

The Admissions staff encourages prospective students to visit the campus and experience firsthand a day in the life of the seminary.



applying to the seminary

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DISCERNING GOD'S
CALL ON YOUR LIFE
APPLICATION
FINANCIAL AID
PRAYER HOUSING
TRANSCRIPT
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ACCEPTANCE
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LETTERS OF
REFERENCE
SCHOLARSHIP
REGISTRATION
DEADLINES
MATRICULATION
SELF-ASSESSMENT
EDUCATIONAL
BACKGROUND
POTENTIAL FOR
LEADERSHIP

admissions

Should I attend seminary?

Which seminary should I attend?

We will help you discover answers to these life-defining questions. Western Theological Seminary seeks students who are committed to following Christ. It is expected that students will be emotionally and morally suited for Christian leadership and intellectually capable of rigorous academic scholarship.

Campus Visits

There is no better way to explore the ethos of this institution and to discover how you might fit than to visit the campus. You will experience a normal day in the life of our community. We will enfold you into the student life of our school. Our campus visitors say they leave with fresh clarity. New insights emerge as they reflect on their campus experience and discern their next steps. Come be our guest! You will:

- Attend classes
- Experience a daily Chapel experience
- Be introduced to our community during morning coffee break
- Eat lunch with a current WTS student
- Meet the president of WTS and/or other faculty members
- Learn about Admissions, Housing, Financial Aid and the Teaching Church

Contact us to arrange a campus visit on a day that works best for you: 800-392-8554 or admissions@westernsem.edu.



If you are reading this catalog, you may already sense God calling you to Christian leadership. We invite you to visit our community. We can pray together, asking for God's clear leading and direction.

This seminary is an excellent place to prepare for a lifetime of effective ministry. We encourage you to contact us by phone or email.

Rev. Mark Poppen '80
Director of Admissions
 1-800-392-8554, x132

Jill English
Admissions Assistant
 1-800-392-8554, x135

admissions@westernsem.edu

Master of Divinity Minimum Undergraduate Requirements

Applicants to Western's in-residence and distance learning M.Div programs must earn a bachelor of arts degree or its academic equivalent from an accredited college or university in order to be admitted as a candidate. In rare cases, an applicant without a bachelor's degree but with exceptional compensatory qualifications may be admitted to the degree program under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools standards. Such acceptance will normally be provisional pending satisfactory academic performance during the first semester.

A 2.75 grade point average (GPA) is required for admission to the M.Div. programs. An applicant with less than 2.75 GPA may be admitted on probation if the Admissions Committee believes there is potential for academic success. A GPA of 2.5 or higher must be sustained to qualify for the lifting of academic probation and continuation in the degree program.

An applicant whose college record shows an obvious deficiency in some area of the liberal arts may be required to make up any such deficiencies prior to admission. The minimum liberal arts content of a bachelor's degree or its equivalent is:

- Two semesters of world civilization or world history
- One semester of English composition or two advanced English courses with substantial writing requirements
- One semester of English literature
- One semester of Philosophy
- One semester of Psychology
- One semester of sociology or cultural anthropology

Distance Learning Applicants

The process for applying for the distance learning Master of Divinity program is the same as that for in-residence. Applicants should take note that there are technological requirements for the distance learning program. They are listed at: www.westernsem.edu/explore/programs/dl/technology#requirements

M.Div. Application Check List

- Completed application form
- Four reference forms
- All undergraduate transcripts
- Spiritual Autobiography
- Recent Photo
- Statement of Church Membership
- \$50 non-refundable application fee.

Applications will be regarded as incomplete without permission for a criminal conviction check. Any felony conviction discovered that is not disclosed on the application for admission will be grounds for denial of admission.

Dual Track M.Div.-MSW Applicants

Those pursuing our Dual Track degree program must complete a Master of Divinity application and a one-page statement detailing future vocational and educational plans. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is required.

Certificate for Urban Pastoral Ministry Applicants

Certificate candidates must complete a shortened two-page application form, include all academic transcripts, and submit a one-page statement of how their learning might enhance and empower their future ministry.

Doctor of Ministry Applicants

Applicants must hold the Master of Divinity degree and have at least three years of ministry experience since their M.Div. was completed in order to be

Begin your journey in theological education:

1. Contact Western's Admission staff
2. Seek out vocational conversations with church leaders, family, and friends
3. Visit our campus for a day
4. Complete application (checklist, pg 27; deadlines, pg 28)
5. Receive notification of admittance within 3 weeks
6. Confirm your intent to come with a \$250 deposit
7. Discuss your student housing need with our business manager, Norman Donkersloot
8. Receive mailings three months prior to start of classes:
 - Financial aid application (see pg 30)
 - Teaching Church application (see pgs 13-14)
 - Course registration forms
9. Financial aid award letters are mailed by the last day of March, April, and August
10. Attend orientation one week before classes begin
11. Purchase your textbooks at the Sacred Page, our seminary bookstore
12. Begin classes!

considered for admittance to the Doctor of Ministry program at Western Theological Seminary. Also, they must have served in their current ministry setting for at least one of the three years.

Applicants must be prepared to participate in seminars as part of the program for three weeks in May/June in each of three consecutive years.

Applications are due by January 15 to be considered for admission to the cohort that begins its work that May/June.

International Applicants

Western Theological Seminary does not encourage applications from international students for our Master of Divinity degree program. Instead, we encourage international students to complete a M.Div. degree or its equivalent in their own cultural context.

This school is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.

Master of Theology Applicants

To be considered for admittance to the Master of Theology program, international and North American applicants must have completed a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent. Applicants also must have three years of practical experience in ministry.

Applicants must have a letter of endorsement and recommendation from

their denomination or a ministry-related agency in which they have served for 3+ years. The letter must verify past service and indicate promise for future service and leadership.

International applicants to the Master of Theology program must have a minimum TOEFL score of 550 on the written exam or 213 on the computer-based exam. A certified statement showing sufficient financial resources and medical insurance for dependents for the duration of the degree program is also required.

Transfer Students

Western Theological Seminary accepts credits from other graduate institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Courses with grades lower than a B- are ineligible for transfer. An academic assessment will identify class status and determine the steps toward completing the degree program at Western. Transfer students must earn at least 30 semester credit hours in our institution to earn a degree.

Application Forms

www.westernsem.edu, click on "Apply", then "Application Forms".



Application Deadlines

- M.Div. and M.Div-MSW program:
 - Fall semester admission, May 1
 - Spring semester admission, Dec. 1
 - Distance Learning admission:
 - early deadline: April 1
 - final deadline: August 1
- Non-degree-seeking admission: August 1
- Master of Theology program:
 - International and scholarship applicants, November 30
 - Non-scholarship applicants, July 15
- Doctor of Ministry program: January 15
- Certificate for Urban Pastoral Ministry:
 - Fall semester admission, August 1
 - Spring semester admission, Dec. 1

housing

Housing options at Western Seminary seek to build community among students.

Townhouses

The townhouses on campus are especially attractive to families with young children. They encircle a commons area with picnic tables, a playground, and plenty of room for gatherings.

The townhouses are available in 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units, and each includes air-conditioning, a washer and dryer, as well as major kitchen appliances. Handicapped accessible units are available.

The Friendship House

The Ralph and Cheryl Schregardus Friendship House is the first residence of its kind among seminaries across the U.S. It can accommodate 18 seminary students (including a resident director) and six people with cognitive impairments. Each special-needs adult shares an apartment with three seminary students, engaging in friendships and interacting at a weekly Bible study, yet functioning independently.

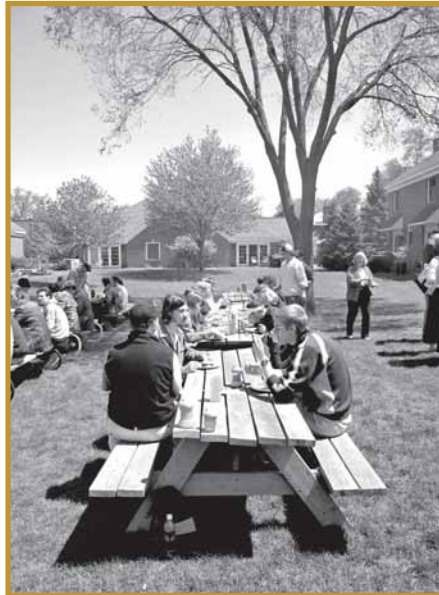
By virtue of living in community with people who have cognitive impairments, Western students become more aware of the challenges faced by persons with a variety of disabilities.

Students who live in Friendship House take their experiences into the church—

influencing congregations and ministries with the care and sensitivity persons with special needs deserve.

Other Options

In addition to the townhouses and the Friendship House, the seminary owns traditional apartments and houses near the campus.



All housing options are within walking distance of parks, churches, and the Holland downtown shopping district.

Applying for Housing

After being accepted to Western and submitting a \$250 confirmation fee, students can apply for housing by contacting Norman Donkersloot at 800-392-8554, x107 or by email: norman@westernsem.edu.

Housing is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. If all units are filled, the business manager will assist students in finding suitable housing.

Pricing

In 2007, townhouse, apartment, and house rentals ranged from \$550 to \$760 per month depending upon the location and number of bedrooms.

Utilities are included, except for phone and cable. The seminary provides internet service for the townhouses and the Friendship House. The apartments and houses are wired for cable.



financial information



Norman Donkersloot
V.P. of Finance

Financial Aid

Western's financial aid program is designed to help students meet their educational expenses as they prepare for Christian ministry.

The 2007-2008 cost of educational and living expenses for nine months ranges from around \$19,000 for single students to approximately \$24,000 for married students.

We recommend that students contact their home congregations and governing ecclesiastical bodies for potential assistance in their seminary education.

To determine eligibility for financial aid, students can request an application from registrar Pat Dykhuis at 800-392-8554, x120 or by email: pat@westernsem.edu.

If a student cannot match expected expenses with equivalent income, savings, and assistance from his or her home congregation, the next step is to request and complete Western's financial aid application and the government's FAFSA forms. The FAFSA forms are available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The deadline for submitting a financial aid application is April 1 for returning residential and dis-

tance learning M.Div. students. The deadline is June 15 for new residential M.Div. students and August 15 for new distance learning M.Div. students.

Scholarships, loans, and work opportunities are available to help meet educational costs. Scholarships range from \$500-\$5500 and usually involve the opportunity to meet the benefactor at the seminary's annual scholarship luncheon. Loans are granted through government programs or through banking institutions. Work opportunities are available in maintenance, the bookstore, and the library.

Registration Deadline Penalty

A financial penalty of \$25 will be applied to any class registrations that occur after the posted registration deadline.

Drop Dates

Each semester the dean's office publishes a drop date for courses. This is usually five days after the start of the semester. A

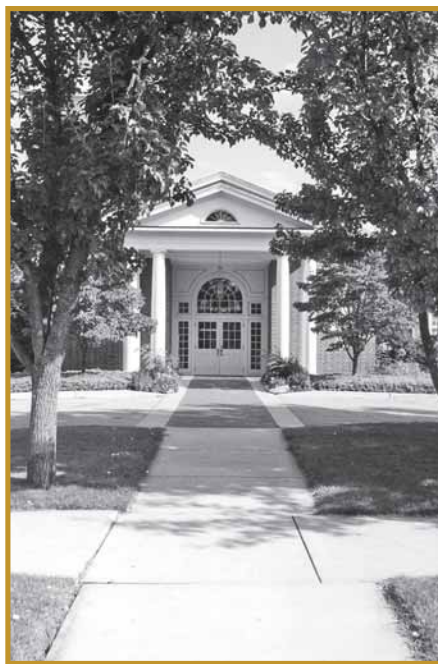
student will bear no academic or financial penalty for any course dropped prior to that date. Tuition will be refunded if a course is dropped prior to, but not after, the drop date. If the course is dropped after the drop date, a student will be responsible for the full tuition.

Intern Supervision Fee

The intern supervision fee of \$200 is the responsibility of the churches and is therefore not listed in the student fee schedule.

Insurance

Students must carry medical insurance for themselves. If students cannot provide proof of insurance on a medical policy, they are required to sign up for the seminary sponsored program. Details of this program are updated annually and are provided by the Student Services office.



2007-2008 tuition and fee schedule

IR Master of Divinity M.Div.-M.S.W. Master of Theology	Distance Learning Master of Divinity	Doctor of Ministry	Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry
\$320 per credit hour \$97.50 per credit hour to audit* -----	\$340 per credit hour There is no auditing in the distance learning program. -----	\$10,000 total tuition for the three-year program, for stu- dents beginning in 2007 -----	\$320 per credit hour \$97.50 per credit hour to audit -----
\$50 Application fee (non-refundable)	\$50 Application fee (non-refundable)	\$50 Application fee (non-refundable)	\$50 Application fee (non-refundable)
\$250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)	\$250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)	\$250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)	\$60 Graduation fee
\$15 Matriculation fee	\$15 Matriculation fee	\$15 Matriculation fee	
\$15 Registration fee (yearly)	\$15 Registration fee (yearly)	\$30 Registration fee (one-time)	
\$60 Activities fee (yearly)	\$300-\$1000 Intercultural Immersion trip (middler year)	\$60 Graduation fee	
\$30 Noon luncheon fee (each semester)	\$60 Graduation fee	A continuation fee of \$750 is charged for each additional year beyond the first three years in the program.	
\$350 January-term retreat (junior year)	The cost of transportation, meals, and lodging for the intensives courses are the responsibility of the student.		
\$300-\$1000 Intercultural Immersion trip (middler year)			
\$60 Graduation fee			
* Free audits for certain courses are permitted to spouses of full-time degree students by applying to the academic dean.			