2017-2018 Academic Catalog
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Message from the President

In the name of the Lord Jesus, Welcome!

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

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

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

Grace and peace,

Dr. Timothy Brown
President
Henry Bast Professor of Preaching
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 1:14
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.

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

- $50 Application fee for all applications, non-refundable
- $250 Confirmation deposit required for matriculation, non-refundable, applied to tuition account
Transfer Students
Western Theological Seminary accepts credits from other graduate institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Courses are eligible for transfer when the grade received is a minimum of B- or its equivalent. WTS will accept up to 6 credits in which a student earned a “pass” instead of a grade. An academic assessment will identify class status and determine the steps toward completing the degree program at Western. M.Div. students must earn at least 30 credit hours in our institution, and M.A. students must earn at least 24 credit hours in our institution to earn a degree.

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

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

Distance Learning Applicants
The process for applying for the M.A. and M.Div. distance learning programs is the same as that for in-residence.

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 (available at my.westernsem.edu/apply), include all academic transcripts, and submit a one-page statement of how their learning might enhance and empower their future ministry.

How do I begin?

1. Contact Western’s Admissions team:
admissions@westernsem.edu
1-800-392-8554
(ask for Mark, CJ, Jill, or Jeanette)

2. Seek out vocational conversations with church leaders, family and friends

3. Visit our campus for a day

4. Complete your application (deadlines, pg 7)

5. Following admission, confirm your intent to come with a $250 deposit

6. Discuss your housing needs with the VP of Finance, Norman Donkersloot,
1-800-392-8554, x107

7. Learn more about next steps:
Financial aid application
Course registration forms

8. Explore financial aid needs with the Financial Aid Administrator, at 1-800-392-8554, x120

9. Participate in orientation before classes begin

10. Launch!
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. Also, they must have served in their current ministry setting for at least one of the three years.

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

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

Master of Theology Applicants
To be considered for admission to the Master of Theology program, international and North American applicants must have completed a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent. International applicants must have a letter of endorsement and recommendation from their denomination or a ministry-related agency in which they have served for 3+ years. The letter must verify past service and indicate promise for future service and leadership.

International applicants 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.

Application Completion Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master of Divinity</th>
<th>Master of Arts</th>
<th>Dual Track M.Div./M.S.W.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Semester – Late August Start</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply by:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 1 - Application fee waived for M.Div. applicants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 1 - To be considered for the Trustee Scholarship, apply and be admitted by this date.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1 - Fee $50, receive full consideration for scholarships.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30 - Fee $50 + include $250 confirmation. Limited scholarships.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1 - Fee $50 + include $250 confirmation. No scholarships awarded, loans only for Fall Semester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>After July 1 - Please apply for Spring Semester.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring Semester – Mid-January Start</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply by:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1 - Fee $50, receive full consideration for scholarships.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30 – Fee $50 + include $250 confirmation. Limited scholarships.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Nov. 30 - No admission. Apply for Fall.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Master of Theology:
International and scholarship applicants apply by: Nov. 30
Non-Scholarship applicants apply by: July 15

Doctor of Ministry:
January 15 (for cohort that begins in May)

Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry:
August 1 (Fall Semester - Late Aug. start)
December 1 (Spring Semester - Mid-Jan. start)

Non-degree-seeking students:
August 1 (Fall) and December 1 (Spring)

admissions@westernsem.edu
1.800.392.8554
Title IX and Non-Discrimination Policies

It is the purpose of Western Theological Seminary to prepare women and men called by God to lead the church in mission. 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 wrong-doing; 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 our Title IX and non-discrimination policies have been developed in alignment with legal requirements of our state and the Vision of our Life Together.(1) 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.

(1) See www.westernsem.edu/about/mission-vision/#toggle-id-2

Notice of Non-Discrimination
Western Theological Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, disability, and other prohibited bases in admissions, employment, and educational programs.

As a Christian institution, Western Theological 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 non-discrimination policies and complaints of 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
Housing

Housing options at Western seek to build community among students.

Townhouses
The townhouses on campus are especially attractive to families with young children. They encircle a commons area with picnic tables, a playground, and plenty of room for gatherings. The townhouses are available in 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units, and each includes air-conditioning, a washer and dryer, as well as major kitchen appliances. Handicapped accessible units are available.

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

The Ralph and Cheryl Schregardus Friendship House accommodates 18 seminary students (including a resident director) and six people with cognitive impairments. Each special-needs adult shares an apartment with three seminary students, engaging in friendships yet functioning independently. By living with people who have cognitive impairments, Western students become more aware of the challenges faced by persons with a variety of disabilities. Students who live in Friendship House take their experiences into the church—influencing congregations and ministries with the care and sensitivity persons with special needs deserve.

Other Options
In addition to the townhouses and the Friendship House, the seminary owns traditional apartments and houses near the campus. All housing options are within walking distance of parks, churches, and the downtown shopping district.

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 $585 to $880 per month in 2017-2018, depending upon the location and number of bedrooms. A bedroom in the Friendship House rents for $265, and internet service is provided. Utilities are included, except for phone and cable. The apartments and houses are wired for cable, but it is not provided.
Financial Information

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

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

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

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

To determine eligibility for financial aid, download a WTS financial aid application at: westernsem.edu/admissions/cost/financial-aid/

The deadline for submitting a financial aid application is April 1 for full consideration for scholarships and May 30 for limited scholarships (as resources allow). Students admitted after May 30 will receive consideration for financial aid for the following spring semester if we receive their completed WTS financial aid application no later than December 1. Award letters will be mailed within a week of receiving the WTS financial aid application.

Scholarships, loans, and work opportunities are available to help meet educational costs. Scholarships range from $500-$10,000 and usually involve the opportunity to meet the benefactor at the seminary’s annual scholarship luncheon. Loans are granted through government programs or through banking institutions. Work opportunities are available in maintenance and the library.

Payment Arrangements

Degree seeking candidates:
Students receive a tuition statement before the start of the semester. It includes pending scholarships (changes to your class schedule could affect your scholarship). Adjusted student bills are distributed the week after the drop/add period for the semester.

Payment is due 21 days after the first day of class by one of three ways:
1) Cash, check, credit card
2) Apply for a Direct Loan by contacting Pat Dykhuis
3) Start a payment plan. A $25 administrative fee will be charged for each semester the student is on the plan, and the outstanding balance will be assessed a 1% finance charge each month until it is paid off, which must be in 4 or less monthly payments.

Students cannot begin a new semester with balances still due.

Non-Degree seeking candidates:
Students receive a statement at least two weeks before the start of the semester. Payment is due before the first day of class.
### 2017-2018 Tuition and Fee Schedule

**In-Residence Master of Divinity**

**Dual Track M.Div./MSW**

**Master of Theology**

- $445 per credit hour
- $100 per credit hour to audit*  
  - $50  Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $250  Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
  - $60  Activities fee (yearly)
  - $20  Noon luncheon fee (each semester)
  - $380  January-term retreat (junior year)
  - $750-$1500  Intercultural Immersion trip (middle year)
  - $60  Graduation fee
  * Free audits for certain courses are permitted to spouses of full-time degree students by applying to the registrar.

**Distance Learning Master of Divinity**

**Master of Arts**

- $445 per credit hour
  - $50  Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $250  Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
  - $750-$1500  Intercultural Immersion trip (year three)
  - $60  Graduation fee
  - $50 per semester Intensive fee
  * The cost of transportation, meals, and lodging for the intensives courses are the responsibility of the student.

**Doctor of Ministry:**

- $13,500 total tuition for the program for students beginning in 2017.
  - $50  Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $250  Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
  - $60  Graduation fee

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

**Graduate Certificate Programs:**

- $445 per credit hour (in-residence) or $440/hr (distance learning)
- $100 per credit hour to audit
  - $50  Application fee (non-refundable)
  - $60  Graduation fee

Please note that prices are subject to change each year. Current prices are on www.westernsem.edu/admissions/cost

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**Drop Dates**

Each semester the academic dean’s office publishes a drop date for courses. This is usually five days after the start of the semester. A student will bear no academic or financial penalty for any course dropped prior to that date. Tuition will be refunded if a course is dropped prior to, but not after, the drop date. If the course is dropped after the drop date, a student will be responsible for a prorated amount of the tuition.
In-Residence Master of Divinity

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

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

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

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.
## IN-RESIDENCE MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1 Fall</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL100</td>
<td>New Testament Greek 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL103</td>
<td>Old Testament Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH100</td>
<td>Church History I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td>MN100</td>
<td>Worship Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN102</td>
<td>Practice of Discipleship</td>
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<tr>
<td>FR121</td>
<td>Entering Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td>FR101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL101A</td>
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<td>BL101B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH101</td>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FR101</td>
<td>Retreat for Christian Formation</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1 Spring</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL101A</td>
<td>New Testament Greek II</td>
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<tr>
<td>BL101B</td>
<td>New Testament Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td>BL102</td>
<td>New Testament Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH101</td>
<td>Church History II</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN105</td>
<td>Pastor as Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN101</td>
<td>Preaching Foundations</td>
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<td>FR122</td>
<td>Exploring Christian Ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>BL110</td>
<td>Biblical Hebrew</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH113</td>
<td>Systematic Theology I</td>
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<td>TH112</td>
<td>Gospel, Culture and Church</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FR111</td>
<td>Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>BL111</td>
<td>Hebrew Translation &amp; Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>FR124</td>
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<tr>
<td>FR125</td>
<td>Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry (Internship)</td>
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<td>Practice of Worship &amp; Preaching</td>
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**PROGRAM TOTAL: 96 credit hours**
Formation for Ministry for In-Residence M.Div. students

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Examples of ministry settings include:

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

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

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

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

Our students have been immersed into cultures such as:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Semester Schedule

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

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

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

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

**Admissions**

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

**Technology Requirements**

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

**New Student Preparation**

Western seeks to ensure the best start for each new student. New student preparation includes online orientation created within the program’s learning management software (Canvas). This is designed to give students the experience they need for successful navigation and communication within the online components of a course. In addition, student support is provided by the distance learning department and the academic office. An upper level DL student is also available to support new DL students as they begin.

**Community Groups**

During the first two years of the program, community groups consisting of approximately six students and an experienced ministry facilitator meet during the October and May intensives. These groups gather together for support and reflection on their lives and ministries.

### DISTANCE LEARNING M.DIV. CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1 Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL100 New Testament Greek I</td>
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<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
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**Distance Learning Support Staff**

- **James Vlisides**
  Educational Technologist
- **Carol Ann Bailey**
  Educational Technology Specialist and Student Support Coordinator
- **Kathy Ehmann**
  Educational Technology Specialist
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<tr>
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<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
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<td>FR118 Engaging Christian Ministry II</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
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<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
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<td>FR119 Engaging Christian Ministry III</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective (or MN121 Standards and Polity for RCA Candidates)</td>
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| PROGRAM TOTAL: 96 credit hours |

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

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

Three elements guide the Teaching Church experience:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peer Groups

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

Intercultural Immersion Experience

See pg. 14 for the description under the In-Residence Master of Divinity program.
Dual Track Master of Divinity-Master of Social Work

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

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

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

Program Design

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN-RESIDENCE DUAL TRACK CURRICULUM

<table>
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<tr>
<th>All year</th>
<th>MN331 Yearlong Cohort Group 1.5</th>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 1 Fall</td>
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</tr>
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<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations 3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH100 Church History I 3.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry (Internship) – only for those entering with their MSW completed 3.0</td>
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<td>MN120 Leadership 3.0</td>
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**PROGRAM TOTAL: 69 WTS credit hours + 27 MSW hrs**

### DISTANCE LEARNING DUAL TRACK CURRICULUM

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<td>MN105 Pastor as Person</td>
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<td>All year</td>
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<td>YEAR 2 Fall</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR118 Engaging Christian Ministry II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J-Term Spring</td>
<td>FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR119 Engaging Christian Ministry III</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All year</td>
<td>MN334 Yearlong Cohort Group</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 4 Fall</td>
<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I (11 hrs face to face)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN124 Practice of Worship &amp; Preaching</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH112 Gospel, Culture and Church (11 hrs face to face)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5 Fall</td>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH121 Christian Ethics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH124 Credo</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (or MN121 Standards and Polity for RCA Candidates)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*Italics = purely online course*
Master of Arts

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

Distinctives of the Program

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

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

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

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

Semester Schedule

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
<th>BL102 New Testament Foundations</th>
<th>3.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Can be taken in any order)</td>
<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH100 Church History I -or- TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH126 Summative Examination</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of required courses:** 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTIVE COURSES</th>
<th>24 elective credits may be selected from any of the fields (Biblical, Theological, or Christian Ministry)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Total credits of elective courses:** 24

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

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

Our program has three further distinctive characteristics:

1. In the Th.M. 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 for leaders who will serve and teach in theological institutions.

To apply, a candidate must:

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

International Students must submit a TOEFL score of at least:

- Paper based: 550, TWE 4
- Internet based: 80
- IELTS: Overall 6.0

### MASTER OF THEOLOGY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>MT210 Orientation Seminar</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>MT220 Research Design</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT235 Seminar in Theological Method</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two 3-credit Electives</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J-term</td>
<td>MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Non-thesis option: Two 3-credit Electives</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT254 Preliminary Examination</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT260A Research Paper</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis option: One 3-credit Elective</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT254 Preliminary Examination</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT260 Thesis</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(see next page for curriculum)
## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DM810</td>
<td>Orientation Seminar</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM820</td>
<td>Candidate Seminar</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM830</td>
<td>Project Seminar</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM840</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Learning Units

Learning units are primary building blocks of the D.Min. program. A learning unit is a specific action-reflection exercise that furthers the candidate’s knowledge, skill, and personal competence in ministry with carefully defined objectives related to the overall program goal. Students develop and complete four learning units (two in the first year and two in the second year).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets for two weeks in May</th>
<th>DM810 Orientation Seminar</th>
<th>4.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduces major components of the program. During the seminar, students clarify their program of study and work on designing learning units.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets for two weeks in May</th>
<th>DM820 Candidate Seminar</th>
<th>4.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begins the second year of the program. This seminar focuses on questions of context in relation to one’s program of study.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets for two weeks in May</th>
<th>DM830 Project Seminar</th>
<th>4.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begins the third year and focuses on vocation and the D.Min. project based upon their first two years’ work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DM840 Project</th>
<th>16.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design and completion of a thesis project is the final stage of the D.Min. program. The D.Min. project consists of an original investigation or activity in ministry and affords students an opportunity to develop a mature practice of ministry characterized by careful scholarship and pastoral wisdom.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

Topics explored in disability courses:

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose 4 classes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(or 5 classes if you opted for 16.5 required credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(not available all years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL551 Disability, Bible and the Pastoral Imagination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN581 Ministry and Margins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN582 Ministry, Aging and Dementia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN583 We All Worship: Disability and Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN586 Disability and Community Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN587 Living into Community: Friendship House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN588 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN590 Deaf Theology and Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN591 Strategies for an Inclusive Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN592 Practicing the Presence of People: Jean Vanier and the Ministry of Nurture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH565 Disability and Theology in the Christian Tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total credits of elective courses:</strong> 7.5 or 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Total:</strong> 24 credit hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry

The Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry (GCUPM) provides an opportunity for urban pastors and leaders to gain deeper biblical and theological knowledge as they strengthen their skills for ministry in the city. They become more aware of issues particular to the urban ministry context, gain insight into relating across cultures, and receive practical tools for dynamic preaching and worship. Participants also refresh their ministry skills by learning from each other and from faculty who are committed to multiracial/ethnic ministry in the city. Courses are taught by racially diverse instructors to provide a broader experience.

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.

WTS offers tuition discounts to make the program affordable for GCUPM students. To be considered for these, fill out the WTS financial aid application at westernsem.edu/admissions/cost/financial-aid/. Tuition discount awards are based solely on the completed form. Contact Director Joseph Ocasio for more information at joseph.ocasio@westernsem.edu or 616-392-8555, x178.

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.

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

The program includes five required* courses and three others, for a total of 24 credit hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GCUPM CURRICULUM</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations*</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations*</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH101 Church History II (Reformation to Present)*</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH102 Introduction to Theological Research*</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH104 Introduction to Theology and Worship*</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN109 Urban Ministry and Preaching</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective <em>(or MN121 Standards and Polity for RCA candidates)</em></td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Total: 24 credit hours
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.

A tuition discount of 25% is available for students from Christian Schools International (CSI) schools. Please note your CSI affiliation on your application for admission. Students in this 15 credit hour program do not qualify for scholarships or student loans.

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.

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

The program includes four required* courses and 1-2 others, for a total of 15 credit hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPCE CURRICULUM</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations* (or OT course of your choice)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations* (or NT course of your choice)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH104 Introduction to Theology and Worship*</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship*</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective courses in topics such as:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biblical studies, practice of counsel and care, spiritual formation, Christian doctrine, biblical languages, etc.</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Total: 15 credit hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Dr. David Komline  
Assistant Professor of Church History  
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.
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 Services

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

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

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

Faculty Fellow Program
Racial-ethnic scholars who are completing their Ph.D. dissertation are sought by the seminary for possible appointment as Faculty Fellows. Western created this program as part of a strategy to prepare leaders for diverse congregations. Since 2010, five scholars have become fellows at the seminary, teaching classes in such topics as modern black theology, multi-cultural ministry, theology and social movements, pastoral care and counseling, justice/liberation, etc. Several have stayed beyond their fellowship and joined the faculty. Our sixth Faculty Fellow is Professor Gordon Govens, who is teaching courses in church history and Christian ethics during 2017-18.

Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry
This program is shaped to meet the unique educational needs of those practicing ministry in the urban context. The courses are taught by an ethnically diverse group of professors who balance theory with practical learning. (see pg 31)

Partnership with Instituto Bíblico Ebenezer (IBE)
In 2014, the seminary entered into a strategic partnership with Instituto Bíblico Ebenezer (IBE) of Holland, MI. IBE is a biblical training school for Latino/a church leaders. We provide space in our building for their classes. Both communities (WTS and IBE) have gathered for fellowship and conversation about the joys and challenges of ministry in a multicultural world. WTS professors have also contributed to the training of IBE students.

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

Beardslee Library’s resources include more than 250,000 print and e-books. Approximately 1000 books are added to the collection each year. Current periodical subscriptions number 175. Electronic resources for theological study, including databases and e-journals, are available through links on Beardslee Library’s website at westernsem.edu/library. Graduates of the seminary may participate in the ATLAS for Alumni/ae program, which provides access to full-text e-journal articles at no cost.
Library users find information on the collection through the Western Theological Seminary + Hope College Library Catalog. Beardslee Library and Hope College libraries maintain reciprocal borrowing privileges and work cooperatively to develop strong collections for each institution. Seminary students and faculty may also request materials from other libraries through interlibrary loan.

Special Collections
Several special collections complement Beardslee Library’s core collection. A Japanese collection includes Japanese translations of significant theological works. 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 Cook Center for Theological Research provides an environment conducive for study, offering study carrels, lounge chairs, collaborative workspaces, group workrooms, catalog access on each floor, copying, printing and scanning services, and wireless internet access throughout the building. A sight reader is available for the visually impaired.

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

Learning opportunities Journey offers: (journey.westernsem.edu)
• Ridder Church Renewal (ridder.westernsem.edu)
• Bast Preaching Festival (bast.westernsem.edu)
• The Osterhaven Theology Lectures
• Various conferences and gatherings

The Sacred Page Bookstore
• Textbooks
• Bibles, music, worship materials
• Christian literature
• Materials supporting student and faculty research
• Snacks
• Fair Trade coffees
• Inspirational gifts
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Dr. Wayne Brouwer
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Emerging Technologies Librarian

Benjamin Boss  
Resources Management Librarian

Allison Van Liere  
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Affiliated Ministries

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

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

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

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

thebridge@westernsem.edu

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

Volunteers from local churches 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.

The Community Kitchen is relocated for 2017-18 while the seminary undergoes renovation and construction.
info@communityactionhouse.org
Courses

BIBLICAL FIELD

Required Courses:

BL100 New Testament Greek I

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

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

BL102 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.

BL103 Old Testament Foundations
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the Old Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the Old Testament for today.

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

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

Old Testament:

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

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.

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

BL511 Studies in Prophets
The role of prophets in Israelite society, their theology, and their impact on Western culture.

BL512 Seminar in Interpretation Today
Interpretation Today
Its Implications for Biblical
BL513 Studies in Prophets
The role of prophets in Israelite society, their theology, and their impact on Western culture.

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

BL515 The Earth is the Lord’s:
An Agrarian Reading of the Bible
A study of the first five books of the Bible. Examining the accounts of creation, the fall, Israel’s ancestors, the exodus, and the giving of the Law. The class will explore theological issues such as the nature of God, human beings and the world, our covenantal relationship with God, and the presence of God in historical events.

BL516 The Trial of Galileo
A study of the first five books of the Bible. Examining the accounts of creation, the fall, Israel’s ancestors, the exodus, and the giving of the Law. The class will explore theological issues such as the nature of God, human beings and the world, our covenantal relationship with God, and the presence of God in historical events.

BL517 Wisdom Literature of the Bible
Explores the forms, vocabulary, and concepts of wisdom in the Bible, emphasizing Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. 1.5 cr

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

BL614 Hebrew Reading/Performance
Using memorization and movement as the primary tools of exegesis, students engage with one Old Testament narrative deeply for 14 weeks. This course builds on BL110
This course will examine Acts in light of its varied social, political, and canonical contexts, with a particular emphasis on the Spirit’s formation of the people of God. Students will undertake a close reading of the text of Acts and will consider the ways that Acts can help the contemporary church imagine communities of faith and practice that bear witness to the Triune God. 1.5 cr

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

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

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

BL541 Letters to the Philippians and Galatians
An exegetical study of two Pauline letters in light of modern interpretation, with attention to their use in modern theology and the preaching and teaching of the church. Selected Greek passages studied in depth. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**THEOLOGICAL FIELD**

**Required Courses**

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

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

**TH102 Introduction to Theological Research**
A study of research methodology, library use, and basic reference works for theological research. (for GCUPM students only)

**TH104 Introduction to Theology and Worship**
This introductory course combines concerns that would usually be considered separately in courses in theology and worship, as a reflection of the deeply held Reformed and ecumenical conviction, lex orandi, lex credendi. Holding these two basic realities together, we will seek to deepen our understanding of the core aspects of the Christian faith, explore how theology and worship both shape and are shaped by the other, gain a growing capacity for thinking critically about our theology and worship, and develop skills for worship leadership.

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

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

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

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

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

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**Historical Theology**

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

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

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

**TH533 From Africa to Anatolia: Mothers and Fathers of the Church**
Parents and place of origin shape a person. It is the same with theology. This seminar on early Christian theology 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.

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

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

**TH556 History of the Black Church**
Galatians 3:28 beautifully asserts “there is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ.” Even so, early in the history of the United States, African Americans found it necessary to establish the Black Church. This course examines the events and conditions necessitating that development and how the legacies of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and persistent racism impacted the theology and worship of the Black Church. Also explored is the extent to which those and related issues still prevent achieving full unity in the body of Christ and the strategies that can be employed to finally achieve the Lord’s vision.

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

TH570 The Reformation Then and Now
The divisions and developments of the Reformation era in the 16th century continue to shape us and our churches in more ways than we realize. Some of what we have inherited from the Reformation has been rich and fruitful; other aspects of that inheritance have done great damage and continue to cause deep hurt. This course will examine aspects of the theology and history of the Protestant and Roman Catholic Reformation movements of the 16th century, and trace their ongoing implications for today.

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

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

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

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

TH633 World Christianity
This course examines the growth of Christianity in a variety of strikingly different cultural contexts. Today there are more Presbyterians in Ghana than in Scotland, more members in Brazil’s Pentecostal Assemblies of God than in two of the largest U.S. Pentecostal denominations, and China is on pace to become the largest Christian country in the coming decades. Taking into account recent developments in the history of Christianity across the globe, we will focus on the transmission of faith as a cross-cultural process. 1.5 cr

Ethics:

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 towards the rest of creation in our various ministry settings. 1.5 cr

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

TH545 Ecological Theology and Ethics
An in-depth study of the nature and causes of current ecological degradation, the witness of Christian Scripture and the Christian theological tradition concerning matters ecological, the duties and responsibilities we humans have as earthkeepers, and the practical implications of living in a more earth-friendly way at home, at church, at work, at play.

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

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

TH569 John Calvin on Piety: Faith and the Decision Between Good and Evil
This course examines Calvin’s theology on piety and how it evidences one’s knowledge of God. We will examine his thought on how the conscience functions in individuals as they decide between good and evil, how fear (or lack thereof) dictates human action, how the Ten Commandments (the Law) is designed to guide Christian piety, why piety is essential to a godly community and how the center of piety is faith in God the Creator and Redeemer. The knowledge of God through piety is at the heart of Reformed theology. 1.5 cr

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

Theology:

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

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

TH511 Theology and Film
This course will explore a theology of culture through a concentrated focus on theology and film. Students will view, discuss, and analyze a wide selection of films, cultivate a biblically informed and theologically robust posture for engaging culture and consider its role in Christian discipleship and ministry. 1.5 cr
TH514 Theology of the Word: God’s Word as Divine Action
This course explores the surprising reality that God’s speech is an action—that the Triune God is at work in and through the Word in the church and the world. Students will explore this issue in the doctrine of God and revelation with an eye toward renewing the church’s ministry of word and sacrament. Readings will include works in biblical studies, historical theology, and contemporary systematic theology. TH113 recommended but not required. 1.5 cr

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

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

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

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

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

TH552 Karl Barth: Life and Theology
It is difficult to overestimate the importance of Barth’s theology for contemporary Christian thought. Our course will include an overview of Barth’s life and the forces 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.

TH553 Interreligious Witness and Dialogue
In North America as well as the broader world, the church’s life and witness plays out in multi-faith social contexts. This course examines theological orientations for understanding religions and religious traditions and explores proposals for the church’s approach to confident witness in a spirit of mutual hospitality and humility. 1.5 cr

TH556 Atonement Theology
“Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again”—these are the familiar affirmations of the communion liturgy. They express the central Christian claim that Jesus is Lord and Savior. This seminar course will examine some of the most important statements of the doctrine of the atonement in the Christian tradition. It will include readings from Scripture, Athanasius, Augustine, Anselm, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, John McLeod Campbell, Katherine Tanner, and others who express both the central conviction and the remarkable variation in Christian atonement theology. 1.5 cr

TH558 Theology of the Lord’s Supper
Explores the biblical and theological dimensions of the Lord’s Supper, with an eye for the renewal of the contemporary church. Readings draw from various Christian traditions and explore the Lord’s Supper in relation to topics such as biblical foundations for eucharistic theology, the history of eucharistic theology, and the implications of the Supper for discipleship and the church’s witness. 1.5 cr

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

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

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

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

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

TH632 Introduction to the World’s Religions
An introduction to the beliefs and practices of the major religions of the world, with a study of their scriptural traditions. New religious movements such as Baha’i, The Unification Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (“Mormons”) are also treated, paying special attention to their relationship to Christianity. The Christian theological response to other religions is also considered.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FIELD

Required Courses:

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

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

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

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

MN109 Urban Ministry and Preaching Course description tba. (For GCUPM students only)

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

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

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

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

WTS-Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity

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

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

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

Dual Track Master of Divinity-Master of Social Work

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

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

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

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

Pastoral Care and Counseling:

MNS15 Basic Clinical Pastoral Education
A pastoral ministry practicum that integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting with special attention given to the person in ministry. A basic practicum accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. 6 cr

MNS13N Basic Clinical Pastoral Education – non-accredited
A pastoral ministry practicum that integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting with special attention given to the person in ministry. Ministry is not completed in an accredited CPE setting. 6 cr

MNS17 Faithful and Effective Response to Domestic Violence
Explores the theories, resources, and strategies of pastoral and congregational care to respond faithfully and effectively to the issue of domestic violence based on theological understandings of God and human
experience. This course draws upon the insights of psychology, sociology, and theology to guide pastoral and congregational care into a more faithful and effective praxis. The course draws from scriptural, theological, socio-scientific, and experiential resources and invites students to engage those resources in ways that enhance their ability to offer care and to lead communities of care in response to the issue of domestic violence.

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

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 unleashing circles for community-wide crises. Experientially based; includes case studies, role plays, journaling, and small group work.

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 wholeness, new therapeutic models for growth and change, and renewed Christian interest in contemplative practices. This course employs a biblical/theological lens as it explores current developments theoretically and practically for Christians and skeptics alike who long to flourish in a broken world. 1.5 cr

MN542 Addictions
This course will provide a framework for engaging the dynamics of addictions. These addictive dynamics will be examined through a theological lens which honors the relational narratives that we all possess. Diagnosis, conceptualization, treatment and recovery will be engaged through this lens.

MN556 Psychology and Christian Spirituality
There is a strong tradition of psychological wisdom within the contemplative Christian tradition. In fact, the contemplative tradition provides a kind of framework for self-reflection, for healthy intimacy, and for genuine spirituality. Looking at resources from Augustine and Calvin, Evagrius and Theresa, we’ll see that contemporary ministry, pastoral care, and mission can all be aided by a rich and deep understanding of Christian spirituality.

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. 1.5 cr

Religious Education

MN515 Covenantal Perspectives and Cultural Influences on Youth Ministry
This course will seek to explore cultural changes and influences within the past three decades that are shaping our understanding of adolescents today, all within the framework of historical perspectives on covenant theology. We’ll further examine how an inter-generational approach to youth ministry and a “shared stories” strategy could create the necessary context for deepened relationships that foster sticky faith in youth.

MN518 Talking the Talk: Beyond and Behind Christian Cliches
This course will focus on Christian, denominational, and congregational discourses, and how the ways we speak of and address God, the Bible translations we choose, the words we import from other faith traditions, and our relationship to historic churches influence our class systems and their language cultures shape our practice of faith. 1.5 cr

MN530 Christian Formation in Gospel Communities
This course is designed for those contemplating pastoral ministry or educational ministry in a congregational context or Gospel community. Themes include designing and implementing education programs, evaluating and selecting curriculum resources, exploring emerging models of faith formation, and the pastor as teacher.

MN531 Christian Formation of Children and Youth
This elective course focuses on the education and faith formation of youth and children. Attention will be given to the family and intergenerational settings as contexts for faith formation, as well as the faith development of children and youth.

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 lifelong commitment to justice. 1.5 cr

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 setting. The course will provide a basic understanding of adolescent development, contemporary culture, and incarnational witness. The course is designed to help the student to think and respond theologically to the needs and expectations of adolescents and provides practical tools enabling the student to design a theologically sound youth ministry program suitable in any context. 1.5 cr

MN575 Theology and Philosophy of Youth Ministry
The general objective of this course, taught by Dr. Gabe Veas, is to understand how biblical principles have been examined and applied historically to youth ministry. Learn how to implement the discipleship process and cultivate faith development. Includes the teacher/learner process, small group development, age differentiated ministry needs in the local church, working with volunteers, developing lesson plans, mentoring, and how to direct the youth
ministry program within the community. This course is held three weekends with work completed online between face to face times. Students meet at the seminary September 22-23, October 20-21, and November 10-11, 2017.

Worship and Preaching

MN451 Worship (RCA)
Drawing from Scripture and Reformed conceptions and liturgies, and in sympathetic discussion with a wide range of other worshiping traditions, this course will present, discuss, clarify, and apply a Reformed vision of worship to congregational settings in the RCA in the United States and Canada. 3 cr (MFCA)

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—each according to our calling and context—might set forth the gifts of God for the people of God faithfully and well.

MN507 Models of the Lord’s Supper
The Lord’s Supper is layered with biblical-theological meaning, as its celebration rehearse for us the scope of salvation history, creation to re-creation. While spoken with different accents, these biblical-theological themes are common to every Christian tradition. By engaging several of these themes expressed pastorally by a voice from the Roman Catholic tradition, we will explore together the richness of these themes in the Reformed tradition. 1.5 cr

MN511 Spiritual Writing
An intensive creative workshop for those interested in writing, however tangentially, about matters of faith. We will focus our attention on nonfiction prose in which the writer’s own life experience or personal opinions are placed in the foreground. Students will consider the work of specific Christian authors. This course will suit those who enjoy literature, as well as those aspiring to publish or preach. No creative writing experience necessary. 1.5 cr

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MN553 The Church’s Common Chord:
The History, Theology and Practice of Music in Christian Worship
Students will chart key historical developments in the use of music in worship. They will encounter various theologies of artistic expression, as well as profound theological themes and motifs expressed in hymnody, spirituals and popular songs. Students will learn applied skills such as basic music terminology, using hymnals, evaluating music and shaping repertoire, use of choirs, praise bands and instrumental music, copyright law, amplification concerns, and more. For musicians and non-musicians.

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

MN561 21st Century Spirituality for a Secular Age
This course explores spiritual resources for sustainable ministry in a secular age, including resources for both personal transformation and creative ways of engaging spiritual formation in the church amidst changing ecclesial realities. We’ll explore significant voices for contemporary spirituality in a secular age including Thomas Merton, Charles Taylor, Etty Hillesum, Elizabeth O’Connor, Richard Rohr, David Whyte, Henri Nouwen, Mary Oliver, Paulo Coelho, Thomas Keating, James Finley, Ila Delio and more. Insights for wise and faithful Christian engagement in a re-engrafted secular world will be explored, and the practice of daily contemplative prayer encouraged.

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

MN583 We All Worship: Disability and Transcendence

Description forthcoming. 1.5 cr

MN585 Issues in Contemporary and Emerging Worship

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

MN592 Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry

Carefully examines the role and use of language in worship, looking at Contemporary Worship Music, hymns, prayers, responsive readings, sermons, etc. Students reexamine function and understand the beauty and power of words in worship. They become better equipped, by inspiration and weekly exercises, to employ language more intentionally in worship preparation for the greater glory of God and the greater blessing of God’s people. 1.5 cr

MN594 Ancient Future Preaching

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

Leadership:

MN121 Church Governance and Denominational Standards (required for RCA candidates)

Within the context of an overall theology of church governance, explores the candidate’s specific ecclesiastical tradition (including polity and standards) as a framework for mission.

MN450 RCA Polity

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

MN501 Multicultural Ministry: Theory and Practice

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

MN503 Leadership Summit

This course is in partnership with the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit (GLS). Online course will occur prior to and after the intensive. The purpose of this course is to appreciatively and critically engage The Global Leadership Summit seeking to explore, question, and develop the skills, practices, and habits for leading Christian communities. Participants work online July 9-Aug 19 and attend the GLS in Barrington, IL from Aug 8-11, 2018 (tentative). Attendance in Barrington is required (satellite attendance does not count for credit). Tuition covers entrance to the GLS and subsidizes lodging; students are responsible for $200 fee + transportation.

MN505 Leadership Development for Missional Congregational Ministry

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

MN508 Writing (and 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

MN510 Foundations for Church Planting

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

MN511 Spiritual Writing

An intensive creative workshop for those interested in writing, however tangentially, about matters of faith. We will focus our attention on nonfiction prose in which the writer’s own life experience or personal opinions are placed in the foreground. Students will consider the work of specific Christian authors. This course will suit those who enjoy literature, as well as those aspiring to publish or preach. No creative writing experience necessary. 1.5 cr

MN522 Ministry through Technology

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

MN523 Leader as Practical Theologian

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

MN525 Power and Authority

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

MN539 Living the Christian Life According to Pop Christian Culture

Through generous and critical engagement with recent best-selling Christian books, this course will explore the different visions of living the Christian life that emerge. We will look at authors “people in the pews” are reading, like Francis Chan, Bob Goff, Sarah Young, Rob Bell, Shane Claiborne, and Ann Voskamp. 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.

**MNS44 Human Sexuality**  
This course will deepen student understanding of human sexuality. Students will be invited to reflect on their personal narrative as it relates to sex and sexuality. Course topics will include sexuality and gender identity, sexual function, sexual compulsion, and sexual abuse. The role of desire and shame will be explored as they relate to human sexuality. Students will be encouraged reflect on internal responses in order to engage this vulnerable topic with empathy and curiosity. 1.5 cr

**MNS45 Asset-Based Community Development**  
Students will learn principles and practices of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), consider organizational options for hosting and implementing ABCD, and reimagine church as great neighbor and participant in ABCD. ABCD is a philosophy and way of life that intentionally entwines my story, our neighborhood story, and God’s redemption story.

**MNS46 Ministry in the Urban Context**  
Leadership training for ministry in the urban context is the goal of this class. Areas of exploration will include administration, spirituality, self-care, youth ministry, evangelism, and the integration of theology and practice of ministry for the urban context.

**MNS64 Practice of Evangelism**  
The term “evangelism” is often perceived as a four-letter word, freighted with negative connotations within 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

**MNS70 Worldview, Power and Desire: The Matrix of Leadership**  
We will read two significant recent reflections on culture and Christianity, discuss the implications of what they put forward, identify the implications for Christian formation, and express the outcomes for pastoral leadership. 1.5 cr

**MNS76 Culinary Culture in Black Religious Experience**  
This course will explore the historical, social, cultural, theological, ethnographic, and practical components of African American religious life and foodway culture. We will interrogate the convergence of food, faith, community, and identity formation. Particular attention will be paid to the historical relationship between eating and church life, highlighting diverse and creative forms of culinary expression in the African American faith tradition and the ways in which food becomes transformative for those struggling for human dignity. 1.5 cr

**MNS81 Ministry and Margins**  
Explores the boundary-crossing ministry of Jesus, in particular how he redefined the margin and the center with a Kingdom perspective. The class will consider ways in which ministry to and with those who are often marginalized in our society can amplify the witness of our congregations. People groups that are underserved include, but are not limited to, the elderly or home-bound, people suffering from dementia, people in our home, people struggling with literacy, people with disabilities, people living in poverty, immigrant communities, and people without homes. 1.5 cr

**MNS86 Disability and Community Supports**  
Inclusive faith communities have the power to touch the lives of people with disabilities and their families in multiple ways but often have a difficult time talking and working with “secular” agencies, providers and advocacy groups. This course explores the spiritual foundations in current issues in disability services and supports the potential roles of faith communities to address them, resources from other perspectives that congregations can use, and effective strategies for dialogue and partnership with non-faith based agencies and organizations. 1.5 cr

**MNS87 Living into Community: Friendship House**  
Course for those who want to deepen their pastoral sensitivities, leadership, identity and skill to engage and bless people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Intended for residents of Friendship House but is open to other interested students with the professor’s permission. 1.5 cr

**MNS88 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. 2018 location tba. Event has included faculty such as Stanley Hauerwas, Hans Reinders, John Swinton, Amos Yong, Candida Moss, and Erik Carter. 1.5 cr

**MNS89 Reformed Church in America Studies**  
An intensive study of the history and life of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). Different instructors teach a four module sequence including RCA Polity, RCA Standards, RCA History & Mission, and RCA Worship. Completing the modules prepares candidates for ministry in the RCA, for successful completion of classis examinations, and for full participation in the life of the denomination. 9 cr

**MNS90 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. 1.5 cr

**MNS91 Strategies for an Inclusive Church**  
This course addresses practical strategies and promising pathways for moving beyond proclamations of inclusiveness and toward practices of invitation, hospitality, and belonging. Students will learn about effective starting points, supports, and strategies for enabling people with disabilities and their families to participate deeply in congregational life and experience belonging within a church community. 1.5 cr

**MNS92 Practicing the Presence of People: Jean Vanier and the Ministry of Nurture**  
This course explores the unique vocation of practicing presence. Christians are called to the practice of God’s presence, but we in turn become that very presence to the other—the spouse and the stranger, persons with disabilities and the disenfranchised—whoever the “other” may be. In this course, we will explore the unique ministry of presence through Jean Vanier and L’Arche, communities of people with disabilities around the world. We will come to understand what “presence” means, how to identify obstacles to presence (in ourselves and in communities), and how to nurture a loving attentiveness to the other. 1.5 cr

**FORMATION FOR MINISTRY**

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

**FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience (J-Term)**  
Provides cognitive and experiential knowledge of the global character of the church’s witness and mission in North America and around the world, with concern for the problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism.
FR116 Entering and Exploring Christian Ministry

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

FR117 Engaging Christian Ministry I
FR118 Engaging Christian Ministry II
FR119 Engaging Christian Ministry III

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

FR121 Entering Christian Ministry

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

FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry

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

FR123 Engaging Christian Ministry

Students are given the opportunity to engage deeply in a ministry competency they are passionate about or have been longing to explore. After being sagely directed into the practice of Christian ministry in FR121 and 122, students embrace their learning in this self-directed opportunity in a ministry setting. Each student designs a learning covenant with a mentor focusing on a ministry area such as: Preaching and Worship, Leadership and Administration, Evangelism, Social Justice/Advocacy, Education and Faith Formation, Pastoral Care or Cross-cultural Competency. Both FR123 and 124 are completed in one semester in an internship commitment of 100 hours. 1 cr

FR124 Leading Christian Ministry

Students write a learning covenant with a ministry focus that will further explore and deepen their sense of calling and understanding of pastoral leadership. 1.5 cr

FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry

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

FR130A&B Internship I
FR131A&B Internship II

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

MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics

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

MT254 Preliminary Exam

A faculty advisor and a faculty colleague, in consultation with the candidate, assign discipline and research-related bibliographies which reflect major contributors, methodological issues and current questions within a particular discipline and research topic. This directed study culminates in the preliminary exam.

MT255 Independent Research

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

MT260A Research Paper

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

MT260 Thesis

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

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

MT210 Orientation Seminar

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

MT220 Research Design

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

MT235 Seminar in Theological Method

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

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

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

BL633-YL Gospel and Acts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Location
Holland, Michigan - Population 35,000

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

Students
Approximately 285 full and part-time students

Faculty
19 faculty members and 1 faculty fellow
14:1 student/faculty ratio

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

Affiliation
Reformed Church in America
Academic Calendar

Canvas Online Training (all students) --------- Aug 1-25
DL Online Orientation begins ---------------Aug 14
Th.M. Program begins ---------------------Aug 14
IR Junior M.Div. orientation ----------------Aug 23-24
IR Middler/Senior M.Div. orientation -------Aug 24
Fall semester begins -----------------------Aug 28
Labor Day - Seminary closed ---------------Sept 4
Drop/Add deadline ------------------------Sept 5
IR Half semester ends ----------------------Oct 13
IR Fall break -----------------------------Oct 16-20
DL on-campus Intensive -------------------Oct 16-20
Registration for Spring semester due ----Oct 23
DL after-Intensive break ------------------Oct 23-27
Thanksgiving recess -----------------------Nov 20-24
Fall semester ends ------------------------Dec 15
Christmas break --------------------------Dec 16-Jan 1
Grades due for Fall semester ---------------Jan 2
J-Term -------------------------------------Jan 2-19
Drop/Add deadline J-Term ---------------Jan 8
Intercultural Immersion Trips -------------Jan 2-12
Canvas Online Training (new students) -----Jan 2-12
DL Online Orientation begins (new students) ---Jan 8
IR Orientation (new students) -------------Jan 19
Spring semester begins --------------------Jan 22
Drop/Add deadline ------------------------Jan 30
Grades due for J-Term ---------------------Feb 1
DL Winter break ---------------------------Feb 26-Mar 2
IR Half semester ends ---------------------Mar 9
Cut-off for financial aid applications
   (returning MDiv/MA/GC/YL students) -----Mar 31
Spring break -----------------------------Apr 2-6
Registration for Fall semester due -------Apr 16
IR Senior Blessing Worship Service --------May 3
IR Spring semester ends -------------------May 4
DL Senior Blessing Worship Service --------May 7
IR Grades due for Spring semester (noon) ---May 7
Graduation -------------------------------May 7
DL Spring Semester Intensive ---------------May 7-11
D.Min. seminars -----------------------------May 7-18
DL Spring semester ends -------------------May 11
DL Summer semester -----------------------May 16-Jun 22
IR Summer semester -----------------------May 14-Aug 24
DL Grades due for Spring semester --------May 18
DL & IR Drop/Add deadline Summer Term -----May 25
Th.M. program ends ------------------------Jun 22
DL Grades due for Summer semester --------Jul 11
IR Grades due for Summer term ---------------Aug 31

Semester Schedule for DL Programs

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