2018-2019 Academic Catalog
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
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Admissions

Should I attend seminary? Which one?
These are life-defining questions, and we would like to help you answer them. As we hear how you sense God calling you to Christian leadership, we can discern together.

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

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

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

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

Minimum Undergraduate Requirements
Applicants who have completed a Bachelor of Arts or its academic equivalent are welcome to apply. In rare cases, an applicant without a bachelor’s degree but with exceptional compensatory qualifications may be admitted to the degree program under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools standards. Such acceptance will normally be provisional pending satisfactory academic performance during the first semester.

A 2.50 undergraduate grade point average (GPA) is required for admission to all degree programs. An applicant with less than 2.50 GPA may be admitted on probation if the Admissions Committee believes there is potential for academic success. A GPA of 2.50 or higher must be sustained to qualify for the lifting of academic probation and continuation in the degree program.

Admissions@westernsem.edu
Jill English
Director of Admissions
800.392.8554, x135
C.J. Kingdom-Grier
Associate Director of Admissions
800.392.8554, x190
Jeanette Schipper
Admissions Assistant
800.392.8554, x189

Application Fees
Applicants should plan two weeks for completing the application and submitting the supporting documents
$50 Application fee for all applications, non-refundable
$250 Confirmation deposit required for matriculation, non-refundable, applied to tuition account
All Application Forms
Prospective students may apply online at my.westernsem.edu/or download printable application forms from our website. Applications will be regarded as incomplete without permission for a criminal background check.

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

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

Dual Track M.Div.-M.S.W. Applicants
Those pursuing our Dual Track degree program will complete a Master of Divinity application and a one-page statement detailing future vocational and educational plans. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is recommended.

Graduate Certificate, Graduate Program, and Non-Degree Applicants
Applicants must complete a shortened application form (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.

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

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

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

International applicants to the Master of Theology program must have a minimum TOEFL score of 550 on the written exam or 80 on the internet-based exam. A certified statement showing sufficient financial resources and medical insurance for dependents for the duration of the degree program is also required.

admissions@westernsem.edu
1.800.392.8554

Application Completion Schedule

Master of Divinity
Master of Arts
Dual Track M.Div./M.S.W.
Fall Semester – Late August/Early September Start
   Apply by:
   Jan 1 – Application fee waived for M.Div. applicants
   Feb 1 – To be considered for the Trustee or Girod Scholarship (by invitation only), M.Div. applicants apply by this date
   May 30 – Fee $50 + include $250 confirmation. Full consideration for scholarships if financial aid application received by July 1*
   July 1 – Fee $50 + include $250 confirmation. No scholarships awarded, loans only for Fall Semester
   After July 1 - Please apply for Spring Semester

Spring Semester – Mid-January Start
   Apply by:
   Nov. 30 – Fee $50 + include $250 confirmation. Full consideration for scholarships if financial aid application received by Nov. 30*
   After Nov. 30 – No admission. Apply for Fall.

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

Doctor of Ministry:
   Four months before cohort starts. Depends on cohort, see website for particular cohort’s start date and application deadline: westernsem.edu/dmin

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)

* Students can expect to receive their award letters within three weeks of submitting a WTS financial aid application.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rayetta Perez, Title IX Coordinator</th>
<th>Dr. John Brogan, Deputy Title IX Coordinator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Theological Seminary</td>
<td>Western Theological Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101 East 13th Street, Holland MI 49423</td>
<td>101 E. 13th Street, Holland, MI 49423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:rayetta@westernsem.edu">rayetta@westernsem.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:john@westernsem.edu">john@westernsem.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>616 392.8555 x103</td>
<td>616 392.8555 x192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 $680 to $906 per month in 2018-2019, depending upon the location and number of bedrooms. A bedroom in the Friendship House rents for $273, and internet service is provided. Utilities are included, except for phone and cable. The apartments and houses are wired for cable and internet, but the cost is not included in the rent.
Financial Information

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

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

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 student loan through a private banking institution or from the U.S. Dept. of Education Direct PLUS Loans (studentloans.gov)
3) Payment plan. A $25 administrative fee will be charged for each semester the student is on a payment 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.

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

Financial Aid

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 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 returning students and July 1 for newly admitted students for full consideration for scholarships. 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 three weeks of receiving the WTS financial aid application.

Scholarships, work opportunities, and loans are available to help meet educational costs. Scholarships range from $500-$10,000 and can involve the opportunity to meet the benefactor at the annual scholarship luncheon. Work

Financial Aid/Business Office

**Kyle Wigboldy**
Financial Aid Administrator
616.392.8555, x120

**Norman Donkersloot**
Vice President of Finance
616.392.8555, x107

**Kerry Eshenaur**
Accounting Associate
616.392.8555, x106
opportunities are available for students. Loans are granted through government programs or through banking institutions. For federal loan assistance, complete the FAFSA application at fafs.ed.gov.

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Program: Students in these 15-24 credit hour programs do not qualify for scholarships or student loans. However, discounts from 10-35% may be available if certain qualifications are met. See website for details. westernsem.edu/admissions/cost/financial-aid

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

### 2018-2019 Tuition and Fee Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>GS Fee</th>
<th>Audit Fee</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In-Residence Master of Divinity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dual Track M.Div./MSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Theology</td>
<td>$458 per credit</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Free audits for certain courses are permitted to full-time degree students and their spouses by applying to the registrar.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hour</td>
<td>per credit hour to audit*</td>
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<td>$50 Application fee (non-refundable)</td>
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<td>$250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)</td>
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<td>$60 Activities fee (yearly)</td>
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<td>$20 Noon luncheon fee (each semester)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$380 January-term retreat (junior year)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$750-$1500 Intercultural Immersion trip (middle year)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$60 Graduation fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Free audits for certain courses are permitted to full-time degree students and their spouses by applying to the registrar.</td>
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**Distance Learning Master of Divinity**

| Master of Arts                               | $458 per credit  | $50 Application fee (non-refundable) | |
|                                              | hour             | $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 tuition ($375 per credit hour) for students beginning in 2018.  
$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:**  
$458 per credit hour  
$100 per credit hour to audit  
$50 Application fee (non-refundable)  
$60 Graduation fee

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

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

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

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

Formation for Ministry
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  • Hospitals
• Nursing homes  • Parachurch ministries

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

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

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

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

Our students have been immersed into cultures such as:

India  Israel/Palestine
Oman  Brazil
Chiapas, Mexico  Cambodia
Borderlands  Kenya
(US/Mexico)
### IN-RESIDENCE MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1 Fall</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL100 New Testament Greek 1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH100 Church History I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN110 Foundations of Preaching and Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR121 Entering Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td>FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL101A New Testament Greek II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL101B New Testament Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN105 Pastor as Person</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>J-Term Spring</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Program Total: 96 credit hours**
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.
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 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.

**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.

**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.

**Formation for Ministry**
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 within a 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**

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 M.DIV. CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1 Fall</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL100 New Testament Greek I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN110 Foundations of Worship and Preaching</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL101A New Testament Greek II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL101B New Testament Interpretation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN105 Pastor as Person</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Elective using Greek (NT Elective)</td>
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<th>YEAR 2 Fall</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL110 Biblical Hebrew</td>
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<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>FR116 Entering/Exploring Christian Ministry</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR117 Engaging Christian Ministry I</td>
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<td>Elective using Hebrew (OT Elective)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH100 Church History I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR118 Engaging Christian Ministry II</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FR119 Engaging Christian Ministry III</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MN300s Preaching/Worship Elective</td>
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<th>YEAR 4 Fall</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN300s Preaching/Worship Elective</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH112 Gospel, Culture and Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
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<th>YEAR 5 Fall</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH121 Christian Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH124 Credo</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</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: 96 credit hours**

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

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

Western Theological Seminary works in a close partnership with other denominational boards and candidate committees responsible for the formation of men and women for ordained ministry.
Dual Track Master of Divinity-Master of Social Work

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

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

| All year | MN331 Yearlong Cohort Group | 1.5 |
| YEAR 1 Fall | BL100 New Testament Greek I | 3.0 |
| | BL103 Old Testament Foundations | 3.0 |
| | TH100 Church History I | 3.0 |
| | TH113 Systematic Theology I | 3.0 |
| | Elective | 1.5 |
| | FR121 Entering Christian Ministry | 1.5 |
| J-Term | FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation | 1.5 |
| Spring | BL101A New Testament Greek II | 1.5 |
| | BL101B New Testament Interpretation | 1.5 |
| | BL102 New Testament Foundations | 3.0 |
| | TH101 Church History II | 3.0 |
| | MN105 Pastor as Person | 1.5 |
| | FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry | 1.5 |
| | TH114 Systematic Theology II | 3.0 |
| Spring | FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry (Internship) – only for those entering with their MSW completed. | 3.0 |

| All year | MN332 Yearlong Cohort Group | 1.5 |
| YEAR 2 Fall | BL110 Biblical Hebrew | 3.0 |
| | TH112 Gospel, Culture and Church | 3.0 |
| | TH121 Ethics | 3.0 |
| | Elective (MN121 for RCA students) | 3.0 |
| | FR123 Engaging Christian Ministry | 1.5 |
| J-Term | FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience | 3.0 |
| Spring | BL111 Hebrew Translation & Interpretation | 3.0 |
| | MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care | 3.0 |
| | MN120 Leadership | 3.0 |
| | MN110 Foundations of Preaching and Worship | 3.0 |
| | TH124 Credo | 1.5 |
| | FR124 Leading Christian Ministry | 1.5 |

| YEAR 3 | MN333 Yearlong Cohort Group (online format) | 1.5 |
| YEAR 4 | MN334 Yearlong Cohort Group (online format) | 1.5 |

**PROGRAM TOTAL:** 69 WTS credit hours + 27 MSW hrs
## DISTANCE LEARNING DUAL TRACK CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>All year</td>
<td>MN331</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 1 Fall</td>
<td>BL100</td>
<td>New Testament Greek I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL103</td>
<td>Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL101A</td>
<td>New Testament Greek II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL101B</td>
<td>New Testament Interpretation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL102</td>
<td>New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN105</td>
<td>Pastor as Person</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All year</td>
<td>MN332</td>
<td>Yearlong Cohort Group</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2 Fall</td>
<td>BL110</td>
<td>Biblical Hebrew</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR116</td>
<td>Entering/Exploring Christian Ministry</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>BL111</td>
<td>Hebrew Translation &amp; Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR117</td>
<td>Engaging Christian Ministry I</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>All year</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 Fall</td>
<td>TH100</td>
<td>Church History I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN115</td>
<td>Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
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<td>FR118</td>
<td>Engaging Christian Ministry II</td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td>FR111</td>
<td>Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH101</td>
<td>Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FR119</td>
<td>Engaging Christian Ministry III</td>
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<td>All year</td>
<td>MN334</td>
<td>Yearlong Cohort Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 4 Fall</td>
<td>TH113</td>
<td>Systematic Theology I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN110</td>
<td>Foundations of Preaching and Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TH114</td>
<td>Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH112</td>
<td>Gospel, Culture and Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 5 Fall</td>
<td>MN120</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
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<td>Christian Ethics</td>
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<td>TH124</td>
<td>Credo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective (or MN121 Standards and Polity for RCA Candidates)</td>
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</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.

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>
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<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Can be taken in any order)</td>
<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<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>
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<td></td>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH126 Summative Examination</td>
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**Total credits of required courses:** 24

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<tr>
<th>ELECTIVE COURSES</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 elective credits may be selected from any of the fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                  | (Biblical, Theological, or Christian Ministry)         |

**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 leaders who will serve and teach in theological institutions. Applicants must have the ability to relate theological study to the social, cultural and historical contexts of their ministries.

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

MASTER OF THEOLOGY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>MT210 Orientation Seminar</th>
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<td>MT220 Research Design</td>
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<td>MT235 Seminar in Theological Method</td>
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<td>Two 3-credit Electives</td>
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<td>J-term</td>
<td>MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Non-thesis option: Two 3-credit Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT254 Preliminary Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT260A Research Paper</td>
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<td>Thesis option: One 3-credit Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT254 Preliminary Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MT260 Thesis</td>
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Program Total: 25 credit hours
Doctor of Ministry

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

The D.Min. at Western Theological Seminary is unique—a formational process with an intellectual product. Three-year cohorts are designed around important themes such as pastoral care and counseling, disability and ministry, pastoral leadership, ministry concerns in particular cultures, etc. (see website for current cohort offerings at westernsem.edu/dmin)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DOCTOR OF MINISTRY CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Required Courses taken sequentially:</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEMESTER 1</td>
<td>DM850 Orientation Seminar 1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMESTER 2</td>
<td>DM851 Orientation Seminar 2</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEMESTER 3</td>
<td>DM860 Research Seminar 3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMESTER 4</td>
<td>DM861 Research Seminar 4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMESTER 5</td>
<td>DM870 Thesis Seminar 5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMESTER 6</td>
<td>DM871 Thesis Seminar 6</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DM940 Thesis Project</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Total:** 36 credit hours

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

The Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry is tailored to 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 four core curriculum courses and four 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 a 3-credit elective each semester, completing the program in two years if they wish. Not all courses are offered every year or in any two year period.

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

Topics explored in disability courses:

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN105</td>
<td>Pastor as Person</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--or--</td>
<td>MN102 The Practice of Discipleship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN116</td>
<td>Introduction to Disability and the Church</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL551</td>
<td>Disability, Bible and the Pastoral Imagination</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--or--</td>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundation</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH565</td>
<td>Disability and Theology in the Christian Tradition</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--or--</td>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of required courses:** 10.5 or 12

*Electives*  
*Choose 4 classes:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives (not available all years)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN581</td>
<td>Ministry and Margins</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN582</td>
<td>Ministry, Aging and Dementia</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN583</td>
<td>We All Worship: Disability and Worship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN586</td>
<td>Disability and Community Supports</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN587</td>
<td>Living into Community: Friendship House</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN588</td>
<td>Summer Institute on Theology and Disability</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN590</td>
<td>Deaf Theology and Ministry</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN591</td>
<td>Strategies for an Inclusive Church</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN592</td>
<td>Practicing the Presence of People: Jean Vanier and the Ministry of Nurture</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN595</td>
<td>Intellectual Disability and the Church</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN596</td>
<td>Trauma and Disability</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of elective courses:** 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Total: 24 credit hours</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</th>
<th>3.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH101 Church History II (Reformation to Present)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH110 Theology for Ministry</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN111 Missional Preaching</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel &amp; Care</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (or MN121 Standards and Polity required for RCA candidates)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Required for Church Planting Emphasis | MN112 Multiplying Churches | 3.0 |

| Required for Church Leadership Emphasis | MN120 Leadership | 3.0 |

---

**Program Total: 24 credit hours**

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

**GPCE CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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>TH110 Theology for Ministry</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,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spiritual formation,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian doctrine, biblical languages, etc.</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 credit hours</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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/](http://westernsem.edu/about/jobs/)
Cook Library
The Cook Library, housed in the DeWitt Learning Center, is the seminary’s center for access to information resources, supporting student studies, faculty research, and area ministries. Cook Library is a member of the American Theological Library Association, the Chicago Area Theological Library Association, and the Michigan Library Consortium.

Cook Library’s resources include 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 Cook 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 Catalog. Cook Library and Hope College libraries maintain reciprocal borrowing privileges and work cooperatively to develop strong collections for each institution. Seminary students and faculty may request materials from other libraries through interlibrary loan.

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

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

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I. John Hesselink
Albertus C. Van Raalte Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology

George R. Hunsberger
Professor Emeritus of Missiology

Christopher B. Kaiser
Professor Emeritus of Historical and Systematic Theology

Stanley A. Rock
Florence M. Charavay Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care and Counseling

Paul M. Smith
Associate Professor of Theological Bibliography

Robert Van Voorst
Professor of New Testament

Dennis Voskuil
Marvin & Jerene DeWitt Professor Emeritus of Church History

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Jared Alcántara
Jose Alvarez
Vince Bantu
Chris Beetham
Raymond Blacketer
Wayne Brouwer
Sandra Cammenga
Dynna Castillo-Portugal
Raquel Echevarria

Jill Harshaw
Thomas Hudspeth
Nathan Johnson
Juan C. Morales
John Muniz
Joseph Ocasio
Ben Rhodes
Glenn Swier
Matthew van Maastricht

Staff

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President

Jeff Munroe
Vice President of Operations and Advancement

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

Lannette Zylman-TenHave
Executive Assistant

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Academic Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Carol Ann Bailey
Educational Technology Specialist and Student Support Coordinator

Laurie Baron
Writing Studio Director

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Associate Academic Dean and Director of the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts Programs

Kathy Ehmann
Educational Technology Specialist and Doctor of Ministry Program Support

Theresa Hamm
Academic Office Associate, Assessment Coordinator

Joseph Ocasio
Director of Hispanic Ministry Programs

Beth Smith
Associate Registrar

Katy Sundararajan
Master of Theology Program Administrator and International Student Advisor
Kyle Wigboldy  
Registrar and Financial Aid Administrator

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Jill English  
Director of Admissions
C.J. Kingdom-Grier  
Associate Director of Admissions
Jeanette Schipper  
Admissions Assistant

Advancement and Communications

Jeff Munroe  
Vice President of Operations and Advancement
Andy Bast  
Director of Development
Rob Housman  
Associate Director of Development
Drew Peirce  
Associate Director of Development
Tamara Buikema  
Administrative Assistant for Development
Evonne Wernlund  
Office Assistant
Carla Capotosto  
Associate Director of Communications
Assoc. Director of the Lilly Economic Challenges Grant
Megan Rice  
Communications Coordinator

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Vice President of Finance
Kerry Eshenaur  
Accounting Associate
Cherri Westhouse  
Receptionist, Secretarial Assistant
Gretchen Torres  
Receptionist
Sara Russell  
Manager of The Bridge
Jan Nyhof  
Sales Associate at The Bridge
David Becker  
Superintendent of Building and Grounds

Muhammad Ilyas Zadran  
Custodian and Maintenance Assistant

Cook Library

Ann Nieuwkoop  
Interim Director
Stephen E. Michaels  
Emerging Technologies Librarian
Margaret Wade  
Resources Management Librarian
Allison Van Liere  
Circulation Supervisor
Kayla Fik  
Library Services Assistant

Student Services/  
Formation for Ministry

Kyle J. A. Small  
Dean of Formation for Ministry
Glenn Swier  
Associate Director of Formation for Ministry
Shari Oosting  
Associate Director of Formation for Ministry
Pam Bush  
Associate Director of Student Care
Beth Smith  
Administrative Assistant for Student Services
L.S. Carlos Thompson  
Friendship House Director
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Mr. Stephen Spoelhof
Rev. Cora Taitt
Ms. Carol Van Andel
Dr. Lisa Vander Wal
Mr. James Veld
Rev. Brian Vriesman
Mrs. Carol Wagner
Affiliated Ministries

The Bridge

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

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

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

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

The Community Kitchen

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

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

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

BL100 New Testament Greek I

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

BL101C Greek Tools
An overview of tools available to students who are not required to take BL100 and BL101. This course gives students who are granted a language dispensation the competencies needed for biblical interpretation of text in its original language.

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 worldview 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

BL111C Hebrew Tools
An overview of tools available to students who are not required to take BL110 and BL111. This course gives students who are granted a language dispensation the competencies needed for biblical interpretation of text in its original language.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

BL531 New Testament Theology: Issues and Themes
The course first introduces the student to the history, issues, and most significant practitioners and methodological models of the discipline of New Testament Theology. It then explores the theological presuppositions of the New Testament authors before introducing the student to a method of doing New Testament Theology that understands Christian Scripture as an epic story that runs from creation to new creation.
BL532 The Gospel According to John
Considers important historical, literary, hermeneutical, and theological issues in the Gospel of John, with exegesis of selected passages in Greek. Prerequisite: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

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

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. Prerequisite: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

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.

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.

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

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

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

BL555 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

BL561 Christianity and Literature
A study of the biblical and theological motifs in selected literature by both classical and contemporary authors. Emphasis is on the use/study of such works in ministry settings, as well as their relevance for those involved in leadership roles in the church.

BL567 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

BL614 Hebrew Reading/Performance
Using memorization and movement as the primary tools of exegesis, students engage with one New Testament narrative deeply for 14 weeks. This course builds on BL100, BL101A and BL101B, deepening students' engagement with the Bible. Pass/fail, 1.5 cr

BL616 Christianity and Literature
A study of the biblical and theological motifs in selected literature by both classical and contemporary authors. Emphasis is on the use/study of such works in ministry settings, as well as their relevance for those involved in leadership roles in the church.

BL617 Ordination of Women: Exploring Biblical Authority and Church Order
A study of the biblical and theological motifs in selected literature by both classical and contemporary authors. Emphasis is on the use/study of such works in ministry settings, as well as their relevance for those involved in leadership roles in the church.

BL618 Advanced Biblical Hebrew
Advanced interactive learning in the language and theology of the Old Testament. Students develop a deeper understanding of grammar, syntax, and interpretation through hearing, speaking, and reading Hebrew, as well as memorizing and enacting biblical stories. This course is held off-site as a 10 ½ day overnight retreat experience. Pre-work includes grammar review, translation and creative exegetical project. Post-work involves a dramatic analysis paper. Prerequisite: BL110 & BL111

DM580 Ordination Seminar
Gives an introduction to the major administrative and academic components of the program, as well as to the specialized track (theme) that identifies the particular focus of the cohort. Course descriptions vary depending on the faculty and cohort topic. The course description will be available in the syllabus. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year).

DM581 Ordination Seminar
A continuation of DM580. Students identify challenge, opportunity, or topic that needs to be addressed in their ministry setting. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year).

DM586 Research Seminar
Provides tools and skills to develop and strengthen academic research and writing. Students learn to structure and format an academic professional paper, providing a model for their project proposal and guidance for their practicum. Students will critically reflect on the practices of ministry and learn to interpret those practices within an academic theological framework. Course descriptions vary depending on the faculty and cohort topic. The course description will be available in the syllabus. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year).

DM586 Research Seminar
A continuation of DM586. Students determine what needs to be changed or achieved in their ministry to address the challenge, opportunity or topic they have identified. Students design a thesis project proposal. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year).

DM587 Thesis Seminar
Equips students with tools required for the completion of their D.Min. thesis. Course descriptions vary depending on the faculty and topic. The course description will be available in the syllabus. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year).

DM581 Ordination Seminar
A continuation of DM581. Provides tools and skills to develop and strengthen academic research and writing. Students learn to structure and format an academic professional paper, providing a model for their project proposal and guidance for their practicum. Students will critically reflect on the practices of ministry and learn to interpret those practices within an academic theological framework. Course descriptions vary depending on the faculty and cohort topic. The course description will be available in the syllabus. Includes a one-week in-person seminar (some professors may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year).
may choose to combine the seminars into two consecutive weeks per year).

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

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, parachurch ministries, cross-cultural ministries, and congregational ministry. Due to the significant level of ministerial and educational investment, it is highly recommended that the student invest time in a discernment process with the Formation for Ministry office before selecting a placement. This learning experience will be evaluated by the student, a supervising mentor, and a lay support committee.

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

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. 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.

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

MN112 Multiplying Churches
In today’s culture, technology has rendered our human experience “mobile.” We can sit in our homes and connect with the world. Work can happen near or far away. The early Christian movement was mobile, as well. As missionaries like Paul & Barnabas moved
from city to city, the church moved with them. As early Christians met in homes, the church expanded rapidly from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. The church of today can do the same. The church is not relegated to a single building, congregation or city. The Holy Spirit is creating a movement of Christ-followers who are mobile, crossing geographical distance, and bridging cultural divides once thought impassable. Participants in this course will be introduced to the foundations of the church multiplication movement, the need for multiplying leadership, and, as a course project, will develop a new church plant vision map and plan for a model of their choice.  

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.  

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.  

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

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.  

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 1-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.  

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  

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 (MFA)  

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

MNS03 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 Christ’s 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.  

MNS06 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.  

MNS08 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  

MNS10 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  

MNS11 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
MN513 Basic Clinical Pastoral Education
A pastoral ministry practicum that integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting with special attention given to the person in ministry. A basic practicum accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. 6 cr

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

MN517 Faithful and Effective Response to Domestic Violence
Explores the theories, resources, and strategies of pastoral and congregational care to respond faithfully and effectively to the issue of domestic violence based on theological understandings of God and human experience. This course draws upon the insights of psychology, sociology, and theology to guide pastoral and congregational care into a more faithful and effective practice. 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.

MN518 Talking the Talk: Beyond and Behind Christian Clichés
This course will focus on Christian, denominational, and congregational discourses, and the ways in which these discourses shape our practice of faith. 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.

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

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

MN538 Transforming Conflict from the Inside Out
This course explores multiple layers of conflict—intrapersonal, interpersonal, and communal—as opportunities for transformation. Students will develop a theology of compassion and learn the skills of compassionate communication as a means of connecting to God, self, and others in the midst of difference, disagreement, and conflict. The course seeks to enhance specific competencies in speaking honestly, listening empathetically, responding to criticism, staying in dialogue, dealing with guilt and grief, and using restorative circles for community-wide crises. Experientially based; includes case studies, role plays, journaling, and small group work.

MN539 Living the Christian Life According to Pop 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.

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.

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

MN546 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.

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

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

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

MNS61 21st Century Spirituality for a Secular Age
This course explores spiritual resources for sustainable ministry in a secular age, including resources for both personal transformation and creative ways of engaging spiritual formation in the church amidst changing ecclesial realities. We'll explore significant voices for contemporary spirituality in a secular age include Thomas Merton, Charles Taylor, Etty Hillesum, Elizabeth O'Connor, Richard Rohr, David Whyte, Henri Nouwen, Mary Oliver, Paulo Coelho, Thomas Keating, James Finley, Ilija Delio and more. Insights for wise and faithful Christian engagement in a re-enchanted secular world will be explored, and the practice of daily contemplative prayer encouraged.

MNS62 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

MNS64 Practice of Evangelism
The term “evangelism” is often perceived as a four-letter word, freighted with negative connotations in our society and even in church. In this course students will overview the biblical foundations of evangelism, consider different theologies and practices of evangelism across time periods, cultures, and Christian traditions. Students will also explore and evaluate theologies of conversion. Finally, students will develop and articulate a context-dependent theology of evangelism and will participate in the practice of evangelism. 1.5 cr

MNS69 Christian Education and Dismantling Racism
This course analyzes institutionalized racism and proposes a series of frameworks for engaging and dismantling racism and for supporting multicultural congregational learning. We will explore the dynamics of human responses to differences. We will focus on developing “humble curiosity,” deepening our willingness to move toward rather than away from differences, and managing anxiety in the face of the unknown or unfamiliar. Our work together has the potential for tremendous impact on individuals, congregations, and communities, enabling us as Christian leaders to empower the disenfranchised and create environments characterized by grace, love, solidarity, peace, and justice. 1.5 cr

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

MNS73 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. We’ll explore some of the challenges faced by youth ministers and consider how technology factors into discipling networked youth.

MNS74 Foundations of Youth Ministry
This course provides the foundational concepts and best practices to prepare the student for ministry to adolescents in both a church and non-church settings. The course will provide a basic understanding of adolescent development, contemporary culture, and incarnational witness. The course is designed to help the student to think and respond theologically to the needs and expectations of adolescents and provides practical tools enabling the student to design a theologically sound youth ministry program suitable in any context. 1.5 cr

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 group homes, people struggling with literacy, people with disabilities, people living in poverty, immigrant communities, and people without homes.

MNS82 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.

MNS83 We All Worship: Disability and Worship
Many people with disabilities have spiritual needs that are not being met and gifts that are not being exercised in the context of congregational worship. This course explores worship as the focal point of our shared Christian identity, the power center of our myriad gifts for building up the body of Christ, and the launching pad for our multifaceted witness in the world.

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.

MNS87 Living into Community: Friendship House
In this course students will spend time critically reflecting upon what it means to live into community as an act of mutual discipleship. Students will engage questions such as: What is discipleship? What is a Christian community? What is the difference between a Christian community and a social group? And, what does it mean to belong to, rather than simply be included in, a Christian community? Intended for residents of Friendship House but is open to other interested students.

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 is Raleigh, NC. Event has included faculty such as Stanley Hauerwas, Hans Reinders, John Swinton, Amos Yong, Candida Moss, and Erik Carter.

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.

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.

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.

MNS95 Intellectual Disability and the Church
This course focuses on ministry in the context of what is commonly, but not exclusively, termed ‘intellectual disability’—although it is imperative that we acknowledge the broader, multi-faceted human experience of disability within which the experiences associated with intellectual disability and the secular and theological scholarship that attaches to it to find expression. The course explores both the complexities of theological perceptions and practices in relation to intellectual disability, and the ensuing challenges for persons with intellectual disabilities and those who live in close relationship with them, within the contemporary Church. Theological assumptions about the nature of faith, participation and ministry will be examined in light of the lived experience of intellectual disability and of our understanding of God, His mission and engagement with human beings, leading to potential transformation of practice.

MNS96 Trauma and Disability
This course provides a biblical, theological, and pastoral introduction to trauma and care of trauma survivors. We will particularly focus on contemporary intersections between the experiences of disability and trauma. Acknowledging the extensive experience of trauma across our society, we will also attend to practices of “trauma stewardship” in this course—navigating secondary traumatization in our vocational callings as well as negotiating any of our own trauma backgrounds as we are formed as pastors, teachers, and caregivers.

MNS60 Generous Leadership
This course develops the habits, skills, and confidence to cultivate financial and relational resources as a practice of Christ-shaped ministry.

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 interdisciplinary 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

MT225 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.

MT226A 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

MT226A 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

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 Reformation to the present day.
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.

TH110 Theology for Ministry
Description tba

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.

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

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

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

TH511 Theology and Film
This course will explore scripturally-founded models of ascetic life in this period involve anthropological assumptions. 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.

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.

TH524 Theologies of Prayer: Petition, Contemplation, and the Triune God
How does the work of the Triune God relate to the prayer 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 petitional 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 texts in a small seminar setting. 1.5 cr. Prereq: TH114

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.

TH536 What Does It Mean to be Human? Help from the Early Church
In this course, we will explore early Christian conceptions of the human being, covering the topics of the nature of the soul, divisions of the human person, willing and thinking, gender, the nature and role of the passions, and death. We will focus on the fourth and fifth centuries and discuss how different models of ascetic life in this period involve anthropological assumptions. 1.5 cr

TH544 20th Century Theology: Major Figures and Theological Currents
Close readings of some of the “classic” works of 20th century theology by
theologians such as Barth, Bonhoeffer, Cone, Gutiérrez, Lindbeck, Jones, de Lubac, 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.

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.

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 Arbella in 1630 that America would be a "city on a hill" to present debates over White House sponsored Faith-Based Initiatives. Along the way we will treat such topics as marriage, medicine, education, and civil religion.

TH558-DL A Prophet Denied: Theology, Life and Work of W.E.B. DuBois
W.E.B. Du Bois was born during Reconstruction and died on the eve of the March on Washington. He was a scholar and activist who accurately identified racism as "the problem of the 20th Century" and became a foundational figure in fields such as sociology, criminology, and international relations. This course provides an overview of Du Bois' life, his academic contributions, and his activism. It will focus on his spirituality, theology, and ecclesiology and will explore Du Bois' continued relevance and implications for the contemporary church.

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

TH565 Disability and Theology in the Christian Tradition
What is disability? How has disability been understood theologically in the Christian tradition? This course examines theologies of disability with the aim of helping students to comprehend and articulate their own working theology of disability. 1.5 cr

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

TH580 Theology of the Lord's Supper
Explores the biblical and theological dimensions of the Lord's Supper, with an eye 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 experiences, both positive and negative, invites the development of a theologically informed practice that aims at the flourishing of all humanity. 1.5 cr

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

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

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

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 Bahai, 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.
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.
Academic Calendar

Canvas Online Training (all students)  Aug 6-24
DL Online Orientation  Aug 20-30
Th.M. Program begins  Aug 20
IR Junior M.Div. orientation  Aug 29-30
IR Middler/Senior M.Div. orientation  Aug 30
Labor Day - Seminary closed  Sept 3
Fall semester begins  Sept 4
Drop/Add deadline  Sept 11
IR Half semester ends  Oct 19
IR Fall break  Oct 22-26
DL on-campus Intensive  Oct 22-26
Registration for Spring semester due  Oct 29
DL after-Intensive break  Oct 29-Nov 2
Thanksgiving recess  Nov 19-23
Fall semester ends  Dec 21
Christmas break  Dec 22-Jan 6
Grades due for Fall semester  Jan 2
J-Term  Jan 7-25
Drop/Add deadline J-Term  Jan 14
Intercultural Immersion Trips  Jan 7-21
Canvas Online Training (new students)  Jan 7-25
DL Online Orientation (new students)  Jan 14-25
IR Orientation (new students)  Jan 24
Spring semester begins  Jan 28
Drop/Add deadline  Feb 4
Grades due for J-Term  Feb 4
DL Winter break  Mar 4-8
IR Half semester ends  Mar 15
Cut-off for financial aid applications
  (returning MDiv/MA/GC/YL students)  Mar 30
Spring break  Apr 1-5
Registration for Fall semester due  Apr 15
IR Senior Blessing Worship Service  May 9
IR Spring semester ends  May 10
DL Senior Blessing Worship Service  May 13
IR Grades due for Spring semester (noon)  May 13
Graduation  May 13
DL Spring Semester Intensive  May 13-17
D.Min. seminars  May 13-24
DL Spring semester ends  May 17
DL Summer semester  May 22-Jun 28
IR Summer semester  May 29-Aug 23
DL Grades due for Spring semester  May 24
DL & IR Drop/Add deadline Summer Term  May 29
Th.M. program ends  Jun 21
DL Grades due for Summer semester  Jul 19
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.
Quick Facts

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

Location
Holland, Michigan - Population 35,000

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

Students
Approximately 335 full and part-time students

Faculty
18 faculty members and 2 faculty fellows
14:1 student/faculty ratio

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

Affiliation
Reformed Church in America