



# Birmingham Theological Seminary

## 2026–2028 Course Catalog

2200 Briarwood Way, Birmingham, AL 35243

Phone: 205-776-5354

Email: [info@bts.education](mailto:info@bts.education) • Web: [www.bts.education](http://www.bts.education)

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# Invitation

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It is my pleasure to offer you the 2026-2028 edition of the Birmingham Theological Seminary Course Catalog. This catalog serves as an important guide to the academic life of our institution, outlining the programs, courses, and academic expectations that shape the educational experience we offer.

At Birmingham Theological Seminary, we are committed to fostering an environment of academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and meaningful engagement with both knowledge and community. Our faculty are dedicated scholars and teachers who seek not only to impart knowledge but also to cultivate critical thinking, ethical reflection, and lifelong learning.

The programs described in this catalog reflect our ongoing commitment to providing a rigorous and relevant theological education.

This catalog is designed to help you understand degree requirements, academic policies, and the many resources available to support your success. While it serves as an official record of our academic offerings, it also represents our broader commitment to helping students grow intellectually, professionally, and personally.

On behalf of the faculty and administration, I wish you every success in your studies. We are honored to accompany you on your academic journey.

Sincerely,

Justin Richardson Chief Academic Officer  
Birmingham Theological Seminary

# Purpose of Catalog

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This Course Catalog is intended to provide students and prospective students with information about the programs, courses, and academic requirements of Birmingham Theological Seminary. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this catalog, Birmingham Theological Seminary reserves the right to modify programs, policies, procedures, course offerings, and other matters at any time without prior notice. The catalog is intended as a guide and does not constitute a contractual agreement between the Seminary and its students.

## History

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Founded in 1972 by Dr. Frank Barker and Dr. Bill Hay, Birmingham Theological Seminary (BTS) exists to equip men and women for effective service in the church and the world through a biblically grounded, theologically Reformed, and ministry-oriented education. Established under the vision of Briarwood Presbyterian Church (PCA), BTS was created to make rigorous theological training accessible to those already serving in ministry or balancing full-time vocational responsibilities.

From its inception, BTS has sought to combine academic excellence with practical ministry formation, providing students the opportunity to pursue theological education without the financial or geographic barriers often associated with traditional seminary models. The seminary's mission reflects a commitment to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, the centrality of the Gospel, and the Reformed confessional tradition as expressed in the Westminster Standards.

Today, BTS offers a full range of academic programs—including Certificates, Master of Arts degrees, the Master of Divinity (MDiv), the Master of Theology (ThM), and the Doctor of Ministry (DMin)—delivered in multiple formats (residential, hybrid, and online). This structure allows students from around the world to receive sound theological instruction while remaining active in their local church and ministry contexts.

BTS maintains a distinct institutional identity as a confessional Reformed seminary that is interdenominational in service and evangelical in conviction. Its core values—biblical authority, theological integrity, pastoral commitment, academic excellence, and affordability—shape every aspect of its mission and practice. Through partnerships with local churches, accessible course delivery systems, and a faculty committed to both scholarship and ministry, Birmingham Theological Seminary continues to fulfill its founding vision: to prepare faithful leaders who think biblically, serve compassionately, and lead effectively in advancing the mission of Christ's church.

## Mission

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The mission of Birmingham Theological Seminary is to provide faithful and accessible advanced theological education for learners everywhere, building leaders to serve the local church.

## Vision

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Birmingham Theological Seminary strives to be the number one seminary for quality, sound, affordable theological education that extends to learners in diverse environments for kingdom impact on their communities through service to the local church.

## Purpose

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BTS is committed to making faithful theological education accessible to learners everywhere, equipping leaders for Christ's church. We offer multiple graduate and postgraduate programs, both locally and on-line, to bring value to the church and the surrounding community.

We serve individuals and churches by training future and current pastors, counselors, and lay leaders—both domestically and internationally. We are an historic, reformed seminary committed to Biblical inerrancy, infallibility, and authority and hold ecclesiastical recognition from multiple Protestant denominations.

BTS utilizes Pastor/Professors to bring focused academic and theological training with practical application, designed to develop vocational and volunteer leaders in the church. BTS is a multi-site seminary that provides resources to students on a full-time and part-time basis.

BTS believes education is a service that should be extended as far as reasonably possible to help the church grow spiritually and to bring kingdom impact to local communities with the good news of salvation through Christ alone.

## Statement of Faith

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God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. There is only one God, the living and true God, who exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

God is sovereign, the Creator, and the Sustainer of all things. God is the source and the end of all truth.

The Bible is infallible and inerrant. It is the Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.

God decrees His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His will, where, for His own glory, He has foreordained whatever comes to pass. God executes His decrees in the works of creation and providence. God's works of providence are, His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures, and all their actions.

Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God, thereby causing the fall of the entire human race.

Sin is not conforming to or transgressing the law of God. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, with grief and hatred of his sin, turns from it to God. Repentance is made with the full purpose of and endeavor after new obedience. Justification is an act of God's free grace, whereby He pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only because the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us. Justification is received by faith in Christ alone. Those who receive saving grace, now walk in the newness of life by grace alone, strengthened to become more like Christ on their Christian journey.

All Christians await the second coming of Jesus Christ, when, with the resurrection of the body and the last judgement, the Lord God will inaugurate the New Heavens and the New Earth.

## Accreditation

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Birmingham Theological Seminary is a charter member of the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries (ARTS), which has accredited BTS for over 20 years (Home - ARTS -

Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries). ARTS accredits institutions that grant degrees in Reformed Theology, preparing students for Christian service and ministry. ARTS is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), affirming that its standards meet CHEA's rigorous expectations for academic quality, improvement, and accountability (Home | Council for Higher Education Accreditation).

All ARTS schools require staff and faculty to adhere to one of the following confessional statements:

- Westminster Confession of Faith and Standards
- London Confession of Faith 1689 or Philadelphia 1742
- Three Forms of Unity
- Helvetica Confession

# Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

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All BTS programs are mapped to eight Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Faculty evaluate each course against these SLOs using a 1–5 scale (1: not covered; 2: touched on; 3: discussed in conjunction with class material; 4: lightly assessed; 5: fully integrated into assessment). Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for each degree are cross-mapped to these institutional SLOs.

#	Outcome	Description
1	Scripture	Students will effectively articulate the truth of Scripture and Scripture as truth, engaged with learning biblical knowledge and Reformed principles of the supremacy of Scripture as God’s word.
2	Reformed Theology	Students will be able to engage and reproduce the primary and essential elements of Reformed Theology.
3	Local Church	Students will be engaged in applied ministry projects in the local church.
4	Wisdom	Students will grow in character, increasing in their demonstration of wisdom and its fruits.
5	Discipleship	Students will be able to understand and articulate the nature and importance of discipleship—both ordinary (means of grace) and extraordinary (biblical counseling).
6	Communication	Students will grow in the efficacy of their communication both in content knowledge and rhetorical strategies.
7	Worldview	Students will demonstrate a growing ability to apply God’s word to all spheres of life.
8	Leadership	Students will grow in their understanding of godly leadership and ability to lead others in service of the local church.

## Degree Vacating Policy

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When a student transitions to a higher tier within the BTS curricular architecture, the earlier credential is vacated and removed from the transcript upon completion of the higher degree. BTS recommends that students modify their resumes or CVs accordingly. Tier 1 certificates are vacated upon completion of a Tier 2 Professional Master’s degree. Tier 2 Professional Master’s degrees are vacated upon completion of a Tier 3 Academic MA or Tier 4 MDiv. Tier 3 and Tier 4 are terminal master’s degrees and are not vacated by further study, including enrollment in the ThM or DMin.

# Degree Programs

Birmingham Theological Seminary offers a full range of academic programs including Certificates, Advanced Certificates, Master of Arts degrees, the Master of Divinity (MDiv), the Master of Theology (ThM), and the Doctor of Ministry (DMin)—delivered in multiple formats (residential, hybrid, and online).

## Tier 1: Learning Certificates

Birmingham Theological Seminary offers many learning certificates, with short, targeted studies in specific areas, including: Apologetics, Church History, Leadership, Missions and Evangelism, Teaching, Worship Ministry, Presbyterian Leadership, and Baptist Leadership. Learning certificates are designed to provide practical theological training for lay leaders, church members, and ministry volunteers seeking structured biblical training.

### Learning Certificate Program Learning Outcomes

*The following outcomes apply across the full range of BTS Learning Certificates. Each certificate is designed to provide targeted theological formation in a specific applied area while grounding students in the Reformed confessional tradition.*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
LC-PLO1	Articulate the foundational doctrines of the Reformed faith as summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith or the Three Forms of Unity, applying confessional content to the student’s ministry context and local church setting.	1 (Scripture), 2 (Reformed Theology)
LC-PLO2	Interpret selected biblical texts using basic hermeneutical principles, demonstrating an understanding of Scripture’s unity, authority, and sufficiency as the sole rule for faith and practice.	1 (Scripture)
LC-PLO3	Identify the theological grounding for their certificate’s area of focus — whether apologetics, leadership, teaching, missions, worship, or denominational polity — and connect that grounding to practical ministry service in the local church.	3 (Local Church), 7 (Worldview)
LC-PLO4	Demonstrate personal engagement with spiritual formation practices drawn from the Reformed tradition, articulating how theological study and the ordinary means of grace together shape the Christian life and lay ministry.	4 (Wisdom), 5 (Discipleship)

## Certificate of Apologetics

The Certificate of Apologetics at Birmingham Theological Seminary offers a thought-provoking and faith-affirming educational journey for those passionate about defending and articulating their Christian faith with confidence and clarity. This program, integral to BTS's Learning Certificates, delves deeply into Christian apologetics, blending biblical wisdom with contemporary relevance.

### *Course Requirements*

The Certificate of Apologetics requires a total of 8 credit hours in the following courses:

Certificate of Apologetics	Certificate of Apologetics	Certificate of Apologetics
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
AP1505	Introduction to Apologetics	2
AP1510	Apologetics and the Bible	2
AP1515	Christ C Culture*	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2

\* Students may choose between either AP1515 Christ C Culture or MS1605 Cross-Cultural Communication.

### *Program Overview and Focus*

The Certificate of Apologetics program provides:

- Comprehensive Curriculum: Equipping students with essential knowledge and skills for effective defense of the Christian faith.
- Biblical and Cultural Context: Focusing on understanding apologetics within the Bible's teachings and contemporary societal issues.
- Scriptural Foundation: Coursework deeply rooted in Scripture and aligned with the theological principles of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

### *Course Objectives and Learning Experience*

Students will engage in:

- Introductory and Advanced Apologetics: Comprehensive study of apologetics topics.
- Biblical Teachings Application: Examination of the Bible's role in apologetics.
- Christianity and Culture Interaction: Exploration of the relationship between faith and contemporary culture.
- Cross-Cultural Communication: Development of effective communication strategies in diverse contexts.
- Westminster Confession Study: In-depth understanding of its implications for apologetics.

## *Program Outcome*

Graduates will:

- Emerge as proficient defenders of the Christian faith.
- Be skilled in addressing challenges to their beliefs thoughtfully and persuasively.
- Be prepared for meaningful dialogues in various cultural settings, offering biblically grounded perspectives.

## **Certificate of Leadership**

The Leadership Certificate program at Birmingham Theological Seminary (BTS) is an intensive course grounded in biblical teachings, designed for those seeking to base their leadership skills in Scripture. This program is one of the diverse Learning Certificates at BTS, each tailored to challenge and grow students in personal and spiritual aspects.

### *Course Requirements*

The Certificate of Leadership requires a total of 8 credit hours in the following courses:

Certificate of Leadership	Certificate of Leadership	Certificate of Leadership
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
PS1905	Leadership Development and Deployment	2
PS1910	Conflict Resolution in the Church	2

\* Students may choose between BC1805 Introduction to Biblical Counseling or PS1905 Leadership Development and Deployment. BC1801/BC1802 Counseling in the Local Church I C II may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval.

### *Program Overview and Integration*

The Leadership Certificate program:

- **Combines Biblical Wisdom and Contemporary Leadership:** Integrates the timeless teachings of the Bible with modern leadership practices.
- **Advanced Theological Focus:** Offers advanced theological education with an emphasis on applying biblical principles to leadership scenarios.
- **Biblically Based Curriculum:** Ensures all teachings are rooted in Scripture and aligned with theological principles.

## *Course Objectives and Educational Approach*

The program aims to:

- Equip with Biblical Leadership Foundations: Provide a solid biblical base for leadership.
- Foster Theologically Informed Leadership Practices: Develop an understanding of leadership informed by theology.
- Encourage Real-World Application: Apply biblical truths to contemporary leadership challenges.
- Promote Historical Awareness: Avoid repeating past leadership mistakes.
- Cultivate Evaluative Skills: Assess personal and social conditions through a biblical lens.

## *Dynamic Learning Experience*

Participants will engage in:

- Biblical Theology Studies: Focused on leadership.
- Systematic, Historical, and Applied Theology: From a leadership perspective.
- Contemporary Leadership Analysis: Through the lens of the Holy Spirit.
- Practical Application Projects: Translating knowledge into action.

## *Program Outcomes*

Graduates will:

- Emerge as informed, effective leaders guided by biblical truth.
- Be capable of leading in various contexts, applying learning to personal growth and societal impact.
- Embody the call to be doers of God's word.

## **Certificate of Missions and Evangelism**

The Certificate of Missions and Evangelism at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a dynamic and comprehensive course crafted for those dedicated to spreading the Christian faith and understanding its global implications. This program, a vital component of BTS's Learning Certificates, focuses on the vital intersection of missions, evangelism, and apologetics.

## *Course Requirements*

The Certificate of Missions and Evangelism requires a total of 8 credit hours in the following courses:

<b>Certificate of Missions and Evangelism</b>	<b>Certificate of Missions and Evangelism</b>	<b>Certificate of Missions and Evangelism</b>
AP1510	Apologetics C the Bible	2
AP1520	Apologetics C Evangelism	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2
MS1610	Biblical Theology of Missions	2

## *Program Overview*

This certificate program is designed to:

- Deepen Biblical Philosophy: Explore the biblical foundations of missions and evangelism.
- Integrate Apologetics: Highlight the role of apologetics in supporting and enhancing evangelistic outreach.
- Develop Cross-Cultural Communication Skills: Equip students for effective communication in diverse cultural contexts.
- Promote Comprehensive Evangelism Understanding: Foster an understanding of evangelism as an integral part of Christian life and witness.

## *Course Objectives and Learning Experience*

Students will experience:

- In-Depth Biblical Studies: Focusing on the philosophy underpinning missions and evangelism.
- Practical Evangelism Application: Exploring the Bible's teachings and their application in evangelistic work.
- Cross-Cultural Communication Training: To effectively navigate diverse cultural settings.
- Apologetics and Evangelism Integration: Merging apologetic principles with evangelistic strategies.

## *Program Outcomes*

Graduates will be:

- Well-equipped to participate in mission work and evangelism, both locally and globally.
- Skilled in effectively communicating the Christian faith, with an emphasis on cultural sensitivity and biblical faithfulness.

## **Certificate of Teaching**

The Certificate of Teaching at Birmingham Theological Seminary (BTS) is a comprehensive program designed for those looking to merge their teaching vocation with a deep, theologically informed understanding of Christian education. As a vital part of BTS's Learning Certificates, this program aims to enrich and challenge students in both personal and spiritual growth.

## *Course Requirements*

The Certificate of Teaching requires a total of 8 credit hours in the following courses:

Certificate of Teaching	Certificate of Teaching	Certificate of Teaching
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
CE1705	Christian Philosophy of Education	2
CE1710	Epistemology C Pedagogy	2

## *Program Overview*

The Certificate of Teaching program focuses on:

- Integrating Biblical and Educational Philosophy: Combining profound biblical teachings with contemporary educational philosophies and practices.
- Advanced Theological Framework: Immersing students in theological studies, emphasizing the application of biblical insights in educational settings.
- Scripture-Centered Curriculum: Ensuring all learning aspects are rooted in and measured against God's Word.

## *Course Objectives and Educational Approach*

The program aims to:

- Establish a Robust Biblical Foundation: For Christian education.
- Develop Christian Education Philosophy: Comprehensive understanding and integration of biblical truths with modern educational methods.
- Foster Historical Consciousness: To avoid past educational pitfalls.
- Scriptural Perspective on Educational Challenges: Empowering students to address these through a biblical lens.

## *Dynamic Learning Experience*

Participants will engage in:

- Biblical Exploration: In-depth study of the Old and New Testament teachings related to education.
- Christian Philosophy of Education: Study and practical implications.
- Analysis of Educational Theories: From a Christian viewpoint.
- Instructional Strategies and Technology Integration: In education.
- Practical Application: Through hands-on projects and activities.

## *Program Outcomes*

Graduates will:

- Be adept educators who integrate teaching practice with biblical principles.
- Create academically and spiritually enriching learning environments.
- Be prepared to impact educational settings positively, fostering growth in themselves and their students.

## **Certificate of Worship**

The Certificate of Worship Ministry at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a specialized program tailored for individuals who want to deepen their understanding and practice of Christian worship. As part of BTS's

Learning Certificates, this program focuses on the theological, practical, and leadership dimensions of worship ministry.

## *Course Requirements*

The Certificate of Worship Ministry requires a total of 8 credit hours in the following courses:

Certificate of Worship Ministry	Certificate of Worship Ministry	Certificate of Worship Ministry
PS1905	Leadership Development and Deployment	2
PS1970	Theology of Public Worship	2
PS1971	Contemporary Issues in Worship Ministry	2
PS1972	Chorale Orchestral Conduction*	2
PS1973	Small Ensemble Leadership	2

\* Students may choose between PS1972 Chorale C Orchestral Conduction or PS1973 Small Ensemble Leadership.

## *Program Overview*

The Certificate of Worship Ministry offers:

- Theological Foundations: In-depth exploration of the theology of public worship, including its biblical basis and historical context.
- Leadership Development: Tailoring leadership skills to meet the specific needs of worship ministry.
- Contemporary Issues in Worship: Addressing current challenges and dynamics in worship ministry.
- Practical Training: Opportunities in choral and orchestral conduction or small ensemble leadership, catering to students' specific interests and focus areas.

## *Course Objectives and Learning Experience*

Students will engage in:

- Detailed Theological Study: Understanding the biblical and historical aspects of public worship.
- Leadership Skills Development: Specific to worship ministry contexts.
- Contemporary Worship Analysis: Preparing students to address and navigate modern worship challenges.
- Practical Musical Training: Focused on either choral and orchestral conduction or small ensemble leadership.

## *Program Outcome*

Graduates will:

- Be well-prepared to lead and innovate in worship settings.

- Possess a profound theological understanding of worship, combined with practical skills in music and leadership.
- Be ready to enrich their church communities with meaningful worship experiences.

## Certificate of Presbyterian Leadership

### Credit Hours: 8

This certificate provides a focused introduction to the Reformed and Presbyterian theological tradition, equipping students with foundational knowledge of covenant theology, confessional standards, church history, and Presbyterian church government. It is designed for ruling elders, deacons, ministry staff, and lay leaders who serve within Presbyterian and Reformed church contexts.

Category	Course	Code	Hours
Biblical Theology	Introduction to Covenant Theology	BT1210	2
Systematic Theology	Westminster Confession of Faith	ST1405	2
Historical Theology	Presbyterian Church History	HT1308	2
Pastoral Studies	Presbyterian Polity	PS1925	2
		TOTAL	8

*Courses may be taken in any order. Constitutes a robust foundational understanding of Presbyterian theology and governance. Applicable to ruling elder preparation, officer training programs, and lay leadership development within PCA, OPC, EPC, and other Reformed communions.*

## Certificate of Baptist Leadership

### Credit Hours: 8

This certificate provides a structured introduction to the Baptist theological tradition, equipping students with foundational knowledge of Baptist confessional heritage, church history, polity, and practical leadership. It is designed for deacons, ministry staff, small group leaders, and lay leaders who serve within Baptist church contexts and desire a theologically grounded foundation in their tradition.

Category	Course	Code	Hours
Systematic Theology	Baptist Confessions	ST1406	2
Historical Theology	Baptist Church History	HT1307	2
Pastoral Studies	Overview of Baptist Polities	PS1926	2

Pastoral Studies	Leadership Development and Deployment	PS1905	2
		TOTAL	8

*Courses may be taken in any order. Designed for Baptist students seeking foundational understanding of Baptist theology, polity, and church history alongside practical leadership training. Applicable to deacon training programs, lay leadership development, and ministry staff formation within SBC, Reformed Baptist, and other Baptist communions.*

# Tier 1: Advanced Certificates

Advanced Certificates provide substantive graduate-level theological formation in a defined area of ministry or academic concentration, equipping students for specialized lay leadership, local church ministry, or continued graduate study.

## Advanced Certificate Program Learning Outcomes

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
AC-PLO1	Demonstrate graduate-level engagement with biblical and theological content in their certificate area, articulating the doctrinal foundations of their specialization within the framework of the Reformed confessional tradition.	1 (Scripture), 2 (Reformed Theology)
AC-PLO2	Interpret Old and New Testament texts using established hermeneutical principles, applying exegetical findings to theological analysis and ministry practice within the local church context.	1 (Scripture), 3 (Local Church)
AC-PLO3	Synthesize historical and systematic theological material relevant to their certificate concentration, demonstrating the ability to engage primary confessional sources and secondary theological literature with appropriate critical discernment.	2 (Reformed Theology)
AC-PLO4	Apply specialized competencies — whether in apologetics, biblical counseling, biblical languages, systematic theology, or youth ministry — to real-world ministry situations, demonstrating integration of theological conviction with practical service.	3 (Local Church), 7 (Worldview)
AC-PLO5	Produce written work at a graduate level of clarity, argumentation, and theological precision, demonstrating research competency appropriate to continued study or advanced ministry leadership.	6 (Communication)

## Apologetics

The Advanced Certificate in Apologetics at Birmingham Theological Seminary is an in- depth program designed for individuals eager to explore Christian apologetics. This comprehensive certificate encompasses a wide range of theological disciplines, offering a deep dive into the Old and New Testaments, as well as systematic, practical, and public theology/apologetics.

## Course Requirements

The Advanced Certificate of Apologetics requires 30 credit hours in the following courses:

Advanced Certificate of Apologetics	Advanced Certificate of Apologetics	Advanced Certificate of Apologetics
* Must be taken within the first 5 classes		
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
* Must be taken within the first 5 classes		
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
* Must be taken within the first 5 classes	* Must be taken within the first 5 classes	* Must be taken within the first 5 classes
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1415	Ethics	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
Public Theology	Public Theology	Public Theology
AP1505	Introduction to Apologetics	2
AP1510	Apologetics C the Bible	2
AP1515	Christ C Culture	2

AP1525	Introduction to Philosophy C Critical Thinking	2
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<b>Special Topics/Critical Studies in Public Theology</b>	
Students will take two classes from the Special Topics/Critical Studies Curriculum OR they may take courses from the core Public Theology program (e.g. Apologetics & Evangelism) with approval from advisor. (i.e. Registrar or Chief Academic Officer)	
Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics I	2
Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics II	2

## *Program Overview and Theological Depth*

The program is structured to:

- Enhance Biblical Understanding: Extensive study of the Old and New Testaments, focusing on key themes and theological insights.
- Deepen Systematic Theology Knowledge: Exploration of systematic theology, including hermeneutics, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Christian ethics.
- Introduce Practical Theological Concepts: Foundational ideas in practical theology and theological studies.
- Engage with Public Theology and Apologetics: In-depth engagement with philosophy, critical thinking, and cross-cultural communication.
- Specialized Studies in Public Theology: Tailored learning in elective topics for specific areas of interest.

## *Learning Objectives and Experience*

Students will engage in:

- Comprehensive Biblical Studies: In-depth exploration of biblical texts and themes.
- Systematic Theological Training: Bible interpretation and ethical considerations.
- Practical Theological Application: Applying theological studies in contemporary contexts.
- Critical Apologetic Engagement: Preparing for effective witness and dialogue in diverse cultural settings.
- Specialized Elective Courses: Flexibility to delve into particular areas of apologetics.

## *Program Outcome*

Graduates will be:

- Well-rounded and knowledgeable in defending the Christian faith.
- Equipped with skills for thoughtful and effective apologetic discourse in various cultural contexts.

## Biblical Counseling

The Advanced Certificate in Biblical Counseling at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a detailed program designed for individuals who are dedicated to deepening their understanding and practice of biblical counseling. This program uniquely combines rigorous biblical studies with practical counseling techniques, all within a solid theological framework.

### *Course Requirements*

The Advanced Certificate of Biblical Counseling requires 30 credit hours in the following courses:

Advanced Certificate of Biblical Counseling	Advanced Certificate of Biblical Counseling	Advanced Certificate of Biblical Counseling
<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>

BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
BC1810	Advanced Biblical Counseling**	2
BC1850	Biblical Marriage and Family Counseling	2
<p>*Counseling in the Local Church I &amp; II (BC1801/BC1802) may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval.  **Introduction to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite.</p>		
<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>
PS1910	Conflict Resolution in the Church	2
<p>Electives  Students will take two classes from the Special Topics/Critical Studies Curriculum, or they may take courses from the core Biblical Counseling program (e.g., Biblical Counseling &amp; the Law) with the approval of an advisor. (i.e. Registrar or Chief Academic Officer)</p>		
Special Topics/Critical Studies in Biblical Counseling I	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Biblical Counseling I	2
Special Topics/Critical Studies in Biblical Counseling II	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Biblical Counseling II	2

### *Program Overview and Focus*

- **Thorough Biblical and Theological Studies:** Extensive exploration of the Old and New Testament, focusing on key theological themes, wisdom literature, and systematic theology with an emphasis on Bible interpretation and the Westminster Confession of Faith.
- **Practical Theological Concepts:** Introduction to practical theological concepts such as conflict resolution within the church.
- **Specialized Counseling Courses:** Foundational and advanced training in biblical counseling, particularly in areas like marriage and family counseling.
- **Elective Specialization:** A range of electives in biblical counseling, allowing for specialization in specific areas of interest.

## *Learning Objectives and Experience*

Students will engage in:

- Detailed Biblical Text Studies: Deepening understanding of scriptural principles relevant to counseling.
- Systematic Theological Training: Establishing a robust framework for biblical interpretation and counseling application.
- Practical Conflict Resolution Training: Focusing on church-related dynamics and resolution strategies.
- Specialized Counseling Courses: Emphasizing practical application in various counseling scenarios.
- Elective Selection: Tailoring studies to specific areas within biblical counseling.

## *Program Outcome*

Graduates will be:

- Fully equipped to provide biblically grounded counseling across various settings.
- Skilled in addressing diverse counseling needs with theological depth, compassion, and wisdom.

## **Biblical Languages**

The Certificate in Advanced Biblical Languages program at Birmingham Theological Seminary offers a deep dive into biblical languages for those with a graduate degree in theological studies or proficiency in Greek and Hebrew. This program provides an immersive learning experience in advanced language studies, including Greek, Hebrew, and options like Theological German, Latin, or Introductory Aramaic.

## *Course Requirements*

The Advanced Certificate of Biblical Languages requires 14 credit hours in the following courses:

Advanced Certificate of Biblical Languages	Advanced Certificate of Biblical Languages	Advanced Certificate of Biblical Languages
Old Testament Studies	Old Testament Studies	Old Testament Studies
OT1023	Advanced Hebrew II**	2
OT1024	Exegetical Hebrew I	2
OT1025	Exegetical Hebrew II	2

New Testament Studies	New Testament Studies	New Testament Studies
NT1123	Advanced Greek II **	2
NT1124	Exegetical Greek I	2
NT1125	Exegetical Greek II	2
NT1140	Theological German***	2

NT1150	Latin***	2
NT1160	Introduction to Biblical Aramaic***	2

If the student has not completed one full year of Hebrew and one full year of Greek, they may still do the Certificate program, but must first complete Year One of Hebrew/Year One of Greek. Prerequisite for Entry\*

Old Testament Studies	Old Testament Studies	Old Testament Studies
OT1020	Beginning Hebrew I	2
OT1021	Beginning Hebrew II	2
OT1022	Advanced Hebrew I (Exegesis)	2
New Testament Studies	New Testament Studies	New Testament Studies
NT1120	Beginning Greek I	2
NT1121	Beginning Greek II	2
NT1122	Advanced Greek I (Exegesis)	2

\*To be accepted into the Cert in Adv. Biblical Languages program applicants must have already completed a graduate degree in theological studies (MA or MDiv) and have passed Basic and Intermediate Greek and Hebrew studies. If they have not completed a graduate degree, they must show transcripts indicating they have passed graduate-level Greek and Hebrew studies.

\*\*Students who wish to take this program but do not have a graduate degree must first take Year One of Hebrew and Year One of Greek. Once this is accomplished, they may take the Certificate program, which will reflect completion of 26 total class hours.

\*\*Applicants will be given a translation assignment to assess direct entrance into Advanced Greek or Hebrew. Administration may request that the student audit Advanced Greek or Hebrew 1 in the summer before the fall Advanced 2 class starts.

\*\*\*Students may choose one of the three secondary language studies (Theological German, Latin, or Intro Aramaic) to complete their Certificate.

\*\*\*\*Theological German is offered as needed, and Latin and Introduction to Biblical Aramaic are offered during the summer on an alternate schedule (one summer is Latin, the next is Aramaic).

### *Program Highlights and Linguistic Focus*

- Advanced Greek and Hebrew: In-depth study for enhanced biblical understanding.
- Specialization Options: Choice of Theological German, Latin, or Introductory Aramaic.
- Rigorous Translation Assignments: To evaluate and enhance language proficiency.

## *Ideal Participants*

- **Theologically Educated Graduates:** Those with a background in theological studies seeking to advance their linguistic skills.

## *Language Options and Curriculum*

- **Diverse Language Studies:** Advanced Greek and Hebrew for comprehensive biblical exegesis and secondary language choices for broader linguistic exposure.
- **Structured and Comprehensive Curriculum:** Designed to ensure complete mastery of chosen languages.
- **Flexibility in Language Selection:** Tailored to meet individual learning goals and interests.

## **Biblical Studies**

The Advanced Certificate of Biblical Studies at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a thoughtfully crafted introductory degree program designed specifically for lay church members or non-traditional students. This program is perfect for individuals seeking an advanced understanding of biblical texts and theology but aren't sure if they want to tackle an entire graduate degree program. This program is a great fit for those aiming to deepen their scriptural knowledge and apply it in various ministry settings. The Advanced Certificate in Biblical Studies can serve as a stepping stone to other graduate degree programs if the student meets the degree requirements.

## *Course Requirements*

The Advanced Certificate of Biblical Studies requires 30 credit hours in the following courses:

<b>Advanced Certificate of Biblical Studies</b>	<b>Advanced Certificate of Biblical Studies</b>	<b>Advanced Certificate of Biblical Studies</b>
<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1006	Old Testament Studies II (Histories Joshua – Esther)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1106	New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2

<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
Historical Theology Students may choose two History courses. At least one of the two courses must be a survey (e.g. Early and Medieval Church History, Presbyterian Church History, etc.). The second may be a survey or specialized Church History Course (e.g. Biographical Study).	Historical Theology	Historical Theology

Historical Theology Elective I	Historical Theology Elective I	2
Historical Theology Elective II	Historical Theology Elective II	2
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
PS1910	Conflict Resolution in the Church	2
*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801/BC1802) may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval.		
Pastoral Studies	Pastoral Studies	Pastoral Studies
PS1905	Leadership Development and Deployment	2
PS1935	Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life	2

## *Program Overview and Curriculum*

- **Comprehensive Biblical Studies:** In-depth exploration of the Old and New Testament, emphasizing key books, themes, and theological insights.
- **Systematic and Historical Theology:** Courses focusing on systematic theology, particularly hermeneutics and the Westminster Confession of Faith, alongside historical theology with options for church history studies.
- **Practical Theology:** Introduction to practical theological concepts, including spiritual disciplines, Christian education, and leadership development.
- **Foundational Training in Biblical Counseling:** Equipping students with essential skills in biblical counseling and conflict resolution.

## *Learning Experience and Objectives*

Students will engage in:

- **In-depth Biblical Text Studies:** Enhancing understanding of scriptural narratives and theological themes.
- **Systematic and Historical Theological Training:** Providing a solid framework for biblical interpretation and application.
- **Practical Training:** Focusing on spiritual disciplines, educational philosophy, and leadership skills.
- **Specialized Courses:** In biblical counseling and public theology, emphasizing practical ministry application.
- **Elective Selection:** Allowing customization of studies to align with individual interests or ministry requirements.

## *Program Outcome*

Graduates will be:

- Well-equipped for various roles in ministry, academia, or further theological study.
- Proficient in understanding biblical texts, theological concepts, and practical ministry applications.
- Prepared to serve effectively in diverse contexts.

## **Systematic Theology**

The Advanced Certificate in Apologetics at Birmingham Theological Seminary offers a deep dive into Christian apologetics, catering to students who seek comprehensive theological education. This program emphasizes Systematic Theology, providing learners with a profound understanding of various systematic categories in theological study.

## *Course Requirements*

The Advanced Certificate of Systematic Theology requires 30 credit hours in the following courses:

<b>Advanced Certificate of Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Advanced Certificate of Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Advanced Certificate of Systematic Theology</b>
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1415	Ethics	2
ST1421	Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper – God)	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2
ST1423	Systematic Theology III (Christology)	2
ST1424	Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)	2
ST1425	Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)	2
ST1426	Systematic Theology VI (Eschatology)	2
ST1430	Contemporary Theology	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>
AP1530	Biblical Views on Justice in Society	2
<b>Electives</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>Electives</b>
Systematic Theology Elective I	Systematic Theology Elective I	2
Systematic Theology Elective II	Systematic Theology Elective II	2
Systematic Theology Elective III	Systematic Theology Elective III	2

## *Program Objectives and Focus*

### **The program aims to:**

- Offer extensive studies of the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing key themes and theological insights.

- Explore systematic theology in depth, including hermeneutics, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Christian ethics.

### *Engaging Learning Experience*

#### **Students will participate in:**

- Comprehensive studies of both Old and New Testament texts and themes.
- In-depth exploration of systematic theology, including Bible interpretation and ethical considerations.
- Practical application of theological studies in contemporary contexts.
- Critical engagement with philosophical and systematic concepts for effective dialogue in various settings.

### *Program Outcomes*

#### **Graduates will:**

- Possess deep knowledge of the principal categories of systematic theology.
- Be skilled in engaging in philosophical discourse within the church and broader cultural contexts.

## **Youth Ministry**

Birmingham Theological Seminary values combining local church involvement with quality instruction to foster effective seminary learning and understanding of personal calling. We offer a two-year, 30-hour Advanced Certificate in Youth Ministry, primarily designed for deployment in Birmingham but also accessible through our distance education program. This certificate is an excellent pathway for qualifying in youth ministry and serves as a foundation for higher-level Master’s degrees at BTS.

### *Course Requirements*

The Advanced Certificate of Youth Ministry requires 30 credit hours in the following courses:

<b>Advanced Certificate of Youth Ministry</b>	<b>Advanced Certificate of Youth Ministry</b>	<b>Advanced Certificate of Youth Ministry</b>
Biblical Theology	Biblical Theology	Biblical Theology
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		

<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>
AP1505	Introduction to Apologetics	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2

<b>CE1705</b>	<b>Christian Philosophy of Education</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
BC1815	Biblical Counseling: Sexuality and Gender	2
BC1825	Biblical Counseling with Children and Youth	2
<p>*Counseling in the Local Church I &amp; II (BC1801/BC1802) may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval.  ** Introduction to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite.</p>		
<b>Ministry Clinicals</b>	<b>Ministry Clinicals</b>	<b>Ministry Clinicals</b>
PS1983	Mentored Evangelism (Clinical)*	2
PS1984	Mentored Youth Work (Clinical)**	2
<p>*Evangelism (conducted by local church or partner organization)  **Youth Work (conducted by local church or partner organization)</p>		
<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>
PS1935	Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life	2
PS1940	Ministry to Children, Youth, C Families	2
PS1955	Theology C Practice of Administration	2

## *Youth Ministry Program Structure:*

Year One: The program's first year focuses on classroom learning complemented by ministry opportunities. It encompasses 18 credit hours, divided into 9 classes across three semesters:

### **Semester One (FALL):**

- Intro to Research and Writing
- Introduction to Covenant Theology
- Intro to Biblical Counseling

### **Semester Two (SPRING):**

- Ministry to Children, Youth, and Family
- Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life or Personal Evangelism
- Westminster Confession of Faith (or London 1689) Semester Three (SUMMER):
- Theology and Practice of Administration
- Christian Philosophy of Education
- ST: Theological Anthropology

## *Year Two: Integrating Ministry and Classroom Learning*

The second-year shifts focus to ministry, supplemented by classroom learning. It involves 12 credit hours, split into 6 classes over three semesters:

### **Semester One (FALL):**

- Intro to Apologetics
- Biblical Counseling and Gender and Sexuality

### **Semester Two (SPRING):**

- Biblical Counseling with Children and Youth
- Clinical One (Evangelism [conducted by SDEA]) Semester Three (SUMMER):
- Cross-Cultural Communications
- Clinical Two (Apologetics and Evangelism in conjunction with Campus Outreach summer training)

## *Program Highlights and Future Opportunities*

Key features of our program include:

- A strong Biblical and theological foundation.
- Practical ministry training integrating apologetics, biblical counseling, and youth and family ministry.
- Clinicals for applying learned concepts in real-world settings.
- Multiple pathways for further seminary studies.

# Joint Degree Options

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Students may pursue joint degrees at the Tier 2 level. A student holding the Master of Biblical Studies (MBS) may receive up to 20 core hours of dual-program credit toward a second Tier 2 degree. Core courses eligible for dual-program credit are drawn from biblical studies, systematic theology, and core practical theology. Specific courses are determined in consultation with the CAO.

**MBS / MEd: 20 hours dual-program credit + 16 MEd-specific hours = joint MBS/MEd degree.**

**MBS / MApol: 20 hours dual-program credit + 20 apologetics-specific hours = joint MBS/MApol degree.**

## Tier 2: Professional Master's Programs

### Master of Apologetics

The Master of Apologetics program at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a comprehensive 40-hour program tailored for lay leaders in the church and individuals in the non-profit sector. This program provides an in-depth understanding of biblical, theological, and apologetic aspects of Christianity, making it ideal for those seeking to enhance their faith's interaction with contemporary culture.

#### Course Requirements

The Master of Apologetics requires 40 credit hours in the following courses:

Master of Apologetics	Master of Apologetics	Master of Apologetics
<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
Biblical Theology	Biblical Theology	Biblical Theology
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2

BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
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\*Must be taken within the first 6 classes.

Historical Theology	Historical Theology	Historical Theology
Students will choose two History courses. One of the two courses must be a survey (e.g. Early and Medieval Church History, Presbyterian Church History, etc.). The second may be a survey or specialized Church History Course (e.g. Biographical Study,		

Councils of the Early Church, etc.).		
Historical Theology Elective I	Historical Theology Elective I	2
Historical Theology Elective II	Historical Theology Elective II	2
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1415	Ethics	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Public Theology/Apologetics</b>	<b>Public Theology/Apologetics</b>	<b>Public Theology/Apologetics</b>
AP1505	Introduction to Apologetics	2
AP1510	Apologetics C the Bible	2
AP1515	Christ C Culture	2
AP1525	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	2
AP1530	Biblical Views on Justice in Society	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2
Students will take two classes from the Special Topics/ Critical Studies Curriculum OR they may take courses from the core Public Theology program with approval of academic advisor (e.g. Contemporary Theology).		
Elective I	Elective I	2
Elective II	Elective II	2

## *Program Structure and Focus*

This program encompasses a full scope of Biblical Theology, an Introduction to Systematic Theology, and historical context as a foundation for studying introductory and advanced apologetic methods. It includes courses on apologetics and evangelism, Christ and Culture, and offers three electives from the Public Theology program.

## *Degree Pathways and Flexibility*

While not all courses in the Master of Apologetics (M. Ap) program directly contribute to Master of Arts or Divinity programs, the degree is non-terminal. Upon completion, students have the option to roll it into an M.A. or M.Div. program, with the understanding that the M. Ap degree must be vacated for the more comprehensive degree.

## *Comprehensive Curriculum Overview*

The Master of Apologetics program offers:

- Extensive Old and New Testament studies.
- Systematic theology with a focus on hermeneutics and the Westminster Confession of Faith.
- A range of historical theology courses.
- Exploration of a Christian Worldview and its implications.
- Studies in the relationship between Christianity and the marketplace.

## *Learning Experience and Methodology*

Students will engage in:

- In-depth biblical text studies.
- Systematic and historical theological training.
- Apologetic methods with practical ministry applications.
- Role-play techniques for apologetic encounters.

## *Program Outcomes*

Graduates will be equipped for lay leadership in various contexts, including the church, non-profit sector, and traditional marketplace. They also have the opportunity to continue to an MA in Public Theology.

## *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
MApol-PLO1	Articulate and defend the truth claims of historic Christianity using classical, evidential, and presuppositional apologetic methodologies, evaluating each approach in light of Scripture and the Reformed confessional tradition.	1 (Scripture), 2 (Reformed Theology)

MApol-PLO2	Engage competing worldviews, philosophical systems, and cultural ideologies with theological discernment and critical analytical skill, demonstrating the capacity to identify and respond to the intellectual challenges facing the contemporary church.	7 (Worldview)
MApol-PLO3	Apply a biblical anthropology and Reformed ethical framework to pressing contemporary moral and social questions, integrating scriptural authority with public theological argument in a manner accessible to academic and lay audiences.	6 (Communication), 7 (Worldview)
MApol-PLO4	Demonstrate competency in cross-cultural gospel communication, identifying the theological and missiological dimensions of apologetics across diverse cultural and religious contexts in preparation for evangelism and cultural engagement.	3 (Local Church), 6 (Communication)
MApol-PLO5	Produce research-level written work in the field of public theology and apologetics, engaging primary philosophical and theological sources with clarity, sustained argumentation, and alignment with the confessional commitments of the Reformed tradition.	6 (Communication)

## Master of Biblical Studies

The Master of Biblical Studies at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a thoughtfully crafted introductory degree program, perfect for individuals seeking an advanced understanding of biblical texts, theology, and an introduction to applied theology fields like apologetics, biblical counseling, and Christian education. This program is a great fit for those aiming to deepen their scriptural knowledge and apply it in various ministry settings. Being part of the coursework for the Master of Arts and Divinity programs, it serves as a "non-terminal" degree, which can be integrated into a more comprehensive M.A. or M.Div. program later.

### Course Requirements

The Master of Biblical Studies requires 40 credit hours in the following courses:

Master of Biblical Studies	Master of Biblical Studies	Master of Biblical Studies
<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2

OT1006	Old Testament Studies II (Histories Joshua – Esther)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1106	New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2

<b>BT1210</b>	<b>Introduction to Covenant Theology</b>	<b>2</b>
*Must be taken within the first 6 classes.		
<b>Historical Theology</b>	<b>Historical Theology</b>	<b>Historical Theology</b>
Students will choose two History courses. One of the two courses must be a survey (e.g., Early and Medieval Church History, Presbyterian Church History, etc.). The second may be a survey or specialized Church History Course (e.g., Biographical Study, Councils of the Early Church, etc.).		
Historical Theology Elective I	Historical Theology Elective I	2
Historical Theology Elective II	Historical Theology Elective II	2
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2

ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>
AP1520	Apologetics and Evangelism	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2
MS1610	Biblical Theology of Missions	2
<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
PS1910	Conflict Resolution in the Church**	2
*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801/BC1802) may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval. **Students may choose between Introduction to Biblical Counseling and Conflict Resolution in the Church.		
<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>
PS1905	Leadership Development and Deployment	2
PS1935	Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life	2
<b>Electives</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>Electives</b>
Elective I	Elective I	2
Elective II	Elective II	2

### *Program Overview and Curriculum*

- **Comprehensive Biblical Studies:** In-depth exploration of the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing key books, themes, and theological insights.
- **Systematic and Historical Theology:** Courses focusing on systematic theology, particularly hermeneutics and the Westminster Confession of Faith, alongside historical theology with options for church history studies.

- **Practical Theology:** Introduction to practical theological concepts, including spiritual disciplines, Christian education, and leadership development.
- **Foundational Training in Biblical Counseling:** Equipping students with essential skills in biblical counseling and conflict resolution.
- **Public Theology Insight:** Courses covering apologetics, cross-cultural communication, and public engagement.

### *Learning Experience and Objectives*

Students will engage in:

- **In-depth Biblical Text Studies:** Enhancing understanding of scriptural narratives and theological themes.
- **Systematic and Historical Theological Training:** Providing a solid framework for biblical interpretation and application.
- **Practical Training:** Focusing on spiritual disciplines, educational philosophy, and leadership skills.
- **Specialized Courses:** In biblical counseling and public theology, emphasizing practical ministry application.
- **Elective Selection:** Allowing customization of studies to align with individual interests or ministry requirements.

### *Program Outcomes*

Graduates will be:

- Well-equipped for various roles in ministry, academia, or further theological study.
- Proficient in understanding biblical texts, theological concepts, and practical ministry applications.
- Prepared to serve effectively in diverse contexts.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
MBS-PLO1	Interpret Old and New Testament texts across both major divisions of Scripture, applying established hermeneutical principles to identify authorial intent, literary context, and canonical significance within the whole counsel of God.	1 (Scripture)
MBS-PLO2	Articulate the foundational doctrines of the Reformed faith as expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith, integrating confessional theology with biblical exegesis and demonstrating the unity of Scripture and confession.	2 (Reformed Theology)
MBS-PLO3	Identify key movements, figures, and theological developments across the history of the Christian church, evaluating their significance for the ministry of	3 (Local Church)

	the contemporary local church and the mission of the gospel.	
MBS-PLO4	Apply biblical and theological foundations to at least one ministerial or professional domain — including apologetics, missions, biblical counseling, or leadership — demonstrating the integration of theological content with vocational ministry practice.	3 (Local Church), 7 (Worldview)
MBS-PLO5	Demonstrate foundational competency in theological research and written communication, producing academic work that engages primary and secondary sources with clarity, proper citation, and appropriate scholarly argument.	6 (Communication)

## Master of Education

The Master of Education degree at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a professional program designed for those seeking to excel in Christian education and teaching roles within the church. This program blends in-depth biblical studies with practical educational methodologies, focusing on cultivating educators who are profoundly grounded in Christian theology and Christian worldview training.

### Course Requirements

The Master of Education requires 36 credit hours in the following courses:

Master of Education	Master of Education	Master of Education
<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
*Must be taken within the first 6 classes.		
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>

ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2

Christian Education	Christian Education	Christian Education
CE1700	History of Christian Education in America	2
CE1705	Christian Philosophy of Education	2
CE1710	Epistemology and Pedagogy	2
CE1715	Instructional Strategies and Technology	2
CE1720	Curriculum Review and Development	2
Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
BC1815	Biblical Counseling: Sexuality and Gender***	2
BC1825	Biblical Counseling with Children and Youth	2
<p>*Counseling in the Local Church I &amp; II (BC1801/BC1802) may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval.  ***Systematic Theology II (Anthropology) and Introduction to Biblical Counseling are prerequisites.</p>		
<p>Concentration  Students should use electives to develop their area of concentration. Academic Advisors can give more information. Courses are available in the following departments or seminar classes (reading-focused):  Educational Administration and Leadership Advanced Pedagogy and Design  History and Historical Theology</p>		

Systematic Theology Public Theology and Apologetics Biblical Counseling Biblical Theology and Languages		
<b>Electives</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>Electives</b>
Elective I	Elective I	2
Elective II	Elective II	2
Elective III	Elective III	2
Elective IV	Elective IV	2

## *Comprehensive Program Overview*

The program offers:

- In-depth Biblical Studies: Thorough exploration of both the Old and New Testaments.
- Systematic Theology: Insightful courses on foundational Christian doctrines.
- Historical Theology: Providing historical insights into biblical teachings.
- Practical Theology and Biblical Counseling: For practical application in ministry settings.
- Christian Education Specialization: Focusing on educational philosophy, administrative leadership, curriculum development, or instructional strategies.

## *Key Features of the Specialization*

- **Total Credit Hours:** 36 credit hours encompassing theological, biblical, counseling, and educational training.
- **Foundational Courses:** Including Christian Philosophy of Education, Conflict Resolution, and Counseling.
- **Specialized Training:** Classes in Curriculum Development, Epistemology and Pedagogy, and Technology and Instructional Strategies.
- **Flexible Electives:** Options to tailor the program with subjects like History, Biblical Studies, Public Theology, Philosophy, and Systematic Theology.

## *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
PLO-Ed1	Articulate a Christian Philosophy of Education grounded in Reformed theology and demonstrate its application across content areas and instructional practice.	2 (Reformed Theology), 7 (Worldview)

PLO-Ed2	Design, deliver, and assess instruction using research-based pedagogical strategies within a biblical worldview framework.	6 (Communication), 7 (Worldview)
PLO-Ed3	Evaluate and develop curriculum that integrates biblical truth across all academic disciplines.	1 (Scripture), 7 (Worldview)
PLO-Ed4	Apply biblical counseling principles to the spiritual, emotional, and developmental needs of students in Christian school settings.	5 (Discipleship)
PLO-Ed5	Demonstrate professional growth through reflective practice, peer collaboration, and ongoing theological and pedagogical development.	4 (Wisdom)
PLO-Ed6	Contribute to the flourishing culture of a Christian school community through servant leadership, collegial partnership, and institutional mission alignment.	3 (Local Church), 8 (Leadership)

## Master of Worship Ministry

The Master of Worship Ministry at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a specialized program tailored for individuals who want to deepen their understanding and practice of Christian worship while using their gifts to lead worship in the local church. BTS strives to teach a biblical, reformed view of worship that adheres to the orthodox and confessional principles of regulative worship, but also seeks to give guidance on how to contextualize biblical worship in a variety of cultural contexts. It draws on a wide range of influences and professors from a variety of worship backgrounds, all of whom are committed to biblical worship.

### *Course Requirements*

The Master of Worship Ministry requires 40 credit hours in the following courses:

Master of Worship Ministry	Master of Worship Ministry	Master of Worship Ministry
<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2

NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
*Must be taken within the first 6 classes.		
<b>Historical Theology</b>	<b>Historical Theology</b>	<b>Historical Theology</b>
HT1320	History of Church Hymnody	2
HT1321	History of Gospel Music C Spirituals	2
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1425	Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)	2
*Must be taken within the first 5 classes		
<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>
PS1905	Leadership Development and Deployment	2

PS1970	Theology of Public Worship	2
PS1972	Choral and Orchestral Conduction	2
PS1973	Small Ensemble Leadership	2
PS1975	Advanced Theory and Analysis in Christian Perspective	2
PS1976	Technology in Worship Ministry	2
PS1977	Songwriting and Hymnody	2
PS1978	Current Issues in Worship	2
PS1999	Pastoral Studies Capstone Project	2

## *Comprehensive Program Overview*

This program offers:

- **Theological Foundations:** In-depth exploration of the theology of public worship, including its biblical basis and historical context.
- **Leadership Development:** Tailoring leadership skills to meet the specific needs of worship ministry.
- **Contemporary Issues in Worship:** Addressing current challenges and dynamics in worship ministry.
- **Practical Training:** Opportunities in choral and orchestral conduction or small ensemble leadership, catering to students' specific interests and focus areas.

## *Course Objectives and Learning Experience*

Students will engage in:

- **Detailed Theological Study:** Understanding the biblical and historical aspects of public worship.
- **Leadership Skills Development:** Specific to worship ministry contexts.
- **Contemporary Worship Analysis:** Preparing students to address and navigate modern worship challenges.
- **Practical Musical Training:** Focused on either choral and orchestral conduction or small ensemble leadership.

## *Program Outcomes*

Graduates will:

- Be well-prepared to lead and innovate in worship settings.
- Possess a profound theological understanding of worship, combined with practical skills in music and leadership.
- Be ready to enrich their church communities with meaningful worship experiences.

## *Program Learning Outcomes*

<b>PLO</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SLO Mapping</b>
MWM-PLO1	Articulate a biblically grounded and confessionally Reformed theology of corporate worship, applying the regulative principle and a robust doctrine of ecclesiology to the planning, leading, and evaluation of congregational worship.	2 (Reformed Theology), 3 (Local Church)
MWM-PLO2	Trace the historical development of Christian hymnody, sacred music, and worship practice from the Reformation to the present, evaluating historical precedent in relation to contemporary worship leadership decisions.	2 (Reformed Theology)
MWM-PLO3	Demonstrate practical competency in worship leadership, including choral and ensemble direction,	3 (Local Church), 8 (Leadership)

	music technology, and songwriting, integrating musical craft with theological intentionality and servant-hearted pastoral leadership.	
MWM-PLO4	Apply principles of servant leadership, team development, and ministry administration to the oversight of volunteer worship teams, demonstrating the capacity to form and sustain a worship culture rooted in the ordinary means of grace.	5 (Discipleship), 8 (Leadership)
MWM-PLO5	Produce an integrative capstone project that synthesizes theological, historical, and practical dimensions of worship ministry, demonstrating advanced competency in worship theology and its applied expression in the local church.	6 (Communication)

## Tier 3: Academic Master of Arts Programs

### Master of Arts Programs (M.A.) Biblical Counseling

The Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a comprehensive program tailored for those who wish to pursue counseling from a distinctively biblical viewpoint. BTS considers biblical counseling as an intensive, time-bound form of discipleship, aimed at guiding counselees towards reengagement with grace and the community life of the church. This program is well-suited for individuals aiming for roles in pastoral care, counseling ministries, or any position that benefits from a deep grasp of biblical counseling principles.

#### Course Requirements

The Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling program requires 64 credit hours in the following classes:

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling	Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling	Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling
<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1106	New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2

ST1421	Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper – God)	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2
ST1423	Systematic Theology III (Christology)	2
ST1424	Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)	2
ST1405 Westminster Confession of Faith may substitute for any one Systematic I-IV course. *Must be taken within the first 5 classes		
<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>
AP1505	Introduction to Apologetics	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2
<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
BC1810	Advanced Biblical Counseling**	2
BC1815	Biblical Counseling: Sexuality and Gender***	2
BC1820	Biblical Counseling: Anthropology and Theory	2
BC1825	Biblical Counseling and the Law	2
BC1830	Biblical Approach to Addictions	2
BC1840	Biblical Readings in Counseling	2

BC1845	Biblical Premarital Counseling	2
BC1850	Biblical Marriage and Family Counseling	2
BC1855	Advanced Marriage and Family Counseling	2
BC1860	Group Dynamics	2

\*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801/BC1802) may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval.  
 \*\*Introduction to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite.  
 \*\*\*Systematic Theology II (Anthropology) and Introduction to Biblical Counseling are prerequisites.

Counseling Practicum	Counseling Practicum	Counseling Practicum
BC1885	Counseling Practicum*	2
(100 hours of supervised counseling) *Practicum is taken no earlier than the final 6 semesters		
<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>
PS1910	Conflict Resolution in the Church	2
PS1935	Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life	2
Electives	Electives	Electives
Elective I	Elective I	2
Elective II	Elective II	2
Can be chosen from any field of study, but should be utilized to align with your educational field (Bible/History/Philosophy/etc.)		

*Program Highlights and Core Elements*

- Biblical Foundation: Extensive study of the Old and New Testaments to establish a strong biblical base.
- Systematic Theology: In-depth courses covering essential Christian doctrines and biblical interpretation.
- Practical Theology: Application of theological knowledge in real-world counseling contexts.
- Diverse Biblical Counseling Courses: Covering a wide range of topics, including marriage and family counseling, addiction, and legal issues related to counseling.

*Program Structure and Learning Experience*

- Credit Hours: A total of 64 credit hours, providing a comprehensive understanding of biblical counseling.

- Critical Engagement: In-depth interaction with professional counseling literature and group dynamics.
- Counseling Practicum: A mandatory, supervised practical experience in counseling settings, ensuring hands-on learning.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
PLO-BC1	Demonstrate expertise in biblical counseling as an extraordinary form of discipleship, grounded in the sufficiency of Scripture and the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit as the sole foundation for true heart change, with the goal of restoring individuals to the ordinary means of discipleship within the body life of the local church.	1 (Scripture), 5 (Discipleship)
PLO-BC2	Engage clinical theories with theological discernment, utilizing insights from clinical disciplines for descriptive purposes while maintaining that no psychological theory conflicting with a biblical understanding of humanity, sin, or redemption is adopted as a counseling framework.	7 (Worldview)
PLO-BC3	Conduct supervised counseling with documented competency across diverse presenting issues including marriage and family, ecclesial conflict, legal and ethical concerns, and professional development.	3 (Local Church)
PLO-BC4	Develop and sustain a counseling ministry rooted in the local church, fostering a culture of biblical soul care in which the extraordinary work of counseling returns individuals to the ordinary means of grace.	3 (Local Church), 5 (Discipleship)
PLO-BC5	Produce scholarly work integrating practicum-based research with theological analysis, reflecting the conviction that the ultimate hope for change rests in the finished work of Christ and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.	6 (Communication)

## Pastoral Leadership

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a meticulously designed program to prepare students for influential leadership roles within the church. This program, a streamlined version of our Master of Divinity program and aligned with the Uniform Curriculum of

the PCA, is particularly suited for those considering a second career in pastoral ministry or for those with prior experience in church leadership.

### *Course Requirements*

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership program requires 62 credit hours in the following classes:

<b>Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership</b>		
<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1006	Old Testament Studies II (Histories Joshua – Esther)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
OT1008	Old Testament Studies IV (Prophetic Literature)	2
OT1020	Beginning Hebrew I	2
OT1021	Beginning Hebrew II	2
OT1022	Advanced Hebrew I (Exegesis)*	2
NT1122	Advanced Greek I (Exegesis)*	2
*Students may choose between Advanced Hebrew I (Exegesis) or Advanced Greek I (Exegesis).		
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1106	New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1120	Beginning Greek I	2
NT1121	Beginning Greek II	2
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>

BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Historical Theology</b>	<b>Historical Theology</b>	<b>Historical Theology</b>
HT1300	Early C Medieval Church History	2
HT1305	Reformation C Modern Church History	2
HT1307	Baptist Church History*	2
HT1308	Presbyterian Church History*	2
*Students may choose between Baptist Church History or Presbyterian Church History.		
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1415	Ethics	2
ST1421	Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper – God)	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2

ST1423	Systematic Theology III (Christology)	2
ST1424	Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)	2
ST1425	Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)	2
ST1405 Westminster Confession of Faith may substitute for any one Systematic I-IV course. *Must be taken within the first 5 classes		
<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>	<b>Public Theology</b>
AP1505	Introduction to Apologetics	2

<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801/BC1802) may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval.		
<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>	<b>Pastoral Studies</b>
PS1925	Presbyterian Polity	2
PS1935	Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life	2
PS1945	Ministry of the Word I (Models of Preaching)*	2
PS1946	Ministry of the Word II (Art of Preaching)**	2
PS1950	Church Vitality (Lampstand Conference)	2
*Can be fulfilled by taking Reformed Preaching (PS1S20) **Gender Locked		

## *Program Overview and Theological Depth*

The program provides:

- Comprehensive Biblical Studies: In-depth exploration of the Old and New Testaments for a well-rounded biblical theology.
- Systematic Theology: Courses covering essential doctrinal areas for a solid theological foundation.
- Greek and Hebrew Studies: Opportunities for original language study to deepen scriptural engagement.
- Historical Theology: Providing context and depth to biblical understanding.
- Practical Theology and Biblical Counseling: Equipping students for real-world ministry application.
- Public Theology: Courses in Apologetics and Cross-Cultural Communication for broader ministry reach.

## *Key Features and Flexibility*

- Total Credit Hours: 62 credit hours offering comprehensive theological and practical training.
- Diverse Coursework: Tailored to meet various aspects of pastoral ministry.
- Practical Ministry Experience: Opportunities for hands-on ministry involvement and leadership skill development.

## Program Learning Outcomes

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
MAPL-PLO1	Exegete Old and New Testament texts in the original Hebrew and Greek, applying grammatical-historical hermeneutics to produce accurate, contextually sensitive, and theologically integrated readings of Scripture that serve the ministry of the Word.	1 (Scripture)
MAPL-PLO2	Articulate and defend the system of doctrine contained in the Westminster Standards, demonstrating comprehensive knowledge of the Confession and Catechisms sufficient for ordination examination and confessional subscription within the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition.	2 (Reformed Theology)
MAPL-PLO3	Synthesize the theological, historical, and ecclesiological dimensions of Presbyterian church government, applying the Book of Church Order to questions of elder and deacon qualifications, church courts, discipline, and connectional accountability.	3 (Local Church), 8 (Leadership)
MAPL-PLO4	Demonstrate competency in the ministry of the Word, including expository preaching, homiletical construction, and the pastoral application of Scripture to congregational life, personal discipleship, and the ordinary means of grace.	3 (Local Church), 6 (Communication)
MAPL-PLO5	Formulate a theologically grounded philosophy of pastoral leadership rooted in the servant-elder model of Scripture, integrating spiritual formation, leadership development, conflict resolution, and care for the congregation as a reflection of Christ's own shepherding ministry.	4 (Wisdom), 8 (Leadership)

## Public Theology

The Master of Arts in Public Theology at Birmingham Theological Seminary provides an in-depth study of theology and its intersection with public life and societal issues. This program is specifically designed for individuals eager to delve into theological concepts and apply them in various public domains, including missions, apologetics, social justice, and for those considering post-graduate education.

### Course Requirements

The Master of Arts in Public Theology program requires 64 credit hours in the following classes:

Master of Arts in Public Theology	Master of Arts in Public Theology	Master of Arts in Public Theology
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<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>	<b>Old Testament Studies</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1006	Old Testament Studies II (Histories Joshua – Esther)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)	2
<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>	<b>New Testament Studies</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1106	New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes		
<b>Historical Theology</b> Students will choose two History courses. One of the two courses must be a survey (e.g., Early and Medieval Church History, Presbyterian Church History, etc.). The second may be a survey or specialized Church History Course (e.g., Biographical Study, Councils of the Early Church, etc.).		
Historical Theology Elective I	Historical Theology Elective I	2
Historical Theology Elective II	Historical Theology Elective II	2
<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1415	Ethics	2

ST1421	Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper – God)	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2
ST1423	Systematic Theology III (Christology)	2
ST1424	Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)	2
ST1430	Contemporary Theology	2
ST1405 Westminster Confession of Faith may substitute for any one Systematic I-IV course. *Must be taken within the first 5 classes		
Public Theology	Public Theology	Public Theology

<b>AP1505</b>	<b>Introduction to Apologetics</b>	<b>2</b>
AP1510	Apologetics and the Bible	2
AP1515	Christ and Culture	2
AP1520	Apologetics and Evangelism	2
AP1525	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	2
AP1530	Biblical Views on Justice in Society	2
AP1535	Comparative Religions	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2
MS1610	Biblical Theology of Missions	2
Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics*	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics*	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics*
Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics I	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics I	2
Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics II	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics II	2
Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics III	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics III	2

Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics IV	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics IV	2
*Students may customize their program with the study of Special Topics and Critical Studies. Examples of courses include: The Bible & Slavery; Christianity & the Imagination; Christianity & the State; Missional Theology; Current Critical Apologetics & Science, etc., as well as biographical studies.		
<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>	<b>Biblical Counseling</b>
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
BC1815	Biblical Counseling: Sexuality and Gender**	2
*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801/BC1802) may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval. **Systematic Theology II (Anthropology) and Introduction to Biblical Counseling are prerequisites.		

### *Program Highlights and Curriculum Focus*

- **Robust Theological Curriculum:** A comprehensive study of both Old and New Testaments to establish a strong biblical-theological foundation.
- **Systematic Theology:** Exploring key Christian doctrines such as Anthropology, Christology, the doctrine of scripture, and hermeneutics.
- **Historical Theology:** Gaining insights into the evolution of Christian thought and church history.
- **Public Theology Concentration:** Courses covering philosophy, critical thinking, apologetics, cultural engagement, and Christ's relationship with culture.

### *Program Structure and Content*

- **Credit Hours:** A total of 64 credit hours, covering a broad spectrum of subjects for a complete understanding of public theology.
- **Public Theology Emphasis:** Courses in apologetics, missions, comparative religions, philosophy and logic, rhetoric, cross-cultural communication, and evangelism.

- **Specialized Study Areas:** Opportunities for focused study in areas such as Christian perspectives on justice, the interplay between Christianity and science, and the church's role in governmental affairs.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
MAPT-PLO1	Construct and defend a coherent apologetic methodology grounded in Scripture and the Reformed confessional tradition, engaging classical, evidential, and presuppositional approaches with critical precision and theological clarity.	1 (Scripture), 2 (Reformed Theology)
MAPT-PLO2	Analyze competing worldviews, philosophical systems, and contemporary ideological movements using biblical-theological categories, demonstrating the capacity to identify root assumptions, evaluate internal consistency, and articulate a comprehensive Christian response.	7 (Worldview)
MAPT-PLO3	Synthesize biblical, theological, and ethical reasoning to address major questions of justice, human dignity, gender and sexuality, and cultural formation, producing sustained public theological argument accessible to both academic and ecclesial audiences.	6 (Communication), 7 (Worldview)
MAPT-PLO4	Apply cross-cultural communication principles and comparative religious analysis to the task of gospel proclamation in diverse global and domestic contexts, demonstrating the integration of missiological convictions with apologetic practice.	3 (Local Church), 6 (Communication)
MAPT-PLO5	Produce scholarly written work in public theology at a level appropriate for academic publication or advanced ministry leadership, engaging primary sources in philosophy, theology, and cultural criticism with rigorous argumentation and confessional fidelity.	6 (Communication)

## Tier 4: Master of Divinity Programs

### Master of Divinity Programs (M.Div.) Biblical Counseling

The Master of Divinity program with a specialization in Biblical Counseling at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a detailed 102-credit-hour program tailored for those desiring to blend profound theological understanding with practical counseling skills. This program is particularly suited for individuals aiming for roles in pastoral care, Christian counseling, and spiritual guidance across various ministry settings.

#### *Course Requirements*

Master of Divinity Biblical Counseling	Master of Divinity Biblical Counseling	Master of Divinity Biblical Counseling
<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1006	Old Testament Studies II (Histories)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom)	2
OT1008	Old Testament Studies IV (Prophets)	2
OT1020	Beginning Hebrew I	2
OT1021	Beginning Hebrew II	2
<b>New Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1106	New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1120	Beginning Greek I	2
NT1121	Beginning Greek II	2
NT1122	Advanced Greek I (Exegesis)	2
<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Biblical Theology</b>
BT1205	Hermeneutics*	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2

<b>Historical Theology</b>	<b>Historical Theology: Total: 8 Hours</b>	*Four HT courses must be taken. Two must be survey courses from the "*" list above. The other two courses may be specialized (HT13S0) or biographical studies from the Apologetics Special Topics series.
HT1300	Early and Medieval Church History*	2
HT1305	Reformation C Modern Church History*	2
HT1306	Church History in America*	2
HT1307	Baptist Church History	2
HT1308	Presbyterian Church History	2
HT1390	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Church Historical Theology	2

<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1415	Ethics	2
ST1421	Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper – God)	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2
ST1423	Systematic Theology III (Christology)	2
ST1424	Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)	2
ST1425	Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)	2
ST1426	Systematic Theology VI (Eschatology)	2
ST1430	Contemporary Theology	2
*Must be taken within the first 5 classes.	*Must be taken within the first 5 classes.	*Must be taken within the first 5 classes.

Public Theology	Public Theology	Public Theology
AP1505	Introduction to Apologetics	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2
CE1705	Christian Philosophy of Education	2
Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
BC1810	Advanced Biblical Counseling**	2
BC1815	Biblical Counseling: Sexuality and Gender***	2
BC1820	Biblical Counseling: Anthropology C Theory***	2
BC1825	Biblical Counseling with Children and Youth	2
BC1830	Biblical Counseling C the Law	2
BC1835	Biblical Approach to Addictions	2
BC1840	Biblical Readings in Counseling	2
BC1845	Biblical Premarital Counseling	2
BC1810	Advanced Biblical Counseling**	2
BC1850	Biblical Marriage and Family Counseling	2
BC1855	Advanced Marriage C Family Counseling	2
BC1860	Group Dynamics	2
*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801/BC1802 may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval. **Introduction to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite. ***Systematic Theology II (Anthropology) and Introduction to Biblical Counseling are prerequisites.	*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801/BC1802 may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval. **Introduction to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite. ***Systematic Theology II (Anthropology) and Introduction to Biblical Counseling are prerequisites.	*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801/BC1802 may be taken in place of BC1805 with approval. **Introduction to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite. ***Systematic Theology II (Anthropology) and Introduction to Biblical Counseling are prerequisites.
Counseling Practicum	Counseling Practicum	Counseling Practicum

BC1885	Counseling Practicum*	2
(100 hours of supervised counseling) *Practicum is taken no earlier than the final c semesters	(100 hours of supervised counseling) *Practicum is taken no earlier than the final c semesters	(100 hours of supervised counseling) *Practicum is taken no earlier than the final c semesters

Pastoral Studies	Pastoral Studies	Pastoral Studies
PS1905	Leadership Development and Deployment	2
PS1910	Conflict Resolution in the Church	2
PS1935	Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life	2
PS1950	Church Vitality (Lampstand Conference)	2
Electives	Electives	Electives
Biblical Counseling Elective I	Biblical Counseling Elective I	2
Electives may be chosen from any field of study, but should be utilized to align with your educational field. It can also be a clinical.	Electives may be chosen from any field of study, but should be utilized to align with your educational field. It can also be a clinical.	Electives may be chosen from any field of study, but should be utilized to align with your educational field. It can also be a clinical.

### Core Educational Foundation

The program's core curriculum encompasses:

- Old and New Testament Studies: Comprehensive exploration of biblical texts to establish a strong scriptural foundation.
- Systematic Theology: In-depth examination of crucial Christian doctrines, including Christology, Soteriology, and Ecclesiology.
- Historical Theology: A study of the evolution of Christian thought and church history.

### *Focused Specialization in Biblical Counseling*

The specialization offers:

- Advanced Counseling Techniques: Courses designed to teach counseling methods and approaches that are biblically based.
- Family and Individual Counseling: Specialized training tailored to the needs of families, couples, and individuals, from a Christian perspective.

- Practical Training: A counseling practicum providing hands-on experience under supervision, equipping students for pastoral and counseling roles.

### *Career Pathways and Opportunities*

Graduates of this specialization will be well-prepared for:

- Pastoral Counseling: Offering spiritual and emotional support within church settings.
- Church Leadership: Guiding congregations with a focus on biblical counseling.
- Christian Education: Applying counseling insights in educational and spiritual development contexts.

The Master of Divinity with a specialization in Biblical Counseling is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to offer effective, compassionate counseling informed by a deep understanding of biblical teachings.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

<b>PLO</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SLO Mapping</b>
MDiv-BC1	Demonstrate mastery of biblical counseling as an extraordinary form of discipleship grounded in the sufficiency of Scripture, the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit, and the goal of restoring individuals to the ordinary means of grace within the life of the local church.	1 (Scripture), 5 (Discipleship)
MDiv-BC2	Conduct supervised counseling ministry with documented clinical competency across a range of presenting issues — including marriage and family, addictions, gender and sexuality, grief, and trauma — applying biblical frameworks with theological precision and pastoral compassion.	3 (Local Church), 5 (Discipleship)
MDiv-BC3	Engage clinical and psychological theories with critical discernment, utilizing descriptive frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences while maintaining that no theory conflicting with biblical anthropology, hamartiology, or soteriology is adopted as a counseling foundation.	7 (Worldview)
MDiv-BC4	Articulate a robust biblical anthropology rooted in the doctrines of creation, image-bearing, the fall, and redemption, applying that anthropology to complex counseling presentations and the formation of a local church soul care ministry.	3 (Local Church), 5 (Discipleship)
MDiv-BC5	Produce scholarly written and practicum-based work integrating biblical counseling theory, theological research, and supervised clinical experience at a level	6 (Communication)

	consistent with ACBC certification requirements and advanced ministry leadership.	
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## Biblical Languages

The Certificate in Advanced Biblical Languages program at Birmingham Theological Seminary offers a deep dive into biblical languages for those with a graduate degree in theological studies or proficiency in Greek and Hebrew. This program provides an

immersive learning experience in advanced language studies, including Greek, Hebrew, and options like Theological German, Latin, or Introductory Aramaic.

### *Course Requirements*

The Advanced Certificate of Biblical Languages requires 14 credit hours in the following courses:

If the student has not completed one full year of Hebrew and one full year of Greek, they may still do the Certificate program, but must first complete Year One of Hebrew/Year One of Greek. Prerequisite for Entry\*

- \*To be accepted into the Cert in Adv. Biblical Languages program applicants must have already completed a graduate degree in theological studies (MA or MDiv) and have passed Basic and Intermediate Greek and Hebrew studies. If they have not completed a graduate degree, they must show transcripts indicating they have passed graduate-level Greek and Hebrew studies.
- \*\*Students who wish to take this program but do not have a graduate degree must first take Year One of Hebrew and Year One of Greek. Once this is accomplished, they may take the Certificate program, which will reflect completion of 26 total class hours.
- \*\*Applicants will be given a translation assignment to assess direct entrance into Advanced Greek or Hebrew. Administration may request that the student audit Advanced Greek or Hebrew 1 in the summer before the fall Advanced 2 class starts.
- \*\*\*Students may choose one of the three secondary language studies (Theological German, Latin, or Intro Aramaic) to complete their Certificate.
- \*\*\*\*Theological German is offered as needed, and Latin and Introduction to Biblical Aramaic are offered during the summer on an alternate schedule (one summer is Latin, the next is Aramaic).

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
MDiv-BL1	Demonstrate advanced proficiency in biblical Hebrew and Greek, producing exegetically rigorous readings of Old and New Testament texts that engage the original languages with grammatical precision, lexical depth, and sensitivity to literary and historical context.	1 (Scripture)

MDiv-BL2	Apply critical text-critical methodology to questions of manuscript tradition, textual variants, and canonical transmission, evaluating text-critical evidence in light of the Reformed commitment to the providential preservation of Scripture.	1 (Scripture)
MDiv-BL3	Demonstrate functional reading ability in at least one biblical or theological research language — German, Latin, or Biblical Aramaic — sufficient for engagement with primary source scholarship in the field of biblical studies.	6 (Communication)
MDiv-BL4	Produce an original supervised thesis of 12,000–15,000 words representing a substantial contribution to Old or New Testament scholarship, demonstrating graduate-level research methodology, primary source engagement, and sustained theological argument.	6 (Communication)
MDiv-BL5	Integrate advanced biblical language competency with the full scope of the MDiv curriculum — including systematic theology, church history, and pastoral ministry — demonstrating that linguistic precision serves the proclamation of the gospel and the ministry of the Word in the local church.	2 (Reformed Theology), 3 (Local Church)

## Church Planting

The Church Planting track within the Master of Divinity program at Birmingham Theological Seminary is specially designed for individuals with a passion for initiating and nurturing church growth. This comprehensive 102-credit hour program combines both practical and theological training, crucial for effective church planting and revitalization.

Core Curriculum and Theological Foundation The core curriculum of this track includes:

- **M.Div. Core:** In-depth classes in Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, and Pastoral Studies.
- **Biblical and Theological Studies:** A firm foundation in scripture and Reformed, confessional theology.
- **Practical Ministry Skills:** Training in preaching, worship leadership, and church administration.

Specialization in Church Planting and Growth Specialized training involves:

- **Church Planting Strategies:** Courses focusing on effective models for church startups, including fundraising and financial development.

- **Leadership and Administration:** Developing skills in leadership, evangelism, discipleship, conflict resolution, and church administration.
- **Mentored Experience:** A mandatory one-year mentorship with an experienced and successful church planter.

### Career Opportunities and Outcomes

Graduates of this track are well-equipped for:

- **Church Planting:** Initiating and leading new church congregations.
- **Pastoral Leadership:** Guiding and nurturing congregations as a pastor.
- **Church Administration:** Managing and developing church operations.

The Church Planting track is tailored to prepare students for dynamic roles in church leadership, empowering them to establish new congregations or rejuvenate existing ones with innovative approaches.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
MDiv-CP1	Formulate a biblically grounded and theologically integrated vision for church planting and revitalization, evaluating contemporary church planting models against the ecclesiological standards of Scripture and the confessional Reformed tradition.	2 (Reformed Theology), 3 (Local Church)
MDiv-CP2	Demonstrate competency in the ministry of the Word and servant leadership within the specific demands of a church planting or revitalization context, integrating expository preaching, elder formation, and congregational development into a coherent founding ministry.	6 (Communication), 8 (Leadership)
MDiv-CP3	Apply the financial, legal, and organizational dimensions of church planting — including nonprofit incorporation, tax-exempt status, fundraising strategy, and budget development — with biblical stewardship convictions and the practical wisdom required for institutional sustainability.	4 (Wisdom), 8 (Leadership)
MDiv-CP4	Execute supervised church planting or revitalization ministry through mentored clinical experience, demonstrating applied competency in the relational, organizational, and theological dynamics of launching or renewing a gospel-centered local church.	3 (Local Church), 8 (Leadership)
MDiv-CP5	Articulate a long-term philosophy of church vitality rooted in the ordinary means of grace — the ministry of	3 (Local Church), 5 (Discipleship)

	the Word, prayer, the sacraments, and the body life of the congregation — applying church health principles and missional strategy to the cultivation of a reproducing, disciple-making church community.	
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## MDiv — Public Theology

The Master of Divinity in Public Theology at Birmingham Theological Seminary is a distinctive 102-credit hour program that integrates thorough theological training with a strong emphasis on public engagement and social issues. It is ideally suited for those aspiring to infuse theological perspectives into public discourse, address social justice issues, lead communities, and impact the marketplace with the transformative message of Jesus Christ's redemption.

### *Course Requirements*

Master of Divinity Public Theology	Master of Divinity Public Theology	Master of Divinity Public Theology
Old Testament	Old Testament	Old Testament
OT1005	Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	2
OT1006	Old Testament Studies II (Histories)	2
OT1007	Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom)	2
OT1008	Old Testament Studies IV (Prophetic Literature)	2
OT1020	Beginning Hebrew I	2
OT1021	Beginning Hebrew II	2
OT1022	Advanced Hebrew I (Exegesis)	2

New Testament	New Testament	New Testament
NT1105	New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	2
NT1106	New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1107	New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	2
NT1120	Beginning Greek I	2
NT1121	Beginning Greek II	2

NT1122	Advanced Greek I (Exegesis)	2
Biblical Theology	Biblical Theology	Biblical Theology
BT1205	Hermeneutics	2
BT1210	Introduction to Covenant Theology	2
* Must be taken within the first 6 classes	* Must be taken within the first 6 classes	* Must be taken within the first 6 classes
Historical Theology	Historical Theology	Historical Theology
HT1300	Early C Medieval Church History	2
HT1305	Reformation C Modern Church History	2
HT1306	Church History in America	2
HT1307	Baptist Church History	2
Systematic Theology	Systematic Theology	Systematic Theology
ST1405	Westminster Confession of Faith	2
ST1410	Introduction to Theological Research and Writing*	2
ST1415	Ethics	2
ST1421	Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper – God)	2
ST1422	Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	2
ST1423	Systematic Theology III (Christology)	2
ST1424	Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)	2
ST1425	Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)	2
ST1426	Systematic Theology VI (Eschatology)	2
ST1430	Contemporary Theology	2
Public Theology	Public Theology	Public Theology
AP1505	Introduction to Apologetics	2
AP1510	Apologetics C the Bible	2
AP1515	Christ C Culture	2
AP1520	Apologetics C Evangelism	2

AP1525	Introduction to Philosophy C Critical Thinking	2
AP1530	Biblical Views on Justice in Society	2
AP1535	Comparative Religions	2
CE1705	Christian Philosophy of Education	2
MS1605	Cross-Cultural Communication	2
MS1610	Biblical Theology of Missions	2
Special Topics/Critical Studies	Special Topics/Critical Studies	Special Topics/Critical Studies
AP1591	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics I	2
AP1592	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics II	2
AP1593	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics III	2

<b>AP1594</b>	<b>Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics IV</b>	<b>2</b>
AP1595	Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics V	2
Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling
BC1805	Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	2
*Counseling in the Local Church I C II (BC1801/BC1802)	*Counseling in the Local Church I C II (BC1801/BC1802)	*Counseling in the Local Church I C II (BC1801/BC1802)
Pastoral Studies	Pastoral Studies	Pastoral Studies
PS1905	Leadership Development and Deployment	2
PS1910	Conflict Resolution in the Church	2
PS1935	Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life	2
PS1950	Church Vitality (Lampstand Conference)	2
Electives	Electives	Electives
Elective I	Elective I	2

Elective II	Elective II	2
Electives may be chosen from any field of study: History, philosophy, languages, Christian ed., public theology, apologetics, etc.	Electives may be chosen from any field of study: History, philosophy, languages, Christian ed., public theology, apologetics, etc.	Electives may be chosen from any field of study: History, philosophy, languages, Christian ed., public theology, apologetics, etc.

## Core Curriculum and Theological Insight

The core curriculum includes:

- **Biblical Studies:** An extensive study of both the Old and New Testaments.
- **Systematic and Practical Theology:** In-depth exploration of Christian doctrines and their practical implications in various ministry contexts.
- **Historical Theology:** Examination of the church’s evolution and its role throughout history.

## *Focused Specialization in Public Theology*

The specialization offers:

- **Social Justice and Culture:** Courses delving into the biblical theology of faith, justice, and societal challenges.
- **Apologetics and Philosophy:** Equipping students with skills in defending the faith and engaging thoughtfully with contemporary philosophical debates.
- **Customizable Studies:** Opportunities for students to personalize their learning with topics such as missional theology, church-state relations, and cultural analysis.

## *Career Opportunities and Impact*

Graduates of this specialization are well-prepared for roles in:

- **Church Leadership:** Guiding congregations with a deep understanding of public theology.
- **Non-Profit Organizations:** Applying theological insights to social and community- based initiatives.
- **Public Advocacy:** Influencing societal change and advocating for justice informed by a theological framework.

The Master of Divinity in Public Theology program is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to positively influence society through informed theological engagement and leadership.

## *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
MDiv-PT1	Construct a comprehensive apologetic for historic Christianity, integrating biblical exegesis, Reformed systematic theology, and multiple apologetic methodologies into a coherent public witness	1 (Scripture), 2 (Reformed Theology)

	appropriate for academic, cultural, and ecclesial audiences.	
MDiv-PT2	Analyze major contemporary worldviews, philosophical systems, and cultural ideologies with critical precision, identifying their foundational assumptions, evaluating their internal coherence, and articulating a biblical-theological response consistent with the Reformed confessional tradition.	7 (Worldview)
MDiv-PT3	Apply biblical ethical reasoning to issues of justice, human dignity, gender and sexuality, and social formation, producing sustained public theological argument that is grounded in Scripture, informed by Reformed confessionalism, and accessible beyond the church.	6 (Communication), 7 (Worldview)
MDiv-PT4	Demonstrate missiological competency in cross-cultural communication and comparative religious engagement, applying apologetic and public theological skills to global and domestic contexts of gospel proclamation.	3 (Local Church)
MDiv-PT5	Produce advanced scholarly work in public theology and apologetics across multiple special topics seminars, demonstrating breadth of engagement with contemporary theological questions and depth of argument rooted in biblical and confessional foundations.	6 (Communication)

## Ordination

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program at Birmingham Theological Seminary is an extensive and thorough theological education designed for those aiming for pastoral ministry, missions, or further theological studies. This program thoroughly integrates biblical studies, systematic theology, historical theology, and practical ministry training, meeting the needs of a diverse range of ministry aspirations.

### *Course Requirements*

Master of Divinity Ordination	Master of Divinity Ordination
Old Testament	Old Testament
OT1005 Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)	
OT1006 Old Testament Studies II (Histories)	

OT1007 Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom)	
OT1008 Old Testament Studies IV (Prophets)	
OT1020 Beginning Hebrew I	
OT1021 Beginning Hebrew II	
OT1022 Advanced Hebrew I (Exegesis)	
New Testament	New Testament
NT1105 New Testament Studies I (Gospels-Acts)	
NT1106 New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)	
NT1107 New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)	
NT1120 Beginning Greek I	
NT1121 Beginning Greek II	
NT1122 Advanced Greek I (Exegesis)	
NT1123 Advanced Greek II	
Biblical Theology	Biblical Theology
BT1205 Hermeneutics	
BT1210 Introduction to Covenant Theology	
Historical Theology	Historical Theology
HT1300 Early C Medieval Church History*	
HT1305 Reformation C Modern Church History*	
HT1306 Church History in America*	

<b>HT1307 Baptist Church History</b>	
HT1308 Presbyterian Church History	
HT1390 Special Topics/Critical Studies in Church Historical Theology	

*Four HT courses must be taken. Two must be survey courses from the "*" list above. The other two courses may be specialized (HT1390) or biographical studies from the Apologetics Special Topics series.	*Four HT courses must be taken. Two must be survey courses from the "*" list above. The other two courses may be specialized (HT1390) or biographical studies from the Apologetics Special Topics series.
Systematic Theology	Systematic Theology
ST1405 Westminster Confession of Faith	
ST1410 Introduction to Theological Research C Writing*	
ST1415 Ethics	
ST1421 Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper – God)	
ST1422 Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)	
ST1423 Systematic Theology III (Christology)	
ST1424 Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)	
ST1425 Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)	
ST1426 Systematic Theology VI (Eschatology)	
ST1430 Contemporary Theology	
*Must be taken within the first 5 classes.	*Must be taken within the first 5 classes.
Public Theology	Public Theology
AP1505 Introduction to Apologetics	
AP1515 Christ C Culture	
CE1705 Christian Philosophy of Education	
MS1605 Cross-Cultural Communication	
MS1610 Biblical Theology of Missions	
MS1615 Techniques of Church Planting	
Biblical Counseling	Biblical Counseling
BC1805 Introduction to Biblical Counseling*	
BC1850 Biblical Marriage C Family Counseling	

*Counseling in the Local Church I C II (BC1801/BC1802)	*Counseling in the Local Church I C II (BC1801/BC1802)
Pastoral Studies	Pastoral Studies
PS1905 Leadership Development C Deployment	
PS1910 Conflict Resolution in the Church	
PS1925 Presbyterian Polity	
PS1935 Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life	
PS1940 Ministry to Children, Youth, C Families	

<b>PS1945 Ministry of the Word I (Models of Preaching)*</b>	
PS1946 Ministry of the Word II (Art of Preaching)**	
PS1950 Church Vitality (Lampstand Conference)	
PS1955 Theology C Practice of Administration	
PS1970 Theology of Public Worship	
*Can be fulfilled by taking Preachers C Preaching or Reformed Preaching. **Gender Locked	*Can be fulfilled by taking Preachers C Preaching or Reformed Preaching. **Gender Locked
Electives	Electives
Pastoral Studies Elective I	
Pastoral Studies Elective II	
Electives may be chosen from any field of study: History, philosophy, languages, Christian ed., public theology, apologetics, etc.	Electives may be chosen from any field of study: History, philosophy, languages, Christian ed., public theology, apologetics, etc.
Mentored Semester	Mentored Semester
Mentored Clinical I	

### Program Adaptability and Overview

- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** The M.Div. at BTS is structured to meet the Uniform Curriculum requirements of the Presbyterian Church in America (P.C.A.) and can be adapted for ordination in various denominations.
- **Extensive Biblical Studies:** In-depth study in both the Old and New Testaments, including language studies in Hebrew and Greek.
- **Systematic Theology:** A wide range of courses covering key Christian doctrines.
- **Historical Theology:** Courses that provide a thorough understanding of church history.
- **Practical Theology:** Focus on preaching, education, church administration, and family ministry.
- **Biblical Counseling and Public Theology:** Courses in apologetics, missions, and evangelism to prepare students for diverse ministry contexts.
- **Mentoring Program:** A one-year embedded mentoring program with alternative learning assessments for practical ministry training.

### *Key Features of the Program*

- **Comprehensive Scope:** Totalling 102 credit hours to ensure a complete theological education.
- **Language Study:** Emphasis on original biblical languages for deeper scriptural exegesis.
- **Customizable Electives:** Diverse elective options to tailor the program to individual interests and ministry goals.
- **Distance Education Availability:** Full accessibility via distance education, without a residential requirement.

### *Ideal Candidates for the Program*

- **Aspiring Pastors and Missionaries:** Those seeking ordination or pastoral roles, as well as individuals interested in missions or church planting.
- **Students Seeking Comprehensive Theological Foundation:** Ideal for those pursuing in-depth theological knowledge for academic or ministry purposes.
- **Non-Ordination Option:** BTS also offers a non-ordainable version of this degree for gender parity.

The Master of Divinity program at BTS is more than an academic course; it's a transformative journey that equips students for effective ministry and leadership across diverse contexts, grounded in scriptural understanding and Christian doctrine.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
MDiv-OR1	Exegete Old and New Testament texts in Hebrew and Greek, producing grammatically informed, historically	1 (Scripture)

	situated, and theologically integrated exposition of Scripture that sustains the preaching and teaching ministry of the local church.	
MDiv-OR2	Articulate, defend, and apply the whole system of Reformed doctrine as expressed in the Westminster Standards, demonstrating the depth of theological formation expected of candidates for ordination within the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition.	2 (Reformed Theology)
MDiv-OR3	Demonstrate competency in expository preaching, including sermon construction, delivery, hermeneutical application, and the faithful pastoral deployment of the whole counsel of God to congregational life.	3 (Local Church), 6 (Communication)
MDiv-OR4	Apply the biblical theology of the church — its government, discipline, sacraments, and means of grace — to the day-to-day work of pastoral ministry, including elder and deacon leadership, congregational care, and denominational accountability.	3 (Local Church), 8 (Leadership)
MDiv-OR5	Formulate an integrated theology of pastoral ministry that unites biblical exegesis, Reformed systematic theology, church history, and applied pastoral studies into a coherent and sustainable vision for long-term ordained ministry in the local church.	4 (Wisdom), 8 (Leadership)

# Tier 5: Post-Graduate Programs

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## Master of Theology (ThM) — 33 Credit Hours

The Master of Theology is a 33-credit-hour post-graduate degree program for students who have completed an MDiv or equivalent graduate degree of at least 60 credit hours. The ThM deepens the student's theological expertise in a chosen concentration while equipping them to engage with historical developments, contemporary debates, and current cultural issues through the lens of Reformed theology.

**Completion Pathways: Thesis Track (15,000–20,000 word thesis with oral defense) or Non-Thesis Track (additional elective coursework + comprehensive examination).**

**Core Requirements (all concentrations):** THM8001 Research and Design in Advanced Theological Studies (3 cr.) + Research Language: Theological Latin or Theological German (3 cr.).

**Expected Completion:** 2–3 years. Maximum: 6 years.

**Tuition:** \$200 per credit hour (\$6,600 total program cost).

### *Admission Requirements*

General (all concentrations): Graduate degree in theology (MDiv or MA) of at least 60 credit hours from an accredited institution. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Scholarly writing sample. Paper demonstrating familiarity with Reformed covenantal theology. Ecclesiastical and academic recommendations.

Language Requirement (General): Minimum 8 credit hours of Greek and Hebrew combined. Greek and Hebrew proficiency preferred for all concentrations.

Language Requirement (Biblical Studies): Minimum 6 credit hours of Greek and 6 credit hours of Hebrew (12 total) at the graduate level. Competency exam in both languages administered upon application. Languages Track requires demonstrated advanced competency.

### *Concentration: Systematic Theology (Active)*

Prerequisites: All BTS equivalent Systematic Theology courses (Theology Proper, Anthropology, Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology). Currently offering one seminar per semester, expanding to two in 2027.

### **Non-Thesis Track (33 Credits)**

Course #	Course Title	Hrs	Category
ST-THM	Systematic Theology Prerequisite I	3	Prerequisite
ST-THM	Systematic Theology Prerequisite II	3	Prerequisite
THM8001	Research and Design in Advanced Theological Studies (DE)	3	Core Required
ST8010	Contemporary Theology or Elective	3	Core Required

ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
RL8001/02	Theological Latin or Theological German	3	Research Language
	TOTAL	33	

### Thesis Track (33 Credits)

Course #	Course Title	Hrs	Category
ST-THM	Systematic Theology Prerequisite I	3	Prerequisite
ST-THM	Systematic Theology Prerequisite II	3	Prerequisite
THM8001	Research and Design in Advanced Theological Studies (DE)	3	Core Required
ST8010	Contemporary Theology or Elective	3	Core Required
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
ST8XXX	Systematic Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
RL8001/02	Theological Latin or Theological German	3	Research Language
THM8901	Thesis I: Research	3	Thesis
THM8902	Thesis II: Writing and Defense	3	Thesis
	TOTAL	33	

### Program Learning Outcomes

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
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PLO-ST1	Articulate and defend the Reformed system of doctrine as expressed in the Westminster Standards with exegetical, historical, and theological precision.	2 (Reformed Theology)
PLO-ST2	Engage critically with historical and contemporary theological positions, identifying continuity, departure, and doctrinal drift.	7 (Worldview)
PLO-ST3	Conduct independent post-graduate research producing scholarly writing suitable for publication.	6 (Communication)
PLO-ST4	Apply systematic theological reflection to contemporary cultural, ethical, and ecclesial issues with pastoral wisdom and confessional fidelity.	4 (Wisdom), 7 (Worldview)
PLO-ST5	Communicate complex systematic-theological concepts with clarity for both academic and ministerial contexts.	6 (Communication)

### *Concentration: Historical Theology — Reformation and Presbyterian Studies (2027–2028)*

Focused study on the theology, ethics, and ecclesiology of the Reformation and post-Reformation Reformed tradition, with particular attention to Presbyterian confessional development, Puritan theology, and Reformed orthodox intellectual heritage. Latin recommended as research language.

Prerequisites: Minimum two graduate-level historical theology survey courses. Demonstrated familiarity with primary Reformation sources and the Reformed confessional tradition.

#### **Non-Thesis Track (33 Credits)**

Course #	Course Title	Hrs	Category
HT-THM	Historical Theology Prerequisite I	3	Prerequisite
HT-THM	Historical Theology Prerequisite II	3	Prerequisite
THM8001	Research and Design in Advanced Theological Studies (DE)	3	Core Required
HT8010	Reformation Theology: Sources and Method	3	Core Required
HT8020	Post-Reformation Reformed Orthodoxy	3	Core Required
HT8XXX	Historical Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
HT8XXX	Historical Theology Seminar	3	Seminar

HT8XXX	Historical Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
HT8XXX	Historical Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
RL8001/02	Theological Latin or German (Latin recommended)	3	Research Language
HT/ST/BS	Elective (from HT, ST, or BS)	3	Elective
	TOTAL	33	

### Thesis Track (33 Credits)

Course #	Course Title	Hrs	Category
HT-THM	Historical Theology Prerequisite I	3	Prerequisite
HT-THM	Historical Theology Prerequisite II	3	Prerequisite
THM8001	Research and Design in Advanced Theological Studies (DE)	3	Core Required
HT8010	Reformation Theology: Sources and Method	3	Core Required
HT8020	Post-Reformation Reformed Orthodoxy	3	Core Required
HT8XXX	Historical Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
HT8XXX	Historical Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
HT8XXX	Historical Theology Seminar	3	Seminar
RL8001/02	Theological Latin or German (Latin recommended)	3	Research Language
THM8901	Thesis I: Research	3	Thesis
THM8902	Thesis II: Writing and Defense	3	Thesis
	TOTAL	33	

### Program Learning Outcomes

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
PLO-HT1	Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the theology, ethics, and ecclesiology of the Reformation and post-Reformation Reformed tradition.	2 (Reformed Theology)

PLO-HT2	Engage primary sources from the Reformation and post-Reformation periods with historical-critical and theological precision.	1 (Scripture), 6 (Communication)
PLO-HT3	Articulate the development of Presbyterian confessional theology from the Westminster Assembly through American Presbyterianism.	2 (Reformed Theology)
PLO-HT4	Conduct independent post-graduate research in historical theology producing scholarly writing suitable for publication.	6 (Communication)
PLO-HT5	Apply historical-theological insight to contemporary ecclesial and cultural issues.	7 (Worldview)

### *Concentration: Biblical Studies — Languages Track | Biblical Theology Track (2027–2028)*

Advanced study with two internal tracks under a single programmatic umbrella. The Languages Track deepens facility in the original languages and connects advanced exegetical method to theological reflection. The Biblical Theology Track trains students in the discipline of redemptive-historical biblical theology across the whole canon. One crossover seminar from the other track is permitted, subject to advisor approval.

#### **Non-Thesis Track (33 Credits)**

Course #	Course Title	Hrs	Category
BT-THM	Biblical Studies Prerequisite I	3	Prerequisite
BT-THM	Biblical Studies Prerequisite II	3	Prerequisite
THM8001	Research and Design in Advanced Theological Studies (DE)	3	Core Required
BT8010	Advanced Biblical Theology: Redemptive-Historical Method	3	Core Required
BT8020	Advanced Covenant Theology	3	Core Required
BT/BS8XXX	Track Seminar I (Languages or BT)	3	Track Seminar
BT/BS8XXX	Track Seminar II (Languages or BT)	3	Track Seminar
BT/BS8XXX	Track Seminar III (Languages or BT)	3	Track Seminar
BT/BS8XXX	Track Seminar IV (Languages or BT)	3	Track Seminar

RL8001/02	Theological Latin or Theological German	3	Research Language
Elective	Elective (from either track, ST, or HT)	3	Elective
	TOTAL	33	

### Thesis Track (33 Credits)

Course #	Course Title	Hrs	Category
BT-THM	Biblical Studies Prerequisite I	3	Prerequisite
BT-THM	Biblical Studies Prerequisite II	3	Prerequisite
THM8001	Research and Design in Advanced Theological Studies (DE)	3	Core Required
BT8010	Advanced Biblical Theology: Redemptive-Historical Method	3	Core Required
BT8020	Advanced Covenant Theology	3	Core Required
BT/BS8XXX	Track Seminar I (Languages or BT)	3	Track Seminar
BT/BS8XXX	Track Seminar II (Languages or BT)	3	Track Seminar
BT/BS8XXX	Track Seminar III (Languages or BT)	3	Track Seminar
RL8001/02	Theological Latin or Theological German	3	Research Language
THM8901	Thesis I: Research	3	Thesis
THM8902	Thesis II: Writing and Defense	3	Thesis
	TOTAL	33	

### Program Learning Outcomes

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
PLO-BS1	Demonstrate advanced competence in exegeting OT and NT texts in their original languages within their redemptive-historical context.	1 (Scripture)

PLO-BS2	Articulate the unity and progressive nature of biblical revelation using Reformed redemptive-historical and covenantal frameworks.	1 (Scripture), 2 (Reformed Theology)
PLO-BS3	Integrate biblical-theological findings with the system of doctrine confessed in the Westminster Standards.	2 (Reformed Theology)
PLO-BS4	Conduct independent scholarly research and produce written scholarship suitable for academic publication.	6 (Communication)
PLO-BS5	Communicate complex biblical-theological concepts with clarity in both scholarship and preaching/teaching.	6 (Communication)
PLO-BS6	Critically evaluate contemporary trends in biblical interpretation with discernment from a confessional Reformed position.	7 (Worldview)

## Doctor of Ministry Programs

### *DMin — Apologetics / Public Theology*

The Apologetics track in the Doctor of Ministry program at BTS aims to develop ministry leaders skilled in proclaiming and defending orthodox Christianity within the marketplace community. This program focuses on the theological and philosophical underpinnings necessary for engaging with today's cultural climate.

### *Program Goals and Curriculum*

The curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including foundational beliefs, anthropology, moral thought, and cultural development. Each class is academically rigorous and designed to be applicable across diverse cultural, ethnic, and geographic contexts.

### *Dissertation Project*

The program concludes with a dissertation that incorporates significant original research and application in an underdeveloped area of apologetics ministry, allowing students to contribute new insights or applications.

### *Distinction Between PhD and D.Min. in Apologetics*

While some seminaries offer PhD programs in Apologetics focusing on historical research, the D.Min. at BTS is founded on the principle of practical ministry application. It aims to provide original research applied to contemporary ministry challenges, bridging the gap between academic discovery and practical ministry.

### *Course Requirements*

Doctor of Ministry: Apologetics/ Public Theology	Doctor of Ministry: Apologetics/ Public Theology	Doctor of Ministry: Apologetics/ Public Theology	Doctor of Ministry: Apologetics/ Public Theology
Fall	DM4000	Research C Design	3
Spring	DM4505	Philosophical Theology C Reformed Dogmatics	3
Summer	DM4510	Metaphysics C Epistemology	3
Fall	DM4515	Advanced Apologetics C Methodology	3
Spring	DM4520	Theological Anthropology C Moral Theology	3
Summer	DM4525	Cultural Development C Cultural Studies	3

Fall	DM4530	Contextual Apologetics	3
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<b>Spring</b>	<b>DM4535</b>	<b>Lifetime Learning C Applied Apologetics</b>	<b>3</b>
Summer	DM4580	Independent Study/Understanding the Dissertation	3
Fall/Spring	DM4585	D.Min. Dissertation (2 Semesters)	6
Total Program Hours:	Total Program Hours:	Total Program Hours:	33

### **Biblical Counseling**

The Biblical Counseling track at BTS is built on a Biblical Theological Framework, affirming the sufficiency of Scripture in addressing human condition issues, particularly those related to the heart. The program's goal is to cultivate experts in counseling ministry who are also empathetic shepherds grounded in solid theology and committed to local church ministry.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

<b>PLO</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SLO Mapping</b>
PLO-AP1	Articulate philosophical and theological foundations of Reformed apologetics with precision.	2 (Reformed Theology)
PLO-AP2	Analyze and critically evaluate contemporary apologetic methodologies.	7 (Worldview)
PLO-AP3	Engage theological anthropology and cultural studies to address dominant objections to Christianity.	7 (Worldview)
PLO-AP4	Develop and implement a strategic apologetic ministry plan appropriate to vocational context.	3 (Local Church), 8 (Leadership)
PLO-AP5	Conduct independent applied research producing a dissertation with significant original contribution.	6 (Communication)

### *DMin — Biblical Counseling*

The vision is to foster a resurgence in local church-based counseling ministries, guided by BTS-trained leaders who direct people to the healing work of Jesus Christ. The Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Counseling is designed to equip graduates with both deep theological understanding and practical counseling skills for effective ministry in various contexts.

## Course Requirements

Doctor of Ministry: Biblical Counseling	Doctor of Ministry: Biblical Counseling	Doctor of Ministry: Biblical Counseling	Doctor of Ministry: Biblical Counseling
Fall	DM4000	Research C Design	3
Spring	DM4005	Counseling Methodologies: Caring C Curing of Souls	3
Summer	DM4205	Advanced Hermeneutics	3
Fall	DM4805	Biblical Counseling Internship Seminar	3
Spring	DM4810	Biblical Counseling C Human Physiology/Psychology	3
Summer	DM4815	Biblical Counseling C Marriage C Family	3
Fall	DM4820	Biblical Counseling C Ecclesiology, Legal Issues C Peacemaking	3
Spring	DM4825	Biblical Counseling C Professional/Personal Development	3
Summer	DM4880	Counseling Practicum/Understanding the Dissertation	3
Fall/Spring	DM4885	D.Min. Dissertation (2 Semesters)	6
Total Program Hours:	Total Program Hours:	Total Program Hours:	33

### Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy track at BTS aims to train pastors to become Biblical servant leaders. This program is designed for those ministering in a post-Christian culture, focusing on fidelity to God's word, cultural sensitivity, a passion for the local church, and a commitment to discipleship and leadership development.

### Program Learning Outcomes

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
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PLO-BC1	Demonstrate expertise in biblical counseling as an extraordinary form of discipleship grounded in the sufficiency of Scripture and the Holy Spirit as the sole foundation for true heart change.	1 (Scripture), 5 (Discipleship)
PLO-BC2	Engage clinical theories with theological discernment, utilizing insights for descriptive purposes while rejecting worldviews conflicting with biblical anthropology.	7 (Worldview)
PLO-BC3	Conduct supervised counseling with documented competency across diverse presenting issues.	3 (Local Church)
PLO-BC4	Develop and sustain a counseling ministry rooted in the local church, fostering biblical soul care returning individuals to the ordinary means of grace.	3 (Local Church), 5 (Discipleship)
PLO-BC5	Produce a capstone project integrating practicum-based research with theological analysis reflecting conviction in Christ's finished work.	6 (Communication)

### *DMin — Chaplaincy (33 Credit Hours)*

Open to all. 8-week compressed modules (asynchronous). Director: Pete Sniffin (COL USA Ret.). Connected with the Reeder Center. Advanced standing: up to 6 hours for military chaplains who have completed C4 + ILE/MEL4.

Year	Semester	Course	Code
Year 1	FallA	Research and Design	DM4000
	FallB	First Freedom and Leadership	DM4605
	SpringA	Strategic Christian Leadership	DM4606
	SpringB	Christian Ethics for Strategic Leaders	DM4607
	SummerA	Strategic Application of Christian Worldview	DM4610
	SummerB	Elective I	DM4690
Year 2	FallA	Elective II	DM4690
	FallB	Elective III	DM4690
	Spr/Sum	Independent Study / Understanding the Dissertation	DM4980
Year 3	Fall/Spring	DMin Dissertation (6 cr.)	DM4985

## *Program Learning Outcomes*

<b>PLO</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SLO Mapping</b>
PLO-CH1	Demonstrate advanced theological and pastoral competency for faithful ministry in diverse chaplaincy contexts.	2 (Reformed Theology), 3 (Local Church)
PLO-CH2	Articulate and apply a Reformed understanding of religious liberty, principled pluralism, and the chaplain's role.	7 (Worldview)
PLO-CH3	Exercise strategic Christian leadership in complex organizations integrating confessional fidelity with advanced public theology.	8 (Leadership)
PLO-CH4	Engage dominant worldviews with theological precision, developing a robust Christian worldview framework for pluralistic environments.	7 (Worldview)
PLO-CH5	Conduct independent applied research producing a dissertation addressing a contemporary chaplaincy challenge.	6 (Communication)

### *Advanced Standing for Military Chaplains*

Military chaplains may request advanced standing of up to six hours in the DMin Chaplaincy Track. BTS will award 3 hours of advanced standing to chaplains who have completed the Chaplain Captain Career Course (C4) or alternate service equivalent. BTS will award 3 hours of advanced standing to chaplains who have completed Intermediate Level Education (MEL 4) or higher. These advanced standing hours will apply toward the student's elective hours.

### *DMin — Church Vitality and Multiplication*

The Doctor of Ministry in Chaplaincy is structured to equip chaplains with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective leadership and ministry in diverse and changing cultural landscapes. This program integrates rigorous theological and pastoral training within a Reformed framework, emphasizing biblical counseling, practical theology, and ethics to meet complex spiritual, emotional, and ethical needs encountered in chaplaincy.

### *Course Requirements*

#### **Church Vitality and Multiplication**

The Church Vitality track of the BTS doctoral program is dedicated to studying the mission of the church and applying those principles to church multiplication and revitalization globally. This track emphasizes three key study areas:

- Church Planting
- Church Revitalization
- Coach/Mentor Training

The goal is to foster networks and denominations of healthy, gospel-centered churches that are actively involved in reproducing and revitalizing churches to expand God’s kingdom.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
PLO-CV1	Articulate a biblically grounded theology of church health, planting, and revitalization informed by the Lampstand Conference framework.	2 (Reformed Theology), 3 (Local Church)
PLO-CV2	Evaluate contemporary church planting models with theological discernment across diverse ministry fields.	7 (Worldview)
PLO-CV3	Apply principles of biblical multiplication and discipleship to church development and transformation.	3 (Local Church), 5 (Discipleship)
PLO-CV4	Demonstrate readiness to serve as a trained coach/mentor for pastors in church planting and revitalization.	8 (Leadership)
PLO-CV5	Conduct independent applied research producing a dissertation addressing a contemporary challenge in church multiplication.	6 (Communication)

### *DMin — Honors Track*

Students in the Church Vitality track will:

- Be equipped to lead, plant, and revitalize churches, as well as coach churches and pastors through various challenges.
- Participate in the foundational Lampstand Conference at Briarwood Presbyterian Church.
- Engage in courses that are theologically and philosophically aligned with this conference.

This program is designed to prepare ministry leaders for effective service in a rapidly changing ministry landscape, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application.

### *Course Requirements*

#### **Honors**

The Honors Doctor of Ministry program at BTS resembles a research PhD program, focusing on current and contemporary problems rather than exclusively on historical issues. This advanced program requires a dissertation of 75,000–100,000 words. More information is available in the DMin Handbook.

### *Admission Requirements for Honors DMin*

Candidates must have:

- A cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 at the master's degree level.
- Successfully pass a personal interview.
- For non-BTS graduates, submission of significant scholarly research from the master's degree program is required.

### *Program Structure and Expectations*

Upon acceptance, students will:

- Attend the Orientation Seminar.
- Complete the introductory Research and Design (DM4000) class.
- Develop a personalized syllabus during DM4980 – Independent Study/Understanding the Dissertation.
- Maintain an annotated bibliography and journal of readings, totaling at least 40,000 pages (approximately 100 books).
- Complete the program within five years (DM4985).

### *Alternate Admission Pathways*

Prospective students with a GPA below 3.5 may be considered if they demonstrate:

- At least seven years of well received ministry experience.
- Necessary skills through an interview with the vice president or director of the Doctor of Ministry program.
- Current scholarly capabilities, preferably evidenced by prior peer-reviewed publications.

### *Honors DMin Committee and Mentorship*

- The student will be assigned a committee of three readers for their dissertation.
- The committee will include a BTS faculty chairperson, the Honors DMin program director, and an approved non-BTS faculty member.
- A mentor will be appointed to advise the student's program, approved by the DMin director.
- A proposal developed with the mentor must be approved by the committee, culminating the first semester of independent study and research.

### *Program Fees and Mentor Contractual Arrangements*

- The Mentor will receive a semester-based stipend (\$600) from BTS.
- A contract template will be provided by BTS for the Mentor.
- The contract must be filed with and approved by the vice president and DMin director.
- Standard DMin semester fees apply.

Graduation from the program is contingent upon satisfactory dissertation completion and oral defense, aligning with the program's high standards and rigorous academic requirements.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

PLO	Description	SLO Mapping
PLO-HN1	Demonstrate advanced scholarly competency producing research meeting publication standards in theological journals.	6 (Communication)
PLO-HN2	Design and execute a self-directed program of advanced theological study with faculty supervision and external scholarly readers.	4 (Wisdom)
PLO-HN3	Connect specialized theological research to contemporary ecclesial concerns, demonstrating scholarship serves the church.	3 (Local Church)
PLO-HN4	Maintain a comprehensive annotated bibliography of at least 40,000 pages of scholarly reading.	6 (Communication)
PLO-HN5	Produce a dissertation of 75,000–100,000 words representing significant original research with oral defense before a committee including external scholars.	6 (Communication)

### *DMin — Pastoral Leadership*

The Pastoral Leadership track at BTS aims to train pastors to become Biblical servant leaders. This program is designed for those ministering in a post-Christian culture, focusing on fidelity to God's word, cultural sensitivity, a passion for the local church, and a commitment to discipleship and leadership development.

### *Program Objectives and Curriculum*

The curriculum includes:

- Counseling Methodologies for the Pastor
- Advanced Hermeneutics
- Contemporary Theology
- Preaching in a Post-Christian Context
- Lampstand Conference on Church Vitality
- Personal Leadership and Team Building
- Pastoral Ministry in Cultural Contexts

The Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership is structured to equip pastors with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective leadership and ministry in diverse and changing cultural landscapes.

### *Course Requirements*

Doctor of Ministry: Pastoral Leadership	Doctor of Ministry: Pastoral Leadership	Doctor of Ministry: Pastoral Leadership	Doctor of Ministry: Pastoral Leadership
Fall	DM4000	Research C Design	3
Spring	DM4005	Counseling Methodologies: Caring C Curing of Souls	3
Summer	DM4205	Advanced Hermeneutics	3
Fall	DM4910	Contemporary Theology	3
Spring	DM4915	Church Vitality (Lampstand Conference)	3
Summer	DM4920	Preaching in a Post- Christian Context	3
Fall	DM4925	Personal Leadership Development C Training Church Leaders	3
Spring	DM4930	Pastoral Ministry in a Cultural Context/Christ C Culture	3
Summer	DM4980	Independent Study/Understanding the Dissertation	3
Fall/Spring	DM4985	D.Min. Dissertation (2 Semesters)	6
Total Program Hours:	Total Program Hours:	Total Program Hours:	33

### **Course Descriptions**

**Note Regarding Course Descriptions:** The descriptions contained in this catalog represent the foundational and authoritative content of each course as approved by Birmingham Theological Seminary. Professors are encouraged to enrich and extend these descriptions through supplemental readings, specialized lectures, current research, and additional pedagogical elements that deepen student engagement with the subject matter. Any such additions must function as organic extensions of — and remain fully consistent with — the approved course description. No professor may alter, contradict, or substantially reframe the theological commitments,

learning objectives, or stated content reflected herein without prior approval from the Academic Dean. These descriptions serve as the baseline standard of accountability for course content across all instructional formats and delivery sites.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

<b>PLO</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SLO Mapping</b>
PLO-PL1	Demonstrate advanced competency in biblical servant leadership, integrating theological reflection with pastoral ministry demands.	8 (Leadership)
PLO-PL2	Articulate and apply a biblically grounded philosophy of shepherding addressing spiritual, relational, and organizational dimensions of local church leadership.	3 (Local Church), 8 (Leadership)
PLO-PL3	Develop and deploy emerging leaders and leadership teams through discipleship, mentoring, and intentional training structures.	5 (Discipleship), 8 (Leadership)
PLO-PL4	Preach and teach with theological fidelity and cultural awareness in a post-Christian context.	1 (Scripture), 6 (Communication)
PLO-PL5	Conduct independent applied research producing a dissertation addressing a contemporary ministry challenge.	6 (Communication)

# Course Descriptions

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*Note Regarding Course Descriptions: The descriptions contained in this catalog represent the foundational and authoritative guide to each course's content, theological commitments, and learning objectives. Individual faculty syllabi may reflect adaptations in delivery format, assigned readings, or assessment instruments, but may not substantially reframe the theological commitments, learning objectives, or stated content reflected herein without prior approval from the Chief Academic Officer. BTS reserves the right to modify course offerings across all formats and delivery sites.*

## Old Testament

**OT1005 Old Testament Studies I (Pentateuch)** – This course provides an introductory exploration of the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) with special attention to its literary structure, covenantal framework, and theological themes. Students will engage the text through a redemptive-historical lens, understanding the Pentateuch as foundational to the unfolding story of God's revelation to His covenant people. Topics include creation, fall, covenant, law, and typology, with emphasis on how these themes anticipate Christ and inform the life of the church. (Fall/Distance Education)

**OT1006 Old Testament Studies II (Histories, Joshua – Esther)** – This course surveys the historical books of the Old Testament, from Joshua through Esther, examining their narrative coherence, theological significance, and covenantal context. Students will explore God's providential rule, the dynamics of Israel's obedience and apostasy, and the theological message conveyed through historical narrative. The course emphasizes a redemptive-historical approach, situating these books within the broader biblical story and highlighting their enduring relevance for the church today. (Spring/DE)

**OT1007 Old Testament Studies III (Wisdom Literature)** – This course introduces students to the theology, literary form, and interpretive challenges of the Wisdom books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. It explores the distinctiveness of Hebrew poetry, the existential and ethical dimensions of wisdom, and the Christological significance of these texts. Emphasis is placed on integrating these books into the redemptive narrative and applying their insights to preaching, counseling, and Christian discipleship. (Fall/DE)

**OT1008 Old Testament Studies IV (Prophetic Literature)** – This course examines the prophetic books from Isaiah to Malachi, emphasizing their literary features, covenantal foundations, and theological contribution to the canon. Students will develop exegetical skill in interpreting prophetic genre, consider the role of the prophets in calling Israel back to covenant fidelity, and trace the messianic hope culminating in Christ. The course also surveys the historical reception and application of key prophetic texts in the New Testament and the church's mission. (Spring/DE)

**OT1020 Beginning Hebrew I** – This course offers an introductory study to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew including the basics of Hebrew writing (alphabet, vowels, syllabification and punctuation), the Hebrew nominal system, and the Hebrew verbal system. (Fall)

**OT1021 Beginning Hebrew II** – This course offers a continuation of Beginning Hebrew I and the introduction of the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew. (Spring)

**OT1022 Advanced Hebrew I (Exegesis)** – This course builds upon foundational Hebrew grammar and vocabulary by guiding students through the exegesis of selected passages from the Hebrew Bible. Emphasis is placed on developing the ability to read, analyze, and interpret biblical texts in their original language with attention to syntax, semantics, and literary structure. Students will begin applying exegetical methods for sermon preparation and theological reflection. Prerequisite: Beginning Hebrew II. (Summer)

**OT1023 Advanced Hebrew II** – A continuation of Advanced Hebrew I, this course deepens students' exegetical skills through sustained engagement with larger and more complex biblical texts. Students will practice advanced syntactical analysis, examine genre and discourse features in Hebrew prose and poetry, and explore the theological implications of translation decisions. The course also introduces critical commentaries and lexical tools for independent study. Prerequisite: Advanced Hebrew I (OT1022).

**OT1024 Exegetical Hebrew I** – This course offers intensive practice in applying Hebrew language skills to the detailed exegesis of Old Testament texts. Students will focus on identifying grammatical and syntactical features that shape meaning, using exegetical guides and theological dictionaries to support interpretation. Special attention is given to how linguistic nuances influence theological understanding and application. Designed primarily for students pursuing the M.Div. in Biblical Languages. Prerequisite: Advanced Hebrew II (OT1023) or equivalent.

**OT1025 Exegetical Hebrew II** – Exegetical Hebrew II involves in-depth exegesis of selected texts across diverse genres (e.g., narrative, law, prophecy, and poetry). Students will demonstrate advanced proficiency in handling Hebrew texts, integrating historical, literary, and theological perspectives in interpretation. The course prepares students for original-language preaching, teaching, and scholarly research. Prerequisite: Exegetical Hebrew I (OT1024).

**OT1090 Special Topics/ Critical Studies in Old Testament** - This course offers focused study on selected topics, themes, or texts within the Old Testament that merit deeper exploration beyond the core curriculum. Topics may include advanced exegetical studies, theological themes (e.g., covenant, temple, holiness), critical approaches to Old Testament scholarship, or engagement with contemporary issues in Old Testament interpretation. The course format may vary, including seminars, guided readings, or project-based learning. It is designed to sharpen exegetical, theological, and hermeneutical skills while equipping students for faithful interpretation and application in the life of the church. This course may be repeated for credit when topics differ. (Independent/Directed Study – Upon Request)

**OT1099 Old Testament Studies Capstone Project** - This course serves as the culminating academic experience for students concentrating in Old Testament studies. Under faculty supervision, students will design and complete a substantial capstone project that demonstrates their ability to integrate exegetical, theological, historical, and hermeneutical skills developed throughout the program. The project may take the form of a research paper, exegetical portfolio, or applied ministry project, and must reflect a mature engagement with the Old Testament as Christian Scripture. Emphasis is placed on thoughtful interpretation, theological coherence, and relevance for the church's life and mission. (Independent/Directed Study – Upon Request)

## New Testament

**NT1105 New Testament Studies I (Gospels – Acts)** – This course introduces the Gospels and Acts with a focus on the unfolding revelation of God in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Emphasis is placed on theological themes such as the Kingdom of God, the Temple/God-With-Us motif, and the mission of the early church. Students will explore literary structures, historical backgrounds, authorship, and introductory matters while engaging with redemptive-historical and biblical-theological approaches to interpretation. Special attention is given to how these narratives function within the broader storyline of Scripture. (Fall)

**NT1106 New Testament Studies II (Pauline Epistles)** – This course surveys the Pauline Epistles (Romans–Philemon), examining Paul’s theological emphases, literary strategies, and historical context. Students will explore key doctrines such as justification, union with Christ, ecclesiology, and eschatology as they arise from individual letters and the Pauline corpus. The course engages questions of authorship, date, recipients, and interpretive approaches to each epistle. Emphasis is placed on understanding Paul’s theology for personal faith, pastoral ministry, and mission.

**NT1107 New Testament Studies III (Non-Pauline Epistles)** – This course explores the General Epistles and the Book of Revelation, focusing particularly on Hebrews, James, 1–2 Peter, 1–3 John, Jude, and Revelation. Students will examine the theological contributions of each book within the canon, their pastoral and eschatological themes, and their literary features. The course emphasizes Christ’s supremacy, the perseverance of the saints, and the church’s witness in a hostile world. Revelation will be addressed with care to genre, symbolism, and canonical context.

**NT1120 Beginning Greek I** – This course introduces students to the fundamentals of New Testament Greek, with a focus on the alphabet, basic vocabulary, and the grammatical structure of Greek nouns, articles, adjectives, and prepositions. Designed for students with no prior experience, the course builds a strong foundation for reading and translating biblical texts.

**NT1121 Beginning Greek II** – A continuation of Beginning Greek I, this course focuses on the Greek verbal system, including tense, voice, and mood. Students will gain confidence in parsing verbs, recognizing patterns, and constructing simple Greek sentences, with increasing attention to translation and syntactical observation from selected New Testament passages.

**NT1122 Advanced Greek I (Exegesis)** – This course builds upon foundational grammar to develop intermediate skills in Greek syntax and vocabulary. Students will engage in guided exegesis of selected New Testament texts, applying grammatical and syntactical knowledge to deepen theological interpretation. The course emphasizes the integration of language and exegesis in ministry contexts.

**NT1123 Advanced Greek II** – A continuation of Advanced Greek I, this course advances the student’s ability to read and interpret larger and more complex passages in the Greek New Testament. Emphasis is placed on syntactical nuance, rhetorical features, discourse analysis, and the exegetical use of lexical and grammatical tools. Students will practice articulating the theological significance of the text in its original language.

**NT1124 Exegetical Greek I** – This course provides focused exegetical practice using the Greek New Testament. Students will apply advanced grammar and syntactical analysis to interpret passages from a variety

of genres. Emphasis is placed on theological reflection, preaching preparation, and faithful interpretation. Ideal for students in the Biblical Languages concentration. Prerequisite: Advanced Greek II (NT1123) or equivalent.

**NT1125 Exegetical Greek II** – This course trains students to produce independent, exegetically grounded theological work using the Greek New Testament. Students will analyze major texts from the Gospels, Pauline Epistles, and General Epistles, applying their language skills to ministry, scholarship, and teaching. Prerequisite: Exegetical Greek I (NT1124).

**NT1130 Greek Textual Criticism** – This course introduces students to the field of New Testament textual criticism. Topics include Greek manuscript traditions, paleography, textual variants, and the principles used in reconstructing the original text. Students will learn to interpret a critical apparatus and evaluate textual variants theologically and historically, with application to exegesis and translation.

**NT1140 Theological German** – This course introduces students to German grammar and vocabulary with a focus on theological and biblical studies. Students will develop reading proficiency in academic German, preparing them to engage with German-language theological literature from the Reformation to modern scholarship. Designed especially for students pursuing advanced research or doctoral work.

**NT1150 Latin** – This course will introduce Latin grammar, vocabulary and reading strategies to enable the student to proceed with independent reading and study of Latin texts. We will place emphasis on ecclesiastical Latin from the Church Fathers, Medieval period, and the Reformation (including Protestant Scholastic writers).

**NT1160 Introduction to Biblical Aramaic** – This course provides an introduction to Biblical Aramaic, focusing on grammar, vocabulary, and reading strategies for selected Aramaic portions of the Old Testament (e.g., Daniel and Ezra). Students will learn the linguistic and literary distinctives of Aramaic as compared to Hebrew, with attention to syntax and theological vocabulary. Ideal for students pursuing biblical languages or Old Testament specialization.

**NT1181 Thesis I (Research)** – This course initiates the thesis-writing process for Biblical Languages students. In consultation with a faculty advisor, students will develop a thesis proposal, conduct preliminary research, and compile an annotated bibliography. Emphasis is placed on refining a focused research question, framing it within current scholarship, and constructing a methodological framework. (2 credit hours)

**NT1182 Thesis II (Writing/Defense)** – Building on Thesis I, this course focuses on drafting, revising, and defending a major thesis project (12,000–15,000 words) in an approved area of biblical language study. Students will articulate original arguments, engage critically with scholarly sources, and demonstrate theological insight. The course culminates in a formal oral defense before faculty. (2 credit hours)

**NT11G0 Special Topics/Critical Studies in New Testament** - This course offers focused study on selected texts, themes, or issues in New Testament theology, interpretation, or history. Topics may include in-depth exegesis, theological controversies, literary structure, or contemporary challenges in New Testament studies. Format may include lecture, seminar, or directed study. This course may be repeated for credit when topics differ.

**NT11GG New Testament Studies Capstone Project** - This capstone course allows students to integrate their learning in New Testament studies through a significant project or paper. Under faculty supervision,

students will demonstrate exegetical skill, theological reflection, and ministry application. Projects may include extended exegesis, thematic biblical theology, or applied teaching/preaching.

## Biblical Theology

**BT1205 Hermeneutics** – This course introduces the foundational principles and methods of biblical interpretation. Students will develop the essential skills needed to interpret Scripture faithfully, with attention to historical, grammatical, literary, and theological dimensions of the biblical text. Emphasis is placed on interpreting Scripture within the context of the whole canon and applying it wisely and pastorally in contemporary life. The course also cultivates the spiritual posture necessary for interpretation—a humble, Spirit-dependent heart that submits to God’s authoritative Word. Note: This course must be taken within a student’s first six courses.

**BT1210 Introduction to Covenant Theology** – This course introduces students to covenant theology as a framework for understanding the unity and unfolding of God’s redemptive plan throughout Scripture. Emphasis is placed on both biblical-theological and systematic-theological perspectives, tracing the covenants from creation to consummation and examining their significance for reading the Bible, shaping doctrine, and guiding ministry. Particular attention will be given to the role of the covenants in relation to the ordinary means of grace—Word, sacraments, and prayer—as well as their application in the life of the church through worship, discipleship, and evangelism.

**BT12G0 Special Topics in Biblical Theology** - This course offers focused study on selected themes, texts, or theological developments within the scope of biblical theology. Topics may include the development of specific motifs (e.g., kingdom, temple, exile, new creation), theological trajectories across the canon, or the contribution of particular

biblical books to redemptive history. Through close textual engagement and theological reflection, students will deepen their understanding of how Scripture unfolds as a unified narrative centered on Christ. This course may be repeated for credit when topics differ.

**BT12GG Biblical Theology Capstone Project** - This capstone course allows students to synthesize and demonstrate their understanding of biblical theology through a significant research or ministry-focused project. Under faculty supervision, students will engage in advanced study of a theological theme, biblical motif, or exegetical issue, producing work that reflects thoughtful integration of biblical-theological method, canonical awareness, and ministry application.

## Historical Theology

**HT1300 Early and Medieval Church History** – This course presents a survey of the history of the Christian church from the first century to the end of the fifteenth century. We will survey the major movements, doctrines, persons, and institutions that arose within the church and their effect on the development of the church. Our emphasis will be on the development of a doctrinal understanding in the church as well as the careful study of selected key individuals whose lives should inspire us to be biblically faithful today.

**HT1305 Reformation and Modern Church History** – This course surveys the history of the Christian church from the sixteenth century to today with a special focus on Reformation and Modern church history. We will survey the major movements, doctrines, people, and institutions that arose within the church and their effect on the development of the church. Our emphasis will be developing a doctrinal understanding in the church and carefully studying selected key individuals whose lives should inspire us to biblical faithfulness today.

**HT1306 Church History in America** – This course surveys the history of Christianity in the United States from colonial times to the 20th century. Topics include the Puritan legacy, the First and Second Great Awakenings, the rise of denominationalism, the effects of the Civil War, and theological movements such as Fundamentalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Evangelicalism. Students will critically assess various movements and ideas—some consistent with historic Reformed theology and some not—through the lens of Scripture and the Westminster Confession of Faith.

**HT1307 Baptist Church History** – This course traces the history and theological development of the Baptist tradition from its roots in the 17th-century English Separatist movement to its modern expressions. Key figures, confessions, missionary endeavors, and denominational growth are examined, with attention to Baptist distinctives such as believer's baptism, congregational polity, and religious liberty. Students will engage with the Baptist contribution to global Christianity and its doctrinal intersections with Reformed theology.

**HT1308 Presbyterian Church History** – This course surveys the history of Presbyterianism from its Reformation origins in Scotland and continental Europe through its global spread and denominational developments. Emphasis is placed on doctrinal formation, confessional standards, polity, and the role of Presbyterianism in missions and education. The course also addresses divisions and reunifications in the American Presbyterian tradition.

**HT1320 History of Church Hymnody** – This course explores the development of Christian hymnody from the early church through the Reformation and into the modern period. Students will study theological themes, musical forms, and cultural influences that shaped the writing and singing of hymns across time. Special focus is given to the role of hymns in worship, doctrine formation, and congregational life.

**HT1321 History of Gospel Music and Spirituals** – This course examines the origins and evolution of African American spirituals and gospel music, with attention to their theological content, cultural context, and ecclesial significance. Students will explore the role of gospel music in expressing faith, sustaining hope, and shaping the worship life of churches, particularly within African American and evangelical traditions.

**HT1390 Special Topics/Critical Studies in Historical Theology** - This course provides an opportunity for in-depth study of selected themes, figures, or movements in church history and historical theology. Topics may include patristic theology, medieval scholasticism, Reformation thought, or biographical studies of influential theologians. Students will engage primary sources and evaluate theological developments in their historical contexts. May be repeated for credit with different topics.

**HT13GG Historical Theology Capstone Project** - This capstone course allows students to synthesize their study of church history and historical theology through faculty-guided research or an applied project. The capstone may take the form of a major research paper, thematic project, or biographical study and must

demonstrate theological integration, historical understanding, and relevance to the life and mission of the church.

## Systematic Theology

**ST1405 Westminster Confession of Faith** – This course introduces students to the theological framework and doctrinal content of the Westminster Confession of Faith. Emphasis is placed on understanding the confession as a summary of Reformed orthodoxy, rooted in Scripture and useful for teaching, discipleship, and church governance. Students will explore the historical context, structure, and biblical foundations of each chapter, developing skills for confessional fidelity and pastoral application.

**ST1410 Introduction to Theological Research s Writing** – This foundational course equips students with the research and communication skills necessary for theological study and ministry. Emphasis is placed on academic writing, critical reading, theological argumentation, and the responsible use of sources. Students will complete multiple writing assignments, including research-based and reflective writing, and will also consider principles of oral communication within church and public settings. Note: This course must be taken within a student's first five courses.

**ST1415 Ethics** – This course introduces and examines the philosophical and theological foundations for ethics in general and Christian ethics in particular. Engaging various approaches to ethical thought and action, students will explore the basis for and the responsibilities of the personal ethical conduct of the Christian, including the goal, motive, and norm of the Christian life. Attention will also be given to various current issues in the field of applied ethics such as authority, life, sexuality, property, and truthfulness.

**ST1421 Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper-God)** – This course introduces students to foundational theological topics, focusing on the doctrines of revelation, Scripture, and God (Theology Proper). Topics include the inspiration and authority of Scripture, the attributes and names of God, the doctrine of the Trinity, divine decree, providence, and predestination. A biblical and Reformed approach is used to establish a coherent and worshipful understanding of the triune God.

**ST1422 Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)** – This course explores the doctrine of humanity in relation to God, including the creation, nature, and purpose of human beings. Focus is given to the image of God, the Covenant of Works, the fall, original sin, and humanity's condition under sin. The course also introduces the Covenant of Grace as the framework through which God redeems fallen humanity.

**ST1423 Systematic Theology III (Christology)** – This is a class in the study of Systematic Theology as it relates to the Doctrine of Christ. It will include a study of the revelation of Christ in the Old and New Testaments, with an emphasis on His person being fully God and man and His work through His offices of prophet, priest and king.

**ST1424 Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)** – This course is a study of Soteriology. Included in the course will be a study of the doctrine of common grace, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the work of salvation, the doctrine of union with Christ, and a detailed examination of the order of salvation. In presenting the order of salvation the doctrines of the nature of the Gospel, effectual calling, regeneration, conversion, repentance,

faith, justification, adoption, sanctification and perseverance of the saints will be examined from a Biblical and Reformed understanding.

**ST1425 Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)** – This is a class in the study of Systematic Theology as it relates to the Doctrines of Ecclesiology and the Sacraments. This study will present a Biblical and Reformed perspective of the doctrines of the church, church government, the means of grace, and the sacraments.

**ST1426 Systematic Theology VI (Eschatology)** – This course examines the doctrine of last things, focusing on both personal and general eschatology. Topics include death, the intermediate state, the return of Christ, resurrection, judgment, and the eternal state. Various millennial views are critically evaluated from a Reformed perspective, with attention to how eschatological hope shapes Christian living, mission, and perseverance.

**ST1430 Contemporary Theology** – This course surveys major theological movements from the 19th century to the present, including liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, existential theology, liberation theology, open theism, and progressive evangelicalism. Students will evaluate these systems critically in light of Scripture and Reformed theology, identifying both challenges and opportunities for the Church's faithfulness in a postmodern context.

**ST14G0 Special Topics/Critical Studies in Systematic Theology** - This course offers focused study on specific doctrines, theological movements, or contemporary issues within systematic theology. Topics may include in-depth explorations of attributes of God, Trinitarian theology, theological anthropology, Reformed scholasticism, or theological controversies. This course may be repeated for credit when topics vary.

**ST14GG Systematic Theology Capstone Project** - The capstone course in systematic theology allows students to demonstrate theological maturity through an integrative research or applied project. Under faculty supervision, students will explore a specific theological issue in depth, producing a written project that reflects biblical faithfulness, historical awareness, and pastoral application. This project serves as the culmination of the student's theological studies.

## Public Theology and Apologetics

**AP1505 Introduction to Apologetics** – This course provides an overview of Christian apologetics from a Reformed perspective, introducing students to the biblical and theological foundations for defending the faith. Topics include the nature and scope of apologetics, major apologetic methodologies, and responses to common objections to Christianity. Students will learn how to articulate the Christian worldview and engage in persuasive, gracious dialogue with skeptics and adherents of other belief systems.

**AP1510 Apologetics s the Bible** – This course is a study of the defense of the historical reliability, canonicity, and divine authority of the Bible. The course will focus on giving responses to major objections to the reliability and authority of the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments, including the challenges of contemporary historical Jesus research, canonicity, inerrancy, and the doctrine of scripture.

**AP1515 Christ and Culture** – The Christ and Culture course will explore a Biblical theology of culture from a Reformed perspective. What is the relationship between Christianity and the worldviews of modern Pluralistic Secularism, Cultural Marxism, Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, and emergent Islamification? How do we Scripturally evaluate these different models of Christian cultural engagement? And how do we develop a Biblical response to these models with a particular focus on the issues of family, gender, sexuality, justice, the

sanctity of life, education, politics, and economics? In short, what is the proper prophetic role of the Reformed church in the prevailing culture? Attention will be given to the application of cultural analysis and the concepts of contextualization and appropriation in ministry and vocation.

**AP1520 Apologetics & Evangelism** – This course is designed to give an introductory overview of the ministry of evangelism. It will explore a biblical and theological

understanding of evangelism, including how to connect with people relationally, clearly articulate the gospel's message, and employ various strategies and approaches. Additionally, it will cover how to implement an evangelism strategy within a local church context. Through this class, students will be equipped to be more effective in both personal evangelism and applying evangelism in their ministries by equipping the church and facilitating evangelistic opportunities.

**AP1525 Introduction to Philosophy & Critical Thinking** – A survey of the history, major issues, and problems of philosophy from a Christian perspective and an introductory study of the methods and principles of sound reasoning. Approaching from the academic discipline of philosophy, this course will discuss the history, background, and problems of philosophical inquiry such as the nature of truth, the theory of knowledge, the nature of reality, the mind-body problem, free will and determinism, and the nature of God, as well as the construction and evaluation of arguments.

**AP1530 Biblical Views on Justice in Society** – This course explores the biblical foundations for justice and their application in contemporary society. Students will study how Scripture addresses themes of righteousness, equity, mercy, and the role of governing authorities. Special attention will be given to evaluating modern justice movements and ideologies in light of biblical teaching, helping students form a robust, Christ-centered framework for engaging social and ethical issues.

**AP1535 Comparative Religions** – This study of the world's living religions treats them individually with attention to historical development, doctrinal content, and practices. Emphasis is given to the role of cultural influences in the formation of the religion, as well as the process of sharing the Christian witness with them. Students will explore the main views and practices of major world religions. The student will be involved in developing a missional strategy in their chosen context (local, state, national, or international).

**AP1580 Apologetics Clinical** – This practicum provides students with hands-on experience in apologetic engagement. Working under faculty supervision, students will participate in real-world apologetics contexts such as campus outreach, online forums, interfaith dialogue events, or local church ministries. The focus is on integrating classroom learning with practical skills in communication, persuasion, and contextualized defense of the faith.

**AP15G1 – 15G5 Special Topics/Critical Studies in Apologetics I – V** - These courses offer focused study on particular topics or issues in apologetics not covered in the regular curriculum. Content varies by semester and may include specialized themes such as science and faith, apologetics in global missions, cultural apologetics, or responses to emerging worldviews. Courses may be repeated with different topics.

## Missions

**MS1605 Cross-Cultural Communication** – The study of effective principles, processes, and the changing aspects of communication across different cultures, religions, ethnic groups, socio-economic groups, age, nationality, education, and gender. The course design is an overview in understanding the efficacy of cross-cultural communication: to enhance the appreciation of diverse cultural worldviews and how presuppositions, prejudices and predispositions affect the way people are perceived and evaluated. The students will engage in methodologies to construct bridges across divisional lines to be obedient to the call of Christ in the Great Commission in conjunction with the Imago Dei.

**MS1610 Biblical Theology of Missions** – This course examines God’s purpose and activity related to missions as fulfillment of the Great Commission, particularly to understand Israel’s responsibility to the nations in the Old Testament and in the spreading of the Kingdom of God in the New Testament. The course will show the basic principles of strategic mission planning for the church, para church organization and the individual Christian worker’s overall task in the Great Commission. Special emphasis will be given to the Biblical perspective of missions, missiological principles, early church mission strategy, contextualizing, cultural research, etc. The student will be involved in developing a mission strategy in their chosen context (local, state, national or international).

**MS1615 Techniques of Church Planting** – This course will cover the theological, spiritual, personal, relational, and organizational dimensions of church planting. It will offer a detailed task analysis for every stage of the church planting process, from before going to the field to the reproduction of daughter churches. Topics include: a theology of church planting, self-assessment of suitability for church planting, personal and family life of the church planter, developing a philosophy of ministry, conducting basic demographic studies, outreach in the church plant, leadership development, understanding and applying church health principles, and developing the basic ministries necessary for the planting of a healthy, growing, reproducing church.

**MS1620 Discipleship** – This class is designed to define and explain discipleship. The end goal of the class is to convince the students of the need for discipleship, motivate them to the task, and teach and train them in the basic, practical how-tos of discipleship. We will examine the Biblical principles of discipleship and Jesus’ and Paul’s examples of discipleship.

**MS1680 Missions Clinical** – A supervised, hands-on practicum in a missions setting, either local or cross-cultural. Students will apply classroom learning to real ministry contexts, engaging in evangelism, discipleship, and community outreach under the guidance of an approved mentor. Reflection assignments and faculty oversight ensure integration of biblical, theological, and missiological principles.

**MS16G0 Special Topics/Critical Studies in Missions** – A focused study on selected topics in missions not covered in the standard curriculum. Topics may include emerging mission trends, missions in restricted contexts, global partnerships, or specialized missiological issues. Course content varies by semester and may be repeated with different topics.

**MS16GG Missions Capstone Project** - A culminating project integrating the student’s theological training, missiological understanding, and ministry experience. Under faculty supervision, students will design and

execute a comprehensive missions project or research study addressing a specific context or missional challenge. The project demonstrates readiness for ministry and serves as a bridge to post-graduation missions involvement.

## Christian Education

**CE1700 History of Christian Education in America** – This course surveys the historical development and philosophical foundations of Christian education in the United States. Students will examine the influence of theological, cultural, and educational movements on Christian schooling and church-based education. Special attention is given to how historical trends have shaped contemporary Christian educational philosophy and practice, with application to both church and school contexts.

**CE1705 Christian Philosophy of Education** – This course examines the nature of philosophical questions and their importance to Christian education in the church and school. It will provide an overview of the foundational Christian philosophy of education, the educational implications of competing worldviews, and a biblical view of content and curriculum with a model for biblical worldview integration. It will consider the nature of the learner and the nature and role of the Christian teacher. In addition, it will examine intellectual character development in Christian educational settings and will consider the impact of technology on Christian schools and families.

**CE1710 Epistemology and Pedagogy** – This class will provide an overview of epistemology (the branch of philosophy that answers questions related to the acquisition of knowledge) and its influence on the task of teaching (pedagogy). Basic philosophical questions, Biblical Theology, and the development of a Christian worldview and apologetic will be considered. In addition, a biblical understanding of the nature of the learning process and learning styles, teaching methodologies, and technology will be addressed.

**CE1715 Instructional Strategies s Technology** – This course equips students with practical skills for effective teaching in Christian education settings by combining proven instructional strategies with the thoughtful use of technology. Students will explore various teaching methods, including lecture, discussion, collaborative learning, project-based learning, and experiential approaches, with attention to different age groups and learning styles. Emphasis is placed on selecting and integrating educational technologies that enhance learning while maintaining biblical and pedagogical integrity. Through hands-on activities and lesson planning, students will develop the ability to design engaging, Christ-centered instruction for both in-person and online environments.

**CE1720 Curriculum Review s Development** – This course equips students to evaluate, design, and implement curriculum for Christian education in both church and school contexts. Students will learn to assess curriculum for biblical fidelity, worldview integration, and alignment with learning objectives. Topics include curriculum mapping, instructional design, resource selection, and adapting curriculum for diverse learning needs.

**CE1780 Christian Education Clinical** – A supervised, hands-on practicum in a Christian education setting such as a local church, Christian school, or parachurch ministry. Students will gain practical experience in teaching, curriculum implementation, and educational leadership under the mentorship of an experienced practitioner. Reflection and evaluation will focus on integrating theory with practice.

**CE17G0 Special Topics/Critical Studies in Christian Education** – An in-depth study of selected issues, trends, or challenges in Christian education not covered in the regular curriculum. Topics may include educational leadership, emerging technologies, biblical literacy strategies, or ministry to specific age groups. Course content will vary by semester and may be repeated with different topics.

**CE17GG Christian Education Capstone Project** – A culminating project that integrates the student’s theological, philosophical, and practical training in Christian education. Under faculty supervision, students will design and implement a comprehensive project or research study addressing a specific educational need or challenge in their chosen

ministry context. The capstone demonstrates readiness for leadership in Christian education.

## Biblical Counseling

**BC1801 Counseling in the Local Church I \*** – This course offers a biblical approach to equip lay counselors as ambassadors of Christ, to help Christians work through daily living problems with counsel, prayer, evangelism and discipleship.

**BC1802 Counseling in the Local Church II \*** - This course serves as a continuation of BC1801, Counseling in the Local Church I. This course will include the discussion of daily living problems, biblical references for godly solutions, role play of counseling situations, observations of actual counseling situations and supervised counseling practice.

\*Counseling in the Local Church I & II (BC1801 & BC1802) can be taken in place of BC1805, Introduction to Biblical Counseling with approval.

**BC1805 Introduction to Biblical Counseling** – This class introduces the theory and practice of biblical counseling. The biblical-theological framework, the multidimensional model, and methods of dealing with common problems represent topics to be developed. Lectures, videos, and case studies form most of the classroom material.

**BC1810 Advanced Biblical Counseling** – This course aims to prepare the student to relate to abnormal behaviors through an understanding of abnormal psychology, and to develop the student’s ability to apply a biblical methodology to these issues. The course will outline advanced parameters of biblical counseling for the student earning a Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling. This course provides a basic framework for a growing understanding of counseling within the ministry context for the Master of Biblical Counseling major and the Master of Divinity student.

- Prerequisite: BC1805, Introduction to Biblical Counseling

**BC1815 Biblical Counseling: Sexuality & Gender** – The purpose of this course is to examine the beliefs and positions on human gender and sexuality of contemporary culture in the context of the biblical canon and historic Christianity, including creeds, confessions, and systematic theology for the purpose of better understanding how to disciple a broken generation through biblical counseling practices. The student will be challenged to develop specific counseling skills, practices, and techniques to shepherd and disciple persons through difficult questions of identity and personal needs to a biblical identity and biblical sexual fulfillment.

- Prerequisite: ST1422, Systematic Theology II (Anthropology) & BC1805, Introduction to Biblical Counseling.

**BC1820 Biblical Counseling: Anthropology s Theory** – This course aims to introduce the student to the doctrine of man as essential for the discipline of biblical counseling. The course contrasts the secular theories for the origin of man, the nature of man, the issues of man, and the healing of humans with the biblical theory, the doctrine of sin, the nature of man, and the implications of the Covenant of Grace.

**BC1825 Biblical Counseling with Children s Youth** – A biblical approach to counseling children and youth will be presented throughout this course, covering a broad range of concepts. This course will seek to develop the biblical counselor's breadth of knowledge concerning counseling issues related to children and youth, as well as give them practical, hands-on preparedness.

**BC1830 Biblical Counseling s the Law** – This course addresses critical issues regarding the biblical counselor and the law in such issues as child abuse, spousal abuse, church discipline and biomedical ethics. Issues pertinent to the establishment and management of a Biblical Counseling center or ministry are discussed. Students will examine the laws of their own state.

**BC1835 Biblical Approach to Addictions** – A biblical understanding of the dynamics of addiction and special attention to a biblical approach to helping those struggling with addiction will form the core of this course.

**BC1840 Readings in Biblical Counseling** – This course offers an in-depth study of foundational and contemporary texts that shape the theology and practice of biblical counseling. Through critical reading, discussion, and research, students will engage with key theological perspectives, compare biblical counseling with secular psychology, and develop a Christ-centered framework for counseling and discipleship in both ministry and academic settings.

**BC1845 Biblical Premarital Counseling** – This course provides the student with the occasion to employ basic biblical, theological and personality knowledge in assisting couples in the preparation for marriage. A biblical model for conducting premarital counseling will be explored and students encouraged to develop modifications applicable to specific couples.

**BC1850 Biblical Marriage s Family Counseling** – This course serves as an introduction to the biblical approach to counseling couples and families. Biblical concepts and relational dynamics that pertain to marriage and family living will be discussed. The work of major therapists in the field will be investigated and critiqued.

**BC1855 Advanced Marriage and Family Counseling** – This course addresses the application of biblical principles to marriage and family issues in the context of church life. Development of methods and techniques through case studies and role playing will be taught. Various instruments, surveys, and a variety of homework assignments and projects will be used.

**BC1860 Group Dynamics** – The course focuses on the biblical basis for group work and human interpersonal dynamics. Group structure, control and mutual respect will form the biblical framework. Contemporary literature, experiential learning, and the dangerous abuses of group work will be considered in biblical perspective.

**BC1880 Biblical Counseling Clinical I** – The first in a two-part supervised ministry experience, this course provides students with practical training in biblical counseling within an approved ministry setting. Under the guidance of a qualified mentor and faculty oversight, students will observe counseling sessions, participate in case discussions, and begin limited supervised counseling. Emphasis is placed on integrating biblical principles, theological foundations, and ethical practice into real-world ministry contexts.

**BC1881 Biblical Counseling Clinical II** – Building on Clinical I, this course advances the student’s counseling skills through increased responsibility in supervised counseling sessions. Students will develop greater competence in case assessment, biblical application, and counseling methodology. Regular feedback from mentors and faculty will guide the refinement of skills, with attention to pastoral care, confidentiality, and the development of Christlike character in the counselor.

**BC1885 Counseling Practicum** – A hands-on practicum designed to provide concentrated experience in biblical counseling within a church, parachurch, or counseling ministry. Students will engage directly with counselees under close supervision, maintain detailed case notes, and participate in reflective evaluation. The course emphasizes applying Scripture faithfully, using wise and compassionate communication, and developing counseling strategies that promote spiritual growth and gospel-centered change.

**BC18G0 Special Topics/Critical Studies in Biblical Counseling I** - A focused study of selected topics in biblical counseling not covered in the regular curriculum. Topics may include counseling for trauma, marriage and family counseling, addiction counseling, or specialized ministry contexts. Content will vary by semester and may include guest lecturers, workshops, or advanced readings.

**BC18G1 Special Topics/Critical Studies in Biblical Counseling II** - A continuation of BC1890, offering further opportunities for specialized study in biblical counseling. Course topics vary by semester and may be repeated for credit with different content. Emphasis is placed on deepening expertise in targeted areas of counseling practice and applying new insights to ministry contexts.

**BC18GG Biblical Counseling Capstone Project** – This course requires students to integrate theological, biblical, and practical counseling competencies into a comprehensive ministry project or research paper. Under faculty supervision, students will design and execute a project addressing a significant counseling issue or need in their ministry context. The capstone demonstrates readiness for professional ministry and serves as a bridge to post-graduation service.

## Pastoral Studies

**PS1G05 Leadership Development s Deployment** – This course focuses on intentional team building and individual nurturing, aiming to unleash and deploy the team and individuals for effective ministry. Students will develop strategies for team formation, personal and group development, and ministry deployment that results in measurable growth. This leads to consequential statistical growth in the church, regaining its position as the “leadership engine” for culture and society.

**PS1G06 Introduction to Pastoral Counseling\*** – An introduction to the biblical and theological foundations of pastoral counseling, designed to equip future pastors and ministry leaders with essential

counseling skills for congregational care. Topics include listening skills, biblical application, crisis intervention, and referral.

\*This course may be taken in place of BC1805, Introduction to Biblical Counseling.

**PS1G10 Conflict Resolution in the Church** – This course is intended to lay the foundation for biblical approaches to resolving conflict within the context of the church. Course content covers the significance of conflict resolution in the church, common contributing factors of church conflict, biblical wisdom for preventing and resolving church conflict, the biblical process of church discipline, and legal ramifications associated with church conflict resolution.

**PS1G15 Preaching and Preachers** – This course examines what it means to be called to preach the Word of God in Christ's church. How do you know if you have been called to be a preacher? What are the necessary gifts? How does one become a preacher? We will explore the office of the preacher, including his daily and weekly duties, sermon preparation and delivery, and the responsibilities involved in leading the church. This course will also address how to be a discerning consumer of sermons, including how to listen to sermons effectively and evaluate them for their content and style. The preacher's soul care will be emphasized to prepare them for a lifetime of fruitful ministry.

**PS1G20 Reformed Preaching** – This course explores the distinctive features of preaching within the Reformed tradition, focusing on the centrality of Scripture, covenantal themes, and Christ-centered exposition. Students will explore the theological underpinnings of Reformed homiletics, the role of the Holy Spirit in preaching, and the pastoral implications of delivering God's Word. Practical training in sermon preparation and delivery will equip students to proclaim the gospel with clarity, conviction, and relevance in the context of Reformed worship and ministry.

**PS1G25 Presbyterian Polity** – This class is a study of the Presbyterian Church in America's Book of Church Order, including an examination of the biblical offices of the church, grassroots Presbyterianism, and Robert's Rules of Order. Students will learn how Presbyterian polity shapes governance, decision-making, and ministry.

**PS1G35 Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life** – This course focuses on the cultivation of the Christian's walk with God through the practice of spiritual disciplines, emphasizing their role in spiritual growth and formation. Rooted in the Reformed tradition, it examines the classical means of grace—such as Scripture, prayer, and the sacraments—while also considering their application in contemporary ministry. Special attention is given to how these disciplines shape both personal holiness and the Christian leader's capacity to shepherd others faithfully.

**PS1G40 Ministry to Children, Youth s Families** – This course is a study of the principles, methods, and materials especially appropriate for the Christian education and development of children, youth, and families in the local church. Students will learn to design and lead ministries that foster biblical faith and spiritual maturity across generations.

**PS1G45 – Ministry of the Word I (Models of Preaching)\*** - A foundational course in the preparation and delivery of expository sermons. The course is designed to acquaint the students with the theology of preaching, the selection and analysis of a text, sermon development, explanation, illustration, application, sermon

introductions, and conclusions. This course will place emphasis on the practical preparation and delivery of sermons and to give each student several opportunities to experience homiletical delivery and evaluation.

\*Prerequisite (required) – BT1205 Hermeneutics

\*This course, following the historical-theological position held by the mainstream of evangelical churches, is limited to male students preparing for ordination. (Refer to “The Role of Women in the Church: A Rationale for the BTS Position”).

**PS1G46 – Ministry of the Word II (Art of Preaching)\*** - This is a continuation of the basic principles of expository preaching along with further development in the presentation and

delivery of various types of expository sermons. This will include funeral, topical, narrative, evangelistic, and doctrinal sermons. Emphasis will be given to exposition and structure of the content of the sermons, along with style and eloquence in delivery of the sermons.

\*Prerequisite (required) – BT1205 Hermeneutics and PS1S45 Ministry of the Word I

\*This course, following the historical-theological position held by the mainstream of evangelical churches, is limited to male students preparing for ordination. (Refer to “The Role of Women in the Church: A Rationale for the BTS Position”).

**PS1G50 – Church Vitality (Lampstand Conference)** - An intensive study on revitalizing local churches in connection with the Lampstand Conference. The Lampstand Conference is focused on promoting principles of Church Vitality and Revitalization. The conference covers topics such as: What is the Mission of the Church? What are the marks of a healthy church? What is a biblical theology of the church? The conference then splits into three tracks: Church Revitalization, Church Planting, and Next Level Leadership. Students will gain an understanding of the Biblical doctrine of the church and its Biblical leadership standards, as well as examining the ongoing process of church revitalization. Graduate students are required to attend the Church Revitalization track, unless granted special permission from the professor.

**PS1G55 – Theology and Practice of Administration** - This course examines the biblical and theological foundations for church administration, paired with practical skills in organizational leadership. Topics include strategic planning, communication, delegation, volunteer coordination, and administrative stewardship.

**PS1G60 – Models for Church Start-ups** - A survey of church planting models and strategies, from traditional to innovative approaches. Students will evaluate case studies, assess contextual factors, and develop a plan for launching a new congregation.

**PS1G61 – Financial Development for Church Plants** - This course equips students with strategies for raising and managing funds in the early stages of church planting. Topics include budgeting, donor development, stewardship campaigns, and financial accountability.

**PS1G62 – Legal Issues in Church Planting** - An overview of legal considerations in church planting, including incorporation, tax-exempt status, insurance, employment law, and risk management. Students will learn how to establish a legally compliant ministry.

**PS1G70 – Theology of Public Worship** - This course is an introductory study of Biblical worship and worship leadership. Questions such as: How does the Scripture define worship and worshipers; what are the

qualifications of a worship leader; how can a church maintain unity in a time of musical style conflicts; how do pastors and musicians work in harmony; how can pastors and musicians minister in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic situations, while remaining Biblical; what are the basic principles of crafting and leading in any Biblical worship service – will be considered by examining the Scriptures, Church history, source materials and collaborative study and discussion.

**PS1G71 – Contemporary Issues of Worship Ministry** - The Contemporary Issues in Worship class is designed to focus students' attention on a variety of different trends and topics relevant to the diversity of worship methodologies in the contemporary church. Attention will be given to style, performance, technology, character, and other like identifiers. The student will explore these issues from a grounded, biblical theology of worship.

**PS1G72 – Choral and Orchestral Conducting** - This advanced conducting course focuses on developing technical and interpretive skills for both choral and orchestral ensembles. Students will study basic baton technique then progress to score preparation, rehearsal strategies, all within the framework of practical worship ensemble conducting and applicable to any ensemble, regardless of the size.

**PS1G73 – Small Ensemble Leadership** - Practical training in directing and leading small musical ensembles for worship. Topics include arrangement, rehearsal techniques, and integrating ensembles into the broader worship service.

**PS1G74 – Advanced Worship Studies** - A seminar-style course exploring advanced topics in worship theology, history, and practice. Students will engage in research and present findings on specialized aspects of worship leadership.

**PS1G75 – Advanced Theory s Analysis in Christian Perspective** - An advanced study of music theory and analysis with application to Christian worship. Students will explore harmony, form, and composition from a biblical and theological perspective.

**PS1G76 – Technology in Worship Ministry** - A practical course on the use of audio, visual, and digital technology in worship services. Students will learn to integrate technology to enhance, not overshadow, congregational worship.

**PS1G77 – Songwriting s Hymnody** - An exploration of the history, theology, and practice of hymn writing and contemporary worship songwriting. Students will compose original works and evaluate them for theological soundness and congregational use.

**PS1G78 – Current Issues in Worship** - A discussion-based course examining emerging issues in worship ministry, such as inclusivity, global influences, and digital worship environments.

**PS1G80 – Ordination Lab** - This lab is designed to guide candidates through the process of ordination in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), by providing a comprehensive understanding of what ordination entails and preparing students for each step. The lab will cover the process of coming under the care of the presbytery, fulfilling internship requirements, preparing sermons, crafting theological and exegetical papers, test preparation, and the articulation of common exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith.

**PS1G81 – PS1G8G – Mentored Ministry Clinicals** – These practical ministry clinicals provide students with a variety of hands-on ministry experiences. Each course pairs practical ministry experience with reflective supervision.

### *PS1G81 – Mentored Teaching (Clinical)*

**PS1G82 – Mentored Preaching (Clinical)** - The purpose of this clinical is to preach three sermons before a live congregation under the guidance and feedback of a preaching mentor.

\*This course, following the historical theological position held by the mainstream of evangelical churches, is limited to male students preparing for ordination. (Refer to “The Role of Women in the Church: A Rationale for the BTS Position”).

\*Prerequisite (required) – BT1205 Hermeneutics, PS1S45 Ministry of the Word I, PS1S4c Ministry of the Word II

- **PS1G83** – Mentored Evangelism (Clinical)
- **PS1G84** – Mentored Youth Work (Clinical)
- **PS1G85** – Mentored Administration (Clinical)
- **PS1G86** – Mentored Counseling (Clinical)
- **PS1G87** – Mentored Church Planting (Clinical)
- **PS1G88** – Mentored Education Ministries (Clinical)
- **PS1G8G** – Mentored Worship and Music (Clinical)

**PS1GG0 – Special Topics/Critical Studies in Pastoral Studies** - A focused examination of selected pastoral ministry topics not covered in the standard curriculum. Content varies by semester and may be repeated with different topics.

**PS1GGG – Pastoral Studies Capstone Project** - Under faculty supervision, students will complete a research or ministry project demonstrating readiness for pastoral leadership.

## Electives

**OT2001-OT2005 Old Testament Elective I – V** - Focused studies in selected topics, books, or themes of the Old Testament not covered in required courses. Content varies by semester and may be repeated with different topics.

**NT2101-NT2105 New Testament Elective I – V** - Focused studies in selected topics, books, or themes of the New Testament not covered in required courses. Content varies by semester and may be repeated with different topics.

**BT2201-BT2205 Biblical Theology Elective I – V** - Specialized studies in biblical theology exploring themes, structures, or interpretive methods beyond the core curriculum. Topics vary and courses may be repeated with different content.

**HT2301-HT2305 Historical Theology Elective I – V** - Advanced studies in historical theology, focusing on specific figures, movements, or doctrinal developments in church history. Content varies by semester.

**ST2401-ST2405 Systematic Theology Elective I – V** - Specialized courses in systematic theology addressing selected doctrines or theological issues beyond the required sequence. Topics vary and courses may be repeated.

**AP2501- AP2505 Apologetics Elective I – V** - Focused studies in apologetics exploring challenges, contexts, or methods for defending the Christian faith. Topics vary and may be repeated.

**MS2601-MS2605 Missions Elective I – V** - Specialized studies in missions covering particular strategies, regions, or missiological issues not addressed in core courses. Topics vary and courses may be repeated.

**CE2701-CE2705 Christian Education Elective I – V** - Focused studies in Christian education examining specific pedagogical methods, ministry contexts, or educational issues. Topics vary and may be repeated.

**BC2801-BC2805 Biblical Counseling Elective I – V** - Specialized courses in biblical counseling that address counseling contexts, issues, or advanced skills. Topics vary and may be repeated.

**PS2G01-PS2G05 Pastoral Studies Elective I – V** - Focused studies in pastoral ministry addressing selected topics or skills relevant to pastoral leadership. Topics vary and courses may be repeated.

## Workshops

**LOGOS (Logos Workshop)** - An introduction to the Logos Bible Software platform, equipping students to use its tools for effective biblical study, sermon preparation, and theological research. Participants will learn how to navigate the software, manage digital resources, and integrate Logos into academic and ministry work.

**WW100 Writing Workshop I** - A practical workshop designed to strengthen foundational academic writing skills. Topics include thesis development, essay structure, grammar, citation, and formatting according to required academic style guides. Students will complete short writing exercises with individualized feedback.

**WW200 Writing Workshop II** - An advanced workshop focusing on refining academic writing for research-intensive courses. Emphasis is placed on argumentation, clarity, advanced citation practices, and integrating sources effectively. Students will receive feedback on drafts of current or upcoming assignments.

**BW100 Blackbaud Workshop** - A hands-on introduction to the seminary's Blackbaud student information system. Students will learn how to access course materials, track grades, register for classes, update personal information, and use communication tools within the platform.

## Master of Theology (ThM) Course Descriptions

### *Master of Theology (ThM)*

Systematic Theology I (Theology Proper)

#### **Sample Electives:**

Divine Attributes of God

Nature of the Trinity (includes ESS/ESF)

Aseity and Divine Simplicity

Immutability and Impassibility Inspiration, Canonicity, and Reliability

Exploration of Varieties of Evangelical Covenant Theology

## *Systematic Theology II (Anthropology)*

### **Sample Electives:**

Personhood, Gender, Sexuality, and Identity

Theodicy

Theology of Embodiment

Contemporary Issues in Anthropology Systematic Theology III (Christology) Sample Electives:

Contemporary Theology and Positions on the Person of Christ

Reformed Theology and Barthian Christology

Two States of Christ Kenotic Christology

## *Systematic Theology IV (Soteriology)*

### **Sample Electives:**

Addressing New Perspectives and Federal Vision

Studies in Atonement Theory

Models of Sanctification

The work of the Spirit: Continuation and Cessationism

## *Systematic Theology V (Ecclesiology)*

### **Sample Electives:**

The Reformation and the Sacraments

Church Governance: An In-depth Study

Sacraments: Historical Retrieval Systematic Theology VI (Eschatology) Sample Electives:

Historical Studies in Millennial Theology

Prophetic Literature and Typological

Studies Millennial Studies and Contemporary Theology

## *Ethics*

### **Sample Electives:**

Natural Law and Reformed Orthodoxy

Historical and Systematic Study of Three Uses of the Law

Contemporary Ethics through Biblical Analysis

## *Contemporary Theology*

### **Sample Electives:**

Liberation Theology

Critical Theory and Ideologies

Post-Structural Theory and Systematic Theology

## **Doctor of Ministry (DMin) Course Descriptions**

### *Doctor of Ministry (DMin)*

**DM4000 Research and Design** – Required of all D.Min. students; this course will prepare the student to do the necessary research for his or her dissertation or project and for the D.Min. program. Students will become acquainted with the latest in research methods and research tools. This will include a detailed study of Turabian format in review of student's previous work and to make sure students are equipped to report on their studies appropriately and in the correct academic format.

**DM4005 Counseling Methodologies/Caring and Curing of Souls** – Required of all D.Min. students; this class will examine a biblical model of counseling along with exploring a biblical model of caring for the sheep of God's fold. The personal and professional development of the minister and the biblical counselor is the focus of this course. Reading, lecture, role-playing, peer evaluation, along with case studies, and a project applicable to the student's ministry setting will comprise the elements of this class.

**DM4205 Advanced Hermeneutics** – The purpose of this course is to explore the interpretation and application of Scripture to human problems and a deeper understanding of the theory and practice of Biblical Interpretation or Hermeneutics. This course will further the development of the skills and knowledge necessary to determine the meaning of any passage of Scripture and to apply it authentically to the contemporary context and to refine one's comprehension of the truths and values of Scripture. Special focus will be given to contemporary challenges to traditional reformed hermeneutics.

**DM4505 Philosophical Theology s Reformed Dogmatics** – This course provides a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between philosophy and theology, with specific attention given to the philosophical problems that arrive from theological study and will explore potential answers to those problems from a reformed theological perspective.

**DM4510 Metaphysical s Epistemology** – Students will engage in the study of the theological and philosophical positions that establish our understanding of the very nature of reality and how we can have knowledge of that reality. In addition, students will be challenged to develop a clear Reformed epistemology, setting the stage for public discourse in defense of the faith.

**DM4515 Advanced Apologetics s Methodology** – In this course, students will study the variety of approaches to apologetic methodology, build consistency in their methodological system, interrogate and further develop their personal approach to apologetics. This course will draw heavily on the philosophical and

theological foundations of the previous courses and will challenge the student to build their best positive case for the truth of Christianity.

**DM4520 Theological Anthropology s Moral Theology** – This course begins to look at principal objections to Christianity, starting from the issues of personhood and social discourse. Students will engage in a rich study of theological anthropology and identify, then move to the study of the ethical and moral issues raised in the marketplace. Graduate Ethics study is a prerequisite for this course.

**DM4525 Cultural Development s Culture Studies** – A study of the nature of culture and the issues surrounding cultural studies. This course will explore both theological and secular frameworks for understanding society and will challenge students to develop a biblical theology of culture and cultural engagement.

**DM4530 Contextual Apologetics** – This course focuses on applying the student’s theological framework and apologetic methodology with deep understanding of cultural perspectives without compromise. This is the culmination of the course work as students will focus on understanding, sharing, and growing together in the varied cultural contexts in which they seek to engage individuals with a theologically sound and appropriately contextualized method of ministry.

**DM4535 Developing an Apologetic Ministry** – In this course, students work with the supervising professor and outside mentors to develop and study strategic ministry deployment of apologetics in the marketplace. Whether directly from the church, in the business community, with youth ministry, in an academic context, or in different socio- economic and possibly ethnic contexts, students will be challenged to develop a usable strategic plan for ministry deployment. Attention will be paid to foundational positions, biblical approach, avenues of contextualization, and to leadership initiatives and reproduction in assessing final projects.

**DM4580 Independent Study/Understanding the Dissertation** – The Independent Study/Understanding the Dissertation Class begins with an exploration of the methods, models, and processes of writing a successful D.Min. dissertation and dissertation proposal. The Program Director will assign a faculty mentor appropriate to the subject matter of the proposal. The student will submit a proposal to the Director for this Independent Study. The proposal must include at least 3000 pages of reading and a scholarly paper of not less than 25 pages, a significant part of which will constitute the student’s dissertation proposal. This course also includes the Theological Examination for Candidacy to the dissertation. Students can take the exam at the beginning of the semester and, if they do not pass, have a second opportunity to take the test at the end of the semester. Successful completion of the exam and the proposal grants the student Candidacy.

**DM4585 D.Min. Dissertation/Project - (6 credit hours/2 semesters)** – Students will be assigned a committee, submit a proposal, and complete the final project. Please see the BTS Dissertation Guide for more information.

**DM4605 First Freedom s Leadership** – This course examines the historical, Constitutional and legal roots of the free exercise of religion. The course considers key concepts that shape the Chaplain’s role of educating and training commanders/supervisors, subordinate chaplains, and others in their sphere of their influence.

Participants will consider the importance of principled pluralism in encouraging civil dialogue for the common good as well as the biblical perspectives on ministry in a pluralistic environment.

**DM4606 Strategic Christian Leadership** – This course will explore what it means for contemporary Christian leaders to engage individuals and organizations in the public square at the national and international level of communal life, both inside of and outside of the Church. The course is, then, necessarily one that will explore issues of identity, calling, pastoral formation, leader preparation, confessional and Biblical fidelity, advanced public theology, strategic awareness, and measuring effectiveness, to name but a few such concerns. We will also develop lessons from past and current strategic Christian leaders, their contexts (particularly their self-developmental processes, challenges, and opportunities), and why they had the impact that they did and still do, in many cases.

**DM4607 Christian Ethics for Strategic Leaders** – This course will explore how moral and ethical leadership can be played out in the ministry of nascent Christian strategic leaders while upholding confessional fidelity to God's Word. However, it will do so moving from a basic understanding of Christian ethics to an advanced application of such ethics in complex, large organizations and ministry contexts. Topics to address will include a review of Christian ethics, basic public theology, understanding American national values and legal constraints, exercising leadership in complex organizations, navigating inter-religious coordination, and confronting secularity and its challenges, etc.

**DM4610 Strategic Application of Christian Worldview** – This course examines the nature of a Christian worldview and its interaction with dominant worldviews in current Western culture. Participants will consider the definition of a Christian worldview and its primary components as well as its interaction with critical theory, secular humanism and other alternate worldviews found in a pluralistic environment.

**DM4680 Chaplain Career Course (Advanced Standing)** – BTS will award 3 hours of advanced standing to chaplains who have completed the Chaplain Captain Career Course (C4) or an alternate service equivalent.

**DM4681 Command and General Staff College (Advanced Standing)** – BTS will award 3 hours of advanced standing to chaplains who have completed Intermediate Level Education (MEL 4) or higher.

**DM4682 Clinical Pastoral Education (Advanced Standing)** – BTS will award 3 hours of advanced standing to civilian chaplains who have completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

**DM4683 Board Certified Chaplain (Advanced Standing)** – BTS will award 3 hours of advanced standing to civilian chaplains who are Board Certified Chaplains (BCC).

**DM46G0 Chaplains s Change Leadership (elective)** - Of all the challenges that leaders face, the leadership of change in any context is arguably the most challenging. This course will equip chaplain leaders with an 8-stage approach to change leadership to facilitate their successful leadership of change in their ministry space. Students will examine a case study of the change leadership of J. Gresham Machen and teaching of the Apostle Paul in building their understanding of leading change.

**DM46G1 High Stress Chaplain Ministry: The Battlefield and Beyond (elective)** - Using a “staff ride” format, the course examines the ministry of Union and Confederate Chaplains at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. Along with on-site exploration and analysis, students will review legal, political, theological, social,

operational, and strategic issues that formed the historic context of chaplain ministry at the battle. Students will also compare lessons learned from the battlefield context with other contexts of ministry in high stress contexts.

**DM46G2 Senior Leadership in Healthcare s Corporate Chaplaincy (elective)** - This course is designed to enhance and add value to Healthcare Chaplains and Corporate Chaplains in ministry to leadership in the management and executive level and C-suites. The student will focus on enhancing leadership and communication skills and study theological viewpoints of workplace theology as well as focus on Health Care ethics. The student will gain practical insights and strategies into ministry opportunities with leadership throughout the Hospital and Corporation.

**DM46G3 Specialized Chaplaincy (elective)** - This course explores various types of chaplaincies, such as Business/Corporate, Sports, Healthcare, and Prison. The course will be delivered in two modules with 4 unique contexts of chaplaincy for two modules each.

**DM46G4 Developing Emerging Chaplain Leaders (elective)** - **This** course focuses on the development of a theoretical framework for leadership development. The course considers the creation of a leadership development vision and strategy for training leaders in their current or anticipated ministry settings. The focus will advance skill enhancement in areas such as mentoring, the use of coaching skills in leader development, spiritual growth and team development, and emotional intelligence (relational wisdom).

**DM46G5 Developing a Biblical Counseling Model for Chaplaincy (elective)** - This course compares popular counseling theories C models used in the chaplaincy with the biblical counseling model. This course prepares chaplains to develop a personal model of biblical counseling for use in their ministry context. Participants will consider key concepts and techniques in the practice of biblical counseling to enhance their ability to provide effective counseling to those they serve.

**DM4805 Biblical Counseling Internship Seminar** – This course is designed to prepare the student to conduct the Biblical Counseling Internship Practicum and to provide an understanding of the requirements for the 150 hours of supervised counseling. The internship seminar will provide the framework from which the student will write his or her Capstone Project.

**DM4810 Biblical Counseling s Human Physiology/Psychopathology** – The purpose of this course is to provide the student with knowledge of the relationship between human physiology and human behavior, and the application of biblical counseling principles to this relationship and appending problems. Students will conduct extensive exploration of biblical categories of human problems in comparison to the DSM IV diagnostic system. Advanced biblical counseling approaches to anorexia, anxiety, and obsessive/compulsive behaviors will be developed, as well as gender and sexuality issues. See note on prerequisites.

**DM4815 Biblical Counseling s Marriage s Family** – The student will explore preventative measures that can be employed in the church to eliminate family problems as well as biblical strategies and methods of counseling to provide the rebuilding of broken relationships.

**DM4820 Biblical Counseling s Ecclesiology, Legal Issues, and Peacemaking** – This course will explore the role of counseling in the church, contemporary legal issues, and the proactive role of the counselor in peacemaking.

**DM4825 Biblical Counseling s Professional/Personal Development** - The personal development of the biblical counselor is the focus of this course. The purpose is to assist the student in the critical task of self-evaluation and examination. The course will look to the professional and personal development of good and faithful servants of our Lord; to provide students with the tools to impart a personal biblical world and life view and to be equipped to counsel and train others for this diverse 21st Century.

**DM4880 Counseling Practicum/Understanding the Dissertation** – The first two weeks of this course reviews general dissertation guidelines which are applicable to the Capstone Project. After the first two to three weeks, the student is free to resume their Counseling Practicum. This course will explore methods, models, and processes of writing a D.Min. project. By the end of this course, the student should have completed at least 80% of the required hours for supervised counseling. The student will also turn in a 15–20-page paper with initial reactions to their Counseling Practicum and a proposal for what issue, topic, practice, or paradigm he or she would like to address for their Capstone project. In addition, the student will take the Biblical Counseling theological examination for candidacy to the final step of writing the Capstone Project. The examination will include a section on biblical exegesis. The student may take the test once at the beginning of the semester and, if they do not pass, may retake the exam at the end of the semester. Failure to pass the exam or to not include their Capstone Project proposal in their final paper may result in suspension from the program.

**DM4899 Biblical Counseling Practicum s Capstone Project (6 credit hours/2 semesters) - Biblical Counseling Students** have two semesters to complete their practicum, do their analysis, research for their capstone project, and complete their work. Students will be assigned a committee, submit a proposal, and complete the final project. See BTS Dissertation Handbook for more information.

**DM4G10 Contemporary Theology** – This course will instruct the student in understanding contemporary theological thought within a biblical-theological context. Emphasis will be given to developing a biblical-theological response to contemporary and emerging theological thought relevant to the Church today. Topics covered will include the rise of liberal theology, neo-orthodoxy, theology and language theory, liberation theology, sonship, the emergent church, and theology and critical ideologies.

**DM4G15 Church Vitality and Planting (The Lampstand Conference)** – At the heart of the D.Min. program is the vision for healthy churches and biblical leaders. The Lampstand Conference is held annually at Briarwood Presbyterian Church and serves as the catalyst for this course. This intensive seminar stimulates pastoral self-examination, church vitality, and the mission of the church. In addition to the seminar, students will complete assigned readings and present papers interacting with the seminar content, readings and ministry site. Students are required to attend the conference on-site unless they are international students or receive a special exemption.

**DM4G20 Preaching in a Post-Christian Context** – Preaching in a Post-Christian Context seeks to develop pastors and their preaching within the context of Christ-centered, exegetically sound and expositional preaching within the context of a culture that is fundamentally opposed to the Christian message. Careful study is made regarding the world in which we serve and to understand how to address the culture that has infiltrated the church. This course will help the student grasp the issues that need to be addressed in the church today and realize the importance of the preaching of the Word as one seeks to speak to those issues apologetically. The goal

of this class is to develop pastors who are biblically faithful in their preaching, but relevant to the challenges presented by the current cultural climate.

**DM4G25 Personal Leadership Development and Training Church Leaders** – The personal development of existing and new leaders is the focus of this course. The purpose is to assist the student in the critical task of self-evaluation or examination. The course will look to inward training (heart of the leader), outward training (leadership principles) and facilitate the further development of good and faithful servants of our Lord to lead the church in spiritual and numerical growth; to provide students with the tools to impart a world and life view and to equip others to become leaders.

**DM4G30 Pastoral Ministry in a Cultural Context/Christ's Culture** – The course will explore types and models of leadership that are necessary to do ministry in a post-Christian society. The course will explore the contextualization of ministry considering the racial, ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity that characterizes the church of the 21st century. In addition, it will closely examine the “Christ and Culture” problem in its contemporary idiom.

**DM4G63 Contemporary Church Planting** – This course will explore a biblical view of church planting, building on the Lampstand Conference, and then will transition to studying, understanding, and assessing contemporary views on church planting—both inside the reformed community and outside the reformed community. This course, and each following course, will specifically consider the variety of different church planting fields: geographic, socio-economic, ethnic, etc.

**DM4G65 The Transformational Church: Evangelism and Discipleship** – How do our churches develop into more and more healthy bodies of discipleship and ministry? This course studies the essential elements of institutional transformation, biblical leadership, and the task of the pastor in helping churches move from plants to formative institutions.

**DM4G66 Gospel Coaching's Mentoring** – In the final course before students complete their Dissertation research, they will go through a coaching and mentoring training program. BTS is currently working with Embers to a Flame Ministry, Flourish Ministries, MNA, and other organizations championing church planting, church revitalization, and church vitality to secure certification as an official coach or mentor after completion of this course.

**DM4G80 Independent Study/Understanding the Dissertation** – The Independent Study/Understanding the Dissertation Class begins with an exploration of the methods, models, and processes of writing a successful D.Min. dissertation and dissertation proposal. The Program Director will assign a faculty mentor appropriate to the subject matter of the proposal. The student will submit a proposal to the Director for this Independent Study. The proposal must include at least 3000 pages of reading and a scholarly paper of not less than 25 pages, a significant part of which will constitute the student's dissertation proposal. This course also includes the Theological Examination for Candidacy to the dissertation. Students can take the exam at the beginning of the semester and, if they do not pass, have a second opportunity to take the test at the end of the semester. Successful completion of the exam and the proposal grants the student Candidacy.

**DM4G85 D.Min. Dissertation/Project (6 credit hours/2 semesters)** – Students will be assigned a committee, submit a proposal, and complete the final project. Please see the BTS Dissertation Guide for more information.

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*Soli Deo Gloria*