of their certificate to decide to continue on in a degree program. After one year, students will need to formally apply to the degree program and petition to have their certificate units count toward the degree as per IBS’s transfer of credit policy.

If a student wants to continue their studies at IBS, they need to fill out a Petition to Advance form, available at the IBS website or from the IBS Registrar’s Office.

This form assumes the student has had a conversation with their advisor, asks the student to state their reasons for continuing on in a degree program, and needs to be approved by the certificate program director, registrar, and dean.

Once approved, the student can continue on in their studies. At this point, they should meet again with their academic advisor to chart out a plan for completing the remaining degree program course requirements and thesis project.

Credit Units/Hours Policy

IBS follows the GTU credit units/hours policy which, in turn, follows federal guidelines regarding credit units and credit hours. Federal Policy 34 CFR 600.2 defines a credit hour as follows:

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as in paragraph 1 of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Grading of Courses

For degree and certificate students, all courses for credit except the thesis must be taken for a letter grade. An overall B average is required for satisfactory completion of the program. All students in a course are expected to be judged according to the same standards of performance.

A grade is assigned by the supervising faculty member with the following numerical equivalent and interpretation:

A, 4.0 100-93% Above average graduate-level work

A-, 3.7 92-90%

B+, 3.3 89-87%

B, 3.0 86-83% Good, sound graduate-level work

B-, 2.7 82-80%

C+, 2.3 79-77%

C, 2.0 76-73% Below acceptable graduate-level, assignments completed

C-, 1.7 72-70%

D+, 1.3 69-67%

D, 1.0 66-60% Work unacceptably below graduate level

F, 0.0

The following notations in the transcript are used when credit is not earned:

I Incomplete: Course work was not completed (see incomplete policy below).

IP In Progress: work assigned by the instructor extends beyond end of term. Not a substitute for Incomplete. Usually only issued when instructor has made prior arrangements with the Dean's Office for a special situation in which course work for all students must for some reason extend beyond the normal semester schedule. Will count as a zero in calculating grade point average until grade is reported by instructor.

W Withdrawal: student withdrew before end of course. Will not count towards calculating grade point average, but does count toward units attempted.

NR No Report: Instructor is unable to provide final evaluation. Written explanation from instructor will be expected. Is not considered a permanent grade, and therefore will not count either towards calculating grade point average, or units attempted.

Incomplete

Permission to take an incomplete in a course is by petition only. Petitions must be made no later than the last day of instruction. Failure to file an incomplete form by this time will result in a failing grade for the course. An Incomplete (I) grade must be made up within three weeks of the end of the current semester. Faculty must turn in the grade three weeks after the submission of the student's work. If no grade is turned in by the end of the sixth week after the semester ends, the "I" will automatically change to a grade of "F" and will not count toward graduation requirements (i.e., no credit is earned for the course, it counts as a 0 for GPA). This becomes the student's permanent grade for the course. The course can be repeated when it is offered at a later time; however, the failing grade remains on the student's transcript.

One Paper for Two Classes

Any student wishing to submit one paper in fulfillment of the writing requirements of two classes must first obtain the written consent of both instructors. Second, the paper must meet the cumulative requirements for the writing assignment required in both classes. This applies not only to such items as total page length and stylistic requirements, but also to topics and kinds of treatments. For example, if one class requires 15 pages and the other 20, the student will need to complete a 35 page paper. Similarly, if one requires examination of a particular individual's thought, and the other a report on an historical era, the final paper must both report on an historical era and examine the thought of a particular individual. Students are advised that actually fulfilling the requirements for two classes is more difficult than writing two separate papers. Failure to follow the guidelines of this policy will be considered an instance of academic dishonesty, and will be dealt with accordingly. This could result in failing both classes, being reported to the Office of the Dean, and dismissal from the program for academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism Policy

Students are expected to avoid plagiarism, which is defined as the presentation of another's ideas, methods, research or words without proper acknowledgment. This includes the use of substantial text from one's own work from another paper ("self-plagiarism"). Students are expected to be familiar with proper citation methods (Turabian's Manual of Style is required), and therefore ignorance of such methods is not justification for plagiarism. Plagiarism is a case of academic dishonesty, and depending upon the severity will be dealt with accordingly. This may be simply advising by the student's Academic

Advisor, or extend up to dismissal from the educational program. The transcript of a dismissed student will indicate dismissal and the rationale for such action.

Part-time Status

Students enrolled in twelve units per semester are considered full-time students. It is necessary to enroll in twelve units per semester to graduate on schedule.

Students enrolled in a degree program who wish to register for fewer than 12 units must petition in writing to the Dean (GTU M.A. students need to petition to both the IBS and GTU Dean). This petition, which may be in the form of an email, must have an explanation for the part-time status request and the number of units for which the student intends to register. If the Dean approves the petition, the student will be notified in writing (with a copy to the GTU Dean's Office for review, filing, and updating the student's academic file), and the student will be expected to take the reduced course load.

Students enrolled in a certificate program do not need to petition for part-time status.

Please note: Full-time students should not plan to work more than ten hours per week outside of their studies.

Leave of Absence

Leaves of absence may be taken for a maximum of four academic semesters, no more than two consecutively. All outstanding debts must be paid before the approval is granted. Request for a leave of absence must be made in writing to the IBS Dean (with a copy to the GTU Dean for M.A. students). This request must be made no later than the end of the registration period (usually the second Friday) of the semester in which the student intends to take a leave of absence; otherwise late registration fees will apply. Requests for a leave of absence will not be accepted after the "deadline for registered students to change enrollment without special permission" (see GTU Extended Calendar for specific date in each semester); after that date the student will be required to take Incompletes for courses, and finish work according to requirements for Incompletes.

Failure to file a leave of absence request by the end of the late registration period will be considered a withdrawal without notification. Leaves are for one semester only and must be renewed each semester as needed. Payment of the leave of absence fee during the registration period of each semester of leave is required to maintain leave of absence status.

Students in the M.A. program program may obtain a leave of absence with the approval of both IBS and GTU; students in the M.A.B.S. and M.Div. programs need the approval of IBS only.

Withdrawal from a Degree or Certificate Program

Students who wish to leave their program of study are required to submit to the Dean a letter of explanation and request for honorable withdrawal, and to arrange with the Business Office for payment of any outstanding debts. The Institute must be informed of a student's intent to withdraw in writing to the IBS Dean (with a copy to the GTU Dean for M.A. students) by the final day for late registration of the semester in which the student intends to withdraw (see GTU Extended Calendar for specific date in each semester). Failure to request withdrawal or requests made after the final day for late registration will

be considered withdrawal without notification. Petition for reinstatement may be made within two years. However, there is no presumption of a right to re-enter. All records of students who withdraw are destroyed after seven years.

Failure to Register

Students who do not register or request a leave of absence before the end of the registration period will be considered to have withdrawn from the program without notification. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Institute of changes in their plans. Withdrawal without notification follows from the student's actions, and therefore the Institute is not obliged to inform the student of the change in the student's status. As with students who have notified the Institute of their intent to withdraw, petition for reinstatement may be made within two years; however, there is no presumption of a right to re-enter. All records of students who withdraw are destroyed after seven years.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all meetings of on-site classes, or participate in each weekly component of online classes. Limited exceptions may be made at the instructor's discretion for illness or family emergency, in the event of which students will be expected to demonstrate comparable participation. If the illness or family emergency is such that the student will not be able to complete the work assigned for the course, the student is directed to policies regarding **withdrawal from program** or **leave of absence**.

Academic Probation

Students whose cumulative grade point average falls below the minimum standard for graduation — 3.0 or B — are placed on academic probation until the minimum level is restored. (See **Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy** below.) Students have one semester in which to restore their grade point average or risk dismissal from the program.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

The Higher Education Act of 1965 requires that institutions of higher education establish a reasonable Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy to determine whether an otherwise eligible student is making SAP in their educational program. The SAP policy must include a qualitative and a quantitative measure of the completion of work within a maximum timeframe. Students must meet both measures to maintain their eligibility during all periods of enrollment. The SAP policy must apply to all students in the program including those who are not receiving financial aid. Initial and continuing eligibility for all sources of student funding or support, such as grant-in-aid, other GTU-sponsored merit and/or need-based awards, scholarships, or fellowships and federal aid such as federal work-study and direct loans, require GTU verification of satisfactory academic progress.

Qualitative Measure: Students must maintain an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B) or above. If the student's GPA falls below 3.0, the student will be notified that it must be brought back up by the end of the following semester. If the overall GPA has not been raised to a 3.0 by the end of the next semester, the student will not be eligible for any additional financial aid.

Quantitative Measure: Students must make acceptable progress toward completion of the degree within the maximum time periods (excluding leaves of absence) outlined below:

GTU MA & M.A.B.S.:	6 semesters (Full-time) 9 semesters (Part-time)
M.Div.:	8 semesters (Full-time) 10 semesters (Part-time)

Students must complete their degree within 150% of the published length of the program. The successful completion of a course is to obtain a B- or greater. Unsuccessful completion occurs when a student earns a C+ or below. Full-time students are expected to enroll in at least 12 units each term or a total of 24 units in one academic year. Part-time students are expected to enroll in at least 6 units per term or a total of 12 units in an academic year. Appropriate pace for a full-time student to complete the degree is at least 8 units a term (16.5% of the total unit requirement a term) or a total of 16 units in one academic year (33% of the total units in one academic year). Appropriate pace for a part-time student to complete the degree is at least 6 units a term (12.5% of the total unit requirement in one term) or a total of 12 units in an academic year (25% of the total unit requirement in one academic year).

Incompletes (I), Failures (F), and Withdrawals (W): An Incomplete (I) grade must be made up within three weeks of the end of the current semester. Faculty must turn in the grade three weeks after the submission of the student's work. If no grade is turned in by the end of the sixth week after the semester ends, the "T" will automatically change to a grade of "F" and will not count toward graduation requirements. Only academic courses of three units or more with a B- or above are counted toward the degree. Courses with a C+ or below cannot be counted towards a degree or certificate program. Students can choose to retake the course or take another course that fulfills the same requirement.

Transfer Credits: Students are eligible to transfer units into their program, ranging from 18-36 units, depending on the transfer. These units count toward the overall unit requirement and the student's pace in the program.

Failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress may result in loss of eligibility for financial aid and/or scholarships and other academic disciplinary measures.

Grievances and Disciplinary Procedures

Students found guilty of unethical, criminal or disruptive conduct while enrolled at IBS may be temporarily suspended or permanently dismissed if they do not respond satisfactorily to the counsel of the faculty and administration. Disciplinary decisions are made by the Dean in consultation with the President, Registrar, the student's Academic Advisor, and the Core Faculty.

Appeal of disciplinary procedures and decisions (or grievances by a student against other students, faculty or staff for any reason) may be brought to the Dean. If the parties in the dispute are not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, further appeals may be made to the President or the Chairperson of the IBS Board of Trustees who will appoint a representative committee of Trustees, Administration, Faculty and students to hear and decide the case.

Transcripts and Retention of Student Records

Transcripts will be available upon request. For current fees for transcripts, please see the section on **Tuition and Fees**. Note that these fees are subject to change. It is the policy of the Institute of Buddhist

Studies to maintain permanent records of: student names; contact information (address, telephone, email); the degree or certificate awarded and date the degree or certificate was granted; all courses and units upon which the degree or certificate was based; and the grades earned by the student in each of those courses.

Transcripts for the GTU M.A. degree may be requested via the GTU Registrar's Office.

Tuition, Financial Assistance, & Other Policies



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Tuition, Fees, & Related Policies

Please note: tuition and fees are set and adjusted annually by the Graduate Theological Union and are subject to change without notification.

Tuition for 2021-2022

	Full-time annual	
Degree & Certificate tuition per unit	\$825	\$19800
Degree program continuing fee	\$4775	\$9550
Contextual Education per course*	\$825	n/a
Special student per course**	\$2000	n/a
Auditor fee per course	\$825	n/a
Senior auditor (65+) per course	\$415	n/a

* See *Contextual Education* policy below for more details.

** See special student status policy under *Enrollment Options* for details.

Fees

Degree program application fee*	\$40
Certificate program/special student application fee	\$15
Late registration fee	\$100
Leave of absence/records maintenance fee (per leave/semester)	\$100
Reinstatement fee**	\$200
Change in enrollment (after second week of semester, per change)***	\$50
Graduation fee****	\$150
Certificate completion fee	\$50
Transcript fee (per copy)	\$5

* Application fee is payable directly to GTU for the GTU M.A. and payable to IBS for all other programs.

** Only students who have withdrawn in accord with stated policies may be reinstated; see ‘Withdraw from Degree Program’ section for more information.

*** Note that dropping one course and adding another counts as two changes.

**** Graduation fee may be different for GTU M.A. students.

Funding, Scholarships, and Financial Aid

Institutional Scholarships

All students in IBS degree and certificate programs, including GTU M.A. students affiliated with IBS, are eligible for IBS Student Scholarships. Members of the Buddhist Churches of America, the Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha, and other organizations and individual donors have generously raised funds in support of IBS Student Scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded based on a standard 9-month academic year, not by calendar year. Students must apply for scholarships each academic year for which they intend to register for classes. Students are usually notified of scholarship awards in the spring.

The Scholarship Application is due no later than March 1 for the following academic year. Students admitted after the March deadline may apply for scholarships; however, there is no guarantee that funding will be available. Students entering the spring term should apply for scholarships no later than November 1.

General requirements for IBS Scholarships are:

- Applicant may be a foreign or domestic student;
- Applicant must be a regular student enrolled in a degree or certificate program (auditors and special students are not eligible for scholarships);
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress;
- Some awards have additional requirements and may include additional application materials (see below for more details).

How to Apply for Scholarships and Loans

When completing a certificate or degree program application, the applicant will be prompted to apply for a scholarship. Once admitted, they will be automatically considered for a scholarship award and notified prior to registration.

Returning students will need to re-apply each academic year by completing the Scholarship Application on the [IBS website](#). The deadline for applying is March 1.

Federal Student Aid

Only students enrolled in at least 6 units in the GTU M.A. program are eligible for student loans via the U.S. Department of Education. GTU M.A. students must contact the [GTU Financial Aid Office](#) for specific eligibility and application requirements.

GTU M.A. students who have chosen IBS as their member school of affiliation are eligible for IBS Student Scholarships and should submit an application to IBS in addition to GTU.

Awards and Scholarships

Scholarships by special application

The Hongwanji Scholarship Award

We are not currently accepting applications for the Hongwanji Scholarship Award. Please contact the Dean with questions or concerns.

Due to the generous support of the Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto, Japan, IBS is pleased to offer an annual scholarship to one qualified student enrolled in either the M.A.B.S. or M.Div. degree program. This scholarship is awarded to a student in need who shows exceptional academic promise or a history of religious leadership with a clear vision of how she/he will apply their education at the IBS post-graduation as a scholar, minister, or chaplain. The applicant must intend to enroll as a full-time student for the duration of the year of the award; the award amount varies by year, but generally is at least \$5000 per year. Award recipients are publicly announced in the Buddhist Churches of America's newsletter, *Wheel of Dharma*.

All application materials must be received no later than March 1 for the following year.

In addition to the institutional aid application requirements above, applicants should submit:

1. Hongwanji Scholarship Award application sheet (available via the IBS website);
2. Cover letter addressed to the Scholarship Committee detailing why the applicant is qualified for the award, what her/his goals are in the IBS program; and what contribution she/he hopes to make post-graduation in a specific community or academic field;
3. Current resume or curriculum vitae;
4. Two letters of recommendation (may be the same letters of recommendation for program admission if those letters speak to the requirements of this award).

Scholarships by Nomination

There is no separate application for Scholarships by Nomination. By submitting the Scholarship Application, students are automatically eligible for these awards.

Shin Buddhist Ministerial Scholarship

The membership of the Buddhist Churches of America has generously raised funds in support of Jōdo Shinshū ministerial education. Scholarships are awarded annually to those students in need who are enrolled in the Shin Buddhist Studies Certificate Program, the Shin Buddhist ministerial track of the M.Div. program, or have otherwise formally signified a commitment to Shin Buddhist ministry. No additional application is required, but students must apply for financial aid via the application process listed here. Nominations are made by the Scholarship Committee after reviewing all applications. Returning students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to be eligible.

Scholarship for Women Shin Buddhist Ministerial Aspirants

This award supports women students who wish to pursue a career in Shin Buddhist ministry. This scholarship is awarded to any qualifying student in need who is enrolled in the Kyōshi Certificate Program, the Shin Buddhist Studies Certificate Program, the Shin Buddhist ministerial track of the M.Div. program, or have otherwise formally signified a commitment to Shin Buddhist ministry. No additional application is required, but students must apply for financial aid via the application process listed above. Nominations are made by the Scholarship Committee after reviewing all applications. Returning students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to be eligible.

Buddhist Chaplaincy Scholarship

These scholarships are awarded annually to those students in need who are enrolled in the Buddhist Chaplaincy Certificate Program, the Buddhist chaplaincy track of the M.Div. program, or have otherwise formally signified a commitment to Buddhist chaplaincy. No additional application is required, but students must apply for financial aid via the application process listed above. Nominations are made by the Scholarship Committee after reviewing all applications. Returning students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to be eligible.

Travel Grants

The Institute of Buddhist Studies encourages and supports students to present work at academic or scholarly conferences. A limited number of travel grants may be available to those students who are presenting at conferences. Generally, IBS awards up to \$500 for domestic and \$1000 for international travel, depending on availability of funding.

To be eligible, students must be (1) enrolled in any degree or certificate program, (2) maintain satisfactory academic progress, and (3) provide documentation that their paper has been accepted and that they have registered for the conference.

Please contact the Registrar for the appropriate form; applications must be submitted by September 15 for conferences scheduled from September through January, and January 15 for conferences scheduled from January through August.

Takashima Scholarship Fund for the Ryukoku Student Exchange Program

The Institute of Buddhist Studies encourages and supports students who wish to study Buddhism in Japan. The Takashima Scholarship Fund has been created to support BCA ministerial aspirants participating in the Ryukoku University student exchange program. IBS may award up to \$2,500 for either a single semester or \$5,000 for a full academic year of study, depending on the availability of funding.

To be eligible, students must (1) be enrolled in a degree program; (2) maintain satisfactory academic progress; (3) be accepted into the exchange program; and (4) have demonstrated progress in nearing the completion of their thesis project.

Please contact the Registrar for the appropriate form; applications must be submitted by May 1 for students planning to begin the exchange program in the US fall semester and November 1 for students planning to begin the exchange program in the US spring semester.

Student's Right to Cancel and Refund Policy

The student has a right to cancel enrollment and obtain a refund of tuition. To cancel enrollment, the student must submit a written notice to the Dean and Registrar.

If the notice to cancel enrollment is received before the first day of the semester, a full refund will be issued.

If the notice to cancel enrollment is received by end of day Friday of the second week of the semester, the student will receive a full refund less the withdrawal (leave of absence) fee.

If the notice to cancel enrollment or withdrawal from a program is received by end of day Friday of the fifth week of the semester, the student will receive a refund of 50% of tuition paid.

If the notice is received after the end of the fifth week of the semester, no refund will be issued.

Deferred Payment Policy

Students who are not able to pay the total tuition costs at the time of registration may apply for deferred payment. Submit a written request explaining why a deferred payment schedule is necessary, and when and how payment of the balance due will be made. Upon written approval by the Dean, consult the Business Office to set up a payment schedule. Late registration fee will apply if request is not submitted by the end of the registration period. Except under the most extenuating circumstances, the term of deferral will only extend to the end of "Reading Week" as per the GTU calendar for that semester. Any deferred payments must be completed prior to enrolling in a subsequent semester. Failure to complete payments in the time agreed upon will result in a block on registering for the following semester, library privileges and transcripts. Late registration fee will apply if registration the following semester is delayed due to student's failure to meet agreed-upon payment schedule.

Delinquent Accounts

Students whose accounts are not current may not register for the next term and cannot receive grades, have transcripts issued, consult with advisor or other faculty, or make use of library facilities.

Contextual Education Policy

Students in the M.Div. program are required to complete at least three but not more than nine units of "contextual education" (sometimes referred to as a "field education"). Students should consult with their academic advisor and the Contextual Education Handbook located on the IBS website for more information.

A different tuition rate is charged for contextual education units. Students need to receive approval from both their academic advisor and the Dean prior to registering for contextual education units. The contextual education fee also applies to those students who register in the Sati Institute's Buddhist chaplaincy training program for credit.

Other policies

Policy of Non-Discrimination

Institute of Buddhist Studies admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age or physical disability to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age or physical disability in administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Institute of Buddhist Studies Anti-Harassment Policy

The Institute of Buddhist Studies employees, students, and qualified applicants ~~or employees~~ on the basis of race, color, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), religion (all aspects of religious beliefs, observance or practice, including religious dress and grooming practices), creed, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, national origin or ancestry, citizenship, physical or mental disability, history of disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, military or veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law or local ordinance. IBS also prohibits discrimination against a person who is perceived as having any of those characteristics or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics. All such discrimination is unlawful.

IBS also prohibits sexual harassment and the harassment of any individual based on any of the protected classes listed above. For information about the types of conduct that constitute impermissible discrimination or harassment, please refer to Section B provided below.

Applicable law and IBS policy also protect employees and students who engage in protected activity – e.g., making a good-faith complaint of discrimination based on one of the above categories, participating or assisting in such a complaint, or opposing illegal conduct under this policy – from retaliation or reprisals based on such activity. IBS will investigate complaints of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and will take prompt, remedial action whenever necessary. The procedure for making a complaint is provided in Section C below.

1) REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION POLICY

To comply with applicable laws and policies ensuring equal educational opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, IBS will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or cognitive impairments of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is student, staff or faculty member, unless undue hardship would result.

Any student, staff, or faculty member who requires an accommodation in order to receive an equal educational opportunity should contact the President, Dean or designated Human Resources Representative and discuss the need for an accommodation. IBS will engage in a good-faith interactive

process with the student or faculty member to identify any reasonable accommodations that could be made.

B. POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, AND ABUSIVE CONDUCT

IBS is committed to an educational environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to work and study in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices, including harassment. In order to keep this commitment, IBS expressly prohibits harassment and discrimination of any kind based on a protected characteristic such as race, color, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), religion (all aspects of religious beliefs, observance or practice, including religious dress and grooming practices), creed, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, national origin or ancestry, citizenship, physical or mental disability, history of disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, military or veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law or local ordinance.

Conduct need not rise to the level of a violation of law to violate this policy. A single act can violate this policy and provide grounds for discipline or other appropriate corrective actions.

This policy applies to all employees, including faculty, staff, supervisors, and non-supervisory employees, and to all non-employees (students, volunteers, interns, vendors, contractors, etc.) who engage in discrimination or harassment in the workplace. For the purpose of this policy only, as provided here in Section II.B, students, volunteers, interns, vendors, and contractors are considered employees.

Discrimination Prohibited

No employee may engage or assist in discrimination against job applicants or other employees. Discrimination occurs when individuals are treated differently because of their protected status (as defined above). Discrimination can occur during any job-related action, but often involves the following activities when taken on the basis of a protected characteristic:

- Refusal to hire, promote, or reinstate to a previously held position.
- Refusal to select for training that leads to advancement.
- Termination, demotion, or layoff.
- Paying lower wages.
- Giving less favorable terms and conditions of employment, such as less favorable shifts, work locations, assignments, tools, and equipment.
- Withholding assistance, cooperation, and/or information to applicants or employees in a manner that interferes with work performance or employment processes.

Harassment Prohibited

Harassment includes behavior that is subjectively and objectively offensive and is based on a person's protected status. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, acts that are:

- Verbal, such as name-calling, insults, epithets, derogatory comments or slurs, and lewd propositioning, etc. because of a person's protected status (as defined above).

- Physical, such as assault, interfering with work, impeding or blocking movement, unwelcome or offensive touching, pinching, grabbing, patting, etc., or any physical interference with normal work or movement when directed at an individual because of their protected status (as defined above).
- Visual Insults, such as staring or leering; derogatory posters, cartoons, drawings; or the like because of their protected status (as defined above).

Harassment may arise from the conduct of other employees, supervisors, managers, or outside parties such as students, volunteers, and/or members of the public. In all cases, such harassment is prohibited by this policy. Even in cases where the harasser is not an employee, IBS will take the necessary steps to ensure that the offending behavior stops and that the employee is protected from further harassment.

Harassment does not necessarily have to occur in the workplace. Conduct occurring during after-hours activities, via social media or other online sites, may constitute harassment under this policy if there is a connection to the workplace.

It is no excuse that an employee may have appeared to consent to the offensive conduct. A recipient may not protest against the conduct for many reasons, including but not limited to avoiding the appearance of being insubordinate and/or avoiding possible retaliation. Harassment includes harassing acts focused on an individual who is not physically present at the time, or who was present but did not actually see or hear the acts. Harassment can also include harassing acts observed by an individual who was not the intended target.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

This policy also prohibits sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is an illegal form of sex discrimination under federal and state law. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome or unsolicited sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, or other conduct based on sex, directed to persons of the same or opposite sex when:

- Submission to such conduct is made an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment; or
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Some examples of sexual harassment are:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, invitations or comments;
- Visual conduct such as derogatory and/or sexually oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings, e-mail, faxes, or gestures;
- Physical conduct such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movement or interfering with work directed at an employee because of the employee's sex or other protected characteristic;
- Use of social media to conduct sexual advances and or harassment;
- Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests in order keep one's job or avoid some other loss, and offers of employment benefits in return for sexual favors;
- Retaliation for having reported or threatened to report unlawful harassment.

Sexually harassing conduct does not need to be motivated by sexual desire to be considered unlawful.

Abusive Conduct Prohibited

IBS does not tolerate abusive conduct. Abusive conduct is the conduct of an employer or employee in the workplace, with malice (an intent to harm), that a reasonable person would find hostile, offensive, and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interests.

Abusive conduct may include:

- Repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of derogatory remarks, insults and epithets;
- Verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating;
- The gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance.

Employees who violate the Policy Against Harassment, Discrimination, and Abusive Conduct are subject to discipline, up to and including termination or expulsion, and the possibility of criminal charges.

C. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in violation of the law or IBS policy should promptly report the facts of the incident or incidents and the names of the individuals involved to their supervisor, any other supervisor, or in the alternative, to the President or designated Human Resources Representative. Upon receipt of a complaint, IBS will undertake a fair, timely, and thorough investigation of the harassment allegations. IBS will not assign someone named in a complaint to investigate the complaint. All complaints and investigations will be kept confidential to the greatest extent possible. However, IBS may disclose information on a "need to know" basis as necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation, to support the imposition of disciplinary action, or to comply with a court order.

Upon completing the investigation, the President or designated Human Resources Representative will inform the complainant of the findings in a timely manner, and where appropriate, any remedial actions to be taken. However, specific disciplinary actions against an employee shall remain confidential.

If IBS determines that harassment has occurred, effective remedial action will be taken in accordance to the circumstances involved. Any employee determined by IBS to be responsible for harassment, discrimination, or abusive conduct will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion.

1) POLICY AGAINST RETALIATION

Employees and students will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint and/or assisting in a complaint or investigation process in good faith. Further, we will not tolerate or permit retaliation by supervisors or co-workers against any complainant or anyone assisting in a harassment investigation. Any employee who intentionally makes a false complaint of discrimination or harassment and any employee who knowingly provides false, inaccurate, or incomplete information during any such investigation shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary or corrective action, including termination.

2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISORS

A “supervisor” means any individual having the authority, in the interest of the employer, to hire, transfer, suspend, layoff, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or the responsibility to direct them, or to adjust their grievances, or effectively to recommend that action.

Supervisors shall:

- Take all complaints of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation seriously, and report all reported or suspected misconduct to the President or designated Human Resources Representative. Do not make judgments as to whether the conduct reported is minor or severe, or as to the validity of the complaint.
- Assure the complainant or the witness that someone will follow up promptly in accordance with this policy. Inform the complainant that his or her complaint cannot be held in complete confidence, but will only be shared with those who need to know so that IBS can conduct a thorough investigation and take appropriate action as necessary.
- Immediately intervene when any inappropriate conduct is observed and take measures to protect employees from further inappropriate conduct.

3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYEES

All employees are expected to assume responsibility for maintaining a work environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and abusive conduct. This includes refraining from conduct as outlined by this policy.

Employees are strongly encouraged to promptly report conduct that they observe or learn about that may violate this policy so that IBS has an opportunity to address and resolve any concerns. Employees are also encouraged to support their peers in reporting their concerns.

Employees shall fully cooperate in investigations when required and respect the privacy of individuals who are involved, or who employees believe may be involved in a complaint or investigation. Employees have the right to discuss concerns about their work environment or working conditions among their peers. However, employees should avoid participation in gossip or malicious rumors that could unnecessarily cause harm to those involved.

Mandatory Drug-Free Notification

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226) requires all schools receiving federal funding of any kind (i.e. CWSP, Perkins Loans) to notify all students of the following on an annual basis:

1. The Institute of Buddhist Studies requires its campus be drug free. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance while at IBS is prohibited. Abuse of alcohol on the IBS campus is also not allowed. Violation of this policy will be considered cause for dismissal of a student.
2. IBS is required to impose sanctions, up to and including dismissal from all programs of study, of any student engaged in the abuse of alcohol (including underage drinking), or the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs while on the IBS premises. In addition, any student involved in such illegal

activity is subject to legal sanctions under local, State and Federal law. Information regarding specific penalties is available from the GTU Business Office.

3. The health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol are many. Detailed information concerning the known health hazards resulting from the abuse of drugs or alcohol may be obtained from your physician, from UCB's Health Service facility or from the GTU Business Office.

4. Several drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs are available to you. Should you or someone you know need help in dealing with a drug or alcohol dependency problem, you may call Summit Medical Center's Chemical Dependency Department at 510/652-7000; initial consultation is free. The consultation includes assessment of the problem and the recommendation of a treatment plan. In addition, you may call 510/839-8900 for referral to an Alcoholics Anonymous program near you or 510/839-8900 for referral to a Narcotics Anonymous program near you.

Notice Concerning Transferability of Credits

The transferability of credits you earn at the Institute of Buddhist Studies is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree (M.A., M.A.B.S., M.Div.), or certificate you earn is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer, or apply for certification, ordination, or other recognition. If the credits, degree or certification you earn at this institution are not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all of your coursework at that institution. For this reason you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending the Institute of Buddhist Studies to determine if your credits, degree or certification will transfer.

Academic Calendar 2021-22

IBS follows the [GTU Extended Calendar](#) for all dates, deadlines, and most holidays. Students interested in cross-registering in classes at the University of California, Berkeley, should be advised that the UC semester starts up to two weeks before the IBS/GTU semester.

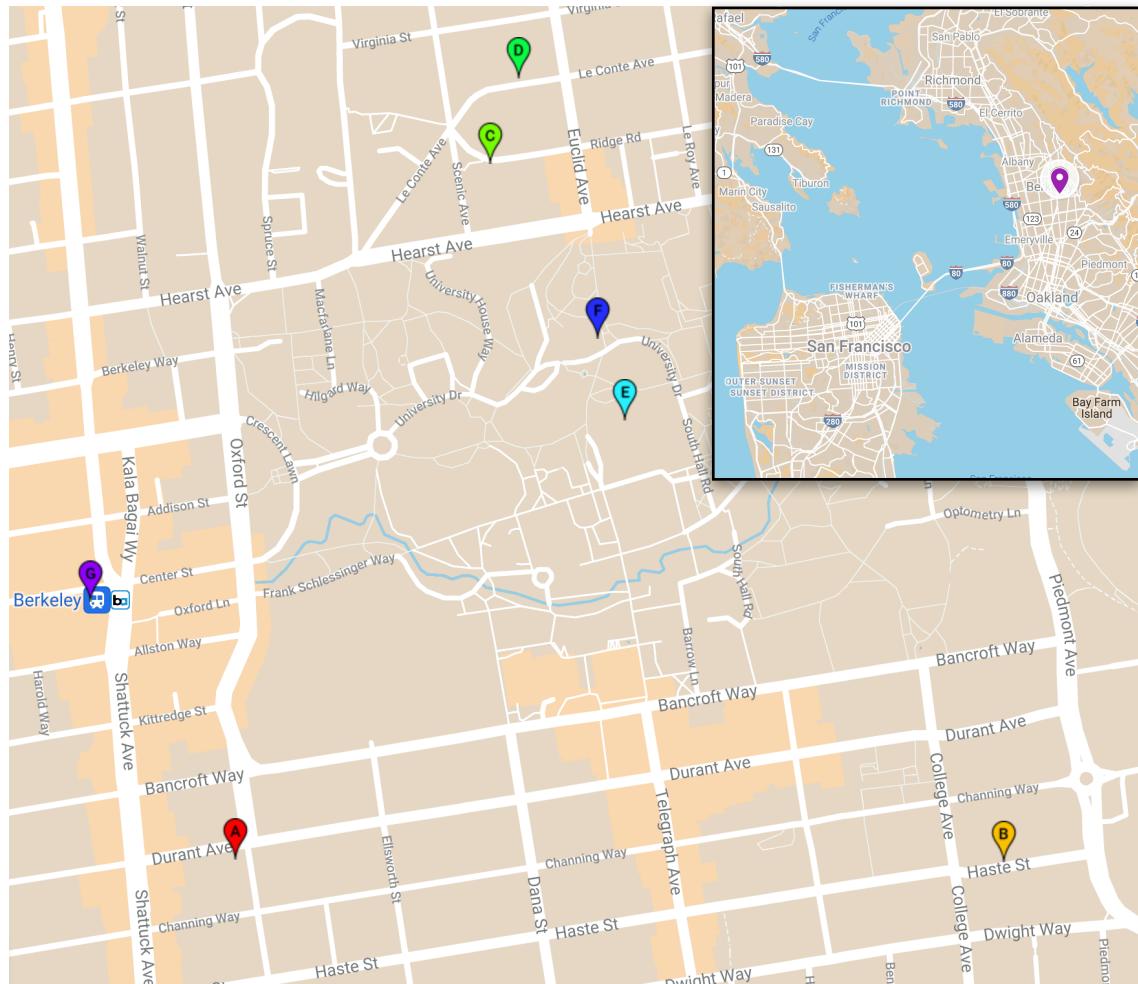
Fall Semester, September 7 through December 17, 2021	
UCB instruction begins	August 18
Fall 2021 certificate application deadline	August 20
Fall 2021 general registration	August 23-September 3
GTU MA new student orientation	TBD, week of August 23
IBS new and returning student orientation	September 1
Labor Day (administrative offices closed, no classes)	September 6
IBS/GTU instruction begins	September 7
Deadline to register, add/drop w/out charge, and pay fall 2021 tuition	September 17
Thesis defense deadline (to avoid fall 2021 registration)	September 17
Thesis filing deadline (for fall 2021 graduation)	October 1
Graduate Student Symposium/Numata Lecture (tentative)	TBD, October
Reading week (no classes)	October 25-29
Spring 2022 degree program application deadline	November 1
Spring 2022 scholarship applications due	November 1
IBS Annual Memorial Service	November 11
Early registration for Spring 2022	November 8-19
Annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion	November 20-23
Thanksgiving Holiday (administrative offices closed, no classes)	November 25-26
UCB instruction ends	December 10
IBS/GTU semester ends; petition for incomplete due	December 17
IBS Winter Holiday (administrative offices closed)	December 20-January 1
Deadline to make up an incomplete	January 7
Deadline for faculty to submit grades for fall 2021	January 7

Spring Semester, February 1 through May 21, 2022

Early registration for Spring 2022	November 8-19
UCB instruction begins	January 11
Spring 2022 certificate application deadline	January 13
Shinran Shonin Memorial Day (administrative offices closed)	January 14 (observed)
Martin Luther King Day (administrative offices closed)	January 17
IBS/GTU instruction begins	January 31
Deadline to register, add/drop w/out charge, and pay spring 2022 tuition	February 11
Thesis defense deadline (to avoid spring 2022 registration)	February 12
Presidents Day (administrative offices closed)	February 21
BCA National Council Meeting	TBD, February
Ryukoku Lecture Series	TBD, March
Deadline for degree program applications for AY2022-23	March 1
Reading week/spring break (no classes)	March 21-25
Thesis filing deadline (for spring 2022 graduation)	April 1
Early registration for fall 2022	April 4-15
Good Friday (administrative offices closed, no classes)	April 15
Spring colloquy (tentative)	TBD, April
UCB instruction ends	May 6
GTU Commencement	May 12
IBS/GTU semester ends; petition for incomplete due	May 20
IBS Commencement	May 20
Memorial Day (administrative offices closed)	May 30
Deadline to make up an incomplete	June 10
Deadline for faculty to submit grades for spring 2022	June 10
Independence Day (administrative offices closed)	July 4

Campus Location

The Institute of Buddhist Studies is located in downtown Berkeley, a block south of the University of California. On-site classes are held in the Jodo Shinshu Center or on the campuses of other GTU member schools on “Holy Hill,” north of the University.



- A. Institute of Buddhist Studies, faculty and administrative offices, classrooms, 2140 Durant Avenue
- B. IBS Haste Street Dorm
- C. Graduate Theological Union, Dean's Office and Library, 2400 Ridge Road
- D. GTU Admissions and Financial Aid Offices, 2465 LeConte Avenue
- E. Doe Memorial Library (UC Berkeley main library, circulation desk)
- F. UC Berkeley CV Starr East Asian Library
- G. Downtown Berkeley BART Station, intersection of Shattuck Avenue and Center Street

INSTITUTE OF
BUDDHIST
STUDIES



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