

# ACADEMIC CATALOG

2017 - 2019

**CHRIST HAS  
DIED!**

**CHRIST HAS  
RISEN!**

**CHRIST WILL  
COME AGAIN!**



**WESLEY BIBLICAL**  
EST. 1974  
**SEMINARY**

# ACADEMIC CATALOG

2017-2019



## Wesley Biblical Seminary

787 E. Northside Drive, Suite B, Jackson, MS 39206  
P.O. Box 9938, Jackson, MS 39286-0938  
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The catalog of Wesley Biblical Seminary provides descriptions of educational policies and programs for  
The 2017-19 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.

## A Contemporary Exposition of the WBS Statement of Faith:

The following exposition of the WBS Statement of Faith was developed by the faculty and presented to the board in order to engage the contemporary world in a fresh and vital way with the commitments that WBS has long held dear.

### WE BELIEVE in the Self-Revealing God, the Creator of all . . .

1. **WHO HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN**—His will and nature—by His mighty, personal acts of salvation and providence in the history of Israel and through Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of God's self-revelation. The written account and exposition of God's historical revelation is the Holy Bible, the sacred scripture of the Christian Church, written by authors divinely inspired and guided by the same self-revealing God, and is to be received and believed as the unerring, infallible, and foundational authority for all Christian doctrine and practice.
2. **WHO IS THE HOLY TRINITY**—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—definitively made known to us in Jesus of Nazareth by His teachings, personal claims, and miraculous acts. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are distinct as divine *persons* but are in their triune relations the one and only Self-revealing God—as defined by the orthodox creeds of the ancient Church, especially the first seven fully ecumenical councils of the undivided Christian Church.
3. **WHO BECAME INCARNATE, SAVING FALLEN CREATION, BRINGING HIS KINGDOM** through uniting our humanity to His divine life in the **Second Person of the Trinity as the historic man and Son of God Jesus of Nazareth**. He was conceived miraculously by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary—fully God and fully human—to be the world's only Redeemer by His sinless human life, sacrificial death, and resurrection from the dead. All of this took place in fulfillment of the history of Israel and the promises of God found in the Old Testament.

4. **WHO IS AT WORK IN ALL PERSONS FOR THEIR SALVATION** through the work of the **Third Person of the Trinity, the *Holy Spirit***. The Holy Spirit is the prevenient, restoring, immanent, and transforming divine presence. Because of Jesus Christ's atoning life as a universal healing and reconciling gift to all the human race, the Holy Spirit enables all persons by grace to feel their need of God and to respond to the Gospel of Christ. Because of the Spirit's work those who yield to this prevenient grace are drawn to saving faith and those who reject Christ are responsible for doing so.
5. **WHO SAVES US TO RESTORE US TO TRUE HOLINESS OF HEART AND LIFE** through the gift of the New Birth granted to believers through the **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit restores the image of God in fallen human beings, thereby enabling us to live by faith and grow in grace and giving us assurance of salvation in the witness of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit also creates in those born again a hunger for more of God. He is the agent of sanctifying grace to those who yield to His work as He draws them and enables them to experience a definitive, deeper, subsequent, and distinct encounter with God's transforming holy love. This work of grace must be received—as must all acts of God's grace—by faith in God's ability to perform his will in us and bring us to a complete devotion to Him as the Holy Spirit purifies the heart, will, and desires of the responsive believer and grants power to have victory over habitual and voluntary sin. We grow, as a result of this subsequent act of God, more deeply and consistently in Christ-like character and become bolder and more fruitful and effective in our service to God.
6. **WHO CREATED HUMANITY UNIQUELY IN HIS OWN IMAGE** by a special act of creation to be loved by Him, to know Him, and to reflect His holiness. Yet we became deeply fallen and alienated from God Himself and God's image in our own nature, by our unwillingness to trust God's goodness and our willful disobedience against God's purposes. Such a turn from God cannot be forgiven or healed by our own efforts, so apart from God's redeeming grace we are calamitously enslaved to our own sinfulness and hopelessly alienated from God's saving presence.
7. **WHO GRANTS LIBERTY TO THE BELIEVER IN SALVATION** so that we may persevere in faith by a grace-enabled, free response to God's love through personal trust and obedience, thereby maintaining by grace a "present tense" relationship of faith, enabled but not coerced by the Holy Spirit, so that forfeiting this saving grace and sustaining power is tragically possible. Yet God desires us to be saved more than we desire it, so we affirm that even those who fall from grace may be restored if they return to the Lord in true repentance and faith.
8. **WHO HAS ESTABLISHED FOR HIMSELF A PEOPLE IN THE WORLD** called the church, which is created by the Holy Spirit's presence in and among believers, each of whom has a duty to live in such a way to endeavor to bring all persons everywhere to

salvation. The church is visibly present among all traditions and denominations wherever one finds these things practiced: Proclamation of the true Apostolic faith and Gospel of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations, celebration faithfully and rightly of the Sacraments/Ordinances of Christ, manifestation of God's Kingdom by acts of compassion along with justice-seeking, and demonstration of the majesty of Jesus Christ to an unbelieving world by loving one another with pure and fervent hearts.

**9. WHO WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**, not willing that any should perish but that all should receive His grace and Eternal Life, nevertheless will not save us apart from our freely receiving His grace offered in Christ and freely exercising saving faith in the Son of God. Everlasting blessedness and joy is the gift awaiting all who die in Christ and unending sorrow resulting from sinful alienation from God is the destiny of those who die apart from Christ.

**10. WHO WILL COMPLETE REDEMPTION BY THE RETURN OF THE INCARNATE LORD**, renew all Creation, bring the Kingdom/Reign of God in all its fullness, gather the Church to himself, destroy all evil, judge the world, and rule perfectly over God's New Heaven and Earth in holy love and complete righteousness by His intimate union with His people in the New Jerusalem.

# 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. The seminary continues to be governed by a board of trustees composed of ministerial and lay leaders who represent the rich diversity of the seminary's constituency.

Dr. Eldon R. Fuhrman served as president from 1977 to 1985, Dr. Harold G. Spann from 1985 to 1995 and 1997 to 1998, Dr. Robert Lawrence from 1995 to 1997, Dr. Ron Smith from 1998 to 2010, and Dr. James L. Porter from 2010 to 2013. Under Dr. Spann's administration the seminary became debt free and relocated to the former premises of Broadmoor Baptist Church on Northside Drive in the heart of Jackson, Mississippi. Under Dr. Smith the seminary reached its largest on-campus enrollment and began an online program. In 2013 Dr. John E. Neihof, Jr., assumed the presidency of Wesley Biblical Seminary. His presidency has been characterized by four significant achievements. First, by selling the Northside Drive campus and leasing back the campus' east wing, the seminary has obtained a more efficient and economical base of operations well-suited for its present program. Second, the seminary launched the Shepherd Project through which online students around the world are receiving a first-class theological education. Third, WBS has successfully begun the John Case Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Pastoral Leadership for the benefit of seasoned pastors and leaders. And, finally, Wesley Biblical Seminary and Oklahoma Wesleyan University have established a new cooperative relationship. As the first phase of this relationship, WBS will begin offering the Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) on Oklahoma Wesleyan's Tulsa site in August, 2017. This program has been authorized by the Association of Theological Schools and approved by the State of Oklahoma.

Over the years Wesley Biblical Seminary has had the privilege of welcoming students from many denominations and backgrounds. Its first-class faculty is committed to the fundamentals of the Christian faith, including Spirit-empowered holy living, and to training for ministry that prepares people to witness for Christ in the world and disciple believers. Those interested in such preparation will find a warm welcome and congenial environment at Wesley Biblical Seminary.

## 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**

Wesley Biblical Seminary has established this ethos statement in order to promote spiritual growth and to foster a safe, wholesome, loving Christian on-campus and online environment for the benefit of all members in the seminary community. Thus the members of this community are expected to evidence commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord by walking in the Spirit so that they can grow in the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:16, 22-24) as evidenced by a life of honesty, purity, respect, and concern for the welfare of others. Members of the seminary community are also expected to abstain

from the “works of the flesh” (Gal 4:19-21), such as drunkenness, unruly behavior, gossip, evil-speaking, gluttony, illegal or harmful addictive substances, occult practices, pornography, commercialized sexual entertainment, and all sexual practices outside of the marriage relationship between a man and a woman. Personal attire, appearance, and conversation should exemplify godliness in the Christian community and the world.

The seminary faculty is committed to consensual Christianity, as expressed in the ecumenical creeds, and to the evangelical and Wesleyan emphases of our statement of faith. Students from various traditions that affirm Christianity’s creedal essentials will find a warm welcome and a place of academic freedom that encourages respectful, critical enquiry into both the issues that divide Christians and Christianity’s interaction with the non-Christian world. The diverse denominational, racial, and national nature of the seminary community provides a wholesome environment for theological inquiry, spiritual formation, and preparation for ministry in the present world.

### **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 at 737 E. Northside Drive, Suite B, about a quarter of a mile from I-55 in Jackson, the capital of Mississippi. The Jackson metropolitan area with a population of about 575,000 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.” Delta, United, and American airlines schedule service into the Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. The historic Natchez-Trace Parkway passes through the Jackson area providing a beautiful, relaxing drive as well as a trail for bike riding, jogging, and walking.

Higher educational experiences are available through several local institutions: Jackson State University, Belhaven University, Mississippi College, Mississippi College School of Law, Millsaps College, 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.

Central Mississippi provides a great variety of cultural opportunities. The metro area is the home of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, Mississippi Opera, the Russell Davis Planetarium, the Jackson Zoo, and the soon-to-be opened Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

and Museum of Mississippi History. 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 center is just two blocks west of I-55 at Exit 100 on Northside Drive in Jackson. This attractive, inviting facility contains offices, chapel, library, and technologically-equipped classrooms that efficiently serve the seminary's mission to provide high-quality online and on-campus theological education and preparation for ministry. The seminary is located near many restaurants, coffee shops, and other conveniences. A public library is next door and there are two bookstores within a mile. Excellent medical facilities are only ten minutes away. Students can conveniently access the campus from any part of the Jackson metropolitan area.

## **Library**

The mission of the library is to provide information resource service to the faculty and students as well as to support the academic curriculum by providing accessibility to resources for both in-house and online students. The printed collection of over 36,000 volumes is housed in the library. In addition to printed holdings, journal articles and e-books are available through online databases via the internet, interlibrary loans are available for both articles and books, and library holdings of area libraries are accessible by which the serious student may obtain 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 study desks and Wi-Fi access for the patron seeking a quiet study location. The library catalog and full-text databases are accessible to students via the library portal from the seminary's website.

Check the library portal from the seminary website 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. 108).

## **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**

Small discipleship groups offer students the opportunity for supporting fellowship, Bible study, corporate prayer, personal accountability, and encouragement in holy living and Christian service. Students in these groups interact with faculty mentors and with each other on a regular basis either face-to-face or online. Become part of a discipleship group in order to make the most of your Wesley Biblical Seminary experience.

## **Accreditation**

Wesley Biblical Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools and has been approved to offer the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

The Commission has also approved WBS's Comprehensive Distance Education (online) Program and has authorized the seminary to offer the complete Master of Divinity degree at the Tulsa site of Oklahoma Wesleyan University.

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 Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation. The Tulsa site has been approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

The seminary has approval from the State Approving Agency for qualifying veterans to receive educational funds 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 members 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 Research, which enable them to stay current and to keep abreast of developments in theological education.

## **Affiliations and Partnerships**

**Denominational Relationships.** A number of denominations have officially endorsed 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 within the student body. This diversity enables the seminary to effectively prepare students for service under episcopal, elder-led, or congregational church polity. It also provides for training in both liturgical and free worship.

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

**Cooperation with Oklahoma Wesleyan University.** Wesley Biblical Seminary and Oklahoma Wesleyan University have established a missional and operational relationship in order to expand the theological impact of both schools for the sake of the witness of the Church around the world. WBS and OKWU are both committed to historic Christianity, to the full sufficiency of Scripture, to a life of Spirit-filled holy living, to the proclamation of the Gospel, and to engagement with the moral issues of our time. As the first step of this operational relationship, WBS will begin offering the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree on the Tulsa site of Oklahoma Wesleyan University in August, 2017. Students will progress through this program by taking two courses each term as part of a cohort. Each course will include an on-campus intensive in Tulsa with real-time online class time via the Zoom conferencing program. Contact the office of admissions for more information.

**Partnership with The Liliastrotter Center.** Wesley Biblical Seminary began partnering with the Liliastrotter Center (LTC) by engaging their well-qualified staff to teach a course in Islamic Foundations during the spring 2016 term. 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 about LTC 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 2016-2017 academic year. This plan effectively provides for both direct and indirect measurement of student achievement based primarily on graduate exit interviews and on artifacts submitted by the student and evaluated according to established rubrics. 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**

Students may access WBS' online platform, Populi, as well as their student Gmail accounts through the WBS website "Students" tab. In addition to being the online class platform, students also use Populi for class registration, paying bills, and accessing unofficial transcripts. Students will be given a Populi username, along with a link to set a password, when they are accepted as students. They will be given a WBS Gmail account upon enrollment in classes.

## **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*

**Chris Lohrstorfer**  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
*Assistant Professor of Wesley Studies*

## Administrative Staff

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

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

**Peggy Price**  
*Business Office Director*

**Grace Andrews**  
*Director of Library Services*

**Leah Geyer**  
*Student Development Director*

**Jeff Bakos**  
*Admissions Director*

**Joshua Friedeman**  
*Development Director*

## **Board of Trustees**

**Timothy Barber**  
Businessman  
Houston, Texas

**Regina Boyles**  
Business Woman  
Jackson, Mississippi

**Susan Brabec**  
Business Woman  
Jackson, Mississippi

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

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Dallas, Georgia

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

**Scott King, Secretary**  
Businessman  
Southaven, Mississippi

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

**Tommy McKnight, Treasurer**  
Businessman  
Kosciusko, Mississippi

**Melvin L. Pace**  
Attorney  
Jackson, Mississippi

**James Renfroe**  
Attorney  
Madison, Mississippi

**Morgan Roberts**  
Educator  
Brandon, Mississippi

**Casey M. (“Buddy”) Smith, Jr.**  
Businessman  
Plantersville, Mississippi

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

**Sonny Steel**  
Businessman  
Jackson, Mississippi

## The Faculty

### Dr. G. Stephen Blakemore



#### *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. WBS faculty since 2015.

**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. Chris Lohrstorfer**



***Vice President for Academic Affairs***

***Assistant Professor of Wesley Studies***

Ph.D., University of Manchester, UK

M.A., Wesley Biblical Seminary

B.A., Wesley College

Chris Lohrstorfer is from Elizabeth, Indiana, where he met and married his childhood sweetheart. He now resides in Raymond, Mississippi where he and His wife Mary are the parents of two teenagers, Diana and Nicolas. Chris has served as Senior Pastor at Hinds Independent Methodist Church in Raymond since 1997 and has been actively involved in higher education for 25 years both in teaching and as an administrator. Dr. Lohrstorfer is currently finishing his third book with Teleios Press entitled, *Learning to Breathe: Mastering the Art of Spiritual Respiration*. WBS VP for Academic Affairs since 2017.

**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. WBS President since 2013.

## Dr. David Schreiner



### ***Assistant Professor of Old Testament***

Ph.D., Asbury Theological Seminary

M.A., Asbury Theological Seminary

B.S., Indiana Wesleyan University

David Schreiner began teaching at WBS as an adjunct in 2011 before assuming his present role in 2017. His expertise is in the Old Testament's historical literature and Iron Age culture. His publications are varied, including topics on biblical archaeology, the Bible's history of interpretation, biblical exegesis, and lay publications. He is a regular reviewer for numerous peer-reviewed journals in the field and is an active member in the Society of Biblical Literature and the Institute for Biblical Research. He is currently working on two major projects: *Pondering the Spade* (Wipf and Stock) and *1 and 2 Kings: An Integrative Commentary* (Kregel). In addition, he is a member of the Free Methodist Church and is active in his local church. WBS faculty since 2017.

## 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, as evidenced by his doctoral dissertation, *Made in Each Other: Eriugena on Trinity, Phenomenology, and the Human Person* (Pickwick, forthcoming). 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. Carey is passionate about communicating the historic Christian faith and its implications for holy living. He is also an accomplished musician and worship leader. WBS faculty since 2013.

## Faculty Emeriti

### **Gareth Lee Cockerill**

B.A., M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D.

*Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Biblical Theology*

1979-1981, 1984-2017

### **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*

1985-1995, 1997-1998

### **Paul Tashiro**

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

*Professor Emeritus of Old Testament*

1991-2006

## Adjunct Faculty

### **Weldon Greer**

Ph.D. (ABD) Mid-America Baptist Seminary  
Eclectic, Alabama

### **Benjamin Hegeman**

Ph.D., University of Utrecht, the Netherlands  
Houghton, New York

### **Don Little**

D.Min., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Houghton, New York

### **Matthew O'Reilly**

Ph.D., University of Gloucestershire  
Montgomery, Alabama,

### **Gail Schlosser**

D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary  
Buffalo, New York

### **William Sillings**

D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary  
Bethany, Oklahoma

## D.Min. Adjunct Faculty

### **Christopher Bounds**

*Professor of Theology at Indiana Wesleyan  
University*

Ph.D., Drew University  
Marion, Indiana

### **Harold A. Netland**

*Professor of Philosophy of Religion and  
Intercultural Studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity  
School*

Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University  
Deerfield, Illinois

### **Jason E. Vickers**

*Professor of Theology at Asbury Theological  
Seminary*

Ph.D., Southern Methodist University  
Memphis, Tennessee

# Admissions

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## **Pre-Seminary Education**

In general, pre-seminary studies should include courses in the humanities, liberal arts, and social sciences that provide cultural and intellectual foundations essential for theological inquiry. Thus students will benefit from taking undergraduate courses in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, modern foreign languages, literature and composition, ancient and modern history, philosophy, psychology, speech, 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 a 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 or volunteer ministry.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Completing the necessary application procedures.
7. Obtaining satisfactory recommendations from selected references.

## **Admission to the M.Div./M.A. for Low GPA Applicants**

Prospective M.Div./M.A. students with an undergraduate GPA of 2.00 to 2.49 may be considered for initial admission as special students by obtaining a test score greater than the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Miller Analogies Test. After passing four classes with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above, they may be accepted as degree-seeking students. Such students should complete the full M.Div./M.A. degree application before matriculation even though they begin as special students.

## **Admission to the M.Div./M.A. for Students with Unaccredited Bachelor's Degrees**

Students with bachelor's degrees from schools without regional or ABHE accreditation will be evaluated on a case by case basis and may be required to demonstrate graduate-level competency by obtaining a test score greater than the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Miller Analogies Test and/or by obtaining at least a "B" in courses taken as special students before acceptance as degree-seeking students. Such students should complete the full M.Div./M.A. degree-student application before matriculation even though they begin as special students.

## **Admission to the M.Div./M.A. for Students without Bachelor's Degrees**

Older students without bachelor's degrees who have the equivalent of significant undergraduate work may contact the Office of Admissions to explore options for study at Wesley. Such students will be evaluated on a case by case basis and may be required to demonstrate graduate-level competency by obtaining a score greater than the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Miller Analogies Test and/or by obtaining at least a "B" in courses taken as special students before acceptance as degree-seeking students. Such students should complete the full M.Div./M.A. degree-student application before matriculation even though they begin as special students.

## **Admission Procedures**

Applications for M.Div./M.A. or certificate enrollment in the fall term are due August 1, and for the spring, December 1. D.Min. applications are due March 1. Complete your application online at [www.wbs.edu](http://www.wbs.edu). The required components for application include:

1. A completed application form. A non-refundable application fee of \$40.00 must accompany the application. Pay online through our secure web site.
2. Final official transcripts. Transcripts are required of all previous undergraduate or graduate work. 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. See instructions on application form.
4. A 500 word statement must accompany the application and address the topics identified on the application form. 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.

## **Transferring Credits**

M.Div. and M.A. students may petition for the transfer of equivalent courses from other accredited seminaries or appropriate masters programs by submitting a written request to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who will determine the suitability of the courses in question. A catalog description of these courses should accompany this request. In order to transfer courses students must be in good standing with their previous institution and the courses must fit the requirements of the WBS degree. D.Min. students normally 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 "B." The total hours for which credit or partial credit is allowed will be shown on the student's transcript.

Up to twenty-five (25) hours may be transferred into the M.A. programs and fifty (50) hours into the M.Div. program. However, 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.

Grade point averages (GPA) for graduation will be based only upon work done at Wesley Biblical Seminary. Students who transfer more than one-third of their courses from other institutions will not be eligible for academic distinction at graduation.

## **International Student Application**

International students seeking admission to Wesley Biblical Seminary need to provide additional information in the application process. The seminary primarily accepts international students to study online but will also consider applications for study in the United States.

### ***International Students Studying Online***

1. Student's applying to be part of the Shepherd Project should complete the Shepherd Project application instead of the regular application.
2. The student should provide an official copy of a TOEFL (*Test of English as a Foreign Language*) or IELTS (*International English Language Testing System*) score that indicates the student's ability to work at a graduate level with the English language. A total TOEFL score of 80 or an IELTS score of 6.5 is acceptable. A student should go to the TOEFL or IELTS website for further information.
3. An endorsement from the student's sending church or Christian organization indicating plans for ministry after graduation from Wesley.

### ***International Students Studying in the United States***

1. The student must first complete an application (see Admission Procedures) to begin the process to study at Wesley.
2. The student should apply and acquire a passport from his or her country's government.
3. The student should provide an official copy of a TOEFL (*Test of English as a Foreign Language*) or IELTS (*International English Language Testing System*) score that indicates the student's ability to work at a graduate level with the English language. A total TOEFL score of 80 or an IELTS score of 6.5 is acceptable. A student should go to the TOEFL or IELTS website for further information.
4. Once the student receives acceptance to study at Wesley Biblical Seminary, the student 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 Academic Dean or the Registrar will send a Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status."

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.

5. Once students have their I-20, they will then need to pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee. This fee can be paid at [FMJFee.com](http://FMJFee.com). For more information, view the Form I-901 Fee Payment tutorial online.
6. The student should then apply for a nonimmigrant visa to travel to the United States at a designated U.S. embassy or consulate. Make sure to bring all required documents.
7. 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.
8. 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 term.
3. Range in age from the mid-twenties to the mid-sixties with an average of about 37 years.
4. Come from a diverse racial background with over forty percent being African American or international students.

### ***Denominational Background***

Denominations often represented in the student body include: Africa Gospel Church, Anglican Church, Baptist, 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, 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 term since 1998 include: Alabama State University, Alcorn State University, Asbury University, 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 provides an excellent and affordable theological education. Thus tuition and fees cover only a small percentage of the total cost of a WBS degree. The seminary must raise the remainder through private contributions and auxiliary enterprises. 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
450.00	Tuition per M.Div./M.A. term hour
500.00	Tuition per D.Min. term hour
75.00	Independent study fee ( <i>per course in addition to tuition</i> )
150.00	Audit fee per course
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 term for on-campus students
150.00	Technology fee per term ( <i>4 hrs or more</i> )
75.00	Online 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 beginning the ninth term after matriculation)
400.00	Master's Thesis Continuation Fee ( <i>per term</i> )

Note: Master's Thesis Continuation Fee applies for each term beginning with the third term after 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 term 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.

Comprehensive financial reflection is vital for prospective seminary students. The amount needed per year varies greatly from person to person. 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 records show that dedicated students who are willing to work hard and to trust the promises of God have found adequate resources to finance seminary study.

## **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 term. 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 Financial Aid Office will endeavor to certify loans on or before the due date, which is seven (7) days before the first day of class each term.

***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 term. 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 – ½ 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 term in which the charges were incurred will begin to accumulate interest at the rate of 1.5% per month.

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.

### ***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 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.

Students should check with the office of admissions for D.Min. scholarships.

### **Refund Policy**

Refunds for dropped M.Div./M.A. courses are only available in the first two weeks of each term. No tuition refunds for M.Div./M.A. courses will be made after 5:00 PM on the second Friday of the term.

D.Min. students may drop 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 drop before the first intensive of their program. If they withdraw from the program 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 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: Scholarships and Loans**

### ***WBS Academic and Endowed Scholarships for MDiv/MA Students***

Various scholarships have been established at the seminary as a means of supporting theological education as well as honoring the life and contribution of worthy persons. The funds below make up the scholarship endowment. Proceeds from these funds provide the source for all student scholarship awards. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, denominational affiliation, type of calling, undergraduate institution, and/or need in accordance with donor specifications.

Application for scholarships is made through the seminary website (for fall term, by August 1; for spring, by December 1). Personnel in the Financial Aid Office will gladly assist in understanding the various sources of funds available.

***WBS Academic Scholarships:*** These scholarships are available for degree students with **3.25** GPA or higher who are enrolled for at least 4 credit hours and can be stacked with other scholarships. The amount of the scholarship is in accord with the student's GPA.

***WBS Endowed Scholarships:*** Students with at least a **3.00 GPA** who are enrolled for at least 4 credit hours may apply for scholarships based on need, denomination, type of calling, and/or undergraduate institution attended. For both academic and other endowed scholarships the required GPA is based on the entering student's most recent degree and the continuing student's WBS transcript.

- A. Based on *Need*. (FAFSA required)
- Adams Scholarship
  - Crawley-Heuck Scholarship
  - Eldrice H. and Gertie Mae Allen Green Memorial Scholarship
  - Rev. J.T. and Emma Lee Hill Scholarship
  - J.H. Kent Memorial Scholarship
  - McCollum/Stone Scholarship
  - Dorothy W. Rose Scholarship
  - Roy R. and Margie K. Rose Scholarship
  - James J. Ryan Scholarship
  - Howard G. and Jean M. Simpson Scholarship
  - Lottie V. Smith Memorial Scholarship
  - William Aaron Toler Scholarship
  - Christ Independent Methodist Scholarship
  - Rev. Clifford and Sue Mayo Scholarship
- B. Based on *Denomination/University or College* (Membership Proof Required: Letter from Church Official or Transcript on file; Must have a **3.00 GPA** or higher)
- Kenneth and Mabel Kendall Scholarship: Evangelical Church
  - Methodist Protestant Scholarship: Methodist Protestant Church
  - Dr. Charles Ratcliff, Jr. Memorial Scholarship: Graduates of Ohio Christian University
  - Read Scholarship: Free Methodist Church or Wesleyan Church
  - Ralph and Claribel Thompson Scholarship: Free Methodist Church
  - John and Martha Wright Scholarship: Independent Methodist Church
  - Drs. Charles and Lois Ryan Scholarship: United Methodist Church
- C. Based on *Calling* (Must have a **3.00 GPA** or higher)
- Carolyn M. Cook Memorial Scholarship: Evangelism
  - Gladys and Mitchell Flache Memorial Scholarship: Pastoral or Missions
  - Mrs. Charles K. Gentry Scholarship: Pastoral
  - Frances O. Gentry Scholarship: Pastoral
  - Elbert Brian Hamlin Scholarship: Pastoral and/or Ministry
  - David, Mary, Jean Lindsey Scholarship: Pastoral or Missions
  - Dr. Mark Elliott Lovett Memorial Scholarship: Ministry
  - Seven Oaks Camp Scholarship: Ministry
  - Paul M. Stewart Memorial Scholarship: Ministry
  - Paul and Eiko Tashiro Scholarship: Ministry (Japan, China, or South Korea)
  - Rev. William L. and Ruth B. Peed Scholarship: Pastoral or Missions (Married students only)

### ***Shepherd Project International Scholarship***

In 2013 Wesley Biblical Seminary launched the “Shepherd Project” program (formerly “Mission Possible”) 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 online. 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 online students who remain in their countries of service. Students applying for this scholarship should use the Shepherd Project application when they apply for entrance to WBS. For more information see [website](#) or contact admissions at [admissions@wbs.edu](mailto:admissions@wbs.edu).

### ***Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans***

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. Students on academic probation (below a 2.5 GPA) are not eligible for these loans.

### ***Educational Benefits for Veterans and Military Members***

***Veterans’ Educational Benefits:*** Veterans’ 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.

***Active-Duty Military Members receiving Tuition Assistance:*** Active duty military personnel may apply for tuition assistants by contacting their regional Department of Defense Counselor. If an active-duty military student withdraws from all courses on or before the 60% point in a term, calculated using calendar days, the seminary is required to return a portion of that student’s tuition assistance funds to the government, according to the chart below (Change 3, DoDI 1322.25 (July 07, 2014)). The student will then be responsible to pay the seminary the balance of any tuition owed for that term, unless withdrawal was due to military deployment.

This chart is based on the 15 week Fall/Spring terms and the 12 week Summer term:

**15 Week Term:** Before and during weeks 1 & 2: 100%; Weeks 3-4: 75%; Weeks 5-7: 50%;  
Weeks 8 & 9: 40%; Weeks 10-15: NO Return.

**12 Week Term:** Before and during weeks 1 & 2: 100%; Weeks 3-4: 75%; Weeks 5 & 6: 40%;  
Weeks 7-12: NO Return.

### ***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 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 metropolitan area. The Student Development Office keeps a file of available employment opportunities. Due to immigration requirements, resident international students will be given preference for on-campus employment.

# Academic Information

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## Course Scheduling

### **Terms**

The academic year for online and Jackson campus M.Div. and M.A. students consists of a fifteen-week fall term, a fifteen-week spring term, and a twelve-week summer term. M.Div. students at the Tulsa Site of Oklahoma Wesleyan University do not get a break for the October intensive or a spring break. Therefore their fall and spring terms are sixteen weeks despite the fact that all M.Div./M.A. terms begin and end at the same time. All students enjoy a one-week Thanksgiving holiday in the fall. Christmas break comes between the fall and spring terms.

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.

### **Jackson Campus Course Format:**

- Ø M.Div./M.A. courses on the Jackson campus are normally scheduled in a block format with classes meeting for two or three hours on one specified day of each week during the fall and spring terms. *Students who live more than fifty miles from Jackson may join these classes in real time via the Zoom conferencing program.*
- Ø In the first full week of October, in January, and in the summer, Jackson campus M.Div./M.A. courses are offered in one-week intensives in order to give online students the opportunity of studying on campus.
- Ø The seminary also usually offers one on-campus masters class in a three or four weekend format each fall and spring term.

### **Online M.Div./M.A. Course Format:**

Asynchronous online courses extend across the fifteen weeks of the fall and spring terms and the twelve weeks of the summer term. *Note: students who live more than fifty miles from Jackson can join fall and spring weekday campus courses in real time via Zoom.* Greek and Hebrew are also taught via the Zoom conferencing program.

## Academic Standards and Course Load

In order to provide a reputable education for its students, Wesley Biblical Seminary has maintained high academic standards. WBS alumni have distinguished themselves by

receiving Ph.D. degrees from many reputable universities and seminaries including Johns Hopkins University, Marquette University, Baylor University, University of Manchester (England), Concordia Seminary, Calvin Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In order to meet WBS academic standards, students should plan their schedules so that they can study six to nine hours a week outside of class for on-campus courses and nine to twelve hours a week for online courses. Timely submission of assignments is essential. It is also important to consider the demands of employment and family responsibilities when determining how many hours to take in a given term. 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 a student must complete at least twenty-six hours per year. In order to complete the M.A. in two years, a student must complete twenty-five hours per academic year. When you finish your course at WBS, you can be proud of your achievement!

### **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 auditing students will not be required to take examinations or do term work, they should plan on regular attendance. Notation of "Audit" is made on the transcript regarding audited courses. However, the audited courses cannot apply toward degree requirements.

### **Advanced Standing and Academic Waiver**

The seminary may 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 Students taking Master-level Courses

### **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. With our present block scheduling, one class session is equivalent to one week's course work. Failure to meet the attendance requirements of a course will affect the student's final grade.

Absences for sickness of you or your immediate family, the funeral of a close relative, or (if you are a pastor) the funeral of a parishioner, will be excused. Absences for scheduled pastoral, Christian service, or church activities will not normally be 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 literature, media and cultural studies. It also features in-text citations.

## **Plagiarism**

"Plagiarism" is copying the work of others without marking the material as a quotation and giving the source from which the material was taken. (Use one of the writing styles given above to indicate the quotation's source.) Presenting the material of another as one's own is both falsehood and theft and thus a breach of both the eighth and ninth of the Ten Commandments. Students will fail any assignment in which plagiarism is present. Repeated plagiarism will lead to failure of the course involved. Plagiarism in more than one course will result in dismissal from seminary. This subject is covered in more detail both in the *WBS Student Handbook* and in new student orientation.

## **Dropping and Withdrawing from Courses**

### ***Course Drop (weeks 1-2 of the M.Div./M.A. term)***

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 term. D.Min. courses can be dropped before the first on-campus intensive. Students wishing to drop an M.Div./M.A. course should contact the Registrar with a drop request **before** 5:00 PM Central Time on the Friday of the second week of the term. D.Min. students should contact the Registrar **before** 5:00 PM on the Friday of the last week before the first D.Min. intensive. Since D.Min. courses are taken in pairs, the student who drops one course will normally drop the other.

### ***Withdrawal from Courses (weeks 3-13 of the M.Div./M.A. term)***

Withdrawal is to remove a student from a course or courses after the drop/add period. The withdrawal period for all classes ends at 5:00 pm on the Friday before the last two weeks of the term

### ***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 term 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 or 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 term.

### **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 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 a fifteen-week term. 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 graduate-level work.

**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 term. 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 term 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.

**R**—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 in 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 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 a student has retaken a course for which an "F" was received, the original course will be marked with an "R" indicating "retaken."

### **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, Academic Probation, and Financial Aid**

### ***Enrollment Status***

One M.Div./M.A. term 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 term hours. Student must receive permission from the Dean to take more than fifteen hours.

***Half-time Status.*** Four to seven term 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 terms, the Academic Dean will review the records of all M.Div./M.A. students. 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. Students are given eighteen term hours to bring their performance to the standard of good standing. Students on Academic Probation failing to reach this goal in eighteen term 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 Satisfactory Academic Progress (including a 2.5 GPA) to be eligible to apply for federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans. Institutional financial aid requires a higher GPA. Students must apply annually for both institutional and federal aid.

Special and audit students are not eligible for financial aid. Students on academic probation 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.

### **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 only one course for the first two terms.
3. If a B or higher is earned in this course for the first term, the student will then be allowed to enroll for one course in the next term. 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 terms, the student is then be permitted to enroll in one or two courses per term 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 Appendix III.

## Distance Education

Students around the globe can complete most of the requirements for the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master of Arts (M.A.) degrees through the Wesley Biblical Seminary asynchronous online program. The residency requirements for these two degrees differ.

## Residency Requirement

Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students must complete nine on-campus courses; Master of Arts (M.A.) students must complete two. International students pursuing the M.A. in Christian Studies are exempt from this residence requirement, but are encouraged to take courses via Zoom in real time when feasible. These on-campus courses can be completed in several formats:

### ***On-Campus Course Formats:***

- 1) **Weekday Courses/Zoom Courses.** Courses that meet once-a-week on the Jackson campus for fifteen weeks during the fall and spring terms. These courses are available via the Zoom conferencing program to students who live more than 50 miles from Jackson. M.Div. students may not count more than three classes taken via Zoom toward residency requirements.
- 2) **Weekend Courses.** Courses that meet on three or four weekends (Friday evenings 6:30 to 9:20 pm and Saturdays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm) during the fall and spring terms.
- 3) **One-week Intensive Courses.** On-campus courses that meet for one week, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. One-week intensive courses are offered the first full week of October, the second or third week of January, and throughout the summer term.

***Fall All-Seminary Retreat.*** An M.Div. student may reduce the number of courses that must be taken on-campus from nine to six, and an M.A. student from two to one, by participating in the fall all-seminary retreats. Each retreat reduces the number of courses that must be taken on campus by one, for a maximum of three for M.Div. students and one for M.A. students. The fall all-seminary retreat is the weekend following the October one-week intensive.

Ø Note, attendance at the fall all-seminary retreat allows students to take more courses online and less on campus; it does **not** reduce the number of courses that must be taken for any degree.

***A Suggested Way of Fulfilling the Residency Requirement for Each Degree:***

- **Master of Divinity:**
  1. Take three one-week module courses offered in October.
  2. Come to the three all-seminary weekend retreats that follow these October module courses.
  3. Take three courses by Zoom.
- **Master of Arts:** Take a one-week module course in October and stay for the all-seminary retreat that follows that course.

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 – Biblical Languages

(Greek and Hebrew courses must be taken in real time via Zoom.)

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 most of the Master of Divinity Research and Master of Arts in Biblical Literature online, though some specialized courses necessary for these degrees may be offered only on campus. See the course requirements for these degrees later in this catalog.

# 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 currently serving 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 prepares the student 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) Christian studies, or (4) theology. 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 provide basic theological education for Christian workers and missionaries who have not had the benefit of a seminary education. 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 Populi 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 78-85 term hours of study, can be taken in one of four programs: Ministry (78hrs), Ministry with biblical languages emphasis (84hrs), 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 online. The Greek and Hebrew tracks are available in real time online via Zoom. Online students see **Distance Education** on page 45 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	Interpreting 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	Greek Exegesis in the Epistles		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

#### Ministry Studies (20hrs)

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 term)		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 online. Greek and Hebrew are available in real time online via Zoom. Online students see **Distance Education** on page 45 for residency requirements.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (26hrs)

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	Interpreting 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	Greek Exegesis in the Epistles	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

#### Ministry Studies (20hrs)

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 term, two terms)	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 adult educational 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 online via Zoom. Online students see **Distance Education** on page 45 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	Interpreting 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	Greek Exegesis in the Epistles		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 (3hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation		3
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#### 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:** While a student can complete most of the courses for this research degree online, some specialized courses may be available only on campus. The need for close cooperation with the student's advisor makes some on-campus time preferable. Greek and Hebrew are available only online via Zoom.

### 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	Interpreting 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	Greek Exegesis in the Epistles	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 (3hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
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#### Ministry Studies (6hrs)

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

#### Research Concentration (36hrs)

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 .Online students see **Distance Education** on page 45.

### Program Courses:

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

BT 500	The Bible's Authority & Interpretation	2
NT 512	NT History and Interpretation	3
NT 531	Interpreting 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 hrs)

AP500	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
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#### 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 online. Greek and Hebrew are available in real time online via Zoom. Online students see **Distance Education** on page 45 for residency requirements.

### Program Courses:

#### Biblical Studies (29hrs)

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 (6hrs)

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

#### Philosophical Studies (3hrs)

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

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
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#### Ministry Studies (4hrs)

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

**General Electives (5hrs)**– 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. Online students see **Distance Education** on page 45 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	Interpreting 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
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#### Ministry Studies (4hrs)

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

#### General Electives (8hrs)

## Master of Arts— Theology (50 hrs)

**Availability:** This degree program is available on campus and online. Online students must take Greek in real time via Zoom. Online students see **Distance Education** on page 45 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	Interpreting 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
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#### Ministry Studies (4hrs)

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

#### General Electives (5hrs)

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 or for other busy church workers. There is good historical precedence 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 Traditions 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 online interaction as appropriate.

## **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:

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1. Biblical Studies	68
a. Old Testament	68
b. New Testament	72
2. Theological Studies	75
a. Biblical Theology	75
b. Historical Theology	76
c. Systematic Theology	77
3. Philosophy Studies	79
a. Philosophy	79
b. Apologetics	80
4. Spiritual Formation Studies	82
5. Ministry Studies	84
a. Pastoral Ministry	84
b. Evangelism	87
c. Missiology	87
d. Teaching	89
e. Research and Orientation	89

# **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.

The Bible's Authority and Interpretation helps students think through issues of interpretation. Inductive Bible study courses thoroughly ground students in Bible study method. Language courses equip students 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 also 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. 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 620 or 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: OT 620 or 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: OT 620 or 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. Prerequisites: 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. Prerequisites: OT 620 or NT 531, OT 651 (OT 516 recommended but not required). 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. Prerequisites: OT 620 or NT 531, OT 651 (OT 516 recommended but not required). 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. Prerequisites: OT 620 or NT 531, OT 651 (OT 516 recommended but not required). 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. Prerequisites: OT 620 or NT 531, OT 651 (OT 516 recommended but not required). 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 Interpreting 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 a 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 elected 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 Interpreting 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 or OT 620. 3 hours

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

Applies the methodology learned in NT 531 to the Acts of the Apostles. Prerequisite: NT 531 or OT 620. 3 hours

### **NT 622 Interpreting 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 or OT 620.3 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. Prerequisites: NT 501, NT 502 or equivalent. 3 hours

### **NT 642 Greek Exegesis in the Epistles**

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. Prerequisites: 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 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 church 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 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 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 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 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

**ST 710 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

**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 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 ST 710 3 hours

### **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 the Fall Retreat)**

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 may be 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 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.

**RT 500, 600, 700. Fall All-Seminary Retreat.** An M.Div. student may reduce the number of courses that must be taken on-campus from nine to six, and an M.A. student from two to

one, by participating in the fall all-seminary retreats. Each retreat reduces the number of courses that must be taken on campus by one, for a maximum of three for M.Div. students and one for M.A. students. The fall all-seminary retreat is the weekend following the October one-week intensive. Note, attendance at the fall all-seminary retreat allows students to take more courses online and less on campus; it does *not* reduce the number of courses that must be taken for any degree. 0 hours. Contact the office of student services for the cost of this retreat.

## 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**

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 inductive interpretation and proper hermeneutical methods. 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: ST 604, ST 605, and OT 620 or NT 531. 3 hours

#### **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 throughout 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: ST 604, ST 605, and OT 620 or NT 531. 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: ST 604, ST 605, and OT 620 or NT 531. 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: ST 604, ST 605, and OT 620 or NT 531. 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. (1½hour each term, 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**

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 term immediately prior to graduation. 3 hours

### **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. 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. Taught in cooperation with the Lilius Trotter Center. 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 term 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***

### **TE500 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 in an online or classroom course in Bible, theology, or some aspect of Christian ministry under the supervision of a qualified professor. 3 hours

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

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

This five-day online course is offered before fall and spring terms 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 Populi, our online platform. The *WBS Student Handbook* will be a text. Required of all new online and on-campus

degree students. 0 hours

### **RS 500 Essential Seminary Skills**

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

### **RS510 Theological, Biblical, and Ministry Foundations.**

This course is designed to be a broad overview of the categories, terminology, thought processes, logical constructs, and interrelations that are central to the theological, spiritual, and professional life of "shepherd theologians" engaged in the ministry of the Gospel. Incoming students who do not have an undergraduate background that has exposed them to the academic disciplines of biblical studies, theological method, or pastoral ministry studies are encouraged (and in some instances required) to take this course during their first semester of study. The foundational understanding of the each disciplines' content (theology/philosophy, academic biblical studies, and professional ministry concepts), as well as early exposure to the process of research and writing that is central to the life of theological and biblical study, will be valuable throughout the student's course of study. 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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## **DM801 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

## **DM802 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

## **DM803 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

### **DM804 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

### **DM805 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

### **DM806 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

### **DM807 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

### **DM808 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 MRP 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 possess 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 DM810, 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: 2017-2018; 2018-2019

## Fall Term

Online Orientation for ALL New MDiv/MA Degree Students  
 Faculty Retreat  
 First Day of Fall Classes  
 MDiv/ MA Fifteen-Week Course Drop/Add Period Ends, 4:59PM  
 MDiv/MA Fifteen-Week Course Withdrawal Period Begins, 5:00PM  
 Labor Day Holiday  
 Fall All-Seminary Retreat  
 Fall One-Week Intensive Class  
 Regular Monday Classes  
 Reading Days for Students not taking the One-Week Intensive  
 Registration for Spring Semester  
 Thanksgiving Holiday  
 MDiv/MA Course Withdrawal Period Ends, 5:00PM  
 Final Examination Week  
 End of Fall Semester

## 2017-18

August 7-11  
 August 18-19  
 August 21  
 September 1  
 September 1  
 September 4  
 Sept. 29-Oct. 1  
 October 2-6  
 October 2  
 October 3-6  
 Oct. 30 –Nov. 10  
 November 20-24  
 December 1  
 December 11-15  
 December 15

## 2018-19

August 6-10  
 August 17-18  
 August 20  
 August 31  
 August 31  
 September 3  
 October 5-7  
 October 8-12  
 October 8  
 October 9-12  
 Oct. 29—Nov 9  
 November 19-23  
 November 30  
 December 10-14  
 December 14

## Spring Term

Online Orientation for All New MDiv/MA Degree Students  
 January One-Week Intensive Class  
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (Offices Closed)  
 First Day of Spring Classes  
 MDiv/MA Fifteen Week Course Drop/Add Period Ends, 4:59PM  
 MDiv/MA Fifteen Week Course Withdrawal Period Begins, 5:00PM  
 Spring Break  
 Registration for Summer and Fall Terms  
 MDiv/MA Course Withdrawal Period Ends, 5:00PM April 27  
 Final Examination Week  
 End of Spring Semester  
 Senior/Alumni Banquet  
 Commencement

January 8-12  
 January 15-19  
 January 15  
 January 22  
 February 9  
 February 9  
 March 12-16  
 April 2-13  
 April 26  
 May 7-11  
 May 11  
 May 11  
 May 12  
 January 7-11  
 January 14-18  
 January 21  
 January 21  
 February 8  
 February 8  
 March 11-15  
 April 1-12  
 May 6-10  
 May 10  
 May 10  
 May 11

## Summer Term

Online Orientation for ALL New MDiv/MA Degree Students  
 Summer Term Begins  
 MDiv/MA Online Course Drop/Add Period Ends, 4:59PM  
 MDiv/MA Online Course Withdrawal Period Begins, 5:00PM  
 Summer Term Ends

May 14-18  
 May 21  
 June 1  
 June 1  
 August 10  
 May 13-17  
 May 20  
 May 31  
 May 31  
 August 9

## D.Min. Academic Schedule

Beginning Fall-Winter DMin Term  
 Fall-Winter DMin Intensive  
 End of Fall-Winter DMin Term  
 DMin Application Deadline for April 1 Matriculation  
 Beginning Spring-Summer DMin Term  
 Spring-Summer DMin Intensive  
 End of Spring-Summer DMin Term

October 1  
 January 8-19  
 March 31  
 March 1  
 April 1  
 June 4-15  
 September 30  
 October 1  
 January 7-18  
 March 31  
 March 1  
 April 1  
 June 3-14  
 September 30

## **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: Student Grievance Policy**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the grievance policy is to provide an orderly process to address student complaints within the seminary community. If a student believes that his/her rights have been violated, that person should follow the prescribed procedure:

1. First, the student should attempt resolution with the person or persons involved in the dispute. Matthew 18:15 advises the believer to reconcile quarrels one-on-one if at all possible.
2. For academic grievances, if the student is not satisfied after speaking with the course instructor, he or she should consult with the Academic Dean. The complaint *must* be presented in writing.
3. For complaints and grievances between students, the student should speak with the Executive Vice President. The complaint *must* be presented in writing.
4. For disputes between a student and staff member, the student should speak with the immediate superior of the staff member, usually with the Vice President of the department. The complaint *must* be presented in writing.
5. If the student's grievance is with a department head, the student should present the grievance to the immediate superior of the administrator, usually the President. The complaint *must* be presented in writing.
6. No anonymous complaints will be addressed.

### **Institution's Response and Appeal**

Upon receiving a written grievance, the administrator should conduct an informal investigation into the facts of the complaint. The student should receive a reply within 30 days. The student may appeal the administrator's decision to the President and a panel whom the President shall select. This group will give the seminary's final decision, which may be appealed to the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation by going to <http://www.mississippi.edu/mcca> and completing the student complaint form accessible on the right side of this page.

# APPENDIX III: The Location of Wesley Biblical Seminary

