Message from the President

Greetings!

I am so glad you have chosen to be a part of Western Theological Seminary, a Christ-centered community of learning that seeks to form women and men for faithful Christian ministry and participation in the Triune God’s ongoing redemptive work in the world. We seek to foster a learning community that facilitates the formation of the whole person, and in doing so fulfill the greatest commandments—to love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Western Theological Seminary has equipped students for Christian service since 1866. It is my hope and desire that we will continue to prepare future leaders who will be ready to lead God’s church in an increasingly diverse, pluralistic and secularizing world. It is also my hope that we will continue to produce students who cultivate Christian wisdom.

Thank you for responding to God’s call in your life and thank you for choosing Western Theological Seminary to be a significant part of your formation and preparation. May the Lord guide you, lead you, and sustain you during your studies here.

Blessings,

Dr. Felix Theonugraha
President
Ecumenical
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 1:17
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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 discern together.

We welcome the opportunity to meet you and hear the story of your calling. Western is an excellent place to prepare for a lifetime of ministry leadership that changes lives, promotes justice, and inspires the church. Western Theological Seminary seeks women and men who are committed to following Christ in leadership through rigorous academic scholarship and compassionate pastoral practice.

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 the WTS community during morning break
- Eat lunch with a current WTS student
- Meet the president of WTS and/or key faculty and staff
- Learn about the application and admissions process, housing, financial aid, Western’s distinctive formation for ministry process, and potential internships

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 who have completed a Bachelor of Arts or its academic equivalent are welcome to apply. 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 2.50 undergraduate grade point average (GPA) is required for admission to all degree programs. An applicant with less than 2.50 GPA may be admitted on probation if the Admissions Committee believes there is potential for academic success. A GPA of 2.50 or higher must be sustained to qualify for the lifting of academic probation and continuation in the degree program.
All Application Forms
Prospective students may apply online at westernsem.edu/admissions/ or download printable application forms from our website.

Application Fee
The application fee is $50. That fee is waived for M.Div. applications for fall admission received before January 1.

Transfer Students
Students transferring with prior graduate education are required to follow the undergraduate admittance requirements and submit graduate transcripts.

Dual Track M.Div.-M.S.W. Applicants
Those pursuing our Dual Track degree program will 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, Graduate Program, and Non-Degree Applicants
Applicants must complete a shortened application form, include all academic transcripts, and submit a one-page essay as directed. westernsem.edu/admissions/

Doctor of Ministry Applicants
Applicants will hold the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and have at least three years of ministry experience since their M.Div. completion in order to be considered for admission to the Doctor of Ministry program.

Students must be available for two weeks of seminars in each of the three consecutive years. Application dates vary. See website for details on when each cohort starts: westernsem.edu/dmin

How do I begin?

1. Contact Western’s Admissions team: admissions@westernsem.edu 616.392.9973
2. Seek out vocational conversations with church leaders, family and friends
3. Visit our campus for a day
4. Complete your application (submission dates, pg 8)
5. Following admission, confirm your intent to come with a $250 deposit
6. Discuss your housing needs with the VP of Finance, 1-800-392-8554, x107
7. Learn more about next steps: Course registration forms
8. Explore financial aid needs with the Financial Aid Coordinator at 1-800-392-8554, x121
9. Participate in orientation before classes begin
10. Launch!
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. An Affidavit of Financial Support showing sufficient financial resources and medical insurance for dependents for the duration of the degree program is also required.

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 and submit a transcript of all schools attended. 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 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. An Affidavit of Financial Support 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
Policy on Non-Harassment and Non-Discrimination (including Title IX)

It is the purpose of Western Theological Seminary to form women and men for faithful Christian ministry and participation in the Triune God’s ongoing redemptive work in the world. Toward this end, WTS seeks to foster a community of faith and learning that reflects the Kingdom of God, allowing for the flourishing of all its members in Jesus Christ.

As we strive for this ideal, we acknowledge that because we are sinful individuals, we are also a fallen community, influenced by old habits and hidden prejudices. There are times when we harm others through our words, actions, and even institutional policies and traditions. There are circumstances in which we fail to do justice or love mercy. In such instances, we commit to face our wrongdoing; to listen, to talk, to pray, and when we fall short, to confess our sin and accept God’s forgiveness as we seek understanding, justice, healing, and reconciliation.

It is to this end that the WTS Policy on Non-Harassment and Non-Discrimination has been developed in alignment with legal requirements of Title IX, the state of Michigan, and the seminary’s Vision of our Life Together. We seek not only to fulfill requirements of the law, but also by God’s grace and direction, to live and grow as members of a community of faith and learning that seeks to faithfully and fully love God and one other.

Notice of Non-Discrimination
Western Theological Seminary does not discriminate in admissions, employment, and educational programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, marital or family status, disability, height, weight, genetic information, and other prohibited characteristics in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.

As a religious institution, the seminary reserves the right to make employment and hiring decisions on the basis of religious criteria, based on the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and various relevant statutes.

For inquiries regarding the policy and complaints of harassment or discrimination, contact:

Rayetta Perez, Title IX Coordinator
Western Theological Seminary
101 East 13th Street, Holland MI 49423
rayetta@westernsem.edu
616.392.8555 x103

Dr. John Brogan, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Western Theological Seminary
101 E. 13th Street, Holland, MI 49423
john@westernsem.edu
616.392.8555 x192

Inquiries and complaints may also be referred to:

U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/addresses.html

More info at:
westernsem.edu/title-ix-resources/
Accessibility Policies

WTS is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment and views disability as an aspect of human diversity. We continue to consult with students, faculty, and staff to identify environmental and attitudinal barriers, to improve accessibility on campus, and to improve the accessibility of our online platforms with the goal of ensuring that all students can participate fully in the seminary experience.

Therefore, if you have a physical, sensory, psychological, or learning disability, we would like to support your access to course materials through reasonable accommodations. Students are certainly welcome, though not required, to disclose a diagnosis, diagnoses, or include medical documentation as they seek accommodations and learning support while attending WTS.

All requests for reasonable accommodations should be made to the Student Accessibility Coordinator, Carlos Thompson, at carlos.thompson@westernsem.edu. Upon receiving your request for accommodations, Prof. Thompson will work with you, the Accessibility Team, the Academic Office, and your professors to ensure that you receive reasonable course accommodations and support each semester.

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.

**Applying for Housing**
After being accepted to Western and submitting a $250 confirmation fee, students can apply for housing by contacting the V.P. of Finance 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 V.P. of Finance will assist students in finding suitable housing.

**Pricing**
For WTS students, townhouse, apartment, and house rentals range from $725 to $955 per month in 2021-2022, depending upon the location and number of bedrooms. A bedroom in the Friendship House rents for $295, and internet service is provided. Utilities are included, except for phone and cable. The apartments and houses are wired for cable and internet, but the cost is not included in the rent.
Financial Information

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

For a full-time in-residence M.Div. or M.A. student, the total cost of educational and living expenses for nine months ranges from around $27,000 for single students to approximately $36,000 for married students. Full-time distance learning M.Div. or M.A. students can expect educational, traveling, and living expenses around $22,500 per year (single) or $31,000 (married). Living costs are variable for students in this program and obviously depend upon regional factors.

Financial Aid

When a person applies for admission to the seminary, their financial awards will be determined and will carry through their entire time at the school. Award letters are emailed within three weeks of the student being accepted.

If a student cannot match expected expenses with equivalent income, savings, and assistance from his or her home congregation or denomination, the next step is to complete the government’s FAFSA forms at fafsa.ed.gov and contact the Financial Aid Coordinator to apply for a Need Based Award and/or federal student loan. Loans are granted through government programs but may also be procured through private banking institutions.

Financial awards, although presented as discounted percentages of tuition, are funded through endowed scholarships established by generous donors. Students are expected to thank their benefactors through written correspondence and may have the opportunity to meet them at the annual scholarship luncheon. These awards range from 10% to 100% tuition reduction.

Student employment is available for qualified students in the library, in maintenance, and in grounds-keeping.
## 2021-22 Tuition and Fee Schedule

### In-Residence Master of Divinity
**Dual Track M.Div./MSW**
- $515 per credit hour
- $100 per credit hour to audit
  - $50 Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
  - $100 Academic resource fee (each semester)
  - $750-$1500 Intercultural Immersion trip
  - $100 Graduation fee

*Please note: IR students may take DL courses, but if an Intensive is required, a $50 Intensive fee will apply.*

### Distance Learning Master of Divinity
**Master of Arts**
- $515 per credit hour
- $100 per credit hour to audit
  - $50 Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
  - $100 Academic resource fee (each semester)
  - $750-$1500 Intercultural Immersion trip (for DL MDiv)
  - $100 Graduation fee

*The cost of transportation, meals, and lodging for the Intensives are the responsibility of the student.*

**Master of Theology**
- $515 per credit hour
  - $50 Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $150 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
  - $100 Academic resource fee (each semester)
  - $100 Graduation fee

### Doctor of Ministry:
- $417 per credit hour (approx. $15,000 over three years)
- $375 per credit hour ($13,500 for cohorts prior to Fall 2021)
  - $50 Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
  - $100 Graduation fee

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

### Graduate Certificate Programs:
- $515 per credit hour
  - $50 Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $100 Graduation fee

Tuition and fees are subject to change each year. See current rates at: [westernsem.edu/admissions/cost](http://westernsem.edu/admissions/cost)

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### Graduate Certificate and Graduate Program:
Students in these 15-24 credit hour programs may qualify for financial awards, but do not qualify for student loans. See website for details: westernsem.edu/admissions/cost/financial-aid

### Drop Dates
Each semester the Registrar’s office publishes a drop date for courses. This is usually seven calendar 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.
In-Residence Master of Divinity

Western Theological Seminary’s M.Div. degree cultivates an educational community of women and men, forming them for faithful, lifelong participation in the Triune God’s ongoing redemptive work in the world as ministers in the local church and through other forms of leadership and service.

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 87 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 Practice of Ministry courses. Students choose elective courses in areas of their own interest.

In mid-August, new students participate in an online orientation where they learn how to use the learning management system (Canvas). New students also attend an in-person orientation held each year for all incoming in-residence M.Div. candidates during the week prior to the beginning of the first semester. During this orientation, new students are introduced to the Western community and receive information crucial to seminary life.

The Abbey
The Abbey invites students into intentional relationships with faculty and fellow students to explore spiritual disciplines, engage in vocational discernment, and integrate their classroom learning with their life of faith. Students will register for the Abbey for three years (six consecutive semesters). As a part of the Abbey, students will meet weekly in Abbey groups made up of five-six students and facilitated by a faculty member. The Abbey includes on-site retreats once per semester with distance learning students. As part of the Abbey, students will also engage in the practice of preaching outside of the classroom and be invited to reflect upon their experience of and sense of call to preaching.

Practice of Ministry Internships
Master of Divinity students take part in supervised internships in ministry settings. This internship component of the curriculum provides a place to practice ministry and a space to reflect on it.

Three elements usually guide the internship 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. Students write learning covenants to help focus their internship experience.

3. Coursework accompanies the internship to provide space for learning, reflection, and integration.

M.Div. students are required to complete four semesters/units of supervised internships. These can be done over two academic years or one academic year and one summer.

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 in May.

Our students have been immersed into cultures such as:

- India
- Oman
- Chiapas, Mexico
- Borderlands (US/Mexico)
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Israel/Palestine
- Kenya

IN-RESIDENCE MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 1</td>
<td>BL300 Old Testament Foundations 3.0</td>
<td>BL301 New Testament Foundations 3.0</td>
<td>Elective 3.0</td>
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<td>MN335 Foundations of the Christian Life 3.0</td>
<td>MN336 Christian Interior Life 3.0</td>
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<td>PR401 Abbey 1 0.5</td>
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<td>PR402 Abbey 2 3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>MN351 Preaching Foundations</td>
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<td>PR404 Abbey 4</td>
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<td>PR412 Practice of Ministry: Internship 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH311 Systematic Theology 2</td>
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<td>TH440 Christian Life &amp; Ethics</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>PR450 Intercultural Immersion</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BL490 Biblical Capstone</td>
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<td>MN415 Practice of Counsel &amp; Care</td>
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<td>PR405 Abbey 5</td>
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<td>PR413 Practice of Ministry: Internship 3 (or in summer)</td>
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<td>Elective (or TH421 RCA Standards &amp; Polity for RCA candidates)</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
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**Program Total:** 87 credit hours

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**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.

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The courses listed are required. The sequencing of the courses is suggested.

Two semesters (A and B) of either Greek or Hebrew are required and are taken in Year 2. Two additional semesters of the other language may be taken during Year 1 or Year 3.
Distance Learning Master of Divinity

Western Theological Seminary’s M.Div. degree cultivates an educational community of women and men, forming them for faithful, lifelong participation in the Triune God’s ongoing redemptive work in the world as ministers in the local church and through other forms of leadership and service.

Western Theological Seminary offers its Master of Divinity degree in a 5-year blended distance education format. Each year contains two 14-week semesters, with a 5-day on-campus intensive that is required for the first three years of study (four years if a student is taking both Hebrew and Greek). Students who follow our recommended sequencing of courses will need to plan on taking three summer term courses as well.

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 distance learning M.Div. program has fully met students’ expectations for a high quality graduate theological program. The program strengths most identified are: the close 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.

The 87-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 faculty, supervised internships in ministry settings, 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 February are required to receive academic credit for each course taken during those semesters. The 7-week summer term is fully online.

Program Components
The degree program includes not only the academic courses but also daily worship, shared meals, and an on-site retreat during each intensive.

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.
- **Spring Semester**: 14 weeks, January-April. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a required 5-day intensive in February on campus in Holland, MI.
- **Summer Term**: 7 weeks, early May-late June, fully online courses.

**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.

**The Abbey**
The Abbey invites students into intentional relationships with faculty and fellow students to explore spiritual disciplines, engage in vocational discernment, and integrate their classroom learning with their life of faith. Students will register for the Abbey for their first three years (six consecutive semesters). As a part of the Abbey, students will meet in Abbey groups made up of five-six students and facilitated by a faculty member. These groups will meet approximately once a month by Zoom. The Abbey includes on-site retreats once per semester with distance learning students. As part of the Abbey, students will also engage in the practice of preaching outside of the classroom and be invited to reflect upon their experience of and sense of call to preaching.

**Practice of Ministry Internships**
Master of Divinity students take part in supervised internships in ministry settings. This internship component of the curriculum provides a place to practice ministry and a space to reflect on it.

Three elements usually guide the internship 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. Students write **learning covenants** to help focus their internship experience.

3. Coursework accompanies the internship to provide space for learning, reflection, and integration.
M.Div. students are required to complete four semesters/units of supervised internships. These can be done over two academic years or one academic year and one summer.

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

**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 summer for both distance learning and residential students.

Our students have been immersed into cultures such as:

- India
- Oman
- Chiapas, Mexico
- Borderlands (US/Mexico)
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Israel/Palestine
- Kenya

### DISTANCE LEARNING

**MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1 Fall</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL300 Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN335 Foundations of the Christian Life</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR401 Abbey 1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL301 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN336 Christian Interior Life</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR402 Abbey 2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2 Fall</td>
<td>MN350 Worship Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR403 Abbey 3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR411 Practice of Ministry: Internship 1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language 1A (BL310 or BL320)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PR404 Abbey 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PR412 Practice of Ministry: Internship 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language 1B (BL311 or BL321)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (Upper New Testament)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Elective Course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR413 Practice of Ministry: Internship 3 (summer optional)</td>
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<td>PR414 Practice of Ministry: Internship 4 (summer optional)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 Fall</td>
<td>MN415 Practice of Counsel &amp; Care</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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</table>

The courses listed are required. The sequencing of the courses is suggested.

Two semesters (A and B) of either Greek or Hebrew are required and are taken in Year 2. Two additional semesters of the other language may be taken during Year 1 or Year 3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>TH310 Systematic Theology 1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN412 Christian Life &amp; Mission</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective or (optional) Language 2A (BL310 or BL320)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH311 Systematic Theology 2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH440 Christian Life &amp; Ethics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective or (optional) Language 2B (BL311 or BL321)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>PR450 Intercultural Immersion</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5</td>
<td>BL490 Biblical Capstone</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (upper Old Testament)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (or TH421 RCA Standards &amp; Polity for RCA students)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH490 Credo</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN490 Leading Christian Communities</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROGRAM TOTAL:** 87 credit hours

*Italics = course with Intensive*

**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.
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.

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.

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.

Typically 63 out of the 87 hours required for an M.Div. are completed through WTS. The remaining 24 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.

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

- Students can spend the 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.
A last option applies to those who have already earned the M.S.W. degree. If it was earned seven years prior to M.Div. matriculation, WTS will accept 24 transfer credits. The balance of 63 credit hours required for the M.Div. degree is earned at WTS in two years or more. We will consider applicants who have earned the M.S.W. up to 15 years prior if M.S.W. licensure has been maintained.

Cohort Learning Groups
Dual track students meet in small cohort groups over the duration of the program. These groups are facilitated by a ministry professional who supports students as they consider how the fields of ministry and social work might be integrated in their respective callings.

Unique Ministry
Unique ministry opportunities open for those pursuing Western's Dual Track degree. Examples include:

- Counseling
- 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 Fall</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL300 Old Testament Foundations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN335 Foundations of the Christian Life</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN350 Worship Foundations (or MN351 option)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR401 Abbey 1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR341 Dual Track Cohort Group 1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH300 Church History 1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH310 Systematic Theology 1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL301 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN336 Christian Interior Life</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN351 Preaching Foundations (or MN350 option)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR402 Abbey 2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PR342 Dual Track Cohort Group 2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH300 Church History 2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH311 Systematic Theology 2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The courses listed are required. The sequencing of the courses is suggested.
### YEAR 2 Fall
- Language 1A (BL310 or BL320) 3.0
- BL490 Biblical Capstone 3.0
- MN412 Christian Life & Mission 3.0
- MN415 Practice of Counsel & Care 3.0
- PR403 Abbey 3 0.5
- PR343 Dual Track Cohort Group 3 0.5
- PR411 Practice of Ministry: Internship 1 1.5

### Spring
- Language 1B (BL311 or BL321) 3.0
- MN490 Leading Christian Communities 3.0
- PR343 Dual Track Cohort Group 4 0.5
- PR404 Abbey 4 0.5
- PR412 Practice of Ministry: Internship 2 1.5
- TH440 Christian Life & Ethics 3.0
- TH490 Credo 3.0

### Summer
- PR450 Intercultural Immersion 3.0

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### YEAR 3
- PR345 Dual Track Cohort Group 5 (Fall) 0.5
- PR346 Dual Track Cohort Group 6 (Spring) 0.5

### YEAR 4
- PR347 Dual Track Cohort Group 7 (Fall) 0.5
- PR348 Dual Track Cohort Group 8 (Spring) 0.5

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**PROGRAM TOTAL: 63 WTS credit hours + 24 MSW hrs**

### DISTANCE LEARNING DUAL TRACK CURRICULUM

#### YEAR 1 Fall
- BL300 Old Testament Foundations 3.0
- MN335 Foundations of the Christian Life 3.0
- PR401 Abbey 1 0.5

#### Spring
- BL301 New Testament Foundations 3.0
- MN336 Christian Interior Life 3.0
- PR402 Abbey 2 0.5

#### YEAR 2 Fall
- TH300 Church History 1 3.0
- Language 1A (BL310 or BL320) 3.0
- PR403 Abbey 3 0.5
- PR411 Practice of Ministry: Internship 1 1.5

#### Spring
- TH301 Church History 2 3.0
- Language 1B (BL311 or BL321) 3.0
- PR404 Abbey 4 0.5
- PR412 Practice of Ministry: Internship 2 1.5

#### YEAR 3 Fall
- MN415 Practice of Counsel & Care 3.0
- TH310 Systematic Theology 1 3.0
- PR341 Dual Track Cohort Group 1 0.5
- MN350 Worship Foundations (or MN351 option)

#### Spring
- MN490 Leading Christian Communities 3.0
- TH311 Systematic Theology 2 3.0

---

The courses listed are required. The sequencing of the courses is suggested.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR342 Dual Track Cohort Group 2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN351 Preaching Foundations (or MN350 option)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YEAR 4 Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL490 Biblical Capstone</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN412 Christian Life &amp; Mission</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR343 Dual Track Cohort Group 3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH440 Christian Life &amp; Ethics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH490 Credo</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR344 Dual Track Cohort Group 4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR450 Intercultural Immersion</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MSW YEARS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR345 Dual Track Cohort Group 5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR346 Dual Track Cohort Group 6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR347 Dual Track Cohort Group 7</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<td>PR348 Dual Track Cohort Group 8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>63 WTS credit hours + 24 MSW hrs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Italics = course with Intensive*
Master of Arts in Christian Studies

Western Theological Seminary’s most flexible degree program, the Master of Arts in Christian Studies, 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 42 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., 21 credits) may be transferred from another ATS accredited seminary for degree completion at Western Theological Seminary.

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.
- **Spring Semester:** 14 weeks, January-April. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a required 5-day intensive in mid-February on campus in Holland, MI.
- **Summer Term:** 7 weeks, early May-late June, fully online courses.
# MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL300 Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL301 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH310 Systematic Theology 1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH311 Systematic Theology 2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH300 Church History 1 -or- TH301 Church History 2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN335 Foundations of the Christian Life</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN412 Christian Life and Mission</td>
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</table>

**Total credits of required courses:** 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTIVE COURSES</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 elective credits may be selected from any of the fields (Biblical, Theological, or Christian Ministry)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of elective courses:** 21

**PROGRAM TOTAL:** 42 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. seminars, we focus on theological and cultural underpinnings of how Christian faith and practice are and might be embodied in various cultures and contexts. 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 international students. We offer up to four 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 leaders who will serve and teach in theological institutions. Applicants must have the ability to relate theological study to the social, cultural and historical contexts of their ministries.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>MT210 Orientation Seminar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>MT220 Research Design</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT235 Seminar in Theological Method</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two 3-credit Electives</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT254 Preliminary Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-thesis option: Two 3-credit Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT261 Research Paper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thesis option: One 3-credit Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT260 Thesis</td>
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**PROGRAM TOTAL: 25 credit hours**
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. at Western Theological Seminary is unique—a formational process with an intellectual product. Three-year cohorts are designed around important themes such as pastoral care and counseling, disability and ministry, pastoral leadership, ministry concerns in particular cultures, etc. (see website for current cohort offerings at westernsem.edu/dmin)

Each participant researches a topic born out of passion and interest as well as his/her unique context or ecclesial concern. Students identify a barrier in their ministry and read broadly within the research area of their cohort theme. Along the way, the student is encouraged to grow on four levels:

- Who you are as a person (emotional and psychological formation)
- Who you are as a child of God (spiritual formation)
- What you do (skills for ecclesial formation)
- What you know (intellectual formation)

Over the course of three years, participants gather with peers and faculty for cohort seminars (usually around 12 students per cohort). The gatherings are unique to each cohort theme and may be in Holland, MI or another location.

In between face-to-face cohort seminars, participants engage with each other virtually and maintain regular contact with the faculty mentor and with each other. Mutual encouragement and regular engagement is crucial for growth, motivation, and shared learning. As cohort members discuss the challenges and opportunities within their own ministries, they learn from each other and serve as "research assistants" when they discover helpful content for a fellow student. The model also works well cross-culturally where a strong group dynamic is valued.

The program concludes with successful completion of a thesis project, presented and defended before the faculty advisor as well as an internal and external reader. The project is shaped by the various components of the three-year program and should demonstrate competencies in theological reflection, church leadership, cultural discernment, and pastoral wisdom.

Expectations of student progress:
Each cohort begins at a different time in the calendar year. Candidates are expected to complete six seminar courses. Each course includes a one-week seminar meeting face-to-face either in Holland, MI or another location. Students are expected to complete the courses in three years along with their cohort.
One additional year is given for completion of their thesis project. The degree is granted when a student has successfully completed the core curriculum of 36 credits plus the thesis project.

**DOCTOR OF MINISTRY CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>DM850 Orientation Seminar 1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>DM851 Orientation Seminar 2</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 3</td>
<td>DM860 Research Seminar 3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 4</td>
<td>DM861 Research Seminar 4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 5</td>
<td>DM870 Thesis Seminar 5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 6</td>
<td>DM871 Thesis Seminar 6</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DM940 Thesis Project</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Program Total: 36 credit hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All courses required to earn the D.Min. degree are available in an online format with a face-to-face seminar. Each year of the program includes two semesters, and each semester includes a one-week seminar. At the discretion of the professor, the seminar can be either two consecutive weeks or two one-week gatherings each year.
Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry

The Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry is tailored to help church leaders and lay leaders recognize, appreciate, and incorporate the gifts and perspectives of people with disabilities in a variety of ministry settings. 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 three core curriculum courses and four elective courses, a total of 21 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 a 3-credit elective each semester, completing the program in two years if they wish. Not all courses are offered every year or in any two year period.

Our courses always include the voices of people with disabilities, and some of the professors who teach in the program also have disabilities.

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

Existing M.Div. or M.A. students at WTS may apply for and earn the GCDM by completing MN116 Introduction to Disability and the Church and four (4) of the disability-related electives. The courses may be taken as electives while enrolled, in which case the GCDM will be presented to the student upon graduation. If the work for the GCDM is incomplete upon graduation, the necessary additional courses may be taken subsequent to graduation, and the GCDM will be conferred upon completion of requirements.

Students with an earned M.A. or M.Div. from any ATS approved institution will be required to complete Introduction to Disability and the Church and four of the disability-related electives.
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DISABILITY AND MINISTRY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN361 Introduction to Disability and the Church</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL551 Disability, Bible &amp; the Pastoral Imagination</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>--or--BL301 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH565 Disability and Theology in the Christian Tradition</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>--or--TH310 Systematic Theology 2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of required courses:** 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th>Choose 4 classes:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(not available all years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL551 Disability, Bible, &amp; the Pastoral Imagination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN580 Healing Ministry of the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN581 Ministry &amp; the Margins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN582 Ministry, Aging &amp; Dementia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN583 We All Worship: Disability &amp; Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN586 Disability and Community Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN588 Summer Institute on Theology &amp; Disability (travel seminar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN590 Deaf Theology &amp; Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN591 Strategies for an Inclusive Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN595 Intellectual Disability and the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH565 Disability/Theology in the Christian Tradition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of elective courses:** 12

**PROGRAM TOTAL:** 21 credit hours
**Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Ministry**

The Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Ministry (GCPM) is offered in two concentrations: Church Planting & Multiplication and Church Leadership. Both create momentum toward an M.Div. or M.A. degree.

**GCPM in Church Planting & Multiplication:**
This certificate is a unique collaboration between the seminary and experienced practitioners and church planters within the Harbor Church network. It provides:

- Strengthened skills for pastoral ministry with an emphasis on missional church planting and multiplication
- Classes taught by both WTS faculty and experienced pastors from Harbor Churches
- Deeper biblical and theological knowledge
- Increased ability to share the gospel of Jesus Christ
- A community of peers to challenge and support you
- A pathway for RCA Commissioned Pastors to complete their required training criteria

**GCPM in Church Leadership (offered in Spanish or English):**
This certificate prepares pastors, elders, ministers, and church leaders for ministry today. It provides:

- Strengthened skills for pastoral ministry for the next generation
- Classes taught by both WTS faculty and bilingual (Spanish and English) professors from multicultural backgrounds
- Deeper biblical and theological knowledge
- Increased ability to share the gospel of Jesus Christ
- A community of peers to challenge and support you
- Insight into relating across cultures

Eight courses totaling 24 credit hours are required to complete the program, which can be completed in four semesters. The schedule for courses varies by geographic location around the country, some purely online and some a combination of online and classroom.

Upon successful completion of the Graduate Certificate, students can apply for entrance to 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.

The program includes eight required courses, for a total of 24 credit hours.
# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL MINISTRY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>BL300 Old Testament Foundations 3.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL301 New Testament Foundations 3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH301 Church History 2 (Reformation to Present) 3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH110 Theology for Ministry 3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN415 Practice of Counsel &amp; Care 3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership Concentration</th>
<th>MN355 Missional Preaching 3.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN490 Leading Christian Communities 3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective (or TH451 Standards and Polity required for RCA candidates) 3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Multiplication Concentration</th>
<th>MN112 Multiplying Churches (in English only) 3.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN335 Missional Preaching 3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective (or TH451 Standards and Polity required for RCA candidates) 3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soul Care Concentration</th>
<th>Completed courses from the Soul Care Institute 9.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**PROGRAM TOTAL: 24 credit hours**

* TH102 Introduction to Theological Research (3.0) may be required of students who do not have a bachelor’s degree or whose degree is not in a ministry-related field.
Graduate Program for Christian Educators

The Graduate Program for Christian Educators (GPCE) is designed for Christian school educators looking to enrich integration between faith and learning. The GPCE allows educators to:

- Gain confidence and knowledge to guide students through complicated life challenges.
- Enhance their pedagogical ability to connect mission-oriented Christian leadership into all aspects of life.
- Dive deeply into scripture, theology, and church history.

Participants in this program can choose from a wide array of electives in fields such as counseling, disability and ministry, leadership, and spiritual formation.

The courses are available on campus (Holland, Michigan) and fully online through our highly acclaimed distance learning delivery model.

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

**GPCE CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL300 Old Testament Foundations (or OT course of your choice)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL301 New Testament Foundations (or NT course of your choice)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH110 Theology for Ministry</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN335 Foundations of the Christian Life</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course in topics such as:</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- biblical studies, practice of counsel and care, spiritual formation, Christian doctrine, Biblical languages, etc.</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROGRAM TOTAL: 15 credit hours**

---

Dr. John Brogan
Associate Academic Dean
Director of the GPCE Program
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.
Partnerships

The Hope-Western Prison Education Program (HWPEP)
The Hope-Western Prison Education Program provides a Christian liberal arts education to incarcerated men with long-term sentences at Muskegon Correctional Facility (MCF). Men at MCF can earn a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Faith, Leadership, and Service. Classes are taught by professors from Hope College and Western Theological Seminary, and Hope and Western students have the opportunity to be teaching assistants. As a covenant partnership between the college and seminary, the program strives to form thoughtful and wise citizens dedicated to improving their communities—whether inside or outside of prison.

Young Life (YL)
Young Life staff can turn their training into a seminary certificate or degree. Courses from Young Life Core Training can be transcripted into academic credits at WTS. Students who wish to complete a Master of Arts in Christian Studies transcript nine YL courses (27 credits). They then complete another five courses (15 credits) at WTS, all of which can be done in the distance-learning format, to reach the 42 credits required for the degree. Students wishing to earn the Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry can transcript two YL courses (6 credits) and then take five courses (15 credits) at WTS for a total of 21 credits.

Church Leadership Center (CLC)
Those who have completed training with the Church Leadership Center yet still want to grow in biblical and theological depth can turn their CLC learning into seminary program credits. CLC courses can be transcripted into seminary credit hours toward these programs at WTS:

- Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Ministry (9 credits) – 5 additional WTS classes (15 cr) needed for certificate
- Master of Arts in Christian Studies (15 credits) – 9 additional WTS classes (27 cr) needed for degree
- Master of Divinity (15 credits) – 24 additional WTS classes (72 cr) needed for degree

Soul Care Institute (SCI)
WTS students have the opportunity to engage in true retreat designed to re-fill their souls. Through our partnership with Soul Care Institute, students embark on a journey with a group of peers meeting six times over two years. Each retreat is filled with wisdom from experienced teachers, time to recover stillness, and encouragement from spiritual directors and peers. After completing the full program, WTS students can receive 9 credit hours for their work at SCI to apply toward the 24 credits needed for a Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Ministry (GCPM) with a concentration in Soul Care. By the same token, Soul Care graduates can apply to the seminary and transcript 9 credits toward a GCPM at WTS.
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
• financial aid applications
• current enrollment data

Writing Studio
The Writing Studio is a free service offered to all enrolled students in any degree program who would like to improve their writing skills.

Tutoring for M.Div. Students
Students enrolled in the Master of Divinity programs can request tutors to help them learn how to conceive, develop, organize and clarify their writing efforts.

Student Life

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, both for in-residence and distance learning students.

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/
The Cook Library, housed in the DeWitt Learning Center, is the seminary’s center for access to information resources, supporting student studies, faculty research, and area ministries. Cook Library is a member of the American Theological Library Association, the Chicago Area Theological Library Association, and the Michigan Library Consortium.

Cook Library's resources include a combination of over 500,000 print and e-books with particular strengths in the Reformed tradition. Premium electronic resources for theological study, including databases and scholarly e-journals, are available to our patrons worldwide 24/7. Reference services are available in person and online via chat. Alumni of Western Theological Seminary may also enjoy access to ministry research resources via ATLAS for Alum.

Library users find information on the collection through the Western Theological Seminary Catalog. Cook Library and Hope College libraries maintain reciprocal borrowing privileges and work cooperatively to develop strong collections for each institution. Seminary students and faculty may request materials from other libraries through interlibrary loan.

Special Collections
Several special collections complement Cook Library’s core collection. A Japanese collection includes Japanese translations of significant theological works. The library also 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 DeWitt Learning Center 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.
Faculty

Biblical Field

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Emeriti and Retired Professors

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Associate Professor of Biblical Languages

Tom Boogaart  
Dennis & Betty Voskuil Professor Emeritus of Old Testament

Timothy Brown  
President Emeritus and Henry Bast-Timothy Brown  
Professor Emeritus of Preaching

Donald J. Bruggink  
James A. H. Cornell Professor Emeritus of Historical Theology

Robert A. Coughenour  
Cornelius Van der Meulen Professor Emeritus of Old Testament

George R. Hunsberger  
Professor Emeritus of Missiology

Christopher B. Kaiser  
Professor Emeritus of Historical and Systematic Theology

Paul M. Smith  
Associate Professor of Theological Bibliography

Robert Van Voorst  
Professor Emeritus of New Testament

Dennis Voskuil  
President Emeritus and Marvin & Jerene DeWitt  
Professor Emeritus of Church History

Adjunct Instructors

Jose Alvarez  
Tim Brown  
Matthew Bruce  
Dynna Castillo Portugal  
Elizabeth Conde-Frazier  
Raquel Echevarria  
Jill Harshaw  
Fernando Jensen  
Nathan Johnson  
Brian Keepers  
John Muniz  
Benjamin Petroelje  
Danny Roman  
John Swinton

Staff

Office of the President

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President

Rayetta Perez  
Director of Administration and Human Resources,  
Title IX Coordinator

TBA  
Executive Assistant

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Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs

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Associate Academic Dean, Director of the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts Programs, Director of the Graduate Program for Christian Educators

Alvin Padilla  
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Director of Advanced Degrees

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Educational Technology Specialist and Student Support Coordinator

Katlyn DeVries  
Writing Assistant and Girod Assistant

Kathy Ehmann  
Educational Technology Specialist and Doctor of Ministry Program Support

Jonathan Elgersma  
Interim Director of Student Life

David Escobar Arcay  
Director of the Hispanic Ministry Program

Wendy Fisher  
Interim Associate Director of Student Life

Theresa Hamm  
Academic Office Associate, Assessment Coordinator

Shari Oosting  
Associate Director of Formation for Ministry

Beth Smith  
Associate Registrar, Administrative Assistant for Student Life

L.S. Carlos Thompson  
Friendship House Director, Student Accessibility Coordinator
Gretchen Torres
Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Student Support Coordinator

Johnny Vega
Student Support Coordinator

Alli VandenBosch
Financial Aid and Student Billing Coordinator

Kyle Wigboldy
Registrar

Admissions

Jill English
Director of Admissions

Keith Reynolds
Associate Director of Admissions

Krista Greendyke
Administrative Assistant for Admissions

Advancement

Andy Bast
Director of Development

Tamara Buikema
Administrative Assistant for Development

Richard Capotosto
Associate Director of Development

Brenda Dieffenbach
Associate Director of Development

Annie Valkema
Associate Director of Development

Evonne Wernlund
Office Assistant

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TBA
Director of Marketing and Communications

TBA
Communications Specialist

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Vice President of Finance

Kerry Eshenaur
Accounting Associate

Cherri Westhouse
Administrative Assistant and Event Coordinator

Sara Russell
Manager of The Bridge

Tina Zanotti
Sales Associate at The Bridge

Darcy Cunningham
Sales Associate at The Bridge

David Becker
Superintendent of Building and Grounds

Muhammad Ilyas Zadran
Custodian and Maintenance Assistant

Cook Library

Stephen E. Michaels
Interim Director

Hannah Nickolay
Library Services Assistant

Margaret Wade
Resources Management Librarian

Churches in Mission Grant

Shari Oosting
Project Director for Churches in Mission

Hannah Stevens
Churches in Mission Grant Coordinator

Hope-Western Prison Education Program

Pam Bush
Associate Director of Learning and Formation

David Stubbs
Co-Director of HWPEP
Board of Trustees

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Ms. Beth Snyder
Dr. Tite Tiénou
Ms. Carol Van Andel
Dr. Lisa Vander Wal
Mr. Evan Vermeer
Ms. Emilie Wierda
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.

Bridging...Equality
Bridging...Sustainability
Bridging...Fair Trade
Bridging...Cultures

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 help to staff the kitchen and feed hundreds of people each 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.
Courses

**BL300 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.

**BL301 New Testament Foundations**
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the New Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the New Testament for today.

**BL310 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.

**BL311 Hebrew Translation and Interpretation**
A continuation of BL110 which more fully engages interpretive and devotional approaches to Old Testament texts. Using multi-sensory and interactive approaches, students will learn the basic vocabulary, grammar, syntax and world view of the Old Testament. Prerequisite: BL310

**BL320 New Testament Greek I**

**BL321 New Testament Greek II & Interpretation**
A continuation of BL320, with special emphasis upon syntax and translation. Greek Interpretation introduces 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. Prerequisite: BL320

**BL120 Biblical Interpretation for Ministry**
This course explores biblical interpretive methods and online study tools and their application towards ministry settings. No language prerequisite.

**BL490 Biblical Capstone**
This capstone course explores how our biblical hermeneutic, i.e. the approaches we bring to interpreting scripture, affects the way we engage our Christian life and ministry.

**BL505 Ecological Hermeneutics & Ministry**
This course explores the field of ecological hermeneutics and the application of ecological interpretive approaches in ministry settings. Biblical scholars interpret the Bible's teachings concerning the relationship between humans and creation in a variety of ways. Different interpretive approaches result in different applications. Students will be challenged to develop their own ecological hermeneutical approach to Scripture and to seek ways to apply their interpretations in their own ministry and life settings.

**BL506 Prophetic Narratives**
This course will explore the artistry, drama, and theology of Israelite storytelling within the prophetic tradition, with particular emphasis on the ministries of Samuel, Elijah and Elisha in the books of Samuel and Kings. We will consider the cultural, historical, and theological context out of which these dramatic stories arose. We will explore the power of story in shaping belief and practice and consider how it shows (as opposed to tells) us how to embody Kingdom values in the face of corruption, apathy, violence, and lust for power.

**BL508 Revelation**
This course studies the book of Revelation within its historical, political, and literary contexts. Particular emphasis is 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. Students will examine the variety of ways Revelation can be used in the church, including preaching, liturgy, and pastoral care.

**BL509 Conflict in the Created Order**
This course will explore how the conflict between the ordering word of God and the disordering 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.

**BL511 Isaiah**
Isaiah's prophesies speak just as well about judgment and justice as they do about hope and comfort. That range makes this book extremely relevant for our day. These ancient words speak to us as individuals, congregations, and as human beings on a fragile planet. In this course we will pay careful attention to the original contexts of these words so that we can better understand what they meant to their original audience. But we will also look at how they have been re-contextualized for different times—including the early church as they tried to understand their experience in Jesus Christ.

**BL513 Studies in Prophets**
This course will explore the role of prophets in Israelite society, their theology, and their impact on Western culture.

**BL516 Days of Elijah and Elisha**
We will take a deep dive into the Elijah and Elisha cycles in I & II Kings and will consider them in the light of the larger historical context of the Israelite monarchy into which these early prophets enacted, embodied, and articulated the Word of the Lord. The course will explore the artistry, drama, and theology of Israelite storytelling generally but with focused attention on these prophetic narratives. We will consider the cultural, historical, and theological context out of which these dramatic stories arose and will discover their transforming power through performance.

**BL521 Ruth and Esther**
This course offers a literary and theological exposition of Ruth and Esther—two small books that offer large insights for today. Emphasis is on becoming more careful and responsible readers of Scripture. This course offers examples of how to engage an Old Testament book via in-depth exegesis, using a variety of critical tools.

**BL523 Joshua and the Paradox of Grace**
Explore the book of Joshua as an entryway into the historical and theological issues surrounding Israel's struggle to claim its God-given inheritance in the Land of Canaan. We'll seek distinctive ways to read this book as the Church and discover ways to live into this biblical story of incorporation and exclusion, hopelessness and salvation, apostasy and grace.

**BL525 Art of the Sabbath**
In this course we will explore the biblical and theological context of the Sabbath and its historical development throughout the Old and New Testaments as well as in Jewish and Christian practice up until today, with a view toward how Sabbath practice can inform and shape Christian living and ministry. Topics will include Sabbath time, Sabbath practices and spiritual formation, Sabbath-keeping and Christian identity, the social, economic, and ecological dimensions of the Sabbath, Sabbath and Sunday, and more.

**BL526 Psalms and Wisdom Literature**
An exegetical study of selected psalms in the context of both the Old Testament and the larger canon of Scripture. Attention is given to the role of the psalms in the liturgical, devotional, and theological life of the church. The Wisdom Literature of the Bible explores the forms, vocabulary, and concepts of wisdom in the Bible, emphasizing Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes.

**BL529 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.

BL530 Letter to the Romans
Introduction and overview of the letter, together with exegetical study of selected portions in Greek.

BL532 Gospel According to John
An overview of the theological 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.

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.

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.

BL540 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.

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.

BL552 Scripture and Human Sexuality
This course explores a variety of ways of reading the Biblical text, particularly with a view to interpreting how Scripture speaks to the role and responsibilities of Christians with different sexual attractions in relation to the Church. Contrasting perspectives will be presented in the class (some via guest speakers), and students will be invited to deepen their capacity for constructive dialogue, discerning common ground amidst difference, and integrative thinking on these challenging questions. 1.5 cr

BL561 Hebrew Reading/Performance
Using memorization and movement as the primary tools of exegesis, students engage with one New Testament narrative deeply for 14 weeks. This course builds on BL300, BL301 deepening students' engagement with the Bible. Pass/fail, 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 BL310 and BL311, 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.

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

BL618 Advanced Biblical Hebrew
Advanced interactive 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. This course is held off-site as a 10 ½ day overnight retreat experience. Pre-work includes grammar review, translation and creative exegetical project. Post-work involves a dramatic analysis paper. Prerequisite: BL310 & BL311

DM850 Orientation Seminar
Gives an introduction to the major administrative and academic components of the program, as well as to the specialized track (theme) that identifies the particular focus of the cohort. Course descriptions vary depending on the faculty and cohort topic. The course description will be available in the syllabus. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year). 6 cr

DM851 Orientation Seminar
A continuation of DM850. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year). 6 cr

DM860 Research Seminar
Provides tools and skills to develop and strengthen academic research and writing. Students learn to structure and format an academic professional paper, providing a model for their project proposal and guidance for their practicum. Students will critically reflect on the practices of ministry and learn to interpret those practices within an academic theological framework. Course descriptions vary depending on the faculty and cohort topic. The course description will be available in the syllabus. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year). 6 cr

DM861 Research Seminar
A continuation of DM860. Students determine what needs to be changed or achieved in their ministry to address the challenge, opportunity or topic they have identified. Students design a thesis project proposal. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year). 6 cr

DM870 Thesis Seminar
Equips students with tools required for the completion of their D.Min. thesis. Course descriptions vary depending on the faculty and topic. The course description will be available in the syllabus. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year). 6 cr

DM871 Thesis Seminar
A continuation of DM860. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year). 6 cr

DM940 Thesis Project
The student demonstrates his or her ability to design and conduct a project that is biblically and theologically grounded, supported by the literature, and relevant to the practice of ministry. Students write a five-chapter scholarly paper that introduces, develops, and assesses the effectiveness of the project. The various chapters focus on the need and rationale for the project, the biblical and theological texts/theories that undergird the project, the issue the project addresses, and the results of what they learned following completion of the project. The doctoral project phase of the D.Min. program takes an additional year to complete and concludes with the presentation and defense of the thesis project before the faculty advisor and project readers. 0 cr

MN111 Missional Preaching
Public speaking is more than preaching, and preaching is more than public speaking. This class takes a deeper look at the theory and practice of preaching and communication in missional contexts. We will ask: what does the “fourth wall” mean
and when/how should you break it? In what ways does preaching engage the heart? How do we develop and steward oratory skills for the sake of gospel transformation? How do we avoid abusing our hearers through our rhetorical style? How do we preach the gospel to diverse 21st century audiences? Participants will gain confidence in their ability to speak publicly, be equipped to understand how verbal and nonverbal communication works and be given an opportunity to develop and deliver content.

MN112 Multiplying Churches
Over the centuries, the church has grown as a multiplying movement from house to house, family to family, city to city, nation to nation, and continent to continent. The mission of the Church is the mission of God - an expansive vision where all people receive God’s Kingdom, live under God’s compassionate rule and demanding care, and receive the full and free life that Jesus offers, while being empowered by the Holy Spirit. The work of the Church is to join God’s mission in spreading the word (being witnesses) to God’s work. This is a mission of multiplications ... as Jesus says, when a seed is planted in the ground, it produces more seeds, more fruit, more life. This is the Kingdom of God. In this course, we will explore the biblical and theological foundations for multiplications, the work of contextualization, how to multiply disciples and leaders, and examine some of the contemporary issues and methods in multiplication today.

MN301 Practice of Preaching
Presuming a foundation in homiletics, this course will help students to further develop the skills they will need to prepare and deliver sermons that proclaim God’s good news, both in the pulpit and out of it.

MN335 Worship Foundations
This course is an exploration of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian worship. These foundations are explored with an eye, an ear, and especially a heart for planning and leading worship richly pastorally. Occasions of worship explored include weekly communal worship, sacraments, Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, communal daily prayer, weddings, and funerals.

MN351 Preaching Foundations
This course explores and grasps 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.

MN361 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.

MN390 Worship Practicum I: Stewardship of Daily Chapel
Students taking this course will be part of a team that assists other students, staff, faculty, and guests in planning and leading daily worship. Course meets each week for 1.5 hours to plan and reflect on past services. Course 1 of 2. 1.5 cr

MN391 Worship Practicum II: Stewardship of Daily Chapel
Students taking this course will be part of a team that assists other students, staff, faculty, and guests in planning and leading daily worship. Course meets each week for 1.5 hours to plan and reflect on past services. Course 2 of 2. 1.5 cr

MN412 Christian Life & Mission
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.

MN415 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.

MN490 Leading Christian Communities
An introduction to the theory and practice of Christian leadership from a missional and theological perspective.

MN503 Global Leadership Summit
This course is in partnership with the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit (GLS). 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. Participants work online July and August and attend the GLS at or a location near the student. Attendance is required. The West Michigan group will meet in person the evening before and the evening of the last day of the conference. Those outside West Michigan will meet virtually. Tuition covers entrance to the GLS.

MN506 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—on our own, and as a group—speak of these gifts to others according to our calling and context—might set forth the gifts of God for the people of God faithfully and well.

MN508 Writing/Reading for the Pastoral Life
Ecclesiastes 12 says 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 helps 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

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. Must be taken with PR413 and PR414.
MN517 Faithful and Effective Response to Domestic Violence
This course 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.

MN524 Faith, Forgiveness, and Healing
In this course, students study the theory and methods relevant to integrating health and wellness, forgiveness and reconciliation into the life of the Christian public leader, the congregation, and the larger community. Physical, emotional, social, intellectual, vocational, and spiritual issues related to forgiveness and healing are explored. Special attention is given to how biblical, theological, and pastoral perspectives on forgiveness and healing inform the task of interpreting and confessing the gospel in situations of conflict and suffering. 1.5 cr

MN526 Ministering to the Toughest People to Love
The church is not immune to trauma, abuse, narcissism, conflict, and addictions of all kinds. Ministering to the so-called “difficult” people can be exhausting, confusing, and lead to burnout or an early exit from ministry. This course will explore stories and symptoms commonly seen across a range of ecclesial traditions. We will explore a theology that views every human, even difficult people, as image-bearers, yet elaborate on troubling relational and systemic dynamics of sin that lead to chaos and confusion in the church. We will discuss what pastors need to do for their own self-care, trauma resilience, and continued resourcing beyond their seminary education.

MN533 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 life-long commitment to justice. 1.5 cr

MN534 Preaching as Pastoral Care
This course is designed to provide the opportunity to think deeply, practically, and with complexity about the mysterious relationship between preaching and pastoral care. In this course, we’ll lean on the wisdom of preacher/pastor Eugene Peterson. In his book, *Five Smooth Stones of Pastoral Work,* he says, “Pastoral work begins at Pulpit, the Font, the Table; it continues in the hospital room, the family room, the counseling room, the committee room. The pastor who leads people in worship is companion to those same people between acts of worship.”

MN538 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.

MN539 Living the Christian Life According to Pop 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 “people in the pews” are reading, like Francis Chan, Bob Goff, Sarah Young, Rob Bell, Shane Claiborne, and Jonathan Eigen. We will engage with some theological, classical, and non-traditional Christian voices to explore their visions of the Christian life. 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.

MN540 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 whole-ness, 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

MN549 Preaching in the Dark
We will consider a range of ways of thinking about the relationship between the gospel and our culture(s) and will practice ways of faithful and fruitful preaching from the Word on the cultural issues confronting the church in the early part of the 21st century. Special attention will be paid the growing number of “Millennials” who self-identify as “NONES” —whatever they believe and however they practice it, the local church is not necessary to them.

MN550 Keeping and Talking the Word
A course designed to provide each person with the time and space to explore and exercise certain primal spiritual disciplines of the people of God, namely Scripture contemplation/ memorization/ interiorization, spiritual reading, silence and mutual encouragement and pastoral performance. In alternating rhythms of the same, we will listen carefully to the witness of faithful brothers and sisters who have gone before us and to one another, as well, in an attempt to ready ourselves for “a long obedience in the same direction.”

MN555 Presbyterian Confessions/Polity
Study of the Confessions and Book of Order of the PC(USA) is intended to give students good knowledge of the confessional tradition, directory of worship and form of government of the PC(USA). This course will help students to prepare for ordination exams. 1.5 cr

MN556 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 to resources from Augustine and Calvin, Evagrius and Theresa, we’ll see that contemporary ministry, pastoral care, and mission can all be aided by a rich and deep understanding of Christian spirituality.

MN558 Worship Renewal in a Changing World
The renewal of God’s people—in scripture and in the church’s history—nearly always begins with a renewal of its worship. This course looks at some of the principles and practices that God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is using to accomplish worship renewal in the body of Christ in our fast-changing world. Reading, discussion, and exercises will be guided by core convictions articulated by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW). We will be especially attentive to this fraught cultural moment colored by the pandemic and an increasing awareness of racism in our country. Key learning will take place at the renowned CICW Symposium for Worship, which will be entirely online with panels, podcasts, livestream worship, webinars, etc.
offered throughout the month of January 2021. We will “attend” and process this event together, but because the events go to January 26, students should plan on work for this course extending into the first week of the Spring semester.

MN559 Pastoral Imagination
Pastor. A word we toss around freely. A word that evokes a myriad of images and reactions (from intrigue to boredom to dread). But what does it mean to be a pastor? How do we see the pastoral vocation with new eyes? How do we honor this ancient work and guard its essence as we navigate the possibilities and upheavals of a new world? How do we see the places and the people where we are called to love and live with a holy, Spirit-infused imagination?

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 holy play in the neighborhood of symbol, performance, embodiment, and transcendence.

MN564 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

MN569 Christian Education and Dismantling Racism
This course analyzes institutionalized racism and proposes a series of frameworks for engaging and dismantling racism and for supporting multicultural congregational learning. We will explore the dynamics of human responses to differences. We will focus on developing “humble curiosity,” deepening our willingness to move toward rather than away from differences, and on managing anxiety in the face of the unknown or unfamiliar. Our work together has the potential for tremendous impact on individuals, congregations, and communities, enabling us as Christian leaders to empower the disenfranchised and create environments characterized by grace, love, solidarity, peace, and justice. 1.5 cr

MN570 Worldview and Lifeview
We and our congregations are experience-oriented people. Because of this, we often relegate “vision” and “worldview” into the unused part of our leadership tool kits, marginalized by the active stuff of hands-on ministry and the consuming demands of Sundays that show up with amazing and unforgiving regularity. But, as Kouzes and Posner have brilliantly shown through four decades of research, two of the five things that good leaders do are “challenging the process” and “inspiring a shared vision.” These prophetic and kingly pastoral leadership tasks require a thoughtful worldview that rises above the experiences to see the meaning. We will read three books (an autobiography, a biblical worldview primer, and a social worldview critique) that will help us build and clarify the contours of our Christian vision and carry on conversations that will hone our congregational leadership skills.

MN573 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.

MN574 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 provide practical tools enabling the student to design a theologically sound youth ministry program suitable in any context. 1.5 cr

MN575 Theology and Philosophy of Youth Ministry
This course seeks to understand the philosophical theories as well as how Biblical principles have been examined and applied historically to Youth Ministry. Attention will be given to how to implement the discipleship process & cultivate faith development.

MN577 Imagining a New Future:
Biographies of Resistance and Hope
Enjoying the biographies of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, and Fannie Lou Hamer, we will delve into the lives of ordinary Christians living in extraordinary times, women and men who peered through a bleak reality and imagined God's New Day.

MN580 Healing Ministry of the Church
What is healing? What does it mean to be healthy? What does Jesus’ life and ministry model for us about how God defines health and offers healing? How does one’s definition of health and healing influence one’s understanding of faithful ministry on the whole? Through dialogue around questions like these, students will be invited to: (1) gain an overview of how the Church has historically understood what it means to heal and be healed; (2) critically engage existing understandings of health and healing alongside a close reading of key biblical texts (with particular attention paid to the healing ministry of Jesus); and (3) construct their own practically actionable theology of healing.

MN581 Ministry andMargins
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 elderly 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.

MN582 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.

MN583 We All Worship: Disability and Worship
Many people with disabilities have spiritual needs that are not being met and gifts that are not being exercised in the context of congregational worship. This course explores worship as the focal point of our shared Christian identity, the power center of our myriad gifts for building up the body of Christ, and the launching pad for our multifaceted witness in the world.
What is a Christian community? What makes some communities Christian and a social group? And, what does it mean to belong to, rather than simply be included in, a Christian community? Intended for residents of Friendship House but is open to other interested students. In Residence only.

**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 and 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.

**MN587 Living into Community: Friendship House**
In this course students will spend time critically reflecting upon what it means to live into community as an act of mutual discipleship. Students will engage questions such as: What is discipleship? What is a Christian community? What is the difference between a Christian community and a social group? And, what does it mean to belong to, rather than simply be included in, a Christian community? Intended for residents of Friendship House but is open to other interested students. In Residence only.

**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. Attend this unique week-long gathering of theologians, academics, ministry leaders, people with disabilities, and others to explore the intersection of faith and disability. Event has included presenters such as Stanley Hauerwas, Hans Reinders, John Swinton, Amos Yong, and Candida Moss. Erik Carter, Bill Gaventa, and Ben Conner, who have taught in the Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry, are on the faculty of the SITD.

**MN590 Deaf Theology and Ministry**
We will explore biblical narratives through Deaf perspectives to develop a Christian theology of ministry that is with, of, by and for the Deaf. Students will discern how to model a Deaf ministry that is focused not on the difference from being hearing, but upon being Deaf in the image of God.

**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.

**MN595 Intellectual Disability and the Church**
This course focuses on ministry in the context of what is commonly, but not exclusively, termed ‘intellectual disability’—although it is imperative that we acknowledge the broader, multi-faceted human experience of disability within which the experience associated with intellectual disability and the secular and theological scholarship that attaches to it to find expression. The course explores both the complexities of theological perceptions and practices in relation to intellectual disability, and the ensuing challenges for persons with intellectual disabilities and those who live in close relationship with them, within the con-temporary Church. Theological assumptions about the nature of faith, participation and ministry will be examined in light of the lived experience of intellectual disability and of our understanding of God, His mission and engagement with human beings, leading to potential transformation of practice.

**MN596 Trauma and Disability**
This course provides a biblical, theological, and pastoral introduction to trauma and care of trauma survivors. We will particularly focus on contemporary intersections between the experiences of disability and trauma. Acknowledging the extensive experience of trauma across our society, we will also attend to practices of “trauma stewardship” in this course—navigating secondary traumatization in our vocational callings as well as negotiating any of our own trauma backgrounds as we are formed as pastors, teachers, and caregivers.

**MN597 Mental Health and Ministry**
This course will explore the interface between theology and mental health with a particular focus on what it is that Christian ministry brings to the conversation that other disciplines do not. This course will focus on the experience of people with mental health challenges and the ways in which their insights can shape and transform our practices.

**MN614 Discerning Congregations: Discovering God in the Neighborhood**
The congregation is a sign, instrument, and foretaste of the Kingdom of God, even with its imperfections, divisions, and difficulties. Students will read in the areas of ecclesiology and mission and will learn the skills of applied ethnographic fieldwork. Students will then work in pairs to adopt a local congregation and engage in conversation discerning God’s mission in local communities. Students can expect to understand how Christian leaders, pastors, and laity can form and lead congregations as participants in God’s mission.

**MN620 Generous Leadership**
Leaders need to align financial resources when forming churches/ministries. This course surveys biblical generosity and philanthropic practices and teaches skills to develop relationships with donors, clarify ministry vision, and join donor resources.

**MT210 Orientation Seminar**
This seminar orients incoming students to the Th.M. program. This course surveys biblical generosity and philanthropic practices and teaches skills to develop relationships with donors, clarify ministry vision, and join donor resources.
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

MT261 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.

PR341 Dual Track Cohort Group 1
PR342 Dual Track Cohort Group 2
PR343 Dual Track Cohort Group 3
PR344 Dual Track Cohort Group 4
PR345 Dual Track Cohort Group 5
PR346 Dual Track Cohort Group 6
PR347 Dual Track Cohort Group 7
PR348 Dual Track Cohort Group 8

Students in the M.Div.-MSW Dual Track program meet bi-weekly during all of the years of the Dual Track program, except years one and two of the M.Div. distance learning format. 0.5 cr each

PR401 Abbey 1
PR402 Abbey 2
PR403 Abbey 3
PR404 Abbey 4
PR405 Abbey 5
PR406 Abbey 6

The Abbey, a 0.5 credit course held for six semesters, invites students into intentional relationships with faculty and fellow students to explore spiritual disciplines, engage in vocational discernment, and integrate their classroom learning with their life of faith. As part of the Abbey, students will also engage in the practice of preaching outside of the classroom and be invited to reflect upon their experience of and sense of call to preaching. 0.5 cr each

PR411 Practice of Ministry: Internship 1
PR412 Practice of Ministry: Internship 2
PR413 Practice of Ministry: Internship 3
PR414 Practice of Ministry: Internship 4

This 4-course sequence in the M.Div. program provides a place for students to practice ministry and engage in theological reflection on their experiences. Through contextual learning, it offers students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice while they engage in vocational discernment and grow in ministerial identity. Students enter a ministry setting under the guidance of a supervisor-mentor and with the support of a mentoring team who will do their best to foster a nurturing, yet challenging learning environment. WTS course work complements and enriches the student formation and learning taking place in students’ ministry sites. Ministry settings for each student are identified through a careful process that involves vocational discernment and reflection in conversation with the associate director of formation for ministry. 1.5 cr each

PR450 Intercultural Immersion
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.

TH102 Introduction to Theological Research
A study of research methodology, library use, and basic reference works for theological research.

TH110 Theology for Ministry
Every believer is doing theology. We all reflect on who the Triune God is, how God relates to us and all that God has made, and how we relate to God and others in response. This course offers an overview of key Christian doctrines to deepen our thinking and help us to make richer connections between what we believe and how we go about out callings.

TH126 Capstone Project
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.

TH300 Church History I
The first course is a two-part sequence, this course explores the life and witness of the church from the New Testament era to the Protestant Reformation.

TH301 Church History II
The second course in a two-part sequence, this course explores the life and witness of the church from the Protestant Reformation to the present.

TH310 Systematic Theology I
The first course in a two-part sequence, this course explores four major Christian doctrines: the doctrines of God, creation, humanity, and Christ. Exploring these expansive topics will include an examination of the doctrine of the Trinity, the divine attributes, creation, humanity, the image of God, sin, providence, and the significance of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. Students will be exposed to both current and historical perspectives on these themes.

TH311 Systematic Theology II
The second course in a two-part sequence, this course explores the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, salvation, church and sacraments and eschatology. 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.

TH440 Christian Life and 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. Both ethical theory as well as contemporary ethical issues will be examined.

TH451 RCA Standards and Polity
(recommended for RCA candidates)
This course introduces students to the standards and polity of the Reformed Church in America. Students learn about the history and content of the Book of Church Order and the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Canons of Dort, and the Belhar Confession, and apply these documents to life in the church today.

TH490 Credo
In this senior seminar, students will write a paper of approximately 25-35 pages in which they will give an account of their personal theology by articulating their beliefs concerning the central loci of Christian teaching, in conversation with their respective denominational traditions, and in language that can be understood by an educated church layperson.
Prerequisite: MN412, TH310, TH311.

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.

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.

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 texts in a small seminar setting. Prerequisite: TH311

TH532 Augustine of Hippo: His Life and Thought
This course explores the life and thought of Augustine. Students will engage this North African Christian living on the margins of the crumbling Roman Empire in his own words, reading both selections from classics like Confessions and On the Trinity and lesser-known texts stemming more directly from Augustine’s pastoral ministry. We will consider some major streams of thought important for understanding Augustine’s work (Manicheism, Platonism, Donatism, Pelagianism) as well as exploring the key features of his theology.

TH533 From Africa to Anatolia: Mothers and Fathers of the Church
This course introduces students to early Christian theology. Parents and place of origin shape a person. This seminar engages our mothers and fathers in the faith, whose perspectives, developing in diverse contexts from urban hubs such as Carthage and Alexandria to the high plain of Cappadocia, have so profoundly shaped our own.

TH536 What Does It Mean to be Human? Help from the Early Church
In this course, we will explore early Christian understandings of the human being, covering the topics of the nature of the soul, divisions of the human person, willing and thinking, gender, the nature and role of the passions, and death. We will focus on the fourth and fifth centuries and discuss how different models of ascetic life in this period involve anthropological assumptions.

TH537 Christ in the Early Church
In this course we will explore early Christian understandings of Christ. Our focus will be intensive reading and discussion of primary sources, which will demonstrate the breadth and richness of early Christian treatments of this theme. To complement and inform this close reading, we will also engage significant secondary sources on the topic and observe how various perspectives are situated, both in relation to differing perspectives of the time, and in the larger story of the development of the church’s understandings of Christ’s person and work.

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.

TH546 War, Peace, and Peace-Making
“Peace” is a central goal of God’s plan for all of creation, and yet throughout the history of the Church, there has been much disagreement concerning how best to understand the full witness of scripture regarding war and peace, how to integrate scripture’s vision of peace with justice, and what the implications of this vision are for Christian discipleship and practice. In this course those questions of war, peace, and peacemaking are explored in three movements: (1) Biblical/Theological Foundations (2) Peacemaking within and outside the Church, and (3) Restorative justice.

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 that shaped it and his theology, and close readings of selections from his theological works. The student will gain a good overview of Barth’s theological vision, his major contributions to theology and typical critiques of his thought.

TH557 Church and State in America
This course examines the relationship between church and state in America from the colonial era to the present. Along the way we will treat such topics as marriage, medicine, education, and civil religion.

TH558 A Prophet Denied: Theology, Life and Work of W.E.B. DuBois
Born during Reconstruction and dying on the eve of the March on Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois was a scholar and activist who accurately identified racism as “the problem of the 20th Century”. He became a foundational figure in sociology, criminology, and international relations. This course provides an overview of Du Bois’ life, scholarship, activism, spirituality, and will explore his continued relevance today.

TH559 Contemporary Theological Views of Humanity
What does it mean to be a human being? Students will explore this question through a deep engagement with David Kelsey’s Eccentric Existence: A Theological Anthropology. Kelsey’s groundbreaking work places a Barth-inspired and post-liberal theology in conversation with the best of recent biblical scholarship and contemporary research about humanity from the social sciences. Wrestling with what it means to be a human in this day and age and tracing out the implications of that for both faith and practice are crucial and exciting theological tasks.

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 have impacted the theology and worship of the Black Church into the 21st century.

TH565 Disability and Theology in the Christian Tradition
What is disability? How has disability been understood theologically in the Christian tradition? This course examines theologies of disability with the aim of helping students to comprehend and articulate their own working theology of disability.

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.” 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 eculturation, missions, politics, and gender.

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 interpreters from earlier eras can benefit the life and ministry of the church today. After examining the basic features of pre-modern approaches to scripture, the course explores key and controversial biblical texts (e.g., creation, Hagar, Psalms of cursing, slavery), in conversation with patristic, Reformation-era, and American antebellum sources, toward the end of helping us proclaim all of scripture as God’s word.

TH593 God of the Gospel
Some of the most basic questions about God probe deeply into contemporary issues in the Christian life and ministry: Who is God? What are God’s attributes? How do we come to know God? Is the Triune God made known in Jesus Christ the same as the God known through creation and through the religious practices and cultures of non-Christians? This course explores how the
biblical witness to God's work in Israel and in Jesus Christ relates to these complex questions. Through the works of Herman Bavinck (1854-1921), Kwame Bediako (1945-2008) and Kate Sonderegger (1951-) we will explore contrasting, yet overlapping, responses to these questions raised by the doctrine of God.

TH618 Theological German I
Inductive study of basic German grammar and syntax and of selected texts in contemporary German theology. (on request) 1.5 cr

TH619 Theological German II
A continuation of learning modern theological German for reading and research. (on request) 1.5 cr

TH632 Introduction to the World’s Religions
An introduction to the origins, beliefs, and practices of the major religions of the world. Students will be invited to develop a deeper understanding of how the world’s other major religions relate to the Christian faith, how various religious texts inform religious practices, and develop tools for engaging in fruitful interreligious dialogue as Christians called to make disciples. Students will begin with the oldest known monotheistic religion (Zoroastrianism) and trace religious history into post modernity (considering New religious movements such as Baha’i, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (“Mormons”).
Academic Calendar

Online Orientation (all students) ------------Aug 9-20
Th.M. Program begins ---------------------Aug 23
In-Residence orientation ----------------Aug 26
Fall semester begins ---------------------Aug 30
Labor Day - Seminary closed ---------------Sept 6
Drop/Add deadline ----------------------Sept 7
DL on-campus Intensive --------------Oct 18-22
IR Fall reading break ----------------Oct 20-24
DL after-Intensive break ---------------Oct 23-31
Registration for Spring semester due -----Nov 5
Thanksgiving recess ---------------------Nov 20-28
Fall semester ends ---------------------Dec 18
Christmas break ----------------------Dec 18-Jan 9
Grades due for Fall semester -------------Dec 27
Online Orientation (new students) --------Jan 4-15
Spring semester begins -------------------Jan 10
Drop/Add deadline ---------------------Jan 18
DL on-campus Intensive --------------Feb 14-18
IR Winter reading break ---------------Feb 16-20
DL after-Intensive break ---------------Feb 19-27
Spring break (IR & DL) ----------------Mar 26-Apr 3
Registration for Fall semester due --------Apr 4
IR Senior Blessing Worship Service ---------Apr 29
Spring semester ends ---------------------Apr 29
Graduation -----------------------------Apr 30 (tentative)
Summer term (7 wks) ----------------------May 9-Jun 24
Drop/Add deadline Summer Term -----------May 17
Grades due for Spring semester -----------May 20
Th.M. program ends ----------------------Jul 30
Grades due for Summer semester ---------Jul 1

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.
- Spring Semester: January-April, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-February.
- Summer Term: May-June, 7 weeks, online courses.
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
Dual Track Master of Divinity - Master of Social Work
Master of Arts
Master of Theology
Doctor of Ministry
Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Ministry
Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry
Graduate Program for Christian Educators

Students
Approximately 354 full and part-time students

Faculty
20 faculty members
18:1 student/faculty ratio

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

Affiliation
Reformed Church in America