

# ACADEMIC CATALOG

2015 - 2017



WESLEY BIBLICAL  
SEMINARY

# ACADEMIC CATALOG

2015-2017



## Wesley Biblical Seminary

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[www.wbs.edu](http://www.wbs.edu)

The catalog of Wesley Biblical Seminary provides descriptions of educational policies and programs for the 2015-17 academic years. The seminary reserves the right to make changes in tuition charges, policies, and curricula as may be necessary.

# Welcome from the President

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What an incredible privilege to experience God's call on our lives! The call to ministry is a call to prepare. I sensed God's call on my life to preach and teach at age six. Every choice I made after that was made in order to protect and advance God's call. My education, courtship and marriage, and career ambitions were pursued with a laser-like focus to do God's Will.



You may be coming to Wesley Biblical Seminary with a testimony like mine. Or you may be coming with an entirely different narrative. No matter your journey, you are choosing to write a story of obedience to God's Will for your life NOW! We welcome you to the incredible learning community of Wesley Biblical Seminary.

You have already laid a foundation of preparation for God's call in your life. Now you will layer upon that foundation a rich texture of Biblical and theological study, ministry skills, and the Spirit-anointed wisdom to use both content and praxis in the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

***Wesley Biblical Seminary exists to advance Christ's Kingdom through the Church and make disciples of Jesus by offering life-transforming theological education producing Spirit-filled, shepherd-theologians and leaders for the 21st century, who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to Trinitarian faith, Christ-centered holiness, Biblical authority, and personal accountability.***

We pray that these days at Wesley Biblical Seminary will be sanctified by our Lord Himself, that you might in turn be Christ's sanctified servant.

The need is great, the challenge is daunting, and the call of God is demanding. Study. Prepare. Become. Serve. Disciple. Preach the Word. Reach the world!

Welcome to the WBS family. God bless you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. John E. Neihof, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John E. Neihof, Jr, Ph.D.  
President

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# Our Mission

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## Mission Statement

Wesley Biblical Seminary exists to advance Christ's Kingdom through the Church and make disciples of Jesus by offering life-transforming theological education producing Spirit-filled, shepherd-theologians and leaders for the 21st century, who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to Trinitarian faith, Christ-centered holiness, Biblical authority, and personal accountability.

## Statement of Faith: *A Condensed Confession*

The following statements summarize the theological guidelines for the seminary community (see following pages for full statement). We find in these expressions of theology a meaningful perspective to guide our walk with God, to inform our dialogue with other Christians, and to shape our ministry to the world in need.

1. **Scripture.** The Bible is the Word of God, the divinely-inspired, inerrant, infallible rule of faith and practice for the Church and its individual members.
2. **The Trinity.** The one true God exists eternally as the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with personality and deity.
3. **Jesus Christ.** Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of a virgin, who lived a sinless life, died on Calvary, rose from the grave and ascended into Heaven to intercede for all men.
4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit applies the work of Christ to believers, giving them eternal life, assuring them of personal salvation, producing the fruit of God's character, and empowering them for Christian witness in the world.
5. **Humanity.** Men and women are created in God's image but, because of sin, are tragically fallen and lost apart from God's redeeming grace.
6. **Salvation.** All people live under God's mandate of repentance. Through Christ all are invited to be delivered from the guilt and power of sin by faith in order that they might be restored to fellowship with God.
7. **Victorious Living.** All believers have the subsequent possibility and invitation to be cleansed from sin through the fullness of the Holy Spirit and definitely empowered for victorious living in today's world.
8. **Perseverance.** God's grace empowers all believers to faithfully persevere until the end.

However, it is possible for a believer to willfully turn away from God in unbelief and forfeit God's grace with all of its benefits and privileges.

9. **Church.** The Church is the visible Body of Christ made up of all who are united to Him by faith. Its members are commanded to love one another and commissioned to make disciples of all nations by proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world.
10. **Second Coming.** At the appointed time, Christ will return to gather His Church, judge the world, and rule over all in righteousness.
11. **Eternal Rewards.** Those who have lived in Christ will reign with him forever, while eternal pain and separation from God await those who have rejected Christ.
12. **Christian Obligation.** All who follow Christ are called to live righteously, joyously, and sacrificially, to endeavor to bring salvation to all persons everywhere, and to express compassionate love by ministering to every kind of human need.

# General Information

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## **History and Governance**

The founding of Wesley Biblical Seminary grew out of the need for adequately prepared pastors within the Methodist and related traditions in the Deep South. In 1974, under the leadership of Dr. Ivan C. Howard, the founding president, a group of interested persons representing historic Methodism participated in the establishment of a theological seminary committed to graduate educational ministry. On July 22, 1975, Wesley Biblical Seminary was incorporated as an independent, non-profit educational institution with its charter, bylaws, and statement of faith duly adopted at the first board of trustees meeting on September 20, 1975.

Subsequent to the death of Dr. Howard, Dr. Eldon R. Fuhrman was elected president in 1977. Dr. Fuhrman served the seminary as president for eight years and then returned to full-time teaching in 1985. Dr. Harold G. Spann assumed presidential leadership July 1, 1985, and retired from the office in June 1995. Dr. Robert Lawrence accepted the election as his successor and took office July 1, 1995. Dr. Ronald E. Smith was elected to serve as the fifth president of the seminary in January 1998. He was followed by Dr. James L. Porter on July 1, 2010, and now by Dr. John E. Neihof, Jr., beginning July 1, 2013. Two of the most significant achievements in recent years have been the launching of the John Case Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Pastoral Leadership and the opening of an extension site in Indiana. The first Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) class entered WBS April 1, 2015. In May, 2015, Wesley Biblical Seminary received approval from the Association of Theological Schools to offer courses on a regular basis in the facilities that Southland Community Church, Greenwood, Indiana has graciously provided. Students can now complete a significant part of their master's degrees in a face-to-face environment at this extension. Wesley Biblical Seminary has also launched a Graduate Certificate in Biblical and Theological Studies designed especially for missionaries in need of theological training.

The seminary is governed by a board of trustees composed of ministerial and lay leaders who represent the rich diversity of Wesley's constituency.

## **Statement of Faith**

We hold the following:

1. The supreme authority of the Word of God which stands written in the sixty-six books of the Holy Bible, all therein being divinely inspired by Almighty God and therefore without error or defect in the autographs. Believing the Bible to be the Word of God written, the only infallible rule of faith and practice, Wesley Biblical Seminary asserts

the authority of Scripture alone over the life of the Church and its individual members. We therefore believe that a reverent and loyal approach to the study of the Bible recognizes and affirms its full inspiration and its absolute trustworthiness as the divinely revealed and authoritative Word of God.

2. The one true God as Creator, Sustainer and Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, eternally existent in the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with personality and deity.
3. The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, as manifested in the flesh through a miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and virgin birth, who lived a sinless life and then died on Calvary, making a full and satisfactory atonement for the sins of all men, rose bodily the third day, ascended into Heaven and is enthroned at God's right hand as our abiding Intercessor.
4. The Holy Spirit as the Lord and Giver of life, taking the things of Jesus Christ and applying them to man and to his salvation and service. Assurance of personal salvation and the fruit of the Spirit are clearly distinguished from the gifts of the Spirit which are for the edification of the Church and which carry no guarantee of personal holiness or destiny.
5. The special original creation of man in God's image and likeness and the willful disobedience through which man became deeply fallen and tragically lost apart from God's redeeming grace.
6. The privilege and necessity of each person's being made a new creature in Christ by the life-giving Holy Spirit, adopted into God's family, and delivered from the penalty and practice of sinning. In this context sinning is regarded as known, willful violation of the will of God.
7. The second definite work of grace subsequent to regeneration, accomplished by the baptism with the Holy Spirit, thereby purifying the heart from original sin and empowering for continuous growth in grace, victorious living, and fruitful service. The result of this epochal experience—termed perfect love and/or entire sanctification—is maintained by faith as expressed in continuous obedience to God's revealed will, thus giving perfect cleansing moment by moment (Acts 15:8-9; I Thessalonians 5:23; I John 1:7-9, 4:13-21). Life in the Spirit is dynamically expressed in maturing and enabling grace to progress from glory to glory in personal holiness and Christian mission (II Corinthians 3:18).
8. The possibility of forfeiting divine grace and being lost since persons are Christians solely by their willing response to the gracious call and enablings of the Holy Spirit.

However, backsliders may be restored to their forfeited state of grace if they truly repent and return to the Lord in obedient faith.

9. The Church as the living body of Christ, constituting all who are united by faith to Him as members of His body and who are under the commandment to love one another with pure and fervent hearts. While in its spiritual essence the Church is an organism created by the Holy Spirit, it is also a divine-human institution functioning visibly on earth. As an institution, its divinely assigned mission is the universal proclamation of the Gospel. Application of the Gospel in the political, social, and economic needs of mankind is inherently proper, but secondary and subservient to its primary spiritual commission.
10. At the end of this Age, the return of Jesus Christ to gather His Church, to judge the world and to rule over all in righteousness.
11. The everlasting blessedness of all who die in Christ and the everlasting pain and loss of all others.
12. The obligation of all who are truly Christ's to live righteously, joyously, and sacrificially, to endeavor to bring salvation to all persons everywhere, and to express compassionate love in ministering to every kind of human need.

## **Ethos**

All members of the seminary community are expected to have committed themselves to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord—a commitment evidenced by a life of personal integrity. This integrity is demonstrated through honesty, purity, and love. Members of the seminary community will, among other things, abstain from sexual relationships outside of marriage, from homosexual practices, and from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs. It is also expected that personal attire, appearance, and conversation will be examples of godliness in the Christian community and the world.

It is assumed that all members of the seminary community will have respect for the institution and a willingness to participate enthusiastically in the life and program of the seminary. This includes a charitable attitude toward others and toward the theological distinctives. This enthusiasm will be further evidenced by an active sharing in the chapel program, prayer groups, and other scheduled activities of the seminary.

The seminary community consists of mature individuals representing a broad denominational, racial, and national spectrum. This rich diversity within the confessional framework of the seminary provides a wholesome environment in which the students explore God's truth and equip themselves for ministering to the present world.

Wesley is committed to academic freedom. Pursuant to this freedom of inquiry, the faculty encourages students to investigate significant theological traditions with respect and critical reason. The seminary respects the insights of any person who is seeking truth, while maintaining commitments to consensual Christianity. One will find that the atmosphere of study at Wesley is consistently challenging and edifying.

### **Students' Rights and Responsibilities; Code of Discipline**

The above Ethos statement serves as Wesley Biblical Seminary's statement on students' rights and responsibilities and as our code of discipline.

### **Location**

Wesley Biblical Seminary is located in the northern section of Jackson, the state capital of Mississippi. With a population of over 400,000, the Jackson metropolis is a regional hub for commerce, industry, and transportation. Interstates 55 and 20 converge at Jackson, illustrating its claim to be the "Crossroad of the South." Several major airlines schedule service into the Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport.

Higher educational experiences are available through several local institutions: Belhaven University, Mississippi College, Mississippi College School of Law, Millsaps College, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Holmes Community College, Hinds Community College, Reformed Theological Seminary, the medical schools for the University of Mississippi, and a number of business colleges.

A great variety of cultural opportunities within central Mississippi are available. The metro area is the home of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, Mississippi Opera, the Russell Davis Planetarium, the Jackson Zoo, and the Mississippi Braves—the minor league baseball team affiliated with the Atlanta Braves. These and other organizations offer year-round activities through which the rich heritage and culture of the Deep South can be experienced. The state parks, golf courses, and area lakes provide excellent settings for camping, fishing, hunting, water sports, and outdoor recreation.

### **Facilities**

The seminary's main campus is a fourteen-acre property just two blocks west of I-55 at Exit 100 on Northside Drive, Jackson. The 135,000 square feet provide ample room for the student body, for all administrative and educational functions, for a worshipping community, and for fellowship and recreation.

### **Library**

The growing collection of over 50,000 volumes is housed in the library. Service and

accessibility are predominant themes in the mission of the library. In addition to current holdings, facilities and contacts are available through the internet, interlibrary loan, and area libraries by which the serious student may access unlimited research resources. A mutual interchange with the nearby Reformed Theological Seminary library of more than 93,000 volumes provides faculty and students with additional resources.

The library is equipped with a periodical room, study carrels and computer accessibility. The library catalog and full-text databases are accessible to students via the seminary's website.

The library staff is comprised of the Director of Library Services and part-time assistants who provide service to the seminary community. Check the seminary website or the Library door for hours, which vary throughout the year.

## **Student Housing**

Moderately priced housing options are readily available throughout the Jackson metro area. For more information contact the Office of Student Development at 601-366-8880 (ext.109).

## **Chapel**

In addition to being a community for scholarly reflection, the seminary is a worshipping community. Chapel services are held on a regular basis for corporate worship, prayer, spiritual fellowship, and the promotion of holy living.

## **Discipleship at Wesley**

In order to promote holy lives, small discipleship groups are formed each year and offer every student the opportunity for supporting fellowship, Bible study, corporate prayer, personal accountability, and encouragement in Christian service. The discipleship program bears in mind that this kind of small group activity is an approach that has been used wherever spiritual renewal is found in church history. Jesus and the burgeoning early church practiced these principles of small group discipleship. John Wesley found them effective in the England of his day. Wesley Biblical Seminary has incorporated them into its educational philosophy and practice. Thus discipleship groups form an integral and mandatory part of the degree requirements. Students meet with a faculty member on a weekly basis and commit themselves to spiritual growth in their own lives as well as the lives of other group members.

## **Chamberlain Holiness Lectureship**

The Ray W. and Marianne E. Chamberlain Holiness Memorial Endowment Fund was established in 1985 by the Rev. and Mrs. Ray Chamberlain to assist in the promotion of scriptural holiness at Wesley Biblical Seminary. The endowment funds an annual holiness lectureship at the seminary given by outstanding exponents of scriptural holiness. The Chamberlain Holiness Lecturers have been Denis Applebee (1987), Andrew Miller (1988), Keith Drury (1989), Richard Taylor (1990), Dennis Kinlaw (1991 & 92), Stan Toler, (1993), John Oswalt (1994), Samuel Kamaleson (1995), John Conley (1996), Thomas Hermiz (1997), Ronald Smith (1998), Robert Coleman (1999), Thane Ury (2000), Victor Hamilton (2001), Helen Roseveare (2002), Earle Wilson (2003), Jon Tal Murphree (2004), [Lectures for 2005 cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina], Chris Bounds (2006), Dennis Kinlaw (2007), WBS Faculty (2008), John Hong (2009), Allan Brown and Philip Brown (2010), Gareth Lee Cockerill (2011), Calvin Samuels (2012), and John E. Neihof, Jr. (2013).

The lectureship is offered each October in conjunction with the annual Transform:ED Christian Leadership and Spiritual Formation Conference.

## **Accreditation and Affiliations**

Wesley Biblical Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools, and the following degree programs are approved:

Master of Divinity

Master of Arts

Doctor of Ministry

Approved for a Comprehensive Distance Education Program.

The Indiana Extension in Greenwood, Indiana, has also been approved as a site for regular course offerings.

The Commission contact information is: The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools, 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275, USA

Telephone: 412-788-6505 Fax: 412-788-6510 Website: [www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)

The seminary is also accredited by the State of Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities.

The seminary has approval from the State Approving Agency for qualifying veterans to receive educational grants from the Veterans Administration. The Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States Department of Justice recognizes Wesley Biblical Seminary as an educational center for international students.

The seminary is a member of the National Association of Evangelicals. Faculty belong to various professional organizations, such as the Evangelical Theological Society, the Society

of Biblical Literature, the Wesleyan Theological Society, and the Institute for Biblical Studies, which enable them to stay abreast of new developments and understandings in theological education.

A number of denominations within the Wesleyan tradition give official denominational endorsement of Wesley Biblical Seminary as an approved theological school for their constituencies. At least twelve different denominations have been represented on the seminary faculty, and more than thirty represented within the student body.

Seminary education at Wesley encourages students to develop their relationship with their chosen denomination. Exposure to the ethos and culture of a selected denomination is necessary as the seminarians prepare to enter ministry in that community.

### **The Liliastrotter Center**

Wesley Biblical Seminary has begun partnering with the Liliastrotter Center by engaging their well-qualified staff to teach a course in Islamic Foundations during the spring 2016 semester. Named after a veteran missionary to Algeria, the Liliastrotter Center “enables thoughtful Christian engagement with Muslims by bringing seasoned evangelical scholarship and discipleship to students and to practitioners serving among Muslims to equip them for informed, fruitful and enduring ministry.” We at Wesley Biblical Seminary are delighted to be working with this fine group of people and happy to extend this opportunity to our students. You can learn more at <http://liliastrottercenter.org/>.

### **Educational Effectiveness**

#### **Purpose Statement:**

Wesley Biblical Seminary exists to advance Christ’s Kingdom through the Church and make disciples of Jesus by offering life-transforming theological education, producing Spirit-filled shepherd-theologians and leaders for the 21st century, who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to Trinitarian faith, Christ-centered holiness, Biblical authority, and personal accountability.

#### **Assessment Plan:**

Wesley Biblical Seminary is committed to the full development of its students in accord with the stated goals of each degree program. The faculty has completed and is putting into effect a new assessment plan for the 2015-2016 academic year. This plan effectively provides for both direct and indirect measurement of student achievement based primarily on artifacts submitted by the student evaluated according to established rubrics and on graduate exit interviews. The faculty will evaluate these assessment results on an annual basis.

**Program Goal Achievement:**

In a 2014 survey of alumni, the following percentages of respondents rated the seminary as being “*above average*” or “*superior*” in enabling them to fulfill the stated goals of their degree programs:

Goal Title	
Scripture	90%
Orthodoxy	87%
The Wesleyan Perspective	87%
The Holy Life	82%
The Servant Heart	81%
Proclamation	74%
Leadership	74%
Spiritual Direction	64%

In the senior exit interviews for the last two years, the following percentages of graduates rated the seminary as “average” or above in enabling them to fulfill the stated goals of their degree programs. The high percentages for 2014-2015 are probably due to the small size of the graduating class:

Goal Title	2013-2014	2014-2015
Scripture	100%	100%
Orthodoxy	95%	100%
The Wesleyan Perspective	90%	100%
The Holy Life	95%	100%
The Servant Heart	81%	100%
Proclamation	75%	100%
Leadership	85%	100%
Spiritual Direction	81%	100%

**Placement Rates:**

The most recent placement figures pertain to the graduating class of 2013. The 2014 statistics will be available by December, 2015. As of November 2013 (six months post-graduation), of those who graduated with the Master of Divinity Degree:

- 82% had found employment in places of Christian ministry,
- 6% percent were engaged in further study, and
- 12% were still seeking ministry employment.

Although the Master of Arts degree is dedicated to general Biblical and theological knowledge rather than to ministry, by November 2013:

- 57% of Master of Arts program graduates found employment in Christian ministry,
- 10% had gone on for further study,
- 14% had taken non-ministry employment,
- 5% were not seeking employment, and
- 14% were still seeking ministry employment.

## **Virtual WBS**

To access virtual WBS, students should go to [wbs.edu](http://wbs.edu) and click on “current students.” At the top left of the “current students” page there are three options: MyWBS Portal, CampusAnyware, and MoodleRooms. MyWBS Portal gives campus wide news, job opportunities, etc. CampusAnyware is used for registration and billing. WBS uses MoodleRooms as the platform for on-line courses. A student’s WBS email and password provide access to MyWBS Portal. Registered students are also given an ID and pin for CampusAnyware. Each semester, after consulting with their advisors, students receive a CampusAnyware access code that allows them to register. On-line students are given access to their courses on MoodleRooms.

## **Women at Wesley**

Wesley Biblical Seminary celebrates the diversity within the body of Christ and the particular contribution women have made to the Wesleyan movement. Women are welcome and invited to participate at all levels of seminary life, whether administration, faculty, staff, or student.

## **Statement on Non-Discrimination**

Wesley Biblical Seminary maintains a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, or physical handicap in administration of educational policies, applications for admission, scholarships, loans, and extracurricular programs. The seminary urges students, faculty, staff, and administration to use language that does not exclude persons on the basis of sex, race, age, or physical handicap.

# The Administration, Trustees, and Faculty

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## Administrative Officers

**John E. Neihof, Jr.**  
*President*

**Rob Pocai**  
*Executive Vice President*  
*Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services*

**Gareth Lee Cockerill**  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs*

## Administrative Staff

**Karl Luman**  
*Registrar*  
*Director of Financial Aid*

**Rebecca Luman**  
*Director of Spiritual Formation*  
*Director of Distance Learning*

**Peggy Price**  
*Business Office Director*

**Brandi Coleman**  
*Assistant to the President*

**Margaret Jane Stauble**  
*Director of Library Services*

**Dave Steveline**  
*Assistant Director of Library Services*

**Susan Yetter**  
*Telephone Receptionist*

**Leah Geyer**  
*Student Development Director*

**Elijah Friedeman**  
*Admissions Assistant*

## Board of Trustees

**Regina Boyles**  
Business Woman  
Jackson, Mississippi

**Gary K. Briden**  
**First Vice Chair**  
**Secretary**  
Denominational Executive  
Jackson, Mississippi

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Businessman  
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Businessman  
Columbus, Georgia

**James I. Howard**  
**Chairman**  
Attorney  
Horse Cave, Kentucky

**Scott King**  
Businessman  
Southaven, Mississippi

**Hiroo (“David”) Kudo**  
Pastor  
Okayama, Japan

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Pastor (Retired)  
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Businessman  
Plantersville, Mississippi

**Philip (“Phil”) Speas**  
College President  
Jackson, Kentucky

**Sonny Steel**  
Businessman  
Jackson, Mississippi

## The Faculty

### Dr. G. Stephen Blakemore



#### *Associate Professor of Christian Thought*

Ph.D., University of Tennessee M.A.,  
Wake Forest University  
M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary  
B.A., Asbury College

Steve Blakemore contributes to the faculty with ranging versatility as a pastor and philosopher. He spent fourteen years pastoring in the local church and four years as college chaplain and adjunct professor of religion and philosophy at Hiwassee College and Northeast State Community College in Tennessee. Dr. Blakemore is a contemporary Christian musician and the co-founder of “Resurrection,” a youth convention that annually challenges over 13,000 young people with Christ’s call to radical discipleship. He is passionate about teaching philosophy and apologetics because he agrees with Fyodor Dostoyevsky that “ideas have consequences.” Dr. Blakemore is committed to thinking deeply about “the faith once delivered to the saints” in order to strengthen Christ’s church and to communicate the Gospel in the contemporary world. He and his wife, Carolyn, have four sons. WBS faculty 2000-2006 and since 2010

### Dr. George Richard (“Rick”) Boyd, Jr.



#### *Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies*

Ph.D., London School of Theology  
M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary  
B.S.M.E., University of Illinois

Rick Boyd has taught as an adjunct at a number of institutions of higher education, is a regular participant in scholarly societies and conferences, and is currently editing his doctoral dissertation, *Sonship as the Central Theological Motif and Unifying Theme of Hebrews*, for publication. In addition to his scholarship, Dr. Boyd brings to Wesley extensive experience in Christian media. His passion has been to communicate solid Biblical truth to a popular audience through radio. He and his wife Jodi have been actively involved in their local church through both Sunday school and small-group ministries. They have a burden for youth and for mentoring young adults.

Dr. Gareth Lee Cockerill



***Professor of Biblical Interpretation and Theology***

Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary in Virginia  
Th.M., Union Theological Seminary in Virginia  
M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary  
B.A., Southern Wesleyan University

Gary Cockerill, an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church, is a New Testament theologian and Greek scholar, a committed professor, a missionary who spent three terms of service in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and a campmeeting and conference Bible teacher. He regularly participates in the Evangelical Theological Society, the Institute for Biblical Research, and the Society of Biblical Literature. Dr. Cockerill is the author of several books including the NICNT commentary on Hebrews (Eerdmans, 2012) and ***Christian Faith in the Old Testament: the Bible of the Apostles*** (Thomas Nelson, 2014). He and his wife, Rosa, have three daughters, two sons-in-law, and four grandchildren. WBS faculty since 1979.

Dr. Matt T. Friedeman



***Professor of Evangelism and Discipleship***

Ph.D., University of Kansas  
M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary  
M.A., University of Kansas  
B.S., University of Kansas

Matt Friedeman brings a multi-faceted ministry to his teaching at Wesley. He has authored books on evangelism, discipleship, and methods of Bible study. He has written a regular newspaper column and been a talk-show host on American Family Radio. His most recent book is ***Swallowed Up in God: the Best of Francis Asbury's Journal and Letters*** (Teleios Press, 2014). Dr. Friedeman regularly leads students in various types of outreach, such as prison ministry and ministry to the unborn. Matt is an ordained Nazarene minister who serves as the founding pastor of Day Spring Community Church in Clinton, Mississippi. He and his wife, Mary, have six children. WBS faculty since 1987.

**Dr. Rebecca Luman**



***Assistant Professor of Formation and Instruction***

Ph.D., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Th.M., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
M.Div., Wesley Biblical Seminary  
B.S., California University of Pennsylvania  
A.A., Kentucky Mountain Bible College

Becky Luman taught high school and college before entering the field of religious education. She has served on the staff of both Lakeshore Congregational Methodist Church and Wesley Chapel and continues to be an active consultant in the area of children's ministries and pedagogical method. Dr. Luman has written educational curriculum for use at both the church and college levels. She has also directed and written curriculum for children's camp. Becky is actively involved in teaching the gospel to women inmates in a nearby federal prison and in ministering to the families of the imprisoned. She is married to Karl Luman. WBS faculty since 2003.

**Dr. John Eldon Neihof, Jr.**



***Professor of Pulpit Communication  
Chair of the Faculty***

Ph.D., University of Kentucky  
M.A., University of Kentucky  
B.A., Asbury University  
A.A.R., Kentucky Mountain Bible College

After a 23 year as a professor of communications and administrator at Kentucky Mountain Bible College, John Neihof joined the WBS team in 2013. From 1998-2013 John participated in the Association for Biblical Higher Education which included accreditation team training, serving as a peer evaluator on eight ABHE visits, and one year as a Commissioner on the ABHE Commission for Accreditation. John's professional life has included classroom teaching, student life administration, institutional advancement, ten years of pastoral ministry, and fifteen years of evangelism throughout the pan-Wesleyan world. Preaching the precious truth of God's Word and the power of full salvation is John's passion. John's hobbies include woodworking and playing guitar. John's wife, Beth, is retired from a career as a school library-media specialist. Beth loves quilting, children's literature and her grandchildren.

## Dr. Carey Vinzant



### ***Assistant Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology***

Ph.D., Concordia Seminary

M.Div., Wesley Biblical Seminary

B.A., Mississippi College

Carey Vinzant has specialized in the areas of personhood and Trinitarian theology. After completing his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary in 2010, Carey wrote and edited for Concordia Publishing House, Creative Communications for the Parish, and for other Christian publishers. In 2011 Dr. Vinzant began teaching at WBS as an adjunct professor, before assuming his present position in 2013. He, his wife Allene, and his son Patrick attend Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Madison, Mississippi, where Dr. Vinzant serves as a priest in residence. He is a regular participant in the Evangelical Theological Society, where he has given several papers. In addition, he has extensive experience in urban ministry and in apologetic outreach to people who are hostile to the Christian faith. Carey is passionate about communicating the historic Christian faith and its implications for holy living. He is also an accomplished musician and worship leader.

## Faculty Emeriti

### **John N. Oswalt**

B.A., B.D., Th.M., M.A., Ph.D. *Professor Emeritus of Old Testament*

1999-2009

### **Harold G. Spann, B.A., M.A., LL.D.**

*President Emeritus*

1985-2000

### **Paul Tashiro**

B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

*Professor Emeritus of Old Testament*

1991-2013

### **Wayne W. Woodward**

A.B., B.D., M.A., M.S. in L.S.

*Director Emeritus of Library Services* 1978-1998

## Adjunct Faculty

### **Chris Lohrstorfer**

Ph.D., University of Manchester

Raymond, Mississippi

### **Matthew O'Reilly**

Ph.D. cand., University of Gloucestershire

Montgomery, Alabama,

### **David Schreiner**

Ph.D., Asbury Theological Seminary

Richmond, Kentucky

### **William Sillings**

D.Min., **Fuller Theological Seminary**

Bethany, Oklahoma

### **David Yetter**

M.Mus., Westminster Choir College

Madison, Mississippi

### **Don Little**

D.Min., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Houghton, New York

### **Benjamin Hegeman**

Ph.D., University of Utrecht, the Netherlands

Houghton, New York

# Admissions

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## **Pre-Seminary Education**

A variety of pre-seminary curricula provide solid preparation for graduate theological studies. In general, pre-seminary studies should include those disciplines that provide cultural and intellectual foundations essential for theological inquiry. Studies in the humanities, social sciences, or other liberal arts disciplines should provide adequate foundational preparation for seminary studies. Students will benefit from having taken courses in any of the following areas as a part of their undergraduate studies: Greek, Hebrew, other foreign languages, literature and composition, ancient and modern history, philosophy, psychology, speech and communication, and sociology. The student with sound knowledge of the content of the Bible will be able to advance more quickly in seminary studies.

## **Admission Requirements**

Six criteria are used as guidelines for admission into Wesley Biblical Seminary:

1. Possessing a bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency or the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) is required for admission to the M.Div. or M.A.; possessing an M.Div. (or equivalent) from an ATS accredited institution, for admission to the D.Min.
2. Demonstrating spiritual and moral integrity that is essential for Christian leaders.
3. Giving evidence of purpose and commitment to serving the Lord Jesus in full-time ministry. Three years of post-M.Div. ministry is required for admission to the D.Min., though exceptions may be made for students with extensive pre-M.Div. ministry.
4. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.50 for admission to the M.Div. or M.A. and of 3.00 for admission to the D.Min.
5. Completing the necessary application procedures.
6. Obtaining satisfactory recommendation from selected references.

Mature persons who lack a bachelor's degree but can demonstrate the ability to do master's level work may contact the Office of Admissions to explore options for study at Wesley.

## **Admission for Low GPA Applicants**

A prospective M.Div./M.A. student with an undergraduate GPA of 2.25 to 2.49 may still be considered for admission to the seminary by pursuing one of the following options:

## 1. Miller Analogies Test (MAT)

A low GPA applicant may take the MAT prior to making application to WBS or during the application process. The test results would be sent to WBS and would become a part of the prospective student's application file. The file would not be complete until the MAT results are included. A test score greater than the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is necessary to be considered for admission.

## 2. Probationary Course at WBS

An alternative to taking the MAT is for the applicant to request to take a single probationary course as a non-degree student. The course is to be designated by the Academic Dean. The Admissions Committee must approve the applicant's file for admission with the understanding that if the file is approved, permission to take the designated course provides a probationary admission as a non-degree student.

The student must receive a minimum grade of "B" in the course in order to achieve full admission status and be reclassified as a degree student. If the student receives less than a "B" in the course, the student must then take the MAT in order to be reconsidered for full admission as a degree student. A test score on the MAT greater than the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is necessary to be reconsidered for admission.

A prospective M.Div./M.A. student with an undergraduate GPA of less than 2.25 may be considered for admission by exercising the above stated MAT option but is not eligible for the probationary course option.

## **Admission Procedures**

Applications for M.Div./M.A. enrollment in the fall semester are due July 1, and for the spring, December 1. D.Min. applications are due February 1. Applications may be completed online at [www.wbs.edu](http://www.wbs.edu). Application forms are also available from the Office of Admissions.

The required components for application include:

1. A completed application form. A non-refundable application fee of \$40.00 must accompany the application. If applying online, this payment can be made through our secure web site.
2. Final official transcripts. Transcripts are required of all previous academic work undertaken at any college or university. Applicants must request that official copies be mailed to the Office of Admissions.
3. Four written recommendations from categories of persons indicated on the application. Reference forms are available from the Office of Admissions or at [www.wbs.edu](http://www.wbs.edu). Applicants distribute these forms to people who are asked to give a recommendation on their behalf.

4. A 500 word statement must accompany the application and address the topics identified on the application form. If applying online, this statement can be submitted electronically. D.Min. students complete a 2,000 word personal profile essay.

When all required components have been received, the student's file goes before the Admissions Committee. The Office of Admissions will send notice of the committee's action.

**Note:** Recent WBS graduates applying for entrance into the D.Min. degree may be able to omit or abbreviate some of the above steps. Contact the Admissions Office for details.

## **Transfer Students**

M.Div. and M.A. students transferring from other seminaries may receive transfer credit by making formal application and by submitting a catalog description of the courses in question. Appropriate masters level courses taken at colleges or universities may be transferred into a WBS program provided course equivalency can be established. Transferring students must be in good standing with their previous institutions. D.Min. students must take all of their courses at Wesley Biblical Seminary.

Full credit is given for work satisfactorily completed in recognized schools, provided these courses apply to the Seminary's curriculum. No credit will be granted for previous courses with a grade of less than "C" or its equivalent. The total hours for which credit or partial credit is allowed will be shown on the student's transcript. Grade point averages (GPA) for graduation will be based only upon work done at Wesley Biblical Seminary.

Up to twenty-five (25) hours may be transferred into the M.A. programs and fifty (50) hours into the M.Div. program. However, students who transfer more than one-third of their courses from other institutions will not be eligible for academic distinction at graduation. No more than half the hours used to complete another degree may be applied toward a degree at WBS. Normally a student seeking a WBS degree must take the last twenty-five hours at WBS.

Transfer decisions are made on an individual basis. Contact the Vice President for Academic Affairs for assistance with course transfer.

## **International Student Application**

Every year Wesley enrolls a selected number of men and women from countries outside the United States. International students seeking admission to Wesley need to provide additional information in the application process:

1. A TOEFL score that indicates the student's ability to work at a graduate level with the English language. A total score of 80 or above on the internet-based TOEFL (IBT) is acceptable (the range is 0-120). The student should have an official copy of the test score sent to the seminary.
2. An endorsement from the student's sending church or Christian organization indicating plans for ministry after graduation from Wesley.
3. International students who have been accepted to study on campus must supply evidence of the financial resources necessary to cover the cost. The potential student should complete the worksheet of projected expenses that is available from the Director of Financial Aid. After receiving adequate evidence of sufficient finances, the Registrar will send the applicant the I-20 Form necessary to procure a U.S. Student Visa. The student should then contact the Registrar for further instructions. Sufficient evidence of financial resources should include such things as (a) personal bank statements; (b) letters of financial support from foundations, churches, or individuals with copies of bank statements demonstrating said support; and (c) certificates of any awarded scholarships.
4. On campus international students must also provide a deposit of funds in US dollars to serve as an emergency fund and to cover the cost of return airfare for the student and any accompanying family members. This deposit of funds shall be made before admission is granted and will be held in the student's account at WBS until the funds are needed.
5. The seminary will not assist International D.Min. students in relocating to the United States but will help them in procuring the tourist/visitor's visas necessary to attend the two-week January and June intensives. Contact the Registrar for assistance.

## **Students at Wesley**

### ***Salient Facts***

1. Have local church ministry responsibility, either full-time or part-time, as they balance study at seminary with ministry and attention to family needs.
2. Average taking a course load of about eight credit hours per semester.
3. Range in age from the mid-twenties to the mid-sixties with an average of 37 years.
4. Come from a diverse racial background with about thirty-three percent being African American or international students.

### ***Denominational Background***

Denominations frequently represented in the student body include: Africa Gospel Church, Anglican Church, Bible Methodist Church, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Church of Christ (Holiness), USA, Churches of Christ in Christian Union, Church of God (Anderson, Indiana), Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee), Church of God in Christ, Church of the Nazarene, Congregational Methodist Church, Evangelical Church of North America, Evangelical Methodist Church, Free Methodist Church, Independent Methodist Church, Missionary Baptist Church, National Baptist Convention, Pentecostal Holiness (Trinitarian), United Methodist Church, The Wesleyan Church.

### ***Undergraduate Background***

Colleges represented more than once in any given fall semester since 1998 include: Alabama State University, Alcorn State University, Asbury College, Belhaven University, Delta State University, Emmaus Biblical Seminary, Excelsior College, God's Bible School, Hobe Sound Bible College, Indiana University, Indiana Wesleyan University, Jackson State University, Kentucky Mountain Bible College, Kingswood University, Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary, Lee University, Malone College, Mid-America Christian University, Mid-America Nazarene University, Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Mississippi State University, Morehouse College, Nazarene Bible College, Ohio Christian University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Purdue University, Seinan University, Southern Nazarene University, Taylor University, Toccoa Falls College, Tougaloo College, University of Kentucky, University of Memphis, University of Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi, Vennard College, Wesley College, and William Carey College.

# Financial Information

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## Tuition and Fees

Wesley Biblical Seminary attempts to provide the best theological education at the most reasonable cost to the students. Revenues for seminary operations come primarily from outside contributions. The tuition and fees charged the student cover only a small percentage of the total educational expenses. The seminary raises approximately 80% of the tuition expenses for seminary education through private contributions. Students are responsible for the remaining 20% and their living expenses. The seminary reserves the right to change tuition and fees whenever necessary.

40.00	Application fee
20.00	Application fee for auditing and special students
425.00	Tuition per M.Div./M.A. semester hour
500.00	Tuition per D.Min. semester hour
75.00	Independent study fee ( <i>per course in addition to tuition</i> )
150.00	Audit fee per course at the Jackson Campus
300.00	Audit fee per course at the Indiana Extension
150.00	Late registration fee
25.00	Deferred payment fee for M.Div./M.A. per term
50.00	Deferred payment fee for D.Min. per year
40.00	Thesis fee
150.00	Graduation fee
25.00	Change of Schedule fee ( <i>per occurrence</i> )
5.00	Insurance fee per semester for on-campus students
150.00	Technology fee per semester ( <i>4 hrs or more</i> )
75.00	On line Orientation fee for all M.Div./M.A. students
10.00	Transcript mailing fee ( <i>first copy is free</i> )
500.00	D.Min. Continuation (per term <i>after</i> eight terms of registration)
400.00	Thesis Continuation Fee ( <i>per semester</i> )

Note: The Thesis Continuation Fee applies for each semester following the term in which the student has registered for the six hours of thesis credit. It will be applied each term—fall, spring, and summer—until the student has submitted the final copy of the thesis.

Spouses of students who are taking at least eight hours for credit, and members of the seminary staff and their families, may enroll for three credit or audit hours per semester without paying tuition or audit fees. Regularly employed (non-adjunct) faculty and administration and their immediate families may take courses tuition/audit fee free. Wesley graduates who are not pursuing an additional degree may take master's courses for credit at half tuition. In all of these instances, students will be assessed other applicable fees even when tuition or audit fees have been waived in part or in whole.

Comprehensive financial reflection should be done as the prospective student makes plans for attending seminary. The amount needed per year varies greatly from student to student. The financial budget for a year at seminary should include tuition, fees, books and supplies, rent and utilities, food, clothing, laundering, medical insurance/expenses, transportation, and incidentals. Past record shows that the dedicated student who is willing to work hard and to trust the promises of God has found adequate resources to finance the seminary experience.

## **Policy for Payment of Student Accounts**

### **Payment Options for M.Div./M.A. Students**

**Full payment** – check or credit card payment received in the Business Office on or before the due date, which is seven (7) days before the first day of class each semester. Any amount received less than the full amount due by the due date will cause the account to be treated according to the terms of the Deferred Payment Plan with accompanying fees and schedules.

**Loan agreement** – approved **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan** for a sufficient amount to cover the total tuition, books and fees, if a student is at least half time (4 to 7 credit hours). The loan must be certified by the Financial Aid Office on or before the due date, which is seven (7) days before the first day of class each semester.

### **Deferred Payment Plan** - Up to 3 payments (see below)

Terms of Deferred Payment Plan for M.Div./M.A. Students

1. 1/3 or more of the student bill is paid on or before the due date, which is seven (7) days before the first day of class each semester. If there is a question about the amount of financial assistance that is to be applied to the student's account, the 1st payment should be 1/3 of the total bill, before the posting of any financial aid.
2. A \$25 deferment fee will be applied to the initial payment and paid at this time.
3. A second payment – 1/2 of the balance due -will be due 30 days from the initial due date.
4. The 3rd and final payment will be due 60 days from the initial due date.

5. Any scheduled payment not paid by the date scheduled will incur a \$25 late fee.
6. There is no penalty for payment of the full balance before the time of the scheduled payments.
7. After 60 days from the initial due date any student with an outstanding balance may be removed from class until the balance owed is paid.
8. Any balance owed 180 days after the beginning of the semester in which the charges were incurred will begin to accumulate interest at the rate of 1.5% per month.

The payment or verification is due on or before the due date, which is seven days before the first day of class each semester. Until payment is received or verified through one of the three payment options listed above, registration is not complete and the student will not be admitted to class.

Students will not be registered for a new semester, no transcript will be issued, and no degree will be granted unless all financial obligations to the seminary have been settled.

### **Payment Options for D.Min. Students**

***Full Payment at the beginning of the D.Min. program.*** Students who choose to pay the full \$15,000 tuition for the entire D.Min. program by April 1 of the term in which they enroll will receive a 10% discount.

***Full Payment each term.***—Check, cash, or credit card payment received in the business office by the first day of the D.Min. term (April 1, October 1) for \$3,000, the total tuition for each term.

***Deferred Payment Plan***—For an annual fee of \$50 the student may arrange with the business office to pay \$500 per month for the six months of each term, totaling \$6,000 for the year. These arrangements must be completed April 1 of each year. Late payment will result in a \$25 late fee.

***Loan agreement*** – approved ***Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan*** for a sufficient amount to cover the total tuition, books and fees. The loan should be certified by the Financial Aid Office on or before the due date, which is seven (7) days before the first day of each D.Min. term.

D.Min. Students will not be registered for a new term, no transcript will be issued, and no degree will be granted unless all financial obligations to the seminary have been settled. Any balance owed 180 days after the beginning of the D.Min. term in which the charges were incurred will begin to accumulate interest at the rate of 1.5% per month.

## **Refund Policy**

Refunds for dropped M.Div./M.A. courses are only available in the first two weeks of each semester. No tuition refunds for M.Div./M.A. courses will be made after 5:00 PM on the second Friday of the semester. D.Min. students may withdraw from their courses with full refund up until they come to campus for the June or January intensives. No refund will be given after the beginning of the first intensive week. Students who received a discount by paying the full cost of the D.Min. at the beginning will receive a full refund if they withdraw before the first intensive of their program. If they withdraw at a later time they will be charged the full \$15,000 undiscounted rate before being given a refund for the courses not yet taken. D.Min. students who withdraw from a particular term may elect not to receive a refund but to join the next D.Min. cohort.

***Students receiving federally funded Title IV financial assistance:*** If a student withdraws from all courses on or before the 60% point in time of the period of enrollment, calculated using calendar days, a portion of the total of Title IV funds awarded a student (Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan) must be returned, according to the provisions of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. The calculation of the return of these funds may result in the student owing a balance to the seminary and/or the federal government.

The federal Title IV written refund policy and method of calculation is available in the Financial Aid Office.

## **Financial Aid and Educational Loans**

Drawing from a limited endowment, the seminary administers financial aid every semester to M.Div./M.A. students who demonstrate academic excellence. Personnel in the Financial Aid Office will gladly assist in understanding the various sources of aid available. D.Min. students are eligible for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans but not for institutional financial aid. There is, however, a discount for prepayment of the D.Min. tuition for the entire program. Check with the business office for details.

Students must complete the financial aid application process each year. Application should be made before July 1 for students entering the fall semester, before December 1 for spring semester entries, and before February 1 for D.Min. students. A completed application form assures the student of consideration for financial aid. Financial aid applications received before July 1 receive priority for institutional financial aid.

The Financial Aid Committee considers the student's academic standing and financial status in assessing applications for aid. Wesley's financial aid programs are administered in accordance with the policies and procedures defining good standing and satisfactory

academic progress.

Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (as defined in the current catalog) in order to receive financial aid. Some institutional awards may require a higher standard in order to continue receiving the award. In some instances, a change in enrollment status or a change in eligibility status may cause reduction or repayment of awards.

***Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan.*** The seminary participates in the Federal Unsubsidized Loan program. This is a loan taken out by the student. Interest begins to accrue on the loan at the time it is disbursed. Students may make payments on the interest while enrolled or allow it to be capitalized until repayment. Repayment begins after recipient is out of school for a period of six months.

## **Memorial Scholarships**

Various scholarships and funds have been established at the seminary as a means of supporting theological education as well as honoring the life and contribution of some worthy person. The funds below make up the scholarship endowment for Wesley. They do not represent individual, stackable scholarships for which students may apply. Proceeds from these funds provide the source for all student scholarship awards. Awards are made on the basis of academic merit. Any specific designations by the donors are taken into consideration in the allocation of funds. Application for scholarships is made through the Financial Aid website. Questions regarding any of the funds listed below should be addressed to the Financial Aid Office.

***Adams Scholarship,*** endowed in 1997 by Mrs. Julia T. Adams, Fort Valley, Georgia, is in memory of her husband, Eston B. Adams.

***The Church of God Scholarship,*** a fund created in 1993 by Drs. Robert and Linda Lawrence, continues to receive contributions from various Church of God donors. The scholarship is designated for Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) students.

***The Carolyn M. Cook Memorial Scholarship,*** established in 1997 by Mr. E. Jewel Cook, Sr., supports students who prepare for evangelistic ministry. The recipient must maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.00.

***The Gladys and Mitchell Flache Memorial Scholarship*** was established in 1989 in memory of Mr. A. Mitchell Flache. In 2003 after the death of Mrs. Gladys Newsom Flache, the scholarship was renamed The Gladys and Mitchell Flache Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is used to assist those masters-level students who are preparing for pulpit or missionary ministry.

***The Mrs. Charles K. Gentry Scholarship*** was established in 1986 in memory of Mrs. Charles Gentry by her son, Rev. Eugene Gentry. The scholarship is to assist those preparing for the pastoral ministry.

***The Frances O. Gentry Endowed Scholarship***, established in November, 1993, by Rev. Eugene Gentry, is in memory of his wife. The scholarship is designated for students preparing for pastoral ministry.

***The Eldrice H. and Gertie Mae Allen Green Memorial Scholarship*** comes from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Green. Established in 1995, the scholarship gives assistance to those students who have clear financial need.

***The Elbert Brian Hamlin Memorial Scholarship*** was established in 2001 by his parents, Wayland and Naomi June Hamlin. The scholarship is used to help men and women, called of God, prepare for the pastorate and their ministry.

***The Crawley-Heuck Scholarship*** was established in 1997 by a bequest from Miss Mernelle Heuck in memory of her brother-in-law and sister, Clyde Straton Crawley and Daisy Heuck Crawley.

***The Rev. J. T. and Emma Lee Hill Endowed Scholarship***, initially funded by Dr. Opsy Jenkins, daughter of the Hills, memorializes the significant ministry of more than fifty years in the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. in Mississippi.

***B. W. Humphrey Memorial Scholarship***, established in 1997 by Rev. and Mrs. Brian Pennington, memorializes B. W. Humphrey with scholarships for ministerial and Christian education students.

***The Kenneth and Mabel Kendall Scholarship Fund*** was established by Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Kendall in 1984 to assist needy students at Wesley Biblical Seminary, especially those associated with the Evangelical Church of North America.

***The J. H. Kent Memorial Scholarship*** was established in 1987 by Christ Wesleyan Methodist Church of Greenville, Mississippi, in memory of Mr. J. H. Kent.

***The David and Mary Lindsey and Jean Lindsey Scholarship*** was established in 1986 by Dr. and Mrs. C. V. Hunter in memory of Mrs. Hunter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Lindsey, and in honor of her sister, Jean Lindsey. The scholarship is to assist those preparing for the pastoral ministry or missionary service.

***The Dr. Mark Elliott Lovett Memorial Scholarship*** was established in 2002 by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Lovett. The scholarship is used to help God-called men and women prepare to answer God's calling upon their lives.

***McCollum/Stone Scholarship***, endowed in 1996 by Mrs. Julia T. Adams, Fort Valley, Georgia, gives tribute to the lives of Professor C. C. McCollum and Mrs. Emily Stone.

***The Methodist Protestant Endowed Scholarship***, established in 1998, assists students preparing for pastoral ministry in the Methodist Protestant Church. Recipients, to be recommended by the President of the church, must serve the church for a minimum of three years or repay the fund that amount which was awarded.

***The Dr. Charles Ratcliff, Jr. Memorial Scholarship*** was established by his wife Elnora and children in the Fall of 1984. Income from this fund is primarily for the graduates of Ohio Christian University who attend Wesley Biblical Seminary.

***Read Scholarship Fund***, endowed in 1997 by Beryle and Miriam J. Read, Brooksville, Florida, assists Free Methodist and Wesleyan students at WBS.

***The Dorothy W. Rose Memorial Scholarship Endowment*** was established by her husband, Dr. Delbert R. Rose, and children. The Rose family invites friends and relatives to contribute to the fund.

***The Roy R. and Margie K. Rose Memorial Scholarship*** was established by the Rose children in the Fall of 1984. Relatives and friends of the Rose family are invited to contribute to the fund.

***The James J. Ryan Endowed Scholarship*** was established by Mrs. Caroline Ryan in memory of her husband, James J. Ryan. The scholarship, endowed in 2000, gives assistance to those students who have clear financial need.

***The Seven Oaks Camp Endowed Scholarship*** was created in September, 1988, by the Seven Oaks Foundation, successor to the Seven Oaks Campmeeting of New York. The scholarship supports the training of Christian workers.

***The Howard G. and Jean M. Simpson Scholarship*** was established by Mr. Michael Simpson in 1986 in honor of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Simpson.

***The Lottie V. Smith Memorial Scholarship*** was created in June, 1994, by Mr. George Smith in memory of his wife.

***The First Southern Methodist Endowed Scholarship*** was established in 2000 by the First Southern Methodist Church of Summit, Mississippi, in memory and honor of past and present members. The scholarship gives assistance to those students who have clear financial need.

***The Paul M. Stewart Memorial Scholarship*** was established in 1987 by Mrs. Paul (Sylvia Z.) Stewart in memory of her husband and is to assist students preparing for ministry.

*The Ralph and Claribel Thompson Scholarship Fund* was established in 1983 by Dr. and Mrs. W. Ralph Thompson of Spring Arbor, Michigan. The interest from these permanent funds will be used to assist Free Methodist students at Wesley Biblical Seminary.

*The William Aaron Toler Scholarship* was established by Dr. Stanley A. Toler in memory of his father.

*The United Methodist Student Scholarship* began with funding from Drs. Charles and Lois Ryan, retired United Methodist minister and wife from Central Florida. Persons interested in providing assistance to United Methodist students are invited to contribute to the scholarship endowment.

*John and Martha Wright Scholarship Fund*, established in 1998 by the Association of Independent Methodists in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Wright, assists Independent Methodist students at WBS.

*The Paul and Eiko Tashiro Scholarship* designated fund has been established by the members of Briarwood UMC in Jackson to honor the Tashiros and to assist WBS students from or preparing to serve in Japan, China, or South Korea. All who have appreciated the ministry of the Tashiros are invited to contribute to this account.

## **Veteran's Educational Benefits**

Veteran's Educational Benefits are allocated directly through the Veteran's Administration. VA financial aid may be available to students who have served with the United States military. The amount of aid will be determined by the Veteran's Administration.

## **Denominational Financial Support**

Some denominations provide assistance for those students planning ministry in the church following graduation. Frequently these funds are a "loan-grant," which means the monies loaned to the student for seminary education are paid back through service to the denomination. To determine if a particular denomination is one that provides such assistance for seminary education, contact the denomination headquarters.

## **Employment**

A number of seminarians serve as student pastors, youth directors, assistant ministers, ministers of music and so forth within local churches. Arrangements for such ministerial appointments are the total responsibility of the student. However, the seminary can serve as a liaison between interested students and various denominations and church officials. A considerable variety of secular employment opportunities are readily available in the Jackson metropolis. The Student Development Office keeps a file of available employment opportunities. A limited number of on-campus jobs give students opportunity to assist with

building and grounds maintenance as well as staffing the library. International students receive preference in these job assignments because of immigration requirements.

### **Mission Possible**

In 2013 Wesley Biblical Seminary launched the “Mission Possible” program to equip capable church leaders from the Majority World. This program provides a limited number of tuition scholarships for the M.A. in Christian Studies. To qualify applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to Wesley Biblical Seminary. They must be from and be ministering in the “Majority World.” They must study on-line. People paid by a sending agency from North America, Europe, Korea or Japan do not qualify for this scholarship. This scholarship is only available for on-line students who remain in their countries of service. Contact the Director of Financial Aid after completing all materials for acceptance into the MA Christian Studies.

# Academic Information

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## Course Scheduling

The academic calendar for M.Div. and M.A. degrees involves a fifteen-week fall semester, a fifteen-week spring semester, and a twelve-week summer semester. The fall semester includes a one-week Thanksgiving holiday break and the spring semester includes a one-week spring break. The D.Min. degree is divided into two terms, a spring-summer term that runs from April 1 through September 30 and a fall-winter term that runs from October 1 through March 31. The focus of each of these terms is a two-week on-campus intensive in June for spring-summer and in January for fall-winter.

On-campus M.Div./M.A. courses are normally scheduled in a block format with classes meeting for two or three hours of class time on one specified day of each week during the fall and spring semesters. In the summer, on-campus M.Div./M.A. courses are offered in one-week intensives in order to give on-line students the opportunity of studying on campus. The seminary also occasionally offers on-campus masters classes in a three or four weekend format. Online studies courses extend across the fifteen weeks of the fall and spring semesters and the twelve weeks of the summer semester. The seminary is also planning to experiment with various kinds of hybrid or extension courses.

## Course Load

The number of hours an M.Div./M.A. student should take during any given semester will depend upon several variables: academic ability, employment responsibilities, family relationships, travel requirements, and so forth. Students, in consultation with their advisors, will establish an appropriate schedule of courses in light of the influencing variables. Full-time or half-time status is defined in a subsequent section titled “Enrollment, Satisfactory Academic Progress, and Financial Aid.”

In order to complete the M.Div. degree in three-years, or the M.A. in two, a student must complete twenty-five semester hours per academic year during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

## Auditing Courses

With permission from the professor, M.Div./M.A. classes may be audited. Students interested in auditing should complete an auditor’s application. While the auditing student will not be required to take examinations or do term work, attendance is required. Notation of “Audit” is made on the transcript regarding audited courses. However, the audited courses cannot apply toward degree requirements. Auditing fees and special considerations for students and staff are identified in the Financial Information section of the catalog.

## **Advanced Standing and Academic Waiver**

The seminary will allow M.Div./M.A. students to petition for “advanced standing without credit” in order to build on the educational achievements made in undergraduate study. Students with a strong undergraduate background in theological studies, such as Bible College graduates, may be able to waive some introductory courses and replace them with more advanced courses in the same field. There is no charge for this advanced standing.

Students who believe they have achieved a given competency at a graduate level, may petition for opportunity to demonstrate that achievement. In the event the achievement level is satisfactory, certain degree requirements may be adjusted.

Interested students should consult with their faculty advisor and then write a letter to the Academic Dean stating the courses for which exemption is desired and providing a description of undergraduate courses or other evidence in substantiation of the request. The Academic Dean may request additional supporting evidence.

## **Classification of M.Div./M.A. Students**

### ***Junior***

M.Div. and M.A. students with 1-25 hours

### ***Middler***

M.Div. students with 26-50 hours

### ***Senior***

M.Div. students with 51 or more hours and M.A. students with 26 or more hours

### ***Auditor***

Students taking courses for audit only

### ***Special Student***

Students taking courses for credit, but not in a degree program (12 hour limit)

### ***WBS Post-Graduate Student***

Students holding a previously earned WBS degree who return to the seminary for additional credit courses, but are not enrolled in a second degree program.

## **Class Attendance**

The faculty considers regular class attendance to be essential to you and the entire seminary community. Failure to meet the attendance requirements of a course will normally affect the final grade for the course. With our present system of scheduling, one class session is equivalent to one week's course work. Missing class is a serious handicap.

Absences for the following reasons will be given respect by the faculty in evaluating the impact of an absence: sickness of you or your immediate family, the funeral of a close

relative, or (if you are a pastor) the funeral of a parishioner if you officiate. Absences for scheduled pastoral, Christian service, or church activities will not normally be considered excused. If such absences are anticipated, you should make necessary arrangements with the professor before registering. Other absences due to extenuating circumstances will be deemed either excused or unexcused at the discretion of the professor. Work missed because of excused absences may be made up, without loss of credit, when satisfactory arrangements are made with the professor. Faithful attendance at D.Min. intensives is mandatory.

Excessive tardiness should not characterize students at Wesley Biblical Seminary. If you arrive late to class, you must make satisfactory arrangements with the professor to avoid being counted absent. Excessive tardiness may add up to unexcused absences.

## Writing Styles

Three writing styles are widely used in scholarly work: (1) Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (2) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, and (3) *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. If your professor does not ask you to use a particular style, choose the one that suits you best

Turabian is a traditional format based on *The Chicago Manual of Style* and used widely in the philosophical, theological and biblical fields. Its most distinguishing characteristic is that footnotes are placed at the bottom of each page.

The APA *Publication Manual* presents a style of formatting research reports that is widely used in social science, education, and counseling disciplines. The distinguishing feature of "APA" is that citations are made within the text and content notes are located at the end of the paper or chapter.

The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* is widely used in the study of English and other literatures, media and cultural studies. It also features in-text citations.

## Dropping and Withdrawing from Courses

### *Course Drop (weeks 1-2 of the semester)*

Dropped courses are removed from the student's financial account, do not appear on the academic transcript, and do not count as hours attempted. M.Div./M.A. courses can be dropped within the first two weeks of a semester. D.Min. courses can be dropped within the first two weeks of the D.Min. term. The drop procedure for M.Div./M.A. courses must be completed directly by the student online through the Campus Anywhere registration page **before** 5:00 PM Central Time on Friday, the end of the second week of the semester, when Campus Anywhere automatically closes the drop option for M.Div./M.A. courses. D.Min.

students should contact the Registrar with drop requests **before** 5:00 PM on the tenth business day after the term begins. Since D.Min. courses are taken in pairs, dropping one necessitates dropping the other.

### ***Withdrawal from Courses (weeks 3-13 of the semester or term)***

Withdrawal is to remove a student from a course or program after the second week but before the final two weeks of a semester or term. Students considering a withdrawal should carefully note those date parameters and the following guidelines. Again, since D.Min. courses are taken in pairs, dropping one necessitates dropping the other.

### ***General Guidelines***

1. Students who withdraw from any or all of their courses must complete an official withdrawal process. Withdrawal according to the official process is reflected as a course grade of “W” on the student’s permanent transcript and is counted as hours attempted. Thus, it factors into the calculation of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).
2. All withdrawals must be approved by the Academic Dean. Failure to officially withdraw from a course will result in a final grade based on the work submitted to the professor. Withdrawal is not official until the student has received confirmation from the Registrar’s Office that the process has been correctly completed. It is the student’s responsibility to verify that the withdrawal has been correctly completed.
3. No tuition is refunded for withdrawal from a course. Students who withdraw are still responsible to pay any balance due for the course from which they have withdrawn.
4. Withdrawal from all courses will result in forfeiting institutional financial aid and in the termination of a deferred payment plan. Thus, money owed the seminary will become immediately due at the time of withdrawal. Furthermore, if the student who has received funds from a Direct Unsubsidized Loan withdraws from all courses before 60% of the semester is complete, that student will be responsible for repayment of some or all of the loan funds received.
5. Since withdrawing from a course can affect your financial aid, you should consult with the Financial Aid Office prior to initiating the withdrawal process. If you choose to proceed, you **must** follow the procedures outlined below.

### ***Process for Withdrawing***

1. To withdraw from a course the student must first consult with the course professor to see if any non-withdrawal option is viable.
2. Consult with the Financial Aid Office to determine how the student's financial aid will be impacted. Where the balance of the student’s account is affected/changed in any way, the student must acknowledge an understanding of this in writing (email).

3. A request for withdrawal must be emailed to the Registrar's Office. A telephone message or voice mail will not constitute a withdrawal.
4. The withdrawal will not be complete until the student has received a confirmation from the Registrar's Office. No withdrawals are permitted in the final two weeks of the semester.

## **M.Div./M.A. Theses**

The M.Div. Honors Research concentration is the only Masters program at WBS that requires a thesis. Students in all other masters programs may choose to engage in a thesis project as elective hours if they demonstrate sufficient academic competency and ability to do research. While the master's thesis is not expected to constitute original research, it is expected to demonstrate mastery of accepted research methodology, a broad and deep acquaintance with the literature on the chosen topic, a grasp of the related issues, an ability to think both critically and creatively on the issues, and an ability to communicate all of these clearly and effectively. RS505 Techniques of Research (3 hrs) is a mandatory prerequisite course to thesis registration.

Students writing theses should study carefully the *Handbook for Thesis Writing* at Wesley Biblical Seminary. The thesis is to be completed during the student's final year. They should consult with their faculty advisor very early in the academic program to lay out a time schedule for this extensive research project. Students will not be permitted to submit a thesis proposal to the Research Committee until they have completed RS 505.

## **Grading**

Grades are one of several criteria used for granting degrees at Wesley Biblical Seminary. A Unit of Credit measures quantity—the number of hours spent in the classroom. One hour of credit is the equivalent of 50 minutes per week in class for the duration of the fifteen-week semester. A Grade Point measures quality—the value of student work on a scale of “Superior” to “Failure.”

The seminary uses the following grading scale as a means of attempting to show the quality of work achieved by the M.Div./M.A. students:

- A** – Superior graduate level work.
- B** – Good graduate level work.
- C** – Minimally acceptable graduate level work.

**D** - Below the standard required for graduation.

**F** - Failure for a course

**I** - Incomplete is a temporary grade given when a student has been providentially hindered from completing course requirements by the end of the semester. The student must make arrangement with the professor before the end of the term to complete work at a later date. An "I" must be removed by the end of the following semester or it automatically becomes "F". No grade points are given an incomplete. The incomplete is used to calculate a temporary Grade Point Average (GPA).

**W** - Withdrawn from the course. No grade points given. Grade is not used to calculate GPA.

**CR/NC** - Credit or No Credit is given for the course without placing any qualitative value on the course work. No grade points given. Grade is not used to calculate GPA.

**RE** – See "Grade Restoration of Failed M.Div./M.A. Courses" below for explanation of this symbol.

D.Min. students will not receive credit for any grade below B-. Thus, all D.Min. work below B- will be given a grade of "F."

The following numerical value is placed on the letter grades when calculating the student's Grade Point Average. These numbers are multiplied by the hours credit to provide the total grade quality points.

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	4.00	C	2.00
A-	3.67	C-	1.67
B+	3.33	D+	1.33
B	3.00	D	1.00
B-	2.67	D-	0.67
C+	2.33	F	0.00

Method of course grade calculation is determined by the individual professors. However, there are typical components that usually are considered in arriving at an assessment of the quality of the student's achievement: daily or weekly assignments, periodic and final examinations, term projects, class participation, and attendance.

### **Grade Restoration of Failed M.Div./M.A. Courses**

An M.Div./M.A. student may repeat a course in which he or she has earned a grade of "F." When repeated, the original "F" grade will remain on the student's official transcript, but will not figure

into the cumulative GPA. All subsequent attempts will be included in the cumulative GPA. Permission for a third attempt at a course that has been failed twice can only be granted by vote of the seminary faculty. Only RS 500 and courses with a grade of "F" are eligible for repeat. No other courses may be repeated. Under certain circumstances, a student may be allowed to take an equivalent course in place of the failed course. When that happens, the original course will be marked with an "RE" but the transcript will bear a notation indicating that the original course received a grade of "F."

## **Language Requirements**

Some degree programs require competency through the intermediate level in Hebrew and/or Greek (see individual programs for details). Incoming students who have already acquired skill with these languages may validate their competency by presenting evidence of their proficiency to the appropriate language professor. Students demonstrating competency will be allowed to take more advanced courses in biblical languages.

## **Personal and Academic Privacy**

Wesley Biblical Seminary protects the confidentiality of its personnel and students by conforming to the requirements of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). See page 94, Appendix I.

## **Examinations**

All examinations must be taken when scheduled. An exception to this ruling will require the prior consent of the professor involved. Responsibility for initiating arrangements to take examinations at other than scheduled times rests upon the student.

## **Enrollment, Satisfactory Academic Progress, Academic Probation, and Financial Aid**

Satisfactory Academic Progress is "reasonable progress toward completion of an educational goal." The following guidelines identify the minimum achievements necessary to make reasonable progress toward degree completion. Students are making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) if they are in good academic standing and complete at least twelve credit hours per year.

### ***Enrollment Status***

One M.Div./M.A. semester hour denotes fifteen hours of classroom experience and at least thirty hours of academic preparation.

**Full-time Status.** The minimum full-time M.Div./M.A. class load is eight semester hours. Student must receive permission from the Dean to take more than fifteen hours.

**Half-time Status.** Four to seven semester hours constitutes half-time status for M.Div./M.A. students. All enrolled D.Min. students are considered half-time.

### ***Academic Standing and Probation***

M.Div./M.A. students maintain good academic standing by satisfactorily completing 75% of the courses in which they enrolled prior to the current term and having a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or above.

D.Min. students maintain good academic standing by having a cumulative GPA of 3.00 and by having no grade below a B-. D.Min. students will not receive credit for any course for which they receive a grade lower than B-. Failure to maintain these standards will result in dismissal from the program.

At the end of the fall and spring semesters, review of the records of all M.Div./M.A. students occurs. In the event a student fails to meet the standard for good academic standing, he or she will be placed on academic probation by receiving a notification of such action and having a notation placed on the transcript.

Students placed on academic probation must prepare with the assistance of their faculty advisor a strategy for improving academic performance. This strategy must include the taking (or retaking) of RS 500 Essential Seminary Study Skills.<sup>1</sup> Students are given eighteen semester hours to bring their performance to the standard of good standing. Probationary students failing to reach this goal in eighteen semester hours will be dismissed from the seminary. Grades of "F" received prior to being placed on probation may be retaken within the eighteen hours of probation. However, no "F" grades received within the eighteen hours of probation can be retaken within that same probationary period.

A student may request exemption from the above-described policy on academic probation by presenting a written description of extenuating circumstances and plan for satisfactory progress to the faculty for consideration. The appeal should be sent to the Academic Dean.

### ***Time Limits for Completion of Degrees***

In order to maintain academic continuity, the Master of Divinity must be completed in seven years, the Doctor of Ministry in five, and the Master of Arts in four. Exceptions to these limits may be appealed to the Academic Dean. The written request should be given to the student's faculty advisor who will forward the appeal to the Dean. Extensions for the Doctor of Ministry entail a continuation fee.

### ***Satisfactory Progress and Eligibility for Financial Aid***

Students must be enrolled as degree students meeting the minimum standards for

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<sup>1</sup> In the fall of 2016 the faculty added the following sentence at this position: "The student on academic probation must pass this course with a 'B-' before taking any additional courses." Later the following provision was also added: "Since passing this course is necessary for continuing in seminary, final grades will be reviewed by the entire faculty in addition to the professor of record."

Satisfactory Academic Progress to be eligible to apply for institutional and federal financial aid. Students must apply annually for seminary endowed scholarships as well as Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans. D.Min. students do not qualify for institutional aid. However, a discount is available for pre-payment of the entire program. Contact the business office for details.

Special and audit students are not eligible for financial aid. Students admitted on probation or placed on academic probation after matriculation are ineligible for financial aid. If students fail to meet the standards for good academic standing as described above, they will be notified of their ineligibility for financial aid. When the students re-establish good academic standing, they will again be eligible to apply for all forms of financial aid.

Students losing their financial aid eligibility may appeal the decision by submitting a written request with description of extenuating circumstances to a committee comprised of the dean, the student's faculty advisor, and one other faculty member. The committee will advise the student of its decision in writing. The student's appeal regarding financial aid eligibility should be directed to the Director of Financial Aid.

## **Academic Rehabilitation**

The academic rehabilitation program allows M.Div./M.A. students who were previously declared academically ineligible the opportunity to return to their seminary studies after an absence of at least one year. Readmitted students have a maximum of 18 credit hours of coursework to achieve academic good standing (2.50 cumulative GPA) according to the following guidelines.

1. Former students seeking readmission through the academic rehabilitation program must first submit a letter of appeal to the Academic Dean that clearly identifies (a) why the applicant's previous studies were not successful, (b) what has since changed in the applicant's circumstances that lead him/her to believe seminary studies will now be successful, and (c) what steps have been and will continue to be taken in order to ensure that seminary studies receive the commitments of time, focus, and priority needed to perform at the required academic level.
2. In order to give the student the best opportunity for academic recovery, the student must take RS 500 Essential Seminary Study Skills and only one credit course in the first semester of readmission. For this credit course a grade of B or higher must be earned in order to continue in the academic rehabilitation program.
3. If a B or higher is earned in that course, the student will then be allowed to enroll for one course in the next semester. Again, a grade of B or higher must be earned in that course in order to continue in the academic rehabilitation program.
4. If a grade of B or higher is earned in both semesters, the student would then be permitted to enroll in one or two courses per semester thereafter for the remaining 18 hours of the rehabilitation period.

5. Throughout the entire 18 hour rehabilitation program, a grade of B or higher must be earned in every course. Any grade less than a B results in immediate dismissal. Furthermore, the student is allowed to continue in the program only as long it remains mathematically possible to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.50.
6. If after 18 credits hours of coursework in the rehabilitation program the student has raised their cumulative GPA to 2.50, they will have achieved academic good standing and be free to continue their degree studies. If the cumulative GPA is still below 2.50, the student will be dismissed from seminary with no recourse for further enrollment.
7. Students seeking to reenter WBS through the academic rehabilitation program should note that they will not be eligible to receive any type of financial aid (including federal loans) until they have achieved good academic standing by attaining a 2.50 GPA.

## **Graduation Requirements**

Graduation from WBS will be determined by the completion of a comprehensive assessment rather than the mere accumulation of a designed number of credit hours and a certain GPA. More specifically, the student who desires to graduate from WBS will need to:

1. Complete the prescribed course of study for his or her chosen degree with at least a GPA of 2.50 (M.Div./M.A.) or a 3.00 (D.Min.). D.Min. candidates must also have no grade lower than B- and must satisfactorily complete the writing and oral defense of a Ministry Research Project. M.Div./M.A. candidates who complete their course of study with a 3.75 GPA graduate with academic distinction.
2. Demonstrate the achievement of the published goals and competencies related to the chosen degree and concentration.
3. Clear all financial obligations to the seminary.
4. Receive a vote of recommendation by the Faculty and approval by the Trustees.
5. Be present for graduation exercises. Only in extreme circumstances will degrees be awarded in *absentia*.

## **Veterans Affairs**

Wesley Biblical Seminary can certify a military veteran as enrolled in veterans' educational programs approved by the State Approving Agency. It is the sole responsibility of the veteran to make initial application for educational benefits directly to the VA. The veteran must meet all admissions requirements and adhere to all policies regulating seminary studies. Regular class attendance and satisfactory progress toward completion of a chosen degree are necessary to remain eligible for educational benefits.

The Office of Academic Affairs will certify enrollment in only the credit courses that are applicable to the veteran's chosen degree program. Eight hours of course work is considered full-time for benefit allocation purposes. The Academic Affairs Office will notify the VA of any veteran's change in status with the seminary and its educational programs and policies.

## **Academic Grievances**

Students should make every effort to settle any academic concern, such as grades, with the professor involved. If these efforts prove unsatisfactory, the student may submit an appeal in writing to the Academic Dean. For the full grievance policy, please see the student handbook.

## **Distance Education**

Wesley Biblical Seminary's Distance Learning program extends the seminary classroom beyond the confines of the brick and mortar campus. Through our asynchronous online campus, students around the globe can participate in the unique graduate theological education and training that is Wesley Biblical Seminary.

While it is possible to complete most WBS degree programs through distance learning, certain residency requirements must still be fulfilled on our campus in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Master of Divinity** students can complete the residency component through one of three means:

1) Complete 25 hours of coursework on campus in Jackson, Mississippi.

OR

2) Attend a total of four two-week residency sessions that are offered in October of each year.

OR

3) Complete a combination of the above. For example two two-week residencies in October combined with 12 hours of coursework done on-campus through summer term intensives.

**Master of Arts** students can complete the residency component by attending one of the two-week residency sessions that are offered in October of each year or by completing six hours of course work on campus. International students pursuing the M.A. in Christian Studies are exempt from this residence requirement.

For complete and up-to-date information regarding the distance education program, its offerings and registration, please visit the seminary website at [wbs.edu/online](http://wbs.edu/online).

Degrees offered via distance learning:

Master of Divinity – Ministry

Master of Divinity – Teaching

(requires two to four weeks on campus during the summer. The person pursuing this degree might also have to take part of the teaching concentration on campus.)

Master of Arts – Apologetics

Master of Arts – Christian Studies

Master of Arts - Theology

Students may be able to do part of the Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages, Master of Divinity Research, and Master of Arts in Biblical Literature on-line. Contact the Academic Dean for advice.

## **Indiana Extension**

Wesley Biblical Seminary has been approved by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools to offer courses on a regular basis at Southland Community Church, Greenwood, Indiana.

Courses for students at this Indiana extension come in three formats:

1. **Four-Weekend Format:** The seminary offers one three-hour course at Southland each fall and spring semester in a four-weekend format. Students are in class Friday night 6:30 to 9:20 and Saturday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on the four designated weekends which are distributed evenly throughout the semester.
2. **One-Week Module Format:** WBS also offers a two-hour or one-hour course at Southland each summer in a one-week module format.
3. **Real-Time On-Line Format:** In addition, WBS offers one three-hour course each semester (fall, spring, summer) on-line in real time via Zoom for students enrolled in the Indiana extension.

*Students who take the on-site four-weekend or module courses plus the companion Zoom course each semester can complete the M.A. Christian Studies degree in three years.* Courses offered at this extension also apply to the M.Div. degree.

# Programs of Study

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## **Educational Philosophy and Goals**

The WBS faculty firmly believes that Scripture is God's self-revelation and is therefore foundational for all that we do to prepare men and women for Christian living and service. We also believe that the orthodox Christian faith as attested in the ecumenical creeds is the best expression of the Bible's teaching and that we have much to learn from the great Christian thinkers of the ages. Thus we approach our task not only as scholars but as learners, as humble disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, and as people dependent on the work of the Holy Spirit. We are convinced of the transforming power of Divine grace that makes all things new and brings us into fellowship with the living God. Thus our purpose is to prepare people who are grounded in Scripture, informed by the history of Christian thought, committed to Christ, filled with God's Spirit, and who proclaim a Gospel of transformation through the grace of God to a needy world.

In light of these convictions the WBS faculty has established an integrated curriculum in which spiritual growth and ministry in the contemporary world are founded on and informed by Scripture and the orthodox Christian faith. Students learn not only the mechanics of ministry but also the substance, goal, and proper motivation for service to Christ. We strive to prepare our graduates so that they can accurately diagnose and analyze ministry situations from a strongly integrated biblical, theological, and contextual frame of reference and thus be able to serve in the changing contexts of the modern world.

The seminary offers two masters level degree programs that guide the students' progress toward the achievement of these goals: the Master of Divinity and the Master of Arts. In addition, the seminary also offers a Graduate Certificate in Biblical and Theological Studies designed especially for missionaries and the John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership for Transformational Ministry.

***Master of Divinity.*** The three-year Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program provides a broad based and integrated study of scripture and theology, spiritual formation, cultural context, and Christian ministry. This professional degree enables the student to meet the educational requirements for ordination to the Christian ministry.

***Master of Arts.*** The two-year Master of Arts (M.A.) guides the student's inquiry and development in one of four academic disciplines: (1) apologetics, (2) biblical literature, (3) theology, or (4) Christian studies. These concentrations enable the student to focus academically on the ideological underpinnings of the Christian faith.

***Graduate Certificate in Biblical and Theological Studies.*** This program consists of eight three-hour courses (24 hours total, available online) that have been carefully chosen and sequenced to meet the above outcomes. These courses are offered in an asynchronous format (i.e. professors and students do not have to be online at the same time) using WBS's Moodle Rooms platform so that they can be easily accessed from any part of the globe. All of these courses are also applicable to the Master of Divinity (M.Div, 78 hours) and Master of Christian Studies (MACS, 50 hours) degrees.

***The John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership for Transformational Ministry.*** This Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree has been named after Dr. John Case in honor of his outstanding pastoral ministry and in gratitude for his long-time support of Wesley Biblical Seminary. The D.Min. is a professional in-ministry doctorate that offers advanced ministerial education to experienced pastors and other Christian workers. The degree is intended for those who have earned the M.Div. degree (or equivalent) and are currently serving in ministry positions in churches, church related institutions, or parachurch organizations.

As a professional doctorate the D.Min. differs from the academic Ph.D. in that its focus is on advanced proficiency in the practice of ministry rather than scholarly research. The D.Min. is comparable to other professional doctorates, such as the D.B.A. in business, the Ed.D. in education, the D.M.A. in music, and the Psy.D. in psychology, to name a few.

The in-ministry nature of the program allows Christian professionals to pursue rigorous advanced study while remaining in their current ministry. The degree is designed to be completed in three years—two years of half-time course work (24 hours) and one year for writing and defending the Ministry Research Project.

## Master of Divinity Degree

The M.Div. degree, consisting of 75-85 semester hours of study, can be taken in one of four programs: Ministry (75 hrs), Ministry with biblical languages emphasis (81 hrs), Teaching (85 hrs), or Honors Research (85 hrs). The general orientation of the Master of Divinity program is professional in that it emphasizes readiness for ministry. While the M.Div. is frequently required as a prerequisite for some doctoral programs, the typical goal of most candidates in the M.Div. program is full-time ministry. M.Div. students who do plan to pursue doctoral studies may seek to participate in the Honors Research concentration as a means of gaining advance preparation for doctoral work.

### ***Goals and Objectives for the M.Div.***

A graduate of the M.Div. program at Wesley Biblical Seminary should be able to demonstrate appropriate progress in the areas of content assimilation, spiritual formation, and praxis.

### **Content Assimilation**

Appropriate progress in the area of content assimilation includes the following areas of proficiency:

- a. ***Scripture***: Exegete Scripture holistically in accordance with sound interpretive method and historic Christian orthodoxy.
- b. ***Orthodoxy***: Articulate the parameters and ongoing implications of historic Trinitarian faith.
- c. ***The Wesleyan Perspective***: Explain the distinctive emphases of the Wesleyan perspective and their relationship to Scripture and Orthodoxy.

### **Life Transformation**

Evidence a personal commitment to a life that is Christ-centered and submissive to the Holy Spirit's leading and conviction, nourished by the means of grace, and invested in relationships that sanctify through compassionate, missional service, spiritual direction, and life together as Christ's Body.

### **Praxis**

Appropriate progress in the area of praxis includes the following areas of proficiency:

- a. ***Worship***: Show understanding of the theological foundations of Christian worship and an ability to lead engaging, creative worship that maintains continuity with historical and contemporary liturgies of the Church catholic.
- b. ***Proclamation***: Engage Church and culture through preaching, teaching, and personal witness.
- c. ***Leadership***: Exercise leadership in accordance with Christian ethics and priorities.
- d. ***Spiritual Direction***: Offer pastoral counsel and engage in the making of disciples.

## Master of Divinity—General Ministry (78 hours)

**Vocational Goal:** Demonstrate leadership in guiding, motivating, and nurturing individuals and organizations toward Great Commission effectiveness, particularly in the local church.

**Availability:** On campus and on-line. The Greek and Hebrew tracks are available in real time on-line via Zoom. On-line students see **Distance Education** on page 47 for residency requirements.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (20 hrs)

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation		2
OT 516	OT History & Interpretation		3
OT Inductive Bible	OT 620, 621, 622, or 623		3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation		3
NT 531	The Gospels		3
OT 651	Intermediate Hebrew Grammar	<b>Track 1: Hebrew</b>	3
OT Exegesis	OT 731, 732, 733, or 734		3
	<i>...OR...</i>		
NT 521	Greek Reading & Syntax	<b>Track 2: Greek</b>	3
NT 642	The Epistles with Greek		3
	<i>..OR...</i>		
OT Inductive Bible	OT 620, 621, 622, or 623	<b>Track 3: English Bible</b>	3
NT Inductive Bible	NT 535, 615, or 622		3

#### Theological Studies (14 hrs)

HT 520	History of Christian Thought		3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity		3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things		3
ST 606 or BT 610	ST 606 Theology of Christian Holiness / BT 610 Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness		2
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley		3

#### Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

PH 520 or PH 610	PH 520 Philosophy for Understanding Theology/ PH 610 Moral Theology and the Gospel		3
AP 500 or AP(MS) 601	AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics/ AP(MS) 601 Apologetics in Cultural Change		3

#### Formational Studies (6 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation		3
DS 520	The Discipling Church		3
DS 599	Discipleship Group (6 semesters, non credit)		0

#### Ministry Studies (20 hrs)

PM 610 or PM 615	PM 610 Principles of Preaching/PM 615 Great Christian Sermons		3
PM 620 or PM 625	PM 620 Worship in the Church/ PM 625 Worship in the Prayer-Book Tradition		3
PM 630-631	Preaching Practice (1 ½ hour each semester)		3
PM 641	Pastoral Counseling		3
PM 700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership		3
PM 710	Transition to Ministry		2
EV 605	Evangelism		3
RS 001	New Student Orientation		0

**General Electives (12 hrs)** – Includes beginning Hebrew or Greek for those entering seminary without these courses and choosing the Hebrew or Greek Track.

## Master of Divinity—General Ministry with Biblical Languages (84 hours)

**Vocational Goal:** Demonstrate leadership in guiding, motivating, and nurturing individuals and organizations toward Great Commission effectiveness, particularly in the local church.

**Availability:** On campus and on-line. Greek and Hebrew are available in real time on-line via Zoom. On-line students see **Distance Education** on page 47 for residency requirements.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (26 hrs)

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation	2
OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
OT Inductive Bible	OT 620, 621, 622, or 623	3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT 531	The Gospels	3
OT 651	Intermediate Hebrew Grammar	3
OT Exegesis	OT 731, 732, 733, or 734	3
NT 521	Greek Reading & Syntax	3
NT 642	The Epistles with Greek	3

#### Theological Studies (14 hrs)

HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
ST 606 or BT 610	ST 606 Theology of Christian Holiness / BT 610 Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness	2
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley	3

#### Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

PH 520 or PH 610	PH 520 Philosophy for Understanding Theology/ PH 610 Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
AP 500 or AP(MS) 601	AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics/ AP(MS) 601 Apologetics in Cultural Change	3

#### Formational Studies (6 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
DS 520	The Discipling Church	3
DS 599	Discipleship Group (6 semesters, non credit)	0

#### Ministry Studies (20 hrs)

PM 610 or PM 615	PM 610 Principles of Preaching/PM 615 Great Christian Sermons	3
PM 620 or PM 625	PM 620 Worship in the Church/ PM 625 Worship in the Prayer-Book Tradition	3
PM 630-631	Preaching Practice (1 ½ hour each semester, two semesters)	3
PM 641	Pastoral Counseling	3
PM 700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership	3
PM 710	Transition to Ministry	2
EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0

**General Electives (12 hrs)** – Includes six hours of beginning Hebrew and six of beginning Greek for those entering seminary without these courses.

## Master of Divinity—Teaching Concentration (85 hours)

**Vocational Goal:** Provide adult level learning experiences that reflect sound andragogical practice and engagement in significant interaction with a selected field of study.

**Availability:** TE 605 and TE 610 must be taken on campus in one-week summer modules. Students may need to take part of their Advanced Teaching Concentration on campus. The Greek and Hebrew tracks are available in real time on-line via Zoom. On-line students see **Distance Education** on page 47 for residency requirements.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (20 hrs)

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation		2
OT 516	OT History & Interpretation		3
OT Inductive Bible	OT 620, 621, 622, or 623		3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation		3
NT 531	The Gospels		3
OT 651	Intermediate Hebrew Grammar	<b>Track 1: Hebrew</b>	3
OT Exegesis	OT 731, 732, 733, or 734		3
	<b>...OR...</b>		
NT 521	Greek Reading & Syntax	<b>Track 2: Greek</b>	3
NT 642	The Epistles with Greek		3
	<b>..OR..</b>		
OT Inductive Bible	OT 620, 621, 622, or 623	<b>Track 3: English Bible</b>	3
NT Inductive Bible	NT 535, 615, or 622		3

#### Theological Studies (14 hrs)

HT 520	History of Christian Thought		3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity		3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things		3
ST 606 or BT 610	ST 606 Theology of Christian Holiness / BT 610 Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness		2
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley		3

#### Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

PH 520 or PH 610	PH 520 Philosophy for Understanding Theology/ PH 610 Moral Theology and the Gospel		3
AP 500 or AP(MS) 601	AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics/ AP(MS) 601 Apologetics in Cultural Change		3

#### Formational Studies (3 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation		3
DS 599	Discipleship Group (6 semesters, non credit)		0

#### Teaching Concentration (30 hrs)

PM 700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership		3
EV 605	Evangelism		3
TE 605	Learning Theories & Taxonomies		3
TE 610	Course Design and Evaluation		3
TE 715	Teaching Lab		3
TE 720	Practice Teaching		3
RS 001	New Student Orientation		0
Advanced Teaching Cognate (four related courses)			12

**General Electives (12 hrs)** – Includes beginning Hebrew or Greek for those entering seminary without these courses and choosing the Hebrew or Greek Track.

Students should note that this program does not lead to any type of state teaching license.

To participate in the teaching concentration, the student must:

1. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4 after eighteen hours and petition the Academic Dean for admission in to this concentration.
2. Monitor his/her Advanced Teaching Cognate courses, taking 12 hours within the academic area(s) in which the student plans to teach. Students will work with their adviser to take advantage of advanced courses as they appear on the schedule.
3. Take TE 605 (Learning Theories and Taxonomies) and TE 610 (Course Design and Evaluation) on campus as summer intensive courses taught in a hybrid style. These two foundational courses are not taught online because they are performance courses requiring students to demonstrate their competence in various teaching styles.
4. Consult with the professor who teaches TE 715 and TE 720 for practicum teaching opportunities, either with the seminary or at some other location. Practicum teaching at other institutions must be approved by the Academic Dean and the appropriate WBS professor so that adequate supervision and evaluation can be maintained.

## Master of Divinity—Honors Research Concentration (85 hours)

**Vocational Goal:** Show skill in investigation and analysis of data in a selected field of study that could lead to more advanced research, writing, and teaching.

**Availability:** Though a student might take some work online, this degree program as a whole is fully accessible only on campus.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (20 hrs)

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation	2
OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
OT Inductive Bible	OT 620, 621, 622, or 623	3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT 531	The Gospels	3
OT 651	Intermediate Hebrew Grammar <b>Track 1: Hebrew</b>	3
OT Exegesis	OT 731, 732, 733, or 734	3
	<b>...OR...</b>	
NT 521	Greek Reading & Syntax <b>Track 2: Greek</b>	3
NT 642	The Epistles with Greek	3

#### Theological Studies (14 hrs)

HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
ST 606 or BT 610	ST 606 Theology of Christian Holiness / BT 610 Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness	2
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley	3

#### Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

PH 520 or PH 610	PH 520 Philosophy for Understanding Theology/ PH 610 Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
AP 500 or AP(MS) 601	AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics/ AP(MS) 601 Apologetics in Cultural Change	3

#### Formational Studies (3 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
DS 599	Discipleship Group (6 semesters, non credit)	0

#### Ministry Studies (6 hrs)

PM 700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership	3
EV 605	Evangelism	3

#### Research Concentration (36 hrs)

RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 505	Techniques of Research	3
RS 780	Thesis & Research	6
Research Electives	(Including 6 hrs beginning Hebrew and/or 6 hrs beginning Greek for those entering seminary without these courses.)	27

Honors Research students are strongly encouraged to take both Hebrew and Greek, though only one language is required. To participate in this concentration, the student must:

1. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4 after twenty-four hours, acquire the agreement of a faculty member to serve as the research advisor, and petition the Academic Dean for approval.
2. Design, in collaboration with the faculty advisor, a course of study that fits within the concentration and electives categories and is approved by the Academic Dean.
3. Complete a thesis or other significant synthesizing project that reflects significant advancement in the chosen field and readiness for advanced study.

## Master of Arts Degree

The four concentrations in the Master of Arts—Apologetics, Biblical Literature, Christian Studies, and Theology — provide a general academic context in which the student acquires personal enrichment through theological and biblical study. The Content and Assimilation goals of the M.A. parallel those of the M.Div. The M.A. Christian Studies provides the opportunity for students to strengthen their grasp of these goals and to pursue their interests by taking electives. The other three concentrations, Apologetics, Biblical Literature, and Theology, each have additional goals as listed below. The M.A. is not oriented toward pastoral ministry. If a student plans to pursue such a career, he or she should consider the Master of Divinity as the best course of study.

### ***Goals for all four M.A. Concentrations:***

#### **Content Assimilation**

Appropriate progress in the area of content assimilation includes the following areas of proficiency:

- a. ***Scripture***: Exegete Scripture holistically in accordance with sound interpretive method and historic Christian orthodoxy.
- b. ***Orthodoxy***: Articulate the parameters and ongoing implications of historic Trinitarian faith.
- c. ***The Wesleyan Perspective***: Explain the distinctive emphases of the Wesleyan perspective and their relationship to Scripture and Orthodoxy.

**Life Transformation**: Evidence a personal commitment to a life that is Christ-centered and submissive to the Holy Spirit's leading and conviction, nourished by the means of grace, and invested in relationships that sanctify through compassionate, missional service, spiritual direction, and life together as Christ's Body.

### ***Additional Goals for the M.A. Apologetics, Biblical Literature, and Theology:***

#### **Apologetics**

Demonstrate the ability for contemporary articulation of the Christian faith in critical dialogue with non-Christians.

#### **Biblical Literature**

Demonstrate facility in biblical scholarship, including proficiency in both Greek and Hebrew and extensive coursework in biblical content.

#### **Theology**

Demonstrate scholarship regarding the content of Christian faith as it is expressed in the Bible, historic Christian orthodoxy, and the Wesleyan tradition.

## Master of Arts—Apologetics (50 hrs)

**Availability:** This degree program is available on campus and online. On-line students see **Distance Education** on page 47.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (Content Mastery) (11 hrs)

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation	2
NT 512	NT History and Interpretation	3
NT 531	The Gospels	3
OT 516	OT History and Interpretation	3

#### Theological Studies (Content Mastery) (9 hrs)

HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3

#### Apologetics Concentration (Process Mastery) (24)

AP 500	Approaches to Apologetics	3
AP 601	Apologetics in Cultural Change	3
PH 504	Philosophy of Christian Religion	3
PH 610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
HT 609	Comparative Religious Traditions	3
General Apologetics Electives		6

(Such As AP 620 Modernism, Post-Modernism and the Christian Mystical Tradition; AP 720 Christian Faith and Science; PH 721 Christian Faith in Dialogue with Philosophy; ST 607 Contemporary Theological Trends; MS 612 Introduction to Islam; MS 620 Islamic Foundations, and EV 605 Evangelism)

AP 750	Apologetics Qualifying Thesis/Project	3
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#### Formational Studies (3 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship & Spiritual Formation	3
DS 599	Discipleship Group (4 semesters, non credit)	0

#### Ministry Studies (0)

RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
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#### General Electives (3 hrs)

## Master of Arts—Biblical Literature (50 hours)

**Availability:** This degree program is available on campus and on-line. Greek and Hebrew are available in real time on-line via Zoom. On-line students see **Distance Education** on page 47 for residency requirements.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (29 hrs)

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation	2
BT 600	Fundamentals of Biblical Theology	3
OT 501	Elementary Hebrew I	3
OT 502	Elementary Hebrew II	3
OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
OT Inductive Bible	OT 620, 621, 622, or 623	3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT 521	Greek Reading & Syntax	3
Biblical Studies Electives		6

(Including at least one OT or NT exegesis course and one inductive Bible study course.)

#### Theological Studies (6 hrs)

ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3

#### Philosophical Studies (3 hrs)

AP 500 or AP(MS) 601	AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics/ AP (MS)601 Apologetics in Cultural Change	3
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#### Formational Studies (3 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
DS 599	Discipleship Group (4 semesters, non credit)	0

#### Ministry Studies (4 hrs)

EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 778	Summative Evaluation	1

**General Electives (5 hrs)** – Includes beginning Hebrew and/or Greek for those entering seminary without these courses.

## Master of Arts— Christian Studies (50 hrs)

**Availability:** This degree program is available on campus and online. On-line students see **Distance Education** on page 47 for residency requirements.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (17 hours)

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation	2
OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT 531	The Gospels	3
Biblical Studies Electives (courses labeled OT, NT, or BT)		6

#### Theological Studies (15 hrs)

HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
Theological Studies Electives (courses labeled BT, HT, ST, AP, or PH)		6

#### Philosophical Studies (3 hrs)

AP 500 or AP(MS) 601	AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics/ AP(MS) 601 Apologetics in Cultural Change	3
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#### Formational Studies (3 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
DS 599	Discipleship Group (4 semesters, non credit)	0

#### Ministry Studies (4 hrs)

EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 778	Summative Evaluation	1

#### General Electives (8 hrs)

## Master of Arts— Theology (50 hrs)

**Availability:** This degree program is available on campus and online. On-line students must take Greek in real time via Zoom. On-line students see **Distance Education** on page 44 for residency requirements.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (17 hours)

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation	2
OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT 531	The Gospels	3
NT 521	Greek Reading & Syntax	3
NT 642	The Epistles with Greek	3

#### Theological Studies (18 hours)

HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley	3
Theological Studies Electives (courses labeled BT, HT, ST, AP, or PH)		6

#### Philosophical Studies (3 hrs)

AP 500 or AP(MS) 601	AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics/ AP(MS) 601 Apologetics in Cultural Change	3
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#### Formational Studies (3 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
DS 599	Discipleship Group (4 semesters, non credit)	0

#### Ministry Studies (4 hrs)

EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 778	Summative Evaluation	1

#### General Electives (5 hrs)

Includes beginning Greek for those entering seminary without these courses.

# Graduate Certificate in Biblical and Theological Studies

The purpose of this twenty-four hour graduate certificate program is to provide a Biblical and theological foundation for persons already involved in or anticipating missionary service in a cross-cultural setting. There is good historical precedent for lay involvement in world evangelization. At least since the founding of the China Inland Mission in the Nineteenth Century, laymen and laywomen have been heavily involved in carrying out the Great Commission around the world. In our own time many lay people have felt the call to reach the unreached. Mission boards often provide considerable training in cross-cultural living, leadership, and the ministry skills appropriate for the target environment. This master level certificate program, however, provides the essential grounding in Bible and theology that is necessary for establishing the church on a firm footing in new environments and for grounding believers who live in a secular, religiously plural, and skeptical world.

## Outcomes:

1. Spiritual grounding that equips people for proper Biblical and theological study and prepares them to live in situations hostile to the Gospel.
2. Familiarity with Scripture and a grasp of the over-all message and unity of the Bible.
3. Skill in proper Biblical interpretation and exposition.
4. An understanding of the breadth and development of Christian thought as it has encountered the world throughout history.
5. An understanding of how the Wesleyan tradition relates to other Christian traditions as a foundation for appropriate cooperation.
6. An introduction to the ethical implications of the Gospel.
7. Fundamental training in how to present the Gospel to unbelievers.

## Suggested Courses:

### *Spiritual Formation*

1. DS 505 Discipleship and Spiritual Formation (Outcome #1) 3 hours

### *Biblical and Theological Foundation*

2. BT 600 Fundamentals of Biblical Theology (Outcome #2) 3 hours
3. NT 531 The Gospels (Outcome #3) 3 hours
4. OT 620 Interpreting the Pentateuch *or* other Old Testament inductive Bible study course. (Outcome #3)
5. HT 520 History of Christian Thought (Outcomes #4, and #5) 3 hours
6. PH 610 Moral Theology and the Gospel (Outcomes #5 & #6) 3 hours

### *Great Commission Communication*

7. AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics (Outcome #7) 3 hours *or*  
MS 609/HT 609 Comparative Religious 3 hours
8. EV 605 Evangelism (Outcome #7) 3 hours

## The John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership for Transformational Ministry

The D.Min. is a professional in-ministry doctorate that offers advanced ministerial education to experienced pastors and other Christian workers. The purpose of this degree is the development of transformation leaders for church and society through critical study, analysis, reflection, and application at the professional doctoral level. The degree is intended for those who have earned the M.Div. degree (or equivalent) and are currently serving in ministry positions in churches, church related institutions, or parachurch organizations.

The in-ministry nature of the program allows Christian professionals to pursue rigorous advanced study while remaining in their current ministry. The degree is designed to be completed in three years—two years of half-time course work (24 hours) and one year for writing and defending the Ministry Research Project.

There are two D.Min. terms each year—the spring-summer term that runs from April 1 through September 30 (with a two-week on-campus intensive in June) and the fall-winter term that runs from October 1 through March 31 (with a two-week on-campus intensive in January). During the first part of each term students engage in extensive reading and research in preparation for their time on campus. The time on campus focuses on interaction with the professor and with each other. The period after the on-campus time is dedicated to projects that apply what has been learned to the students' ministry contexts.

Students enter this program as a cohort and progress through the sequence of courses together. Thus all students must take both of the related three-hour courses offered each term. The first pair of courses focuses on Biblical interpretation and proclamation; the second pair on orthodox Christianity, the sacraments, and the renewal of the church in holy living; the third, on the resources of the Wesleyan movement for renewal of church and society; and the fourth, on effective ministry in the contemporary world of secularism and religious pluralism.

**Objectives:** Students who receive the Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Biblical Seminary will grow significantly in their intellectual, professional, ethical and spiritual lives, as will be evidenced by excellence in their commitment and ability to:

**Goal 1:** Proclaim the message of the Bible to the contemporary world with accuracy and cultural sensitivity but without compromising the authority of Scripture.

**Goal 2:** Articulate both the essential outlines of Trinitarian orthodox theology and the distinct contribution of Wesleyan soteriology, their grounding in Biblical

Revelation, and their implications for ministry practice.

**Goal 3:** Practice biblical means of grace for a deepening spiritual life, lead others to do the same, and articulate a practical “sacramental theology” of discipleship.

**Goal 4:** Demonstrate in verbal expression and in concrete action how the practice of Christian ministry and leadership grows out of the theological commitments and implications of Christian orthodox theology.

**Goal 5:** Analyze the systemic dynamics of a local church or other Christian ministry and facilitate the movement of congregations and ministries toward greater spiritual health.

**Goal 6:** Analyze the ideological commitments that give shape to the moral, social and political values of the cultural at large.

**Goal 7:** Lead the local congregation or other Christian ministry to engage the needs of its particular context in a holistic manner.

**Goal 8:** Cast a vision for ministry by one’s own servant-focused example and through worldview shaping, biblically based, and theologically sound teaching and preaching.

# **Doctor of Ministry Curriculum**

**(30 hrs)**

Availability: On campus intensives supplemented by on-line interaction as appropriate. The year-two summer-spring intensive is in England.

## **Program courses:**

Year One: Spring-Summer Term (with joint intensive seminars in June)

DM801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics for Relevant Preaching and Ministry (3 hrs)

DM802 Transformational Preaching (3 hrs)

Year One: Fall-Winter Term (with joint intensive seminars in January)

DM803 Sacramental Spirituality and Disciple-Making Leadership (3 hrs)

DM804 Holistic Renewal of the Church (3 hrs)

Year Two: Spring-Summer Term (with joint intensive seminars in June on sight in England)

DM805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation (3 hrs)

DM806 Wesleyan Theological Vision for Community Formation in the Post-Modern Context (3 hrs)

Year Two: Fall-Winter Term (with joint intensive seminars in January)

DM807 The Gospel as Truth in a Multi-Religious World (3 hrs)

DM808 Secular “isms” that Challenge the Faith and Confront the Church (3 hrs)

Year Three: Ministry Research Project

DM809 Ministry Research Project (6 hrs)

# M.Div./M.A. Course Descriptions

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Classroom instruction is one method the seminary uses to achieve its mission and goals. Under the leadership of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the faculty has specific responsibilities pertaining to the courses of instruction: (1) conduct courses in the various divisions, (2) review periodically the course list and content, (3) maintain integration with the various disciplines, and (4) engage in formal and informal evaluation of the progress toward the desired outcomes. The following catalog of courses identifies the instructional activities for enabling the students to accomplish many of the specified goals and objectives. These courses allow for integration across the various disciplines and with life and ministry involvement outside the classroom. The courses are grouped as follows:

	Page
1. Biblical Studies	64
a. Old Testament	64
b. New Testament	67
2. Theological Studies	70
a. Biblical Theology	70
b. Historical Theology	71
c. Systematic Theology	72
3. Philosophy Studies	73
a. Philosophy	73
b. Apologetics	74
2. Spiritual Formation Studies	75
4. Ministry Studies	77
a. Pastoral Ministry	77
b. Evangelism	79
c. Missiology	79
d. Teaching	80
e. Research and Orientation	81

# **Biblical Studies**

The primary purpose of biblical studies at Wesley Biblical Seminary is to prepare pastors or teachers to responsibly and accurately interpret the Bible for use in their personal life and in the preaching and teaching ministry of the church. Each part of the biblical curriculum contributes to these purposes.

Inductive Bible study courses thoroughly ground students in Bible study method. Exegesis courses teach them how to use the original languages of Scripture. Courses in the origin and nature of the biblical books help them to understand the Bible in its context and to defend its accuracy. Exegesis courses show them how to use the knowledge gained in all of the above courses for personal spiritual growth, weekly sermon preparation, and other aspects of ministry. Biblical theology encourages balanced interpretation by helping the interpreters relate the passage they are using to the broader message of Scripture, thus it forms a bridge between Biblical interpretation and Historical/Systematic theology.

## ***Old Testament***

### **Section 1: Background Studies and Critical Issues**

#### **OT 511 Old Testament Survey**

Surveys the historical background and basic message of the Old Testament books. The course also addresses the unity of the Old Testament Canon and the role played by the different sections of that canon in the message of the whole. 2 hours

#### **OT 516 Old Testament History and Interpretation**

Lays a foundation for the rest of the student's seminary career by familiarizing the student with the story of Redemption as told in the Old Testament. To accomplish this goal, the student will be exposed to the geographical and socio-historical context from which the Old Testament emerges; the genre, content, historical flow, and theological structure of the Old Testament Canon; and the scholarship which has sought for generations to understand this collection of Scripture. 3 hours

#### **OT 630 Geographical and Historical Settings of the Bible (onsite in Israel)**

This program is an intensive three-week academic study integrated with field trips designed to introduce the student to the geography, history and archaeology of Israel. Regional studies with overnight field trips, on-site lectures, preparatory lectures at the campus, and required map work prior to arrival all help the student to apply the geographical context of the land to biblical studies. The main emphasis of this class is geography and its influence upon the history that we read in the biblical text. Because most of the historical events described in the Bible are found in the Old Testament, there is an

Old Testament thrust to the class. However, much New Testament material is included, particularly in Jerusalem, Galilee and along the Dead Sea. Prerequisite OT 516. 4 hours

### **OT 632 Biblical Archaeology**

Educates students in the material culture of Syria-Palestine from the Neolithic through the Iron II era, and thereby exposes them to the major archaeological and epigraphic discoveries of the biblical world. The objective is to train students to responsibly integrate biblical and archaeological data such that they might be able to utilize archaeological data to clarify difficult passages, fill in correlative sociological and historical details, and, thereby, further illuminate the text of the Old Testament. Prerequisite OT 516. 3 hours

## **Section 2: Interpreting the English Bible**

### **OT 620 Interpreting the Pentateuch**

Teaches proper method in the interpretation of the Pentateuchal books using the English text. A particular book will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the competence required for interpreting the Pentateuchal books and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite OT516, NT 531. 3 hours

### **OT 621 Interpreting the Historical Books**

Teaches proper method in the interpretation of the historical books using the English text. A particular book or corpus will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the competence required for interpreting the historical books and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite OT 516, NT 531. 3 hours

### **OT 622 Interpreting the Prophetic Books**

Teaches proper method in the interpretation of the prophetic books using the English text. A particular prophet or corpus of prophets will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the competence required for interpreting the Writing prophets and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite OT516, NT 531. 3 hours

### **OT 623 Interpreting the Poetic Books**

Teaches proper method in the interpretation of the poetic books using the English text. A particular book will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the competence required for interpreting the poetic books and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite OT516, NT 531. 3 hours

## **Section 3: Interpreting the Hebrew OT**

### **OT 501 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 1**

Introduces the student to the fundamentals of Hebrew grammar. 3 hours

### **OT 502 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 2**

Builds upon the skills acquired in OT501 to complete the student's elementary training in Biblical Hebrew. 3 hours

### **OT 651 Intermediate Hebrew Grammar**

Reads in seminar-style sessions OT passages to develop the student's mastery of biblical Hebrew. Emphasis is given to vocabulary, grammar, syntax, compositional methodology, rhetorical issues, and general poetics. Selections will come primarily from prose narratives in order to reinforce standard grammatical principles. The last several weeks of the course will focus upon poetry. Prerequisite OT501, OT 502. 3 hours

### **OT 661 Biblical Aramaic**

Uses the Aramaic sections of Ezra and Daniel to enable the student to gain a working knowledge of this Biblical language. Skill in Biblical Hebrew is essential. Prerequisite: OT 502 or equivalent. Offered on demand. 2 Hours

### **OT 731 Hebrew Exegesis in the Pentateuch**

Teaches proper exegetical method in the Pentateuchal books using the Hebrew text. A particular book will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the Pentateuchal books in Hebrew and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite OT516, NT 531, OT 501, OT 502, OT 651. 3 hours

### **OT 732 Hebrew Exegesis in the Historical Books**

Teaches proper exegetical method in the historical books using the Hebrew text. A particular book or corpus will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the historical books and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite OT516, NT 531, OT 501, OT 502, OT 651. 3 hours

### **OT 733 Hebrew Exegesis in the Prophetic Books**

Teaches proper exegetical method in the prophetic books using the Hebrew text. A particular prophet or corpus of prophets will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the Writing prophets and responsibly represent them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite OT516, NT 531, OT 501, OT 502, OT 651. 3 hours

**OT 734 Hebrew Exegesis in the Poetic Books** Teaches proper exegetical method in the poetic books using the Hebrew text. A particular book will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the poetic books and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite OT516, NT 531, OT 501, OT 502, OT 651. 3 hours

## **Section 4: Old Testament Research**

### **OT 715-17 Seminar in Old Testament**

Provides a channel for students to explore advanced topics of interest in Old Testament studies. Examples: Judaic literature and ancient Near Eastern literature. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

### **OT 771-72 Independent Study in Semitic Languages**

For students who have demonstrated competence in Hebrew and Aramaic, and who wish to broaden their understanding of the Old Testament world by means of studying cognate Semitic languages. Languages which may be studied include: Sumerian, Akkadian, extra-biblical Hebrew, Phoenician, Ugaritic and Syriac. May be repeated for credit with different languages See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

### **OT 773-75 Independent Study in the Old Testament**

For interested students who have completed their basic studies in Old Testament and have shown competence in independent study. Areas for further individual investigation may include issues in Old Testament archaeology, interpretation, criticism, or history. See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

### **Thesis in Old Testament or Semitic Languages**

See RS 780 for details.

## ***New Testament***

### **Section 1: Background Studies and Critical Issues**

#### **NT 511 New Testament Survey**

Surveys the historical background and basic message of the New Testament books. The course also addresses the unity of the New Testament Canon and the role played by the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, and the Revelation. Helpful for anyone who comes to seminary with little knowledge of the New Testament. 2 hours

### **NT 512 New Testament History and Interpretation**

Provides a background for accurate interpretation of the New Testament that helps answer the challenges to the Bible's integrity. Thus it addresses such issues as the relationship of the Synoptic Gospels to one another, the integrity and purpose of Acts, and the dating of the epistles. Special attention is given to questions about the historical Jesus and the origin of the New Testament canon. The student is also exposed to the historical background of NT times. 3 hours

### **NT 632 Biblical Archaeology**

See OT 632 for description. 3 hours

## **Section 2: English Bible**

### **NT 531 The Gospels**

Helps students develop an accurate method of studying Scripture appropriate for use in life and ministry. One of the Gospels will serve as text for comprehensive instruction in the basic principles of inductive Bible study. Students will survey each section of the chosen Gospel and will analyze the structure and important terms of selected passages. Careful attention is given to application. Emphasis is also put on understanding the role of each passage within the entire Gospel. 3 hours

### **NT 535 The Epistles**

Follows the same format and methodology that was used in NT 531 and helps students make further progress in the inductive method of Bible study. The professor will choose one or more of the Epistles as the basis for instruction. Especially designed for students who have not studied Greek. Prerequisite NT 531. 3 hours

### **NT 615 The Acts of the Apostles**

Applies the methodology learned in NT 531 to the Acts of the Apostles. Prerequisite NT 531. 3 hours

### **NT 622 The Revelation**

Uses the methodology introduced in NT 531. Students study the Revelation's structure, content, spiritual values, and eschatological teaching. The class analyzes the uniqueness of the Revelation and its relationship to other apocalyptic writings. Prerequisite NT 531. 3 hours

## **Section 3: Language and Exegesis**

### **NT 501 Fundamentals of New Testament Greek: A**

For those who have had no previous study of the Greek language and desire mastery of the fundamentals of New Testament Greek. 3 hours

### **NT 502 Fundamentals of New Testament Greek: B**

Continuation of NT 501 for those who have had no previous study of Greek. 3 hours

### **NT 521 Greek Reading and Syntax**

Begins with a brief review of elementary Greek. Emphasis is then given to improving the student's ability to read the Greek NT and helping the student gain a broad understanding of Greek syntax as a precursor for using Greek in biblical interpretation. Requires knowledge of elementary Greek. Prerequisite NT 501, NT 502 or equivalent. 3 hours

### **NT 642 The Epistles with Greek**

Enables the student to integrate the use of Greek with the principles of inductive Bible study learned in NT 531. emphasis is given to the role of Greek syntax in clarifying the ambiguities of the English text and in evaluating the differences between translations. The student is introduced to the practice of textual criticism and is encouraged to continue reading in the Greek NT. One or more of the epistles will be used as basis for this study. Prerequisite: NT 521, NT 531. NT 512 is recommended but not required as prerequisite. 3 hours

## **Section 4: New Testament Research**

### **NT 715-17 Seminar in New Testament**

Provides a channel for students to explore advanced topics of interest in New Testament studies. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

### **NT 771-73 Independent Study in the New Testament**

For students who show ability to do independent advanced studies in a given area of New Testament history, criticism, interpretation, background, or English Bible. Study may be done in such related areas as the apocryphal and patristic literature or the Septuagint. See course description under RS 771-74. Hours arranged

### **NT 774-75 Independent Study in New Testament Language**

For advanced students who wish to increase their ability to read the Greek New Testament or to study some particular aspect of Greek grammar. Students with some prior knowledge of Latin may also do beginning reading in the Latin New Testament. See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

### **Thesis in New Testament**

See RS 780 for details.

# Theological Studies

The overarching purpose of the courses in Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Theology is to provide a holistic biblical worldview consonant with traditional Christianity. The thrust of the division is a comprehensive study of Christian thought, explicated in a coherent manner, strengthened by philosophical inquiry, and expressed faithfully in life and ministry. A thorough understanding of Christian doctrine, its Biblical roots, historical development, and systematic formulation, is helpful in deepening one's relationship with God. It also provides depth and balance for accurate preaching, true worship, appropriate pastoral leadership, and effective disciple making..

## ***Biblical Theology***

### **BT 500 The Bible's Authority and Interpretation**

Provides a clear understanding of the Bible's role in the life and ministry of the contemporary church. Thus, this course begins with an analysis of the nature of the Bible, the type of authority the Bible claims for itself, and the way the Church has understood the nature and authority of Scripture. Consideration is then given to the proper principles of Scriptural interpretation in light of the Bible's nature and claims. Students are introduced to the literary, historical, canonical, and cross-cultural aspects of Biblical interpretation. This course climaxes by addressing the challenges to and opportunities for discipling modern and postmodern people through engagement with Scripture. 2 hours

### **BT 600 Fundamentals of Biblical Theology**

Considers the method, place, and importance of biblical theology. Special attention is given to the way in which each part of the Old and New Testaments fits together to complete God's Biblical self-revelation. Attention is also given to how we should preach and teach from each part today. 3 hours

### **BT 610 Biblical Basis for Christian Holiness**

This course helps the student to understand more clearly and experience more deeply the teaching of the Old and New Testaments about Christian holiness. By Christian holiness we mean that quality and nature of the inner being and outward life which God requires of His people. 2 hours

### **BT 715-17 Seminar in Biblical Theology**

Investigates various issues in biblical theology. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

### **BT 771-75 Independent Study in Biblical Theology**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

## **Thesis in Biblical Theology**

See RS 780 for details

## ***Historical Theology***

### **HT 504 History of Christianity**

Studies the persons, beliefs and events that created the context for the foundations of the Christian Church as an institution from inception through the Reformation and into the modern period. Particular attention will be given to the intellectual shifts that changed the Church's self expression as it progressed through history. 3 hours

### **HT 520 (old number HT 604\*) History of Christian Thought**

Covers the same ground as HT 504, but with a greater focus on the historical development of Christian doctrine. Special attention is given to the Church Fathers, to the controversies that resulted in the ecumenical creeds, the theological development of Medieval Christendom, the concerns of the Reformation and counter-Reformation, the thinking of the Revivalists, and the issues that have resulted from the Fundamentalist/Modernist conflict of the twentieth century. Emphasis will be placed on the doctrinal development of many of the major themes in Christian theology. 3 hours \*New number effective May 15, 2016

### **HT 609 Comparative Religious Traditions**

This course surveys the major world religions, the cults, and occultism. Topics will include Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Daoism, Shintoism, the historical relationship between the cults, the Enlightenment, and the Great Awakenings, and the emergence of modern occultism. The course will focus on recognizing major themes in the various traditions and the development of meaningful dialogue and effective Christian witness. Same as MS 609. 3 hours

### **HT 650 Church Polity in Scripture, History, and Practice**

This course considers the relationship between Christian community, spiritual authority, calling to ministry, and the mandate to decency and order as the basis for examining the various approaches to church structure that have emerged through history. Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Congregational models will be considered in terms of 1) how each seeks to express the faith through an ordered churchly life, 2) the biblical basis for each, 3) the historical context out which each emerges, 4) strengths and weaknesses of each, and 5) contemporary denominational examples. As needed for ordination, students will be guided in studying the history and polity of their own tradition. Same as PM 650. 3 hours

### **HT 715-17 Seminar in Historical Theology**

Affords students opportunity to study persons, ideas, or movements that have made vital contributions to developments of Christian theology. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

### **HT 771-75 Independent Study in Historical Theology**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged.

### **Thesis in Historical Theology**

See RS 780 for details.

## ***Systematic Theology***

### **ST 500 Christian Beliefs**

Introduces the major doctrines of the Christian faith. It is recommended for those with limited theological background. 3 hours

### **ST 604 (old number ST 504\*) Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity**

Investigates the dynamic of the revelation of God in and through Jesus Christ as it influences the nature and tools of systematic theology. The doctrines of the Trinity and the image of God in humanity will also be explored. 3 hours

### **ST 605 (old number ST 505\*) Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things**

Explores systematically the work of the triune God in salvation with emphasis on the Holy Spirit. The nature of the Church and the goal of human history in Christ will be viewed through the lens of the triune life of God. 3 hours

### **ST 606 (old number ST 506\*) Theology of Christian Holiness**

Integrates the biblical and historical basis of the doctrine of Christian holiness with its experiential reality. 2 hours

### **ST 607 Contemporary Theological Trends**

Analyzes the major theological movements since the Enlightenment, with a strong emphasis on the modern liberation Movements, Third-World theology, and process thought. These developments are compared and contrasted with an evangelical theological perspective. 3 hours

### **ST 619 (old number ST 519\*) Theology of John Wesley**

Provides the resources for a fuller understanding of the Wesleyan theological heritage through the study of its spiritual and ideological construction found at the inception of

Methodism. Placed in its cultural, theological and philosophical contexts, both the essential doctrines of early Methodism and the "sane" opinions of John Wesley are to be compared with the affirmations of orthodox Christianity. 3 hours \*New numbers effective May 15, 2016

**ST 710 (old number ST 620) Modernism, Post-Modernism and the Christian Mystical Tradition**

Evaluates both the Modernist reliance upon and the Post-Modern rejection of reason by engaging the nature, role, and limitations of rational thought as described in various voices within the Christian mystical tradition. Students will consider the tension between the need to question and the limits of human understanding as a rubric for thinking theologically. Topics will include the relationship between the mystic theme of unknowing and sanctification. Students will engage primary sources such as the pseudo-Dionysius, Maximus Confessor, John Bonaventure, Nicholas Cusanus, and Blaise Pascal. Equals AP 620. 3 hours New number effective May 15, 2016

**ST 715-17 Seminar in Current Theological Problems**

Investigates major issues confronting various sectors of Christianity today. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

**ST 771-75 Independent Study in Theology**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

**Thesis in Systematic Theology** See RS 780 for details.

## Philosophical Studies

Courses in Apologetics and Philosophy assist the student in understanding both the Christian faith and the contemporary world. The apologetics courses are designed to train defenders of the faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The M.A. in apologetics is a good parallel track to the M.Div. because it seeks to equip people who can defend orthodox Christian theology in a way that helps to strengthen the faith of Christians and answer the objections of unbelievers with the ultimate goal of leading them to Christ.

### *Philosophy*

#### **PH 504 Philosophy of the Christian Religion**

Explores the fundamental philosophical presuppositions upon which Christian theology Depends for its orthodox articulation and discusses certain implications that a Christian world-view has for philosophical issues regarding the nature of knowledge, the self, and the created order. A cursory review of the history of Christian thought and its relationship to various philosophers is a part of the class. 3 hours

#### **PH 520 Philosophy for Understanding Theology**

Engages the study of those philosophies that created the context for the shaping of Christian doctrine and interacts with the philosophical currents to which Christian theology speaks. The end of this course is to understand those components of philosophy that heighten a student's ability to master the intellectual currents that were the fabric for Christian theology. 3 hours

#### **PH 610 Moral Theology and the Gospel**

Considers the metaphysical doctrines that are necessary for the development of an adequate moral theology regarding the essential ethical implications of Christian thought. The course looks at issues such as the relationship between the doctrines of creation and redemption to search for the best way to understand the idea that Christian morality is universal in its application without denying the uniqueness of God's revelation in Jesus Christ. The life of the local church and the challenges of specific moral questions in contemporary life are always in mind in this course. 3 hours

#### **PH 721 Christian Faith in Dialogue with Philosophy**

Explores in depth the intellectual exchange that has occurred in the history of Christianity between major orthodox Christian theologians and philosophical systems of thought at crucial junctures as a way to introduce students to seminal figures in the history of philosophy and to the significant theologians who have developed answers to historical intellectual objections to various aspects of Christian dogma. As a historical survey, this

course will not only help students be familiar with the history of ideas, but will culminate with specific proposals for how to address the epistemological challenges to Christianity inherent in post-modernism and multi-cultural relativism. 3 hours

### **PH 715-17 Seminar in Philosophy**

Affords students opportunity to study specialized and selected themes in philosophy and ethics. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

### **PH 771-75 Independent Study in Philosophy**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

## ***Apologetics***

### **AP 500 Approaches to Apologetics**

This course surveys different approaches to the task of apologetics. Topics will include historical, philosophical, psychological-existential, and narrative approaches. This course will also consider the usefulness and limitations of each of these approaches in articulating and defending the Christian faith. 3 hours

### **AP 601 Apologetics in Cultural Change**

Introduces the basic foundationalist and presuppositionalist approaches to defending and recommending the Christian faith. These approaches are evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in reaching modern and postmodern people with the Gospel. Consideration is also given to the way Christianity addresses the competing ideologies and religions of the contemporary world. Same as MS 601. 3 hours

### **AP 710 (old number AP 620) Modernism, Post-Modernism and the Christian Mystical Tradition. (New number effective May 15, 2016)**

Evaluates both the Modernist reliance upon and the Post-Modern rejection of reason by engaging the nature, role, and limitations of rational thought as described in various voices within the Christian mystical tradition. Students will consider the tension between the need to question and the limits of human understanding as a rubric for thinking theologically. Topics will include the relationship between the mystic theme of unknowing and sanctification. Students will engage primary sources such as the pseudo-Dionysius, Maximus Confessor, John Bonaventure, Nicholas Cusanus, and Blaise Pascal. Equals ST 620

### **AP 720 Christian Faith and Science.**

Explores the history of the relationship of Christian Faith and Science from the seventeenth century to the present. Engages important contemporary issues such as

Creation, genetics, the brain, and the nature of the human person. 3 hours

**AP 750 Apologetics Qualifying Thesis/Project**

Students may write a sixty-page thesis demonstrating mastery of the field and addressing an important question in contemporary apologetics or they may produce a project useful in defending the Gospel, such as an apologetic curriculum for a particular context or an apologetic strategy for a particular situation or ministry. 3 hours.

**AP 715-17 Seminar in Apologetics**

Affords students opportunity to study specialized and selected themes in apologetics. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged.

**AP 771-75 Independent Study in Apologetics**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

**Spiritual Formation Studies (Including Residency)**

These courses inform the spiritual development of the student and encourage the formation of a dynamic life of devotion in the ministry, the family and the local church. Practical dimensions of the spiritual life are explored and grounded in the traditional Wesleyan comprehension of biblical, theological, and historical emphases. There is a close relationship between these courses and the significance placed by the seminary on its discipleship groups. Significant course requirements are satisfied by participation in a discipleship group.

**DS 505 Discipleship and Spiritual Formation**

Examines the personal means of grace necessary for a dynamic Christian walk with the Lord and enables the student to incorporate the imperative to “make disciples” into local church ministry and the nuclear family. 3 hours

**DS 515 Discipleship in the Home**

Examines the Christian family and Biblical principles for strengthening the home for the Kingdom of God. Seminarians’ spouses are encouraged to enroll in this course. 3 hours

**DS 520 The Discipling Church**

This course investigates the priority of fulfilling the Great Commission by focusing on intentional disciple-making. Emphasis is on producing mature Christians through envisioning, planning, executing and evaluating disciple-forming strategies for the local church. 3 hours

**DS 599 ( old numbers DS 551, 552, 653, 654, 755, 756) Discipleship Group**

Spiritual mentoring by a member of the faculty in a small group setting with other students.  
0 hours

**DS 715-17 Seminar in Discipleship and Spiritual Formation**

Addresses a variety of discipleship topics. Offered on demand. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

**DS 771-75 Independent Study in Discipleship and Spiritual Formation**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

**Thesis in Discipleship and Spiritual Formation**

See RS 780 for details.

**RP 500, 600, 700, 750. Residency.** A two-week on-campus residency each October for on-line students. This residency is especially designed to involve on-line students with campus faculty in face to face activities and to give on-line students a sense of community and of the seminary's ethos. 0 hours. Contact the office of student services for the current residency fees.

## Ministry Studies

Christian ministry is founded on competence in Biblical interpretation, a thorough understanding of Christian theology, acquaintance with contemporary thought, and an ever deepening walk with God. Hence, these courses on the various aspects of Christian ministry appropriately follow the Biblical, theological, philosophical, and formational courses listed above.

These applied ministry courses enable students to gain skills necessary for pastoral, evangelistic, cross-cultural, and teaching ministries. The division primarily addresses the professional competencies described in the M.Div. degree above (and to a lesser degree the M.A. degree) which involve the ministry of preaching, teaching, counseling, administration, worship, evangelizing, and discipline within the context of one's own culture or beyond. One will also find courses on research method below.

### *Pastoral Ministry*

#### **PM 610 Principles of Preaching (3 hours)**

This course is designed to provide students with an in depth exposure to the art of preaching. Close attention is given to the theological foundations that undergird the act of preaching, the ecclesiological contexts of preaching, the disciplines that sermon construction employs, and the importance of the spiritual-formation in life of the preacher. During this course students will develop the skills necessary for creating various styles of sermons that faithfully and clearly present in creative ways the message of scriptural passages discovered through careful exegesis. The learning elements of the class will include lecture presentations, group discussion, analyzing sermons by recognized "master preachers," exams and essays, along with preaching in the class room setting.

Prerequisites: NT 531, ST 504, ST 505. 3 hours

#### **PM 611 Worship, Liturgy, and Proclamation**

In this course students study the theological foundations of worship with special emphasis given to the role of preaching in the life of the church as an act of worship. This course includes a historical survey of the various liturgical styles. It provides instruction in conducting various types of worship services, including Holy Communion, baptisms, funerals, and weddings. Attention will be given the place that proclamation plays in each service of worship. This course covers the rudiments of sermon construction and the development of faithful and engaging services of worship. The students will have an opportunity to preach before their peers and instructors for constructive feedback, as well as begin to practice the art of constructing services of worship that are theologically appropriate, aesthetically pleasing and spiritually formative. Prerequisites: NT 531, ST 504, ST 505. 3 hours (*This course replaced by PM 610/615 and by PM 620/625. Will not be*

*offered after the 2016-17 academic year.)*

### **PM 615 Great Christian Sermons**

This course explores the nature of Christian preaching by examining its development through the centuries. The course focuses on analysis of sermons by great Christian preachers through history, including, among others, Chrysostom, Bernard of Clairvaux, Luther, Wesley, and Spurgeon. Attention will be given to how these authors employ biblical exposition, doctrinal instruction, rhetoric, and literary structure in their sermons. Prerequisites: NT 531, ST 504, ST 505. 3 hours

### **PM 620 Worship in the Church**

Exploration of the mystery of worship and a study of the history of liturgy and worship styles across the centuries are the central components of this class. The theological foundations for worship that is biblically informed and spiritually formative are analyzed. Aesthetic considerations about the proper flow of a worship service and how music and other art forms may be properly incorporated into the act of worship is explored in detail. As a result of the course, students will be historically informed regarding the nature of worship and able to discern how creativity and faithfulness go hand in hand. Prerequisites: PM 610 or PM 615. 3 hours

### **PM 625 Worship in the Prayer Book Tradition**

This course explores the structure of Christian worship through the lens of various prayer books, including the Methodist Ritual and the Book of Common Prayer, as well as considering the historic sources of these models, such as the *Didache* and the liturgies of Saint Basil and Saint Chrysostom. Attention will be given to how these liturgies relate praise, biblical instruction, profession, penitence, and sacrament within the context of the service. Prerequisites: PM 610 or PM 615. 3 hours

### **PM 630-31 Preaching Practice**

This course provides students with the opportunity to improve their preaching through peer and faculty feedback. Students will be given the opportunity to prepare and preach sermons on a variety of Scriptural passages before both faculty and fellow students either in person or via video recording. They may also be assigned to prepare sermons for particular occasions. Prerequisite, PM 610 or PM 615, PM 620 or PM 625. (1 ½ hour each semester, totaling 3 hours)

### **PM 641 Pastoral Counseling**

Uses a biblical and psychological understanding of human nature to discover counseling methods appropriate to pastoral ministry. Attention is given to pre-marital, marriage and family counseling, grief, critical age periods, special problems, and the ministry of healing. 3 hours

### **PM 650 Church Polity in Scripture, History, and Practice**

This course considers the relationship between Christian community, spiritual authority, calling to ministry, and the mandate to decency and order as the basis for examining the various approaches to church structure that have emerged through history. Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Congregational models will be considered in terms of 1) how each seeks to express the faith through an ordered churchly life, 2) the biblical basis for each, 3) the historical context out which each emerges, 4) strengths and weaknesses of each, and 5) contemporary denominational examples. As needed for ordination, students will be guided in studying the history and polity of their own tradition. Same as HT 650. 3 hours

### **PM 710 Transition to Ministry (old name PM 662 Practice in Ministry)**

Provides the M.Div. student opportunity for reflection and evaluation as the student completes formal seminary training and anticipates entering full-time ministry. This course also provides an avenue for the seminary to assess and improve the M.Div. program. Students will submit a Capstone Portfolio that includes artifacts demonstrating their achievement of the M.Div. goals. Each artifact offered as evidence in the Portfolio will be evaluated by two professors appointed by the dean as part of the seminary's self-assessment. This responsibility for evaluation will be distributed as evenly as possible among faculty members in accord with their teaching loads. The professor of record will give credit or non-credit for this course based on the student's submission of an adequately complete Portfolio and fulfillment of other course requirements. The professor will lead the class in reflecting on the various aspects of their seminary education including their experience in ministry while in seminary. The professor may also assign additional reading as basis for reflection/ discussion in preparation for entering full-time ministry. 2 hours  
Credit/Non-Credit

### **PM 700 Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership**

This is a capstone course which provides the opportunity for students to bring together many of the diverse aspects of their seminary training in order to develop and express a holistic, unitary concept of the role of pastor as priest, prophet, and leader in the life and mission of God's Church. In so doing, they will express an ecclesiology that is biblically faithful and expressive of the apostolic nature of the church as the foundation upon which pastoral leadership finds meaning. The concrete demands faced by pastors will be discussed, as well as the theological foundations upon which pastors set priorities in ministry and lead congregations through change and conflict. Prerequisite: Senior status. This is a capstone course to be taken in the spring semester immediately prior to graduation. 3 hours

### **PM 701 Preaching & Worship Practicum**

Offers practical experience in a "laboratory" setting the opportunity for students to hone the pastoral skills related to the evaluation of, the development of, and the leading of

various rituals, orders of worship and sacramental celebrations. In this same setting, students will practice the craft of sermon preparation and delivery. Prerequisites: NT 531, ST 504, ST 505, PM 611. 3 hours (*This course replaced by PM 630-631. Will not be offered after the 2016-17 academic year.*)

### **PM 712 Death and Dying**

Examines the critical dimensions of death and the dying process from the historical, sociological, medical, psychological, theological and personal perspectives, with special emphasis on the student's personal views concerning death. Prerequisite: PM 641. 3 hours

### **PM 715-17 Seminar in Pastoral Ministry**

Provides a channel for students to explore topics of interest in pastoral ministry. Examples: Pastor and Church Finances, History of Preaching. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

### **PM 771-75 Independent Study in Pastoral Ministry**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

### **Thesis or Project in Pastoral Ministry**

See RS 780 for details.

## ***Evangelism***

### **EV 605 Evangelism**

Probes the theological and biblical issues underpinning the proper practice of evangelism and compassionate ministry and investigates appropriate methodology for promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 3 hours

### **EV 610 Evangelism in the Early Church**

Focuses on the first centuries of the church as Christianity spread around the Roman world. A methodical Bible study of Acts provides a biblical backdrop for this historical review. 3 hours

### **EV 630 Planting and Refocusing Churches**

Looks at the various dimensions of starting new churches. The objective is to explore methods to effectively launch and sustain a new church. This course expands the concepts studied in EV 605. 3 hours

### **EV 715-17 Seminar in Evangelism**

A forum for advanced discussion on selected evangelism or missions-related topics. On occasions, the seminar is an international study-tour involving a faculty/student travel group. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

## **EV 771-75 Independent Study in Evangelism**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

## **Thesis in Evangelism**

See RS 780 for details.

## ***Missiology***

### **MS 505 History of Christian Missions**

Reviews selected periods of mission history, along with the patterns of development, key personalities, and principles that have influenced the Christian movement around the world. 2 hours

### **MS 508 Missionary Principles and Methods**

Explores the objectives, principles, and strategies in modern missions, at home and abroad. Principles of evangelism and discipleship are reviewed for application in various cross-cultural settings. 2 hours

### **MS 513 Great Missionaries and Their Message**

Examines the general aim, motive, message, and methods of the great missionaries of recent centuries as evidenced in their biographies. 2 hours

### **MS 601 Apologetics in Cultural Change**

Introduces the basic foundationalist and presuppositionalist approaches to defending and recommending the Christian faith. These approaches are evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in reaching modern and postmodern people with the Gospel. Consideration is also given to the way Christianity addresses the competing ideologies and religions of the contemporary world. Same as AP 601. 3 hours

### **MS 609 Comparative Religious Traditions**

This course surveys the major world religions, the cults, and occultism. Topics will include Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Daoism, Shintoism, the historical relationship between the cults, the Enlightenment, and the Great Awakenings, and the emergence of modern occultism. The course will focus on recognizing major themes in the various traditions and the development of meaningful dialogue and effective Christian witness. Same as HT 609. 3 hours

### **MS 612 A Christian Introduction to Islam and Engaging Muslims**

This course is an introduction to the persons, beliefs and practices of Islam from a Christian perspective. We will get to know who Muhammad was, what the Qur'an is, and examine the origins of Islam by reading passages from the Qur'an and selected Hadith (recorded sayings or traditions of Muhammad). We also surveys Islam's expansion up through the twentieth century and addresses contemporary issues facing Muslims today, including the rise of militant Islam and Muslim immigration to the West. Special attention is given to how Christians can thoughtfully engage with the various worldviews of Islam and with our Muslim neighbors in the U.S. and around the world. 3 hours

### **MS 620 Islamic Foundations: A Christian Analysis of Islam's Source Documents**

This course sets out to give Islam's supreme prophet, Abdul Casim Muhammad, a hearing through the primary Muslim source texts. The greater part of the course will be devoted to reading through the Qur'an accompanied by classes on the life of Muhammad. Students will also be exposed to Ibn Ishaq's early biography of Muhammad and to selections from Muslim traditions called "Hadiths." At the end of the semester we will explore historical developments subsequent to Muhammad, and begin to wrestle with how we can most accurately interpret his life and the source documents with the help of selected secondary sources. Taught in cooperation with the Lilius Trotter Center. 3 hours

### **MS 715-17 Seminar in Missiology**

A forum for advanced discussion on selected evangelism or missions-related topics. On occasions, the seminar is an international study-tour involving a faculty/student travel group. May be repeated with different topics. Hours arranged

### **MS 771-75 Independent Study in Missiology**

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

### **Thesis in Missions**

See RS 780 for details.

## ***Teaching***

### **TE 500 Educational Ministry of the Church**

Investigates the philosophy and practices of the local church's Christian education program. Introduces the student to basic teaching skills. Offered only on demand. 3 hours

### **TE 605 Learning Theories & Taxonomies**

Investigates various teaching and learning theories and their philosophical underpinning for

people preparing to teach Biblical, theological or Christian ministry courses in an academic setting or in the church. 3 hours

### **TE 610 Course Design and Evaluation**

Examines the creation of Biblical, theological, and Christian ministry curriculum, both single course and larger programs. The student will also learn how to match teaching techniques to various kinds of subject matter and appropriate methods of evaluation. 3 hours

### **TE 715 Teaching Lab**

Offers an opportunity to integrate all aspects of Biblical and theological teaching situations and to develop a framework for creating a course and syllabus, selecting appropriate teaching styles, managing students effectively, and evaluating work. 3 hours

### **TE 720 Practice Teaching**

Provides opportunity for actual experience instructing and evaluating a college level class in Bible, theology, or some aspect of Christian ministry under the supervision of a qualified professor. The student will teach two college-level courses. 3 hours

## ***Research and Study Skills***

### **RS 001 New Student Orientation**

This five-day online course is offered before fall and spring semesters and covers the basic policies and procedures of seminary life, such as fees, registration, financial aid, FERPA, residencies, avoidance of plagiarism, and acceptable writing styles. Students also practice using Moodle Rooms, our online platform. The *WBS Student Handbook* will be a text. Required of all new on-line and on campus degree students. 0 hours

### **RS 500 Essential Seminary Skills<sup>2</sup>**

A course for the enhancement of essential seminary skills, such as reading for comprehension, essay and research writing, test-taking, and time management. Helps the student understand what is expected in graduate level work. This course is especially appropriate for capable students who have been out of school for some time. It is open to and free for all students taking at least one other course for credit. It is required for all students on academic probation. 0 hours

### **RS 505 Techniques of Research**

Describes research methods appropriate for the theological and church context. Specific methods include the survey questionnaire, historical research, theological-biblical research and case studies. The process of analyzing and reporting the findings of the research is also

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<sup>2</sup> In the fall of 2016 the faculty emended the last sentence of this course to read: "All students on academic probation must pass this course with at least a "B-" before enrolling in other seminary courses." They also changed it to a 3 hour-course for which tuition must be paid.

introduced. The course is designed to prepare the student for producing a master's thesis. 3 hours

**RS 621-23 Directed Study in Theological German**

Helps the advanced student who plans to do further graduate study develop the ability to read theological articles and books in German. No previous knowledge of German required. Hours arranged

**RS 771-775 Independent Study**

Offers an opportunity for qualified students to do independent research or reading in a selected area of a particular discipline. Prerequisite: foundational courses giving an adequate base for the study and permission by the appropriate faculty. May be repeated for credit. Hours arranged

**RS 778 Summative Evaluation**

Provides M.A. students with opportunity for reflecting on their seminary study and evaluating its scope and impact on their lives. This course also provides an avenue for the seminary to assess and improve the M.A. program. As part of this Summative Evaluation students will submit a Capstone Portfolio consisting of evidence from their course work or other sources demonstrating their achievement of the M.A. program goals, including the goals appropriate for their specific concentrations. They will also present papers for class discussion on the integration of the various theological disciplines. The professor of record will be responsible for giving the student credit or non-credit for this course. The evidence presented for M.A. goal achievement will be collected and assessed in the same way as the M.Div. Capstone Portfolio is evaluated (see PM 710). This data will be used in the seminary's assessment and improvement of the M.A. program. 1 hour Credit/Non-Credit

**RS 780 Master's Thesis**

Gives students an opportunity to demonstrate skill in careful and scholarly research. A separate document explains the requirements for conducting a master's thesis, which is required in the Honors Research concentration of the M.Div. Interested students should consult their faculty advisor about the thesis. Prerequisite: RS 505 6 hours.

# D.Min. Course Descriptions

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## **DM 801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics for Relevant Preaching and Ministry**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM802 Transformational Preaching*. It focuses on four areas crucial to effective biblical preaching: (a) the integrity of the biblical canon and issues and principles relevant for preaching from each part of that canon, (b) the importance of and principles for understanding each biblical book in terms of its literary genre and integrity, (c) the relevance of and ability for understanding the Bible within the environment of the Ancient Near East and the first century Hellenistic world, and (d) issues that arise when we attempt to apply biblical teaching in the contemporary world. The course assumes a basic knowledge of the principles of biblical interpretation. 3 hours

## **DM 802 Transformational Preaching**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics for Relevant Preaching and Ministry*. It focuses on the theology and practice of preaching as a means of leading individuals and congregations into the transformational reality that John Wesley called “holiness of heart and life.” The course rigorously examines the theological purposes, hermeneutical principles, and communicative skills that are essential to biblically sound and effective preaching. 3 hours

## **DM 803 Sacramental Spirituality and Disciple-Making Leadership**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM804 Holistic Renewal of the Church*. It engages students in the study of diverse views of the sacraments and the classical spiritual disciplines for the purpose of enabling them to think deeply about how the corporate life of churches and the discipleship of believers are shaped by the theology embedded in these practices. Students will engage in research that helps them understand the commonalities and differences of various Christian traditions. Additionally, students will be expected to develop a plan of personal participation in sacramental practices and spiritual disciplines as well as giving leadership to others in small groups formed around the sacramental practices and spiritual disciplines. The goal of the course is for students to develop a more robust and intentional understanding of how a recovery of vibrant sacramental practices can (a) undergird the disciple-making programs of a local church, (b) provide a rich and historically rooted basis for establishing in congregants’ minds a sense of their corporate identity as a local community of faith, and (c) establish a Christologically centered, missionally oriented focus for pastoral leadership in the life of the church. 3hours

### **DM 804 Holistic Renewal of the Church**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM803 Sacramental Spirituality and Disciple-Making Leadership*. It focuses on local church participation in evangelistic and discipleship ministries that are coupled with compassionate social ministries. An investigation of the biblical and historical emphases of the church on these matters is included and the transformative personal, corporate, and cultural power of their coupling demonstrated. The spiritual life and worship structures of the church should support the outward missional life of the church. Therefore, the effective meshing of these critical components will be viewed in order to build a biblically fruitful church that contributes to both church health and societal welfare. 3 hours

### **DM 805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM806 Wesleyan Theological Vision for Community Formation in the Post-Modern Context*. It engages students in an in-depth study of the socio-historical context of the eighteenth century evangelical revival led by John Wesley and the early Methodists. The purpose is to show how the pastoral orientation, the practices of personal piety, and the risk-taking spirit of these leaders sustained a movement that led to significant ecclesial renewal and social transformation. Attention will be given to the transitions and social upheaval that marked Wesley's England and their similarities to twenty-first century Western culture. The goal is to show that the ministry practices of the early Methodists provide a framework for ministry from which practices can still be gleaned to foster church revitalization and social transformation. 3 hours

### **DM 806 Wesleyan Theological Vision for Community Formation in the Post-Modern Context**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation*. It engages students in the theological vision that has provided the motivation, focus, and spirituality of the Methodist/Wesleyan tradition at its best. Special attention will be given to the *ordo salutis* (theology of salvation) that John Wesley and the early Methodists bequeathed to subsequent generations. Further attention will be given to how the optimistic view of God's grace in human life not only provided an evangelical counter proposal to eighteenth century English Calvinism, but also drove early Wesleyans to see social transformation as inherent in the Gospel. The goal is to enable those engaged in ministry in the twenty-first century to discover the theological resources offered by this Wesleyan understanding of the universal and transformative scope of saving grace. 3 hours

### **DM 807 The Gospel as Truth in a Multi-Religious World**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM808 Secular “isms” that Challenge the Faith and Confront the Church*. It engages students in a comparative study of the nature and content of Christian theism in contrast to other world religions and their corresponding worldviews. The goal is to increase the competency of students when interacting with and explaining other religious worldviews to their congregations, and to deepen their confidence as Christian preachers and teachers in our increasingly multicultural age. 3 hours

### **DM 808 Secular “isms” that Challenge the Faith and Confront the Church**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM807 The Gospel as Truth in a Multi-Religious World*. It involves students in a rediscovery of essential Christian orthodoxy and its engagement with various non-theistic, naturalistic, and secular philosophical systems that have risen over the last two hundred years in Western culture. The goal of the course is to equip those who preach, teach, or engage in evangelistic ministries to have greater competency in interacting with, explaining, and critiquing these “isms” for contemporary believers and seekers. Special emphasis will be given in the course to competing belief and value systems that make up the so-called “post-modern” perspectives on truth, meaning, and moral values. 3 hours

### **DM 809 Ministry Research Project**

The MPR is the doctoral student’s culminating work that integrates insights from the previous courses with research and application in the context of the student’s place of ministry. The project will begin with a taught research methodology component in order to ensure that students are properly prepared and supervised. Students will be expected to utilize the research component of the degree to craft a capstone project that is specifically expressive of the learning objectives and professional development goals that they have developed during the course of study. The project will be supervised by a WBS faculty member and one external reader who possesses the necessary academic and professional credentials to critically examine the ministry project. The final requirement for the D.Min. degree is the successful completion of an oral defense of the MRP. The defense committee will consist of at least three members, including the faculty supervisor, the external reader (if possible), and at least one other full-time or adjunct member of the WBS faculty. The defense will be approximately two hours in length and will engage the candidate in a range of dialog concerning the nature, methodology, findings, and implications of the MRP. When students submit their MRP, they are also to submit evidence from their DMin coursework that, along with the MRP, demonstrates the level of competency they have achieved in each of the DMin goals. This evidence, including the MRP, constitutes their Program Goals Portfolio. The submission of this entire portfolio is necessary to complete the requirements for DM 810, but its evaluation by the faculty is not a condition for graduation. Faculty will use the data from Program Goals Portfolios to assess and improve the DMin program. 6 hours

# Academic Calendar: 2015-2016; 2016-2017

## Fall Semester

Online Orientation for ALL New MDiv/MA Degree Students  
 On Campus Welcome for All Students  
 Faculty Retreat  
 First Day of Fall Classes  
 Labor Day Holiday  
 MDiv/ MA Course Drop/Add Period Ends, 4:59PM  
 MDiv/MA Course Withdrawal Period Begins, 5:00PM  
 End of Spring-Summer D.Min Term  
 Beginning Fall-Winter D.Min Term  
 Transform:ED Conference and Chamberlain Holiness Lectures (No Classes)  
 Residency for Online Students  
 Registration for Spring Semester  
 MDiv/MA Course Withdrawal Period Ends, 4:59PM  
 Thanksgiving Holiday  
 Final Examination Week  
 End of Fall Semester

## 2015-16

August 10-14  
 August 20  
 August 21-22  
 August 24  
 September 7  
 September 4  
 September 4  
 September 30  
 October 1  
 October 6-9  
 October 6-15  
 November 9-20  
 November 20  
 November 23-27  
 December 14-18  
 December 18

## 2016-17

August 8-12  
 August 18  
 August 19-20  
 August 22  
 September 5  
 September 2  
 September 2  
 September 30  
 October 1  
 October 4-7  
 October 4-13  
 November 7-18  
 November 18  
 November 21-25  
 December 12-16  
 December 16

## Spring Semester

Fall-Winter D.Min. Intensive  
 Online Orientation for All New MDiv/MA Degree Students  
 On Campus Welcome for All Students  
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
 First Day of Spring Classes  
 MDiv/MA Course Drop/Add Period Ends, 4:59PM  
 MDiv/MA Course Withdrawal Period Begins, 5:00PM  
 DMin Application Deadline for April 1 Matriculation  
 Spring Break  
 Good Friday Holiday  
 Registration for Summer and Fall Semesters  
 Beginning Spring-Summer D.Min Term  
 Good Friday Holiday  
 Special Conference: In 2016 a Conference on Islam  
 with the Lilius Trotter Center  
 MDiv/MA Course Withdrawal Period Ends, 4:59PM  
 Final Examination Week  
 End of Spring Semester  
 Senior/Alumni Banquet  
 Commencement

## 2015-16

January 4-15  
 January 4-8  
 January 14  
 January 18  
 January 19  
 January 19  
 January 29  
 January 29  
 March 1  
 March 7-11  
 March 25  
 March 28-April 8  
 April 1  
 April 19-22  
 April 22  
 May 9-13  
 May 13  
 May 13  
 May 14

## 2016-17

January 2-13  
 January 2-6  
 January 12  
 January 16  
 January 17  
 January 17  
 January 27  
 January 27  
 March 1  
 March 6-10<sup>3</sup>  
 March 27-April 7  
 April 1  
 April 14  
 April 10-14  
 April 21  
 May 8-12  
 May 12  
 May 12  
 May 13

## Summer Semester

Online Orientation for ALL New MDiv/MA Degree Students  
 Summer Term Begins  
 MDiv/MA On-line Course Drop/Add Period Ends, 4:59PM  
 MDiv/MA On-line Course Withdrawal Period Begins, 5:00PM  
 Spring-Summer D.Min. Intensive  
 Summer Term Ends

May 16-20  
 May 23  
 June 6  
 June 6  
 June 6-17  
 August 12

May 15-19  
 May 22  
 June 5  
 June 5  
 June 5-16  
 August 11

<sup>3</sup> 2017 spring break may be adjusted to conform to the public/private school schedule.

## APPENDIX I: Personal and Academic Privacy Policy (FERPA)

Wesley Biblical Seminary protects the confidentiality of its personnel and students by conforming to the requirements of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. According to this act, at age 18 years or upon attendance at a post-secondary institution, a student is categorized as an “eligible student” and all rights pertaining to academic records are transferred to the student. “The eligible student has the right to have access to his or her educational records, the right to seek to have the records amended, the right to have control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the records.” (Department of Education policy statement: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/students/html>.)

### 1. *Rights Under FERPA*

Under FERPA guidelines, a school must provide the eligible student access to her/his academic records and the student controls what information in those records can be disclosed to a third party. An eligible student has the right to request that his/her academic records be amended if the data is inaccurate or misleading.

### 2. *Responsibilities under FERPA*

The student must contact the academic office and make a request to see or amend academic records. The student must give **written consent** in order for third parties to receive information from official records. A phone call to the registrar or VP for Academic Affairs will not serve. Written consent must appear in the student’s academic file in order for the institution to disclose personal data.

### 3. *Disclosing Information without Consent*

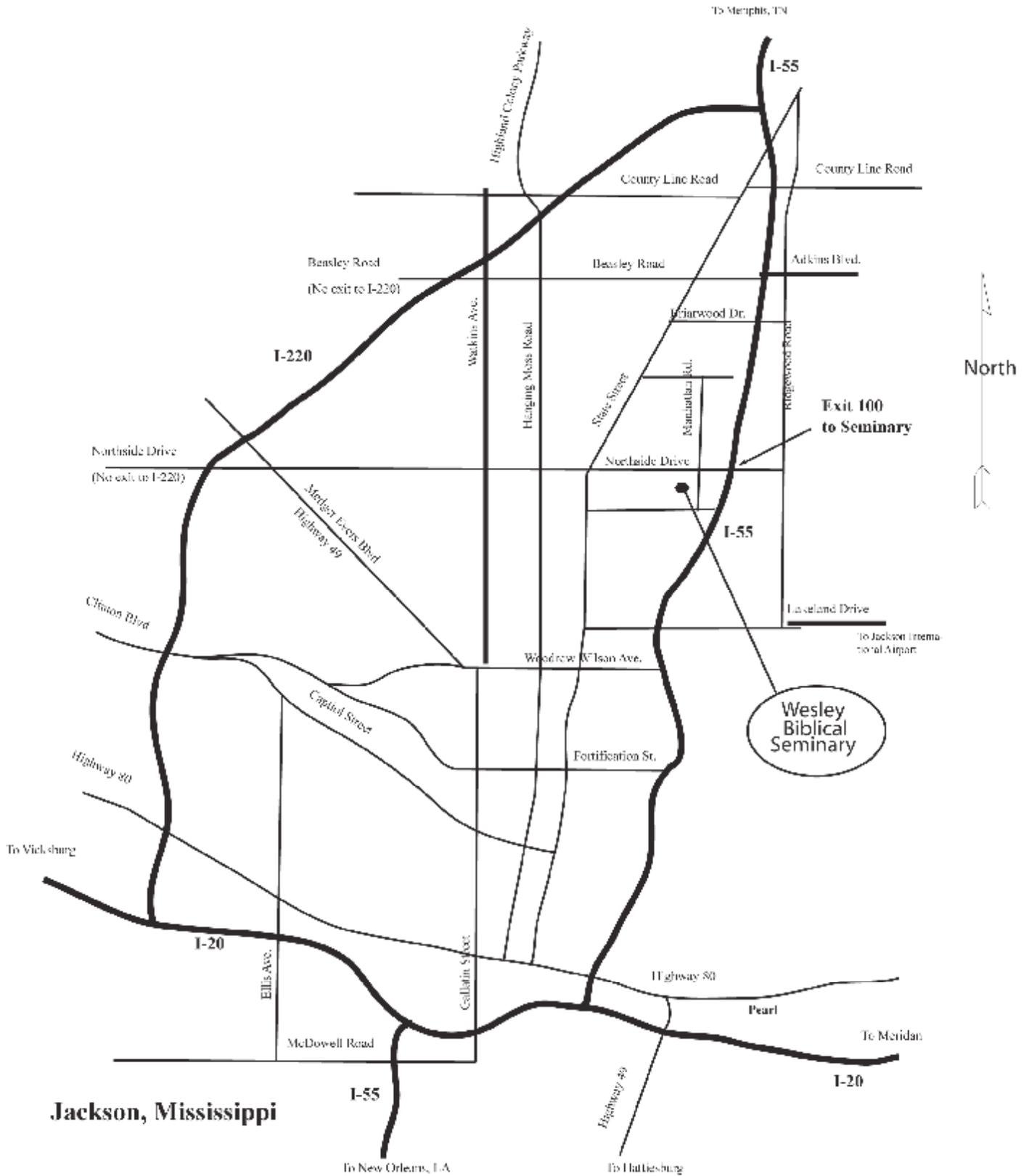
Under certain conditions, student academic information can be shared with others **without the student’s written consent**. Here is a summary of those conditions:

- a. School officials or others who are working for the institution may see student files.
- b. Other education institutions whom the student designates may request and receive academic information.
- c. During the application for financial aid, other agencies may require the student’s personal information.
- d. If the student is still a “dependent” listed on a parent/guardian’s income tax, the parent/guardian will be allowed access to official records
- e. If a health or safety emergency arises, or if federal or state law is broken, the student’s parent/guardian may request personal information.
- f. For a school directory, such information as name, address, email account, telephone number, major field of study, enrollment status and other general information may be used.
- g. If educational authorities are evaluating or auditing the institution, student academic information may be provided.

### 4. *Addressing Grievances*

If a student feels her/his FERPA rights have been violated, he or she should first make every effort to address this matter directly with the people involved, or, if such action does not result in a satisfactory resolution, according to the student grievance policy above. If this procedure does not adequately address the issue, the student may call (202) 260-3887 to receive a complaint form. The form should be mailed to the following address: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

## APPENDIX II: The Location of Wesley Biblical Seminary



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