



# ACADEMIC CATALOG

## 2024–2025

Wesley Biblical Seminary

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The catalog of Wesley Biblical Seminary provides descriptions of educational policies and programs for the 2022-23 academic years. The seminary reserves the right to make changes in tuition charges, policies, and curricula as may be necessary.

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## OUR MISSION

Wesley Biblical Seminary exists to educate and train men and women who, in fulfillment of the Church's mission, will live and proclaim Trinitarian faith, promote the Spirit-filled life, and in full commitment of the absolute authority of the Bible, actively make disciples of Jesus Christ.

### 1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

#### *1.1 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, Dr. James L. Porter from 2010 to 2013, Dr. John E. Neihof, Jr. from 2013 to 2019, and Dr. Matt Ayars from 2020-2023. 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. Under Dr. Neihof the seminary launched the Shepherd Project, through which online students around the world are receiving a first-class theological education, established a cooperative relationship with Monte Maria Church in Mexico City, and relocated to County Line Road in Ridgeland, obtaining a more efficient and economical base of operations. Following Dr. Neihof's sudden death in March of 2019, Dr. John N. Oswalt was appointed Interim President and held the position until April 1, 2020. Dr. Matt Ayars served as president from 2020-2023. Under Dr. Ayars' leadership, the seminary's student body grew to historic numbers and became the first seminary to offer a course of study for the newly formed Global Methodist Church. After Dr. Ayars' tenure, Dr. Andy Miller III was elected as ninth president of Wesley Biblical Seminary on July 1, 2024.

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.

#### *1.2 Statement of Faith*

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.

### *1.3 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. 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.

### *1.4 Student 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.

### *1.5 Location*

Wesley Biblical Seminary is located at 1880 E. County Line Road in Ridgeland, Mississippi, within the metropolitan area of Mississippi's capital, Jackson. (For a map, see Appendix IV). The Jackson metropolitan area, with a population of about 580,000, 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, Ballet Magnificat, the Russell Davis Planetarium, the Jackson Zoo, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the 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.

### *1.6 Facilities*

The seminary's campus is located on E. County Line Road, a main thoroughfare in Ridgeland. 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. Students can conveniently access the campus from any part of the Jackson metropolitan area.

### *1.7 Library*

The mission of the library is to provide information resource services to the faculty and students as well as to support the academic curriculum by providing accessibility to resources for students on campus and online. The collection of over 17,000 print volumes is housed in the library. Additionally, 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 nearly unlimited research resources. The library participates in reciprocal borrowing programs through the Association of Christian Librarians and the American Theological Library Association, allowing students to borrow from libraries across North America.

The library is equipped with Wi-Fi access and a study area for students. 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. For more information on how to use library resources, contact the Library at 601-366-8880 (ext. 114).

### *1.8 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.

### *1.9 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.

### *1.10 Accreditation*

Wesley Biblical Seminary is accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, The Commission on Accrediting 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.

The Commission contact information is: The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, The Commission on Accrediting, 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110, USA. Telephone: 412-788-6505, Fax: 412-788-6510, Website: [www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)

Wesley Biblical Seminary is also accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation.

The Commission contact information is: The Association for Biblical Higher Education, 5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Ste. 130, Orlando, Florida 32822, USA. Telephone: 407-207-0808, website: [www.abhe.org](http://www.abhe.org)

The seminary is also accredited by the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation.

The seminary has approval from the Department of Defense and the State Approving Agency for qualifying military personnel (active duty and reserve) and veterans to receive educational funds from the DoD and Veterans Administration.

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.

## *1.11 Affiliations and Partnerships*

### **1.11.1 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.

### **1.11.2 The Lilius Trotter Center**

Wesley Biblical Seminary partners with the Lilius Trotter Center (LTC) by engaging their well-qualified staff to teach in a Graduate Certificate in Ministry to Muslims. Named after a veteran missionary to Algeria, the Lilius Trotter 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://liliustrottercenter.org/>.

### **1.11.3 National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)**

Wesley Biblical Seminary is a participating institution of NC-SARA, an organization that unites schools of higher learning which offer distance education programs. “The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement is a voluntary agreement among its member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state” (<https://www.nc-sara.org/about>).

## *1.12 Educational Effectiveness*

We fulfill this mission by offering transformational educational experiences in these ways:

1. Through campus on-site courses in which physically present students learn along with distance students connected to the live classroom by Zoom, our video conferencing platform.
2. Through asynchronous fully online courses which reach distance students in our nation and around the world.
3. Through hybrid courses which have designated Zoom face-to-face sessions combined with online asynchronous elements.

4. Through extension sites where students gather in a limited physical presence format with projects submitted online.

### *1.13 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 Institutional Assessment Plan is a comprehensive plan designed to coordinate assessments across all departments for the sake of the institution's overall effectiveness. The academic assessment plan effectively provides for both direct and indirect measurement of student achievement based on a variety of artifacts, and the faculty will evaluate these assessment results on an annual basis.

### *1.14 Program Goal Achievement*

In a 2022 exit interview, the following percentages of graduates rated the seminary as “above average” or “superior” in enabling them to fulfill the stated goals of the degree programs.

- Scripture: Exegete Scripture holistically in accordance with sound interpretive method and historic Christianity. 100% (avg. 4.53)
- Orthodoxy: Articulate the parameters and ongoing implications of historic Trinitarian faith. 90% (avg. 4.61)
- The Wesleyan Perspective: Explain the distinctive emphases of the Wesleyan perspective and their relationship to Scripture and Orthodoxy. 92% (avg. 4.33)
- The Transformed Life: 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. 100% (avg. 4.67)
- 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. 80% (avg. 4.40)
- Proclamation: Engage Church and culture through preaching, teaching, and personal witness. 100% (avg. 4.60)
- Leadership: Exercise leadership in accordance with Christian ethics and priorities. 100% (avg. 4.20)
- Spiritual Direction: Offer pastoral counsel and engage in the making of disciples. 60% (avg. 4.00)
- Apologetics: Demonstrate the ability for a contemporary articulation of the Christian faith in critical dialogue with non-Christians. (Only for MA Apologetics degree.) 100%

### *1.15 Positive Placement Rates*

Positive placement is the percentage of graduates that within one year of graduation either received a vocational placement, received a non-vocational placement, or went on for further study.

According to the 2021 Strategic Information Report published by the Association of Theological Schools, the following placement percentages were achieved:

- 100%- positive placements for M.Div.
- 100%- positive placements for D.Min.
- 82%- positive placements for all M.A.s
- 90%- overall placement rate for 2021

### *1.16 WBS Platforms*

Students may access WBS' online platform, Populi, as well as their student Microsoft accounts through the WBS website “Students” tab. In addition to being the online class platform, students also use Populi for class registration, paying bills, accessing unofficial transcripts, and requesting official 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 Microsoft account upon enrollment in classes.

### *1.17 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.

*1.18 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.

## 2.0 THE ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

### 2.1 *Administrative Officers*

#### Seminary President

Rev. Dr. Andy Miller III

### 2.2 *Administrative Staff*

#### Registrar and Director of Educational Technology

Rev. Jeff Bakos

#### Director of Financial Aid

Mr. Karl Luman

#### Director of Library Services

Ms. Grace Andrews

#### Director of Business Affairs

Ms. Peggy Price

#### Development Associate

Ms. Raven Spense

#### Director of Admissions

Ms. Brook Bruce

### 2.3 *The Faculty*

#### Stephen Blakemore, PhD, MDiv, BA | Professor of Christian Thought

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 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.

#### Matt T. Friedeman, PhD, MDiv, MA, BS | Professor of Evangelism and Discipleship

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 DaySpring Community Church in Clinton, Mississippi. He and his wife, Mary, have six children. WBS faculty since 1987.

#### Chris Lohrstorfer, PhD, MA, BA | Associate & Professor of Wesley Studies

Chris Lohrstorfer is an ordained elder in the Congregational Methodist Church. He has served as Senior Pastor at Hinds Independent Methodist Church in Raymond, Mississippi since 1997 and has been actively involved in higher education for 25 years both in teaching and as an administrator, including teaching adjunctly for WBS since 2011. Dr. Lohrstorfer’s latest book with Teleios Press is entitled, *Learning to Breathe: Mastering the Art of Spiritual Respiration*. Chris and his wife Mary have two children. WBS VP for Academic Affairs since 2017.

#### George Richard (“Rick”) Boyd, Jr., PhD, MDiv, BSME | Professor of Biblical Studies

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.

**Matt O'Reilly, PhD, MA, BA | Director of DMin Research and Adjunct Professor of New Testament and Pastoral Ministry**

Matt is the Lead Pastor of Hope Hull United Methodist Church near Montgomery, Alabama. He is the author of *Paul and the Resurrected Body: Social Identity and Ethical Practice* and *The Letters to the Thessalonians*. In 2019, he received the John Stott Award for Pastoral Engagement from The Carl F. H. Henry Center for Theological Understanding.

**Murray Vasser, PhD, MA, BS | Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies**

Murray Vasser began his formal education at Cedarville University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (2008). While working as a mechanical engineer at Northrop Grumman, Dr. Vasser responded to a call to pursue a vocation in ministry. He enrolled at Talbot School of Theology where he obtained a Master of Arts in New Testament Language and Literature (2012). From there, he moved to Asbury Theological Seminary where he completed a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies under leading NT scholars Dr. Ben Witherington III and Dr. Craig Keener (2021). His Ph.D. dissertation focused on slavery in the NT. Dr. Vasser is an active member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Evangelical Theological Society. Murray and his wife Ashlyn have three boys, Luke, Elliott, and Judah. They currently live in Madison, MS

## 2.4 *Emeriti*

**Gareth Lee Cockerill, BA, MDiv, ThM, PhD | Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Biblical Theology**

Dr. Cockerill taught at Wesley Biblical Seminary from 1984 until 2017 where he held the post of Academic Dean and Professor of Biblical Interpretation and Theology. He is also an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church. In the past he has served as a missionary in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

**John N. Oswalt, BA, BD, ThM, MA, PhD | Professor Emeritus of Old Testament**

Dr. Oswalt taught Old Testament at Wesley Biblical Seminary from 1999–2009. Dr. Oswalt currently serves as distinguished professor of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary. During his tenure Dr. Oswalt taught within a range of subjects including theology, Old Testament and ancient Semitic languages including Hebrew. He is the author of eleven scholarly books; foremost is the 2-volume commentary on the Book of Isaiah in the New International Commentary on the Old Testament series. *Exodus: The Way Out* (2013) is a recent work.

**Harold G. Spann, BA, MA, LLD | President Emeritus**

Dr. Spann served as President of Wesley Biblical Seminary from 1985-1995 and 1997-1998.

**Paul Tashiro, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD | Professor Emeritus of Old Testament**

After several years of adventure and Christian pilgrimage, God brought Dr. Tashiro to the United States. He preached and taught for 16 years in Kentucky before serving as an Old Testament and ancient languages professor at Wesley Biblical Seminary from 1991–2013. He has a wealth of publications and professional memberships to his name and generously donated his vast library to the seminary.

**Bill Ury, BA, MA, PhD | Professor Emeritus of Theological Studies**

Bill's love for Wesley Biblical Seminary began in 1989 when he fully committed himself to the purpose and people which have formed its essence. For twenty-three years he was blessed to be a part of an undying commitment to train passionate ministers of Holy Love who were grounded in the Word, formed by Wesleyan distinctives and spirituality, and empowered by the love of the Triune God. Theology and history were his areas of concentration, but it was the joy of watching graduates apply all that they had learned in actual disciple-making that motivated him. Bill, his wife Diane and his entire family continue to be blessed by the heartbeat of WBS. The beauty of holiness, as taught at WBS, forms the ministry to which Bill has been most recently called.

## 2.5 *Governing Body- Wesley Biblical Seminary Board of Trustees*

**John David Chandler**

Chairman of the Board  
Acworth, GA

**Robert Leslie Stevenson**

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Madison, MS

## 3.0 ADMISSIONS

### 3.1 *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.

Students entering the B.A. program at Wesley Biblical Seminary should obtain either a Highschool Diploma or a GED. Students that are involved in their local church and that have a desire to grow a deeper understanding of the Word of God will be well-prepared for the Bachelor's degree program.

### 3.2 *Admission Requirements*

Wesley Biblical Seminary is committed to admitting students who are well prepared for their academic program of choice. By upholding high admissions standards, WBS ensures a high probability of student success and ensures that the classroom environment is conducive to learning. Admissions requirements vary by program.

The admissions committee has the authority to take into account additional factors in a student's past in making a final admissions decision, provided the decision honors standards from any relevant accrediting bodies.

#### 3.2.1 Admissions Requirements for the Undergraduate Program

1. Possess a high school diploma or GED. (For students who are unable to obtain their high school diploma, an additional essay will be used to determine academic proficiency.)
2. Have a minimum of 2.0 GPA in high school or in prior undergraduate coursework completed, whichever is most recent.
3. Evidence a commitment to serve Jesus in life and ministry
4. Receive high recommendations from references, if requested
5. Complete required application process

#### 3.2.2 Admissions Requirements for Master's Programs

1. Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with at least a 2.5 GPA
2. Demonstrate spiritual and moral integrity
3. Show the ability to think and write at a graduate level
4. Evidence a commitment to serve Jesus in full-time or volunteer ministry
5. Receive high recommendations from references, if requested
6. Complete required application process

#### 3.2.3 Admissions Requirements for Doctor of Ministry Program

1. Possess an MDiv with at least 3.0 GPA or have completed a master's degree and have completed at least 50 masters-level credits in Bible, theology, or ministry with at least a 3.0 GPA.
  - a. If a student does not have an MDiv, he or she will be required to submit an additional essay that demonstrates a student's ability to understand his or her ministry calling, how to continue growing in faith, and how to effectively minister in a particular context.
2. For students who have English as a second language, a cumulative TOEFL score of 90 or higher, with no section scoring less than 20, must be obtained.
3. Have completed at least 3 years of full-time ministry or ministry as a senior pastor
4. Demonstrate the capacity to interpret and apply scripture or to integrate theology and praxis
5. Show the ability to think and write at a doctoral level
6. Receive high recommendation from a reference

7. Complete required application process

### 3.2.4 Admission to Master's Programs for Students without Bachelor's Degrees

Applicants who do not have a bachelor's degree will be evaluated based on the criteria listed below. The applicant's information will be reviewed by the admissions committee, which will weigh the criteria and make a determination about acceptance. If the student is approved by the committee, he or she will be accepted and allowed to pursue a degree. As long as the student has at least a 2.5 GPA and no academic or behavioral issues, he or she will be allowed to continue.

Transitional criteria

- In general, older than 35
- References indicate competency and ability to complete graduate-level work
- Ministry resume indicates experience that compensates for a lack of educational preparation
- Demonstration of spiritual and moral integrity
- Evidence of commitment to serve Jesus in full-time or volunteer ministry
- Completed required admissions process

### 3.2.5 Admission for Applicants with a Low GPA

Across the institution, if an applicant has a GPA below the admissions requirement, he or she will be asked to submit a brief (50-200 word) explanation for the low GPA and why he or she expects to be able to succeed academically within the desired program. The admissions committee will evaluate the applicant's explanation along with the other information and make a determination concerning admission. If the applicant is accepted, he or she will be able to receive financial aid upon meeting relevant institutional requirements for scholarships or governmental requirements for a loan.

## 3.3 Admission Procedures

Applications for undergraduate program, master's programs, and the DMin program are due at least two weeks before the semester begins. An application for any program can be completed on the seminary's website.

The required components for application include:

1. A completed application form.
2. Final official transcripts. Transcripts are required of all previous undergraduate or graduate work.
3. Three recommendations may be requested by the admissions office.
4. Applicants to the undergraduate or master's programs must include an essay on their spiritual journey with the application form.
5. D.Min. applicants must complete an exegetical paper or theological reflection paper.
6. When all required components have been received, the student's file goes before the Admissions Committee.
7. The Office of Admissions will send notice of the committee's action.

## 3.4 Credit Recognition and Transfer Policy

### 3.4.1 Transferring Courses into Undergraduate or Master's Programs

Students in undergraduate or master's programs may petition for the transfer of equivalent courses from other accredited colleges, universities, or seminaries by submitting a written request to the Registrar who, in consultation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, will determine the suitability of the courses in question. A catalog description of these courses may be requested by the registrar.

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.

Doctor of Ministry students normally take all of their courses at Wesley Biblical Seminary. Any exceptions must be approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Full credit is given for work satisfactorily completed in accredited schools, provided these courses apply to the student's program of study. No credit will be granted for previous courses with a grade of less than B. The total hours for which

credit is allowed will be shown on the student's transcript. Up to eighty-one (81) hours may be transferred into the undergraduate program. However, students transferring over 60 hours will be required to take 18 semester hours in the Bible/Theology core. Up to twelve (12) hours may be transferred into a certificate program. 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 at another accredited graduate institution may be applied toward a degree at WBS. Normally a student seeking a WBS degree must take the last twenty-five hours at WBS. Students completing a graduate certificate at WBS must complete at least twelve hours at WBS.

The required grade point average (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.

### **3.4.2 Advanced Standing**

Students in master's programs may petition for advanced standing for courses completed in an accredited undergraduate program by submitting a written request to the Registrar who, in consultation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, will determine the suitability of the courses in question. A catalog description of these courses may be requested by the registrar.

Students may apply advanced standing credits up to 18 hours into an M.Div. program or 9 hours into an M.A. program.

### **3.4.3 Advanced Placement and College-Level Examination Program for Undergraduate Students**

Students in the undergraduate program may get recognition for advanced placement (AP) or college-level examination program (CLEP) tests they have completed. Students may contact the Registrar for more information about relevant AP or CLEP tests and required scores.

## ***3.5 International Student Application***

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

### **3.5.1 International Students Participating in the Shepherd Project**

1. Students applying to be part of the Global Pastors Initiative (cf. 4.5.2) should complete the Shepherd Project application instead of the regular application. The Global Pastors Initiative application includes additional information and essay questions, since the program is a competitive scholarship.
2. An endorsement from the student's sending church or Christian organization indicating plans for ministry after graduation from Wesley.

### **3.5.2 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 WBS.
2. The student should apply and acquire a passport from his or her country's government.
3. Upon request for the Office of Admissions, the student may need to 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 the 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 Director of Financial Aid 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.

1. 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. For more information, view the Form I-901 Fee Payment tutorial online.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The seminary is not authorized to accept applicants who are not US citizens or permanent residents into the Doctor of Ministry degree for on-campus courses.

### 3.6 *Students at WBS*

#### 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. Take an average 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.

### 3.7 *Denominational Background*

Denominations often represented in the student body include:

Africa Gospel Church	Church of God (Anderson, Indiana)	Free Methodist Church
Anglican	Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)	Independent Methodist Church
Baptist	Church of God in Christ	Missionary Baptist Church
Bible Methodist Church	Church of the Nazarene	National Baptist Convention
Christian Methodist Episcopal	Congregational Methodist Church	Pentecostal Holiness (Trinitarian)
Church of Christ (Holiness), USA	Evangelical Church	United Methodist Church
Churches of Christ in Christian Union	Evangelical Methodist Church	The Wesleyan Church

### 3.8 *Undergraduate Background*

Colleges represented more than once in any given Fall term since 1998 include:

Alabama State University	Kingswood University	Purdue University
Alcorn State University	Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary	Seinan Gakuin University
Asbury University	Lee University	Southern Nazarene University
Belhaven University	Malone College	Taylor University
Delta State University	Mid-American Christian University	Toccoa Falls College
Emmaus University of Haiti	Mid-America Nazarene University	Tugaloo College
Excelsior College	Millsaps College	University of Kentucky
God's Bible College	Mississippi College	University of Memphis
Hobe Sound Bible College	Mississippi State University	University of Mississippi
Indiana University	Morehouse College	University of Southern Mississippi
Indiana Wesleyan University	Nazarene Bible College	Vennard College
Jackson State University	Ohio Christian University	Wesley College

Kentucky Mountain Bible  
College

Oklahoma Wesleyan University

William Carey College

## 4.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 4.1 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.

\$550	Tuition per M.Div./M.A. term hour
\$600	Tuition per D.Min. term hour
\$250	Tuition per B.A. term hour
\$300	Audit fee per course
\$25	Deferred payment fee for M.Div./M.A. per term
\$50	Deferred payment fee for D.Min. per year
\$40	Thesis fee
\$200	Graduation fee
\$200	Technology fee per term (4hrs or more)
\$10	Transcript fee
\$595	D.Min. Continuation (per term beginning the ninth term after matriculation)
\$545	Master's Thesis Continuation Fee (per term beginning the third term after the term in which the student has registered for the six hours of thesis credit. 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.

### 4.2 Policy for Payment of Student Accounts

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

##### 4.2.1.1 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.

##### 4.2.1.2 Loan agreement

Approved Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan for enough 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 quickly confirm eligibility for a loan when the FAFSA application is completed, and the student is accepted to the seminary.

##### 4.2.1.3 Deferred Payment Plan— Up to 3 payments (see below)

- 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.
- A \$25 deferment fee will be applied to the initial payment and paid at this time.
- A second payment – 1/2 of the balance due -will be due 30 days from the initial due date.

4. The 3rd and final payment will be due 60 days from the initial due date.
5. Any scheduled payment not paid by the date scheduled will incur a \$25 late fee.
6. There is no penalty for payment of the full balance before the time of the scheduled payments.
7. After 60 days from the initial due date any student with an outstanding balance may be removed from class until the balance owed is paid.
8. Any balance owed 180 days after the beginning of the term in which the charges were incurred will begin to accumulate interest at the rate of 1.5% per month.
9. 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.

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

##### **4.2.2.1 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.

##### **4.2.2.2 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.

##### **4.2.2.3 Loan agreement**

Approved Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan for a sufficient amount to cover the total tuition, books and fees. The Financial Aid Office will endeavor to quickly confirm eligibility for a loan when the FAFSA application is completed and the student is accepted to the seminary.

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.

#### **4.2.3 Payment Options for B.A. Students**

##### **4.2.3.1 Pay-by-semester**

Check, cash, or credit card payment received in the business office by the first day of the semester for the total cost of the term.

#### **4.4 Refund Policy**

Refunds for dropped B.A./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 intensive week.

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 on the Financial Student Aid website <https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/>.

#### **4.5 Financial Aid: Scholarships and Loans**

##### **4.5.1 WBS Financial Aid Scholarships for MDiv/MA Students**

The deadline for this application is the first day of classes for the Fall/Spring semesters. See Scholarship Policy for application details. Applicants awarded amounts may fluctuate based on the GPA/Hours taken each semester. Applicants must take a minimum of four (4) credits in any given semester to be eligible for scholarship aid.

Scholarship aid is disbursed after the add/drop period in the Spring and Fall semesters. Scholarship aid will not be credited to a student's account until a proper thank-you letter is on file with the seminary office and a copy has been sent to the donor/estate. These scholarships are awarded as funds are available and please note that the seminary reserves the right to vary the amounts if needed through the Scholarship Committee of WBS. Aid will be applied only for the Fall and Spring semesters. There is no Endowed-Academic Scholarship aid distributed for the J-Term and summer semester.

The scholarship forms provided on the website are intended for degree-seeking students only. Non-Degree students (special students, auditors) are not eligible for federal or institutional financial aid. Shepherd Project students are not eligible for these scholarships and should not complete the scholarship form. For further information about available scholarships and policies, please go to our website ([wbs.edu](http://wbs.edu): Students - Scholarship Applications) or contact the director of financial aid.

#### 4.5.2 Global Pastors Initiative Scholarship

In 2013 Wesley Biblical Seminary launched the "Global Pastors Initiative" 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 Global Pastors Initiative application when they apply for entrance to WBS. For more information see website or contact admissions at [admissions@wbs.edu](mailto:admissions@wbs.edu).

#### 4.5.3 Mississippi Methodist Case Scholarship for Doctor of Ministry Students

1. The Case Scholarship will be awarded to up to five (5) Mississippi United Methodist ordained clergy annually.
2. The Case Scholarship covers tuition costs over a three-year period.
3. A student must be accepted into the John Case Doctor of Ministry (DMin.) program before applying for the Case Scholar Scholarship. Note: While the overall deadline for application is not until March 1<sup>st</sup> of the cohort year, Case Scholars must be accepted to the DMin. program before February 1<sup>st</sup> of the cohort year.
4. The deadline for the Case Scholarship is also February 1<sup>st</sup>. Both acceptance to the program and application for the scholarship must be complete by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Early application to the program is recommended in order to ensure acceptance into the program by the scholarship deadline.
  - a. The scholarship committee will make decisions by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Eligibility is based on the WBS scholarship committee review of all documents.
  - b. Preference will be given to candidates with a 3.1 or higher GPA on their most recent degree.
  - c. An essay/letter will be required featuring how this degree will help the student and his/her ministry impact Methodism in Mississippi.
  - d. Interviews may be required and would be scheduled with individuals before the WBS Christmas break (see academic calendar for dates).
    - i. Once selected, the five students will be notified promptly by phone and/or email.
    - ii. A non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 must be received by the business office within (15 days) the award date to reserve each student's scholarship spot.
5. A drop-out/postponement clause is in place and must be agreed to:
  - a. A student awarded the Case Scholarship has until February 15<sup>th</sup> each year to accept the scholarship.
  - b. If he/she chooses not to accept the scholarship within 15 days of the award date, a committee-approved alternate will be awarded the scholarship and the following schedule will be implemented if necessary:
    - i. February 15<sup>th</sup> awarded, March 1<sup>st</sup> acceptance deadline (along with \$250.00 deposit)
    - ii. March 1<sup>st</sup> awarded, March 15<sup>th</sup> acceptance deadline (along with \$250.00 deposit)

- iii. March 15<sup>th</sup> awarded, April 1<sup>st</sup> acceptance deadline (along with \$250.00 deposit)
- c. Case Scholars who accept the scholarship but failed to begin coursework must completely re-apply for the scholarship before the next deadline for future consideration.
- d. Case Scholars will forfeit their scholarship if more than one (1) course is missed.
  - i. If a Case Scholar drops one (1) course during the program, he/she will be able to take that course in the next course cycle (in two years) and a credit will be posted to his/her account until the course is completed. He/she will have to pay a continuation fee of \$250.00 in order to maintain scholarship eligibility. If a Case Scholar does not return to take that missed class in the next course cycle, he/she will be dropped from the program, and will forfeit his/her scholarship.
  - ii. If a student drops out of the program, he/she will be responsible for repayment for any completed work at the appropriate course per hour rate for the total tuition scholarship award according to the current WBS payment plan (see academic catalog and student handbook for this policy). This repayment will return to the Case Scholarship program.
  - iii. Doctor of Ministry program fees are excluded from the Case Scholarship. These include but are not limited to the following: a non-refundable scholarship deposit, a continuation fee for the Ministry Research Project, course books, application fees, travel, graduation fee, etc.

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

Each student will receive digital documents from the financial aid office by email attachment that provides some basic information about financial aid, including direction to the [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) website. This information is sent when a student completes the seminary application process and the financial aid office is informed by the admissions department. Digital documents can also be provided for prospective students who request the information from the admissions department and/or the financial aid office. However, eligibility for a student loan cannot be ascertained until the student has filled out the FAFSA.

During the admissions application process, the Director of Financial Aid can assist the applicant in the financial aid process. Once the student completes the FAFSA, the financial aid office confirms the student's eligibility for a student loan. Four things that make a student not eligible for a direct unsubsidized student loan: he/she is in default, in bankruptcy, has received all possible direct student loan funds, or has a GPA below 2.5 as a WBS student. The Financial Aid office will provide an estimated sheet of costs, available scholarships and Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan eligibility once the student has been accepted and registered.

The Director of Financial Aid will evaluate students who have been accepted with a low GPA or master's students who do not have a bachelor's degree. In general, these students will be approved to receive a loan that will cover the semester's tuition and fees. Upon completion of one semester, they will be eligible for any loans or scholarships for which they qualify.

The financial aid process proceeds as follows:

- **Step 1:** The institution receives the student's ISIR (Institutional Student Information Report) from the student's FAFSA.
- **Step 2:** An email with an attached copy of an Estimated Financial Plan (EFAP) is sent to the student letting her/him know an estimation of the break down costs of tuition and fees, and also an estimation of what she/he could receive in financial aid. The financial aid office corresponds by email and invites the student to email or call to answer questions he/she might have. The financial aid office will save correspondence from the student.
- **Step 3:** The Financial Aid office confirms with the Registrar to verify receipt of transcripts, student has been accepted and registered, and any additional documents necessary to award a student financial aid are provided.
- **Step 4:** The financial aid director evaluates the scholarship application Thank you portion to confirm or deny a possible scholarship award amount.
- **Step 5:** The financial aid director sends a list of students receiving federal loans and WBS scholarships to the business office for confirmation after the two-week add/drop period. The director of financial aid will request the

federal loan funds from the government, and they will be disbursed after the two-week add/drop period. The disbursement date will be one to two weeks after the add/drop period. The business office has 3 days to receive and distribute these funds to the student accounts.

The Financial Aid office is required to make sure that all students have done the FAFSA website counseling and signed the Master Promissory Note before funds can be originated and disbursed from the government.

The Director of Financial Aid will continue to develop a relationship of assistance with WBS students during the course of their enrollment, including loan repayment education. The seminary participates in the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student 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.

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

**Veterans' Educational Benefits:** Veterans' Educational Benefits are allocated directly through the Veterans Administration. The School Certifying Official (SCO) will help the student get the benefits they are entitled to receive. VA financial aid may be available to students who have served in the United States military. The amount of aid will be determined by the Veterans Administration.

Wesley Biblical Seminary's policy permits any covered individual to attend or participate in a course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a "certificate of eligibility" can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs.' (VA) website-eBenefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

- The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
- 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

Our policy will ensure that our educational institution will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the Institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

NOTE: A Covered Individual is any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

**Active-Duty Military and Reserve Members receiving Tuition Assistance:** Active duty and Reserve personnel may apply for tuition assistance by contacting their regional Department of Defense Counselor. If a 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 or withdraws the first two weeks of the term.

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.

#### *4.8 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.

#### *4.9 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 Marketing Office keeps a file of available employment opportunities.

## 5.0 ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### 5.1 *Course Scheduling*

#### 5.1.1 Terms

The academic year for M.Div., M.A., and B.A. students consists of a fifteen-week Fall term, a fifteen-week Spring term, a one-week January term, and a twelve-week summer term. 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 one-week on-campus intensive in June for Spring-Summer and in January for Fall-Winter.

### 5.2 *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. To meet WBS academic standards, students should plan their schedules so that they can study six to nine hours a week outside of class. 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 B.A. in four years a student must complete at least thirty hours per year. 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!

### 5.3 *Auditing Courses*

With permission from the professor, any B.A./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.

### 5.4 *Advanced Standing and Academic Waiver*

The seminary may allow M.Div./M.A. students to petition for “advanced standing with 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. See section 3.4.2 and 3.4.3 above for more details as well as the scholarship policy for eligibility requirements in the appendices.

Students who believe they have achieved a given competency at a graduate level may petition for an opportunity to demonstrate that achievement. If 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 Vice President of Academic Affairs stating the courses for which exemption is desired and providing a description of undergraduate courses or other evidence in substantiation of the request. The Vice President of Academic Affairs may request additional supporting evidence.

### 5.5 *Classification of Students*

#### Graduate and Post Graduate Students

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

Middler	M.Div. students with 26-50 hours.
Auditor	Students taking courses for audit only.
Non-Degree	Students taking courses for credit, but not in a degree program (12 hour limit).
Post-graduate	Either: 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, or: Students holding a previously earned WBS degree who return to seminary to earn a different degree. If the student holds an MA degree from WBS and works toward an MDiv degree, the student will surrender the former MA degree and proceed in the MDiv track with all formerly earned credit hours. Note: Postgraduate students are not eligible for Alumni discounts. To surrender a former degree, contact the office of the Registrar.

### Undergraduate Students

Freshman	0–29 credit hours of earned credit
Sophomore	30–59 credit hours of earned credit
Junior	60–89 credit hours of earned credit
Senior	90 credit hours to graduation

### 5.7 Writing Styles

WBS utilizes the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) formatting for all written assignments. SBL is similar to the Chicago and Turabian writing styles with a few differences.

### 5.10 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. This includes the use of any AI generated material (ChatGPT, Scribe, Jasper, etc.) 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.

### 5.11 Dropping and Withdrawing from Courses

#### 5.11.1 Course Drop (B.A./M.Div./M.A. term and D.Min. 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. B.A./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 a B.A./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 course meets. Since D.Min. courses are taken in pairs, the student who drops one course will normally drop the other.

#### 5.11.2 Withdrawal from Courses (weeks 3-13 of the B.A./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.

##### 5.11.2.1 General Guidelines

- 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).

- All withdrawals must be approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs. 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.
- 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.
- 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 Student Loan and 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.
- 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.

#### 5.11.2.2 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 confirmation from the Registrar's Office. No withdrawals are permitted in the final two weeks of the term.

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

The M.Div. Honors Research concentration is the only master's program at WBS that requires a thesis. Students in all other master's 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 RS505.

#### 5.13 *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 B.A./M.Div./M.A./D.Min. students:

A	Superior-level work.
B	Good-level work.
C	Minimally acceptable-level work.

D	Below the standard required.
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 arrangements 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/N C	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 B.A./M.Div./M.A. Courses” below for explanation of this symbol.

The following grade scale and numerical value placed on the letter grades is used in calculating the student’s Grade Point Average. The numerical values are multiplied by the hours credit earned to provide the total grade quality points.

Letter	Minimum Points	Direct Equivalent	Numerical Value
A+	99.00	99.50	4.00
A	93.00	96.00	4.00
A-	90.00	91.50	3.67
B+	88.00	89.00	3.33
B	83.00	85.50	3.00
B-	80.00	81.50	2.67
C+	78.00	79.00	2.33
C	73.00	75.50	2.00
C-	70.00	71.50	1.67
D+	68.00	69.00	1.33
D	63.00	65.50	1.00
D-	60.00	61.50	0.67
F	0.00	0.00	0.00

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.

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

A B.A., M.Div., or 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 a 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.”

### *5.15 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 skills 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.

### *5.16 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.

### *5.17 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.

### *5.18 Enrollment Status, Academic Probation, and Financial Aid*

#### **5.18.1 Term Hour Definition**

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

#### **5.18.2 Full-time Status**

The minimum full-time B.A. class load is twelve term hours. Students must receive permission from the Dean to take more than twenty-one hours.

The minimum full-time M.Div./M.A. class load is eight term hours. Students must receive permission from the Dean to take more than fifteen hours.

#### **3.18.3 Half-time/Part-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.

Student taking four to eleven hours within the B.A. are considered part-time.

### *5.19 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. B.A. students are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or above.

D.Min. students maintain good academic standing by having a cumulative GPA of 3.00. Failure to maintain this standard could result in dismissal from the program.

At the end of the Fall and Spring terms, the Vice President of Academic Affairs will review the records of all B.A./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 Vice President of Academic Affairs.

### *5.20 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, the Master of Arts in four, and the Bachelor of Arts in ten. Appeals for exceptions to these limits may be submitted to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. 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.

### *5.20 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.

### *5.21 Academic Rehabilitation*

The academic rehabilitation program allows B.A./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 for M.A./M.Div., 2.00 for B.A.) according to the following guidelines.

1. Former students seeking readmission through the academic rehabilitation program must first submit a letter of appeal to the Vice President of Academic Affairs 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 will 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 (2.0).
6. If after 18 credit hours of coursework in the rehabilitation program the student has raised their cumulative GPA to 2.50 (2.0), they will have achieved academic good standing and be free to continue their degree studies. If the cumulative GPA is still below 2.50 (2.0), the student will be dismissed from seminary with no recourse for further enrollment.
7. Students seeking to re-enter 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 (2.0).

### *5.22 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.), a 3.00 (D.Min.), or a 2.00 (B.A.). 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 approved circumstances will degrees be awarded in absentia.

### *5.23 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. For school compliance agreement for covered individuals, please see section heading [Veterans' Affairs](#) (pp. 35-36).

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 coursework is considered full-time for benefit allocation purposes. The Financial Aid Director will notify the VA of any veteran's change in status with the seminary and its educational programs and policies. Veterans can only take one distance course per term along with their other courses in a term. Attending live Zoom courses counts as being present on campus but not watching the recording.

### *5.24 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 Vice President of Academic Affairs. For the full grievance policy, please see Appendix III.

### *5.25 Distance Education*

Students around the globe can complete the requirements for the Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Master of Arts (M.A.), and Bachelor of Arts degrees or earn a Graduate Certificate through WBS's polysynchronous courses through ZOOM Conferencing. The seminary's participation with National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements makes online education easier for students in other U.S. states and territories (see NC-SARA in [Affiliations and Partnerships section](#)).

Distance education is the major instructional format for presenting degree coursework. The online learning platform, Populi, stores all student grades and academic records, enables registration for all Seminary courses, and carries student/instructor communications.

Therefore, all students for all degrees and certificates who take credit work need to navigate within our Populi learning management system. Before undertaking any credit class, students must complete New Student Online Orientation.

### *5.26 Independent Study Policies and Procedures*

Wesley Biblical Seminary recognizes that a need for an Independent Study arises from time to time. Reasons for such a need may be linked to conflicts between a student's progression through their program and course scheduling. For example, a student may find that a course required by their educational program is not scheduled with any reasonable frequency. Or, a student may find that due to unavoidable conflicts between personal schedules and course scheduling, taking a course in the traditional way is not feasible. In such cases, a student may petition to take an independent study directed by the professor that usually teaches the required course in lieu of the regular course. The independent study course must, however, cover—at a minimum—the content in the course as it is normally offered.

In other scenarios, independent research may be approved when there is a particular interest or a need to fulfill elective requirements which could not be addressed by the regularly scheduled courses or by the course of their degree program. In these situations, the student will approach a professor regarding his or her particular area of interest for research and

request the professor to guide and oversee the student in the research and study. After this is negotiated, the professor develops a plan of study for the student, which the Vice President of Academic Affairs must approve.

The process by which an independent study is discussed, approved, and carried out is as follows.

1. First, the student will contact either the Vice President of Academic Affairs or the professor of record for the course and submit a request.
2. Once professor accepts to facilitate the independent study, said professor and student shall negotiate the details of the study. Those details will be registered on the Independent Study Contract Form.
3. When the form is filled out and agreed upon, the document is forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs approval and then onto the Registrar.
4. The Registrar will sets up the class portal in WBS's LMS, where the content of the independent study can be constructed or imported. Upon completion of the course, the professor finalizes the independent study in accord with the general academic policies of WBS.

## 6.0 PROGRAMS OF STUDY

### *6.1 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 the 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 several degrees. WBS offers an undergraduate degree, a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry. At the Masters level, WBS offers a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts. In addition, the seminary also offers the John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership for Transformational Ministry and several Graduate Certificates designed for those not wanting a full master's degree.

### *6.2 Bachelor of Arts*

The Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries is offered at The College at Wesley Biblical Seminary. It aims to effectively prepare students for ministry and to develop the skills necessary for engaging their surrounding culture. This preparation is characterized by obtaining a broad intellectual foundation and practical skills rooted in the Wesleyan tradition.

This degree involves 120 hours spread across three divisions of study: General Core courses (60 hours), Bible and Theology courses (36 hours), and Ministry Formation courses (24 hours). Normally, obtaining this degree requires 4 years of full-time study.

#### **6.2.1 Goals and Objectives for the B.A.**

A graduate of The College at WBS should be able to demonstrate appropriate progress in the areas of content assimilation, spiritual formation, and praxis.

##### **6.2.1.1 Content Assimilation**

Appropriate progress in content assimilation includes a broad intellectual foundation that emphasizes the humanities, Orthodoxy, and an understanding of Scripture. Thus, content assimilation demonstrates proficiency in the following areas.

1. General Studies – These courses will foster an intellectual foundation that emphasizes Christianity's impact on western civilization and culture
2. Biblical Studies – These courses will construct and develop tools for proper exegesis, emphasizing history and culture
3. Theological Studies – These courses construct and develop a theological framework necessary for an Orthodox Christian worldview

##### **6.2.1.2 Spiritual Formation**

Appropriate progress in the area of spiritual formation includes a development in spiritual disciplines rooted in historic Wesleyan spiritual formation practices with the intention of evincing a life of holiness and sanctification.

##### **6.2.1.3 Praxis**

Appropriate progress in praxis includes the construction and development of ministry skills that will enable the student to engage their surrounding culture. Examples include preaching, counseling, and pastoral leadership.

**6.2.2 Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries – Goals and Program Schedule**

**6.2.2.1 Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries – Goals**

The B.A. prepares students for employment in the local church by providing the intellectual, and practical skills necessary to be effective leaders of local congregations. In addition, the B.A. prepares students for subsequent graduate study, particularly at institutions of theological education.

**6.2.2.2 Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries – Program Schedule**

Program Map			
Course Name and Category	Year and Semester		
<b>General Core (60/30)</b> <u>Communication (9)</u> COM 101 English Composition I COM 102 Public Speaking COM 112 English Composition II <u>Humanities/Fine Arts (21)</u> HFA 101 Western Civilizations HFA 201 Christian Literary Classics HFA 202 Western Literature HFA 203 Church History HFA 211 American History HFA 212 Introduction to Philosophical Thought HFA 232 Christian Worldview <u>Natural/Math Sciences (6)</u> NSM 101 Fundamental of Science NSM 102 Math for Org. Leadership <u>Social/Behavioral Sciences (9)</u> SBS 101 Psychology SBS 201 Leadership SBS 202 Marriage and Family <u>Foundations of Christianity (15)</u> FOC 101 Old Testament Survey FOC 102 New Testament Survey FOC 103 Spiritual Formation FOC 221 Biblical Theology FOC 222 Christian Ethics	Year 1   Fall	COM 101 English Composition I FOC 101 Old Testament Survey FOC 103 Spiritual Formation HFA 101 Western Civilizations NSM 101 Fundamentals of Science	
	Year 1   Spring	COM 102 Public Speaking COM 103 English Composition II FOC 102 New Testament Survey NSM 102 Math for Organizational Leadership SBS 102 Psychology	
	Year 2   Fall	FOC 221 Biblical Theology HFA 201 Christian Literary Classics HFA 203 Church History HFA 211 American History SBS 201 Leadership	
	Year 2   Spring	FOC 222 Christian Ethics HFA 202 Western Literature HFA 212 Introduction to Philosophical Thought HFA 232 Christian Worldview SBS 202 Marriage and Family	
	Year 3   Fall	OT 321 Pentateuch and Historical Books PM 301 Pastoral Procedure and Practice PM 302 Small Group Ministry PM 311 Christian Leadership and Administration TH 321 Systematic Theology	
	Year 3   Spring	NT 332 The Gospels and Acts OT 332 Prophetic Books PM 312 Conflict Management TH 322 History of Christian Thought TH 332 Theology of Christian Holiness	
	Year 4   Fall	NT 431 IBS I OT 421 Poetic Books PM 400 Principles of Preaching PM 411 Pastoral Counseling TH 441 Comparative Religions	
	Year 4   Spring	NT 422 Epistles and Revelation TH 412 Theology of John Wesley TH 442 Foundations of Apologetics PM 412 Preaching and Worship Practicum PM 432 Internship	
	<b>Bible and Theology (36/30)</b> <u>Old Testament Studies (9)</u> OT 321 Pentateuch and Historical Books OT 322 Prophetic Books OT 421 Wisdom Literature <u>New Testament Studies (9)</u> NT 322 The Gospels and Acts NT 422 Epistles and Revelation NT 431 IBS I <u>Theological Studies (15)</u> TH 321 Systematic Theology TH 322 History of Christian Thought TH 332 Theology of Christian Holiness TH 412 Theology of John Wesley		

TH 441 Comparative Religions TH 442 Foundations of Apologetics  <b>Formational Studies (24/18)</b> PM 301 Pastoral Procedure and Practice PM 302 Small Group Ministry PM 311 Christian Leadership and Administration PM 312 Conflict Management PM 430 Principles of Preaching PM 431 Internship PM 432 Preaching and Worship Practicum PM 411 Pastoral Counseling		
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### 6.3 *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.

The M.Div. degree, consisting of 78-87 term hours of study, can be taken in one of four programs:

Programs	Hours
General Ministry	79
Chaplaincy	79
Ministry with an emphasis in biblical languages	85
Honors Research	88

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 plan to pursue doctoral studies may seek to participate in the Honors Research concentration as a means of gaining advance preparation for doctoral work.

#### 6.3.1 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.

##### 6.3.1.1 Content Assimilation

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

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

##### 6.3.1.2 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.

##### 6.3.1.3 Praxis

Appropriate progress in praxis includes the following areas of proficiency:

1. **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.

2. **Proclamation:** Engage Church and culture through preaching, teaching, and personal witness.
3. **Leadership:** Exercise leadership in accordance with Christian ethics and priorities.
4. **Spiritual Direction:** Offer pastoral counsel and engage in the making of disciples.

### 6.3.2 Master of Divinity—General Ministry (79 hrs)

#### 6.3.2.1 Vocational Goal

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

#### 6.3.2.2 Program Courses

Course Code	Course Title	Hours
<i>Biblical Studies</i>		18
OT516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT512	NT History & Interpretation	3
BS501	Inductive Bible Study I (Gospels)	
BS512	Inductive Bible Study II	3
OT 6-7xx	Upper-Level OT Course	3
NT 6-7xx	Upper-Level NT Course	3
<i>Theological Studies</i>		18
BT501	Biblical Theology	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
BT606	Theology of Christian Holiness	3
ST619	Theology of John Wesley	3
<i>Philosophical Studies</i>		6
AP501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
PH610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
<i>Formational Studies</i>		7
DS505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	4
DS520	The Discipling Church	3
<i>Ministry Studies</i>		21
PM610	Principles of Preaching	3
DS515	Discipleship in the Home	3
PM620	Worship in the Church	3
PM630	Preaching Practice	3
PM641	Pastoral Counseling	3
PM700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership	3
EV605	Evangelism	3
RS001	New Student Orientation	0
RS777	Graduate Assessment	0
<i>General Electives</i>		9

### 6.3.3 Master of Divinity—Chaplaincy (79 hrs)

#### 6.3.3.1 Vocational Goal

Demonstrate leadership in guiding, motivating, and nurturing individuals and organizations toward Great Commission effectiveness, particularly in the ministry of chaplaincy. Students should note that this program does not lead to any type of chaplaincy license.

**6.3.3.2 Program Courses**

Course Code	Course Title	Hours
<i>Biblical Studies</i>		18
NT512	NT History & Interpretation	3
OT516	OT History & Interpretation	3
BS501	Inductive Bible Study I (Gospels)	3
BS512	Inductive Bible Study II	3
OT7xx	Upper-Level OT Course	3
NT7xx	Upper-Level NT Course	3
<i>Theological Studies</i>		18
BT501	Biblical Theology	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
ST606	Theology of Christian Holiness	3
ST619	Theology of John Wesley	3
<i>Philosophical Studies</i>		6
AP501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
PH610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
<i>Formational Studies</i>		4
DS505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	4
<i>Chaplaincy Studies</i>		27
PM610	Principles of Preaching	3
PM616	Principles of Chaplaincy	3
PM620	Worship in the Church	3
PM630	Preaching Practicum	3
PM641	Pastoral Counseling	3
PM700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Ministry	3
PM701	Clinical Pastoral Education I	3
PM702	Clinical Pastoral Education II	3
EV605	Evangelism	3
RS001	New Student Orientation	3
RS777	Graduate Assessment	3
<i>General Electives</i>		6

Electives may be used for Clinical Pastoral Education III and IV.

**6.3.4 Master of Divinity—General Ministry with Biblical Languages (85 hrs)****6.3.4.1 Vocational Goal**

Demonstrate leadership in guiding, motivating, and nurturing individuals and organizations toward Great Commission effectiveness, particularly in the local church and in the educational ministry of the church.

**6.3.4.2 Program Course**

Course Code	Course Title	Hours
<i>Biblical Studies</i>		33
OT516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT512	NT History & Interpretation	3
BS501	Inductive Bible Study I (Gospels)	3
BS512	Inductive Bible Study II	3

HEB501	Elementary Hebrew 1	3
HEB512	Elementary Hebrew 2	3
GRE501	New Testament Greek 1	3
GRE512	New Testament Greek 2	3
GRE/HEB Rdg/Syn	HEB621 or GRE621	3
GRE/HEB Exegesis	HEB732 or GRE732	3
OT/NT 7xx	OT or NT Upper-level Bible	3
<i>Theological Studies</i>		18
BT501	Biblical Theology	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things	3
ST606	Theology of Christian Holiness	3
ST619	Theology of John Wesley	3
<i>Philosophical Studies</i>		6
AP501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
PH610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
<i>Formational Studies</i>		10
DS505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	4
DS520	The Discipling Church	3
DS515	Discipleship in the Home	3
<i>Ministry Studies</i>		18
PM610	Principles of Preaching	3
PM620	Worship in the Church	3
PM630	Preaching Practicum	3
PM641	Pastoral Counseling	3
PM700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership	3
EV605	Evangelism	3
RS777	Graduate Assessment	0
RS001	New Student Orientation	0

### 6.3.5 Master of Divinity—Honors Research Concentration (88 hrs)

#### 6.3.6.1 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.

#### 6.3.5.2 Program Courses

Course Code	Course Title	Hours
<i>Biblical Studies</i>		30
OT516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT512	NT History & Interpretation	3
BS501	Inductive Bible Study I (Gospels)	3
BS512	Inductive Bible Study II	3
HEB501	Elementary Hebrew 1	3
HEB512	Elementary Hebrew 2	3
GRE501	New Testament Greek 1	3
GRE512	New Testament Greek 2	3

GRE/HEB Rdg & Syn	GRE621 or HEB621	3
GRE/HEB Exeg	GRE732 or HEB732	3
<i>Theological Studies</i>		18
BT501	Biblical Theology	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
BT610	Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness	3
ST619	Theology of John Wesley	3
<i>Philosophical Studies</i>		6
AP501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
PH610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
<i>Formational Studies</i>		7
DS505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	4
DS520	The Discipling Church	3
<i>Ministry Studies</i>		6
EV605	Evangelism	3
PM700	Theology & Practice of Pastoral Leadership	3
RS001	New Student Orientation	0
RS777	Graduate Assessment	0
<i>Research Concentration</i>		21
RS505	Techniques of Research	3
RS780	Thesis and Research	6
<i>Research Electives</i>		12

Honors Research students are strongly encouraged to take both Hebrew and Greek especially if considering future Ph.D. studies in biblical and theological disciplines, 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 Vice President of Academic Affairs 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 Vice President of Academic Affairs.
3. Complete a thesis or other significant synthesizing project that reflects significant advancement in the chosen field and readiness for advanced study.

### 6.4 Master of Arts Degrees

The four concentrations in the Master of Arts: (1) Apologetics, (2) Biblical Literature, (3) Christian Studies, and (4) 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.

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

1. **Scripture:** Exegete Scripture holistically in accordance with sound interpretive method and historic Christian orthodoxy.
2. **Orthodoxy:** Articulate the parameters and ongoing implications of historic Trinitarian faith.

3. **The Wesleyan Perspective:** Explain the distinctive emphases of the Wesleyan perspective and their relationship to Scripture and Orthodoxy.
4. **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 include:

1. **Apologetics:** Demonstrate the ability for contemporary articulation of the Christian faith in critical dialogue with non-Christians.
2. **Biblical Literature:** Demonstrate facility in biblical scholarship, including proficiency in both Greek and Hebrew and extensive coursework in biblical content.
3. **Theology:** Demonstrate scholarship regarding the content of Christian faith as it is expressed in the Bible, historic Christian orthodoxy, and the Wesleyan tradition.

#### 6.4.1 Master of Arts—Apologetics (52 hrs)

##### 6.4.1.1 Overview

The Master of Arts in apologetics is a robust and challenging 2- or 3-year degree, which prepares students to engage with a variety of worldviews in defense of orthodox Christianity.

This degree is for students who want to be able to confidently articulate and defend the Christian worldview in a pluralistic context. The Master of Arts in Apologetics will help pastors, Christian leaders, and laypeople develop an extensive philosophical and biblical framework to face current moral and philosophical challenges.

##### 6.4.1.2 Program Courses

Course Code	Course Title	Hours
<i>Biblical Studies (Content Mastery)</i>		9
NT512	NT History & Interpretation	3
BS501	Inductive Bible Study I (Gospels)	3
OT516	OT History & Interpretation	3
<i>Theological Studies (Content Mastery)</i>		15
BT501	Biblical Theology	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things	3
ST619 or ST606	Theology of John Wesley or Theology of Christian Holiness	3
<i>Apologetics Concentration (Process Mastery)</i>		21
AP501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
PH504	Philosophy of Christian Religion	3
PH610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
HT609	Comparative Religious Traditions	3
AP720	Christian Faith and Science	3
General Apologetics Electives (such as PH721, ST607, MS612, MS620, EV605)		3
AP750	Apologetics Qualifying Thesis/Project	3
<i>Formational Studies</i>		4
DS505	Discipleship & Spiritual Formation	4
<i>Ministry Studies</i>		3
EV605	Evangelism	3
RS001	New Student Orientation	0
RS777	Graduate Assessment	0

**6.4.2 Master of Arts—Biblical Literature (52 hrs)****6.4.4.1 Overview**

MA Biblical Literature equips students with a comprehensive understanding of Scripture in English, Hebrew, and Greek. Students will graduate from the program with the ability to interpret Scripture, understand the biblical context, and apply Scripture to their current context.

This degree is for anyone who wants to have a deep understanding of Scripture and how it relates to the broader Christian faith.

**6.4.2.2 Program Courses**

Course Code	Course Title	Hours
<i>Biblical Studies</i>		<b>33</b>
HEB501	Elementary Hebrew 1	3
HEB512	Elementary Hebrew 2	3
GRE501	New Testament Greek 1	3
GRE512	New Testament Greek 2	3
OT516	OT History & Interpretation	3
BS501	Inductive Bible Study I (Gospels)	3
BS512	Inductive Bible Study II (varies)	3
NT512	NT History & Interpretation	3
HEB/GRE Rdg & Syn	HEB621 or GRE621	3
HEB/GRE Exeg	HEB732 or GRE732	3
OT/NT 7xx	Upper-Level OT or NT course	3
<i>Theological Studies</i>		<b>12</b>
ST606	Theology of Christian Holiness	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things	3
<i>Formational Studies</i>		<b>4</b>
DS505	Discipleship & Spiritual Formation	4
<i>Ministry Studies</i>		<b>3</b>
EV605	Evangelism	3
RS001	New Student Orientation	0
RS777	Graduate Assessment	0

**6.4.4 Master of Arts—Christian Studies (52 hrs)****6.4.4.1 Program Courses**

Course Code	Course Title	Hours
<i>Biblical Studies</i>		<b>15</b>
OT516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT531	Interpreting the Gospels	3
Biblical Studies Electives (course codes OT, NT, or BT)		<b>6</b>
<i>Theological Studies</i>		<b>15</b>
BT501	Biblical Theology	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things	3
Theological Studies Electives (course codes BT, HT, ST, AP, or PH)		<b>3</b>

<i>Philosophical Studies</i>		3
AP501/PH610	Foundations of Apologetics/Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
<i>Formational Studies</i>		6
DS505	Discipleship & Spiritual Formation	4
DS515	Discipleship in the Home	3
<i>Ministry Studies</i>		3
EV605	Evangelism	3
RS001	New Student Orientation	0
RS777	Graduate Assessment	0
<i>General Electives</i>		7
<b>6.4.5 Master of Arts— Theology (52 hrs)</b>		
<b>6.4.5.1 Program Courses</b>		
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<i>Biblical Studies</i>		12
OT516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT512	NT History & Interpretation	3
BS501	Inductive Bible Study I	3
BS512	Inductive Bible Study II	3
<i>Theological Studies</i>		27
BT501	Biblical Theology	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things	3
ST619	Theology of John Wesley	3
ST606	Theology of Christian Holiness	3
ST607	Contemporary Theological Trends	3
Theological Studies Electives (course codes BT, HT, ST, AP, or PH)		6
<i>Philosophical Studies</i>		6
AP501/PH504	Foundations of Apologetics/Philosophy of the Christian Religion	3
PH610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
<i>Formational Studies</i>		4
DS505	Discipleship & Spiritual Formation	4
<i>Ministry Studies</i>		3
EV605	Evangelism	3
RS001	New Student Orientation	0
RS777	Graduate Assessment	0

### 6.5 Graduate Certificates

The Graduate Certificate consists of eight three-hour courses (24 hours total, available online, campus and via Zoom), offered in one of seven concentrations: (1) apologetics, (2) Bible and theology, (3) church planting and revitalization, (4) discipleship and spiritual direction, (5) ministry in the African American church, (6) ministry to Muslims, and (7) missions.

The Certificate Programs at Wesley Biblical Seminary provide a robust grounding in Bible and theology while giving students the chance to pursue a specific topic. Each 25-hour Certificate Program can be completed in one to two years on campus or online. Each program includes 4 courses (13 hours) in Foundations and 4 courses (12 hours) in the program's concentration.

#### 6.5.1 Program Goals

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 overall 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.

### 6.5.2 Program Courses

Course Code	Course Description	Hours
<i>Spiritual, Biblical, and Theological Foundations—Required for all Certificates</i>		13
DS505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	4
BS501	Inductive Bible Study I (The Gospels)	3
HT520	History of Christian Thought	3
PH610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
Concentrations—Choose one of the Following		12
<i>Apologetics</i>		
AP501	Foundations of Apologetics	
AP720	Christian Faith and Science	
HT609	Comparative Religious Traditions	
PH721	Christian Faith in Dialogue with Philosophy	
<i>Biblical Theology</i>		
ST604	Christ, Revelation, God and Humanity	3
ST605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things	3
BT501	Biblical Theology	3
OT620–623	Old Testament Inductive Bible Study Course	3
<i>Church Planting and Revitalization</i>		
MS508	Missionary Principles and Methods	3
EV605	Evangelism	3
EV630	Planting and Refocusing Churches	3
HT620	The Church Planting Movement	3
<i>Discipleship and Spiritual Direction</i>		
DS520	The Discipling Church	3
DS601	Theology and Practices of Spiritual Direction	3
EV605	Evangelism	3
PM641	Pastoral Counseling	3
<i>Ministry in the African American Church</i>		
PM600	Proclamation and Discipleship in the African American Church	3
PM603	Ministering to the African American Church	3
PM604	Theological Issues in the African American Church	3
PM704	Leadership in the African American Church	3
<i>Ministry to Muslims</i>		
MS612	Christian Engagement with Muslims	3
MS620	A Christian Analysis of Islam's Source Documents	3

MS630	The History of Islamic Theology & Movements: A Christian Investigation	3
MS640	Discipling & Planting Churches in Muslim Communities	3
<i>Missions</i>		
MS508	Missionary Principles and Methods	3
EV605	Evangelism	3
MS/EV	Mission Electives (course codes MS or EV)	6

### 6.6 *The John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership*

The 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 para-church 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 (6 hours) 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 one-week on-campus intensive in June) and the Fall-winter term that runs from October 1 through March 31 (with a one-week on-campus intensive in January). Admission into the program occurs twice a year, therefore, students can enter into the sequence of courses at any point. 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.

The D.Min. curriculum is divided into eight courses in four one-week intensives, which can be taken in any order. 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. During the first term, a student may enroll in DM 809, an asynchronous online research orientation course; during the second intensive term, the student is required to enroll and begin writing a prospectus. After presenting the prospectus, the student will write a full ministry research project.

Wesley Biblical Seminary expects that all students physically attend the intensive courses on the Ridgeland campus. However, under the following circumstances, exemptions to D.Min. residency may be obtained:

- Non-US citizens living in a country outside of North America (US and Canada)
- Missionaries based outside of North America
- Additional exemptions may be occasionally granted by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, upon written request

In the event a residency exemption is granted, attendance must be through Zoom.

#### 6.6.1 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.

### 6.6.2 Program Courses (30 hrs)

Course Code	Course Title	Hours
DM801	Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics <i>Will generally be scheduled in a DMin Spring-Summer Term</i>	3
DM802	Transformational Preaching <i>Will generally be scheduled in a DMin Spring-Summer Term</i>	3
DM803	Sacramental Leadership <i>Will generally be scheduled in a DMin Fall-Winter Term</i>	3
DM804	Disciple-making Leadership <i>Will generally be scheduled in a DMin Fall-Winter Term</i>	3
DM805	Trinitarian Personhood and Ministry <i>Will generally be scheduled in a DMin Spring-Summer Term</i>	3
DM806	Wesleyan Ministry in a Post-Modern Context <i>Will generally be scheduled in a DMin Spring-Summer Term</i>	3
DM807	Christianity and World Religions <i>Will generally be scheduled in a DMin Fall-Winter Term</i>	3
DM808	Philosophies Challenging the Church <i>Will generally be scheduled in a DMin Fall-Winter Term</i>	3
<b>Ministry Research Project</b>		<b>6</b>
DM809	DMin Project Research Orientation <i>Must be taken after first 2-courses intensive; may be taken earlier.</i>	0
DM810	Ministry Research Project	6

### 6.7 The Carnegie Unit, Credit Hours, and Load

The “credit hour” at WBS is based on the Carnegie Unit, which is a broadly used, time-based reference for measuring the amount of time a student has studied a subject matter. Most courses at WBS are three credit hours. Courses that are three credit hours breaks down learning time as follows:

Category	Description	Hours
Total Seat Time	Instructional time <i>in the classroom with the course instructor.</i>	36
Total Learning Time Outside of the Classroom	Time spent reading, watching videos, participating in discussion forums, working on assignments and projects, etc.	72

<b>Total Learning Time</b>		<b>108</b>
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## 7.0 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### 6.1 Bachelor of Arts Course Descriptions

Classroom instruction is one method the seminary uses to achieve its mission and goals. Under the leadership of the Vice President of 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 undergraduate courses are grouped as follows:

#### 7.1.1 General Core

The purpose of the general core courses is to establish a broad intellectual framework necessary for an informed and engaging ministry. This framework is defined by exposure to issues of communication, both verbal and written, the humanities and fine arts, the natural sciences and math, the behavioral sciences, and the foundation of Christianity.

##### 7.1.1.1 Communication

###### COM 101 English Composition I (3 credits)

This course prepares students to engage their surrounding culture by building foundational writing skills. Grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure are considered as tools for effective written communication. The course addresses the writing process itself, emphasizing the importance of analysis and revision of one's own work. Particular attention is given to forming and defending a thesis statement through careful word choice, paragraph structure, and the logical flow of an argument. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to express and defend their opinions through writing, and their writing will be characterized by clarity and precision.

###### COM 102 Public Speaking (3 credits)

Public speaking is a course in the fundamentals of speaking with emphasis on the effective presentation of ideas and major types of speeches.

###### COM 112 English Composition II (3 credits)

Building on the skills developed in English Composition I, this course challenges students to a deeper level of communication and scholarly engagement. Attention is given to both writing and reading at an academic level. This course teaches basic research skills, giving students practice in finding, evaluating, synthesizing, and citing various sources on a given topic. The writing assignments in this course are designed to prepare students for well documented academic writing as well as for writing in various ministry contexts. Additionally, this course equips students to read quickly and effectively to respond critically to what they are reading. Pre-requisite: COM 101.

##### 7.1.1.2 Humanities / Fine Arts

###### HFA 101 Western Civilizations (3 credits)

Western Civilization surveys the historical development of the different regimes, societies, and cultures (including religious and philosophical ideas) and the west's relationships with other societies and cultures from the ancient world to the Scientific Revolution. The topics of study will involve Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the development of Christianity, the development of the Islamic World, the Byzantine Empire, Medieval Europe, the Mongolian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the English revolutions of the 1600s, the Scientific Revolution, and the development of the nation-states in Europe, continuing until the late 20th century. Always a view to evaluating how a Christian worldview should critique and/or appreciate various developments.

###### HFA 201 Christian Literary Classics (3 credits)

Christian Literary Classics introduces students to some of the most important Christian writings — creative literature, philosophical treatises, and theologically important biographies/autobiographies — outside of the Bible itself. The course survey of writings will vary from year to year but will include always writings spanning the

early Christian Era of the 4th and 5th centuries, the medieval writings of Christians, the literature of the English and American revival movements, and major Christian figures of the 20th century.

**HFA 202 Western Literature (3 credits)**

Western Literature is a course that introduces students to a broad survey of texts, literary and philosophical, which trace the development of the modern world from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century. The focus of the course is to help students think critically about the values reflected by the creative and philosophical writings of various historical eras. As well, students will be challenged to appreciate and understand ways that ideas develop and change over time and how imagination, moral clarity, and worldview shape writing.

**HFA 203 Church History (3 credits)**

Church History is a general survey of the Christian church from the days of Christ and the apostles to the present day, showing the great saints, movements, and doctrines of the church.

**HFA 211 American History (3 credits)**

This course surveys the content of American History, starting with the country's colonial period through its transition into the 21st century. Specific attention will be given to strategic social, political, economic, and cultural realities that affected the contours of American History. Pre-requisite: HFA 101

**HFA 212 Introduction to Philosophical Thought (3 credits)**

Introduction to Philosophical Thought presents the study of critical questions about what is true and how we can know truth, what makes the world exist, what human nature is and capable of, whether or not God's existence and attributes can be demonstrated by reason, and how to practice critical thinking skills and avoid logical fallacies. The method for studying these areas will involve a historical survey of major and foundational philosophers from the Ancient Greek world up until the 20th century. While this will be a survey course, the studies will focus each year on about 15 major thinkers and 6 major issues to give focus to the course. Pre-requisite: HFA 203

**HFA 232 Christian Worldview (3 credits)**

Christian Worldview explores and outlines the major components that comprise the view of reality — human existence, the nature of God, the nature of the world in relation to God, the source and nature of evil, the foundation of moral truth, the essence of the human moral failings, and God's way of dealing with the world. Students will be introduced to major theological figures of the Christian tradition in the ancient and medieval worlds to help them grasp how our faith has developed historically in its understanding of the major components that are studied. A focus will be maintained on the importance of the Christian worldview to be a way of life we live rather than a set of doctrines to be believed. Pre-requisites: FOC 101; FOC 102; FOC 221

**7.1.1.3 Natural Science / Math**

**NSM 102 Math for Organizational Leadership (3 credits)**

Math for Organizational Leadership focuses on the mathematical skills and procedures necessary for leading a ministry; These skills include doing payroll; managing a retirement plan; and securing insurance. Proper methods for keeping financial reports, fund-raising, collecting funds, and filing taxes.

**NSM 101 Fundamentals of Science (3 credits)**

This course surveys the basic concepts physical science, environmental science, chemistry, biology, and genetics. In this course a focus is also given to evaluating sources of scientific information pertaining to Christian doctrine and belief for credibility, including the portrayal of science in the media.

**7.1.1.4 Social / Behavioral Sciences**

**SBS 201 Leadership (3 credits)**

Leadership is a key component in ministry fulfillment. All levels of ministry, from discipleship to pastoring are leadership positions. This course will examine the personal and professional requirements for leading in the Church.

**SBS 102 Psychology (3 credits)**

Psychology presents students with a broad introduction to the field of psychology. Critical and central historical figures in the development of this discipline, along with the diverse theoretical perspectives they represent will be foundational to the course. As well, students will be introduced to important research findings that have shaped some of the major areas of contemporary psychology. As a course that examines the research methods and theories utilized by psychologists across these areas to study the origins and variations in human behavior, it will always be focused on evaluation of the theoretical insights and actual practices of psychology from a Christian worldview perspective.

**SBS 202 Marriage and Family (3 credits)**

Emphasizes the healthy nuclear family and how to make good choices to maximize the family's influence for the Kingdom of God. Special attention is given to parental leadership in the challenging contemporary culture.

**7.1.1.5 Foundations of Christianity****FOC 101 Old Testament Survey (3 credits)**

This course introduces the student to the books of the Old Testament (OT) and presents the historical background and both the content and arrangement of the individual books and the testament as a whole, including the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, the Writings, and the Prophets. The course combines direct examination of the biblical text, lecture materials, and secondary literature (including textbooks and relevant articles) to expose the student to the individual books of the OT and the OT as a whole. This course provides a foundation upon which to further build knowledge and understanding of the books of the OT.

**FOC 102 New Testament Survey (3 credits)**

This course introduces the student to the books of the New Testament (NT) and presents the historical background and both the content and arrangement of the individual books and the testament as a whole, including the Gospels and Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation. The course combines direct examination of the biblical text, lecture materials, and secondary literature (including textbooks and relevant articles) to expose the student to the individual books of the NT and the NT as a whole. This course provides a foundation upon which to further build knowledge and understanding of the books of the NT.

**FOC 103 Spiritual Formation (3 credits)**

Stresses various practices to strengthen personal discipleship growth and how to extend “the life of God in the soul of the disciple” and in others the discipleship leader shepherds.

**FOC 221 Biblical Theology (3 credits)**

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. Pre-requisites: FOC 101; FOC 102

**FOC 222 Christian Ethics (3 credits)**

Christian Ethics provides both an introduction to the moral values inherent in the Christian faith but also an overview of various ways that Christian thinkers have conceived of the ethical obligations of human beings across various historical eras. A major focus will be upon discovering goals, duties, and virtues have been primary orientation points for philosophical and theological ethics. Central to the course will be how a Christian ethicist's stance contrasts or complements other moral viewpoints. Throughout, students will be encouraged to engage critically with the full range of Christian approaches from their respective faith traditions considering the life of Jesus Christ—his conception, birth, suffering, death, and burial. The goal of the course is for students to have a clear foundation and growing understanding of how to help others understand the moral life of a Christian. Pre-requisites: HFA 212; FOC 221

**7.1.2 Bible and Theology**

Courses in Bible and Theology build upon the foundational courses of Christianity and expose the student to more complicate issues of history, culture, and biblical content so that Scripture can be used properly, and theological discourse can be engaged intelligently and with an awareness of the boundaries of classical orthodoxy.

#### 7.1.2.1 Old Testament Studies

##### **OT 321 Pentateuch and the Historical Books (3 credits)**

This course surveys the corpora of the Pentateuch and the Historical Books. Attention is given to the theological coherence of each book, the socio-historical factors that affected the history of ancient Israel, the culture of ancient Israel, the development of ancient Israel's historiographic literature, and the dynamics of applying these texts as Scripture. Pre-requisites: FOC 101; FOC 221

##### **OT 322 Prophetic Books (3 credits)**

This course surveys the entire prophetic corpus (Major and Minor Prophets). Attention is given to the social and historical contexts that affected the prophetic experience, the theological coherence of each book, the development of the prophetic tradition, and the dynamics of applying the prophetic literature as Scripture. Pre-requisites: FOC 101; FOC 221

##### **OT 421 Wisdom Literature (3 credits)**

With the aim of helping students to understand, interpret, and apply the content of the OT wisdom literature/poetic books, this course offers an overview of the (1) historical setting, (2) canonical context, (3) literary shape, and (4) theological themes of the poetic books/wisdom literature of the Old Testament. Particular attention is lent to the role of the poetic books in Christian ministry and Christian life and living in a post-Christian cultural milieu. This overview will be accomplished through course lectures, readings, class discussion, and practice in exegesis. Pre-requisites: FOC 101; FOC 221

#### 7.1.2.2 New Testament Studies

##### **NT 322 The Gospels and Acts (3 credits)**

This course provides the student with an opportunity to become familiar with each of the Gospels and the book of Acts. Emphasis will be placed on both the text itself as well as the historical background issues, including first-century context for each Gospel and Acts. The course will study each Gospel, both independently and in relation to the other Gospels, as well as the book of Acts (especially in relation to the Gospel of Luke), including the relevant historical context out of which each of the books was likely written. Direct study of the text will be combined with lecture materials, as well as secondary literature about relevant aspects of the Gospels and Acts. Pre-requisites: FOC 102; FOC 221

##### **NT 422 Epistles and Revelation (3 credits)**

This course focuses on the books of the New Testament (NT) from Romans through Revelation. The course will provide the student with an opportunity to become familiar with each of the letters of the NT, as well as the book of Revelation, and will also consider each of the letters of Paul in relation to the Pauline Corpus as a whole. Emphasis will be placed on both the text of each of the books and the historical background issues for each book. Direct study of the text will be combined with secondary literature about relevant aspects of each book, and the lecture materials. Pre-requisites: FOC 102; FOC 221

##### **NT 431 Inductive Bible Study (3 credits)**

This course introduces the student to an accurate method of studying Scripture appropriate for use in life and ministry. One of the Gospels will serve as text for comprehensive instruction in the basic principles of Inductive Bible Study. Students will survey each section of the chosen Gospel and will analyze the structure and important terms of elected passages. Careful attention is given to application. Emphasis is also put on understanding the role of each passage within the entire Gospel. Pre-requisites: FOC 101; FOC 102; FOC 221

#### 7.1.2.3 Theological Studies

##### **TH 321 Systematic Theology (3 credits)**

Systematic Theology is the detailed study of the sources, systems, and methods of Christian theology with specific study in the doctrines of inspiration, canonicity, the Father, the Son, salvation, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and eschatology. Pre-requisites: HFA 212; HFA 232

**TH 322 History of Christian Thought (3 credits)**

This course surveys 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. Pre-requisites: HFA 203; HFA 212

**TH 332 Theology of Christian Holiness (3 credits)**

Integrates the biblical and historical basis of the doctrine of Christian holiness with its experiential reality. Pre-requisites: FOC 101; FOC 102; FOC 221

**TH 412 Theology of John Wesley (3 credits)**

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. Pre-requisites: TH 322

**TH 441 Comparative Religions (3 credits)**

Comparative Religions engages in a study of the various world religions and a select group of cults in the western world in order to understand the history and founding figures of the different religious traditions, what different religious traditions actually believe and practice, why they believe these things, and how the Christian religion contrasts to these ways of seeing human existence, understanding the nature of the divine, envision the ultimate destiny of human beings, and provide ethical guidance for persons lives. The course, while it is focused upon a critical evaluation of each of the religious belief systems from a Christian point of view, will help students to learn to engage persons who hold other religious beliefs with respect, generosity, as well as clarity of presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pre-requisites: FOC 222; HFA 212; HFA 232; TH 321

**TH 442 Foundations of Apologetics (3 credits)**

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. This course also surveys different approaches to the task of apologetics. Pre-requisites: FOC 222; HFA 212; HFA 232; TH 321

**7.1.3 Ministry Formation**

Courses in ministry formation develop the skills necessary for Church leadership.

**PM 301 Pastoral Procedure and Practice (3 credits)**

Pastoral Practice and Procedure is a study of the various pastoral functions and procedures. Included in the study are weddings, funerals, baptism, dedications, communion, and worship services. Students will have opportunity to practice the ministry procedures taught in this course.

**PM 302 Small Group Ministry (3 credits)**

Emphasizes the small discipleship group and how leaders and implement successful use of these groups and effectively evaluate their use. Included in this course is the establishment of a biblical and historical basis for small groups and how these are necessary for the discipleship mandate of the church.

**PM 311 Christian Leadership and Administration (3 credits)**

Examines administrative principles for the local church with special attention given vision, mission, goal-attainment, finances, evangelism and shepherding the community. Pre-requisite: SBS 201

**PM 312 Conflict Management (3 credits)**

Examines various strategies to facilitate effective relationships in both lay and staff situations. Common causes of conflict will be explored and how to deal with these inevitable dynamics to strengthen the successful trajectory of the church. Pre-requisite: SBS 102

**PM 410 Principles of Preaching (3 credits)**

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 spiritual formation in the 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 classroom setting. Pre-requisite: NT 341

**PM 411 Pastoral Counseling (3 credits)**

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. Pre-requisite: SBS 102

**PM 412 Preaching and Worship Practicum (3 credits)**

Provides students the opportunity to practice the art of preaching and to explore the task of planning worship services and leading them. The preaching focus will allow students to sharpen their skills in multiple sermon "styles" and strategies, while the worship aspect of the practicum will give careful attention to the creation and structuring worship events around the "Liturgical calendar" and for a variety of settings and occasions such as weddings, funerals, healing services, revivals, and others. Pre-requisite PM 400

**PM 432 Internship (3 credits)**

This course allows the student practical supervised ministry opportunities. A semester of a contracted ministry setting, arranged with the course instructor, supervised, and assessed by a supervisor agreed upon by the student and instructor. Pre-requisites: PM 301; PM 311; PM 400

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

Classroom instruction is one method the seminary uses to achieve its mission and goals. Under the leadership of the Vice President of 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:

### **7.2.1 Biblical Studies**

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

Inductive Bible Study courses thoroughly ground students in Bible study method. 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.

### 7.2.1.1 Biblical Interpretation

#### **BS501 Inductive Bible Study I (The Gospels)**

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

#### **BS512 Inductive Bible Study II (Varies on semester basis)**

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 any book of the Bible outside of the Gospels as the basis for instruction. Especially designed for students who have not studied Greek. Prerequisite: BS501. 3 hours

### 7.2.1.2 Biblical Languages

#### *Section 1: Greek Grammar and Exegesis*

#### **GRE 501 Fundamentals of New Testament Greek 1**

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

#### **GRE 512 Fundamentals of New Testament Greek 2**

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

#### **GRE 621 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: GRE501, GRE502 or equivalent. 3 hours

#### **GRE 732 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. NT512 is recommended but not required as prerequisite. 3 hours

#### *Section 2: Hebrew Grammar and Exegesis*

#### **HEB 501 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 1**

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

#### **HEB 512 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 2**

Builds upon the skills acquired in OT 501 to complete the student's elementary training in Biblical Hebrew. 3 hours

#### **HEB 621 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: OT 501, OT 502. 3 hours

#### **HEB 731 Hebrew Exegesis**

Teaches proper exegetical method in an Old Testament book 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

*Section 3: Aramaic Grammar*

**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. 3 Hours

**7.2.1.3 Old Testament**

*Section 1: Background Studies and Critical Issues*

**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

**OT500 Psalms**

This course offers a literary, historical and theological analysis of the book of Psalms. Special emphasis is lent to reading the Psalms as a book and understanding how the various parts of the book and dominant and sub-dominant themes relate to one another. 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 will 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

**OT622 Ancient Israel's History in the Context of the Ancient World**

This course will silhouette ancient Israel's history against the larger historical developments of the ancient Near East. Attention will be given to the socio-political contours of the ancient Near East and how they affected the socio-political contours within ancient Israel. The intention is to contextualization, and therefore focus will fall upon the empires of ancient Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece alongside other relevant polities. In addition, major historical figures and their legacies will feature prominently throughout the course. 3 hours

**OT623 Kings**

This course explores 1 and 2 Kings, paying particular attention to the text and the text's context. Opportunities will be given to analyzing the book's overarching structure, selected critical issues germane to interpretation, and relevant social and historical realities associated with the history of ancient Israel and Judah during Iron II. In addition, opportunities will be given to the development of an exegetical method. 3 hours

*Section 2: 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.

**7.2.1.4 New Testament***Section 1: Background Studies and Critical Issues***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

**NT621 Luke-Acts**

This course offers a literary, theological, and historical analysis of Luke-Acts, a two-volume record of the birth of Christianity comprising over 27% of the New Testament. In addition to a survey of the modern critical methodologies and major contemporary debates, this course includes a thorough examination of the text and an exploration of its enduring significance. Special attention will be given to questions concerning Luke's reliability as a historian and his unique contributions to New Testament theology. 3 hours

**NT 622 Romans**

This course offers a literary, theological, and historical analysis of the book of Romans. Special attention will be lent to understanding how the various parts of the book thematically relate to one another. Consideration will be given to the historical understanding of the book specifically within the Wesleyan-holiness tradition and how that relates to other theological paradigms. 3 hours

**NT 623 The Bible, Homosexuality, and Transgenderism**

This course will examine the biblical witness on homosexuality and transgenderism, in the context of sexuality generally, looking at pro and con arguments by some of the most important biblical scholars on all sides of the issue. This course will also consider the philosophical, scientific, political, and pastoral issues surrounding these topics. 3 hours

**NT 625 First Corinthians**

Description coming soon. 3 hours

**NT 666 Revelation**

This course is an exposition of the book of Revelation as the capstone of Christian Scripture. Special emphasis will be placed on Revelation's literary genre and shape, theological themes, and various schools of interpretation. 3 hours

*Section 2: 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.

**7.2.2 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

**7.2.2.1 Biblical Theology**

**BT 501 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. 3 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

**7.2.2.2 Historical Theology**

**HT 520 History of Christian Thought**

Focuses 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.

**HT 620 The Church Planting Movement**

This course focuses on how to be a part of a multiplicative increase of indigenous churches planting churches within a certain geographical area. 3 hours

**HT 609 Comparative Religious Traditions**

This course surveys the major world religions, cults, and occultism. Topics will include Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, 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 of 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.

**7.2.2.3 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. 3 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 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 771-77 Independent Study in Theology**

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

**Thesis in Systematic Theology**

See RS 780 for details.

**7.2.3 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.

### 7.2.3.1 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 worldview 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 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 postmodernism 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.

### 7.2.3.2 Apologetics

#### AP 501 Foundations of Apologetics

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. This course also surveys different approaches to the task of apologetics. 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.

#### 7.2.4 Spiritual Formation Studies

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. Included in this course the student will be required to engage in a supervised “works of mercy” ministry for the duration of the term. 4 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 60001 Practicum in Spiritual Formation 1**

This course is a grouping experience which consists of a specifically formatted discipleship group with a faculty leader. Requirements for credit are consistent attendance and participation in the meeting and method. The aim of the course is to enrich the student’s personal disciple-life and to teach a beneficial method of grouping that will be a discipleship tool for ministry. Group meets by Zoom. 1 hour

##### **DS 6002 Spiritual Formation Practicum 2**

This course combines the specific 5Q / “SACTS” discipleship group method experienced in Practicum 1 with an additional element: a relevant textbook and an academic assignment connected to the text. Group meets by Zoom. 2 hours

##### **DS 6003 Spiritual Formation Practicum 3**

This course brings all the elements together: (1) belonging to a WBS faculty-led Zoom group, (2) reading an assigned book along with a relevant assignment, and (3) gathering and leading an off-campus discipleship group using the same 5Q / “SACTS” method. 3 hours

##### **DS 601 Theology and Practice of Spiritual Direction**

This course focuses upon matters that are related to both pastoral counseling and spiritual formation and discipleship. However, the purpose of the course is to integrate Christian theological understandings about the nature of human existence and God’s purposes for our lives with insights about the importance of pastoral guidance in believers’ faith journeys. Special emphasis is placed upon professional ethics in this process, as well as the role of the means of grace (spiritual disciplines and sacraments) as “tools” for pastoral ministry in shaping a congregant’s self-awareness, creating a context for counseling, enabling self-reflection, and facilitating directed spiritual growth through pastoral care, support, and accountability. 3 hours

##### **DS715 Deliverance in BMB Discipleship**

Despite a clear Biblical mandate, one of the most neglected areas in Protestant missions and pastoral care has been deliverance from evil spirits. This course explores the theological task of integrating Bible, experience, the tradition of the church and reason to construct a Biblically sound and experientially wise practice of deliverance ministry as an integral part of the discipleship process. It is designed to equip disciple makers with the tools they need to integrate deliverance and the pursuit of spiritual freedom in discipleship. 3 hours

##### **DS 716-17 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.

**7.2.5 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.

**7.2.5.1 Pastoral Ministry**

**PM 501 Denominational History and Polity**

This course will survey the history of the Methodist movement from its origins in the 18th century to the present day and will explore the polity of the Global Methodist Church. The course will explore the key events, figures, and ideas that have shaped Methodism, as well as its distinctive theological and organizational features. The course will also examine the challenges and opportunities facing the Methodist movement in the 21st century. This course meets partial educational requirements for ordination in the Global Methodist Church. 3 hours

**PM 502 Church Finance and Administration**

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth exposure to principles of church administration/management and stewardship. Close attention is given to the biblical and theological foundations that undergird the art of church administration/management and the leadership of church stewardship. During this course students will develop the skills necessary for creating a culture of administrative excellence and radical generosity. 3 hours

**PM 600 Proclamation and Discipleship in the African American Church**

This course is an exploration of orthodox Christian theology and the distinctive expression that the proclamation of the Christian Gospel has had historically in the African American church in order to consider how to build upon those practices in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and create faithful congregations of disciples of Jesus Christ and citizens of God's Kingdom who live the faith, minister mercy, and witness to biblical truth and justice in their communities. 3 hours

**PM 603 Ministering to the African American Church**

Ministering to the African American Community addresses the historic and contemporary socio-cultural realities complexly impacting black communal flourishing in the United States, and examines how faith-driven anchor institutions can better serve the holistic needs of diverse African American communities. 3 hours

**PM 604 Theological Issues in the African American Church**

Though the African American community remains overwhelmingly Christian, there are other faith traditions represented within this population, as well as divergent views on Christian doctrine and practice. Since African Americans are not monolithic theologically, it is important to survey the various beliefs that endure in the North American context, especially in urban settings. This course will look at the major doctrinal and polity differences between and within black church denominations, with special emphasis on controversies around Charismatic Renewal, women in ordained ministry, and the social role of the church. We will also introduce students to leading non-Christian movements, such as the Nation of Islam, Hebrew Israelites, and Semitic Science. Current trends in secular humanism, human sexuality, and the decline of church membership among black Millennials may also be covered. 3 hours

**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 spiritual formation in the 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 classroom setting. Prerequisites: ST 604, ST 605, and OT 620 or NT 531. 3 hours

**PM 616 Principles of Chaplaincy**

This course is an introduction to the basic features of Chaplaincy and to make available resources designed to aid the student with little or no prior knowledge of Chaplaincy in various contexts. 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 630 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. 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 700 Pastoral Leadership**

This course 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. 3 hours

**PM 701-702 Clinical Pastoral Education**

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is a supervised educational process involving the student in the actual practice of ministry to persons within a chaplaincy context, focusing on pastoral reflection, formation, and competence. Students must arrange their own CPE practicum with the dean's approval. 3 hours

**PM 704 Leadership in the African American Church**

This course examines the historical development and contemporary promises and perils of leadership in and through the African American Church tradition. As a reform movement holding together the necessity of personal salvation and social transformation, the

African-American Church has offered the ecumenical Church and the nation in particular valuable resources for cultivating Spirit-led servant leaders in past and present generations. The personal and public dimensions of this kind of leadership will be explored, as well as practical responses to critical issues peculiar to the African American Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Persons seeking greater clarity in pastoral and non-pastoral ministries should expect to deepen their sense of call and purposeful service as a result of this class. 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.

**7.2.5.2 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.

**7.2.5.3 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

**MS601 Bridging Divides: Critical Issues in Islam and Ministry Among Muslims**

*Bridging Divides* introduces students to the critical and controversial issues about which Christians often have deeply held and strongly contrasting convictions which frequently cause division. We will explore seven issues in understanding the origins, development and meaning of Islam as well as seven issues in ministry among Muslims. This course explores the issues, seeks to be fair in presenting all sides of the topics, and encourages participants to develop skills in bridging the divides which often create conflicts among missionaries and ministries. 3 hours

**MS602 Shi'ism, Sharia, and Sufism**

Effective ministry among Muslims requires an understanding of the diversity that exists among Muslims, including the variety of theological and historic streams feeding into and shaping the contemporary Muslim world. This course will survey the historical and theological development of Shi'ite Islam and Islamic Sharia, as well as introduce students to Sufism. 3 hours

**MS 609 Comparative Religious Traditions**

This course surveys the major world religions, cults, and occultism. Topics will include Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, 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 Christian Engagement with 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 survey 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 615 Engaging Muslim Women: Fruitful Practices for Overcoming Religious, Cultural, and Educational Disparities**

The subtitle for the course is *fruitful practices for overcoming religious, cultural, economic and educational disparities* as these relate to how we understand and engage with Muslim women in order to reach them with the gospel of Jesus. We will explore how to reach and teach Muslim women, bringing new believers into the body of Christ.

Muslim women are among the least-reached people in the world. This course considers the unique needs and the formidable challenges that too often make it exceptionally difficult for them to learn about Jesus, to be welcomed into in his kingdom, and to become active participants in his body. In addition to examining the religious and cultural challenges women face, we will explore the many educational, social, and economic disparities that increase their isolation and vulnerability. We will consider their felt needs and explore together creative ways to access these women who are so loved by God. 3 hours

**MS 620 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 630 The Muslim World: Then and Now**

Islam in the 21st century is an imposing narrative, a "sacred story," deeply anchored in Muslim history and in their self-perceptions. To better understand both current events and Muslim grievances around the world, we must first grasp the deep impact of their past victories and humiliating losses. Knowing Islamic history provides insight into Muslims' centuries-long arguments among themselves, as well as their intuitive and intermittent violent opposition to non-Muslims. Muslims are passionate about their history, which is full of triumphs, contradictions, mystery, intrigue, poetry, fiction and competing historical interpretations. This course will enable you to understand this complicated world and give you the tools you need to anticipate the future, both theirs and ours. 3 hours

**MS 640 Discipling and Planting churches in Muslim Communities**

This course studies the principles of discipleship as they apply to fruitful ministry to Muslims. As the end-result of discipleship includes Christian community, the process of planting Churches among Muslim converts is also studied. 3 hours

**MS 650 BMB Perspectives on Identity, Community, & Theology**

This course will explore a range of issues and challenges for Christian Believers of Muslim background in gaining a strong identity in Christ and in his community. You will be guided on a tour through a range of different majority-Muslim contexts and Muslim diaspora contexts. In each lesson you will meet mature BMBs who will share their own experiences, wisdom, fears, hopes and dreams for what the Lord is doing in this generation and for healthy growth in the next generation. 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.

**7.2.5.4 Research and Study Skills**

**RS 001 New Student Orientation**

This five-day online course is offered before the 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

**RS 510 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 each discipline's 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 777 Graduate Assessment**

Provides Master's students with an opportunity for reflecting on their seminary study and evaluating its scope and impact on their lives. In their last semester, Master's students complete an asynchronous course consisting of essays and forums demonstrating their achievement of their program goals, including the goals appropriate for their specific concentrations. This data will be used in the seminary's assessment and improvement of its programs. 0 hours

#### **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

### **7.3 Doctor of Ministry Course Descriptions**

#### **DM801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics**

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. 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 Leadership**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM804 Disciple-making Leadership. It engages students in a historical and theological reflection on the foundations of the responsibility of the pastor, with a focus on recovering the identity of the pastor in a priestly, symbolic role as Christ's representative to the church. As a part of this, a review of the diversity in historic Christianity regarding the nature and place of the sacraments (baptism and holy communion) will enable students to discover within their own specific traditions how these practices can be enriched as a means of renewing the corporate life of a congregation. A new vision of the vocation of Pastor should enable students to perceive that all pastoral ministry (preaching, leading worship, counseling, mentoring, and administration) is meant to be a sacramental gift of Christ's presence to the people of God, just as the Church is to be a sacrament to the world as a Christologically centered, missionally oriented focus community whose pastor leads them in following Christ into the world. 3 hours

#### **DM804 Disciple-making Leadership**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM803 Sacramental 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 Trinitarian Personhood and Ministry**

Course description coming soon. 3 hours

#### **DM806 Wesleyan Ministry in a Post-Christian Context**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM805 Trinitarian Personhood and Ministry. 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, in order to discern and apply the implications of this soteriology for pastoral ministry today. 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. 3 hours

**DM807 Christianity and World Religions**

This engages students in a comparative study of the nature and content of Christian theism in contrast to other world religions, modern cults, New Age spirituality, and their corresponding worldviews. Special focus is given to the spirit of religious relativism and universalism in the contemporary Western world. These studies will equip students with greater competence and confidence when engaging persons from other religious worldviews. Furthermore, pastors will be empowered to teach other religious worldviews to their congregations to protect the faithful from error and prepare believers to be winsome, confident witness to the Gospel's truth in our increasingly multicultural age. 3 hours

**DM808 Philosophies Challenging the Church**

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM807 Christianity and World Religions. 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 "postmodern" perspectives on truth, meaning, and moral values, so that congregations will be prepared and equipped to stand for the Gospel in the face of false ideologies. 3 hours

**DM 809 Doctor of Ministry Project Research Orientation (0 hrs)**

This video course is designed to give basic information for the Doctor of Ministry student to understand the general research techniques required to create the prospectus and dissertation. After seeing the videos, the student will consult with the Director of Research to finalize the prospectus document. When the full faculty approves the prospectus, the student is released to begin writing the dissertation. The student will register for DM 810 to begin writing the dissertation.

**DM 810 Doctor of Ministry Research Project (6 hrs)**

The Ministry Research Project is a doctoral student's dissertation, a culminating work that integrates insights from the previous courses with research and application in the context of the student's place of ministry. A committee of two WBS faculty members will oversee the dissertation process. With permission, an external reader who possesses the necessary academic and professional credentials to critically examine the ministry project could be a committee member. The final requirement for the D.Min. degree is the successful completion of an oral defense of the dissertation before the faculty committee. All revisions requested by the committee must be done and a final digital copy submitted to the library before the student receives the degree diploma. 6 hours

**7.4 Course Evaluations**

The course evaluation is an essential measuring instrument in evaluating the success of both courses and quality of instructions. Therefore, students are required to complete course evaluations in Populi at the end of each course. Students will not be able to see their final grade in Populi until the course evaluation has been completed. All course evaluations are anonymous, and faculty can only view evaluation results once course grades have been finalized.

## APPENDIX A: 2024–2025 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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### *Fall 2024*

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First day of Fall classes	August 12
BA/MDiv/MA Fifteen-week course Drop/Add Period end	August 23, 4:59PM
BA/MDiv/MA fifteen-week course Withdrawal Period begins	August 23, 5:00PM
Labor Day Holiday (no class)	September 2
Registration for Spring Semester Begins	October 14
Fall Break (no class)	October 7-11
Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)	November 25-29
MDiv/MA course Withdrawal Period ends	November 22, 5:00PM
Final Exams week	December 2-6
End of Fall semester	December 6

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### *Spring 2025*

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First day of Spring classes	January 13
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no class)	January 20
BA/MDiv/MA fifteen-week course Drop/Add Period ends	January 24, 4:59PM
BA/MDiv/MA fifteen-week course Withdrawal Period begins	January 24, 5:00PM
Spring Break (no class)	March 10-14
Registration for Summer and Fall terms Begins	April 7
BA/MDiv/MA course Withdrawal Period ends	April 18, 2024
Final Exams week	April 28-May 2
End of Spring semester	May 2
Senior/Alumni Banquet	May 2
Commencement	May 3

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### *Summer 2024*

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Summer term begins	May 12
MDiv/MA online course Drop/Add Period ends	May 23, 4:59PM
MDiv/MA fifteen-week course Withdrawal Period begins	May 23, 5:00PM
Summer term ends	August 8

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### *DMin Academic Schedule*

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Fall-Winter Term Begins	October 1
Fall-Winter Residential	January 6-10
Application deadline for April 1 matriculation	March 1
Fall-Winter Term Ends	March 31
Spring-Summer Term Begins	April 1
Spring-Summer Residential	June 9-13
Spring-Summer Term Ends	September 30

## APPENDIX B: 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. “Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student’s education records maintained by the school... Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or missing... Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student to release any information from a student’s education record.” (Department of Education policy statement: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html?src=rn>.)

**Rights Under FERPA.** Under FERPA guidelines, a school must provide the eligible student access to his/her 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.

**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 disclosure personal data.

**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:

- School officials or others who are working for the institution may see student files.
- Other education institutions whom the student designates may request and receive academic information.
- During the application for financial aid, other agencies may require the student’s personal information.
- 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.
- If a health or safety emergency arises, or if federal or state law is broken, the student’s parent/guardian may request personal information.
- 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.
- If educational authorities are evaluating or auditing the institution, student academic information may be provided.

**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 below. 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 C: DUAL PROGRAM ENROLLMENT, SHARING CREDIT, AND RELINQUISHING DEGREES

Wesley Biblical does not allow students to enroll simultaneously in more than one degree program. However, per accreditation standards, WBS allows the sharing of credits in obtaining multiple degrees at the graduate level. Yet such a scenario must happen sequentially and not simultaneously. That is, given WBS's policy on precluding dual enrollment, the pursuit of a second degree happens after an initial degree is obtained.

In the case of sharing credits in the pursuit of multiple degrees, at least 1/3 of the total credit hours for the second degree must be original to that degree. In other words, the maximum amount of shared credits cannot exceed 2/3 of the necessary credit hours.

Wesley Biblical Seminary does allow for students to relinquish a previously conferred degree in preference for another degree. WBS will allow this under the following conditions:

- There is a limitation of three years within which a student may relinquish a degree. After three years, WBS will not allow a student to relinquish their degree.
- The student must register their desire to relinquish a degree by means of written correspondence to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The student must declare for which degree they wish to relinquish their earned degree, and this must happen during the penultimate semester of classes.
- At this time, the VPAA will consult with the Registrar to ensure that the student meets all the requirements for the desired degree.
- Upon a positive verification, the student will be notified that their request will be granted pending the successful completion of all remaining requirements. If a positive verification can't be met, the student will be notified, and the process will be terminated. In either case, documentation will be included in the student's file.
- When the new is conferred:
  - The old degree shall be destroyed
  - Official documentation will be kept in the student's file
  - All transcripts will be officially adjusted

## APPENDIX D: 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:

- 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 possible.
- For academic grievances, if the student is not satisfied after speaking with the course instructor, he or she should consult with the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The complaint must be presented in writing.
- For complaints and grievances between students, the student should speak with the Executive Vice President. The complaint must be presented in writing.
- 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.
- 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.

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/student\\_complaint\\_process.asp](http://www.mississippi.edu/mcca/student_complaint_process.asp) and completing the student complaint form accessible on the right side of this page.

## APPENDIX E: 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.

1. WE BELIEVE in the Self-Revealing God, the Creator of all . . .
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. 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 as 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.

## APPENDIX F: THE LOCATION OF WESLEY BIBLICAL SEMINARY

1880 E. County Line Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157

I-55, Exit 103

