

ACADEMIC CATALOG

2019-2021



Wesley Biblical Seminary

1880 E. County Line Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157
P.O. Box 600, Ridgeland, MS 39158
(601) 366-8880, www.wbs.edu

The catalog of Wesley Biblical Seminary provides descriptions of educational policies and programs for the 2019-21 academic years. The seminary reserves the right to make changes in tuition charges, policies, and curricula as may be necessary.

Welcome from the President

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

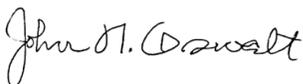
Wesley Biblical Seminary holds an unwavering commitment to the authority of Scripture, to the reality of the Spirit-filled, sanctified life, and to the service of the church of Jesus Christ. Obeying Christ's call to make disciples is our centering principle.

As students of WBS, you have the opportunity and challenge to grow in your own spiritual development, rooted in God's inerrant Word, and to become equipped for the ministry to which you have been called. It is your joyful responsibility to proclaim the Good News that Christ can live in us and reproduce his life in ours.

Seminary education is undergoing rapid changes in this day, but the call of God to give our heart, soul, mind, and strength in service to him and his people has not changed and will not change. Online and on-campus, around the nation and around the world, WBS is providing a solid and balanced education to a diverse collection of committed students. We are a varied body committed to knowing and living the Truth.

I am pleased for you to join us as we face the challenge of Christ's call to make disciples.

Dr. John Oswalt



Interim President



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Our Mission

Mission Statement

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 to the absolute authority of the Bible, actively make disciples of Jesus Christ.

General Information

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, and Dr. John E. Neihof, Jr. from 2013 to 2019. 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. He will hold this position until May 2020 or until a permanent successor has been selected.

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

Statement of Faith

We hold the following:

1. The supreme authority of the Word of God which stands written in the sixty- six books of the Holy Bible, all therein being divinely inspired by Almighty God and therefore without error or defect in the autographs. Believing the Bible to be the Word of God written, the only infallible rule of faith and practice, Wesley Biblical Seminary asserts the authority of Scripture alone over the life of the Church and its individual members. We therefore believe that a reverent and loyal approach to the study of the Bible recognizes and affirms its full inspiration and its absolute trustworthiness as the divinely revealed and authoritative Word of God.
2. The one true God as Creator, Sustainer and Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, eternally existent in the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with personality and deity.
3. The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, as manifested in the flesh through a miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and virgin birth, who lived a sinless life and then died on Calvary, making a full and satisfactory atonement for the sins of all men, rose bodily the third day, ascended into Heaven and is enthroned at God's right hand as our abiding Intercessor.
4. The Holy Spirit as the Lord and Giver of life, taking the things of Jesus Christ and applying them to man and to his salvation and service. Assurance of personal salvation and the fruit of the Spirit are clearly distinguished from the gifts of the Spirit which are for the edification of the Church and which carry no guarantee of personal holiness or destiny.
5. The special original creation of man in God's image and likeness and the willful disobedience through which man became deeply fallen and tragically lost apart from God's redeeming grace.

6. The privilege and necessity of each person's being made a new creature in Christ by the life-giving Holy Spirit, adopted into God's family, and delivered from the penalty and practice of sinning. In this context sinning is regarded as known, willful violation of the will of God.
7. The second definite work of grace subsequent to regeneration, accomplished by the baptism with the Holy Spirit, thereby purifying the heart from original sin and empowering for continuous growth in grace, victorious living, and fruitful service. The result of this epochal experience—termed perfect love and/or entire sanctification—is maintained by faith as expressed in continuous obedience to God's revealed will, thus giving perfect cleansing moment by moment (Acts 15:8-9; I Thessalonians 5:23; I John 1:7-9, 4:13- 21). Life in the Spirit is dynamically expressed in maturing and enabling grace to progress from glory to glory in personal holiness and Christian mission (II Corinthians 3:18).
8. The possibility of forfeiting divine grace and being lost since persons are Christians solely by their willing response to the gracious call and enablements of the Holy Spirit. However, backsliders may be restored to their forfeited state of grace if they truly repent and return to the Lord in obedient faith.
9. The Church as the living body of Christ, constituting all who are united by faith to Him as members of His body and who are under the commandment to love one another with pure and fervent hearts. While in its spiritual essence the Church is an organism created by the Holy Spirit, it is also a divine-human institution functioning visibly on earth. As an institution, its divinely assigned mission is the universal proclamation of the Gospel. Application of the Gospel in the political, social, and economic needs of mankind is inherently proper, but secondary and subservient to its primary spiritual commission.
10. At the end of this Age, the return of Jesus Christ to gather His Church, to judge the world and to rule over all in righteousness.
11. The everlasting blessedness of all who die in Christ and the everlasting pain and loss of all others.
12. The obligation of all who are truly Christ's to live righteously, joyously, and sacrificially, to endeavor to bring salvation to all persons everywhere, and to express compassionate love in ministering to every kind of human need.

Ethos

Wesley Biblical Seminary has established this ethos statement in order to promote spiritual growth and to foster a safe, wholesome, loving Christian on-campus and online environment for the benefit of all members in the seminary community. The members of this community are expected to evidence commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord by walking in the Spirit so that they can grow in the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:16, 22-24) as evidenced by a life of honesty, purity, respect, and concern for the welfare of others. Members of the seminary community are also expected to abstain from the “works of the flesh” (Gal 4:19-21), such as drunkenness, unruly behavior, gossip, evil-speaking, gluttony, illegal or harmful addictive substances, occult practices, pornography, commercialized sexual entertainment, and all sexual practices outside of the marriage relationship between a man and a woman. Personal attire, appearance, and conversation should exemplify godliness in the Christian community and the world.

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

Students’ Rights and Responsibilities; Code of Discipline

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

Location

Wesley Biblical Seminary is located at 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.

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.

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).

Student Housing

Moderately priced housing options are readily available throughout the Jackson metro area. For more information contact the Office of Admissions at 601-366-8880 (ext. 108).

Chapel

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

Discipleship at Wesley

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

Accreditation

Wesley Biblical Seminary is accredited by The 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

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 Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States Department of Justice (SEVIS/SEVP) recognizes Wesley Biblical Seminary as an educational center for international students.

The seminary is a member of the National Association of Evangelicals. Faculty members belong to various professional organizations, such as the Evangelical Theological Society, the Society of Biblical Literature, the Wesleyan Theological Society, and the Institute for Biblical Research, which enable them to stay current and to keep abreast of developments in theological education.

Affiliations and Partnerships

Denominational Relationships. A number of denominations have officially endorsed Wesley Biblical Seminary as an approved theological school for their constituencies. At least twelve different denominations have been represented on the seminary faculty and more than thirty within the student body. This diversity enables the seminary to effectively prepare students for service under episcopal, elder-led, or congregational church polity. It also provides for training in both liturgical and free worship.

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

Partnership with The Liliastrotter Center. Wesley Biblical Seminary partners with the Liliastrotter 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 Liliastrotter Center “enables thoughtful Christian engagement with Muslims by bringing seasoned evangelical scholarship and discipleship to students and to practitioners serving among Muslims to equip them for informed, fruitful and enduring ministry.” We at Wesley Biblical Seminary are delighted to be working with this fine group of people and happy to extend this opportunity to our students. You can learn more about LTC at <http://liliastrottercenter.org/>.

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>).

Educational Effectiveness

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

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.

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 assessment plan effectively provides for both direct and indirect measurement of student achievement based primarily on graduate exit interviews and on artifacts submitted by the student and evaluated according to established rubrics. The faculty will evaluate these assessment results on an annual basis.

Program Goal Achievement:

In a 2017 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%**
- **Orthodoxy:** Articulate the parameters and ongoing implications of historic Trinitarian faith. **90%**
- **The Wesleyan Perspective:** Explain the distinctive emphases of the Wesleyan perspective and their relationship to Scripture and Orthodoxy. **90%**
- **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. **95%**
- **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. (Only for M.Div. degree.) **100%**
- **Proclamation:** Engage Church and culture through preaching, teaching, and personal witness. (Only for M.Div. degree.) **100%**
- **Leadership:** Exercise leadership in accordance with Christian ethics and priorities. (Only for M.Div. degree.) **100%**
- **Spiritual Direction:** Offer pastoral counsel and engage in the making of disciples. (Only for M.Div. degree.) **100%**
- **Apologetics:** Demonstrate the ability for a contemporary articulation of the Christian faith in critical dialogue with non-Christians. (Only for MA Apologetics degree.) **100%**

Placement Rates:

The most recent placement figures pertain to the graduating class of 2017. As of November 2017, of those who graduated with the Master of Divinity degree:

- 67% Had found employment in places of Christian ministry.
- 33% Were engaged in further study (while employed).
- 33% Were in non-ministry employment.

- 0% Were still seeking employment.

Although the Master of Arts degree is dedicated to general biblical and theological knowledge rather than to ministry, by November 2017:

- 65% Had found employment in places of Christian ministry.
- 6% Were engaged in further study. (while employed)
- 29% Were in non-ministry employment.
- 0% Were still seeking employment.
- 6% Were retired.

Virtual WBS

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

Women at Wesley

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

Statement on Non-Discrimination

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

The Administration, Trustees, and Faculty

Administrative Officers

John N. Oswalt
Interim President

Rob Pocai
Executive Vice President

Christ Lohrstorfer
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Associate Professor of Wesleyan Theology

Administrative Staff

Karl Luman
Registrar
Director of Financial Aid

Rebecca Luman
Director of Spiritual Formation and
Distance Learning

Peggy Price
Director of Business Affairs

Grace Andrews
Director of Library Services
Assistant to the President
Assistant Registrar

Joshua Friedeman
Director of Development

Elijah Friedeman
Director of Admissions and Marketing

Annie Andrews
Admissions Counselor

Board of Trustees

Timothy Barber

Businessman
Houston, Texas

Regina Boyles

Business Woman
Jackson, Mississippi

Susan Brabec

Business Woman
Jackson, Mississippi

Gary K. Briden

Chaplain
Jackson, Mississippi

Joseph Campbell

Denominational Leader
Jackson, Mississippi

J. David Chandler, Jr., Chairman

Businessman
Dallas, Georgia

James I. Howard

Attorney
Horse Cave, Kentucky

Scott King, Secretary

Businessman
Southaven, Mississippi

Hiroo (“David”) Kudo

Pastor
Okayama, Japan

Bob McElroy

Businessman
Madison, Mississippi

James Renfroe, Vice Chairman

Attorney
Madison, Mississippi

Morgan Roberts

Educator
Brandon, Mississippi

**Casey M. (“Buddy”) Smith, Jr., Interim
Treasurer**

Businessman
Plantersville, Mississippi

Philip (“Phil”) Speas

College President
Jackson, Kentucky

Robert Stevensen

Pastor, Monte Maria Church
Edo, Mexico

The Faculty

Dr. G. Stephen Blakemore



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

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

Dr. George Richard (“Rick”) Boyd, Jr.



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

Rick Boyd has taught as an adjunct at a number of institutions of higher education, is a regular participant in scholarly societies and conferences, and is currently editing his doctoral dissertation, *Sonship as the Central Theological Motif and Unifying Theme of Hebrews*, for publication. In addition to his scholarship, Dr. Boyd brings to Wesley extensive experience in Christian media. His passion has been to communicate solid Biblical truth to a popular audience through radio. He and his wife Jodi have been actively involved in their local church through both Sunday school and small-group ministries. They have a burden for youth and for mentoring young adults. WBS faculty since 2015.

Dr. Matt T. Friedeman



Professor of Evangelism and Discipleship

Ph.D., University of Kansas

M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary

M.A., University of Kansas

B.S., University of Kansas

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

Dr. Chris Lohrstorfer



Vice President for Academic Affairs

Associate Professor of Wesley

Studies

Ph.D., University of Manchester, UK

M.A., Wesley Biblical Seminary

B.A., Wesley College

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.

Dr. Rebecca Luman



Assistant Professor of Formation and Instruction

Ph.D., New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary

Th.M., New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary

M.Div., Wesley Biblical Seminary

B.S., California University of
Pennsylvania

A.A., Kentucky Mountain Bible College

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

Dr. David Schreiner



Assistant Professor of Old Testament
Ph.D., Asbury Theological Seminary
M.A., Asbury Theological Seminary
B.S., Indiana Wesleyan University

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

Faculty Emeriti

Gareth Lee Cockerill

B.A., M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D.
*Professor Emeritus of New Testament and
Biblical Theology*
1979-1981, 1984-2017

Harold G. Spann

B.A., M.A., LL.D.
President Emeritus
1985-1995, 1997-1998

John N. Oswalt

B.A., B.D., Th.M., M.A., Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Old Testament
1999-2009

Paul Tashiro

B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Old Testament
1991-2006

Adjunct Faculty

Benjamin Hegeman

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

D.Min. Adjunct Faculty

Christopher Bounds

Professor of Theology, Asbury University
Ph.D., Drew University
Wilmore, Kentucky

Don Little

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

William Ury

Ambassador of Holiness, Salvation Army
Ph.D., Drew University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Matthew O'Reilly

Ph.D., University of Gloucestershire
Montgomery, Alabama

Joy Moore

*Associate Professor of Biblical Preaching,
Luther Seminary*
Ph.D., Brunel University
St. Paul, Minnesota

CJ Rhodes

D.Min., Wesley Biblical Seminary
Jackson, Mississippi

Gail Schlosser

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

William Sillings

D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary
Bethany, Oklahoma

Mary Tyes-Williams

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Admissions

Pre-Seminary Education

In general, pre-seminary studies should include courses in the humanities, liberal arts, and social sciences that provide cultural and intellectual foundations essential for theological inquiry. Thus students will benefit from taking undergraduate courses in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, modern foreign languages, literature and composition, ancient and modern history, philosophy, psychology, speech, communication, and sociology. The student with sound knowledge of the content of the Bible will be able to advance more quickly in seminary studies.

Admission Requirements

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

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

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

Prospective M.Div./M.A. students with an undergraduate GPA of 2.00 to 2.49 may be considered for initial admission as special students by obtaining a test score greater

than the 50th percentile on the Miller Analogies Test. After passing four classes with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above, they may be accepted as degree-seeking students. Such students should complete the full M.Div./M.A. degree application before matriculation even though they begin as special students.

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

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

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

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

Admission Procedures

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

1. A completed application form. A non-refundable application fee of \$40.00 must accompany the application. Pay online through our secure web site.
2. Final official transcripts. Transcripts are required of all previous undergraduate or graduate work. Applicants must request that official copies be mailed to the Office of Admissions.
3. Three written recommendations from categories of persons indicated on the application. See instructions on application form.
4. M.Div./M.A. applicants must include an essay on their spiritual journey with

the application form. D.Min. students complete a 1500-2000 word personal profile essay.

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

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

Transferring Credits

M.Div. and M.A. students may petition for the transfer of **equivalent courses** from other accredited seminaries or appropriate masters programs by submitting a written request to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who will determine the suitability of the courses in question. A catalog description of these courses should accompany this request. In order to transfer courses students must be in good standing with their previous institution and the courses must fit the requirements of the WBS degree. D.Min. students normally take all of their courses at Wesley Biblical Seminary.

Full credit is given for work satisfactorily completed in recognized schools, provided these courses apply to the Seminary's curriculum. No credit will be granted for previous courses with a grade of less than **B**. The total hours for which credit or partial credit is allowed will be shown on the student's transcript.

Up to twenty-five (25) hours may be transferred into the M.A. programs and fifty (50) hours into the M.Div. program. However, no more than half the hours used to complete another degree may be applied toward a degree at WBS. Normally a student seeking a WBS degree must take the last twenty-five hours at WBS.

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.

International Student Application

International students seeking admission to Wesley Biblical Seminary need to provide additional information in the application process. The seminary

primarily accepts international students to study online and live zoom from their own country but will also consider applications for study in the United States.

International Students Studying Online and Live Zoom

1. Students applying to be part of the Shepherd Project should complete the Shepherd Project application instead of the regular application.
2. The student should provide an official copy of a *TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)* **or** *IELTS (International English Language Testing System)* score that indicates the student's ability to work at 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.
3. An endorsement from the student's sending church or Christian organization indicating plans for ministry after graduation from Wesley.

International Students Studying in the United States

1. The student must first complete an application (see Admission Procedures) to begin the process to study at Wesley.
2. The student should apply and acquire a passport from his or her country's government.
3. The student should provide an official copy of a *TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)* or *IELTS (International English Language Testing System)* score that indicates the student's ability to work at 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 Academic Dean or the Registrar will send a Form I-20, *Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status*.

Sufficient evidence of financial resources should include such things as (a) personal bank statements; (b) letters of financial support from foundations, churches, or individuals with copies of bank statements demonstrating said support; and (c) certificates of any awarded scholarships.

5. Once students have their I-20, they will then need to pay the I-901 *Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)* Fee. This fee can be paid at FMJFee.com. For more information, view the Form I-901 Fee Payment tutorial online.
6. The student should then apply for a nonimmigrant visa to travel to the United States at a designated U.S. embassy or consulate. Make sure to bring all required documents.
7. On-campus international students must also provide a deposit of funds in US dollars to serve as an emergency fund and to cover the cost of return airfare for the student and any accompanying family members. This deposit of funds shall be made before admission is granted and will be held in the student's account at WBS until the funds are needed.
8. The seminary is not authorized to accept students into the Doctor of Ministry degree.

Students at Wesley

Salient Facts

1. Have local church ministry responsibility, either full-time or part-time, as they balance study at seminary with ministry and attention to family needs.
2. 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.

Denominational Background

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

Undergraduate Background

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

Financial Information

Tuition and Fees

Wesley Biblical Seminary provides an excellent and affordable theological education. Thus tuition and fees cover only a small percentage of the total cost of a WBS degree. The seminary must raise the remainder through private contributions and auxiliary enterprises. The seminary reserves the right to change tuition and fees whenever necessary.

40.00	Application fee
20.00	Application fee for auditing and special students
495.00	Tuition per M.Div./M.A. term hour
550.00	Tuition per D.Min. term hour
75.00	Independent study fee (per course in addition to tuition)
200.00	Audit fee per course
150.00	Late registration fee
25.00	Deferred payment fee for M.Div./M.A. per term
50.00	Deferred payment fee for D.Min. per year
40.00	Thesis fee
200.00	Graduation fee
25.00	Change of Schedule fee (per occurrence)
5.00	Insurance fee per term for on-campus students
200.00	Technology fee per term (4 hrs or more)
100.00	Online Orientation fee for all M.Div./M.A. students
10.00	Transcript mailing fee (first copy is free)
500.00	D.Min. Continuation (per term beginning the ninth term after matriculation)
400.00	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 <u>final copy</u> of the thesis.)

Spouses of students who are taking at least eight hours for credit, and members of the seminary staff and their families, may enroll for three credit or audit hours per term without paying tuition or audit fees. Regularly employed (non-adjunct) faculty and administration and their immediate families may take courses tuition/audit fee free.

Wesley graduates who are not pursuing an additional degree may take master's courses for credit at half tuition. In all of these instances, students will be assessed other applicable fees even when tuition or audit fees have been waived.

Comprehensive financial reflection is vital for prospective seminary students. The amount needed per year varies greatly from person to person. The financial budget for a year at seminary should include tuition, fees, books and supplies, rent and utilities, food, clothing, laundering, medical insurance/expenses, transportation, and incidentals. Past records show that dedicated students who are willing to work hard and to trust the promises of God have found adequate resources to finance seminary study.

Policy for Payment of Student Accounts

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

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

Loan agreement – approved *Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan* for a sufficient amount to cover the total tuition, books and fees, if a student is at least half time (4 to 7 credit hours). The Financial Aid Office will endeavor to quickly confirm eligibility for a loan when the FAFSA application is completed and the student is accepted to the seminary.

Deferred Payment Plan– Up to 3 payments (see below)

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

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

3. A second payment – ½ of the balance due -will be due 30 days from the initial due date.
4. The 3rd and final payment will be due 60 days from the initial due date.
5. Any scheduled payment not paid by the date scheduled will incur a \$25 late fee.
6. There is no penalty for payment of the full balance before the time of the scheduled payments.
7. After 60 days from the initial due date any student with an outstanding balance may be removed from class until the balance owed is paid.
8. Any balance owed 180 days after the beginning of the term in which the charges were incurred will begin to accumulate interest at the rate of 1.5% per month.

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

Payment Options for D.Min. Students

Full Payment 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 \$3,300, the total tuition for each term.

Deferred Payment Plan—For an annual fee of \$50 the student may arrange with the business office to pay \$550 per month for the six months of each term, totaling \$6,600 for the year. These arrangements must be completed April 1 of each year. Late payment will result in a \$25 late fee.

Loan agreement – approved *Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan* for a sufficient amount to cover the total tuition, books and fees. The 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.

Refund Policy

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

D.Min. students may drop from their courses with full refund up until they come to campus for the June or January intensives. No refund will be given after the 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/>>.

Financial Aid: Scholarships and Loans

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: Students - Scholarship Applications) or contact the director of financial aid.

Shepherd Project International Scholarship

In 2013 Wesley Biblical Seminary launched the “Shepherd Project” program (formerly “Mission Possible”) to equip capable church leaders from the Majority World. This program provides a limited number of tuition scholarships for the M.A. in Christian Studies. To qualify, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to Wesley Biblical Seminary. They must be from and be ministering in the “Majority World.” They must study online. People paid by a sending agency from North America, Europe, Korea or Japan do not qualify for this scholarship. This scholarship is only available for online students who remain in their countries of service.

Students applying for this scholarship should use the Shepherd Project application when they apply for entrance to WBS. For more information see website or contact admissions at admissions@wbs.edu.

Mississippi United Methodist Case Scholarship for Doctor of Ministry Students

Procedures

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 (D.Min.) program before applying for the *Case Scholar* Scholarship. Note: While the overall deadline for application is not until March 1st of the cohort year, *Case Scholars must be accepted to the D.Min. program before February 1st of the cohort year.*
4. The deadline for the *Case Scholarship* is also February 1st. *Both acceptance to the program and application for the scholarship must be complete by March 1st.* 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 15th. Eligibility is based on the WBS scholarship committee review of all documents.
 - i. Preference will be given to candidates with a 3.1 or higher GPA on their most recent degree.
 - ii. An essay/letter will be required featuring how this degree will help the student and his/her ministry impact Methodism in Mississippi.
 - iii. Interviews may be required and would be scheduled with individuals before the WBS Christmas break (see academic calendar for dates).
 - b. Once selected, the five students will be notified promptly by phone and/or email.
 - c. 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 15th 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 15th awarded, March 1st acceptance deadline (along with \$250.00 deposit)
 - ii. March 1st awarded, March 15th acceptance deadline (along with \$250.00 deposit)
 - iii. March 15th awarded, April 1st acceptance deadline (along with \$250.00 deposit)

- c. *Case Scholars* who accept the scholarship but failed to begin course-work 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.

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 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. 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 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.

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:

1. The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
2. 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.

Denominational Financial Support

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

Employment

A number of seminarians serve as student pastors, youth directors, assistant ministers, ministers of music, and so forth, within local churches. Arrangements for such ministerial appointments are the responsibility of the student. However, the seminary can serve as a liaison between interested students and various denominations and church officials. A considerable variety of secular employment opportunities are readily available in the Jackson metropolitan area. The Marketing Office keeps a file of available employment opportunities.

Academic Information

Course Scheduling

Terms

The academic year for M.Div. and M.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.

Campus Course Format:

- M.Div./M.A. courses on the campus are normally scheduled in a block format with classes meeting for two or three hours on one designated day of each week during the fall and spring terms. Campus courses are also via zoom.
- In January and the summer, the campus M.Div./M.A. courses are offered in one-week intensives in order to give online students the opportunity of studying on campus or via zoom.
- The seminary also usually offers one on-campus or via zoom masters class in a three or four weekend format each fall and spring term.
- Greek and Hebrew are also taught via the Zoom conferencing program.

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

Asynchronous online courses extend across the fifteen weeks of the fall and spring terms and the twelve weeks of the summer term.

Academic Standards and Course Load

In order to provide a reputable education for its students, Wesley Biblical Seminary has maintained high academic standards. WBS alumni have distinguished themselves by receiving Ph.D. degrees from many reputable universities and seminaries including Johns Hopkins University, Marquette University, Baylor University, University of Manchester (England), Concordia Seminary, Calvin Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In order to meet WBS academic standards, students should plan their schedules so that they can study six to nine

hours a week outside of class for on-campus courses and nine to twelve hours a week for online courses. Timely submission of assignments is essential. It is also important to consider the demands of employment and family responsibilities when determining how many hours to take in a given term. Full-time or half-time status is defined in a subsequent section titled “Enrollment, Satisfactory Academic Progress, and Financial Aid.”

In order to complete the M.Div. degree in three-years a student must complete at least twenty-six hours per year. In order to complete the M.A. in two years, a student must complete twenty-five hours per academic year. When you finish your course at WBS, you can be proud of your achievement!

Auditing Courses

With permission from the professor, M.Div./M.A. classes may be audited. Students interested in auditing should complete an auditor’s application. While auditing students will not be required to take examinations or do term work, they should plan on regular attendance. Notation of “Audit” is made on the transcript regarding audited courses. **However**, the audited courses cannot apply toward degree requirements.

Advanced Standing and Academic Waiver

The seminary may allow M.Div./M.A. students to petition for “advanced standing 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. Please request a copy the scholarship policy for eligibility requirements from the registrar.

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 Academic Dean stating the courses for which exemption is desired and providing a description of undergraduate courses or other evidence in substantiation of the request. The Academic Dean may request additional supporting evidence.

Classification of Students taking Master-level Courses

Junior

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

Middler

M.Div. students with 26-50 hours.

Senior

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

Auditor

Students taking courses for audit only.

Special Student/Non-Degree

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

WBS Postgraduate Student

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.

Class Attendance

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

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

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

Writing Styles

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

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

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

Netiquette

General Rules of Netiquette:

- Make your messages easier to read by making your paragraphs short and to the point.
 - DO NOT SHOUT BY TYPING IN ALL CAPS.
 - Utilize humor in appropriate forms. Avoid hostile, abusive, libelous, or rude comments. No vulgar, sexist, racist, biased, or other objectionable language will be tolerated.
 - Reinforce others in the course (e.g., "Good presentation!" or "Thanks for the feedback."). Valid criticism is acceptably expressed in the form of thoughtful alternatives. Do not insult others.
 - Think twice and send once. Once you send something not well-thought out, you will find it difficult and time-consuming to recover. Think about what you want the group and the professor to think about you.
 - Use spell-check and grammar-check. The little errors commonly accepted in email or text-messaging with friends and family are distracting and inappropriate in a discussion forum.
-

- In an online discussion forum, debate is welcome, but be tactful in responding to others. Remember that there's a person (or a whole class) at the receiving end of your post.
- If you quote a previous post (by using the reply function for example), quote only enough to make your own point.
- If you want to get in touch with only one person in the class, send a message to that individual's email address, not to the entire discussion list.

Zoom Etiquette

- Turn on equipment 15 minutes before class begins. It's good for the class to know you are attending by coming in early. Being late is a distraction to the whole class.
- Feel free to greet your fellow classmates and Instructor at the start of class, but limit such personal interactions to the start of class unless invited by the Instructor.
- Mute your mic unless asked to contribute.
- Minimize noise and activity distractions since these affect the WHOLE class. Find an enclosed, quiet place without kids and pets. Remember YOU ARE IN CLASS.
- Dress appropriately and sit up. Again, this is CLASS TIME. Don't be on a bed in your robe. Appropriate dress and posture is more important to being focused on class than you might think.
- Drinks but not food during class time.
- Do participate in the class, asking questions, making comments.
- Don't check emails or articles while in class.
- Use breaks for bathroom, snacking, etc. Don't just get up and leave without explanation. Notify the instructor if there are medical or other reasons you might need to step out at times beyond the break times.
- Notify the instructor if you cannot make a class session so the class is not waiting for you.

Plagiarism

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

Dropping and Withdrawing from Courses

Course Drop (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.

M.Div./M.A. courses can be dropped within the first two weeks of a term. D.Min. courses can be dropped before the first on-campus intensive. Students wishing to drop an M.Div./M.A. course should contact the Registrar with a drop request **before** 5:00 PM Central Time on the Friday of the second week of the term.

D.Min. students should contact the Registrar **before** 5:00 PM on the Friday of the last week before the first D.Min. intensive course meets. Since D.Min. courses are taken in pairs, the student who drops one course will normally drop the other.

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

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

General Guidelines

1. Students who withdraw from any or all of their courses must complete an official withdrawal process. Withdrawal according to the official process is reflected as a course grade of **W** on the student's permanent transcript and is counted as hours attempted. Thus, it factors into the calculation of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).
2. All withdrawals must be approved by the Academic Dean. Failure to officially withdraw from a course will result in a final grade based on the work submitted to the professor. Withdrawal is not official until the student has received confirmation from the Registrar's Office that the process has been correctly completed. It is the **student's responsibility** to verify that the withdrawal has been correctly completed.
3. No tuition is refunded for withdrawal from a course. Students who withdraw are still responsible to pay any balance due for the course from which they have withdrawn.
4. Withdrawal from all courses will result in forfeiting institutional financial aid and in the termination of a deferred payment plan. Thus, money owed the seminary will become immediately due at the time of withdrawal. Furthermore, if the student who has received funds from a Direct Unsubsidized 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.

5. Since withdrawing from a course can affect your financial aid, you should consult with the Financial Aid Office prior to initiating the withdrawal process. If you choose to proceed, you **must** follow the procedures outlined below.

Process for Withdrawing

1. To withdraw from a course, the student must first consult with the course professor to see if any non-withdrawal option is viable.
2. Consult with the Financial Aid Office to determine how the student's financial aid will be impacted. Where the balance of the student's account is affected or changed in any way, the student must acknowledge an understanding of this in writing (email).
3. A request for withdrawal must be emailed to the Registrar's Office. A telephone message or voice mail will not constitute a withdrawal.
4. The withdrawal will not be complete until the student has received confirmation from the Registrar's Office. No withdrawals are permitted in the final two weeks of the term.

M.Div./M.A. Theses

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

Students writing theses should study carefully the *Handbook for Thesis Writing* at Wesley Biblical Seminary. The thesis is to be completed during the student's final year. They should consult with their faculty advisor very early in the academic program to lay out a time schedule for this extensive research project. Students will not be permitted to submit a thesis proposal to the Research Committee until they have completed RS505.

Grading

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

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

A–Superior graduate-level work.

B–Good graduate-level work.

C–Minimally acceptable graduate-level work.

D–Below the standard required for graduate-level work.

F–Failure for a course

I–Incomplete is a temporary grade given when a student has been providentially hindered from completing course requirements by the end of the term. The **student** must make 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/NC–Credit or No Credit is given for the course without placing any qualitative value on the course work. No grade points given. Grade is not used to calculate GPA.

R–See “Grade Restoration of Failed M.Div./M.A. Courses” below for explanation of this symbol.

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

The following 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.

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

A M.Div./M.A. student may repeat a course in which he or she has earned a grade of **F**. When repeated, the original **F** grade will remain on the student's official transcript, but will not figure in the cumulative GPA. All subsequent attempts will be included in the cumulative GPA. Permission for a **third** attempt at a course that has been failed twice can only be granted by 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."

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.

Personal and Academic Privacy

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

Examinations

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

Enrollment, Academic Probation, and Financial Aid

Enrollment Status

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

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

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

Academic Standing and Probation

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

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

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

Students placed on academic probation must prepare with the assistance of their faculty advisor a strategy for improving academic performance. Students are given eighteen term hours to bring their performance to the standard of good standing. Students on Academic Probation failing to reach this goal in eighteen term hours will be dismissed from the seminary. Grades of **F** received prior to being placed on probation may be retaken within the eighteen hours of probation. However, no **F** grades received within the eighteen hours of probation can be retaken within that same probationary period.

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

Time Limits for Completion of Degrees

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

Satisfactory Progress and Eligibility for Financial Aid

Students must be enrolled as degree students meeting the minimum standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (including a 2.5 GPA) to be eligible to apply for federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans. Institutional financial aid requires a higher GPA. Students must apply annually for both institutional and federal aid.

Special and audit students are not eligible for financial aid. Students on academic probation are ineligible for financial aid. If students fail to meet the standards for good academic standing as described above, they will be notified of their ineligibility for financial aid.

When the students re-establish good academic standing, they will again be eligible to apply for all forms of financial aid.

Academic Rehabilitation

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

1. Former students seeking readmission through the academic rehabilitation program must first submit a letter of appeal to the Academic Dean that clearly identifies (a) why the applicant's previous studies were not successful, (b) what has since changed in the applicant's circumstances that lead him/her to believe seminary studies will now be successful, and (c) what steps have been and will continue to be taken in order to ensure that seminary studies receive the commitments of time, focus, and priority needed to perform at the required academic level.
2. In order to give the student the best opportunity for academic recovery, the student must take only one course for the first two terms.
3. If a **B** or higher is earned in this course for the first term, the student will then be allowed to enroll for one course in the next term. Again, a grade of **B** or higher must be earned in that course in order to continue in the academic rehabilitation program.
4. If a grade of **B** or higher is earned in both terms, the student 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.
6. If after 18 credit hours of coursework in the rehabilitation program the student has raised their cumulative GPA to 2.50, they will have achieved academic good standing and be free to continue their degree studies. If the cumulative GPA is

still below 2.50, the student will be dismissed from seminary with no recourse for further enrollment.

7. Students seeking to 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.

Graduation Requirements

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

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

Veterans' Affairs

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

Academic Grievances

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

Distance Education

Students around the globe can complete the requirements for the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master of Arts (M.A.) degrees or earn a Graduate Certificate through a combination of the Wesley Biblical Seminary asynchronous online program and live e-synchronous 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.

Programs of Study

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 two masters level degree programs that guide the students' progress toward the achievement of these goals: the Master of Divinity and the Master of Arts. In addition, the seminary also offers Graduate Certificates designed for those not wanting a full Masters degree, and the John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership for Transformational Ministry.

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

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

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

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

The in-ministry nature of the program allows Christian professionals to pursue rigorous advanced study while remaining in their current ministry. The degree is designed to be completed in three years—two years of half-time course work (24 hours) and one year (6 hours) for writing and defending the Ministry Research Project.

Master of Divinity Degree

The M.Div. degree, consisting of 78-87 term hours of study, can be taken in one of four programs: Ministry (78 hrs), Chaplaincy (78), Ministry with a Biblical Languages emphasis (86 hrs), Teaching (87 hrs), or Honors Research (87 hrs). The general orientation of the Master of Divinity program is professional in that it emphasizes readiness for ministry. While the M.Div. is frequently required as a prerequisite for some doctoral programs, the typical goal of most candidates in the M.Div. program is full-time ministry. M.Div. students who plan to pursue doctoral studies may seek to participate in the Honors Research concentration as a means of gaining advance preparation for doctoral work.

Goals and Objectives for the M.Div.

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

Content Assimilation

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

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

Life Transformation

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

Praxis

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

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

Master of Divinity—General Ministry (78 hrs)

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

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (18 hrs)

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

Theological Studies (18 hrs)

BT 501	Biblical Theology		3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought		3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity		3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things		3
BT 610	Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness		3
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley		3

Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

AP 501	Foundations of Apologetics		3
PH 610	Moral Theology and the Gospel		3

Formational Studies (6 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation		3
DS 520	The Discipling Church		3

Ministry Studies (21 hrs)

PM 610	Principles of Preaching		3
DS 515	Discipleship in the Home		3
PM 620	Worship in the Church		3
PM 630	Preaching Practice		3
PM 641	Pastoral Counseling		3
PM 700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership		3
EV 605	Evangelism		3
RS 001	New Student Orientation		0
RS 777	Graduate Assessment		0

General Electives (9 hrs) – Includes beginning Hebrew or Greek for those entering seminary without these courses and choosing the Hebrew or Greek Track.

Master of Divinity—Chaplaincy (78 hrs)

Vocational Goal: Demonstrate leadership in guiding, motivating, and nurturing individuals and organizations toward Great Commission effectiveness, particularly in the ministry of chaplaincy.

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (18 hrs)

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

Theological Studies (18 hrs)

BT 501	Biblical Theology		3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought		3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity		3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things		3
BT 610	Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness		3
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley		3

Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

AP 501	Foundations of Apologetics		3
PH 610	Moral Theology and the Gospel		3

Formational Studies (3 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation		3
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Chaplaincy Studies (27 hrs)

PM 610	Principles of Preaching		3
PM 616	Principles of Chaplaincy		3
PM 620	Worship in the Church		3
PM 630	Preaching Practice		3
PM 641	Pastoral Counseling		3
PM 700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Ministry		3
PM 701	Clinical Pastoral Education I		3
PM 702	Clinical Pastoral Education II		3
EV 605	Evangelism		3
RS 001	New Student Orientation		3
RS 777	Graduate Assessment		3

General Electives (6 hrs) – Electives may be used for Clinical Pastoral Education III and IV.

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

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.

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (30 hrs)

OT 516	Old Testament History & Interpretation	3
OT Ind	Ind Bible Study OT 620, 621, 622, or 623	3
NT 512	New Testament History & Interpretation	3
NT 531	Interpreting the Gospels	3
OT 501	Elementary Hebrew 1	3
OT 502	Elementary Hebrew 2	3
NT 501	New Testament Greek 1	3
NT 502	New Testament Greek 2	3
OT/NT Rdg/Syn	OT 561 or NT 521	3
OT/NT Exeg	OT 731/32/33/34 or NT 535/642	3

Theological Studies (18 hrs)

BT 501	Biblical Theology	3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
BT 610	Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness	3
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley	3

Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

AP 501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
PH 610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3

Formational Studies (9 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
DS 520	The Discipling Church	3
DS 515	Discipleship in the Home	3

Ministry Studies (18 hrs)

PM 610	Principles of Preaching	3
PM 620	Worship in the Church	3
PM 630	Preaching Practice	3
PM 641	Pastoral Counseling	3
PM 700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership	3
EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 777	Graduate Assessment	0
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0

General Electives (3 hrs)

Master of Divinity—Teaching Concentration (87 hrs)

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

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (18 hrs)

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

Theological Studies (18 hrs)

BT 501	Biblical Theology		3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought		3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity		3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things		3
BT 610	Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness		3
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley		3

Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

AP 501	Foundations of Apologetics		3
PH 610	Moral Theology and the Gospel		3

Formational Studies (6 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation		3
DS 515	Discipleship in the Home		3

Teaching/Ministry Studies (30 hrs)

DS 520	The Discipling Church		3
EV 605	Evangelism		3
TE 605	Learning Theories & Taxonomies		3
TE 610	Course Design and Evaluation		3
TE 715	Teaching Lab		3
TE 720	Practice Teaching		3
RS 001	New Student Orientation		0
RS 777	Graduate Assessment		0
Advanced Teaching Cognate (four related courses)			12

General Electives (9 hrs) – Includes beginning Hebrew or Greek for those entering seminary without these courses and choosing the Hebrew or Greek Track.

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

To participate in the teaching concentration, the student must:

1. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4 after eighteen hours and petition the Academic Dean for admission into this concentration.
2. Consult with their advisor to keep up with Advanced Teaching Cognate courses (9 hours required) and practicum teaching opportunities (TE 715 and TE 720 are required).

Master of Divinity—Honors Research Concentration (87 hrs)

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.

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (30 hrs)

OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
OT Inductive Bible	OT 620, 621, 622, or 623	3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT 531	Interpreting the Gospels	3
OT 501	Elementary Hebrew 1	3
OT 502	Elementary Hebrew 2	3
NT 501	New Testament Greek 1	3
NT 502	New Testament Greek 2	3
OT/NT Rdg & Syn	OT 651 or NT 521	3
OT/NT Exeg	NT 642 or OT 731/32/33/34	3

Theological Studies (18 hrs)

BT 501	Biblical Theology	3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last	3
BT 610	Things Biblical Basis of Christian Holiness	3
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley	3

Philosophical Studies (6 hrs)

AP 501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
PH 610	PH 610 Moral Theology and the Gospel	3

Formational Studies (6hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
DS 515	Discipleship in the Home	3

Ministry Studies (6hrs)

PM 700	Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership	3
EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 777	Graduate Assessment	0

Research Concentration (21 hrs)

RS 505	Techniques of Research	3
RS 780	Thesis & Research	6
Research Electives		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 Academic Dean for approval.
2. Design, in collaboration with the faculty advisor, a course of study that fits within the concentration and electives categories and is approved by the Academic Dean.
3. Complete a thesis or other significant synthesizing project that reflects significant advancement in the chosen field and readiness for advanced study.

Master of Arts Degrees

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

Goals for all four M.A. Concentrations:

Content Assimilation

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

- a. *Scripture:*** Exegete Scripture holistically in accordance with sound interpretive method and historic Christian orthodoxy.
- b. *Orthodoxy:*** Articulate the parameters and ongoing implications of historic Trinitarian faith.
- c. *The Wesleyan Perspective:*** Explain the distinctive emphases of the Wesleyan perspective and their relationship to Scripture and Orthodoxy.
- d. *Life Transformation:*** Evidence a personal commitment to a life that is Christ-centered and submissive to the Holy Spirit's leading and conviction, nourished by the means of grace, and invested in relationships that sanctify through compassionate, missional service, spiritual direction, and life together as Christ's Body.

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

Apologetics

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

Biblical Literature

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

Theology

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

Master of Arts—Apologetics (50 hrs)

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (Content Mastery) (9 hrs)

NT 512	NT History and Interpretation	3
NT 531	Interpreting the Gospels	3
OT 516	OT History and Interpretation	3

Theological Studies (Content Mastery) (12 hrs)

BT 501	Biblical Theology	3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3

Apologetics Concentration (Process Mastery) (24 hrs)

AP 501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
PH 504	Philosophy of Christian Religion	3
PH 610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
HT 609	Comparative Religious Traditions	3
AP 720	Christian Faith and Science	3
General Apologetics Electives (Such as PH 721, ST 607, MS 612, MS 620, EV 605)		6
AP 750	Apologetics Qualifying Thesis/Project	3

Formational Studies (3 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship & Spiritual Formation	3
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Ministry Studies

RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 777	Graduate Assessment	0

General Electives (2 hrs)		2
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Master of Arts—Biblical Literature (51 hrs)

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (30 hrs)

OT 501	Elementary Hebrew I	3
OT 502	Elementary Hebrew II	3
NT 501	New Testament Greek I	3
NT 502	New Testament Greek II	3
OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
Inductive Bible I	OT 620 or NT 531	3
Inductive Bible II	OT 621/22/23 or NT 535/615/622	3
NT 512	New Testament History & Interpretation	3
OT/NT Rdg & Syn	OT 651 or NT 521	3
OT/NT Exeg	OT 731/32/33/34 or NT 642	3

Theological Studies (12 hrs)

BT 501	Biblical Theology	3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3

Philosophical Studies (3 hrs)

AP 501/PH 610	Foundations of Apologetics/Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
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Formational Studies (3 hrs)

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

EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 777	Graduate Assessment	0

Master of Arts— Christian Studies (50 hrs)

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (15 hours)

OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT 531	Interpreting the Gospels	3
Biblical Studies Electives (courses labeled OT, NT, or BT)		6

Theological Studies(15 hrs)

BT 501	Biblical Theology	3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
Theological Studies Electives (courses labeled BT, HT, ST, AP, or PH)		3

Philosophical Studies (3 hrs)

AP 501/PH 610	Foundations of Apologetics/Moral Theology and the Gospel	3
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Formational Studies (6 hrs)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
DS 515	Discipleship in the Home	3

Ministry Studies (3 hrs)

EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 777	Graduate Assessment	0

General Electives (8hrs)

Master of Arts— Theology (51 hrs)

Program Courses:

Biblical Studies (21 hours)

OT 516	OT History & Interpretation	3
NT 512	NT History & Interpretation	3
NT 501	New Testament Greek 1	3
NT 502	New Testament Greek 2	3
NT 531	Interpreting the Gospels	3
NT 521	Greek Reading & Syntax	3
NT 642	Greek Exegesis in the Epistles	3

Theological Studies (21 hours)

BT 501	Biblical Theology	3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, Last Things	3
ST 619	Theology of John Wesley	3
Theological Studies Electives (courses labeled BT, HT, ST, AP, or PH)		6

Philosophical Studies (3 hrs)

AP 501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
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Formational Studies (3 hrs)

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

EV 605	Evangelism	3
RS 001	New Student Orientation	0
RS 777	Graduate Assessment	0

Graduate Certificate Programs

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 24-hour Certificate Program can be completed in one to two years on campus or online. Each program includes 4 courses (12 hours) in Foundations and 4 courses (12 hours) in the program's concentration.

Goals for the Graduate Certificate Programs:

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.

Graduate Certificate (24 hrs)

Program Courses:

Spiritual, Biblical, and Theological Foundations--Required For All Certificates (12 hours)

DS 505	Discipleship and Spiritual Formation	3
NT 531	The Gospels	3
HT 520	History of Christian Thought	3
PH 610	Moral Theology and the Gospel	3

Concentrations (12 hours)--Choose one of the following:

Apologetics

AP 501	Foundations of Apologetics	3
AP 720	Christian Faith and Science	3
HT 609	Comparative Religious Traditions	3
PH 721	Christian Faith in Dialogue with Philosophy	3

Bible and Theology

ST 604	Christ, Revelation, God, and Humanity	3
ST 605	Salvation, Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things	3
BT 501	Biblical Theology	3
OT 620-623	Old Testament Inductive Bible Study Course	3

Church Planting and Revitalization

MS 508	Missionary Principles and Methods	3
EV 605	Evangelism	3
EV 630	Planting and Refocusing Churches	3
HT 620	The Church Planting Movement	3

Discipleship and Spiritual Direction

DS 520	The Discipling Church	3
DS 601	Theology and Practice of Spiritual Direction	3
EV 605	Evangelism	3
PM 641	Pastoral Counseling	3

Ministry in the African American Church

PM 600	Proclamation and Discipleship in the African American Church	3
PM 603	Ministering to the African American Church	3
PM 604	Theological Issues in the African American Church	3
PM 704	Leadership in the African American Church	3

Ministry to Muslims

MS 612	Christian Engagement with Muslims	3
MS 620	A Christian Analysis of Islam's Source Documents	3
MS 630	The History of Islamic Theology and Movements: A Christian Investigation	3
MS 640	Discipling and Planting Churches in Muslim Communities	3

Missions

MS 508	Missionary Principles and Methods	3
EV 605	Evangelism	3
MS/EV	Missions Electives (Courses labeled MS or EV)	6

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

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

The in-ministry nature of the program allows Christian professionals to pursue rigorous advanced study while remaining in their current ministry. The degree is designed to be completed in three years—two years of half-time course work (24 hours) and one year for writing and defending the Ministry Research Project (6 hours).

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.

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

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

Goal 2: Articulate both the essential outlines of Trinitarian orthodox theology and the distinct contribution of Wesleyan soteriology, their grounding in Biblical Revelation, and their implications for ministry practice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Doctor of Ministry Curriculum (30 hrs)

Program courses:

DM 801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics for Relevant Preaching and Ministry [*Will generally be scheduled in a DMin **Spring-Summer Term***] (3 hrs)

DM 802 Transformational Preaching [*Will generally be scheduled in a DMin **Spring-Summer Term***] (3 hrs)

DM 803 Sacramental Spirituality and Disciple-Making Leadership [*Will generally be scheduled in a DMin **Fall-Winter Term***] (3 hrs)

DM 804 Holistic Renewal of the Church [*Will generally be scheduled in a DMin **Fall-Winter Term***] (3 hrs)

DM 805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation [*Will generally be scheduled in a DMin **Spring-Summer Term***] (3 hrs)

DM 806 Wesleyan Theological Vision for Community Formation in the Post-Modern Context [*Will generally be scheduled in a DMin **Spring-Summer Term***] (3 hrs)

DM 807 The Gospel as Truth in a Multi-Religious World [*Will generally be scheduled in a DMin **Fall-Winter Term***] (3 hrs)

DM 808 Secular “isms” that Challenge the Faith and Confront the Church [*Will generally be scheduled in a DMin **Fall-Winter Term***] (3 hrs)

Ministry Research Project

DM 809 DMin Project Research Orientation (0 hrs)
Must be taken after first 2-courses intensive; may be taken earlier.

DM 810 Ministry Research Project (6 hrs)

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

Biblical Studies

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

Inductive Bible Study courses thoroughly ground students in Bible study method. Language courses equip students to use the original languages of Scripture.

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

Old Testament

Section 1: Background Studies and Critical Issues

OT 511 Old Testament Survey

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

OT 516 Old Testament History and Interpretation

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

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

This program is an intensive three-week academic study integrated with field trips designed to introduce the student to the geography, history and archaeology of Israel. Regional studies with overnight field trips, on-site lectures, preparatory lectures at the campus, and required map work prior to arrival 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

Section 2: Interpreting the English Bible

OT 620 Interpreting the Pentateuch

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

OT 621 Interpreting the Historical Books

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

Prerequisite: OT 620 or NT 531. 3 hours

OT 622 Interpreting the Prophetic Books

Teaches proper method in the interpretation of the prophetic books using the English text. A particular prophet or corpus of prophets will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the competence required for interpreting the Writing prophets and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisite: OT 620 or NT 531. 3

hours

OT 623 Interpreting the Poetic Books

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

OT 620 or NT531. 3 hours

Section 3: Language and Exegesis

OT 501 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 1

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

OT 502 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 2

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

OT 651 Intermediate Hebrew Grammar

Reads in seminar-style sessions OT passages to develop the student's mastery of biblical Hebrew. Emphasis is given to vocabulary, grammar, syntax, compositional methodology, rhetorical issues, and general poetics. Selections will come primarily from

prose narratives in order to reinforce standard grammatical principles. The last several weeks of the course will focus upon poetry. Prerequisites: OT 501, OT 502. 3 hours

OT 661 Biblical Aramaic

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

OT 731 Hebrew Exegesis in the Pentateuch

Teaches proper exegetical method in the Pentateuchal books using the Hebrew text. A particular book will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the Pentateuchal books in Hebrew and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisites: OT 620 or NT 531, OT 651 (OT 516 recommended but not required). 3 hours

OT 732 Hebrew Exegesis in the Historical Books

Teaches proper exegetical method in the historical books using the Hebrew text. A particular book or corpus will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the historical books and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisites: OT 620 or NT 531, OT 651 (OT 516 recommended but not required). 3 hours

OT 733 Hebrew Exegesis in the Prophetic Books

Teaches proper exegetical method in the prophetic books using the Hebrew text. A particular prophet or corpus of prophets will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the Writing prophets and responsibly represent them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisites: OT 620 or NT 531, OT 651 (OT 516 recommended but not required). 3 hours

OT 734 Hebrew Exegesis in the Poetic Books Teaches proper exegetical method in the poetic books using the Hebrew text. A particular book will be selected for study by the professor. The end goal of this class is to enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the poetic books and responsibly representing them to a contemporary audience. Prerequisites: OT 620 or NT 531, OT 651 (OT 516 recommended but not required). 3 hours

Section 4: Old Testament Research

OT 715-17 Seminar in Old Testament

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

OT 771-72 Independent Study in Semitic Languages

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

OT 773-75 Independent Study in the Old Testament

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

Thesis in Old Testament or Semitic Languages

See RS 780 for details.

New Testament

Section 1: Background Studies and Critical Issues

NT 511 New Testament Survey

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

NT 512 New Testament History and Interpretation

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

NT 632 Biblical Archaeology

See OT 632 for description. 3 hours

Section 2: English Bible

NT 531 Interpreting the Gospels

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

NT 535 Interpreting the Epistles

Follows the same format and methodology that was used in NT 531 and helps students make further progress in the inductive method of Bible study. The professor will choose one or more of the Epistles as the basis for instruction. Especially designed for students who have not studied Greek. Prerequisite: NT531 or OT 620. 3 hours

NT 615 Interpreting the Acts of the Apostles

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

NT 622 Interpreting the Revelation

Uses the methodology introduced in NT 531. Students study the Revelation's structure, content, spiritual values, and eschatological teaching. The class analyzes the uniqueness of the Revelation and its relationship to other apocalyptic writings. Prerequisite: NT 531 or OT 620. 3 hours

Section 3: Language and Exegesis

NT 501 Fundamentals of New Testament Greek: A

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

NT 502 Fundamentals of New Testament Greek: B

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

NT 521 Greek Reading and Syntax

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

NT 642 Greek Exegesis in the Epistles

Enables the student to integrate the use of Greek with the principles of inductive Bible study learned in NT 531. Emphasis is given to the role of Greek syntax in clarifying the ambiguities of the English text and in evaluating the differences between translations. The student is introduced to the practice of textual criticism and is encouraged to continue reading in the Greek NT. One or more of the epistles will be used as basis for this study. Prerequisites: NT 521, NT 531. NT512 is recommended but not required as prerequisite. 3 hours

Section 4: New Testament Research

NT 715-17 Seminar in New Testament

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

NT 771-73 Independent Study in the New Testament

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

NT 774-75 Independent Study in New Testament Language

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

Thesis in New Testament

See RS 780 for details.

Theological Studies

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

Biblical Theology

BT 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

Historical Theology

HT 504 History of Christianity

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

HT 520 History of Christian Thought

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

HT 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, Daoism, Shintoism, the historical relationship between the cults, the Enlightenment, and the Great Awakenings, and the emergence of modern occultism. The course will focus on recognizing major themes in the various traditions and the development of meaningful dialogue and effective Christian witness. Same as MS 609. 3 hours

HT 650 Church Polity in Scripture, History, and Practice

This course considers the relationship between Christian community, spiritual authority, calling to ministry, and the mandate to decency and order as the basis for examining the various approaches to church structure that have emerged through history. Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Congregational models will be considered in

terms of 1) how each seeks to express the faith through an ordered church life, 2) the biblical basis for each, 3) the historical context out 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.

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 771-75 Independent Study in Theology

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

Thesis in Systematic Theology

See RS 780 for details.

Philosophical Studies

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

Philosophy

PH 504 Philosophy of the Christian Religion

Explores the fundamental philosophical presuppositions upon which Christian theology depends for its orthodox articulation and discusses certain implications that a Christian 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

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

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. 3 hours

DS 515 Discipleship in the Home

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

DS 520 The Discipling Church

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

DS 599 Discipleship Group

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

DS 600_1 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 600_2 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 600_3 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 counselling, enabling self-reflection, and facilitating directed spiritual growth through pastoral care, support, and accountability. 3 hours

DS 715-17 Seminar in Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

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

DS 771-75 Independent Study in Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

Thesis in Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

See RS 780 for details.

Ministry Studies

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

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

Pastoral Ministry

PM 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 21st 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 Kemetic 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 Theology and Practice of Pastoral Leadership

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

PM 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 21st 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.

Evangelism

EV 605 Evangelism

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

EV 610 Evangelism in the Early Church

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

EV 630 Planting and Refocusing Churches

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

EV 715-17 Seminar in Evangelism

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

EV 771-75 Independent Study in Evangelism

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

Thesis in Evangelism

See RS 780 for details.

Missiology

MS 505 History of Christian Missions

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

MS 508 Missionary Principles and Methods

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

MS 513 Great Missionaries and Their Message

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

MS 609 Comparative Religious Traditions

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

MS 612 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 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 History of Islamic Theology and Movements: A Christian Investigation

Islamic history is the pride and joy of Muslims worldwide. Yet contemporary Muslims do not agree on how to interpret it, leading to several competing narratives to explain their 'glorious past' to a modern audience. Following the death of Muhammad in 632 AD, leaders (caliphs) in the rapidly-expanding Muslim community wrestled with issues of theological orthodoxy and governmental orthopraxy amidst tension and conflict. We will examine the historical development of Islam in the areas of theology, philosophy, jurisprudence, governance, literature and culture. Following a brief overview of Muhammad's life, this course covers the period from his death to the end of the Ottoman Empire after WWI. Relying on primary sources-- the Qur'an, Hadith, Shari'a law, treaties, diplomatic correspondence, love poems, tales and accounts of Christian and Jewish interactions with Muslims -- those taking this course will enter a fascinating world of facts, legends, infighting and conquest in order to understand how various Muslim interpretations of the past impact the identity of Islamic communities today. We will discover, traveling through the centuries, how Muslim intellectuals came into sharp conflict with classical Islamic fundamentalists as well as Christian theologians and historians. History matters supremely to devout Muslims, and anyone working alongside of Muslims needs a deeper and more nuanced historical understanding of Islamic history. 3 hours

MS 640 Discipleship 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 715-17 Seminar in Missiology

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

MS 771-75 Independent Study in Missiology

See course description under RS 771-75. Hours arranged

Thesis in Missions

See RS 780 for details.

Teaching

TE 500 Educational Ministry of the Church

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

TE 605 Learning Theories & Taxonomies

Investigates various teaching and learning theories and their philosophical underpinnings for people preparing to teach Biblical, theological or Christian ministry courses in an academic setting or in the church. 3 hours

TE 610 Course Design and Evaluation

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

TE 715 Teaching Lab

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

TE 720 Practice Teaching

Provides opportunity for actual experience instructing and evaluating in an online or classroom course in Bible, theology, or some aspect of Christian ministry under the supervision of a qualified professor. 3 hours

Research and Study Skills

RS 001 New Student Orientation

This five-day online course is offered before 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

Doctor of Ministry Course Descriptions

DM801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics for Relevant Preaching and Ministry

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

DM802 Transformational Preaching

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

DM803 Sacramental Spirituality and Disciple-Making Leadership

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

faith, and (c) establish a Christologically centered, missionally oriented focus for pastoral leadership in the life of the church. 3 hours

DM804 Holistic Renewal of the Church

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

DM805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation

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

DM806 Wesleyan Theological Vision for Community Formation in the Post-Modern Context

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, *DM805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation*. It engages students in the theological vision that has provided the motivation, focus, and spirituality of the Methodist/Wesleyan tradition at its best. Special attention will be given to the *ordo salutis* (theology of salvation) that John Wesley and the early Methodists bequeathed to subsequent generations. Further attention will be given to how the optimistic view of God's grace in human life not only provided an evangelical

counter proposal to eighteenth century English Calvinism, but also drove early Wesleyans to see social transformation as inherent in the Gospel. The goal is to enable those engaged in ministry in the twenty-first century to discover the theological resources offered by this Wesleyan understanding of the universal and transformative scope of saving grace. 3 hours

DM807 The Gospel as Truth in a Multi-Religious World

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

DM808 Secular “isms” that Challenge the Faith and Confront the Church

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

Academic Calendar:

2019-2020; 2020-2021

Fall Term

Online Orientation for ALL New MDiv/MA Degree Students
 Faculty Retreat
 First Day of Fall Classes
 MDiv/ MA Fifteen-Week Course Drop/Add Period Ends, 4:59PM
 MDiv/MA Fifteen-Week Course Withdrawal Period Begins, 5:00PM
 Labor Day Holiday
 Registration for Spring Semester
 Thanksgiving Holiday
 MDiv/MA Course Withdrawal Period Ends, 5:00PM
 Final Examination Week
 End of Fall Semester

2019-20

August 12-16
 August 15-16
 August 19
 August 30
 August 30
 September 2
 Oct 28–Nov 29
 Nov 25-29
 November 29
 Dec 2-6
 December 6

2020-21

August 10-14
 August 13-14
 August 17
 August 28
 August 28
 September 7
 Oct 26–Dec 4
 Nov 23-27
 November 27
 Nov 30-Dec 4
 December 4

Spring Term

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

January 6-10
 January 6-10
 January 13
 January 20
 January 24
 January 24
 March 9-13
 April 13-May 8
 April 17
 April 27- May 1
 May 1
 May 1
 May 2

January 4-8
 January 4-8
 January 11
 January 18
 January 22
 January 22
 March 8-12
 April 12-May 7
 April 16
 April 26- 30
 April 30
 April 30
 May 1

Summer Term

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

May 4-8
 May 18
 May 29
 May 29
 August 7

May 3-7
 May 17
 May 28
 May 28
 August 6

D.Min. Academic Schedule

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

October 1
 January 6-10
 March 31
 March 1
 April 1
 June 15-19
 September 30

October 1
 January 4-8
 March 31
 March 1
 April 1
 June 14-18
 September 30

*The Drop/Add Period for **one-week intensives** ends at 5:00 PM on the **second day** of each intensive course.

*The Drop/Add for **weekend courses** ends at 5:00 PM Friday on the **second weekend** of the course.

APPENDIX I: Personal and Academic Privacy Policy (FERPA)

Wesley Biblical Seminary protects the confidentiality of its personnel and students by conforming to the requirements of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. According to this act, at age 18 years or upon attendance at a post-secondary institution, a student is categorized as an “eligible student” and all rights pertaining to academic records are transferred to the student. “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 in order 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>.)

1. *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.

2. *Responsibilities under FERPA*

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

3. *Disclosing Information without Consent*

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

- a. School officials or others who are working for the institution may see student files.
- b. Other education institutions whom the student designates may request and receive academic information.
- c. During the application for financial aid, other agencies may require the student’s personal information.
- d. If the student is still a “dependent” listed on a parent/guardian’s income tax, the parent/guardian will be allowed access to official records.

- e. If a health or safety emergency arises, or if federal or state law is broken, the student's parent/guardian may request personal information.
- f. For a school directory, such information as name, address, email account, telephone number, major field of study, enrollment status and other general information may be used.
- g. If educational authorities are evaluating or auditing the institution, student academic information may be provided.

4. Addressing Grievances

If a student feels her/his FERPA rights have been violated, he or she should first make every effort to address this matter directly with the people involved, or, if such action does not result in a satisfactory resolution, according to the student grievance policy 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 II: Student Grievance Policy

Purpose

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

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

Institution's Response and Appeal

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

APPENDIX III: A Contemporary Exposition of the WBS Statement of Faith

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

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

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

5. 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 IV: The Location of Wesley Biblical Seminary

1880 E. County Line Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157
I-55, Exit 103

