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<td>Academic Calendar</td>
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Our Mission

The purpose of Western Theological Seminary is to prepare Christians called by God to lead the church in mission. Western Theological Seminary is an evangelical and ecumenical community of faith and learning in the Reformed tradition that serves the church of Jesus Christ. In covenant with the Reformed Church in America, Western equips men and women for Christ-centered, biblically based, theologically integrated, culturally competent, mission-oriented Christian leadership.

Message from the President

In the name of the Lord Jesus, Welcome!

Western Theological Seminary exists to form leaders who serve the cause of the gospel in the church and the world. We are deeply committed to the task of preparing men and women called by God to preach, teach, counsel, care, pursue justice, and tell the good news of Jesus to everyone, everywhere.

Western Theological Seminary welcomes students from many denominations and both honors and benefits from the rich traditions from which they come. This is no “cookie cutter” seminary. Students with a wide range of vocational passions come here to have their hearts and minds quickened and deepened for fruitful ministry in the church and in the world.

As you consider God’s claim on your life, I urge you to consider Western Theological Seminary as a place to deepen your faith, sharpen your gifts, and ready your heart to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world in the name of Jesus!

Grace and peace,

Dr. Timothy Brown
President
Henry Bast Professor of Preaching
Our Commitment to You

At Western Theological Seminary, we don’t just give you solid theological training and push you out into the world. **We stick by you for the first five years of your ministry.**

Learning to Follow, Learning to Lead
Our transition into ministry program, called “Learning to Follow, Learning to Lead,” begins from one’s call to seminary and is woven through core classes and a formation for ministry process. It continues with learning opportunities for five years beyond graduation.

From the very first day in class, you will ponder questions like: what does it mean to follow Christ? how do we follow others? what does it mean to lead, first as a student and later as a pastor?

After graduation, new pastors are connected with a coach and pastoral network. For each of their first five years in ministry, graduates are welcomed back to campus for the annual Transition into Ministry Summit, where they reconnect with peers and faculty for renewal, learning and encouragement.

Western Theological Seminary wants to equip you for a lifetime of impact.

Our Roots
Established by the Reformed Church in America in 1866, Western Theological Seminary is an evangelical and ecumenical community of faith and learning in the Reformed tradition that serves the church of Jesus Christ.

We welcome students from many Christian traditions, and we offer graduate degree programs as well as continuing education for clergy and lay leaders in the church.

The Curriculum
We center our curriculum on the Bible—its languages, history, themes and interpretation. Built upon that foundation are studies in theology, ethics, pastoral care and counseling, preaching, worship, the history and traditions of the church and more.

Practical, Hands-On Approach
You will place your classroom learning in context as you work concurrently in a variety of short- and long-term mentored ministry placements.

Accessible Faculty
Faculty/student ratio of 1:12
Admissions

Should I attend seminary? Which one?
These are life-defining questions, and we would like to help you answer them. As we hear how you sense God calling you to Christian leadership, 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 leadership. Western Theological Seminary seeks students who are committed to following Christ. We are looking for men and women who are emotionally and morally suited for Christian leadership and intellectually capable of rigorous academic scholarship.

Should I visit? Will I fit in?
There is no better way to explore the ethos of this institution than to spend a day with us. You will experience a normal day in our community as we enfold you into the student life of our school. Our campus visitors say they leave with fresh clarity. Come be our guest!

- Attend classes
- Experience our daily worship service
- Meet our community during morning break
- Eat lunch with a current WTS student
- Meet the president of WTS and/or key faculty and staff
- Learn about Admissions, housing, financial aid and potential internships for a Teaching Church
- Explore your vocation with our Admissions Staff

Arrange a campus visit on a day that works best for you. Call 800-392-8554 or email us at admissions@westernsem.edu.

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 undergraduate grade point average (GPA) is required for admission to all degree 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 2.75 or higher must be sustained to qualify for the lifting of academic probation and continuation in the degree program.

admissions@westernsem.edu
Dr. Mark Poppen
Director of Admissions
800.392.8554, x132

C.J. Kingdom-Grier
Associate Director of Admissions
800.392.8554, x190

Jill English
Associate Director of Admissions
800.392.8554, x135

Jeanette Schipper
Admissions Assistant
800.392.8554, x189

Application Fees
Applicants should plan two weeks for completing the application and submitting the supporting documents

$50 Application fee for all applications, non-refundable

$250 Confirmation deposit required for matriculation, non-refundable, applied to tuition account
Transfer Students
Western Theological Seminary accepts credits from other graduate institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Courses are eligible for transfer when the grade received is a minimum of B- or its equivalent. WTS will accept up to 6 credits in which a student earned a "pass" instead of a grade. An academic assessment will identify class status and determine the steps toward completing the degree program at Western. M.Div. students must earn at least 30 credit hours in our institution, and M.A. students must earn at least 24 credit hours in our institution to earn a degree.

All Application Forms
Prospective students may apply online at my.westernsem.edu/ or download printable application forms from our website. The application fee is $50. That fee is waived for applications for fall admission received before January 1.

Applications will be regarded as incomplete without permission for a criminal background check.

Distance Learning Applicants
The process for applying for the M.A. and M.Div. distance learning programs is the same as that for in-residence. Please note the detailed technological requirements for distance learning on our website.

Dual Track M.Div.-M.S.W. 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 recommended.

Graduate Certificate and Non-Degree Applicants
Applicants must complete a shortened two-page application form (available at my.westernsem.edu/apply), include all academic transcripts, and submit a one-page statement of how their learning might enhance and empower their future ministry.

How do I begin?

1. Contact Western’s Admissions team: admissions@westernsem.edu 1-800-392-8554  (ask for Mark, CJ, Jill, or Jeanette)
2. Seek out vocational conversations with church leaders, family and friends
3. Visit our campus for a day
4. Complete your application (deadlines, pg 6)
5. Following admission, confirm your intent to come with a $250 deposit
6. Discuss your housing needs with the VP of Finance, Norman Donkersloot, 1-800-392-8554, x107
7. Receive mailings three months prior to start of classes: Financial aid application Course registration forms
8. Discuss your financial aid needs with Financial Aid Administrator, Pat Dykhuis, 1-800-392-8554, x120
9. Participate in orientation before classes begin
10. Launch!
Doctor of Ministry Applicants

Applicants must hold the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and have at least three years of ministry experience since their M.Div. was completed in order to be considered for admission to the Doctor of Ministry program. Also, they must have served in their current ministry setting for at least one of the three years.

Students participate in seminars for two weeks in May for three consecutive years. Apply by January 15 to be considered for admission to the cohort that begins its work that May.

International Applicants

This school is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students. When considering applications, WTS recognizes issues of English proficiency, access to theological training, intercultural experience, and foundational preparation for ministry.

Master of Theology Applicants

To be considered for admission to the Master of Theology program, international and North American applicants must have completed a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent.

International 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 80 on the internet-based exam. A certified statement showing sufficient financial resources and medical insurance for dependents for the duration of the degree program is also required.

admissions@westernsem.edu  1.800.392.8554

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**Application Completion Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Fall Semester – Late August Start</th>
<th>Spring Semester – Mid-January Start</th>
<th>Doctor of Ministry</th>
<th>Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry</th>
<th>Non-degree-seeking students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master of Divinity</strong></td>
<td>Apply by: Jan 1 - Application fee waived!</td>
<td>Apply by: Nov. 1 - Receive full consideration for scholarships.</td>
<td>January 15 (for cohort that begins in May)</td>
<td>August 1 (Fall Semester - Late Aug. start)</td>
<td>August 1 (Fall) and December 1 (Spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master of Arts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 30 - Include $250 confirmation. Limited scholarships.</td>
<td></td>
<td>December 1 (Spring Semester - Mid-Jan. start)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dual Track M.Div./MSW:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>July 1 - Incl $250 confirmation. No scholarships awarded, only loan.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>After July 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>After Nov. 30 - No admission. Apply for Fall.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International applicants**

- Apply by: Nov. 30
- Non-Scholarship applicants apply by: July 15

- Application fee waived!
- Receive full consideration for scholarships.
- Include $250 confirmation. Limited scholarships.
- July 1 - Incl $250 confirmation. No scholarships awarded, only loan.
- After July 1 - No admission. Apply for Spring.
- After Nov. 30 - No admission. Apply for Fall.
Housing

Housing options at Western 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
Because more than 40 million Americans live with a disability, WTS decided to do more to prepare our students to work with these individuals and their families. In 2007 the Ralph and Cheryl Schregardus Friendship House opened, offering students a unique housing option—the opportunity to live alongside a young adult with a cognitive disability. This is the first residence of its kind among seminaries across the U.S.

The Ralph and Cheryl Schregardus Friendship House accommodates 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 yet functioning independently. By living 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 downtown shopping district. For students wanting a unique opportunity to live in ministry while learning to minister—see “The Van Raalte Fellowship” under “Housing” on our website for more information.

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

Pricing
In 2016-2017, townhouse, apartment, and house rentals range from $575 to $863 per month depending upon the location and number of bedrooms. A bedroom in the Friendship House rents for $260 and internet service is provided. Utilities are included, except for phone and cable. The apartments and houses are wired for cable (not provided).
Financial Information

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

The total cost of educational and living expenses for nine months ranges from around $23,000 for single students to approximately $33,500 for married students. Distance learning students can expect educational, traveling, and living expenses around $18,000 per year (single) or $28,500 (married). Living costs are variable for students in this program and obviously depend upon regional factors.

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 Financial Aid Administrator, Pat Dykhuis, at 800-392-8554, x120 or 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 full consideration for scholarships and May 30 for limited scholarships (as resources allow). Students admitted after May 30 will receive consideration for financial aid for the following spring semester if we receive their completed WTS financial aid application no later than December 1. Award letters will be mailed within a week of receiving their WTS financial aid application.

Scholarships, loans, and work opportunities are available to help meet educational costs. Scholarships range from $500-$10,000 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.
### 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 a prorated amount of the tuition.

### Insurance

Students must provide proof of insurance on a medical policy. Coverage must be provided by a parent’s or spouse’s policy or individual coverage.

### 2015-2016 Tuition and Fee Schedule

#### In-Residence Master of Divinity
- **Dual Track M.Div./MSW**
- **Master of Theology**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Fee Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$430 per credit hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100 per credit hour to audit*</td>
<td>$50 Application fee (non-refundable)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$60 Activities fee (yearly)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$20 Noon luncheon fee (each semester)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$350 January-term retreat (junior year)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$600-$1200 Intercultural Immersion trip (middle year)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$60 Graduation fee</td>
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*Free audits for certain courses are permitted to spouses of full-time degree students by applying to the registrar.*

#### Distance Learning Master of Divinity
- **WTS-Newbigin DL Master of Divinity**
- **Master of Arts**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Fee Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$440 per credit hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50 Application fee (non-refundable)</td>
<td>$250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50 per semester Intensive fee</td>
<td>$600-$1000 Intercultural Immersion trip (year three)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$60 Graduation fee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The cost of transportation, meals, and lodging for the intensives courses are the responsibility of the student.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Doctor of Ministry:

- **$13,500 total tuition for the program for students beginning in 2016.**
- $50 Application fee (non-refundable)
- $250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
- $60 Graduation fee

*A continuation fee of $750 is charged for each additional year beyond the first four years in the program.*

#### Graduate Certificate Programs:

- $430 per credit hour (in-residence) or $440/hr (distance learning)
- $100 per credit hour to audit
- $50 Application fee (non-refundable)
- $60 Graduation fee

Please note that prices are subject to change each year. Current prices are on www.westernsem.edu/admissions/cost.
In-Residence Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program usually leads to ordained ministry. It also provides foundational training for ministries in mission, social service, evangelism, education, pastoral care, chaplaincy, and theological research. The In-Residence Master of Divinity is available on-campus in Holland, Michigan.

Requirements for the Degree
The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree requires 96 semester credit hours, usually completed in three years of full-time study. All M.Div. candidates are required to take introductory courses in the Biblical, Theological, and Christian Ministry Fields, as well as Formation for Ministry courses. Students choose elective courses in areas of their own interest.

A required orientation is held each year for all M.Div. candidates in the residential program during the week prior to the beginning of the first semester. During orientation new students are introduced to the M.Div. curriculum and receive information crucial to seminary life. They are assigned to peer groups and ministry settings (also known as their “Teaching Church”). Through worship, conversation, and spiritual autobiography, they begin to form a community of faith and learning. Early in their first year they also undergo evaluation of their capacities and competencies to provide a baseline for future growth and to help each person set individual learning goals.

Guide for College Students
College students interested in pursuing theological education should seek a balanced undergraduate liberal arts program to equip them with foundational knowledge for theological studies.

Ordination Procedures
Each denomination has its own procedures for enrolling, supervising, and examining candidates for ordination. M.Div. candidates should check with their pastors or denominational officers regarding specific instructions for ordination in their particular denomination.

An M.Div. candidate seeking ordination in the Reformed Church in America must apply to his or her classis through the home church consistory for a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry. This certificate and the M.Div. degree are required for ordination in the Reformed Church in America. Western’s faculty reviews M.Div. candidates annually and recommends to the board of trustees that it grants the certificate to those candidates who are deemed “fit for ministry.”

Western Theological Seminary works in a close partnership with other denominational boards and candidate committees responsible for the formation of men and women for ordained ministry.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>BL100 New Testament Greek 1</td>
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<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TH100 Church History I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td>MN100 Worship Foundations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</td>
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<td>FR121 Entering Christian Ministry</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL101A New Testament Greek II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>BL101B New Testament Interpretation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
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<td>MN105 Pastor as Person</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>MN101 Preaching Foundations</td>
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<td>FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>BL110 Biblical Hebrew</td>
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<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td>TH112 Gospel, Culture and Church</td>
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<td>FR123 Engaging Christian Ministry</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL111 Hebrew Translation &amp; Interpretation</td>
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<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FR124 Leading Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry (Internship)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<td>MN124 Practice of Worship &amp; Preaching</td>
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<td>PROGRAM TOTAL: 96 credit hours</td>
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</table>
Formation for Ministry for In-Residence M.Div. students

Formation for ministry is the experiential dimension of the M.Div. program—a place to practice ministry and spaces for reflection on your experiences in ministry. Think of it as an opportunity for integrating theory and practice, all the while growing into your ministerial identity. This will take place in a ministry setting under the guidance of a supervisor-mentor and the support of a mentoring team who will do their best to foster a nurturing, yet challenging mentoring environment.

Formation for Ministry Requirements

Students register separately for four 100 hour part-time and one 400 hour full-time unit of Formation for Ministry courses (FR121, 122, 123, 124 are part-time and FR125 is full-time). Course work complements and enriches the experiences in each of these offerings.

Learning Covenants are powerful tools to explore ministry passion areas and grow in ministerial competency. Categories to explore include:

- Disciple-making
- Preaching
- Worship/Liturgical Arts
- Pastoral Care
- Social Justice/Advocacy
- Administration
- Evangelism
- Cross-cultural proficiency

Students use the Learning Covenants to focus their learning, and they write case studies to present real experiences in ministry to each other in peer reflection groups. This enhances their own learning and fosters conversations that enrich the learning of peers.

Ministry Settings

Placement in a Teaching Church or other ministry setting begins after a student is accepted for admission to the M.Div. program and places a deposit to secure his or her place in the incoming class.

After guided investigation and consultation, students interview with potential sites. Upon discerning a good fit, commitments are made for the upcoming year. Many students spend the first two years in the same ministry setting.

Examples of ministry settings include:

- Congregations
- Nursing homes
- Hospitals
- Correctional Facilities
- Parachurch ministries
Peer Groups
Peer groups, numbering about six students, meet weekly and are guided by a ministry mentor. The peer groups represent varieties of backgrounds—colleges, denominations, ages, etc. Care is given to maintain the same groups when possible through the first two years. The groups meet for personal support, reflection on ministry practice, and prayer.

Christian Formation Retreat
During January Term (J-Term) in the first year, students continue delving into their own self-disciplines and identity by first attending a financial literacy workshop where attitudes and habits are discussed and practical tools are given. Then they go off campus for a Retreat for Christian Formation. This spiritual retreat uses autobiography, the spiritual disciplines, and engagement with peers to assist students in clarifying and embracing God’s call upon their lives.

Intercultural Immersion Experience
In groups of 10-15 students with at least one professor as a guide, Western’s M.Div. students travel to other cultural contexts to experience the diverse character of the church’s witness and mission.

These 11-day trips present students with problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism. The trips are taken during the January Term and sometimes in May for both distance learning and residential students.

Our students have been immersed into cultures such as:

- India
- Oman
- Chiapas, Mexico
- Borderlands (US/Mexico)
- Israel
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Kenya
Distance Learning Master of Divinity

Western Theological Seminary offers its Master of Divinity degree in a 5-year blended distance education format. Each year of the fully approved program contains two 14 week semesters, one 3-week January term, and one 6-week summer term.

Blended distance learning offers students a community-rich environment with the opportunity to complete an M.Div. without moving to campus. The distance learning student receives the benefit of belonging to a community of learners while remaining in his or her ministry context.

The 96 credit hour program involves Western's entire faculty and offers a similar yet specifically designed curriculum as the in-residence Master of Divinity program. The program incorporates peer groups facilitated by experienced mentors, supervised ministry in teaching churches, and rich community experiences through worship, community fellowship, and shared meals.

Students admitted into the distance M.Div. program are expected to maintain regular and consistent participation in order to complete the degree in five years. The on-campus intensives in October and May are required to receive academic credit for each course taken during those semesters. The J-Term and 6-week summer term are fully online.

The Frost Research Center evaluated Western Theological Seminary’s distance learning program and found that 100% of the students surveyed felt their expectations were met for a high quality graduate theological program. The program strengths most identified were: community developed among students, the ability for second career/non-traditional students to answer their call to ministry, and the spiritual and pastoral formation character of the program.

Program Components
The degree program includes not only the academic courses but also daily worship and shared meals while on campus, and meetings with peer groups during each intensive. In addition, the program has a carefully designed ministry formation process focused on developing a vocational identity.

Semester Schedule
- **Orientation**: In mid-August, new students participate in online orientation and learn how to use the learning management system (Canvas). As students work within Canvas, gaining experience with the tools used in courses, they begin to develop an online community within the new student cohort.

- **Fall Semester**: 14 weeks, late August-December. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a required 5-day intensive in October on campus in Holland, MI.
• **January Term**: 3 weeks, fully-online elective courses.

• **Spring Semester**: 14 weeks, January-May. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a required 5-day intensive in May on campus in Holland, MI.

• **Summer Term**: 6 weeks, late May-late June, fully online courses.

**Admissions**
Applicants are required to meet the same admissions standards as the in-residence program and must demonstrate a capacity for success in distance learning. Application deadline is July 1. Each annual cohort group begins in the fall semester. For questions, contact the director of admissions, Dr. Mark Poppen, at 1-800-392-8554.

**Technology Requirements**
Each student is required to provide his or her own computer according to the standards on the distance learning section of www.westernsem.edu. Wireless connection is available in the library, classrooms, and most of the seminary campus.

**New Student Preparation**
Western seeks to ensure the best start for each new student. New student preparation includes online orientation created within the program’s learning management software (Canvas). This is designed to give students the experience needed for successful navigation and communication within the online components of a course.

In addition, student support is provided by the distance learning department and the academic office. An upper level DL student is also available to support new DL students as they begin.

**Community Groups**
During the first two years of the program, community groups consisting of approximately six students and an experienced ministry facilitator meet during the October and May intensives. These groups gather together for support and reflection on their lives and ministries.
### DISTANCE LEARNING M.DIV. CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1 Fall</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<td><strong>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>BL100 New Testament Greek I</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MN100 Worship Foundations</strong></td>
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| J-Term      | Elective                                       | 1.5     |

| Spring      | **BL101A New Testament Greek II**              | 1.5     |
|             | **BL101B New Testament Interpretation**        | 1.5     |
|             | **BL102 New Testament Foundations**            | 3.0     |
|             | **MN105 Pastor as Person**                     | 1.5     |

| Summer      | **Elective using Greek (NT Elective)**         | 3.0     |

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<th>YEAR 2 Fall</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BL110 Biblical Hebrew</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>FR116 Entering/Exploring Christian Ministry</strong></td>
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| J-Term      | Elective                                       | 1.5     |

| Spring      | **BL111 Hebrew Translation & Interpretation**  | 3.0     |
|             | **FR117 Engaging Christian Ministry I**        | 1.5     |

| Summer      | **Elective using Hebrew (OT Elective)**        | 3.0     |

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<th>YEAR 3 Fall</th>
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<td><strong>TH100 Church History I</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>FR118 Engaging Christian Ministry II</strong></td>
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| J-Term      | Elective                                       | 1.5     |

| Spring      | **FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience**   | 3.0     |
|             | **FR119 Engaging Christian Ministry III**      | 1.5     |
|             | **MN101 Preaching Foundations**                | 3.0     |

| Summer      | Elective                                       | 3.0     |

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<th>YEAR 4 Fall</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TH113 Systematic Theology I</strong></td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MN124 Practice of Worship &amp; Preaching</strong></td>
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| J-Term      | Elective                                       | 1.5     |

| Spring      | **TH114 Systematic Theology II**               | 3.0     |
|             | **TH112 Gospel, Culture and Church**           | 3.0     |

| Summer      | **Elective (or MN121 Standards and Polity for RCA Candidates)** | 3.0 |

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<th>YEAR 5 Fall</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>MN120 Leadership</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TH121 Christian Ethics</strong></td>
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</table>

| J-Term      | Elective                                       | 1.5     |

| Spring      | **TH124 Credo**                               | 1.5     |
|             | **Elective**                                  | 3.0     |
|             | **Elective**                                  | 3.0     |

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**PROGRAM TOTAL: 96 credit hours**

*Italics = purely online course*
Formation for Ministry for DL M.Div. students

Master of Divinity students take part in supervised ministry at a “Teaching Church” (a setting such as a church, hospital, nonprofit organization, prison, etc.). The Teaching Church program provides a place to practice ministry and a space to reflect on it.

Three elements guide the Teaching Church experience:

1. A mentor at the church or organization regularly meets with the student to reflect theologically and personally on the student’s ongoing formation for ministry.

2. During the second and third years of the program, the student writes a learning covenant focusing on one area of ministry:
   - education and faith formation
   - pastoral care
   - preaching and worship
   - social justice/advocacy
   - evangelism
   - cross cultural proficiency
   - leadership and administration

3. A mentoring team – 3 to 5 people from the ministry setting provide support and feedback.

Distance Learning M.Div. students are required to complete four semesters/units of Teaching Church. Each unit is a minimum of 130 hours of supervised ministry (about 9 hours a week over the 14-week semester).

If a student is already working in ministry, it usually makes sense for that site to become his or her Teaching Church. However, students are encouraged to gain a broad range of experiences to best prepare for their future ministries.

Each student initiates the process of finding a Teaching Church, in communication with the Formation for Ministry office at WTS. The student considers factors such as denominational affiliation, plans for ordination, the kind of ministry to which he or she feels called, ministry skills needed, and the presence of adequate pastoral supervision. The Formation for Ministry team clarifies expectations for the internship with the ministry site.

Questions about the Teaching Church program for distance learning students may be directed to Glenn Swier, Associate Director of Formation for Ministry, at glenn@westernsem.edu or 616-392-8555, x165.

Peer Groups
During the FR116, FR117, FR118, and FR119 courses, students process their Teaching Church experiences in peer groups. They present their own case studies as a tool for reflection on who they are becoming as pastors in formation.

Intercultural Immersion Experience
See pg. 14 for the description under the In-Residence Master of Divinity program.
WTS-Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity

Are you passionate about church planting, revitalization, and center city renewal ministry? Western’s Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity program may be just the option you are looking for.

Students who are part of the Newbigin Cohort focus on ministry in the city. Drawing on the rich experience of City Church San Francisco and other urban churches, the Newbigin Cohort prepares people for ministry in urban, highly secularized contexts. The program includes coursework centered on ministry in the city, mentoring and spiritual formation with a focus on urban ministry, and internship placements in a variety of urban contexts.

The WTS-Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity is an approved distance-learning M.Div. degree. Distance learning courses are offered through Western Theological Seminary, which is fully accredited, and includes approved courses through the Newbigin House of Studies.

Newbigin House of Studies is located in San Francisco, a city with the lowest church attendance in the U.S. This secular environment will uniquely prepare you to reach the world with the Gospel.

The experiences of Newbigin’s faculty member, Dr. Scot Sherman, and other urban pastor-scholars, along with the learning lab of the city, provide students with insight from the ground floor of ministry in an urban, secular context.

The five-year distance learning curriculum for a Master of Divinity degree has been sequenced over four years for this program. The WTS-Newbigin DL M.Div. is not possible for a student who works full-time. Part-time work is possible in the first two years of the program. The last two years involve a full-time internship/course work.

For the four years of the program, students travel to Holland, Michigan for 5 days in October and 5 days in May. Students also travel to San Francisco for one week in January. The seminary and Newbigin House provide information on affordable accommodation options.

Students also participate in an intercultural immersion experience of approximately 11 days in the third year of the program.

Semester Schedule

- **Orientation**: In mid-August, new students participate in online orientation and learn how to use the learning management system (Canvas). As students work within Canvas, gaining experience with the tools used in courses, they begin to develop an online community within the new student cohort.
• **Fall Semester:** 14 weeks, early September-December. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a 5-day on-campus intensive in mid-October in Holland, MI.

• **January Term:** 3 weeks online learning including 1-week intensive held in San Francisco.

• **Spring Semester:** 14 weeks, January-May. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a 5-day on-campus intensive in mid-May in Holland, MI.

• **Summer Term:** 6 weeks, late May-late June, fully online courses.

Formation for Ministry for WTS-Newbigin DL M.Div.

The Teaching Church supervised ministry experience takes place during years 3 and 4 of the program. The embedded internship allows the WTS-Newbigin student to utilize his or her existing ministry setting in a church plant, renewal city, or city-center as the internship setting. Students serve at least 125 hours per semester for four semesters. Students will be introduced to the missional vision and practices of church leadership, church planting and urban church renewal in their Newbigin coursework and will process the leadership experience alongside a mentor and peer cohort. A third component of the embedded internship will focus on issues of ongoing spiritual and ministerial formation.

### WTS-NEWBIGIN DISTANCE LEARNING M.DIV. CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1 Fall</th>
<th>MN102 Practice of Discipleship 3.0</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL100 New Testament Greek I 3.0</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>MN103 Newbigin’s Legacy and the Good of the City 3.0</td>
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<td>MN106 The Peace of the City (on site in San Francisco) 3.0</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL101A New Testament Greek II 1.5</td>
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<td>BL101B New Testament Interpretation 1.5</td>
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<td>MN108 The Urban Church 3.0</td>
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<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations 3.0</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>Elective 3.0</td>
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<th>YEAR 2 Fall</th>
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<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations 3.0</td>
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<td>MN100 Worship Foundations 1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td>MN117 Urban Church Planting (on site in San Francisco) 3.0</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<td>MN105 Pastor as Person 1.5</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II 3.0</td>
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<th>YEAR 3 Fall</th>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>FR130A Urban Internship I (11 hrs face to face)</td>
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<td>MN125 Preaching in an Urban Context (on site in San Francisco)</td>
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<td>MN126 Worship in an Urban Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>FR1308 Urban Internship II (no hrs face to face)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
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| YEAR 4 Fall | MN120 Church Leadership                           | 3.0 |
|            | TH121 Christian Ethics                            | 3.0 |
|            | FR131A Urban Internship II (no face to face)      | 1.5 |
|            | Elective                                          | 1.5 |
| J-Term     | Elective in San Francisco                         | 1.5 |
| Spring     | TH124 Credo                                       | 1.5 |
|            | Elective (or MN121 Standards and Polity for RCA Candidates) | 3.0 |
|            | TH112 Gospel, Culture, Church                      | 3.0 |
| Summer     | FR131B Urban Internship II (11 hrs face to face)  | 1.5 |
|            | Elective                                          | 3.0 |

PROGRAM TOTAL: 96 credit hours

*Rotating Pastoral Training Seminars on site in San Francisco: Racism Awareness, Addictions Recovery, Clergy Sexual Misconduct Awareness

*italics = purely online course

Type in blue: Newbigin House of Studies additional infrastructure (italics = purely online)
Dual Track Master of Divinity-Master of Social Work

The Dual Track Master of Divinity-Master of Social Work program helps students prepare for professional ministry where the depth and breadth of Christian theology and faith meet the pain and struggle of human life.

After four years of intense study accompanied by challenging internships, students are ready to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in contexts ranging from marriage counseling in a congregation to coordinating programs at a ministry with homeless people.

Students learn to integrate the theory, knowledge and skills required of pastors and social workers as they seek to be instruments of grace and peace. In turn they are equipped to help the Church more effectively follow the compassionate Christ into the world.

Program Design

The program is flexible enough to complete in one of four ways.

- Students can spend their first two years of the 4-year dual track program in-residence at Western Theological Seminary taking Master of Divinity coursework. Years 3-4 are then spent in a Master of Social Work program at another accredited institution of the student's preference.

- Students can also choose our 5-year part-time Distance Learning option to complete their M.Div. coursework through WTS. When finished, they can pursue a Master of Social Work program at another accredited institution of the student's preference.

- Another option is to start with the M.S.W. degree elsewhere followed by the M.Div. at WTS. This path is convenient for undergrad students who have the option of earning the M.S.W. at the same institution. They can stay in a familiar context in the transition into graduate school. After completing the M.S.W. degree, the student moves to WTS for two years of M.Div. coursework.

- Students can do Distance Learning starting with the M.S.W. degree followed by the M.Div. Students who are just completing the M.S.W. (or who have completed it within the last 7 years) begin M.Div. work at WTS in the distance learning format and schedule part-time over 5 years.

Typically 69 out of the 96 hours required for an M.Div. are completed through WTS. The remaining 27 hours are transferred from the M.S.W program back to the seminary as electives. This allows the student to complete both masters degrees in four years instead of five if they choose.

For students with a BSW degree, the M.S.W. portion of the dual track program is typically shortened due to receiving advanced standing. These students can earn both masters degrees in three years.

Students who decide not to pursue an M.S.W. degree after the first two years of M.Div. coursework can receive an M.Div. degree only after completing all of its degree requirements.
Cohort Learning Groups
All four years students meet in peer groups with a ministry professional who facilitates the integration of the two professional areas. The cohort group you start with meets weekly for the duration of the program. The purpose of this weekly class is to support dual track students and help them integrate these two professional fields (ministry and social work) into their respective ministry callings.

Unique Ministry
Unique ministry opportunities will open for those pursuing Western’s Dual Track degree:

- Christian Counseling
- Counseling hurting people
- Coordinating urban youth programs
- Chaplaincy in a treatment program
- Restorative justice in the criminal justice system
- Community development here or abroad
- Children and family support and education
- Outreach Pastor
- Social justice research and advocacy
- Starting a nonprofit ministry

IN-RESIDENCE DUAL TRACK CURRICULUM

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All year</th>
<th>YEAR 1 Fall</th>
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<td>FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BL101A New Testament Greek II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>BL101B New Testament Interpretation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MN105 Pastor as Person</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation</td>
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<td>BL101B New Testament Interpretation</td>
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<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MN105 Pastor as Person</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

IN-RESIDENCE DUAL TRACK CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All year</th>
<th>YEAR 2 Fall</th>
<th></th>
<th>J-Term</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN332 Yearlong Cohort Group</td>
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<td>FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL110 Biblical Hebrew</td>
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<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH112 Gospel, Culture and Church</td>
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<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH121 Ethics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>MN124 Worship &amp; Preaching</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (MN121 for RCA students)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>FR123 Engaging Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR123 Engaging Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MN124 Worship &amp; Preaching</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TH124 Credo</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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</table>
### DISTANCE LEARNING DUAL TRACK CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td>FR124 Leading Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry (Internship)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YEAR 3</strong></td>
<td>MN333 Yearlong Cohort Group (online format)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YEAR 4</strong></td>
<td>MN334 Yearlong Cohort Group (online format)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YEAR 5</strong></td>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH121 Christian Ethics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH124 Credo</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROGRAM TOTAL:** 69 WTS credit hours + 27 MSW hrs

*Italicics = purely online course*
Master of Arts

Western Theological Seminary’s newest and most flexible degree program, the Master of Arts, is designed as a general theological degree in biblical and theological studies. This degree will support men and women with resources for thoughtful and competent Christian leadership in a broad range of ministry settings.

Distinctives of the Program

- Half of the 48 credits needed to earn this degree are electives. This means you have flexibility to focus your learning in areas most meaningful to you.
- Students may select courses in a residential format, a purely online format, or a blended format with both online and face-to-face interaction.
- Theological and biblical course requirements will help you to understand and articulate Christian traditions and convictions.

Western Theological Seminary’s highly effective and community-rich distance learning environment offers courses wherever you are. Some courses are delivered completely online while others use a hybrid design, blending online learning with face-to-face instruction on the WTS campus. For those who prefer to take most courses on campus, in-residence options are also available.

WTS welcomes transfer students and transferred coursework. Up to half of the coursework required to complete the M.A. (i.e., 24 credits) may be transferred from another ATS accredited seminary for degree completion at Western Theological Seminary.

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) has approved this Master of Arts program.

Semester Schedule

- **Orientation**: In mid-August, new students participate in online orientation and learn how to use the learning management system (Canvas). As students work within Canvas, gaining experience with the tools used in courses, they begin to develop an online community within the new student cohort.
- **Fall Semester**: 14 weeks, late August–December. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a required 5-day intensive in mid-October in Holland, MI.
- **January Term**: 3 weeks, fully-online elective courses.
- **Spring Semester**: 14 weeks, January–May. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a required 5-day intensive in mid-May on campus in Holland, MI.
- **Summer Term**: 6 weeks, late May–late June, fully online courses.
# Master of Arts Curriculum

## Required Courses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH100 Church History I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH100 Church History I -or- TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH126 Summative Examination</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of required courses:** 24

## Elective Courses
24 elective credits may be selected from any of the fields (Biblical, Theological, or Christian Ministry)

**Total credits of elective courses:** 24

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**Program total:** 48 credit hours
Master of Theology

The primary purpose of the Master of Theology (Th.M.) program is to enable qualified graduates of post-baccalaureate degree programs in theology (i.e., the M.Div. degree or its equivalent) to broaden and deepen their theological knowledge. Students will do this by participating in core seminars, taking a limited number of electives, and pursuing research in a specialized area within the Biblical, Theological, or Christian Ministry fields.

Our program has three further distinctive characteristics:

1. In the Th.M. core seminars, we focus on theological and cultural underpinnings of how Christian faith and practice are and might be embodied in various cultures and contexts. Th.M. students come from around the globe, and their diverse experiences enrich scholarly discussions on Christian faith and practice.

2. Given the global cultural shift into post-modernity, our Th.M. seminars are designed to help students lead the church into this new way of thinking and being, directly from a methodological perspective.

3. Generous funding is available for U.S. and international students, pastors, and leaders. We offer up to five full scholarships to Th.M. candidates on a competitive basis of academic excellence.

The Th.M. degree is intended for pastors who wish to deepen their education, students preparing for further Ph.D. studies, or, in certain contexts, for leaders who will serve and teach in theological institutions.

To apply, a candidate must:
- have a Master of Divinity degree or the equivalent.
- submit transcripts of all schools attended.
- have the ability to relate theological study to social, cultural, and historical contexts of his or her ministry.

International Students must submit a TOEFL score of at least: • Paper based: 550, TWE 4 • Internet based: 80 • IELTS: Overall 6.0

MASTER OF THEOLOGY CURRICULUM

| August | MT210 Orientation Seminar | 1.0 |
| Fall   | MT220 Research Design      | 1.5 |
|        | MT235 Seminar in Theological Method | 3.0 |
|        | Two 3-credit Electives     | 6.0 |
| J-term | MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics | 1.5 |
| Spring | Non-thesis option: Two 3-credit Electives | 6.0 |
|        | MT253 Comprehensive Examination | 3.0 |
|        | MT260A Research Paper      | 3.0 |
| Thesis option: One 3-credit Elective | 3.0 |
|        | MT253 Comprehensive Examination | 3.0 |
|        | MT260 Thesis               | 6.0 |

Program Total: 25 credit hours

Master of Theology

Dr. David Stubbs
Director of the Th.M. Program and Professor of Ethics and Theology

Katy Sundararajan
Master of Theology Program Administrator and International Student Advisor
Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program is offered to those who hold the Master of Divinity degree or its educational equivalent and who are currently engaged in leading the church and its ministries.

The D.Min. program exists to refine and extend the practice of ministry. The program encourages students:

1) to grow in understanding how God has called and formed them;
2) to integrate insights from the various social scientific and theological disciplines into their ministry;
3) to discern the theological and cultural traditions of life and ministry;
4) to increase skill in ministry;
5) to grow in capacity to work with others; and
6) to make a significant contribution to the practice of ministry.

The successful design and completion of a thesis project in the third and fourth years will demonstrate that the student has met these six goals.

The program emphasizes self-designed learning with faculty mentoring. Students have the flexibility to shape their program around their particular needs while also working in collaboration with peers.

The self-designed learning encourages growth at four levels simultaneously: as children of God (theological and ecclesial formation), as persons (emotional and psychological formation), as practitioners (skills formation), and as scholars (intellectual formation).

The D.Min. program at Western is approved by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

Expectations of student progress:
The D.Min academic year begins on May 1 of each year and ends on April 30 of the following year. The program is full-time, and students are expected to complete the degree in three years but not more than four years.

Candidates are expected to complete one seminar and 2 learning units (12 credits) each of the first two years and a project seminar (4 credits) the third year. The third and fourth year of the program are devoted to completion of the thesis. The thesis is 16 credits.

The D.Min degree is granted when a student has completed the core curriculum of 44 credits. Students not progressing at the above listed rate will not be considered making progress towards a timely completion.

(see next page for curriculum)
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DM810</td>
<td>Orientation Seminar</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduces major components of the program. During the seminar, students clarify their program of study and work on designing learning units.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM820</td>
<td>Candidate Seminar</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begins the second year of the program. This seminar focuses on questions of context in relation to one’s program of study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM830</td>
<td>Project Seminar</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begins the third year and focuses on vocation and the D.Min. project based upon their first two years’ work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM840</td>
<td>Project Design and completion of a thesis project is the final stage of the D.Min. program. The D.Min. project consists of an original investigation or activity in ministry and affords students an opportunity to develop a mature practice of ministry characterized by careful scholarship and pastoral wisdom.</td>
<td>16.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Program Total: 44 credit hours
Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry

The Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry is tailored to church leaders and lay leaders who want to learn how to minister to those who often feel separated from the congregation or get left out. Western Theological Seminary offers:

- Strength in the art and practice of ministering to and with those with disabilities
- Deeper biblical and theological knowledge
- Increased ability to share the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Insights for developing cultural competency
- Community of peers to challenge and support you
- Momentum toward a Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree

Graduate Certificate students take six core curriculum courses and 4-5 elective courses, a total of 24 credit hours, in order to deepen their awareness of issues particular to disabilities and to increase their competency in ministering to and with the entire body of Christ. Students can take a core course and at least one 1.5 credit elective each semester. Not all courses are offered every year. The program can be completed in three years.

Topics explored in disability courses:

- Conceptions, definitions, and expressions of disability
- The history of disability in the U.S.
- Innovative practitioners who paved the way in re-imagining disability
- Service systems and advocacy groups
- How Jesus redefined the margin and the center with a Kingdom perspective
- Theological understanding of disability
- Pastoral issues related to the experience of disability
- Biblical interpretation from disability perspectives
- Aging and dementia
- Worship
- Deaf theology and ministry
- Strategies for becoming an inclusive church

People who already possess an M.A. or M.Div. (from any ATS approved institution) will be required to complete Introduction to Disability and the Church and five of the disability-related electives, as well as a 3-credit-hour thesis paper (TH128), in lieu of the core required courses, in order to demonstrate their ability to integrate disability concerns and insights with their previous theological training.

Financial aid is available for GCDM students. Application is made by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid form) and our WTS form. Tuition awards are based solely on financial
need as determined by these two forms. Contact Financial Aid Administrator Pat Dykhuis for more information at pat@westernsem.edu or 616-392-8555, x120.

Persons interested in the GCDM Program should contact Admissions at admissions@westernsem.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundation</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN105 Pastor as Person</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>--or--</strong> MN102 The Practice of Discipleship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN116 Introduction to Disability and the Church</td>
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**Total credits of required courses:** 16.5 or 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Choose 4 classes:</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(or 5 classes if you opted for 16.5 required credits)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(not available all years)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL551 Disability, Bible and the Pastoral Imagination</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN581/MN581 Ministry and Margins</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN582 Ministry, Aging and Dementia</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN583 We All Worship: Disability and Worship</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN586 Disability and Community Supports</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN587 Living into Community: Friendship House</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN588 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN590 Deaf Theology and Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN591 Strategies for an Inclusive Church</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN592 Practicing the Presence of People: Jean Vanier and the Ministry of Nurture</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH565 Disability and Theology in the Christian Tradition</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of elective courses:** 7.5 or 6

**Program Total:** 24 credit hours
Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry

The Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry (GCUPM) provides an opportunity for urban pastors and leaders to renew their minds by going deeper with graduate level biblical and theological learning. Participants also refresh their ministry skills by learning from each other and from faculty who are committed to multiracial/ethnic ministry in the city.

Students can move through the program at their own pace, typically taking one or two courses per semester over a period of up to four years.

Students in the program often serve as pastors or ministry leaders in established ministries in a variety of urban contexts in western Michigan.

Financial aid is available for GCUPM students. Application is made by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid form) and our WTS form. Tuition awards are based solely on financial need as determined by these two forms. Contact Financial Aid Administrator Pat Dykhuis for more information at pat@westernsem.edu or 616-392-8555, x120.

Upon successful completion of the Graduate Certificate, students can enter Western Theological Seminary’s Master of Divinity or Master of Arts program through a separate application process. All Graduate Certificate courses can be applied to Master of Divinity or Master of Arts programs at Western or at other ATS accredited seminaries.

Persons interested in the GCUPM Program should contact Admissions at admissions@westernsem.edu.

GCUPM CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundation</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN124 Practice of Worship &amp; Preaching</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Ministry course I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Ministry course II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Total: 24 credit hours
Non-Degree-Seeking Students

Western Seminary allows those who wish to register for seminary courses without enrolling in one of our degree programs to apply for non-degree-seeking status. Those admitted as non-degree-seeking students may audit courses or take courses for credit. Those wanting academic credit for a course are subject to all regular academic requirements.

Non-degree-seeking students may not register for more than 15 semester credit hours without receiving permission from the academic dean. Formation for Ministry courses and directed-study courses are not available to non-degree-seeking students.
Resources

Academic Affairs
The Academic Affairs office provides:
- degree program administration
- academic calendar
- advisor assignments
- writing tutors
- class and exam schedules
- grades, transcripts
- class enrollment
- drop/add and withdrawal forms
- financial aid applications
- current enrollment data

Writing Studio
The Writing Studio is offered to students who would like to improve their writing skills. Tutors are equipped to help students learn how to conceive, develop, organize and clarify their writing efforts. The Writing Studio is a free service for enrolled students.

Student Services

Student Assistance Program (SAP)
Students have access to counseling, spiritual direction, formative workshops, and general education-for-ministry opportunities. Each of these can provide significant insights into one’s person and calling. The SAP is underwritten by WTS and the Dr. Stanley Rock Preparation for Ministry Fund and underscores the seminary’s commitment to a wholistic approach to persons.

Student Council
Student Council advocates for student concerns and provides programming that engages the entire student body. Each class has representation along with elected leaders. The dean of formation for ministry serves as faculty liaison.

Placement Services
While the seminary does not “place” its graduates, we offer helpful support including workshops on topics such as the RCA Ministerial Profile, interviewing as a candidate, and compensation for clergy. WTS hosts churches and other ministries that wish to make our graduates aware of openings. Many open ministry positions are listed on Western’s website at westernsem.edu/about/jobs/
Racial-Ethnic Initiatives

The seminary is committed to working toward racial-ethnic diversity in our community.

Diversity Initiatives

The Diversity Committee seeks to cultivate an inclusive community marked by justice and reconciliation at Western Theological Seminary. The group sponsors community conversations, specialized cultural competency training, and the annual Stoutemire Lecture, which focuses on racial-ethnic diversity in the church and academy.

Dr. Theresa Latini and C.J. Kingdom-Grier assist Western Theological Seminary toward a future freed of racism, advising seminary leaders in strategic plans to increase diversity at all levels of our institution, to identify and transform bias in our system, and to network with churches and other organizations serving these same goals. Contact grier@westernsem.edu for questions, suggestions or concerns regarding diversity in the community.

Faculty Fellow Program

Racial-ethnic scholars who are completing their Ph.D. dissertation are sought by the seminary for possible appointment as Faculty Fellows. Western created this program as part of a strategy to prepare leaders for diverse congregations. Our first scholar, Prof. Eric Williams, taught courses in Modern Black Theology during a two-year fellowship. Our second Faculty Fellow, Rev. Chris Dorsey, taught courses in Multi-Cultural Ministry and Theology and Social Movements and served on the faculty for five years. Han-Luen Kantzer Komline taught church history courses during 2014-15 and was appointed as an assistant professor the following year. In 2015-16, Dr. Dynna Castillo Portugal taught pastoral care and counseling and remains as distance learning adjunct faculty. Rev. Duane Loynes, Sr., whose research interests lie in African-American religion/philosophy and justice/liberation, continues to teach at WTS after an initial year as Faculty Fellow.

Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry

This program is shaped to meet the unique educational needs of those practicing ministry in the urban context. The courses are taught by an ethnically diverse group of professors who balance theory with practical learning. (see pg 32)

Partnership with Instituto Biblico Ebenezer (IBE)

In 2014, the seminary entered into a strategic partnership with Instituto Biblico Ebenezer (IBE) of Holland, MI. IBE is a biblical training school for Latino/a church leaders. We provide space in our building for their classes. Both communities (WTS and IBE) have gathered for fellowship and conversation about the joys and challenges of ministry in a multicultural world. WTS professors have also contributed to the training of IBE students.
Beardslee Library
The J.W. Beardslee Library, housed in the Cook Center for Theological Research, is the seminary’s center for access to information resources, supporting student studies, faculty research, and area ministries.

Beardslee Library’s resources include more than 250,000 print and e-books. Approximately 1000 books are added to the collection each year. Current periodical subscriptions number 225. Electronic resources for theological study, including databases and e-journals, are available through links on Beardslee Library’s website at westernsem.edu/library. Graduates of the seminary may participate in the ATLAS for Alumni/ae program, which provides access to full-text e-journal articles at no cost.

Library users find information on the collection through HopeCAT, the shared catalog of the Hope College Libraries and Beardslee Library. The college and seminary libraries maintain reciprocal borrowing privileges and work cooperatively to develop strong collections for each institution. Seminary students and faculty may also request materials from other libraries through interlibrary loan.

Special Collections
Several special collections complement Beardslee Library’s core collection. A Japanese collection includes Japanese translations of significant theological works. An area on the library’s fourth floor houses religious education curricula from a wide range of publishers. Historical denominational materials and faculty publications are also available. The Joint Archives of Holland, housed at the Theil Research Center on the corner of 10th St. and College Ave in Holland, MI, contains papers documenting the history of Western Theological Seminary and the Reformed Church in West Michigan.

Study Environment
The Cook Center for Theological Research provides an environment conducive for study, offering study carrels, lounge chairs, collaborative workspaces, group workrooms, catalog access on each floor, copying printing and scanning services, and wireless internet access throughout the building. A sight reader is available for the visually impaired.

Beardslee Library is a member of the American Theological Library Association, the Chicago Area Theological Library Association, and the Michigan Library Consortium.

Classroom Resources
- wireless internet
- video and audio-recording/playback
- overhead projection
- videotaped learning labs
- Canvas course management software
- sound amplification equipment
Journey Center for Learning

For students, pastors, and congregations
As a learning pathway, Journey offers opportunities to learn throughout the academic year around themes of leadership, preaching, discipleship, and youth. Students are encouraged to attend and receive a reduced rate.

One initiative specifically for students is called Learning to Follow…Learning to Lead. It develops followership and leadership qualities in M.Div. students while in school. After seminary, knowing that the first five years of ministry are crucial, Journey brings recent graduates back to WTS for the annual Transition into Ministry Summit. As these young leaders reconnect with peers and professors and attend helpful training by mentors, they find encouragement and feedback to process what they are experiencing in ministry. They return to their calls renewed and re-energized.

Learning opportunities Journey offers:

- Ridder Church Renewal
- Bast Preaching Initiatives
- Bast Preaching Festival
- The Osterhaven Theology Lectures
- Annual Discipleship Conference with the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church
- Annual Youth Conference with the RCA
- Transition into Ministry: Learning to Follow….Learning to Lead
- Various conferences and gatherings

Journey.westernsem.edu

The Sacred Page Bookstore & Coffee Shop

- Textbooks
- Bibles, music, worship materials
- Christian literature
- Materials supporting student and faculty research
- Snacks
- Fair Trade coffees
- Inspirational gifts

The Sacred Page

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Affiliated Ministries

The Bridge
A few short blocks from campus, Holland’s downtown thrives with specialty shops and galleries. One of the shops, The Bridge, is an unusual type of “specialty” store—a developing-world store staffed entirely by volunteers. The merchandise is purchased from cooperatives of artisans around the world who depend upon their work for economic survival.

Because The Bridge bypasses expensive importers and operates with minimal overhead, it can offer reasonably priced handmade goods to shoppers and insure a fair return to the artisans who produce them.

The Bridge is owned and operated by Western Theological Seminary. Profits from The Bridge help to bring scholars from around the world to our Master of Theology program.

\[\text{Bridging...Equality} \]
\[\text{Bridging...Sustainability} \]
\[\text{Bridging...Fair Trade} \]
\[\text{Bridging...Cultures} \]

thebridge@westernsem.edu

The Community Kitchen
The Community Kitchen is delivered through a partnership with the Community Action House and Western Theological Seminary and operates out of the seminary Commons. The Community Kitchen is our doorway to those struggling with poverty, providing a place to identify the needs and struggles of our most vulnerable neighbors while providing them with a free meal.

Volunteers from local churches and the seminary help to staff the kitchen and feed hundreds of people a week year round. Lunchtime in the Commons is a time and place where people of all backgrounds, incomes, faiths, and social positions are welcome to nourish their bodies with food and their spirits with the companionship of others.

Students, staff, and faculty are invited to volunteer their time in this ministry that links Western to the community in which we reside. Some pray with people in a private prayer room; others simply join the community in a meal. Others, such as Friend residents from The Friendship House, help with custodial tasks.

info@communityactionhouse.org
Jim Piersma, Manager
## Courses

### BIBLICAL FIELD

### Required Courses:

**BL100 New Testament Greek I**  
Prereq: BL100, BL101A  
1.5 cr

**BL101A New Testament Greek II**  
Continues BL100, with special emphasis upon syntax and translation.  
1.5 cr

**BL101B New Testament Interpretation**  
An introduction to the tools and principles required for the exegesis of the New Testament in its own linguistic, historical, and canonical context, as a foundation for interpreting the New Testament in a contemporary context.  
Prereq: BL100, BL101A  
1.5 cr

**BL102 New Testament Foundations**  
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the Old Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the New Testament for today.  
Prereq: BL100, BL101A  
1.5 cr

**BL103 Old Testament Foundations**  
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the Old Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the Old Testament for today.  
Prereq: BL100, BL101A  
1.5 cr

**BL110 Biblical Hebrew I**  
An introduction to biblical Hebrew in its cultural context for those who seek to interpret the Bible faithfully and fully.  
Using multi-sensory and interactive approaches, students will learn the basic vocabulary, grammar, syntax and world view of the Old Testament.  
Prereq: BL110  
1.5 cr

**BL111 Hebrew Translation and Interpretation**  
A continuation of BL110 which more fully engages interpretive and devotional approaches to Old Testament texts.  
Prereq: BL110  
1.5 cr

**BL507-DL Caring for Creation**  
In this course we will trace the confluence of forces that have shaped the western Christian understanding of the created order, and we will explore how this understanding has led to the loss of vitality in both the Christian community and in the created order.  
1.5 cr

**BL509 Conflict in the Created Order**  
This course will explore how the conflict between the ordering word of God and the dis-ordering waters of the deep in the creation story is recapitulated in the narrative, prophetic, and wisdom literature.  
We will explore why Western Christians have tended to overlook this conflict, and how a deeper understanding of it can revitalize Christian communities.  
1.5 cr

**BL510 The Old Testament in the New**  
Many Christians, though at home in much of the Old Testament, feel out of their depth in the Old.  
Yet, the New Testament is largely unintelligible outside of knowing the narratives, poems, apocalypses, wisdom sayings, and laws of the Old Testament.  
This course is bridges the canonical gap by exploring the Old Testament as it is used in the New.  
By canvassing how Paul, James, the Evangelists, and ultimately Jesus imaginatively use the Old Testament, we will discover fresh and faithful ways in which the Spirit is speaking to the Church through Scripture.  
1.5 cr

**BL513 Studies in Prophets**  
The role of prophets in Israelite society, their theology, and their impact on Western culture.  
1.5 cr

**BL514 Seminar in Psalms**  
An exegetical study of selected psalms in the context of both the Old Testam and the larger canon of Scripture.  
Attention is also given to the role of the psalms in the liturgical, devotional, and theological life of the church.  
1.5 cr

**BL515 The Earth is the Lord's: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible**  
This course engages Scripture through the eyes of contemporary agrarian writers with a view toward finding more faithful ways to honor God's creation.  
The curriculum revolves around “conversations” with authors (Ellen Davis, Norman Wirzba, Wendell Berry, Wes Jackson) and practitioners who can help us think about the practical challenges and possibilities of honoring God's creation.  
1.5 cr

**BL517 Wisdom Literature of the Bible**  
A literary and theological exposition of the book of Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes.  
1.5 cr

**BL518 The Trial of Galileo and Its Implications for Biblical Interpretation Today**  
Galileo (1564-1642) refined the telescope and turned it toward the heavens.  
Observing the movements of planets and moons, he saw that the sun was the center of the world and not the earth, as the theologians of his day taught.  
The Church put him on trial during which there was intense debate about the authority of the Scriptures and the relationship between general and special revelation.  
In the end, his books were banned, and he was put under house arrest.  
We will study the trial of Galileo and use it as a lens to look at similar controversies facing the Church today about the structure of the world.  
1.5 cr

**BL519 Seminar in Performance Criticism**  
In this course students will engage Old Testament narratives deeply through both translation and performance.  
Beginning with translation, students will explore the heart of the Hebrew dramas in the Old Testament and render them in faithful English translation with an eye and ear toward performance.  
Then, the class will engage each narrative through embodied exegesis to develop a performance of the narrative, which will be offered publicly, either in a church service or in morning prayers.  
1.5 cr  
Prereq: BL110

**BL520 Esther**  
A theological exposition of the book of Esther that looks to literary issues such as theme, character, and irony as guides for interpreting the book in the contexts of both the Old and the New Testaments.  
Originally intended as a model for life in the Jewish Diaspora, the book is a potentially important guide for Christians seeking to live faithful lives in a secular society.  
1.5 cr

**BL522 Old Testament Narratives**  
This course will explore the artistry, drama, and theology of Israelite storytelling.  
We will consider the cultural, historical, and theological context out of which these dramatic stories arose, and will discover their transforming power through performance.  
1.5 cr

**BL524 Ruth**  
A literary and theological exposition of the book of Ruth. Emphasis placed on improving Hebrew reading and on refining exegetical skills.  
1.5 cr; Prereq: BL110

**BL548 Pentateuch**  
A study of the first five books of the Bible.  
Examines the accounts of creation, the fall, Israel’s ancestors, the exodus, and the giving of the Law.  
The class will explore theological issues such as the nature of God, human beings and the world, our covenantal relationship with God, and the presence of God in historical events.  
1.5 cr

**BL614 Hebrew Reading/Performance**  
Using memorization and movement as the primary tools of exegesis, students engage with one Old Testament narrative deeply for 14 weeks.  
This course builds on BL110 and BL111, deepening students’ engagement with the oral nature of the Hebrew Bible.  
Pass/fail, 1.5 cr
BL616 Christianity and Literature
A study of the biblical and theological motifs in selected literature by both classical and contemporary authors. Emphasis is on the use/study of such works in ministry settings, as well as their relevance for those involved in leadership roles in the church.

BL618 Advanced Biblical Hebrew
Advanced learning in the language and theology of the Old Testament. Students develop a deeper understanding of grammar, syntax, and interpretation through hearing, speaking, and reading Hebrew, as well as memorizing and enacting biblical stories. Prereq: BL110 & BL111

New Testament:

BL508 Revelation
This course studies the book of Revelation within its historical, political, and literary contexts. Particular emphasis will be placed on the apocalyptic nature of the work within the first century C.E. Additionally, it studies the impact this book has had on contemporary views on eschatology. Finally, students will examine the variety of ways that Revelation can be used in the church, including preaching, liturgy, and pastoral care.

BL529 The Gospel According to Matthew
An overview of the theology and narrative shaping of the first gospel, using close readings of selected texts. Particular attention is paid to Matthew’s vision for discipleship, the church, and Christian life and witness. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B or equiv.

BL530 Letter to the Romans
Introduction and overview of the letter, together with exegetical study of selected portions in Greek. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL532 The Gospel According to John
Considers important historical, literary, hermeneutical, and theological issues in the Gospel of John, with exegesis of selected passages in Greek. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL533 Gospel of Mark
An exegetical exploration of the gospel of Mark which examines the structure of the gospel; the main lines of the story, places and times; the relationship of the characters; the function of the questions; and what the narrator really wants to say through his story. Key passages will be translated. Prerequisite: BL100, BL101 & BL102 or equivalent.

BL534 Reading Acts in its Contexts: Communities, Conflicts/Contemporary Church
This course will examine Acts in light of its varied social, political, and canonical contexts, with a particular emphasis on the Spirit’s formation of the people of God. Students will undertake a close reading of the text of Acts and will consider the ways that Acts can help the contemporary church imagine communities of faith and practice that bear witness to the Triune God. 1.5 cr

BL535 Interpreting the Parables
A survey of recent approaches to interpreting the parables of Jesus provides the context for considering hermeneutical issues in preaching and teaching the parables. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL537 Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke
This course studies Matthew, Mark and Luke and their cultural, historical, and literary contexts. Students will also explore ways of using gospels in worship, preaching and teaching.

BL540 The Corinthian Correspondence
An exploration of Paul’s First and Second letters to the Corinthians, with particular attention to the interaction between pastoral engagement and theological reflection. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL541 Letters to the Philippians and Galatians
An exegesis of two Pauline letters emphasizing the role of Paul’s three of them. The epistles selected for closer treatment will vary, and key passages will be treated in Greek. Attention will be paid to the use of these epistles in the teaching and preaching of the church today. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL542 General Epistles
An overview of all the General/Catholic Epistles, with closer exegetical treatment of three of them. The epistles selected for closer treatment will vary, and key passages will be treated in Greek. Attention will be paid to the use of these epistles in the teaching and preaching of the church today. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

Though often overshadowed by the Pauline and Johannine texts, Luke’s two-volume narrative comprises one fourth of the entire New Testament. Not only is this the largest contribution of any N.T. author, it provides us with the only extended portrait of the earliest communities of Christians. This course focuses on Luke’s witness to Jesus, salvation in Lukan perspective, the role of the Holy Spirit, the practices of the early church, and the relationship between church and empire. Special attention is given to the implications for the practice and proclamation of the church today.

BL544 Hebrews
One of the most energetic and enigmatic books of the New Testament, Hebrews challenges between functioning as a letter or a sermon, refuses to identify the location of either its author or its recipients, expresses the most profound Hebrew religious concepts in the best of Greek expository traditions and explores the theological ideas in engagingly simple pictures, and calls on Christians to die for their faith! Hebrews remains one of the greatest sources of Christian theology “proof-texting,” yet is rarely understood or read as a whole document. We will take the book apart, analyze it for clues, then read it as a whole, and develop a strong sense of both its original context and its continuing powerful message for the church.

BL547 The Bible, Gender, and Sexuality
A survey of major biblical texts on sex and sexuality in general, with a view toward developing an overall framework for understanding biblical teaching on these themes. Within this overall framework, particular attention also will be given to exploring the questions of gender roles and homosexuality. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL550 Living and Active: The Doctrine of Scripture and Biblical Studies
In this course, we will be asking a cluster of interrelated questions: What is the Bible? How was the biblical canon formed, and what led to these particular books being chosen over others? Can God speak through multiple translations; are all the Word of God? How have technological innovations – the scroll, the codex, the printing press, digital media – changed how we interact with God’s Word? In arriving at answers, students will also refine statements on Scripture for their senior Credo. 1.5 cr

BL551 Disability, Bible and the Pastoral Imagination
What do people with disabilities find when they try to find themselves in our biblical texts? This course addresses some of the issues, hermeneutical and pastoral, that people with disabilities encounter when reading the Bible. The class will read interpretative texts written by persons with a variety of disabilities and consider how their insights can support our pastoral imagination. 1.5 cr

BL613 Greek Reading
Maintains and enhances Greek language skills through weekly translation practice, and a study of intermediate Greek grammar. Pass/fail, 1.5 cr. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL617 Ordination of Women: Exploring Biblical Authority and Church Order
In-depth biblical exegesis and focused theological and hermeneutical reflection around the ordination of women — in an attempt both to assist students to clarify their understanding of this particular issue and to provide handles and tools for wrestling with the use of Scripture in the ordering of the church’s life more generally. A full range of views on the topic will be explored. 1.5 cr
THEOLOGICAL FIELD

Required Courses

TH100 Church History I
This course explores the life and witness of the church from the New Testament era to the Protestant Reformation.

TH101 Church History II
This course explores the life and witness of the church from the Protestant Reformation to the present.

TH112 Gospel, Culture, and Church
An introduction to the church’s self-understanding as a missional and eschatological community formed by the good news of Jesus Christ and made to be its living witness. The course seeks to cultivate a biblical-theological rationale for the existence of the church and for its mission, an appreciation for the historical, cultural, and contextual rootedness of the church, an understanding of the dynamic interaction between the gospel and human cultures, and a vision for what missional faithfulness requires of any church in its own time and place.

TH113 Systematic Theology I
This first course of the two course Systematic Theology sequence explores four major Christian doctrines: the doctrines of God, creation, humanity, and Christ. These expansive headings include many other matters of theological importance, including Trinity doctrine, divine attributes, creation, humanity, the image of God, sin, providence, covenant, Israel and the significance of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. Readings will range from early church to contemporary sources.

TH114 Systematic Theology II
This course explores the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, salvation, church and sacraments. Exploring these expansive topics will include an examination of the work of the Spirit in the believing community, scripture and divine revelation, justification, sanctification, and the final judgment, as well as the theology of Word and Sacraments in the church. Readings will range from early church to contemporary sources.

TH121 Christian Ethics
This course explores how the theological vision of the Christian community expresses itself in specific intentions, practices, virtues, and actions and how Christian communities can grow in moral discernment.

TH124 Credo
In this senior seminar, students will write a theologically comprehensive statement of their Christian belief in conversation with their respective theological traditions. 1.5 cr. Prereq: MN121, TH112, TH113, TH114.

Historical Theology

TH451 RCA History and Mission
Examines the development of the Reformed Church in the context of North America. Special attention devoted to the leaders, approaches, and philosophies of RCA missions. (MFCA)

TH519 American Evangelicalism
Since Newsweek magazine declared 1976 the “year of the evangelical,” evangelicals have seemingly infiltrated all aspects of American culture, from politics to popular entertainment. This course surveys the history of the evangelical movement from its origins in the Great Awakening to its place in the contemporary church. Along the way we will examine issues including theology, race, gender, and social reform.

TH532 Augustine of Hippo: His Life and Thought
Western philosophy, so the saying goes, consists of footnotes to Plato. Augustine has impacted western theology in a similarly profound way. In this course, students will engage this North African Christian living on the margins of the crumbling Roman Empire in his own words, reading both classics, like the Confessions, and lesser-known texts stemming from Augustine’s pastoral ministry, such as sermons and letters he wrote to colleagues, parishioners, and other inquisitive citizens of his late ancient world. 1.5 cr

TH544 20th Century Theology: Major Figures and Theological Currents
Close readings of some of the “classic” works of 20th century theology by theologians such as Barth, Bonhoeffer, Cone, Gutiérrez, Lindbeck, Jones, deLubac, von Balthasar, Zizioulas and Hauerwas. We will highlight the place of these works in larger theological and cultural currents that shaped Christian thought in this tumultuous century.

TH557 Church and State in America
The wall of separation between church and state that Thomas Jefferson famously observed as a secure border. This course examines the relationship between church and state in America from the colonial era to the present, ranging from John Winthrop’s declaration aboard the Arbella in 1630 that America would be a “city on a hill” to present debates over White House sponsored Faith-Based Initiatives. Along the way we will treat such topics as marriage, medicine, education, and civil religion.

TH561 History of the Black Church
Galatians 3:28 beautifully asserts “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ.” Even so, early in the history of the United States, African Americans found it necessary to establish the Black Church. This course examines the events and conditions necessitating that development and how the legacies of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and persistent racism impacted the theology and worship of the Black Church. Also explored is the extent to which those and related issues still prevent achieving full unity in the body of Christ and the strategies that can be employed to finally achieve the Lord’s vision.

TH568 Calvin’s Theology and Its Reception
Calvin’s theology is not only central to the Reformed tradition, but continues to be the subject of vigorous theological discussion for theologians and pastors of many Christian traditions. After setting the context of Calvin’s life and times, this course will examine select key theological ideas in Calvin’s writings. The course will examine significant retrievals and prominent criticisms of Calvin’s theology in order to assess its value for the church’s life and ministry today.

TH575 Malcolm, Martin, Baldwin, and the Church
Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., and James Baldwin were seminal figures in the Civil Rights Movement with diverse approaches to establishing racial justice. We will engage their critique of both American society and the Christian faith in an attempt to understand our role as Christians dealing with race and religion in the 21st century.

TH585 Christianity in China
Time magazine reporter David Aikman’s book Jesus in Beijing points to the importance of this topic in its subtitle: “How Christianity is transforming China and changing the global balance of power.” In this course we will study Chinese Christianity from its earliest appearance to its contemporary expressions, learning about its history, theology, and impact. Along the way we will deal with issues such as enculturation, missions, politics, and gender. 1.5 cr

TH590 Reading the Bible with the Dead: Retrieving Pre-modern Biblical Interpretation
This course explores the way in which reading the Bible in the company of pre-modern interpreters can benefit the life and ministry of the church today. After considering the basic features of a pre-modern approach to scripture, the course will focus upon challenging biblical texts (e.g., Hagar, Psalms of cursing, etc.), exploring the new insights that patristic, medieval, and Reformation-era interpreters can bring in helping us proclaiming scripture as God’s word. 1.5 cr

TH618 Theological German
Inductive study of basic German grammar and syntax and of selected texts in contemporary German theology. (Offered on request.)
TH505 Creation Calling
Creation is loved into being and sustained by the Triune God, who also has a glorious eschatological future for it. Human beings are called to keep it in ways that are consonant with God’s purposes, but instead, creation calls out in protest at having to bear the consequences of our alienation from God. Through readings, film, guest speakers, and field trips, this course will help us to think with scriptural and theological wisdom about the doctrine of creation and ‘creation care’ issues, and will also help us to discover ways to act well towards the rest of creation in our various ministry settings. 1.5 cr

TH527 Reformed and Ethical
The course will include readings from major figures in ethics from the Reformed tradition, including, but not limited to Abraham Kuyper, H. Richard Niebuhr and Nicholas Wolterstorff. The goal is for you to set your ethical compass in light of what others in the Reformed tradition have done. 1.5 cr

TH546 War, Peace and Peacemaking
We will consider Christian views on war, peace and peacemaking. We will survey some of the key theological and biblical perspectives on war that have shaped the history of the church, look more carefully at various Christian responses to select wars and U.S. policies, and explore the thought and practices of Christian movements of peace and reconciliation.

TH566 God and Mammon
In this course, we will wrestle with biblical and theological foundations for thinking about economics and money, engage with different traditions of economic and political thinking within Christianity, and also engage with concrete examples of individuals, communities and organizations that are self-conssciously engaged in these economic matters.

TH589 Theology of the Book of Numbers
This course seeks to bridge biblical studies and theology, focusing on the narratives and laws of the book of Numbers. Theological themes and issues treated include Israelite worship practices, the moral vision indicated by its laws, the idea of wilderness, stories of temptations and sin, war, the place of women, and its view of God. We will study the book with an eye to the impact this important Old Testament book has had on Judaism and the New Testament and might have on Christian theology and practice.

Theology:

TH126 Summative Examination
The task of the summative examination is to address a contemporary issue deeply and competently in a way that demonstrates integrated reflection on Scripture, theology and Christian practice. This course is only for the Master of Arts program.

TH450 RCA Standards
A survey of the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort, and the Belhar Confession designed to highlight distinctive elements of the Reformed tradition and to prepare RCA candidates for their ordination examinations. (MPCA) Prereq: TH113, TH114

TH511 Theology and Film
This course will explore a theology of culture through a concentrated focus on theology and film. Students will view, discuss, and analyze a wide selection of films, cultivate a biblically informed and theologically robust posture for engaging culture and consider its role in Christian discipleship and ministry. 1.5 cr

TH514 Theology of the Word: God’s Word as Divine Action
This course explores the surprising reality that God’s speech is an action—that the Triune God is at work in and through the Word in the church and the world. Students will explore this issue in the doctrine of God and revelation with an eye toward renewing the church’s ministry of word and sacrament. Readings will include works in biblical studies, historical theology, and contemporary systematic theology. TH113 recommended but not required. 1.5 cr

TH518 & TH518 Eschatology: Christian Hope and the Last Things
Eschatology (the study of the “last things”) concerns Christian hope for the future consummation of all of God’s promises and purposes and what this means for Christian living today. Drawing on biblical scholars and theologians past and present, as well as art, music, and literature, this course will explore scripturally-founded contours for thinking wisely about the “last things,” and help us to recognize the impact of our eschatological views on our discipleship now.

TH524 Theologies of Prayer: Petition, Contemplation, and the Triune God
How does the work of the Triune God relate to the praying life of Christians? This course explores two biblical and theological traditions of Christian prayer with an eye toward discerning how God is active in and through them: petitionary prayer and contemplative prayer. After a section focusing upon the New Testament and petitionary prayer (especially prayers for healing), the course explores the writings of two major theologians: Karl Barth on petitionary prayer, and Sarah Coakley on contemplative and charismatic approaches to prayer. 1.5 cr

TH526 Seminar in Contemporary Theology
In this seminar we will read, discuss, present on and write about an important work or works in contemporary theology. It is an opportunity to go deeper into important theological issues and tests in a small seminar setting. 1.5 cr. Prereq: TH114

TH528 From Scripture to Theology: Topical Readings in the Theological Interpretation of Scripture
This course seeks to bridge biblical studies and theology by focusing upon a key biblical and theological topic for examination. While the specific topic rotates, the course explores ways in which biblical and theological studies can be received in a complementary way, receiving the Bible as God’s word for the church today.

TH549 Martin Luther: The Gospel and the Christian Life
Martin Luther’s writings have been extraordinarily influential as well as controversial for pastors and theologians since the sixteenth century. After setting the context of Luther’s life and times, this course will focus upon two areas of his work which continue to be particularly provocative and potent today: the meaning of the gospel, and the nature of the Christian life, including Christian freedom, prayer and worship, the suffering of Christians, and union with Christ. Throughout the course, we will seek to both assess Luther’s theology and retrieve insights that edify the church’s life and ministry in today’s context. 1.5 cr

TH552 Karl Barth: Life and Theology
It is difficult to overestimate the importance of Barth’s theology for contemporary Christian thought. Our course will include an overview of Barth’s life and the forces
TH553 Interreligious Witness and Dialogue
In North America as well as the broader world, the church’s life and witness plays out in multifaith social contexts. This course examines theological orientations for understanding religions and religious traditions and explores proposals for the church’s approach to confident witness in a spirit of mutual hospitality and humility. 1.5 cr

TH565 Atonement Theology
“Christ has died; Christ is risen. Christ will come again” – these are the familiar affirmations of the communion liturgy. They express the central Christian claim that Jesus is Lord and Savior. This seminar course will examine some of the most important statements of the doctrine of the atonement in the Christian tradition. It will include readings from Scripture, Athanasius, Augustine, Anselm, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, John McLeod Campbell, Katherine Tanner, and others who express both the central conviction and the remarkable variation in Christian atonement theology. 1.5 cr

TH577 Global Christianity and the Mission of the Church
Explores how Christianity has become a global faith. Special attention is given to the developments in Asia and Africa where the Church has recently experienced explosive growth as well as tensions with Islamic cultures.

TH580 Theology of the Lord’s Supper
Explores the biblical and theological dimensions of the Lord’s Supper, with an eye on the development of the contemporary church. Readings draw from various Christian traditions and explore the Lord’s Supper in relation to topics such as biblical foundations for eucharistic theology, the history of eucharistic theology, and the implications of the Supper for discipleship and the church’s witness. 1.5 cr

TH581 Women and Theology
This course explores the way in which the dismantling of patriarchy is inspired by and transforms the study of theology. In conversation with the Christian tradition, its primary areas of concern are the interpretation of the Bible, doctrines, rituals, and ethics. Since this theological work traverses boundaries of class, race, and nationality, we read a diverse collection of voices. Because feminist concerns also cross over religious boundaries, the study broadens to include women of Judaism and Islam, with special attention to how interreligious work might be conceived in a feminist perspective. The examination of women’s experience, both positive and negative, invites the development of a theologically informed practice that aims at the flourishing of all humanity. 1.5 cr

TH584 Communion with God and Justification: Roman Catholic and Reformed Perspectives
How are sinners made right with God? What is the nature of life in Christ, in communion with God? After introducing contemporary debates on this issue in biblical studies, this course explores how two significant theologians in history would respond: Thomas Aquinas (Roman Catholic), and John Owen (Reformed). Through this examination, this course explores different ways to retrieve the rich biblical language and teaching regarding union with Christ, communion with God, justification, and sanctification. 1.5 cr

TH586 Issues in Contemporary Islam
An introduction to current debates in the study of Islam. Cultural practices, tradition, and belief will be explored. Gender and state politics, which involve the spiritual, intellectual and social life of Muslims in both public and private realms of their existence, are particularly important. This course is taught by a Christian anthropologist who is a former Muslim. The class will analyze historical and empirical forms that Islamic discourses and practice take, and will invite students to test and explore the truth-claims and worldviews presented in such discourses and practices. 1.5 cr

TH591 African-American Religious Experience
The unique experience of African-Americans in the United States has led to a particular expression of Christianity. We will evaluate the historical, sociological, political, and methodological components of African-American religious experience, and consider how this experience challenges our theology, our practice, and our self-understanding.

TH592 Christian Perspectives on the Problem of Evil and Suffering
From its inception, Christianity has struggled with the tension between God’s love and the persistent and immense presence of evil and suffering in the world. This course will examine various approaches to evil/suffering espoused by Christian thinkers throughout history, with a view toward strengthening our claim that God is love—even in a world of pain. 1.5 cr

TH621 Apologetics in Post-Christian Culture
Helps students to interpret and commend the Christian faith in a non-Christian culture. If we are to be effective apologists today, we must have a clear understanding of and a firm conviction about the core beliefs of the Christian church, as well as a keen awareness of the cultures in which they are received and interpreted.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FIELD

Required Courses:

MN100 Worship Foundations
This course is an exploration of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian worship. 1.5 cr

MN101 Preaching Foundations
First-year students explore and grasp a biblical and Reformed vision of preaching. Includes a sermon preparation workshop and a “lab” in which written and preached sermons are carefully analyzed by faculty and peers. Significant homiletical concerns are presented, discussed, clarified, and applied to the task of preaching.

MN102 Practice of Discipleship
Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples. In this course, learners will explore how Christian practices have shaped them into disciples and learn how to use these practices in the making of 21st century disciples.

MN105 Pastor as Person
This course explores the ways in which a minister’s life history, spiritual growth, and vocation intersect and shape his/her personal and professional identity. Students will reflect on their own psychological and spiritual development and their opportunities for personal growth. They will develop their own particular plans for self-care. 1.5 cr

MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care
In this introductory course, students explore giving counsel and offering care as ministers of Word and sacrament. They develop an understanding of the fundamental principles of pastoral care and acquire basic skills required for giving counsel and offering care. Numerous pastoral themes are
addressed in lectures, learning labs, and small group interaction. Students will be encouraged to develop their own pastoral presence in offering counsel and care.

**MN116 Introduction to Disability and the Church**
Introduces different conceptions, definitions, and expressions of disability in the United States. Gives general overview of the history of disability in the U.S. and introduces students to innovative practitioners who paved the way for today's disability theology. Covers service systems and advocacy groups that support person with disabilities. Required for GCDM, elective for other programs.

**MN120 Leadership**
An introduction to the theory and practice of Christian leadership from a missional and theological perspective. For seniors.

**MN124 Practice of Worship and Preaching**
This course invites students to deepen their theological understanding of both preaching and worship while they practice the crafts employed in these two of the Church's most central tasks.

**WTS-Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity**

**MN103 Lesslie Newbigin and the Good of the City**
This course examines Bishop Lesslie Newbigin's missionary strategy for the post-Christian culture of the West and his vision for the revitalization of the churches in the West. Particular attention will be paid to his theological unity of the church, his theological approach to cultural and religious pluralism, his ecclesiology and critique of the theology and ecclesial practice of the churches in the West, and his call for missional leadership. Students will become conversant with Newbigin's life and work, as well as that of some of his primary "conversation partners," with a view to developing an informed contemporary approach for their own missional engagement for the good of the city. Offered in fall with 12 hr intensive in Holland, MI.

**MN106 The Peace of the City**
Cities hold countless human stories of innovation, conflict, and declension. Because of their complexity, understanding cities requires careful interdisciplinary study that moves beyond familiar tropes and false narratives. This course offers part historical survey, part sociological study, and part theological reflection on the triumph and tragedy of cities. We will learn about urban development in a variety of global contexts, from Bangalore to Rio de Janeiro to San Francisco. We will focus on how cities work and what leads to their flourishing, with the goal of preparing students for wise ministry engagement in a wide range of urban settings. J-Term with 36 hr intensive in San Francisco.

**MN108 The Urban Church**
This course will explore the components of a missional ecclesiology for the city, with implications for preaching, worship, spiritual formation, and discipleship. The urban church's involvement in social justice, faith and work, church planting, and other important opportunities for engagement will be explored. The urban environments of North America will be the cultural context for this course. Offered in spring with 36 hr intensive in Holland, MI.

**MN117 Urban Church Planting**
This course will explore the theology, mission and practice of planting churches in cities, with implications for leadership formation, preaching, worship, community & spiritual formation. J-Term with 36 hr intensive in San Francisco.

**MN125 Preaching in an Urban Context**
This course introduces students to the theology and the practice of sermon design and delivery in a post-Christian urban context. Students will be captivated by a biblical-Reformed theology of preaching, the unique role of sermons in forming and leading mission-focused communities, and the formative role of sermon making in the pastor's own spiritual life. Students will begin mastery of homiletical skills such as the movement from text to sermon, reading cultural and congregational contexts, strategic use of sermon outlines, and the life of prayer in preaching. A San Francisco January intensive exposes students to top tier communicators including fellow preachers, comedians, and professional announcers, and features a "sermon lab" in which written and preached sermons will be assessed by faculty and peers. J-Term with 36 hr intensive in San Francisco.

**MN126 Worship in an Urban Context**
This course explores the theology and practice of worship in the urban context. Students will develop a biblical-theological understanding of what it means for worship to be Reformed, liturgical, missional and contextual. They will gain confidence and experience in leading worship in urban and missional contexts. Students will increase their capacity and skill in planning and leading weekly corporate worship. The course will also cover occasional services (i.e., wedding, funeral, ordination, installation, commissioning, healing and wholeness), the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and the practice of preaching in relation to other key aspects of worship. Case studies will be used to grow in awareness of what is happening in worship and to understand helpful evaluation and feedback.

**Dual Track Master of Divinity-Master of Social Work**

**MN331 Dual Track Cohort Group**
Meets bi-weekly during the first year of the Dual Track degree program. 1.5 cr

**MN332 Dual Track Cohort Group**
Meets weekly during the second year of the Dual Track degree program. 1.5 cr

**MN333 Dual Track Cohort Group**
Meets online during the third year of the Dual Track degree program. 1.5 cr

**MN334 Dual Track Cohort Group**
Meets online during the fourth year of the Dual Track degree program. 1.5 cr

**Pastoral Care and Counseling:**

**MN513 Basic Clinical Pastoral Education**
A pastoral ministry practicum that integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting with special attention given to the person in ministry. A basic practicum accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. 6 cr

**MN513N Basic Clinical Pastoral Education – non-accredited**
A pastoral ministry practicum that integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting with special attention given to the person in ministry. Ministry is not completed in an accredited CPE setting. 6 cr

**MN517 Faithful and Effective Response to Domestic Violence**
Explores the theories, resources, and strategies of pastoral and congregational care to respond faithfully and effectively to the issue of domestic violence based on theological understandings of God and human experience. This course draws upon the insights of psychology, sociology, and theology to guide pastoral and congregational care into a more faithful and effective praxis. The course draws from scriptural, theological, socio-scientific, and experiential resources and invites students to engage those resources in ways that enhance their ability to offer care and to lead communities of care in response to the issue of domestic violence.

**MN529 From Baptism to Burial: Pastoral Essentials**
From baptism to burials, pastoral work is filled with opportunities to minister amidst the most glorious and difficult moments of congregational life. In this course, major pastoral responsibilities are covered in both content and practice, including baptism, pre-marital counseling, rehearsals and weddings, and funeral services/burials. Theological, biblical, psychological, and ethical foundations and frameworks will be explored. Best practices for issues such as
policies, fees, and boundaries will also be covered. Special attention will be given to how these unique opportunities serve the mission of God. 1.5 cr

MNS38 Transforming Conflict from the Inside Out
This course explores multiple layers of conflict—intrapersonal, interpersonal, and communal—as opportunities for transformation. Students will develop a theology of compassion and learn the skills of compassionate communication as a means of connecting to God, self, and others in the midst of difference, disagreement, and conflict. The course seeks to enhance specific competencies in speaking honestly, listening empathetically, responding to criticism, staying in dialogue, dealing with guilt and grief, and using restorative circles for community-wide crises. Experientially based; includes case studies, role plays, journaling, and small group work.

MNS40 The Mindful Life
Recent developments in interpersonal neurobiology reveal more clearly than ever the relational nature of human beings. This conversation intersects with growing interest in Eastern forms of meditation, research on shame and wholeness, new therapeutic models for growth and change, and renewed Christian interest in contemplative practices. This course employs a biblical/theological lens as it explores current developments theoretically and practically for Christians and skeptics alike who long to flourish in a broken world. 1.5 cr

MNS42 Addictions
This course will provide a framework for engaging the dynamics of addictions. These addictive dynamics will be examined through a theological lens which honors the relational narratives that we all possess. Diagnosis, conceptualization, treatment and recovery will be engaged through this lens.

MNS56 Psychology and Christian Spirituality
There is a strong tradition of psychological wisdom with the contemplative Christian tradition. In fact, the contemplative tradition provides a kind of framework for self-reflection, for healthy intimacy, and for genuine spirituality. Looking at resources from Augustine and Calvin, Evagrius and Theresa, we will see that contemporary ministry, pastoral care, and mission can all be aided by a rich and deep understanding of Christian spirituality.

MNS58 Ministry, Aging and Dementia
Aging presents us with both pastoral challenges and important gifts for individuals and the body of Christ. How do we walk well with and learn from those who are in the final stage of their earthly journeys? One increasingly common aspect of aging that acutely challenges the faith, hope, and love of all of us is dementia. Together we will explore theological and pastoral resources for dealing faithfully with those who suffer from dementia, and those who care for them. 1.5 cr

Religious Education

MNS515 Covenantal Perspectives and Cultural Influences on Youth Ministry
This course will seek to explore cultural changes and influences within the past three decades that are shaping our understanding of adolescents today, all within the framework of historical perspectives on covenant theology. We'll further examine how an inter-generational approach to youth ministry and a "shared stories" strategy could create the necessary context for deepened relationships that foster sticky faith in youth.

MNS18 Talking the Talk: Beyond and Behind Christian Clichés
This course will focus on Christian, denominational, and congregational discourses, and how the ways we speak of and address God, the Bible translations we choose, the words we import from other faith traditions, and our relationship to historic churches imbedded in class systems and their language cultures shape our practice of faith. 1.5 cr

MNS530 Christian Formation in Gospel Communities
This course is designed for those contemplating pastoral ministry or educational ministry in a congregational context or Gospel community. Themes include designing and implementing education programs, evaluating and selecting curriculum resources, exploring emerging models of faith formation, and the pastor as teacher.

MNS531 Christian Formation of Children and Youth
This elective course focuses on the education and faith formation of youth and children. Attention will be given to the family and intergenerational settings as contexts for faith formation, as well as the faith development of children and youth.

MNS533/MNS533 Justice, Discipleship, and the Church
This course explores how the church can form disciples with a vision of justice. It engages the biblical and theological roots of Christian commitments to justice and places contemporary interest in social justice within a larger biblical, theological, and historical context. Students will have the opportunity to articulate a biblical theology of justice and explore how the church can shape disciples with a lifelong commitment to justice. 1.5 cr

MNS573 The Practice of Youth Ministry
Students will be introduced to various models of youth ministry and will become familiar with the theological and social scientific resources that will aid them in evaluating and reforming the practice of congregational and para-church ministry. Students will consider theories of development, articulate a theological foundation for youth ministry, and develop an appreciation for the potential impact of peer-to-peer ministry. They will also explore some of the challenges faced by youth ministers and consider how technology factors into discipling networked youth.

MNS574 Foundations of Youth Ministry
This course provides the foundational concepts and best practices to prepare the student for ministry to adolescents in both a church and non-church settings. The course will provide a basic understanding of adolescent development, contemporary culture, and incarnational witness. The course is designed to help the student to think and respond theologically to the needs and expectations of adolescents and provides practical tools enabling the student to design a theologically sound youth ministry program suitable in any context. 1.5 cr

Worship and Preaching

MNS451 Worship (RCA)
Drawing from Scripture and Reformed confessions and liturgies, and in sympathetic discussion with a wide range of other worshiping traditions, this course will present, discuss, clarify, and apply a Reformed vision of worship to congregational settings in the RCA in the United States and Canada. 3 cr (MFCA)

MNS506 By Christ, Washed and Well Fed
Word and Sacrament are gifts by which Christ himself gives us life—his life. With these gifts, Christ refreshes and sustains us in that life, communally and personally. This course will be a robust theological, pastoral, missional and liturgical exploration of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We’ll listen for the Spirit to discover how we—each according to our calling and context—might set forth the gifts of God for the people of God faithfully and well.

MNS507 Models of the Lord’s Supper
The Lord’s Supper is layered with biblical-theological meaning, as its celebration rehearses for us the scope of salvation history, creation to re-creation. While spoken with different accents, these biblical-theological themes are common to every Christian tradition. By engaging several of these themes expressed pastorally by a voice from the Roman Catholic tradition, we will explore together the richness of these themes in the Reformed tradition. 1.5 cr
MN511 Spiritual Writing
An intensive creative workshop for those interested in writing, however tangentially, about matters of faith. We will focus our attention on nonfiction prose in which the writer’s own life experience or personal opinions are placed in the foreground. Students will consider the work of specific Christian authors. This course will suit those who enjoy literature, as well as those aspiring to publish or preach. No creative writing experience necessary. 1.5 cr

MN512 Living Water
Baptism is steeped with biblical-theological meaning. It has profound significance for the life and ministries of a church community (though we don’t dwell on this significance, much less dwell on it imaginatively), as well as the life, ministry, and even death of each of its members. In this course, we will immerse ourselves in Baptism generally considered, and then explore its liturgical-pastoral expression among God’s people at seminal moments in communal ministry and personal discipleship. 1.5 cr

MN543 Worshipping with Jesus, the Twelve and the Early Church
This course is designed to provide each participant with the time and space to explore and evaluate the worshipping experiences and practices of Jesus, his disciples and those who followed him in the early centuries of the Christian movement. The prize of the course will be to think deeply and complexly about those experiences and practices and through the implementation of “appreciative inquiry” be prepared to draw the best of our ancient past into our postmodern future. 1.5 cr

MN548 Preaching and the Missional Imagination
In recent years there has been an avalanche of literature about what it means to be a missional church. Curiously, so much of this literature is silent on the task of preaching. In many cases, preaching is even seen as a barrier to “going missional.” This course will explore the central but often neglected role of Word and Sacrament in leading a church that is seeking to be both missional and Reformed. 1.5 cr

MN549 Preaching in the Dark (Preaching Practices for Gospel/Culture Engagement)
In this course we will consider a range of ways to think about the relationship between the gospel and our culture(s) and practice ways of faithful and fruitful preaching on the cultural issues confronting the church in the early part of the 21st century. 1.5 cr

MN550 Keeping and Talking the Word
A course designed to both consider and practice the centuries-long spiritual discipline of scripture interiorization and pre-critical exegesis. With specific consideration to the nature and history of the oral transmission of the scriptures and building on specific training in contemplative exegesis, each participant will prepare and perform selected portions of the biblical witness and show sympathetic evidence of a capacity for pre-critical biblical interpretation. 1.5 cr

MN551 The Holy Spirit and Christian Worship
Nothing good transpires apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. Affirming this triune truth, we will explore together the work of the person of the Holy Spirit, biblically and theologically understood, as it intersects with the movements of Christian worship. A variety of theologians, confessions, and worship resources will be engaged, including those of the Reformed tradition past and present.

MN552 The Worship of Yesterday for Today
We will listen and look closely to the worship of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us, perhaps long before us. This will be a socio-archeological pursuit for the refreshment of our understanding of Christian worship and the renewing of our practice of Christian worship today. Elements include Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, the Word, prayer, postures, texts, visuals, spatial design: the whole scope of the experience of worship.

MN553 The Church’s Common Chord: The History, Theology and Practice of Music in Christian Worship
Students will chart key historical developments in the use of music in worship. They will encounter various theologies of artistic expression, as well as profound theological themes and motifs expressed in hymnody, spirituals and popular songs. Students will learn applied skills such as basic music notation, reading and writing music, copyright law, amplification techniques, and performance and ensemble. 1.5 cr

MN554 Preaching the Christian Year
The Christian calendar provides a counter-cultural means for the Church to mark time – i.e., to remember, celebrate, and anticipate. This course will explore how to root preaching not first in our own perceived needs, but in the life and person of Jesus whom we follow. Drawing upon historical and contemporary sources, we will learn about the church year itself – its primary themes, narratives, and moods. Students will then prepare and preach at least three sermons and will prepare a draft preaching calendar with scripture texts and topics for Advent through Ordinary Time.

MN556 21st Century Spirituality for a Secular Age
This course explores spiritual resources for sustainable ministry in a secular age, including resources for both personal transformation and creative ways of engaging spiritual formation in the church amidst changing ecclesial realities. We’ll explore significant voices for contemporary spirituality in a secular age include Thomas Merton, Charles Taylor, Etty Hillesum, Elizabeth O’Connor, Richard Rohr, David Whyte, Henri Nouwen, Mary Oliver, Paulo Coelho, Thomas Keating, James Finley, Ilija Delio and more. Insights for wise and faithful Christian engagement in a re-enchanted secular world will be explored, and the practice of daily contemplative prayer encouraged.

MN562 Liturgical Shenanigans: Ritual Theory and Christian Formation
Rituals are enacted everyday by humans in all cultures—at theaters and stadiums, libraries and marketplaces, bathrooms and fire pits, as well as places of worship. They are one of the most important ways we both express and shape our understanding of the meaning of life. The course will have three primary learning modes: 1) we will observe ritual activity in culture (our own and others’) that either fits or fights the gospel; 2) we will engage readings at the intersection of cultural anthropology and practical theology; and 3) we’ll experiment with liturgical shenanigans—attending to the work of the Spirit in and through our play in the neighborhood of symbol, performance, embodiment, and transcendence. 1.5 cr

MN583 We All Worship: Disability and Worship
Description tba. 1.5 cr

MN585 Issues in Contemporary and Emerging Worship
Exploration of key issues in present-day liturgical enculturation – i.e., what it means for the church to worship authentically and faithfully in an increasingly postmodern world. We will attend to recent historically significant cultural impulses (e.g. the church growth movement, charismatic movement, liturgical renewal movement, and increasing cultural diversity). Then we will think seriously about the changing use of the arts (music and presentation technology) to express and shape the church’s devotion. Thirdly we will explore shifting postmodern paradigms of knowing, praying, and being-in-community in order to see how they affect the central worship practices of the church.

MN592 Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry
Carefully examines the role and use of language in worship, looking at Contemporary Worship Music, hymns, prayers, responsive readings, sermons, etc. Students renew appreciation for and
understand the beauty and power of words in worship. They become better equipped, by inspiration and weekly exercises, to employ language more intentionally in worship preparation for the greater glory of God and the greater blessing of God's people. 1.5 cr

MNS94 Ancient Future Preaching
A course designed to provide each person with the time and space to explore and evaluate instincts and patterns of preaching in the earliest years of the Christian movement, with a view toward implementing them in the early similar social and cultural context(s) in which we find ourselves today.

Leadership:

MN121 Church Governance and Denominational Standards (required for RCA candidates)
Within the context of an overall theology of church governance, explores the candidate’s specific ecclesiastical tradition (including polity and standards) as a framework for mission.

MN450 RCA Polity
A survey of the Book of Church Order and the organizational theory, structure, and function of the Reformed Church in America. 3 cr (MFCA)

MNS01 Multicultural Ministry: Theory and Practice
This course examines the paradigms, practices, and challenges of multicultural ministry with a particular focus on urban contexts. We begin the course by looking at biblical and theological paradigms related to multiculturalism followed by an examination of the role of race, ethnicity and cultural specificity in adhesion and tension with communities of faith. In the second half of the course we work toward understanding the intersections between multicultural realities and practical aspects of Christian ministry within the church.

MN503 Leadership Summit
This course is in partnership with the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit (GLS). Online course will occur prior to and after the intensive. The purpose of this course is to appreciatively and critically engage The Global Leadership Summit seeking to explore, question, and develop the skills, practices, and habits for leading Christian communities. Students participate in the summit (most often on-site in Barrington, IL). Attendance in the Summit is required to receive a grade for the course.

MNS05 Leadership Development for Missional Congregational Ministry
Explores the integration of biblical hermeneutics, congregational leadership, and ministry practices. Focuses initially on the redemptive story arc of scripture as it informs community missional developments, followed by specific attention to congregational ministry initiatives, assessments, and outcomes.

MNS08 Writing (and Reading) for the Pastoral Life
Ecclesiastes 12 says that there is no end to the making of many books, and in the pastoral life there is no end to the writing and saying of many words. Words have enormous power—after all, it was with words that God spoke his creation into being. This course will help students choose and use words with care and thoughtfulness. We will work toward becoming better writers (and readers), and in the process become better preachers, teachers and pastors. 1.5 cr

MNS50 Foundations for Church Planting
Initiatives for planting new churches arise from particular notions about why it should be done, how it should be done, and what the outcome should look like. Such visions are diverse, and often unconsciously or un-critically assumed. This course examines what is at stake theologically and sociologically with particular choices regarding rationale, method, and aim. It culminates for each student in a position paper articulating a philosophy of church planting to which his or her sense of call corresponds. 1.5 cr.

MNS52 Ministry through Technology
This course will have a twofold focus on technology. First, it will entail an examination of Christian engagement with an increasingly technological world. Second, it will look at the practical use of technology in ministry. This will include ways in which technology can be effectively utilized to support ministry. 1.5 cr

MNS52 Leadership as Practical Theologian
This course introduces various models of practical theology, including confessional, congregational, feminist, and intercultural, with the goal of helping students develop their identity as Christian leaders. Students will learn hermeneutical lenses drawn from practical theology for leading communities of faith in the midst of crisis and change. Special attention will be given to integrating theology, the social sciences, and practices of ministry.

MNS52 Power and Authority
Power and Authority are theological claims and sociological phenomena constantly at work in the life of the church, generally, and the pastoral vocation, specifically. Inherent to the church as “life together” are the ongoing negotiations of corporate authority (legitimacy) and exerting power (influence). This seminar course will examine power and authority biblically, theologically, and sociologically in expectation of deepening one’s understanding and practice of pastoral leadership.

MNS59 Living the Christian Life
According to Pop Christian Culture
Through generous and critical engagement with recent best-selling Christian books, this course will explore the different visions of living the Christian life that emerge. We will look at authors that “people in the pews” are reading, like Francis Chan, Bob Goff, Sarah Young, Rob Bell, Shane Claiborne, and Ann Voskamp. We will also engage with some theological, classical, and non-traditional Christian voices to explore their visions of the Christian life. Through this course students will be invited to practice reading with discernment, to articulate their convictions about living the Christian life, and to imagine how to encourage faithful living in their current and future ministry settings.

MNS54 Human Sexuality
This course will deepen student understanding of human sexuality. Students will be invited to reflect on their personal narrative as it relates to sex and sexuality. Course topics will include sexuality and gender identity, sexual function, sexual compulsion, and sexual abuse. The role of desire and shame will be explored as they relate to human sexuality. Students will be encouraged reflect on internal responses in order to engage this vulnerable topic with empathy and curiosity. 1.5 cr

MNS54 Asset-Based Community Development
In this course a student will learn principles and practices of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), consider organizational options for hosting and implementing ABCD, and reimagine church as great neighbor and participant in ABCD. ABCD is a philosophy and way of life that intentionally entwines my story, our neighborhood story, and God’s redemption story.

MNS546 Ministry in the Urban Context
Leadership training for ministry in the urban context is the goal of this class. Areas of exploration will include administration, spirituality, self-care, youth ministry, evangelism, and the integration of theology and practice of ministry for the urban context.

MNS64 Practice of Evangelism
The term “evangelism” is often perceived as a four-letter word, freighted with negative connotations in our society and even in church. In this course students will overview the biblical foundations of evangelism, consider different theologies and practices of evangelism across time periods, cultures, and Christian traditions. Students will also explore and evaluate theologies of conversion. Finally, students will develop and articulate a context-dependent theology of evangelism and will participate in the practice of evangelism. 1.5 cr
MN570 Worldview, Power and Desire: The Matrix of Leadership
We will read two significant recent reflections on culture and Christianity, discuss the implications of what they put forward, identify the implications for Christian formation, and express the outcomes for pastoral leadership. 1.5 cr

MN576 Culinary Culture in Black Religious Experience
This course will explore the historical, social, cultural, theological, ethnographic, and practical components of African American religious life and foodways culture. We will interrogate the convergence of food, faith, community, and identity formation. Particular attention will be paid to the historical relationship between eating and church life, highlighting diverse and creative forms of culinary expression in the African American faith tradition and the ways in which food becomes transformative for those struggling for human dignity. 1.5 cr

MN581/MN581 Ministry and Margins
Explores the boundary-crossing ministry of Jesus, in particular how he redefined the margin and the center with a Kingdom perspective. The class will consider ways in which ministry to and with those who are often marginalized in our society can amplify the witness of our congregations. People groups that are underserved include, but are not limited to, the elder or homebound, people suffering from dementia, people in group homes, people struggling with literacy, people with disabilities, people living in poverty, immigrant communities, and people without homes. 1.5 cr

MN586/MN586 Disability and Community Supports
Inclusive faith communities have the power to touch the lives of people with disabilities and their families in multiple ways but often have a difficult time talking and working with “secular” agencies, providers and advocacy groups. This course explores the spiritual foundations in current issues in disability services and supports the potential roles of faith communities to address them, resources from other perspectives that congregations can use, and effective strategies for dialogue and partnership with non-faith based agencies and organizations. 1.5 cr

MN587 Living into Community: Friendship House
Course for those who want to deepen their pastoral sensitivities, leadership, identity and skill to and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Intended for residents of Friendship House but is open to other interested students with the professor’s permission. 1.5 cr

MN588 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability Travel Seminar
The vision of the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability is to expand the depth and breadth of theological inquiry and resources that address and include the gifts, needs, and contributions of people with disabilities and their families to theological learning and religious practice. Event is four days and has included faculty such as Stanley Hauerwas, Hans Reinders, John Swinton, Amos Yong, Candida Moss, and Erik Carter. 1.5 cr

MN589 Reformed Church in America Studies
An intensive study of the history and life of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). Different instructors teach a four module sequence including RCA Polity, RCA Standards, RCA History & Mission, and RCA Worship. Completing the modules prepares candidates for ministry in the RCA, for successful completion of classis examinations, and for full participation in the life of the denomination. 9 cr

MN590 Deaf Theology and Ministry
Course description tba. Course taught by Kirk Van Gilder, Assistant Professor of Religion, Gallaudet University 1.5 cr

MN591 Strategies for an Inclusive Church
This course addresses practical strategies and promising pathways for moving beyond proclamations of inclusiveness and toward practices of invitation, hospitality, and belonging. Students will learn about effective starting points, supports, and strategies for enabling people with disabilities and their families to participate deeply in congregational life and experience belonging within a church community. 1.5 cr

MN592 Practicing the Presence of People: Jean Vanier and the Ministry of Nurture
This course explores the unique vocation of practicing presence. Christians are called to the practice of God’s presence, but we in turn become that very presence to the other—the spouse and the stranger, persons with disabilities and the disenfranchised—whoever the “other” may be. In this course, we will explore the unique ministry of presence through Jean Vanier and L’Arche, communities of people with disabilities around the world. We will come to understand what “presence” means, how to identify obstacles to presence (in ourselves and in communities), and how to nurture a loving attentiveness to the other. 1.5 cr

FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation (J-Term)
A spiritual retreat using autobiography, peer engagement, and the spiritual disciplines to assist students in clarifying and embracing God’s call upon their lives. Also includes a module on personal and organizational finance. 1.5 cr

FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience (J-Term)
Provides cognitive and experiential knowledge of the global character of the church’s witness and mission in North America and around the world, with concern for the problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism.

FR116 Entering and Exploring Christian Ministry
This unit explores the elements of fruitful theological field education, the context for ministry is understood and the management of tasks and people for ministry is reviewed.

FR117 Engaging Christian Ministry I
FR118 Engaging Christian Ministry II
FR119 Engaging Christian Ministry III
DL Students are assigned to a teaching church setting and are introduced to the dimensions of theological field education (theological inquiry, social awareness, self-awareness, and leadership agility) through case study pedagogy. Students participate during the intensive exploring spiritual disciplines (116), anti-racism (117), hospitality (118), and wholeness (119). Each semester is 1.5 cr.

FR121 Entering Christian Ministry
Students are assigned to a teaching church setting and are introduced to the dimensions of theological field education (theological inquiry, social awareness, self-awareness, and leadership agility) through case study pedagogy. 1.5 cr

FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry
Continuing the journey in formation for ministry, students explore basic ministerial tasks centered in congregational life. (However, many of these are transferable to any ministry or social service agency.) Exploring aspects of ministry with the help of pastor(s) and lay leaders facilitates clarity around the student’s call to ministry. Students learn and grow to appreciate these service elements of ministry that are often unseen but essential for effective Christian ministry. There are three components: the Teaching Church (a supervised ministry setting), a peer group commitment, and course assignments. 1.5 cr

FR123 Engaging Christian Ministry
Students are given the opportunity to engage deeply in a ministry competency they are passionate about or have been longing to explore. After being sagely directed into the practice of Christian ministry in FR121 and 122, students embrace their learning in this self-directed opportunity in a ministry setting. Each student designs a learning covenant with a mentor focusing on a ministry area such as: Preaching and Worship, Leadership and Administration, Evangelism, Social Justice/Advocacy, Education and Faith
FR124 Leading Christian Ministry
Students write a learning covenant with a ministry focus that will further explore and deepen their sense of calling and understanding of pastoral leadership. 1.5 cr

FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry
This 400-hour full-time supervised ministry experience requires the student to exercise a wide range of ministerial skills at the highest personal, professional, and pastoral levels. This requirement may be satisfied in a number of settings including participation in Clinical Pastoral Education, parachurch ministries, cross-cultural ministries, and congregational ministry. Due to the significant level of ministerial and educational investment, it is highly recommended that the student invest time in a discernment process with the Formation for Ministry office before selecting a placement. This learning experience will be evaluated by the student, a supervising mentor, and a lay support committee.

FR130A&B Internship I
FR131A&B Internship II
The embedded internship allows the WTS-Newbigin student to utilize his or her existing ministry setting in a church plant, renewal city, or city-center as the internship setting. Students serve at least 125 hours per semester for four semesters. Students will be introduced to the missional vision and practices of church leadership, church planting and urban church renewal in their Newbigin coursework and will process the leadership experience alongside a mentor and peer cohort. A third component of the embedded internship will focus on issues of ongoing spiritual and ministerial formation.

MT210 Orientation Seminar
This seminar orients incoming students to the Th.M. program, to life at Western Theological Seminary, and to the larger academic world of the theological disciplines. Forms a “community of scholars” in which scholarly reflection on intercultural issues is engaged. Creates new configurations of self-understanding for theological reflection in community and introduces the philosophy, format, and thesis requirements of the Th.M. program. Meets annually during the last two weeks in August. 1 cr

MT220 Research Design
Assists the Th.M. students in the preparation of a thesis proposal by introducing the basics of academic research and writing. By the end of the course the student 1) will be able to construct a well-designed research proposal; 2) will be familiar with basic strategies and tools for research and academic writing; and 3) will plan a research strategy for writing a Th.M. research paper or thesis. 1.5 cr

MT235 Seminar in Theological Method
What makes one statement, opinion, or argument better or wiser than another in the fields of theology, biblical studies, ethics or practical theology? How does one best understand how scripture, tradition, reason, experience, context, and future function as authorities or factor into our understandings? We take up these difficult methodological questions and come to provisional answers, drawing from both trusted traditional understandings and contemporary discussions.

MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics
Explores and applies methodologies for the interpretation of Scripture in intercultural contexts and addresses the interaction of gospel and culture in intercultural dialogue. Meets during the January-term. 1.5 cr

MT253 Comprehensive Exam
A faculty advisor and a faculty colleague, in consultation with the candidate, assign discipline and thesis-related bibliographies. The lists reflect the major contributors to a particular discipline, the methodological issues involved in that discipline, and the current questions or debates among scholars in that discipline most relevant to the thesis topic. The exam is given at the end of May and has two components: a two-hour written examination conducted by the Th.M. Director and a 45-minute oral examination conducted by an examination committee.

MT255 Independent Research
In the event that courses critical to a Th.M. candidate’s program are unavailable within current curriculum offerings, the candidate may request one independent study in a particular field of inquiry within the chosen focus area. It may be done only with the consent of a professor who provides guidance and evaluation and only with the approval of the Academic Dean. It may combine course materials from a required M.Div. course with additional independent work, at the professor’s discretion.

MT260A Research Paper
A major research paper, which builds upon and extends in a focused area the knowledge and critical ability gained in the basic divinity degree, and includes the Th.M. coursework. The topic and plan are subject to the approval of the Th.M. Committee. The candidate’s Faculty Advisor, in conjunction with a Second Reader, provides guidance for the research. 6 cr
Young Life
Courses offered in conjunction with Young Life

BL104-YL Introduction to Old Testament
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the Old Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the Old Testament for today.

BL632-YL Proclaiming Christ
Young Life course on communicating Christ to the Adolescent Culture

BL633-YL Gospel and Acts

FR110A-YL Leadership I
Course designed to equip individuals to lead an effective incarnational ministry with young people. Trainers in the field lead students through a curriculum in which action and reflection are emphasized.

FR110B-YL Leadership II
Building volunteer teams for ministry is an important element of the course. Focus is given to spiritual development of the student, the ministry of discipleship, and administration.

MN104-YL Minister as Person
This course provides an integrated overview of the process of human development in various social contexts with particular emphasis on implications for people in full time ministry.

MN514-YL Introduction to Youth Ministry
Course gives an overview of contemporary culture, especially as it affects youth ministry, and provides historical and theological youth ministry concepts and grounding.

MN535-YL Supervision and Organizational Leadership
Focus on the theory, reflection, and practice of effective supervision in ministry. Students will explore the philosophical foundations for effective organizational leadership, as well as practical guidance on issues such as personal leadership style, the emotional intelligence of the leader, team building, conflict resolution, interviewing, placement, delegation, supervision, and evaluation.

MN536-YL Equipping Leaders who Volunteer
Course designed to develop Young Life staff into effective volunteers.

MN537-YL Youth Ministry/Community Development
This course grants credit for those who attend the Area Director Training for YL staff.

TH115-YL Systematic Theology I
Course designed to introduce Young Life staff to the discipline of theology. Its goal is to help students cultivate their capacity to think about Christianity, particularly as this relates to topics of method, God and Revelation, creation, and humankind and sin.

TH502-YL Kingdom of God and Cultural Intelligence
Description tba.

TH503-YL Christology, Soteriology and Pneumatology
Course designed to assist Young Life staff to think, pray, speak, and mentor as Trinitarian Christians conformed to the image of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.
Quick Facts

Western Theological Seminary is a mid-sized seminary located in Holland, Michigan and affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. We are fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

Location
Holland, Michigan - Population 35,000

Programs Offered
In-Residence Master of Divinity
Distance Learning Master of Divinity
WTS-Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity
Dual Track Master of Divinity - Master of Social Work
Master of Arts
Master of Theology
Doctor of Ministry
Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry
Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry

Students
Approximately 275 full and part-time students

Faculty
21 faculty members and 1 visiting professor
12:1 student/faculty ratio

Financial Aid Available
Grants, awards, tuition reductions, loans, and work study programs

Affiliation
Reformed Church in America

Accreditation
Western Theological Seminary is an institution of the Reformed Church in America and an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools. Its degree programs are authorized by the Department of Education of the State of Michigan. The seminary is approved for veterans' education under the provisions of the Veterans Administration.

Western Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. The M.Div., D.Min. and Th.M. degrees are approved by the ATS. WTS is approved for a Comprehensive Distance Education Program.

The Commission contact information is:
The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada
10 Summit Park Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15275

Copies of the Association of Theological Schools standards for theological schools and the accreditation process are available for review at the registrar's office. A copy of Western’s current accreditation certification is also available for review at the registrar’s office.
Academic Calendar

Canvas Online Training (all students) --------------- Aug 1-26
DL Online Orientation begins ---------------- Aug 15
Th.M. Program begins ----------------------------- Aug 15
IR Junior M.Div. orientation ------------------- Aug 24-25
IR Middler/Senior M.Div. orientation ----------- Aug 25
Fall semester begins --------------------------- Aug 29
Labor Day - Seminary closed --------------------- Sept 5
Drop/Add deadline ------------------------------- Sept 6
Registration for Spring semester due ---------- Oct 9
IR Half semester ends -------------------------- Oct 14
IR Fall break ---------------------------------- Oct 17-21
DL on-campus Intensive ------------------------- Oct 17-21
DL after-Intensive break ----------------------- Oct 26-30
Thanksgiving recess ----------------------------- Nov 21-25
Fall semester ends ---------------------------- Dec 16
Christmas break -------------------------------- Dec 17-Jan 1
Grades due for Fall semester --------------------- Jan 2
J-Term ----------------------------------------- Jan 2-20
Drop/Add deadline J-Term ---------------------- Jan 9
Intercultural Immersion Trips ------------------ Jan 3-13
Canvas Online Training (new students) -------- Jan 3-13
DL Online Orientation begins (new students) ---- Jan 9
IR Orientation (new students) ------------------- Jan 20
Spring semester begins ------------------------- Jan 23
Drop/Add deadline ------------------------------- Jan 31
Grades due for J-Term --------------------------- Feb 2
DL Winter break -------------------------------- Feb 27-Mar 3
IR Half semester ends --------------------------- Mar 10
Cut-off for financial aid applications
   (returning M.Div./M.A./GCUPM students) ---- Mar 31
Spring break ----------------------------------- Apr 3-7
Registration for Fall semester due ------------ Apr 17
IR Senior Blessing Worship Service ------------ May 4
IR Spring semester ends ----------------------- May 5
DL Senior Blessing Worship Service ------------ May 8
IR Grades due for Spring semester (noon) ------ May 8
Graduation -------------------------------------- May 8
DL Spring Semester Intensive ------------------ May 8-12
D.Min. seminars --------------------------------- May 8-19
DL Spring semester ends ---------------------- May 12
DL Summer semester ------------------------- May 17-Jun 23
IR Summer semester ------------------------- May 15-Aug 25
DL Grades due for Spring semester ----------- May 19
DL & IR Drop/Add deadline Summer Term ------- May 26
Th.M. program ends -------------------------- June 23
DL Grades due for Summer semester ------------- Jul 12
IR Grades due for Summer term ---------------- Aug 31

Semester Schedule for DL Programs

- Fall Semester: September-December, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-October.
- January Term: 3 weeks, online courses.
- Spring Semester: January-May, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-May.
- Summer Term: May-June, 6 weeks, online courses.

Semester Schedule for WTS-Newbigin DL M.Div. Program

- Fall Semester: September-December, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-October.
- January Term: 3 weeks, online courses with a one week intensive held in San Francisco.
- Spring Semester: January-May, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-May.
- Summer Term: May-June, 6 weeks, online courses.