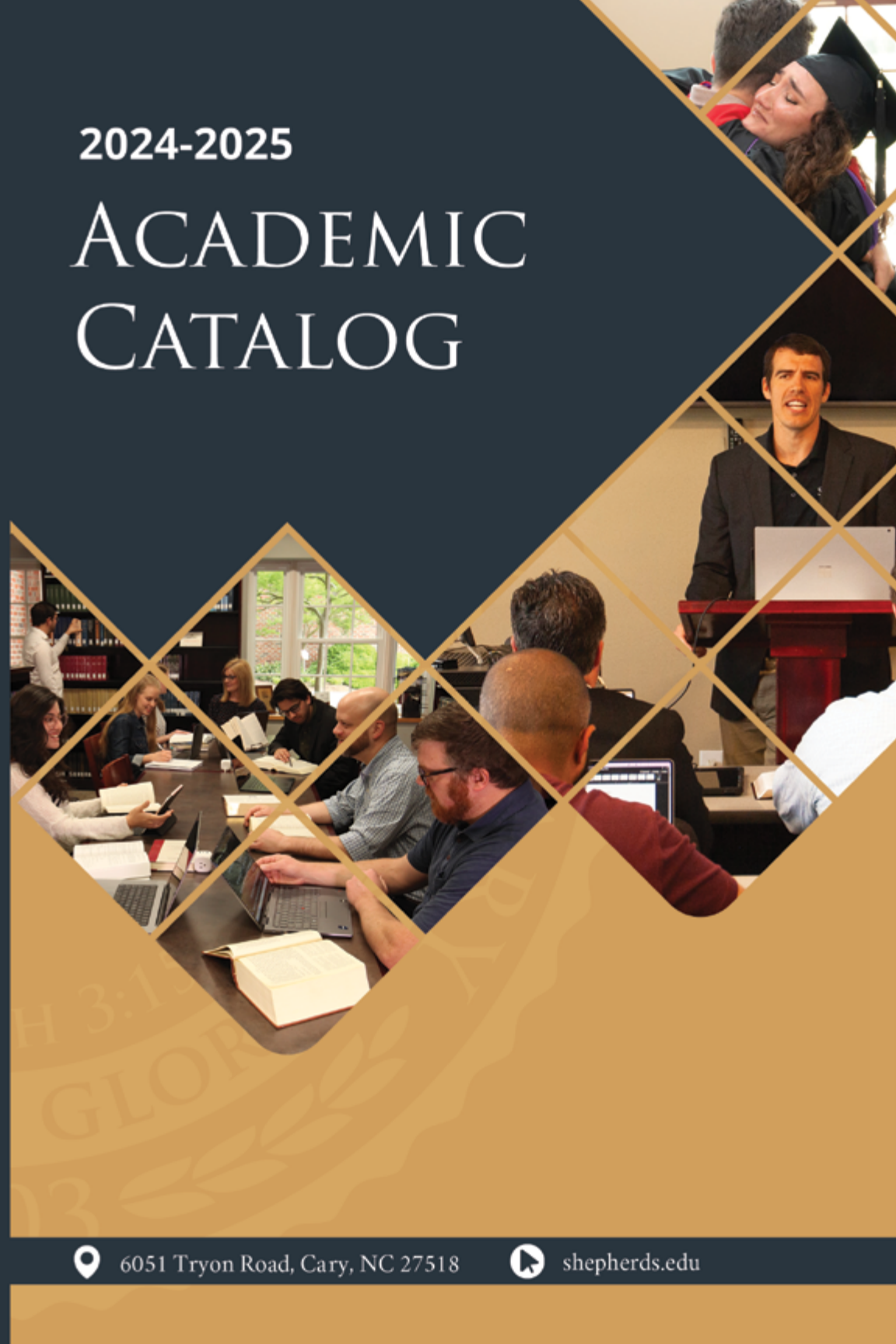


2024-2025

# ACADEMIC CATALOG



 6051 Tryon Road, Cary, NC 27518

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# ACADEMIC CATALOG CONTENTS

## ACADEMIC CATALOG CONTENTS

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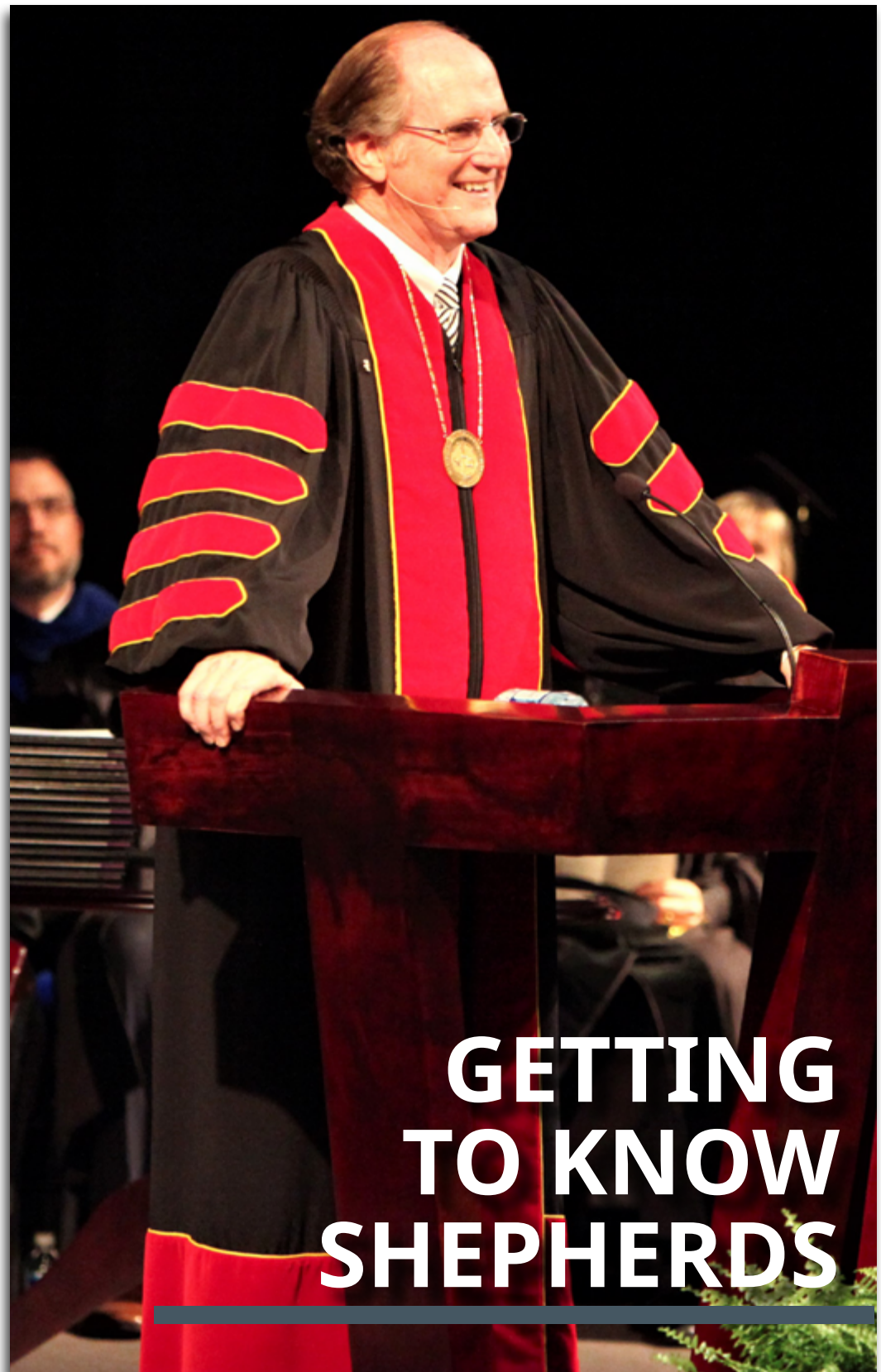
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**STS**  
**SHEPHERDS**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



EQUIPPING SERVANT LEADERS FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY



**GETTING  
TO KNOW  
SHEPHERDS**

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The church has always mattered—perhaps even more so in recent generations. I’m referring to a textually driven church; to shepherds committed to the exposition of Scripture; to faithful ministry leaders fully committed to pleasing Christ.

We’re living in a transitional age, to say the least. Seismic cultural changes are rapidly altering ancient boundaries. From the belief of a historical Adam to the increasing approval of trajectory theology and theistic evolution, the landmarks are being redefined and even eliminated. Frankly, there has never been a better time for a church leader to hold fast to the faithful Word . . . “so that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict” (Titus 1:9).

Mr. Gallup once opined, “There has never been a time in American history when the church has made so many inroads, while at the same time, made so little difference.” Perhaps that’s because the church is more interested in being invited to the table of secular opinion and receiving a nod of polite appreciation, than it is in telling the truth. Instead of taking advantage of open doors and opportune times, the church has softened its message and, in the words of Tozer, has begun to offer suggestions rather than ultimatums.

Shepherds Theological Seminary is poised to make a greater difference than ever. At Shepherds we begin with the text of Scripture, interpreting everything in our cultural landscape to the plumb line of revealed truth. Only then can the church provide spiritual insight and direction. Offering our culture anything less than God’s Word would be like offering dying people medicine bottles filled with tap water.

People don’t need bottled water; they need God’s Word. Let me invite you to join our growing student body, led by a dedicated and learned faculty, and prepare together to become faithful dispensers of healing truth.

For today for Christ’s glory,



Stephen Davey  
President



## DISTINCTIVES

Shepherds Theological Seminary (STS) is committed to theologically conservative academic excellence. Our faculty members are not only academically minded, they are experienced shepherds committed to training men and women for ministry. Student education is enhanced by the intimate connection to a vibrant local church. STS is devoted to advanced academic training that is tested and refined through mentored relationships, allowing students to apply their studies in the laboratory of local church life and ministry.

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

Shepherds Theological Seminary exists to impact the world for Christ by equipping servant leaders for life and ministry by strategically shaping both intellect and character through biblical scholarship and personal mentoring.

## CORE VALUES

The STS purpose statement reflects the following three core values to which the Seminary is committed:

**Servant Leadership**— “*Shepherds Theological Seminary exists to equip servant leaders for life and ministry . . .*”

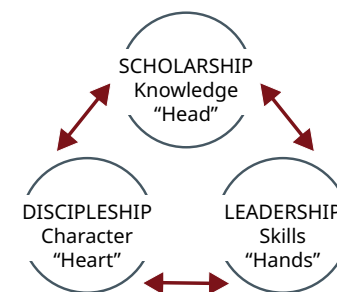
Therefore, we are committed to a Spirit-led life and ministry modeled after the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

**Biblical Scholarship**— “. . . *by strategically shaping both intellect and character through biblical scholarship . . .*”

Therefore, we are committed to teaching an integrated body of truth as expressed in our doctrinal statement.

**Personal Discipleship**— “. . . *and personal mentoring.*”

Therefore, we are committed to helping students grow in Christ and identify God-given abilities by personal interaction within the seminary community.





## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Shepherds Theological Seminary exists to glorify God and honor our Lord Jesus Christ. We base our philosophy of education on the theological certainty that the one true triune God has self-attestingly revealed Himself to mankind in the Christian Scriptures. This God of the Bible has many attributes—several of these are foundational for education.

God is the Creator of the universe, and everything that exists, including all knowledge, is ultimately sourced in God. God is able to communicate His knowledge to mankind because man is made in God's likeness. Though mankind rebelled against God, God has graciously provided redemption, including the regeneration of the mind, through the atoning work of Christ on the cross.

Thus, the omniscient God who knows all things shares some of what He knows with His creatures in human knowledge. What man as a creature can know never invades the sphere of knowledge of the Creator, but reflects God's knowledge analogically, even as man as a being made in God's image reflects God's being analogically. Moreover, a reasonable mind has been given to man so that he is able to receive knowledge from God, to apply the teaching of God to life, and to communicate God's truth to others.

Furthermore, God is a God of truth in that His knowledge eternally conforms to His being. Truth for His creatures is therefore that which is an expression of the mind of God. Since all truth is sourced in the nature and mind of God, truth is absolute, eternal, and unchangeable because God Himself is immutable.

God has revealed knowledge that is foundational for all of life and eternity in the Bible, and thus Scripture is the center and core of all learning at STS. Because God's Word is truth, we believe that the content of Scripture must be enunciated clearly and authoritatively. All courses, including theology, church ministries, and counseling are understood and taught in relation to the infallible Word of God.

Theological education is not simply a transfer of biblical knowledge, but an ongoing transformation of the whole person. STS intentionally and strategically endeavors to shape Christian intellect, character, and spiritual awareness according to the model of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We prayerfully strive to equip students to communicate and to apply the Christian faith throughout their daily lives.

To express our educational philosophy to our students, STS offers courses in three main areas: (1) Exegetical Theology, composed of courses in Bible Exposition, Old Testament, New Testament, and Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, etc.); (2) Theology, composed of courses in Systematic Theology and Historical Theology; and (3) Practical Theology, composed of courses in Pastoral Theology, Missions and Evangelism, Christian Education, and Biblical Counseling.

## SERVANT LEADERSHIP

A servant leader is one who has built his life on a firm biblical foundation and has developed character traits and skills using Jesus as the model. As such, he seeks to understand the needs of others and to help them meet those needs as they also commit to imitate Jesus.

### KEY SCRIPTURES

*But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted (Matthew 23:11–12).*

*Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:1–8).*

*So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them" (John 13:12–17).*

Our conviction is that Shepherds Theological Seminary belongs to Jesus Christ. We believe that faculty members and all students, whether preparing for ministry in counseling, the pastorate, missions, or education, should seek to imitate our Lord's model of servant leadership. Servant leadership certainly includes:

- Respect for others
- Sensitive and careful communication
- Commitment both to truth and love
- Desire to give wise and helpful counsel
- Graciousness of actions

## DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

### THE SCRIPTURES

Shepherds Theological Seminary holds to the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy. We believe that all the words and all the parts of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament are the only inspired Word of God. The Bible is the product of men controlled by the Holy Spirit, and in the original manuscripts it is truth without any mixture of error. God, in His providential care, has also kept these Scriptures authentic and trustworthy from the time of their composition until the present time. The Bible is the center of true Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human life and conduct will be evaluated and judged (2 Timothy 3:15–17; 2 Peter 1:19–21).

### GOD

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. God is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Exodus 20:2–3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11).

### GOD THE FATHER

We believe that God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, orders and accomplishes all things according to His own purpose and grace (Psalm 145:8–9; 1 Corinthians 8:6). As the only absolute and omnipotent Ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Psalm 103:19; Romans 11:36). His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with mankind. As Creator, He is Father to all humanity (Ephesians 4:6), but He is spiritual Father only to believers (Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 6:18). He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass (Ephesians 1:11). He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events (1 Chronicles 29:11). He has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own (Ephesians 1:4–6). He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. He adopts as His own all those who come to Him, and He becomes, through adoption, Father to His own (John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5; Hebrews 12:5–9).

### GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He was not created but is the Second Person of the Trinity. He came into this world as foretold in the Scriptures to manifest God to mankind and to be the Redeemer of the sinful world. Jesus took upon Himself human flesh and a sinless human nature through the supernatural conception by the Holy Spirit in a virgin, Mary. Jesus was both fully God and fully man, and His earthly life sometimes

functioned in the realm of the humanly and at other times in the realm of the divine. He came to die for the sin of the world—the just for the unjust. Jesus Christ alone is the full and complete propitiation for sin—the full satisfaction of the Father’s justice regarding sin. He rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, retaining the same body, though glorified. His bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven, where He now serves as the High Priest for the redeemed of God and head over the Church, gives proof to the fact that His sacrificial death was fully acceptable to the Father for sin (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 53:1; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:30–35; 24:34–39; John 1:1–2; 20:20; Acts 2:22–6; Romans 3:25–26; Colossians 1:16–17; Hebrews 1:3; 2:17; 4:14–15; 7:25; 10:1–14).

### GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature. He was active in the creation. He restrains the evil one until God’s purpose is fulfilled. He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony, and He is the agent in the new birth. He seals, guides, teaches witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer (Genesis 1:1–3; Matthew 28:19; John 14:16–17, 26; 16:8–11; Hebrews 9:14). The Holy Spirit gives gifts to the Church through which the members serve one another and the world. Some of those gifts were temporary and are no longer given today. Some revelatory gifts such as word of knowledge, tongues, and interpretation were critical when the Church was without the written New Testament. Other foundational gifts, such as healing and raising from the dead, were used to confirm and validate the ministry of the apostles as the authentic founders of the Church (Hebrews 2:1–4; Acts 2:22; Mark 16:14–18; Matthew 10:8; 1 Corinthians 13:8).

### CREATION

We believe that the creation of the universe from nothing is neither allegory nor myth but a literal, historical event. The existence of all things is the result of the direct, immediate, creative acts of the triune God over six literal days (Genesis 1). Humanity—body and soul/spirit—was created by a direct work of God. Humans did not evolve from previously existing forms of life. The entire human race descended from the historical Adam and Eve, the first parents of the entire human race (Genesis 1–2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16–17).

### SPIRIT BEINGS

#### ANGELS

We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless spirit beings. Although they are a higher order of creation than humanity, they were created to serve God and to worship Him (Luke 2:9–14; Hebrews 1:6–7, 14; 2:6–7; Revelation 5:11–14; 19:10; 22:9).

## FALLEN ANGELS AND SATAN

We believe that Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator, by taking numerous angels with him in his fall, and by introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve. He is the open and declared enemy of God and mankind. He is the prince of this world, who was defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and he will be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Genesis 3:1–15; Isaiah 14:12–17; Ezekiel 28:11–19; Matthew 4:1–11; 25:41; 2 Corinthians 4:3–4; Revelation 12:1–14; 20:10).

## MANKIND

We believe that Adam and Eve were created in innocence under the laws of their Maker, but by voluntary transgression, Adam fell from his sinless and happy estate. Adam represented all humanity and all humanity sinned in Adam. As a result, all men and women are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct and, therefore, are under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Genesis 3:1–6, 24; Romans 1:18–32; 3:10–19; 5:12, 19).

## SALVATION

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be born again. The new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus. Salvation is instantaneous and not a process. In the new birth, someone who is dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life. Salvation is the free gift of God's grace, based entirely on the merit of Christ's shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works. Faith alone in Jesus Christ alone is the only condition for salvation (John 1:12; 3:3–7; Acts 16:30–33; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:7; 2:1, 5, 8–10; 1 Peter 1:18–19; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:1).

## REGENERATION

We believe that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given to men and women. It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God when the repentant sinner, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation (John 3:3–7; 5:24; Titus 3:5).

## ELECTION

We believe that election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies (Romans 8:28–30; Ephesians 1:4–11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:10; Titus 3:4–7; 1 Peter 1:1–2). Sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of men and women to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord (Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33:11; John 3:18–19, 36; 5:40; Romans 9:22–23; 10:9–13; 2 Thessalonians 2:10–12; Revelation 22:17).

## JUSTIFICATION

We believe that justification is the legal act of God as He declares us to be righteous through faith in Christ Jesus. Justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness. It is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer (Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1, 9; 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:18–21). Thus, the righteousness of Christ that believers enjoy is given to us, not earned by us (Titus 3:5).

## REPENTANCE

We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit. True repentance is inseparably related to true faith (Luke 13:1–3; 15:7; Romans 2:4).

## ADOPTION

We believe that adoption is the gracious act whereby the Father, for the sake of Christ, places new believers into the honored position of heirs. This is in contrast with regeneration whereby the believer receives the nature of God and becomes a child of God. The full benefit of the position of adoption awaits the glorification of the believers at the coming of the Lord (Galatians 4:1–7; Ephesians 1:5, 13, 14; 1 John 3:1–2).

## SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the unfolding work of God: first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he or she trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to his or her life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return (John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:25–26; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–4; Hebrews 3:1).

## ETERNAL SECURITY

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept secure by God the Father for Jesus (Philippians 1:6) and will persevere to the end in faith and obedience by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:10; Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 2:19).

## CHURCH

We believe in the unity of all true believers in the universal Church, which is the body of Christ and was formed on the Day of Pentecost. All believers, from Pentecost to the Rapture, both Jews and Gentiles, are added to this Church when they believe the Gospel and are spiritually immersed into Christ's body (Acts 2:41–42; 1 Corinthians 11:2; 12:12–13; Ephesians 3:1–6). The universal Church is revealed through local congregations of redeemed, baptized believers who commit to one another in their covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel. The Church observes the ordinances of Christ, is governed by His laws, and exercises the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word. The biblically designated offices are elders (also called bishops, pastors, and pastor-teachers) and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are revealed in the scriptural accounts of the early Church. The true mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all as we have opportunity. The local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations. The one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is scriptural for biblical churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel. Each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. On all matters of membership, polity, government, discipline, and benevolence, the will of the local church is final (Acts 15:13–18; 20:17–28; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:11; 5:23–24; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 5:1–5).

## ORDINANCES

We believe that biblical baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. That is the only form of baptism revealed and commanded in the Scriptures. Baptism has no saving power but is an act of obedience for those who are already saved. The Bible affirms that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded by solemn self-examination. The elements themselves represent the body and blood of the Savior in symbol only. God does not extend His grace to us through the elements of communion (Matthew 3:16; 28:19–20; John 3:23; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:36–39; 10:47–48; Romans 6:3–6; 1 Corinthians 11:23–28; Colossians 2:12). Water baptism is a one-time act of identification; communion is a repeated act of rededication.

## SEPARATION

We believe that believers are to separate entirely from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy unto God (2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1).

## CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is ordained by God for the interests and good order of human society. Believers are to pray for and conscientiously honor and obey their civil authorities except when ordered to disobey Scripture and the will of God (Exodus 18:21, 22; 2 Samuel 23:3; Acts 23:5; Romans 13:17).

## ISRAEL

We believe that God sovereignly selected Israel as His eternal covenant people. Israel is now dispersed because of disobedience and rejection of their Messiah, Jesus Christ, but will be regathered in Israel during the Tribulation. According to God's grace and His eternal covenant with the Jewish nation, God will prepare their hearts in repentance for the second coming of Christ (Genesis 13:14–17; Ezekiel 37; Romans 11:1–32).

## LAST THINGS

### THE RAPTURE AND TRIBULATION

We believe in the imminent, pretribulational, premillennial return of Christ for His Church. At that moment, the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death. All believers shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the tribulation, the seventieth week of Daniel (Daniel 9:25–27; Matthew 24:29–31; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17; Revelation 20:1–4, 6).

### THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

We believe at the end of the tribulation Christ will return physically to earth to render judgment and inaugurate the one-thousand-year millennial kingdom. Christ will establish Himself as King, sitting on the throne of David, as the nation of Israel is saved and restored to their land. The millennium will be a time of peace, joy, righteousness, obedience, holiness, truth, and fullness of the Holy Spirit. Satan will be bound during this time but released at the end when he leads a rebellion against Christ, only to be defeated and judged. As the millennium concludes, the unsaved dead of all ages are resurrected and judged at the great white throne. Following this, God will create new heavens and a new earth (Psalms 24; Isaiah 9:3–7; 11:1–10; 32; 35; 61:7–10; 65; 66; Daniel 12:2–3; Joel 2:28–29; Micah 4:1–4; Zechariah 12:10–14; 14:4–21; Matthew 25:31–46; Luke 1:32–33; Romans 11:25–27; 1 Corinthians 15:22–28; Revelation 19:11–21; 20–22).

### THE SAVED AND THE LOST

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between those who are saved and those who are lost. Only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are saved in God's sight. All who continue in unrepentant sin and unbelief are lost in God's sight and under His abiding curse. This distinction will remain eternally: in the everlasting joy in heaven for the saved and in the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire (Genesis 18:23; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 25:46; John 8:21; Romans 6:17–18, 23; 7:6; 1 John 5:19).

### ABORTION

We believe that human life begins at fertilization and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn God-given human life. God is the author of life and death. Therefore, abortion is murder (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14–16; Isaiah 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15–18; Luke 1:44).

### EUTHANASIA

We believe that God is the author of life and death. The direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from fertilization to natural death (Exodus 20:13; 23:7; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28).

### HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that sexual activity outside of a marriage between one man and one woman is sin. Any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgenderism, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. God has created us male and female, and He desires that we find joy and contentment in His design (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8–9; Leviticus 18:1–30; Romans 1:26–29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; Hebrews 13:4).

### MARRIAGE

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one legitimate meaning, which comes from the Bible, and that is the joining of one man and one woman in a single, covenantal union (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:6–9; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22–23). Whenever there is a conflict between this institution’s position and any new legal standard for marriage, the institution’s Doctrinal Statement will govern our practices. We believe it is God’s intention that those who enter marriage shall seek in mutual love and respect, to live, one man and one woman, in Christian fidelity as long as both shall live (Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Mark 10:9; Luke 16:18).

We believe that sexual activity is to be exercised and enjoyed only within the covenant relationship of marriage between one man and one woman, and that God has expressly condemned sexual intercourse outside of the marriage covenant. Any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgenderism, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex (Genesis 19:5, 13; 26:8–9; Leviticus 18:1–30; Romans 1:26–29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; Hebrews 13:4).

## GENDER RELATIONSHIPS

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is the head of his household, serving as a shepherd/leader in the home. Likewise, men are to hold the offices of authority in the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church and qualified to exercise their authority by leading mixed adult worship services and adult Christian education classes (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:8–15; 3:4–5, 12).

### BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD

We believe that men and women were created in the image and likeness of God, equally blessed, and given dual responsibility over the created order (Genesis 1:26–28). We believe the Bible teaches that as part of the created order, distinctions in masculine and feminine roles were ordained by God, with Adam’s headship in marriage being established before the Fall (Genesis 2:16–18, 21–24; 3:1–13; 1 Corinthians 11:7–9). As such, we are dedicated to the biblical view of men and women and their relationship to each other in the home and church. Although men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, God has ordained distinct and separate functions for men and women in the church and home (1 Timothy 2:11–12). We affirm that God has honored women with many ministry opportunities within the church, parachurch organizations and ministries, educational institutions, and mission agencies, but has appointed men and men only to the authoritative teaching role of the elder/pastor position within the local church.

### FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. The wife is to submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the Church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord, and parents are responsible to oversee their children’s spiritual and moral instruction, which includes a consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including scriptural corporal correction (Genesis 1:26–28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Psalms 127:3–5; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13–14; Mark 10:6–12; 1 Corinthians 7:1–16; Ephesians 5:21–33; 6:1–4; Colossians 3:18–21; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1–7).

### DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until the death of a spouse. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication and spousal abandonment. Divorce is also permissible to end civil unions or legal marriages which violate Scriptural marriage as defined above (such as polygamous or homosexual unions). However, marriage to an unbeliever is not solely a legitimate ground for divorce (Malachi 2:14–17; Matthew 19:3–12; Romans 7:1–3; 1 Corinthians 7:10–16; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

## CHRISTIAN INTERACTIONS

### CHRISTIAN LOVE

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, prayerfully, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat of or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:44–48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34–35; Romans 12:9–10, 17–21; 13:8–10; Philippians 2:2–4; 2 Timothy 2:24–26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17–18).

### LAWSUITS BETWEEN BELIEVERS

We believe that Scripture prohibits members from bringing civil lawsuits against other members of a church to resolve personal disputes (1 Corinthians 6:1–8; Ephesians 4:31–32).

## AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our belief. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible.

*Note: This confession of faith is to be reaffirmed annually by each member of the Board of Directors, the Resident Faculty, and the seminary administration. Students are required to affirm they will honor and respect this confession.*

## AFFILIATION AND GOVERNANCE

STS is not affiliated with any denomination. While the seminary began under the guidance of The Shepherd’s Church, STS is governed by an independent Board of Directors that provides oversight, ensuring the seminary meets its intended mission and operates within the Articles of Incorporation. A list of the Board of Directors is available in the “Faculty, Board, Administration, and Staff” section of this catalog.

## INCORPORATION

STS is incorporated in North Carolina as a nonprofit corporation exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986, as amended, Section 501(c)(3).

## AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT DEGREES

Degree programs of study offered by Shepherds Theological Seminary have been declared by the appropriate state authority exempt from the requirements for licensure, under provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section (G.S.) 116–15 (d) for exemption from licensure with respect to religious education. Exemption from licensure is not based upon assessment of program quality under established licensing standards.

Shepherds Theological Seminary is authorized to grant the following degrees:

- Doctor of Ministry (DMin)
- Master of Theology (ThM)
- Master of Divinity (MDiv)
- Master of Arts Biblical Literature and Languages (MABLL)
- Master of Arts in Biblical Archaeology (MABA)
- Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS)
- Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM)
- Master of Theological Studies (MTS)
- Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causis (DD)

## SHEPHERDS DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

In addition, Shepherds offers the following nontraditional diploma programs for students with ministry experience but without a baccalaureate degree:

- Diploma of Theological Studies (DTS)
- Diploma of Christian Ministry (DCM)
- Diploma of Biblical Counseling (DBC)

## AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT DISTANCE EDUCATION

Shepherds Theological Seminary is authorized to conduct distance education as a nonpublic postsecondary religious exempt institution in the following states:

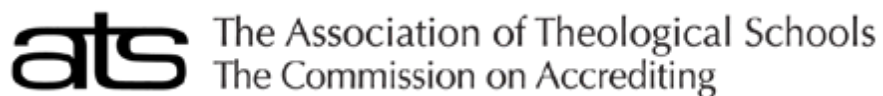
- University of North Carolina and is in compliance with North Carolina General Statutes Section (G.S.) 116–15(d)
- Wyoming Department of Education and is in compliance with Wyoming Statutes §212401 et. seq. Diploma of Biblical Counseling (DBC)
- Florida Department of Education and is in compliance with Section 1005.06(1) (f), Rule 6#-5.001, Fla. Admin. Code.



• Texas Department of Education and is in compliance with Texas Tax Code Sections §151.310, §156.102 and §171.058.

Shepherds Theological Seminary has been approved to participate in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements. NC-SARA is a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education. This approval grants STS permission to offer distance education in 49 states and the District of Columbia: [www.nc-sara.org](http://www.nc-sara.org).

## ACCREDITATION



Shepherds Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) [10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275, Telephone: (412) 788-6505, Fax: (421) 788-6510, Website: [www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)]. The seminary has been accredited by ATS since June 2016, and the following degree programs are approved as specified: Doctor of Ministry (DMin), Master of Theology (ThM), Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts Biblical Literature and Languages (MABLL), Master of Arts in Biblical Archaeology (MABA), Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS), Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM), and Master of Theological Studies (MTS). STS is approved for a Comprehensive Distance Education Program. The following ongoing extension sites are approved as specified:

- Laramie Valley Chapel (4801 Quarter Horse Drive, Laramie, WY 82070) to offer the MTS degree.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church (7320 Steep Hollow Road, Bryan, TX 77808) to offer the MTS degree.



Enhancing Trust

Shepherds Theological Seminary is accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) [440 West Jubal Early Ave., Winchester, VA 22601, Telephone: (800) 323-9473, Website: <http://www.efce.org>]. ECFA accreditation is based on the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™ that include financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance, and ethical fundraising.

## STUDENT GRIEVANCE & RESOLUTION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### POLICY

Students have an opportunity to present their grievances and to appeal faculty or administrative decisions through a dispute resolution or grievance procedure. STS will attempt to resolve promptly all grievances that are appropriate for handling under this policy.

All complaints will be in writing delivered to the Title IX coordinator [Pam Gerace, Title IX Coordinator: 6051 Tryon Rd., Cary, NC; [titleix@shepherds.edu](mailto:titleix@shepherds.edu); (919) 573-5350] to act as a facilitator for the complaint process.

### PROCEDURE

1. An appropriate grievance is defined as a student's expressed feeling of dissatisfaction concerning any interpretation or application of a work/study-related policy by management, faculty, or other employees.
2. Students must notify STS in a timely fashion of any grievance considered appropriate for handling under this policy. The grievance procedure is the exclusive remedy for students with appropriate grievances. As used in this policy, the terms "timely fashion," "reasonable time," and "promptly" will mean seven days.
3. Students will not be penalized for proper use of the grievance procedure. However, it is not considered proper if a student abuses the procedure by raising grievances in bad faith or solely for the purposes of delay or harassment, or by repeatedly raising grievances that a reasonable person would judge to have no merit.

Students who feel they have an appropriate grievance should proceed as follows:

- A. Promptly bring the grievance to the attention of a faculty member. If the grievance involves a faculty member, then it is permissible to proceed directly to Step B. The faculty member is to investigate the grievance, attempt to resolve it, and give a decision to the student within a reasonable time. The faculty member should prepare a written and dated summary of the grievance and proposed resolution for file purposes.
- B. The student may appeal the decision to the Vice President of Academics, if dissatisfied with the faculty decision, or initiate the procedure with the Vice President of Academics if the grievance involves a faculty member. If the grievance involves the Vice President of Academics, then it is permissible to proceed directly to Step C. An appeal or initial complaint must be made in a timely fashion in writing. The faculty member's version of the grievance and decision will then be submitted, also in writing. The Vice President of Academics will, in a timely fashion, confer with the student, the faculty member, and any other members of management considered appropriate; investigate the issues; and communicate a decision in writing to all the parties involved.
- C. The student may appeal an unsatisfactory Vice President of Academics decision to the chairman of the Board of Directors or initiate the procedure with the chairman if the grievance involves the Vice President of Academics. The timeliness requirement and procedures to be followed are similar to those in Step 2. The chairman will take the necessary steps to review and investigate the grievance and will then issue a written, final, and binding decision.
- D. Final decision on grievances will not be precedent-setting or binding on future grievances unless they are officially stated as STS policy. When appropriate, the decision will be retroactive to the date of the student's original grievance.
- E. Information concerning a student's grievance is to be held in strict confidence. The office of the Vice President of Academics will collect, file, and report all student complaints. Faculty members, department heads, and other members of management who investigate a grievance are to discuss it only with those individuals who have a need to know about it or who are needed to supply necessary background information.

Students who feel that the administration or faculty are not dealing properly with their complaint may contact the appropriate authorities listed below.

## STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCESS FOR ONLINE COURSES

Out-of-state students who wish to file a complaint with their home state should refer to the State Authorization Liaisons per State responsible for handling complaints. This link lists the appropriate State Agency and contact information.

[https://shepherds.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Student-Complaint-Information-by-State-and-Agency\\_rev-3.13.23.pdf](https://shepherds.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Student-Complaint-Information-by-State-and-Agency_rev-3.13.23.pdf)

## NC POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The State Authorization Unit of the University of North Carolina System Office serves as the official state entity to receive complaints concerning post-secondary institutions that are authorized to operate in North Carolina. If students are unable to resolve a complaint through the institution's grievance procedures, they can review the Student Complaint Policy (PDF) and submit their complaint using the online complaint form at <https://studentcomplaints.northcarolina.edu/form>.

For more information contact:

North Carolina Post-Secondary Education Complaints  
223 S. West Street, Suite 1800  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
Telephone: (919) 962-4550  
Website: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/post-secondary-education-complaints>

To file a complaint with the Consumer Protection Division of the North Carolina Department of Justice, please visit The State Attorney General's web page at: [www.ncdoj.gov/complaint](http://www.ncdoj.gov/complaint). North Carolina residents may call (877) 566-7226. Outside of North Carolina, please call (919) 716-6000. En Espanol (919) 716-0058. If you choose to mail a complaint, please use the following address:

Consumer Protection Division  
Attorney General's Office  
Mail Service Center 9001  
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001

## ATS STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCESS

Shepherds Theological Seminary is accredited by The Association for Theological Schools (ATS) to award Masters and Doctoral degrees. If a complaint directly related to specific compliance with the standards of accreditation is not satisfactorily resolved, students are able to file a complaint with ATS.

Students should follow the procedures in the ATS Policies and Procedures manual (pg. 37-38).

The Association of Theological Schools  
10 Summit Park Drive,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275  
Telephone: (412) 788-6505  
Email: [ruiz@ats.edu](mailto:ruiz@ats.edu) Website: [www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)



## SARA-NC COMPLAINT PROCESS AND INFORMATION

Students may also file a complaint through SARA-NC. SARA-NC is the portal for the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority.

SARA North Carolina  
North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority  
P.O. Box 14103  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
Telephone: (855) SARA-1-NC (727-2162)  
Telephone: (919) 549-8614, ext. 4667  
Email: [complaint@saranc.org](mailto:complaint@saranc.org) Website: <https://www5.ncsea.edu/SARANC/index.html>

## NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In compliance with federal law, including the Provision of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Shepherds Theological Seminary does not illegally discriminate against persons on the basis of race, religion, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in the administration of educational policies, programs, or activities, its admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other seminary administered programs, or employment. The school maintains its Christ-centered, biblically based Christian character, but does not discriminate on the basis of religion, except to the extent that applicable law respects its right to act in furtherance of its religious objective. Questions regarding Shepherds' non-discrimination policy and its compliance with Title IX regulations may be directed to Pam Gerace, Title IX Coordinator: 6051 Tryon Rd., Cary, NC; (919) 573-5350.

## STUDENTS

STS is dedicated to meeting individual student needs while assisting the student in his or her growth and understanding of the Christian message and ministry. In every area of the seminary's curriculum, the highest possible standards of scholarship and practical application are maintained. Many of our students in the Master of Divinity program come directly from Bible colleges and others come experienced in a ministry field, but all come committed to strengthen their spiritual growth, knowledge of Scripture, and skill in pastoral ministry. These students are expected to encourage the spiritual tone and academic standard of excellence for the Master of Arts and other degree students who are laboring in the same classes. Our students have a common desire to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and to be used by God wherever He puts them. Shepherds aims for graduates to be the prime theological resource for the church by engaging in the full range of the church's life and activity. Through such interaction, the seminary further clarifies the church's theology and task in today's world.

## FACILITIES AND CULTURE

### MAIN CAMPUS – CARY, NC

STS is housed on the beautiful campus of The Shepherd's Church in Cary, North Carolina. Shepherd's has graciously provided the Seminary with ample space for offices, the Paul Jackson Library, classrooms, and student study areas.

Cary is a thriving community in the heart of the Triangle area of North Carolina between its capital, Raleigh, and the renowned Research Triangle Park. Research Triangle Park is one of the leading areas for the headquarters of technology companies on the east coast and boasts the highest concentration of PhDs in the country. The Triangle is also home to three of the country's top universities that compose a geographical triangle—the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, Duke University in Durham, and North Carolina State University in Raleigh. With its great weather and small-town atmosphere, Cary is a wonderful place to live and work. Cary continues to rank nationally as one of the top 20 safest large cities, and the safest city in the Southeast. Through the years, Cary is often awarded for being one of the best places to live in America.

### BLOCK MONDAYS

STS offers both day and evening classes to meet a variety of student schedules. In addition, Mondays feature classes during the morning, afternoon, and evening, enabling a student to take up to nine hours on a single day. Block Mondays allow local and distant students some flexibility in work and ministry schedules. STS also joins together for a time of worship and teaching in a weekly chapel held on Mondays.



## WYOMING TEACHING SITE

Known as The WEST Institute or Shepherds Theological Seminary: Laramie (<https://thewestinstitute.com/>), this teaching site is located on the campus of Laramie Valley Chapel (LVC) and overlooks the beautiful Rocky Mountains and city of Laramie, WY. Laramie Valley Chapel has graciously provided Shepherds Theological Seminary with ample space for its teaching site, library, classrooms, and student study areas. Beyond those amenities, LVC (<https://www.laramievalleychapel.org/>) fully invests itself into the transforming process of each student, seeking to provide a gospel-centered, transparent, and transformational community built around authentic relationships and becomes a family for those who desire community and connectedness. Laramie is truly a gem of the West. This 1800s mountain town becomes home for all who seek adventure, outdoor pursuits, or simply space from the busyness of the world. Nestled between two mountain ranges and only two hours from Denver, CO, Laramie has a lot to offer as a place to live and a community to serve. Being in the mountains means four seasons. With each season, comes new opportunities. With almost no humidity, the summer months offer amazing blue skies, endless hiking opportunities, and plenty of river and lake activities, and the winter months mean fantastic, fluffy snow for snowshoeing and skiing among many other opportunities. With its great weather and mountain-town atmosphere, Laramie is truly a wonderful place to live. The cost of living is below the national average, and in 2019, Livability rated Laramie as the 22nd best place to live in the United States.

The WEST Institute is proud to offer the Master of Theological Studies (MTS). While pursuing the MTS, students have the opportunity to be integrally involved in ministry with a cohort of individuals preparing themselves for a lifetime of service to the Lord in a variety of vocations. In addition, they have a chance to experience God's creation through a series of student-led trips and activities in the Rocky Mountains. For a fuller description of The WEST Institute and the role that STS plays in that ministry, please visit the website.

## TEXAS TEACHING SITE

STS Texas is a partnership with Emmanuel Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas, (<https://www.ebcbryan.org/>) to offer the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree at a teaching site in Texas. This gives an opportunity for members of local churches, college students at Texas A&M University, Blinn College, and others, and other interested applicants to study at Shepherds Theological Seminary. Courses are offered on a semester basis. There is also the option of the one-year cohort program for the MTS. Emmanuel Baptist Church is located about 15 minutes from the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station. Situated on 8 acres on the edge of town, the Texas campus is a quiet place to take advantage of Emmanuel's theological library and classrooms. Bryan and College Station are centrally located in between Houston, Austin, and Dallas. Students at this campus can enjoy over 50 local parks and a sprawling community that combines small-town charm with a growing, high-tech city. With the university only minutes away, there is never a shortage of activities.



## STATEMENT ON EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Shepherds maintains an ongoing assessment of its educational effectiveness that is published on its website and is available on request. The assessment is conducted annually with the graduating class and covers: (1) overall student satisfaction; (2) student retention, degree completion, and career placement rates; (3) growth in student spiritual transformation and knowledge; (4) most important factors affecting learning; (5) additional debt incurred; and (6) important sources of additional income while at Shepherds. The full Statement on Educational Effectiveness may be found online.

## STATEMENT ON THE ACADEMIC CATALOG

The Academic Dean of Shepherds Theological Seminary administers the academic policies and procedures expressed in this academic catalog. These academic policies are established by the Faculty Council under the authority of the Board of Directors. Shepherds reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to review, modify, amend, alter, rescind, abolish, or delete any provision of this catalog or of any other catalogs, policies, publications, or statements of the seminary, and includes admission or graduation standards, degree requirements, and accreditation of academic programs. The information in this catalog applies to the academic year 2024-2025 only. Whereas the most current version online is always operative, students may take advantage of any improvements that appear in later catalogs while they are enrolled. A student who withdraws from enrollment for more than one academic year will be required to re-enter under the catalog current at the time of readmission. Shepherds reserves the right to require a student to withdraw from enrollment at any time. The degree programs offered by this institution do not guarantee the necessary qualifications for licensure or ordination to the ministry in any church, denomination, or religious group. Students are responsible for contacting and approaching church leaders to discover the role seminary degrees may play in the overall preparation and qualifications for specific ministries. Shepherds has made a good faith effort to avoid typographical errors and other mistakes in the statements of policy as published in this catalog. Erroneous catalog statements do not take precedence over properly adopted policies on record within the seminary. Questions concerning the current status of all academic matters should be addressed to the Vice President of Academics.

## REQUESTING A VISIT TO YOUR CAMPUS

We would love to send one or more of our faculty members and staff to your school or church so that you may discover in person how STS can meet the needs of your students or church members. Please contact our Recruiting Department at (919) 573-1568 to schedule a visit.



## OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The degree programs at Shepherds Theological Seminary equip students to excel in a wide range of ministerial opportunities. The various academic degrees provide specific disciplines of ministry for which God has uniquely gifted each student. Each of these programs couples academically challenging classroom study with mentorship by experienced ministers. This section describes in detail the specific requirements needed to enter and to complete each degree. A traditional Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree (minimum 120 semester hours) granted by an accredited institution is required to enter into any of the master's degree programs. The Master of Divinity or its equivalent is required to enter the Doctor of Ministry program.

### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) is the highest professional degree for those engaged in local church and parachurch ministries. The DMin is structured to improve the leadership qualities of a ministry leader while sharpening their discernment and focus within their area of ministry. You will complete the STS Doctor of Ministry program in ministry rather than in residency. You can remain in your current ministry and incorporate your studies immediately through our focused schedule that brings you to campus five times over the first two years of this three-year plan.

### MASTER OF THEOLOGY

The Master of Theology (ThM) is a predoctoral capstone master's degree designed for future PhD work focusing on advanced topics in theology, biblical studies, biblical languages, and Old/New Testament exegesis. For students desiring to teach at the college level, this is typically the minimum recommended degree.

### MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree is still considered the "gold standard" for career ministry. The MDiv program is designed to prepare pastors, ministers, chaplains, global workers, and other Christian workers for a life of effective servant leadership. The degree combines an in-depth academic study of Bible exposition, Old Testament, New Testament, biblical languages, and theology with practical training in pastoral ministry, expository preaching, teaching, biblical counseling, and discipleship. A student in the MDiv program can choose to focus in one of several concentrations to further customize their degree.



### MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES

The Master of Arts in Biblical Literature and Languages (MABLL) provides an extensive understanding of the Bible in its original languages, from establishing the text through textual criticism of the Old and New Testament to interpreting the text with advanced linguistics and exegesis. It is designed for students who seek a level of professional competence in Bible and theology and are preparing for advanced degrees or teaching posts.

### MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The Master of Arts in Biblical Archaeology (MABA) provides graduate level instruction in Biblical Archaeology. Students will learn the history, theory, and practice of archaeology, all while engaging in a comprehensive study of the Bible and its theology. Students who choose the optional thesis track will be fully prepared to apply to PhD programs in archaeology.

### MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS) program provides graduate-level academic focus that is designed for persons seeking a thorough biblical and theological understanding of Scripture. By offering 12 units of electives as part of the curriculum, the MABS program allows students to focus on a particular area of interest.

### MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) is an entry-level master's degree that allows the graduate to gain both biblical knowledge and ministry skills. The MACM serves as the first professional degree for ministry in a number of disciplines and positions in the local church either vocationally or for lay persons. A student in the MACM can choose to focus in one of several concentrations to further customize his or her degree and upon completion continue on to the Master of Divinity degree.

### MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree is designed for those who wish a firm foundation in the Christian faith, and for those preparing for vocational ministry on the path toward the Master of Divinity degree. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to accurately interpret God's Word, and articulate and defend the great doctrines of the inerrant, authoritative, and sufficient Scripture.

## DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The purpose of the Diploma Program is to provide a basic biblical and theological foundation to students who either have limited or no undergraduate college credit or who do not feel called to pursue a formal graduate degree. The student will be more thoroughly equipped to build up believers and bring the gospel to the global community.

## CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES PROGRAM

The purpose of the Certificate of Advanced Studies Program is to provide training in a specific area of concentration. It is primarily designed for those who already have a degree but did not do enough work in a specified area. This is open to students without an undergraduate degree. This program will follow the prescribed concentrations found with the MDiv and ThM programs and is taught at the graduate level.

## CREDIT ONLY PROGRAM

Some students are interested in engaging in a level of biblical knowledge gained in a seminary classroom but have not yet decided on a specific degree program or wish to transfer semester credits to academic degree programs at other institutions. Shepherds will enroll these students for credit only and provide transcripts to document completion of all work. Please contact the Registrar's office for details.

## AUDIT PROGRAM

There are some who are interested in engaging in a level of biblical knowledge gained in a seminary classroom but are interested neither in seeking a degree, nor in gaining credit for a course. These students want to enjoy the theological resources of the seminary in order to grow their relationship with God and to pursue work in the church. Our audit program meets this need.

## DOCTORAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

### RESIDENCY

All education at STS expects regular and substantive student-faculty interaction to achieve the stipulated learning outcomes. This interaction is currently accomplished in either the on campus at the main campus in Cary, NC, or through live-synchronous distance education settings. The DMin and our 1-year MTS programs accomplish this by using a cohort model requiring students to be on campus at specific times. All modalities at STS allow faculty and students to have significant opportunities for interaction, peer learning, development of ministry skills, supervised experiences, and growth in servant leadership and spiritual

transformation. It is encouraged that at least one class each year is done in residency for those not in a cohort program. This is easily accomplished with the intensives offered surrounding our yearly Church Leadership Conference and Winter/Summer intensives.

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) is the highest professional degree for those engaged in local church and parachurch ministries. The DMin is structured to improve the leadership qualities of a ministry leader while sharpening their discernment and focus within their area of responsibility. Participants complete the STS Doctor of Ministry program in ministry rather than in residency and remain in their vocation—incorporating their studies directly and immediately.

Upon completion of the DMin, the student will be prepared to do the following:

- To interpret Scriptures accurately from the perspective of historical-grammatical hermeneutics, understanding a text in relation to the teaching of Scripture in all of its parts.
- To exemplify Holy Spirit-controlled servant leadership following the model of Jesus Christ through scholarly preparation.
- To exemplify Christ-like service in both private and public contexts, or a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry settings.
- To advance knowledge in our three main areas of focus: 1) exegetical theology 2) theology, and 3) practical theology.
- To increase their understanding of biblical, systematic, and pastoral theology, and relate this understanding to contemporary biblical, theological, and ministerial issues.
- To improve the leadership qualities of the ministry leader while sharpening their discernment and focus within their area of responsibility.

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

STS allows transfer of up to 8 semester credit hours from accredited graduate schools if the courses are comparable to Shepherds courses. The student must have earned a grade of B or better for a course to be considered for transfer. Transfer of credit is approved by the Vice President of Academics upon consultation with the DMin Director during the matriculation process.

## DEGREE EQUIVALENCY

In the case of advanced graduate degree programs, such as the DMin, a student who did not complete an MDiv but who has completed a lower credit count Master of Arts degree program in Biblical Studies, Theology, Christian Education, or other ministry-related field may request to have their degree evaluated by the Vice President of Academics to see if degree equivalency credit can be applied. This is done on a case-by-case basis and requires individual evaluation based on such factors as: 1) the total number of completed units for the earned degree; 2) the total number of required units for the advanced graduate degree; 3) the comparability of units between the earned graduate degree and the advanced graduate degree; and 4) the institution where the earned graduate degree was awarded. For acceptance into the ThM or DMin, a student must have completed an accredited Master's degree (normally an MA or MS degree) program of no less than 72 semester hours.

## DISSERTATION/RESEARCH PROJECT

All students in the DMin program must write a dissertation or research project in the area of their concentration. The purpose of the dissertation or research project is to provide students with the opportunity to add knowledge to the discipline in their area of focus or construct a research project that will expand their current ministries. More details on specific requirements for the dissertation can be found in the DMin handbook.

## REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the DMin, 32 semester credit hours must be earned with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

## DMIN CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CONCENTRATIONS

| COURSE           | TITLE   | CREDITS |
|------------------|---|---------|
| DM 800           | Research Methods  | 2       |
| DM 801           | Spiritual Transformation & Servant Leadership   | 4       |
| DM 803           | The Ministry Leader as Theologian   | 4       |
| DM 881 or DM 882 | Contextualized Learning Experience<br>The Geographical & Historical Setting of the Bible* | 4       |
| DM 885           | Dissertation/Research Project I   | 3       |
| DM 887           | Dissertation/Research Project II  | 3       |
|                  |   | 20      |

\* Students can elect to take another course in their concentration rather than DM 881/882.

## ADVANCED BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

| COURSE                                   | TITLE   | CREDITS |
|--|---|---------|
|  | DMin Required Common Core                                   | 20      |
| <b>Choose any 3-4 of the Following:*</b> |   |         |
| DM 805                                   | Selected Topics of Theological Issues for Today's Ministry  | 4       |
| DM 813                                   | Advanced Ecclesiology & the Practice of Ministry            | 4       |
| DM 821                                   | Contemporary Issues in Preaching from OT/NT Texts           | 4       |
| DM 840                                   | Advanced Hermeneutics & Biblical Interpretation**           | 4       |
| DM 842                                   | Philosophy & Epistemology for Theologians                   | 4       |
| DM 843                                   | Teaching on the Life & Ministry of Jesus Christ             | 4       |
| DM 845                                   | Applied Theology  | 4       |
| DM 847                                   | Modern Discussions in Dispensational/Covenantal Theology*** | 4       |
| DM 848                                   | Advanced Study of the American Evangelical Movement****     | 4       |
| DM 849                                   | Advanced Pedagogy   | 4       |
| DM 850                                   | Advanced Eschatology*****                                   | 4       |
| DM 877                                   | Biblical Manhood & Womanhood*****                           | 4       |
|  |   | 32      |

\* Students can elect to take another course in their concentration rather than DM 881/882.

\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with BE 705 in the ThM Program in the semester format.

\*\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with TH 703 in the ThM Program in the semester format.

\*\*\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with HT 707 in the ThM Program in the semester format.

\*\*\*\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with TH 701 in the ThM Program in the semester format.

\*\*\*\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with TH 715 in the ThM Program in the semester format.



## BIBLICAL COUNSELING AND CARE

| COURSE                                   | TITLE  | CREDITS |
|--|--|---------|
|  | DMin Required Common Core                                  | 20      |
| <b>Required</b>                          |  |         |
| <b>DM 861</b>                            | The History, Theology, & Philosophy of Biblical Counseling | 4       |
| <b>Choose any 2-3 of the Following:*</b> |  |         |
| <b>DM 813</b>                            | Advanced Ecclesiology & the Practice of Ministry           | 4       |
| <b>DM 863</b>                            | Congregational Soul Care                                   | 4       |
| <b>DM 865</b>                            | Advanced Counseling Methodology                            | 4       |
| <b>DM 867</b>                            | Contemporary Ministry Care & Counseling Issues             | 4       |
| <b>DM 869</b>                            | Biblical Concepts of Analysis & Diagnosis                  | 4       |
| <b>DM 871</b>                            | Counseling & Legal Issues                                  | 4       |
| <b>DM 875</b>                            | Marital & Family Counseling                                | 4       |
| <b>DM 877</b>                            | Biblical Manhood & Womanhood**                             | 4       |
|  |  | 32      |

\* Students can elect to take another course in their concentration rather than DM 881/882.

\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with TH 715 in the ThM Program in the semester format.

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

| COURSE                                   | TITLE  | CREDITS |
|--|--|---------|
|  | DMin Required Common Core                              | 20      |
| <b>Choose any 3-4 of the Following:*</b> |  |         |
| <b>DM 811</b>                            | Church Planting and Extension                          | 4       |
| <b>DM 813</b>                            | Advanced Ecclesiology & the Practice of Ministry       | 4       |
| <b>DM 815</b>                            | Biblical & Contemporary Models of Christian Leadership | 4       |
| <b>DM 817</b>                            | Advanced Organizational Leadership & Management        | 4       |
| <b>DM 823</b>                            | Leading from the 2nd Chair                             | 4       |
| <b>DM 825</b>                            | Church Boards  | 4       |
| <b>DM 827</b>                            | Developing Leaders in Your Ministry                    | 4       |
| <b>DM 829</b>                            | Church Health, Vision, & Strategic Planning            | 4       |
| <b>DM 833</b>                            | Legal and Practical Administration                     | 4       |
|  |  | 32      |

\* Students can elect to take another course in their concentration rather than DM 881/882.

## PASTORAL MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

| COURSE                                   | TITLE  | CREDITS |
|--|--|---------|
|  | DMin Required Common Core                                  | 20      |
| <b>Choose any 3-4 of the Following:*</b> |  |         |
| <b>DM 811</b>                            | Church Planting and Extension                              | 4       |
| <b>DM 813</b>                            | Advanced Ecclesiology & the Practice of Ministry           | 4       |
| <b>DM 815</b>                            | Biblical & Contemporary Models of Christian Leadership     | 4       |
| <b>DM 817</b>                            | Advanced Organizational Leadership & Management            | 4       |
| <b>DM 819</b>                            | Advanced Expository Preaching                              | 4       |
| <b>DM 821</b>                            | Contemporary Issues in Preaching from OT/NT Texts          | 4       |
| <b>DM 825</b>                            | Church Boards  | 4       |
| <b>DM 827</b>                            | Developing Leaders in Your Ministry                        | 4       |
| <b>DM 829</b>                            | Church Health, Vision, & Strategic Planning                | 4       |
| <b>DM 833</b>                            | Legal and Practical Administration                         | 4       |
| <b>DM 840</b>                            | Advanced Hermeneutics & Biblical Interpretation**          | 4       |
| <b>DM 843</b>                            | Teaching on the Life & Ministry of Jesus Christ            | 4       |
| <b>DM 845</b>                            | Applied Theology   | 4       |
| <b>DM 847</b>                            | Issues in Dispensational/Covenantal Theology***            | 4       |
| <b>DM 848</b>                            | Advanced Study of the American Evangelical Movement        | 4       |
| <b>DM 849</b>                            | Advanced Pedagogy  | 4       |
| <b>DM 861</b>                            | The History, Theology, & Philosophy of Biblical Counseling | 4       |
| <b>DM 863</b>                            | Congregational Soul Care                                   | 4       |
| <b>DM 867</b>                            | Contemporary Ministry Care & Counseling Issues             | 4       |
| <b>DM 877</b>                            | Biblical Manhood & Womanhood****                           | 4       |
|  |  | 32      |

\* Students can elect to take another course in their concentration rather than DM 881/882.

\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with BE 705 in the ThM Program in the semester format.

\*\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with TH 703 in the ThM Program in the semester format.

\*\*\*\* This class can be taken in conjunction with HT 715 in the ThM Program in the semester format.



## MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

### RESIDENCY

All education at STS expects regular and substantive student-faculty interaction to achieve the stipulated learning outcomes. This interaction is currently accomplished in either the on campus at the main campus in Cary, NC, or through live-synchronous distance education settings. The DMin and our 1-year MTS programs accomplish this by using a cohort model. All modalities at STS allow faculty and students to have significant opportunities for interaction, peer learning, development of pastoral skills, supervised experiences of ministry, and growth in personal, spiritual transformation. It is encouraged that at least one class each year is done in residency for those not in a cohort program. This is easily accomplished with the intensives offered surrounding our yearly Church Leadership Conference and Winter/Summer intensives.

### INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES

Independent study courses are limited in the master's degree programs to no more than four hours and should typically fulfill elective requirements. When a student is a semester or two from graduation and a course required for graduation is not offered, then it may be taken as an independent study course with the permission of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the individual professor.

### MASTER OF THEOLOGY

The Master of Theology (ThM) degree is a capstone or pre-doctoral master's degree designed for those who wish to prepare for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor of Theology (ThD) degrees. The ThM is a two-year post-MDiv degree program. It allows for a degree of specialized preparation in the following concentrations:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Bible Exposition
- Historical or Systematic Theology
- Interdisciplinary

Upon completion of the ThM, the student will be prepared to do the following:

- To interpret Scriptures accurately from the perspective of historical-grammatical hermeneutics, understanding a text in relation to the teaching of Scripture in all of its parts.
- To exemplify Holy Spirit-controlled servant leadership following the model of Jesus Christ through scholarly preparation.



- To exemplify Christ-like service in both private and public contexts, or a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry settings.
- To advance knowledge in our three main areas of focus: 1) exegetical theology 2) theology, and 3) practical theology.
- To evaluate for biblical accuracy the theological resources of the church, including the historic documents and contemporary works of biblical scholarship.
- To be able to articulate advanced competency in a specialized area of biblical scholarship.

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

STS allows transfer of up to 12 semester credit hours from accredited graduate schools if the courses are comparable to Shepherds courses. The student must have earned a grade of B or better for a course to be considered for transfer. Biblical language courses must be taken either at STS or transferred from another graduate-level accredited school. Transfer of credit is approved by the Vice President of Academics during the matriculation process. STS may request students complete an evaluation of proficiency for Greek and Hebrew with the requisite language professor prior to the transfer of these courses. This happens most often when the language credits are more than 2 years old.

## DEGREE EQUIVALENCY

In the case of advanced graduate degree programs, such as the ThM, a student who did not complete an MDiv but who has completed a lower credit count Master of Arts degree program in Biblical Studies, Theology, Christian Education, or other ministry related field may request to have their degree evaluated by the Vice President of Academics to see if degree equivalency credit can be applied. This is done on a case-by-case basis and requires individual evaluation based on such factors as: 1) the total number of completed units for the earned degree; 2) the total number of required units for the advanced graduate degree; 3) the comparability of units between the earned graduate degree and the advanced graduate degree; and 4) the institution where the earned graduate degree was awarded. For acceptance into the ThM, a student must have completed an accredited master's degree (normally an MA or MS degree) program of no less than 72 semester hours.

## THESIS

All students in the ThM program must write a scholarly thesis in the area of their concentration. Those in the interdisciplinary concentration must work with their advisor to choose an area of focus. The purpose of the thesis is to provide students with experience honing their research and writing skills. More details on specific requirements for the thesis can be found in the "General Information" section in this catalog and in the "Guidelines for Papers and Theses" available online.

## REQUIREMENTS

### THM CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CONCENTRATIONS

| COURSE | TITLE                   | CREDITS |
|--------|-------------------------|---------|
| BE 705 | Advanced Hermeneutics   | 3       |
| NT 752 | Advanced Greek Reading  | 3       |
| OT 752 | Advanced Hebrew Reading | 3       |
| RS 751 | Advanced Thesis I       | 3       |
| RS 752 | Advanced Thesis II      | 3       |
|        |                         | 15      |

To qualify for the ThM, 27 semester credit hours must be earned with a grade point average of 2.5 or better. Each concentration requires completion of 12 credits in addition to the 15 credits for core courses.

### BIBLE EXPOSITION CONCENTRATION

| COURSE            | TITLE  | CREDITS |
|-------------------|--|---------|
|                   | ThM Required Common Core   | 15      |
| BE 710/<br>OT 710 | Greco-Roman & Jewish Backgrounds or Ancient Near Eastern History | 3       |
| BE Elec           | Any 9 units of Bible Exposition Courses                          | 9       |
|                   |  | 27      |



## HISTORICAL THEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

| COURSE                               | TITLE   | CREDITS |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------|
|                                      | ThM Required Common Core  | 15      |
| NT 706/<br>HT 710                    | Apostolic Fathers or Patristic Theology   | 3       |
| <b>Any 9 units of the Following:</b> |   |         |
| BE 710/<br>OT 710                    | Greco-Roman & Jewish Backgrounds or Ancient Near Eastern History                      | 3       |
| HT 702                               | History of Fundamentalism   | 3       |
| HT 707                               | Contemporary Evangelicalism   | 3       |
| HT/TH<br>Elec                        | Any 600+ Systematic/Historical Theology Course (Must have at least 2 600+ HT Courses) | 3       |
|                                      |   | 27      |

## NEW TESTAMENT CONCENTRATION

| COURSE                               | TITLE                              | CREDITS |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
|                                      | ThM Required Common Core           | 15      |
| NT 720                               | New Testament Textual Criticism    | 3       |
| <b>Any 9 units of the Following:</b> |                                    |         |
| BE 710                               | Greco-Roman & Jewish Backgrounds   | 3       |
| NT 706                               | Apostolic Fathers                  | 3       |
| NT 715                               | Scripture Citing Scripture         | 3       |
| NT 725                               | Contemporary Debates in NT Studies | 3       |
| NT Elec                              | Any 600+ NT Exegesis Course        | 3       |
|                                      |                                    | 27      |

## OLD TESTAMENT CONCENTRATION

| COURSE                               | TITLE                           | CREDITS |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
|                                      | ThM Required Common Core        | 15      |
| OT 702                               | Old Testament Textual Criticism | 3       |
| <b>Any 9 units of the Following:</b> |                                 |         |
| OT 705                               | Septuagint                      | 3       |
| OT 710                               | Ancient Near Eastern History    | 3       |
| OT Elec                              | Any 600+ OT Exegesis Course     | 3       |
|                                      |                                 | 27      |

## SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

| COURSE                               | TITLE   | CREDITS |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------|
|                                      | ThM Required Common Core  | 15      |
| NT 725                               | Contemporary Theological Movements  | 3       |
| <b>Any 9 units of the Following:</b> |   |         |
| TH 701                               | Seminar in Eschatology  | 3       |
| TH 702                               | Seminar on the Church & Israel  | 3       |
| TH 703                               | Issues in Dispensational & Covenantal Theology  | 3       |
| TH 706                               | Philosophy and Christian Epistemology   | 3       |
| TH/HT<br>Elec                        | Any 600+ Systematic/Historical Theology Course (Must have at least 2 600+ TH Courses) | 3       |
|                                      |   | 27      |

## INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATION

| COURSE | TITLE  | CREDITS |
|--------|--|---------|
|        | ThM Required Common Core                                 | 15      |
| Elec   | Any 12 units of 700+ Courses from the ThM Concentrations | 12      |
|        |  | 27      |

## MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) program is the flagship program of Shepherds Theological Seminary. As the “gold-standard” for ministry, it is designed to prepare pastors, ministers, chaplains, missionaries, and other Christian workers for a life of effective servant leadership. This degree combines an in-depth academic study of Bible exposition, Old Testament, New Testament, and theology with practical training in pastoral ministry, expository preaching, teaching, biblical counseling, and discipleship.

Men who graduate from Shepherds Theological Seminary with the Master of Divinity degree are prepared to serve the local church as a pastor or assistant pastor or to minister in a foreign culture. Women graduates of the Master of Divinity program are prepared for leadership in non-ordained roles in local churches, missions, and other ministries such as vocational biblical counseling, hospital chaplaincy, and Christian education. This degree also prepares men and women to pursue advanced degrees such as the Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, Doctor of Theology, or Doctor of Philosophy degree. Upon completion of the MDiv, the student will be prepared to do the following:

- To interpret Scriptures accurately from the perspective of historical-grammatical hermeneutics, understanding a text in relation to the teaching of Scripture in all of its parts.
- To exemplify Holy Spirit-controlled servant leadership following the model of Jesus Christ through scholarly preparation.
- To exemplify Christ-like service in both private and public contexts, or a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry settings.
- To advance knowledge in our three main areas of focus: 1) exegetical theology 2) theology, and 3) practical theology.
- To apply theology as expressed in the seminary’s doctrinal statement in vocational and non-vocational roles in teaching and preaching, discipleship, counseling, etc.
- To demonstrate proficiency with the biblical languages.

STS offers a Traditional MDiv, requiring 93 semester credit hours to complete, as well as an Advanced Placement MDiv, requiring 78 credits. These are described in detail below.

## MASTER OF DIVINITY CONCENTRATIONS

The MDiv degree at Shepherds Theological Seminary is structured in a way that emphasizes a strong core curriculum yet allows students to concentrate on specific areas of ministry preparation. The primary area of concentration is that in Pastoral/Church Ministry. A student in the MDiv can choose to focus in one of the following areas to further customize their degree:

- Advanced Biblical Languages
- Advanced Biblical Studies
- Advanced Theology
- Biblical Archaeology
- Biblical Counseling
- Chaplaincy
- Christian Education
- Church Planting
- Global Ministries
- Pastoral
- Interdisciplinary

Students are expected to select their area of concentration during the first semester at Shepherds. Through academic advising, students are assisted in developing a course schedule which reflects their desired academic goals. See specific concentrations requirements for details.

## CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

STS is committed to equipping and enabling students whom God is leading into this strategic field of ministry. Chaplains most commonly serve in either medical (hospital) or Armed Services settings. The hospital chaplaincy route has unique requirements after the MDiv education and STS has partnered with numerous local hospitals to ensure our students have avenues in place for the certification process. For Military Chaplains, there are two avenues by which the chaplaincy may be approached: commissioning before seminary (the Chaplain Candidate program) and commissioning after graduation from seminary. In either case, the basic requirement for acceptance into the chaplaincy is a full pastoral ministry degree from an accredited seminary.

Accordingly, the MDiv includes classroom lectures and extra-classroom experiences designed to prepare the student to deal with the situations almost certain to arise in the course of chaplaincy service. In addition to the curricular requirement, every chaplain in military service must be accepted by an endorsing agency that has standing with the several branches of the Armed Forces. STS works closely with the Associated Gospel Churches (AGC) and IFCA International as endorsing agents.

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

STS allows transfer of up to 30 semester credit hours toward the Traditional MDiv from accredited graduate schools and seminaries, and up to 24 credit hours towards the Advanced Placement MDiv if the courses are comparable to Shepherds courses. The student must have earned a grade of C or better for a course to be considered for transfer. Biblical language courses must be taken either in residency or transferred from another graduate-level accredited school. Transfer of credit is approved by the Vice President of Academics during the matriculation process. STS may request students complete an evaluation of proficiency for Greek and Hebrew with the requisite language professor prior to the transfer of these courses.

## DEGREE EQUIVALENCY

In the case of advanced graduate degree programs, such as the MDiv, a student who has completed a lower credit count Master of Arts degree program in Biblical Studies, Theology, Christian Education, or other ministry-related field may request to have their degree evaluated by the Vice President of Academics to see if degree equivalency credit can be applied. Qualifying degrees may allow a student to apply credits from the earned degree toward a reduction of the final unit count for the advanced degree program. This is done on a case-by-case basis and requires individual evaluation based on such factors as: 1) the total number of completed units for the earned degree; 2) the total number of required units for the advanced graduate degree; 3) the comparability of units between the earned graduate degree and the advanced graduate degree; and 4) the institution where the earned graduate degree was awarded. In essence a student would be starting from the equivalent position of having completed the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry or Master of Theological Studies at Shepherds and then continuing on to the Master of Divinity.

## MENTORED APPRENTICESHIP

Each student is expected to complete a capstone mentored apprenticeship (PT 782) in a ministry under the guidance of a qualified mentor that has been approved by the Director of Mentoring. The student can work on an apprenticeship in a variety of fields which correlate with his or her future ministry plans (e.g., pastoral, missions, counseling, etc.). This apprenticeship is concluded with a formal written report which is submitted to the Director of Mentoring.

## THESIS

As part of the requirements for the Master of Divinity degree, the student may choose to use six units of electives for a scholarly thesis under the leadership of a faculty member. Those students who desire to pursue further study for an advanced degree are encouraged to write a thesis to sharpen their research and writing skills. More details on specific requirements for the thesis can be found in the “General Information” section in this catalog and in the “Guidelines for Papers and Theses” available online.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information regarding the Master of Divinity degree, contact the Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness at 919-573-1553 or 800-672-3060.

## REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the MDiv, 93 semester credit hours must be earned with a grade point average of 2.5 or better. Each concentration requires completion of 12 credits in addition to the 75 credits for core courses, and 6 units of open electives. The faculty will formally admit the student to candidacy when at least 60 credit hours are completed. The student must also be present at the commencement exercises in order to receive the degree unless excused by the Vice President of Academics.



## MDIV CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CONCENTRATIONS

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BC 500                             | Foundations of Biblical Counseling                      | 3         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| HT 500                             | Historical Theology                                     | 3         |
| ME 515                             | Apologetics, Evangelism, & Missions                     | 3         |
| NT 550                             | Elementary Greek Grammar I                              | 3         |
| NT 551                             | Elementary Greek Grammar II                             | 3         |
| NT 650/640                         | Biblical Greek Exegesis I or Greek for Exposition       | 3         |
| OT 550                             | Biblical Hebrew I                                       | 3         |
| OT 551                             | Biblical Hebrew II                                      | 3         |
| OT 650/640                         | Biblical Hebrew Exegesis or Hebrew for Exposition       | 3         |
| PT 511                             | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship                    | 3         |
| PT 512                             | Foundations of Biblical Teaching                        | 3         |
| PT 711                             | Mentored Apprenticeship                                 | 1         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| TH 630                             | Christian Ethics  | 3         |
| Bib. Elec                          | Any 9 units of Bible Exposition or Exegesis Electives   | 9         |
| Elec                               | Any 6 units of Open Electives                           | 6         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>81</b> |

## ADVANCED BIBLICAL LANGUAGES CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to go deeper into theological and biblical studies and is ideal for doctoral preparation. It includes the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                               | TITLE  | CREDITS   |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>     |  | <b>81</b> |
| NT 752/<br>OT 752                    | Advanced Greek Reading or<br>Advanced Hebrew Reading | 3         |
| <b>Any 9 units of the Following:</b> |  |           |
| NT 720                               | New Testament Textual Criticism                      | 3         |
| NT 752                               | Advanced Greek Reading                               | 3         |
| OT 702                               | Old Testament Textual Criticism                      | 3         |
| OT 705                               | Septuagint   | 3         |
| OT 752                               | Advanced Hebrew Reading                              | 3         |
| NT/OT Elec                           | Any 600+ Greek/<br>Hebrew Exegesis Courses           | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b>   |  | <b>93</b> |

## ADVANCED BIBLICAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to go deeper into theological and biblical studies and is ideal for doctoral preparation. It includes the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                               | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>     |   | <b>81</b> |
| BE 705                               | Advanced Hermeneutics                         | 3         |
| <b>Any 9 units of the Following:</b> |   |           |
| NT 725                               | Contemporary Issues and Debates in NT Studies | 3         |
| NT 752                               | Advanced Greek Reading                        | 3         |
| OT 752                               | Advanced Hebrew Reading                       | 3         |
| TH 702                               | Seminar on the Church & Israel                | 3         |
| TH 706                               | Philosophy and Christian Epistemology         | 3         |
| TH 725                               | Contemporary Theological Movements            | 3         |
| BE Elec                              | Bible Exposition Elective                     | 3         |
| HT/TH Elec                           | Any 600+ HT/TH Elective                       | 3         |
| NT/OT Elec                           | Greek/Hebrew Exegesis Course                  | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b>   |   | <b>93</b> |

## ADVANCED THEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

This concentration prepares students to go deeper into the history of theology and the core doctrines of the faith. It is ideal for those who are interested in future PhD work in this discipline. It includes the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE  | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>                                   | <b>81</b> |
| <b>HT/TH Elec</b>                  | Any 12 units of HT or TH classes not part of the core requirement. | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |  | <b>93</b> |

## BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to advance in their knowledge of the field of biblical archaeology and presents students with the opportunity to participate in actual archaeological digs. It includes the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>     | <b>81</b> |
| <b>AR 500</b>                      | Introduction to Biblical Archaeology | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>AR Elec</b>                     | Any 9 units of Archaeology Electives | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |                                      | <b>93</b> |

## BIBLICAL COUNSELING CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to gain advanced training in counseling. It is preparatory for work in the church or in parachurch counseling ministries. It requires the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                       | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>            | <b>81</b> |
| <b>BC Elec</b>                     | Any 12 units of Biblical Counseling Courses | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>93</b> |

## CHAPLAINCY CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows students to meet the requirements for hospital or military Chaplaincy. It requires the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                       | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>            | <b>81</b> |
| <b>BC 611</b>                      | Crisis Counseling                           | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 600*</b>                     | Leadership Principles and Pastoral Theology | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 613</b>                      | Chaplaincy Ministry                         | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 701**</b>                    | Foundations of Expository Preaching         | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>93</b> |

\* Women in this concentration will take any Biblical Counseling elective in place of PT 600 Leadership Principles and Pastoral Theology.

\*\* Women in this concentration will take PT 617 Communication Skills for Ministry in place of PT 701 Foundations of Expository Preaching.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to go deeper into the art and science of Christian Education and is ideal for those who are interested in teaching. It includes the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>              | <b>81</b> |
| <b>CE 521</b>                      | History and Philosophy of Christian Education | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>CE 522</b>                      | Learning Theory and Instructional Techniques  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>CE 620</b>                      | Curriculum and Instructional Design           | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 617</b>                      | Communication Skills for Ministry             | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>93</b> |

## CHURCH PLANTING CONCENTRATION (MEN ONLY)

This concentration prepares students to engage in the rewarding and challenging work of church planting and church revitalization. It requires the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE                               | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>    | <b>81</b> |
| <b>ME 514</b>                      | Church Planting                     | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 606</b>                      | NT Literature and Pastoral Ministry | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 701</b>                      | Foundations of Expository Preaching | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 705</b>                      | Foundations of Church Governance    | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |                                     | <b>93</b> |

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES CONCENTRATION

This concentration prepares students for the critically important work of global ministry. It is ideal for those who desire to serve as church planters overseas or for those desiring to engage in marketplace ministry. It includes the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE                               | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>    | <b>81</b> |
| <b>ME 505</b>                      | Introduction to Global Ministry     | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>ME 506</b>                      | Cross-Cultural Leadership           | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>ME 507</b>                      | Engaging in Cross-Cultural Ministry | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>ME 605</b>                      | Theology of Missions                | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |                                     | <b>93</b> |

## PASTORAL MINISTRY CONCENTRATION (MEN ONLY)

This concentration prepares students for pastoral work by focusing on the governance of the church and the public exposition of the Word. It includes the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                       | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b>            | <b>81</b> |
| <b>PT 600</b>                      | Leadership Principles and Pastoral Theology | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 606</b>                      | NT Literature and Pastoral Ministry         | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 701</b>                      | Foundations of Expository Preaching         | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 705</b>                      | Foundations of Church Governance            | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>93</b> |

## INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to tailor their Master of Divinity electives according to the student's interests or perceived skill gaps. This concentration allows more flexibility for those transferring in with a large number of courses not equivalent in nature to those at Shepherds Theological Seminary. This concentration requires 12 credit hours of open electives in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE                            | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MDiv Required Common Core</b> | <b>81</b> |
| <b>Elec</b>                        | Any 12 units of Open Electives   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |                                  | <b>93</b> |

## MASTER OF DIVINITY—ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The MDiv—Advanced Placement degree is designed for graduates of accredited Christian liberal arts colleges or Bible colleges of similar faith and practice to STS, who wish to build on their undergraduate degree in Christian studies. This degree seeks to minimize the overlap between undergraduate courses and the seminary curriculum. Also, the student can focus more on areas of the advanced seminary curriculum in which he is most interested because there are twice the number of elective courses available.

### PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- Completion of a bachelor's degree in the last five years from an accredited Christian liberal arts college or Bible college of similar faith and practice to Shepherds Theological Seminary.
- Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0, with a B grade or higher in each required prerequisite course.
- A concentration track in the undergraduate degree in such areas as theology, Bible, pastoral ministries, youth ministries, or pre-seminary studies.
- Completion of the minimum semester credit hours in each of the curriculum courses shown in the table below. Students who have not fulfilled all of the required prerequisite courses may complete the remaining prerequisite courses at the beginning of their Advanced Placement MDiv studies, increasing the total number of credits needed for the completion of the degree. However, the maximum number of credits that the student may make up is 12. Students with more than 12 credits to make up may make application to the traditional MDiv degree.

### PREREQUISITE COURSES REQUIRED FOR ENTRY

| COURSE GROUP                       | CREDITS | COURSE GROUP                             | CREDITS |
|------------------------------------|---------|--|---------|
| Foundational Old Testament Courses | 6       | Foundational Systematic Theology Courses | 6       |
| Foundational New Testament Courses | 6       | Bible or Ministry Courses                | 30      |

## REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for this MDiv, 78 semester credit hours must be earned with a grade point average of 2.5 or better.

| COURSE  | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|---|---|-----------|
| RS 505  | Research for Theological Education                | 2         |
| BC 500  | Foundations of Biblical Counseling                | 3         |
| BE 504  | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics             | 3         |
| HT 500  | Historical Theology                               | 3         |
| ME 515  | Apologetics, Evangelism, & Missions               | 3         |
| NT 550  | Elementary Greek Grammar I                        | 3         |
| NT 551  | Elementary Greek Grammar II                       | 3         |
| NT 650/640  | Biblical Greek Exegesis I or Greek for Exposition | 3         |
| OT 550  | Biblical Hebrew I                                 | 3         |
| OT 551  | Biblical Hebrew II                                | 3         |
| OT 650/640  | Biblical Hebrew Exegesis or Hebrew for Exposition | 3         |
| PT 511  | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship              | 3         |
| PT 512  | Foundations of Biblical Teaching                  | 3         |
| PT 711  | Mentored Apprenticeship                           | 1         |
| TH 503  | Systematic Theology III                           | 3         |
| TH 601  | Systematic Theology IV                            | 3         |
| TH 630  | Christian Ethics                                  | 3         |
| BE Elec   | Any 9 units of Bible Exposition Electives         | 9         |
| TH Elec   | Theology Elective                                 | 3         |
| Elec  | Open Electives                                    | 6         |
| <b>Total Common Core Required Semester Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>66</b> |
| Required Concentration Credits*                         |   | 12        |
| <b>Total Advanced Placement Semester Credit Hours</b>   |   | <b>78</b> |

\*MDiv—Advanced Placement Concentrations are the same as the standard MDiv degree options.



## MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES

The Master of Arts in Biblical Literature and Languages (MABLL) is designed for those students who seek a level of professional competence in the Bible, theology, biblical languages, and textual criticism and are preparing for advanced degrees and teaching posts. This master's program is suitable for educators, missionaries, and other servant leaders who minister apart from pastoral duties.

This program will equip students in the biblical languages, enabling entry to advanced programs and other courses of study. It also will train students in advanced research skills and teaching fundamentals in anticipation of future educational pursuits.

Upon completion of the MA in Biblical Literature and Languages, the student will be prepared to do the following:

- To interpret Scriptures accurately from the perspective of historical-grammatical hermeneutics, understanding a text in relation to the teaching of Scripture in all of its parts.
- To exemplify Holy Spirit-controlled servant leadership following the model of Jesus Christ through scholarly preparation.
- To exemplify Christ-like service in both private and public contexts, or a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry settings.
- To advance knowledge in our three main areas of focus: 1) exegetical theology 2) theology, and 3) practical theology.
- To demonstrate advanced competency in biblical languages and textual criticism.
- To serve both the body of Christ and society through scholarly contribution.

## REQUIREMENTS

The MABLL requires a total of 77 course hours, with 6 of those hours being Greek and Hebrew exegesis electives. To qualify for the MABLL a student must complete the required number of credits with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.

PhD programs vary in their course/program requirements for applicants, so students in the MABLL program should be aware that electives outside of the core coursework are available to meet the requirements of a specific target postgraduate program.

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

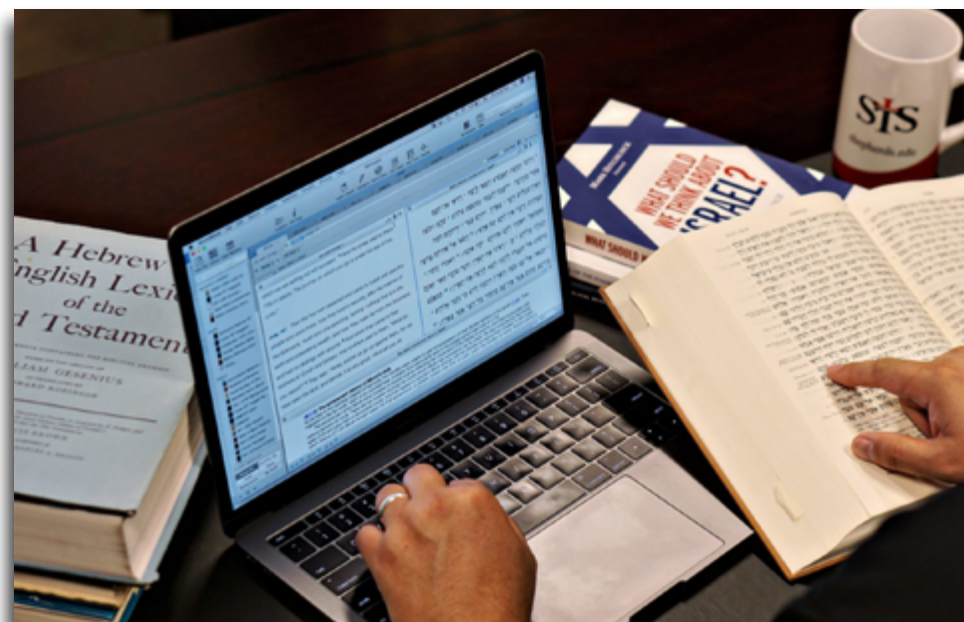
Transfer of up to 22 hours of credit from accredited graduate programs is allowed toward the MABLL. The student must have earned a grade of C or better for the course to be considered for transfer. Transfer credit cannot be received for the core language courses in Greek and Hebrew, or for the thesis. Transfer of credit is approved by the Vice President of Academics.

## GREEK AND HEBREW

An entrance exam in Greek and Hebrew is used to evaluate the applicant's incoming facility with the languages if the applicant has taken these previously elsewhere including at the undergraduate level. If proficient, the student can replace the needed units for first-year courses with open electives.

## THESIS

All students in the MABLL program must write a scholarly thesis making significant and meaningful use of original language(s). The purpose of the thesis is to provide students with experience honing their research and writing skills. More details on specific requirements for the thesis can be found in the "General Information" section in this catalog and in the "Guidelines for Papers and Theses" available online.



## MABLL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| HT 500                             | Historical Theology                                     | 3         |
| NT 550                             | Elementary Greek Grammar I                              | 3         |
| NT 551                             | Elementary Greek Grammar II                             | 3         |
| NT 650                             | Biblical Greek Exegesis I                               | 3         |
| NT 651                             | Biblical Greek Exegesis II                              | 3         |
| NT 720                             | New Testament Textual Criticism                         | 3         |
| NT 752                             | Advanced Greek Reading                                  | 3         |
| OT 550                             | Biblical Hebrew I                                       | 3         |
| OT 551                             | Biblical Hebrew II                                      | 3         |
| OT 650                             | Biblical Hebrew Exegesis                                | 3         |
| OT 702                             | Old Testament Textual Criticism                         | 3         |
| OT 752                             | Advanced Hebrew Reading                                 | 3         |
| RS 711                             | Thesis I  | 3         |
| RS 712                             | Thesis II   | 3         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| NT Elec                            | <i>Greek Exegesis Elective</i>                          | 3         |
| OT Elec                            | <i>Hebrew Exegesis Elective</i>                         | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>77</b> |

## MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The Master of Arts in Biblical Archaeology (MABA) provides graduate level instruction in Biblical Archaeology. Students will learn the history, theory, and practice of archaeology, all while engaging in a comprehensive study of the Bible and its theology. Students who choose the optional thesis track will be fully prepared to apply to PhD programs in archaeology.

The full-time student can complete the MABA in two years, which includes a life-changing archaeological dig experience. A baccalaureate is required to enter the master's degree program.

Upon completion of this degree, students will be prepared to accomplish the following:

- To interpret Scriptures accurately from the perspective of historical-grammatical hermeneutics, understanding a text in relation to the teaching of Scripture in all of its parts.
- To exemplify Holy Spirit-controlled servant leadership following the model of Jesus Christ through scholarly preparation.
- To exemplify Christ-like service in both private and public contexts, or a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry settings.
- To advance knowledge in our three main areas of focus: 1) exegetical theology, 2) theology, and 3) practical theology.
- To conduct methodologically sound archaeological research, fieldwork, and analysis within Ancient Near Eastern and Greco-Roman contexts.
- To demonstrate archaeology's roles in illuminating our understanding of the biblical world and supporting the accuracy and inerrancy of Scripture.

## REQUIREMENTS

The MABA requires 56 hours of core courses that every student is required to complete and 9 hours of archaeology electives, for a total of 65 credit hours. To qualify for the MABA, the student must complete the required number of credits with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. The student must also be present at the commencement exercises in order to receive the degree unless excused by the faculty.

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Transfer of up to 15 hours of credit from accredited graduate programs is allowed toward an MABA. The student must have earned a grade of C or better for the course to be considered for transfer and the course must be 75% similar to an existing course in the STS catalog. Biblical language courses must be taken either in residency or transferred from another graduate level accredited school. Transfer of credit is approved by the Vice President of Academics during matriculation.

## REQUIRED CORE COURSES

The following are required for all majors in the Master of Arts in Biblical Archaeology.

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| HT 500                             | Historical Theology                                     | 3         |
| PT 511                             | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship                    | 3         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| AR 500                             | Introduction to Biblical Archaeology                    | 3         |
| AR 505                             | Archaeological Method and Theory                        | 3         |
| AR 610                             | Archaeological Fieldwork I                              | 3         |
| AR 615                             | Archaeological Fieldwork II                             | 3         |
| AR 625                             | Archaeological Laboratory                               | 3         |
| AR 630                             | Archaeology and the NT                                  | 3         |
| AR 632                             | Archaeology and the OT                                  | 3         |
| AR Elec                            | Any 9 units of Archaeology Courses                      | 9         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>65</b> |

## MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS) degree is a fully accredited 62-hour program that provides graduate-level academic focus designed for persons seeking a thorough biblical and theological understanding of Scripture.

Bible exposition and theology courses are prioritized in the MABS program. Students can select one of five concentrations to further customize their degree. Noteworthy among these is the Biblical Archaeology concentration, which involves both in-class methodology courses and practical fieldwork.

- Advanced Biblical Studies
- Bible Exposition
- Biblical Archaeology
- Advanced Theology
- Interdisciplinary

The full-time student can complete the MABS in three years, making it a very achievable degree. Additionally, should a student love the knowledge and skills they are gaining, they can use the MABS with some additional work as a stepping-stone to the Master of Theology degree. A baccalaureate is required to enter the master's degree program.

Upon completion of this degree, students will be prepared to accomplish the following:

- To interpret Scriptures accurately from the perspective of historical-grammatical hermeneutics, understanding a text in relation to the teaching of Scripture in all of its parts.
- To exemplify Holy Spirit-controlled servant leadership following the model of Jesus Christ through scholarly preparation.
- To exemplify Christ-like service in both private and public contexts, or a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry settings.
- To advance knowledge in our three main areas of focus: 1) exegetical theology 2) Theology, and 3) practical theology.
- To articulate and defend the inerrancy, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture.
- To exemplify a thorough biblical and theological understanding of Scripture.

## REQUIREMENTS

The MABS requires 50 hours of core courses that every student is required to complete and 12 hours in the chosen concentration, for a total of 62 credit hours. To qualify for the MABS, the student must complete the required number of credits with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. The student must also be present at the commencement exercises in order to receive the degree unless excused by the faculty.

### TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Transfer of up to 18 hours of credit from accredited graduate programs is allowed toward the MABS. The student must have earned a grade of C or better for the course to be considered for transfer and the course must be 75% similar to an existing course in the STS catalog. Biblical language courses must be taken either in residency or transferred from another graduate level accredited school. Transfer of credit is approved by the Vice President of Academics.

### MABS CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CONCENTRATIONS

The following courses are required for all majors in the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies.

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| HT 500                             | Historical Theology                                     | 3         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| TH 630                             | Christian Ethics  | 3         |
| BE Elec                            | Any 9 units of Bible Exposition Courses                 | 9         |
| Elec                               | Any 6 units of Open Electives                           | 6         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>50</b> |

## ADVANCED BIBLICAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to go deeper into theological and biblical studies and is ideal for the student who desires to go on for doctoral work. It includes the following courses in addition to the 50 core credit hours:

| COURSE                               | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>MABS Required Common Core</b>     |   | <b>50</b> |
| BE 705                               | Advanced Hermeneutics                               | 3         |
| <b>Any 9 units of the Following:</b> |   |           |
| NT 725                               | Contemporary Issues and Debates in NT Studies       | 3         |
| NT 752                               | Advanced Greek Reading                              | 3         |
| OT 752                               | Advanced Hebrew Reading                             | 3         |
| TH 706                               | Philosophy and Christian Epistemology               | 3         |
| TH 710                               | Contemporary Theological Movements                  | 3         |
| BE Elec                              | Bible Exposition Elective                           | 3         |
| HT/TH                                | Historical Theology or Systematic Theology Elective | 3         |
| NT/OT Elec                           | Greek/Hebrew Exegesis Course                        | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b>   |   | <b>62</b> |

### BIBLE EXPOSITION CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to do advanced work in specific books of the Bible. It is ideal for those interested in going on to PhD work, those who are currently pastors but need more focused biblical training, and those teaching at the lay level within the church.

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                    | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>MABS Required Common Core</b>   |  | <b>50</b> |
| BE Elec                            | Any 12 units of Bible Exposition Courses | 12        |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |  | <b>62</b> |

## BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to go deeper into the field of biblical archaeology—exploring issues of methodology, theory, fieldwork, excavation, analysis, and conservation. It offers ideal academic preparation for the student who desires to progress toward doctoral work.

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MABS Required Common Core</b>     | <b>50</b> |
| <b>AR 500</b>                      | Introduction to Biblical Archaeology | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>AR 505</b>                      | Archaeological Method and Theory     | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>AR Elec</b>                     | Any 6 units of Archaeology Courses   | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |                                      | <b>62</b> |

## ADVANCED THEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MABS Required Common Core</b>  | <b>50</b> |
| <b>Elec</b>                        | <i>Any 12 units of HT or TH classes not part of the core requirement.</i> | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>62</b> |

## INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to tailor their Master of Arts in Biblical Studies electives according to the student's interests or perceived skill gaps. This concentration allows more flexibility for those transferring in with a large number of courses not equivalent in nature to those at Shepherds Theological Seminary.

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                 | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MABS Required Common Core</b>      | <b>50</b> |
| <b>Elec</b>                        | <i>Any 12 units of Open Electives</i> | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |                                       | <b>62</b> |

## MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) is an entry-level master's degree that allows the graduate to gain both biblical knowledge and ministry skills. The MACM serves as the first professional degree for ministry in a number of disciplines and positions in the local church either vocationally or as lay persons, as well as allowing students to pursue work in parachurch organizations and non-profits. A student in the MACM can choose to focus in one of the following areas to further customize their degree:

- Biblical Counseling
- Christian Education
- Church Ministry
- Church Planting
- Women's Ministry
- Interdisciplinary

The full-time student can complete the MACM in two years, making it a very achievable degree. Additionally, should a student love the knowledge and skills they are gaining, they can use the MACM as a stepping-stone to the Master of Divinity degree. A baccalaureate is required to enter the master's degree program.

Upon completion of this degree, students will be prepared to accomplish the following:

- To interpret Scriptures accurately from the perspective of historical-grammatical hermeneutics, understanding a text in relation to the teaching of Scripture in all of its parts.
- To exemplify Holy Spirit-controlled servant leadership following the model of Jesus Christ through scholarly preparation.
- To exemplify Christ-like service in both private and public contexts, or a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry settings.
- To advance knowledge in our three main areas of focus: 1) exegetical theology 2) Theology, and 3) practical theology.
- To provide ministry leadership in a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry contexts.
- To weave together ministry experience with biblical knowledge based on a chosen specialized area.

## REQUIREMENTS

The MACM requires 39 hours of core courses that every student is required to complete and 9 hours in the chosen concentration, for a total of 48 credit hours. To qualify for the MACM, the student must complete the required number of credits with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. The student must also be present at the commencement exercises in order to receive the degree unless excused by the faculty.

### TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Transfer of up to 15 hours of credit from accredited graduate programs is allowed toward the MACM. The student must have earned a grade of C or better for the course to be considered for transfer and the course must be 75% similar to an existing course in the STS catalog. Biblical language courses must be taken either in residency or transferred from another graduate level accredited school. Transfer of credit is approved by the Vice President of Academics during matriculation.

### REQUIRED CORE COURSES

The following courses are required for all majors in the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry.

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| HT 500                             | Historical Theology                                     | 3         |
| PT 511                             | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship                    | 3         |
| PT 711                             | Mentored Apprenticeship                                 | 1         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| BE Elec                            | <i>Bible Exposition Elective</i>                        | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>39</b> |



### BIBLICAL COUNSELING CONCENTRATION

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) with a concentration in Biblical Counseling is designed to develop students' theological competency and practical skills, in order that they might minister more effectively in supporting roles within their local churches, with special responsibilities for counseling, pastoral care, family ministries, chaplaincy, and parachurch ministry settings.

Church-based counseling is very different from the private counseling or mental healthcare services typically offered outside of the church. Therefore, this concentration equips students for effective service through counseling opportunities in a local church, whether as a layperson or as a staff member with special responsibilities related to counseling, pastoral care, or family ministries, or as a chaplain in specialized healthcare ministry settings. The program emphasizes theologically founded biblical counseling while developing practical excellence in counseling skills.

*Please note: This program is not designed for students who are seeking professional licensure. If a student still desires to seek professional licensure as a counselor, they will need to complete additional hours of academic and practical training beyond those offered in this program. North Carolina requirements can be found at [www.ncblpc.org](http://www.ncblpc.org).*

## STS PHILOSOPHY OF COUNSELING

The Holy Scripture, being inerrant and authoritative, serves as the biblical counselor's standard for understanding and resolving the spiritual problems of people facing difficult trials in life. We believe that our students will find in their classroom study and practicum work a philosophy of counseling that is Christ-centered, salvation-centered, Bible-centered, and church-centered.

Biblical counseling involves understanding the nature and causes of our human difficulties; understanding the ways we are unlike Christ in our values, aspirations, desires, thoughts, feelings, choices, attitudes, actions and responses; and resolving these sin-related difficulties based on scriptural principles. This includes being redeemed and justified through Christ, receiving God's forgiveness through Christ, and acquiring from Christ the enabling power to replace sinful patterns of life with godly ones. The biblical counselor conscientiously and comprehensively derives from the Bible an understanding of who man is, the nature of his main problems, why he has these problems, and how to resolve these problems from a scriptural foundation.

Scripture is also clear that the local church is the primary means by which God accomplishes His work in the world. Effective biblical counseling can be done only by those whose lives are dominated by the Holy Spirit and whose minds are governed by biblical convictions which permeate and control their personal lives and their counseling theory and practice.

| COURSE                                      | TITLE                                  | CREDITS   |
|---|--|-----------|
|   | <b>MACM Degree Core Course Credits</b> | <b>39</b> |
| <b>BC 500</b>                               | Foundations of Biblical Counseling     | <b>3</b>  |
| Any 6 units of the following:               |  |           |
| <b>BC 507</b>                               | Foundations of Biblical Marriage       | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>BC 508</b>                               | Biblical Soul Care                     | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>BC 514</b>                               | Counseling Skills and Methodologies    | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Semester Credit Hours</b> |  | <b>48</b> |

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONCENTRATION

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) with a concentration in Christian Education is designed to prepare students for education ministries within the church and within certain Christian homeschooling groups. Perfect for lay leaders within churches, Bible study leaders, and educators, this concentration has, in addition to the foundational—or core—courses in Bible and theology, an emphasis on educational ministries and pedagogical (teaching) methodologies.

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MACM Degree Core Course Credits</b>        | <b>39</b> |
| <b>CE 521</b>                      | History and Philosophy of Christian Education | <b>3</b>  |
| Any 6 units of the following:      |   |           |
| <b>CE 520</b>                      | Principles of Leadership Development          | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>CE 522</b>                      | Learning Theory and Philosophy of Instruction | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 617</b>                      | Communication Skills for Ministry             | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>48</b> |

## CHURCH MINISTRY CONCENTRATION

The MACM with a concentration in Church Ministry is the ideal starting point for most graduate students who are seeking to both expand their biblical knowledge as well as learn valuable ministry skills applicable in a wide range of settings, from church ministry to the non-profit world. This concentration effectively prepares students with rigorous academic study of the Bible and theology, along with a few practical ministry courses.

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MACM Degree Core Course Credits</b>        | <b>39</b> |
| <b>PT 606*</b>                     | NT Literature and Pastoral Ministry           | <b>3</b>  |
| Any 6 units of the following:      |   |           |
| <b>CE 522</b>                      | Learning Theory and Philosophy of Instruction | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>ME 515</b>                      | Apologetics, Evangelism, & Missions           | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 617</b>                      | Communication Skills for Ministry             | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>48</b> |

\* Women in this concentration will take a Bible Exposition Elective in place of PT 606.

## CHURCH PLANTING CONCENTRATION (MEN ONLY)

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) with a concentration in Church Planting is designed for those students who desire to be church planters or church revitalizers. This concentration is perfect for missionaries, those planting new churches, or those wishing to revitalize existing churches. In addition to the foundational—or core—courses in Bible and theology, an emphasis on church planting and pastoral ministry is included.

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                       | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MACM Degree Core Course Credits</b>      | <b>39</b> |
| <b>ME 514</b>                      | Church Planting                             | <b>3</b>  |
| Any 6 units of the following:      |   |           |
| <b>PT 600</b>                      | Leadership Principles and Pastoral Theology | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 606</b>                      | NT Literature and Pastoral Ministry         | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 617</b>                      | Communication Skills for Ministry           | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>PT 701</b>                      | Foundations of Expository Preaching         | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>48</b> |



## GLOBAL MINISTRIES CONCENTRATION

This concentration prepares students for the critically important work of global ministry. It is ideal for those who desire to serve as church planters overseas or for those desiring to engage in marketplace ministry. It includes the following courses in addition to the 81 core credit hours:

| COURSE                             | TITLE                                  | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
|                                    | <b>MACM Degree Core Course Credits</b> | <b>39</b> |
| <b>ME 505</b>                      | Introduction to Global Ministry        | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>ME 506</b>                      | Cross-Cultural Leadership              | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>ME 507</b>                      | Engaging in Cross-Cultural Ministry    | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |  | <b>48</b> |

## INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATION

This concentration allows a student to tailor their Master of Arts in Christian Ministry electives according to the student's interests or perceived skill gaps. This concentration allows more flexibility for those transferring in with a large number of courses not equivalent in nature to those at Shepherds Theological Seminary.

| COURSE      | TITLE                                | CREDITS   |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
|             | <b>MACM Required Common Core*</b>    | <b>39</b> |
| <b>Elec</b> | <i>Any 9 units of Open Electives</i> | <b>9</b>  |





## MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree is an entry-level academic degree. This 41-hour degree combines the highest quality of academic studies from the Resident Faculty and can be completed at the main campus or the teaching sites of Shepherds via some synchronous livestreaming. To qualify for the MTS a student must complete the required number of credits with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.

The traditional MTS format is offered on the main campus and may be available at the teaching sites. Students typically complete the required coursework in two or three years.

The MTS degree program has two purposes: (1) For the lay minister, to gain an advanced understanding of the Bible and theology in order to be qualified and able to serve the Lord more effectively in one's local church or related ministries; (2) For those preparing for vocational ministry, to prepare for further graduate studies, especially the Master of Divinity program.

Upon completion of this degree, students will be prepared to accomplish the following:

- To interpret Scriptures accurately from the perspective of historical-grammatical hermeneutics, understanding a text in relation to the teaching of Scripture in all of its parts.
- To exemplify Holy Spirit-controlled servant leadership following the model of Jesus Christ through scholarly preparation.
- To exemplify Christ-like service in both private and public contexts, or a variety of vocational and non-vocational ministry settings.
- To advance knowledge in our three main areas of focus: 1) exegetical theology 2) theology, and 3) practical theology.
- To set the foundation of biblical knowledge for future life choices.

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Transfer of up to 12 hours of credit from accredited graduate programs is allowed toward the MTS. The student must have earned a grade of C or better for the course to be considered for transfer. Transfer of credit is approved by the Vice President of Academics during matriculation. In order to maintain the discipleship component of those in the one-year cohort, any student transferring coursework into their degree is still required to sit in class and audit those courses for which they had transfer work completed.

## REQUIREMENTS

The following courses are required for the traditional Master of Theological Studies:

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| HT 500                             | Historical Theology                                     | 3         |
| PT 511                             | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship                    | 3         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| BE Elec                            | <i>Bible Exposition Elective</i>                        | 3         |
| Elec                               | <i>Open Elective</i>                                    | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>41</b> |



## MASTER OF THEOLOGY ONE-YEAR PROGRAM

An intensive one-year MTS program is offered through The WEST Institute and Shepherds Theological Seminary Texas. The 42-hour one-year program allows students to complete the required materials in twelve months while participating in intrusive discipleship, outdoor adventures, and authentic community.

## REQUIREMENTS

The following courses are required for the intensive Master of Theological Studies:

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 500                             | Research and Writing                                    | 1         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| BE 513                             | History and Geography of Israel                         | 3         |
| BE 613                             | Life of Christ  | 3         |
| HT 500                             | Historical Theology                                     | 3         |
| PT 583/4                           | Foundations of Ministry I/II                            | 2         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| Elec                               | Open Elective   | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>42</b> |

## DIPLOMA PROGRAM

### PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The STS diploma program is intended to offer seminary training to students who do not have an undergraduate degree, or to those who seek a shorter program than the MACM. Upon completion of the program, students will obtain a non-accredited diploma in recognition of their fulfilling the requirements described below. The grading scale to be used for students enrolled in the diploma program will be consistent with the scale used for accredited degree programs. Therefore, students who do not hold an undergraduate degree when they enter the diploma program may transfer credits toward an STS accredited degree program in the future. Upon request after 12 units are completed with a combined GPA of 2.5 or higher, a student may petition to switch to a master's degree program.

### THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Shepherds offers three distinct 41-hour diploma programs: The Diploma of Theological Studies (DTS), the Diploma of Christian Ministry (DCM), and the Diploma of Biblical Counseling (DBC). The Diploma of Christian Ministry and the Diploma of Biblical Counseling are only offered at the main campus in Cary, NC. To qualify for the DTS, DCM, or DBC a student must complete the required number of credits with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

Diploma students are eligible to apply for participation in the Israel Initiative. Students are required to abide by all student policies, including mandatory attendance at seminary events (i.e., chapel, convocation, graduation, etc.). Upon completion of the diploma program, graduates are considered alumni of STS and entitled to all benefits outlined in the Alumni Handbook.



## REQUIREMENTS

### DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (DTS)

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| HT 500                             | Historical Theology                                     | 3         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| BE Elec                            | Any 6 units of Bible Exposition Electives               | 6         |
| Elec                               | Open Elective   | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>41</b> |



### DIPLOMA OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (DCM)

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 511                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 619                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| ME 515                             | Apologetics, Evangelism, and Missions                   | 3         |
| PT 511                             | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship                    | 3         |
| PT 606*                            | NT Literature and Pastoral Ministry                     | 3         |
| PT 617                             | Communication Skills for Ministry                       | 3         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>41</b> |

\* Women in this concentration will take a Bible Exposition Elective in place of PT 606.



## DIPLOMA OF BIBLICAL COUNSELING (DBC)

| COURSE                             | TITLE   | CREDITS   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| RS 505                             | Research for Theological Education                      | 2         |
| BC 500                             | Foundations of Biblical Counseling                      | 3         |
| BC 507                             | Foundations of Biblical Marriage                        | 3         |
| BC 508                             | Biblical Soul Care                                      | 3         |
| BC 514                             | Counseling Skills and Methodologies                     | 3         |
| BE 501                             | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets | 3         |
| BE 502                             | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets and Writings  | 3         |
| BE 504                             | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                   | 3         |
| BE 511                             | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts                | 3         |
| BE 512                             | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation          | 3         |
| TH 501                             | Systematic Theology I                                   | 3         |
| TH 502                             | Systematic Theology II                                  | 3         |
| TH 503                             | Systematic Theology III                                 | 3         |
| TH 601                             | Systematic Theology IV                                  | 3         |
| <b>Total Required Credit Hours</b> |   | <b>41</b> |



## CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

### PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

There are some who are interested in engaging in a level of biblical knowledge gained in a seminary classroom for a specific subject. Such students may already have a conferred degree, but the degree may not have included a needed area of emphasis. Some students may not be seeking a degree but would like this specialized knowledge. With this in mind, each certificate will be custom designed to meet the desired need. The title and coursework for each certificate will be built around any area of concentration in the master's degree programs at STS with the addition of BE 504 Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics. All courses are taught at the graduate level.

### AUDIT

### PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

There are some who are interested in engaging in a level of biblical knowledge gained in a seminary classroom but are interested neither in seeking a degree or certificate nor in gaining credit for a course. These students want to enjoy the theological resources of the seminary in order to grow their relationship with God and to pursue work in the church. Our audit program meets this need.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

There are limited admission requirements for an audit student. The most important aspect is a desire to learn more about Scripture, theology, and the skills that can enhance work in the church. The seminary keeps records of these students and the classes they attend, but no grade is recorded for any work done by an audit student. Applicants for auditing a class must provide a written testimony and pastor's reference letter, in addition to the abbreviated application found on the website or in the seminary office and submit the one-time, non-refundable application fee to the seminary.

### AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

There is no specific sequence of courses required. At the discretion of the professor, the student can participate fully in the class, including taking quizzes and exams and preparing a paper. However, at the discretion of the professor, some classes may be closed to audit students.

### AUDITING OPPORTUNITY FOR SEMINARY SPOUSES

Spouses of credit students may audit a class for a fixed fee, provided that the spouse who is a credit student is enrolled in at least 2 courses during the semester in which the course is audited.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

| DEGREE  | ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS*  | CREDIT HOURS | GPA  | SPECIAL NOTES                                   |
|---|---|--------------|------|---|
| <b>STS DEGREE PROGRAMS</b>  |   |              |      |   |
| <b>Doctor of Ministry (DMin)</b>  | Master of Divinity or equivalent  | 32           | ≥3.0 | Multiple concentrations. Dissertation required. |
| <b>Master of Theology (ThM)</b>   | Master of Divinity or equivalent  | 27           | ≥3.0 | Multiple concentrations. Thesis required.       |
| <b>Traditional Master of Divinity (MDiv)</b>  | Bachelor of Arts/Science  | 93           | ≥2.5 | Multiple concentrations. Thesis optional.       |
| <b>Advanced Placement Master of Divinity (MDiv)</b>   | Bachelor of Arts/Science from an accredited Christian liberal arts college or Bible college of similar faith and practice to STS.                   | 78           | ≥2.5 | Multiple concentrations. Thesis optional.       |
| <b>Master of Arts in Biblical Literature and Languages (MABLL)</b>  | Bachelor of Arts/Science  | 77           | ≥2.5 | Thesis required.                                |
| <b>Master of Arts in Biblical Archaeology (MABA)</b>  | Bachelor of Arts/Science  | 65           | ≥2.5 | Fieldwork required. No thesis required.         |
| <b>Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS)</b>  | Bachelor of Arts/Science  | 62           | ≥2.5 | Multiple concentrations.                        |
| <b>Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM)</b>  | Bachelor of Arts/Science  | 48           | ≥2.5 | Multiple concentrations.                        |
| <b>Master of Theological Studies (MTS)</b>  | Bachelor of Arts/Science  | 42/41        | ≥2.5 | No concentrations. No thesis required.          |
| <b>DIPLOMA PROGRAMS</b>   |   |              |      |   |
| <b>Diploma of Theological Studies (DTS)</b>   | Possible entrance exam. High school diploma.  | 41           | ≥2.0 | None required.                                  |
| <b>Diploma of Christian Ministry (DCM)</b>  | Possible entrance exam. High school diploma.  | 41           | ≥2.0 | None required.                                  |
| <b>Diploma of Biblical Counseling (DBC)</b>   | Possible entrance exam. High school diploma.  | 41           | ≥2.0 | None required.                                  |
| <b>OTHER PROGRAMS</b>   |   |              |      |   |
| <b>Certificate of Advanced Studies (can be in any area of concentration among our degree programs and will be so titled).</b> | Each certificate is designed for specific areas of concentration needed to meet an educational requirement. Courses are done at the graduate level. | 15           | ≥2.0 | None required.                                  |
| <b>Credit Only</b>  | Bachelor of Arts/Science  | 0            | N/A  | N/A   |
| <b>Audit</b>  | None  | 0            | N/A  | N/A   |

\* All entrance degree requirements must be completed from accredited institutions.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Academic credit will be measured in semester hours. A semester hour represents the equivalent of at least one class period of 50 minutes per week for a minimum of 14 class periods. The grading system follows:

| GRADE     | GRADE DEFINITION   |
|-----------|--|
| <b>A</b>  | Indicates <b>exceptional mastery</b> of material plus creative resourcefulness in the use of knowledge gained.   |
| <b>B</b>  | Indicates <b>good mastery</b> of subject material plus evidence of ability to use to good advantage the knowledge gained.  |
| <b>C</b>  | Indicates average mastery of subject material plus evidence of ability to use profitably the knowledge gained.   |
| <b>D</b>  | Indicates poor mastery of subject matter. It signifies work which in quality or quantity falls below the acceptable standard. It is, however, sufficient weight to be counted in the hours for graduation if balanced by superior work in other courses. This grade is not usually accepted by another institution in student transfer.  |
| <b>F</b>  | Failure  |
| <b>I</b>  | Incomplete. Indicates that the semester's work is incomplete, and the instructor has given the student a specified extension of time to complete the course requirements. Barring extreme extenuating circumstances, no incomplete grade may be extended longer than 2 weeks after the end of the semester. Any incomplete not cleared up within this time will be replaced with an appropriate grade determined by the instructor's evaluation of the student's completed work. |
| <b>W</b>  | Withdrawal before the 10th class (before 2nd day of Winter or Summer Session classes). This is not computed in the grade point average.  |
| <b>WF</b> | Withdrawal after the 10th class (after 2nd day of Winter or Summer Session classes). If you register for a class and do not attend, you will receive a WF. This is not computed as part of the grade point average.  |
| <b>AU</b> | Class audited. The course is not taken for credit and not included in the student's grade point average.   |
| <b>CR</b> | Class is taken as a credit only status. The course is not included in the student's grade point average.   |
| <b>NC</b> | Class is taken as a credit only status. The course is not included in the student's grade point average.   |

## AUDIT PROGRAM GRADING

Seminary policy does not provide for receipt of degree credit or an official grade for any course taken as an audit. At the discretion of the professor, the student may receive an unofficial grade for work completed for the audit course. Seminary policy does not allow conversion of an "audit grade" provided by the professor to the student alone to be later converted into a grade for completing the class for degree credit.

## PLUS/MINUS GRADING SCALE

STS has implemented a plus and minus system to further delineate a student's skill in a course. The table below shows the grading scale and how the plus and minus system is reflected in the grade points.

| LETTER GRADE | PERCENTILE                   | GRADE POINTS |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| A            | 96–100                       | 4.0          |
| A-           | 94–95                        | 3.7          |
| B+           | 92–93                        | 3.3          |
| B            | 88–91                        | 3.0          |
| B-           | 86–87                        | 2.7          |
| C+           | 84–85                        | 2.3          |
| C            | 80–83                        | 2.0          |
| C-           | 78–79                        | 1.7          |
| D+           | 76–77                        | 1.3          |
| D            | 72–75                        | 1.0          |
| D-           | 70–71                        | .7           |
| F            | ≤69                          | 0            |
| CR           | Credit (No effect on GPA)    | -            |
| NC           | No Credit (No effect on GPA) | -            |

## DOCTORAL PROGRAM GRADING SCALE

| LETTER GRADE | PERCENTILE                   | GRADE POINTS |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| A            | 96–100                       | 4.0          |
| A-           | 94–95                        | 3.7          |
| B+           | 92–93                        | 3.3          |
| B            | 88–91                        | 3.0          |
| B-           | 86–87                        | 2.7          |
| C+           | 84–85                        | 2.3          |
| C            | 80–83                        | 2.0          |
| C-           | 78–79                        | 1.7          |
| F            | ≤78                          | 0            |
| CR           | Credit (No effect on GPA)    | -            |
| NC           | No Credit (No effect on GPA) | -            |

## GRADUATE HONORS POLICY

Graduate Honors will use the term Academic Distinction and will be awarded to those who meet the following criteria.

Available to capstone graduate degrees: MABLL, MDiv, ThM with a 3.900 to 4.000 CGPA. Signified by burgundy and gold cord.

1. For graduation, academic performance of Cumulative GPA will be calculated through Fall/Winter GPA prior to graduation.
2. Final acknowledgment on transcript will only pertain to those who complete the degree and still meet the academic standard.
3. Approval by the Registrar and Vice President of Academics.
4. Student must have been full-time for the bulk of the program. To ensure this, to earn Academic Distinction student must have completed the degree within 150% of time designed for full-time completion of the degree (ThM–3 years, MDiv–6 years, MABLL–4 1/2 years).
5. Continuous enrollment by term during completion of the degree.
6. No repeated courses due to the grade F for any course.



7. No disciplinary action during tenure at STS.

8. No Academic Warning or Academic Probation standing during tenure at STS.

## CLASS HOURS AND ATTENDANCE

STS defines a semester credit hour as 15 hours of instruction and 30 hours of work outside the classroom. A three-credit-hour course would then equal 135 hours of total instruction and coursework. Semester academic terms consist of 15 weeks including an academic reading week. Winter and summer modules are accomplished in 6 intensive days of course instruction with 30 days of coursework following. Regardless of the number of weeks/days of instruction, all courses will follow the same formula for rigor.

Attendance is expected at all class sessions, except in cases of emergency. In such cases, students should contact the professor prior to the class or as soon after as possible. All courses are recorded so students are required to watch what was missed. During the course of a regular semester class, a student may miss up to 3 meetings of the class. If a student misses more than three classes, he/she will receive a grade of F for the course. A student who misses more than 20% of the class will receive a grade of F.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

Shepherds Theological Seminary provides distance learning through our teaching sites and through our synchronous livestreaming courses. Part of the “Shepherds DNA” is the belief that theological education should be done in the context of local churches and under the shepherding and mentoring of faculty. In that regard, STS does not offer online programs as it is traditionally done (i.e. asynchronous access to courses from one’s home/office/etc.). All distance education at STS is intentional and faculty led, requiring substantive and regular faculty engagement. Courses delivered to teaching sites may be delivered by Shepherds Resident Faculty through livestreaming, other digital means, and faculty-taught intensives at each teaching site.

## DISTANCE EDUCATION POLICY

Shepherds Theological Seminary does realize that not all prospective students can move to the campus or extension sites to pursue their theological education. In response to this need STS has integrated a live-streaming option for classes. All degree programs will be able to be completed with this methodology with the exception of the DMin program and one-year teaching cohort based programs. However, since STS does believe theological education should be done in the context of local churches and under the shepherding and mentoring of the faculty, STS highly encourages students to travel to campus to take the intensive Winter/Summer modules and attend Shepherd’s 360 Church Leaders Conference.

Resident students who start in the fall semester will be required to be on campus for Convocation, which is on the Saturday before the Monday start of classes. Distance Students are to attend this event via Zoom.

Students who start in the winter term will be highly encouraged to attend the intensive module on campus.

New Student Orientation is mandatory for all new students starting in Fall or Spring semester, or who began in the Winter or Summer intensive courses just prior. It will be listed in your student portal as RS550. Typically, this orientation class opens at least a month prior to the first day of classes and should be done no later than week 1 of the semester.

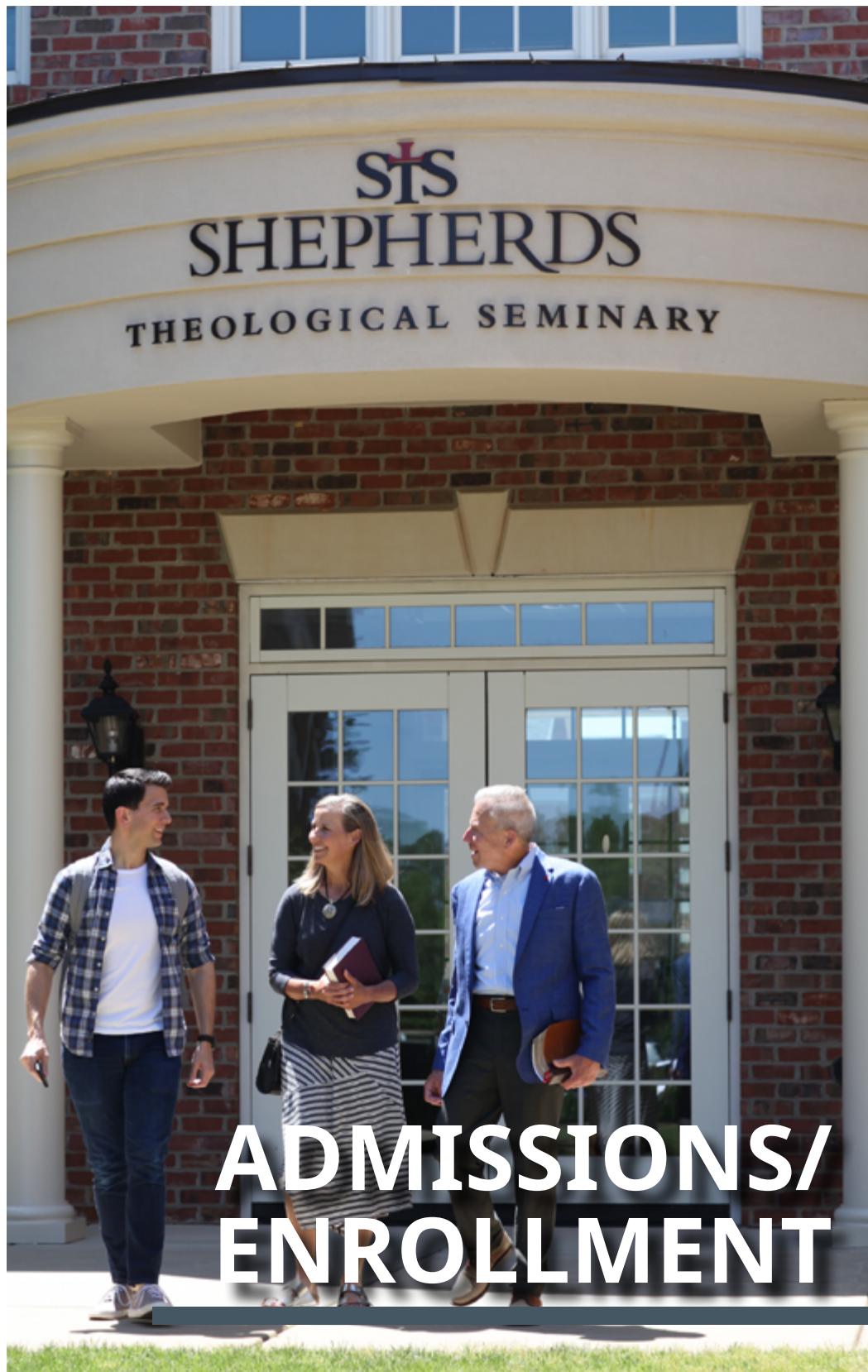
Requests to use the Zoom option for a class must be made during the registration period. A zoom request form is required only for students who live within a one-hour commute from the school. In order to be approved there are three conditions that must be met:

1. The technology for the location of the physical class is set up for livestreaming.
2. The professor is willing/capable to live-stream the class.
3. There is sufficient reasoning for why the student is livestreaming rather than attending the physical classroom. Zoom requests will be reviewed by the Registrar and the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval. Appeals of their decision will go to the full Academic Affairs committee. The committee decision is final. Livestreaming of classes is primarily designed for those who cannot attend because of physical geography. It is not meant to be a replacement for the classroom experience. Local students are highly encouraged to attend the physical classes.

Students that request to use Zoom for a class are responsible for having adequate working technology to do so. This means the system needs to be tested and working prior to each class session. Failures in technology will be recorded as an absence.

Residential students may not just assume they can choose to live-stream a class rather than attend. Prior approval may be granted by the professor for legitimate reasons.

Proctoring exams: Some classes may call for exams that need a proctor. Such requirements will be listed in the syllabus for the classes. It is the student’s responsibility to submit a responsible party able to act as the proctor (cannot be a family member). A professor or pastor is desired if possible.



## ADMISSIONS POLICIES

### DOCTORAL DEGREE ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS

A potential applicant must have a Master of Divinity degree or equivalent from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Under certain circumstances, a student may be accepted to STS under conditional or probationary admission. Notice of conditional or probationary acceptance is stated in the student's official acceptance letter. The following circumstances fall under this category (although conditional and/or probationary admission is not limited to these):

- A prospective student graduating from an unaccredited school. He or she may be accepted under probationary status if demonstrating a high aptitude for academic success and recommended highly for potential ministry. After two (2) semesters, the faculty must determine whether the student should continue with study at STS. At that time, probationary status may be removed.
- In rare cases a student may be allowed to concurrently enroll in the DMin while completing a Master of Divinity degree or equivalent. As the student is required 3 years pastoral experience this will only be done in special cases with the approval of the Doctor of Ministry program director and the Vice President of Academics.





## MASTER'S DEGREE ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS

A potential applicant must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Under certain circumstances, a student may be accepted to STS under conditional or probationary admission. Notice of conditional or probationary acceptance is stated in the student's official acceptance letter. The following circumstances fall under this category (although conditional and/or probationary admission is not limited to these):

- A prospective student who has not yet completed his or her baccalaureate degree but is in the process of doing so. The student may apply to Shepherds as long as an official transcript shows at least 112 hours of completed bachelor's degree work. No more than 20 hours of work in a master's program or 40 hours of work in the MDiv program at STS may be taken before the conditional status is removed. This is comparable to early admission.
- A prospective student graduating with a BA/BS degree with a GPA lower than 2.5. After at least 12 semester hours, the probationary status will be dropped if he or she maintains a GPA of at least 2.5 or greater.
- If an applicant for a master's level program has not earned a baccalaureate degree, the applicant can be accepted only after a rigorous examination of academic ability. Shepherds uses a point system in such instances.
- Shepherds Theological Seminary understands that students who do not attend a traditional accredited baccalaureate degree program may still have the necessary skills to be successful. STS will use a point system. A candidate must score at least 10 points from the following categories to be considered qualified for admission.

### 1. Ministry in the Church

- a. Service for at least two years in an ordained role (i.e., elder, pastor, minister) (6 points)
- b. Service for at least two years as official but unordained staff with regular Bible teaching ministry (i.e. interim pulpit supply, Director of Men's/Women's Ministry, etc.) (4 points)
- c. Service for at least one year in a volunteer role with regular Bible teaching ministry (Sunday school teacher, Bible study leader, etc.) (2 points)

### 2. College Educational Background

- a. Bachelor's degree at an unaccredited institution without an articulation agreement on file with at least a 2.5 GPA (8 points)
- b. Two or more years (60+) credits, or an associates degree at a CHEA recognized accreditor (6 points)
- c. 1–2 years (30–59) credits of any form from undergraduate studies with at least a 2.6 GPA (2 points)

### 3. Non-traditional Education

#### a. Military Service

- i. E-5 or above (3 points)
- ii. Evaluation of military training (1–3 points)

#### b. Firefighter or EMT (does not include volunteer or probationary firefighters)

- i. Lieutenant or above (3 points)

#### c. Apprenticeship (i.e., electrician, plumber, etc.)

- i. Apprentice (2 points)
- ii. Journeyman (3 points)

#### iii. Master (6 points)

#### d. Other Licensure or Certification not listed; such would be evaluated (1–2 points)

### 4. Academic Ability

- a. GRE score of at least 150 each on Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning portions and a 3.5 on the analytical writing portion (4 points)
- b. Book Review: In 6–8 pages, briefly summarize the main premise and central arguments in (faculty to select the book) (1–4 points)
- c. Has published a book or academic articles (must show examples) (1–4 points)

### 5. Other Factors

- a. Are at least 21 years of age (2 points)

## 6. Professional Judgment

- a. When an applicant does not score at least 10 points from the rubric above they have the option of enrolling in the Diploma program. After 1 year of full-time academics has been completed, a student having earned a 2.5 or higher can re-petition to enter a Master's degree program.
- b. The Admission's Department or Resident Faculty can recommend a student is prepared for master's level work. The individual must submit a petition in writing with details as to the justification to the Vice President of Academics for approval. The Vice President of Academics will consult with the Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness to make a determination.

7. All those who are allowed to enter directly into a Master's level program without having a BA degree regardless of the points outcome will be on Academic Probation for the first 12 units. Probation will be removed with a GPA of 2.5 or greater.\*

*\* An applicant who does not meet any of the above examples may be admitted into the Diploma program. Such students must maintain a 2.5 GPA over twelve (12) credit hours of study before being evaluated to enter a master's program.*

## DIPLOMA PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE

Applicants seeking entry to the diploma programs do not need college credit, but they must have received a high school diploma or its equivalent and must demonstrate applicable ministry experience and academic ability.

## NON-DEGREE (CREDIT-ONLY) STATUS ACCEPTANCE

A student may apply for non-degree admission, provided that he or she received a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 2.0. Moreover, the student may take a maximum of 40 hours and must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0. If the student desires to enter a degree program at STS, he or she must submit an updated application to begin the process. Acceptance as a non-degree (credit-only) student does not guarantee acceptance into a master's level program at STS. Credit-only students are not eligible for Title IV benefits.

## ADVANCED STANDING ACCEPTANCE

A prospective student who has completed Bible or biblical language classes at a Bible college may request advanced standing as part of the admissions process. This must be done in writing to the registrar. A student who receives advanced standing from the registrar does not receive credit. Rather, he or she may replace basic core classes with advanced electives (preferably within the same area of study). A student requesting advanced standing may be asked to take an exam to demonstrate appropriate knowledge of the subject.

# ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

## DOCTORAL/MASTER'S/DIPLOMA DEGREES

All applicants must submit a completed seminary application. There is an online application available at [www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu). The applicant can either fill out the online application or download the PDF and submit a physical application. The application process is as follows:

- Complete the entire online application: <https://shepherds.edu/apply-now/> (International students must complete the designated international online application). There are four different options. The first is for those applying to the Doctor of Ministry program. All other master's degree or diploma students complete the master's degree application. All international students will complete the application for them. Those that just want to audit a course complete the audit application.
- Submit a \$65 nonrefundable application fee.
- Request transcript(s) using the request form(s) for all academic work completed. International students may be required to have foreign academic work evaluated for U.S. equivalency. Diploma Program applicants do need to submit high school transcripts.
- Provide three (3) letters of recommendation: pastoral, professional, personal. The pastoral reference should come from a pastor of the local Christian church where you attend. Those who are senior pastors must get a pastoral colleague to complete the reference. The professional reference should come from a professor or supervisor where you have been a student or are employed. The personal reference should come from a friend. Each reference should have known you for longer than one (1) year and not be a relative. If for some reason you cannot meet one of these requirements, contact the Admissions Department for possible alternatives.
- Provide a letter from your spouse stating their support if married. Doctoral students also need a church leadership support letter.
- Master's degree and diploma students must submit (2) essays. The first is a biographical testimony. The second is your purpose for seminary and potential for ministry. Each should be 1–2 pages. Doctoral students must submit in place of these two essays a personal ministry résumé. This résumé should be 5–10 pages.
- Make arrangements to take TOEFL, Duolingo, or IELTS (if English is not your native or birth language). Applicants must score 85 or higher overall, and 20 or higher in each skill sub-category for the TOEFL, a 105 overall and in each section on the Duolingo language exam, or a 6.5 on the IELTS.
- Doctoral students only must also complete an interview with the Doctor of Ministry Program Director.

All students must complete the background check through the links provided by the Admissions Department during the application process.

A student can enroll in courses once the application process is completed and the student is officially accepted into the seminary.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A potential student from another country who holds a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an approved college or university may study at Shepherds Theological Seminary under a nonimmigrant F1 status. In addition to the above admission procedures and policies governing F1 students given by the U.S. government, the following requirements are maintained by STS:

- A student whose native language is not English must take a recognized English proficiency test. These include:
  - » The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), administered by the Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 955, Princeton, New Jersey 08540–6151, U.S.A. The applicant must score 85 or higher overall, and 20 or higher in each sub-category.
  - » Duolingo English Test. This online exam allows candidates to prove English language proficiency from their personal computer. Applicants must score a 105 overall and at least 105 in each content area.
  - » The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is an English language test for study, migration, or work. Applicants must score a 6.5 or greater.

Results are to be sent to the Shepherds Theological Seminary Admissions Office.

- A reference from a pastor, mission board, or missionary known to the seminary.
- An affidavit of support is required from a legal resident of the United States affirming the support of the applicant while attending seminary in the United States.
- A detailed account is required explaining how the applicant intends to meet his seminary and living expenses during his studies. This includes providing STS with documented bank records.
- STS may request a student use a third party in evaluating the credibility of transcripts from international or unaccredited schools. STS recommends World Education Services ([www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)).
- The applicant must provide documentation as outlined in the STS International Student Policies.

## AUDIT STUDENTS

All applicants who audit a course must submit the Application for Audit accompanied by a written testimony, a letter of recommendation from the applicant's pastor, and a onetime, nonrefundable application fee of \$65 payable to Shepherds Theological Seminary. Applications are available from the Admissions Office or can be completed from our website: <https://shepherds.edu/apply-now/>.

## SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED FORMS

Return all forms (with the necessary application fee) to:

Admissions Office  
Shepherds Theological Seminary  
6051 Tryon Road,  
Cary, NC 27518

You can also contact the seminary:

**Email:** [admissions@shepherds.edu](mailto:admissions@shepherds.edu)

**Phone:** 919-573-5350 or 800-672-3060

**Fax:** 919-573-1438



## PROBATION, WITHDRAWAL, AND READMISSION

### PROBATION

A student at STS who drops below a 2.0 GPA or who exhibits behavior inconsistent with the ethical standards of the seminary may be placed on probationary status. If the student demonstrates growth in academic or spiritual areas within a two-semester period, this status may be dropped with the approval of the faculty. Otherwise, the student may be removed from the seminary. A student on probation is monitored by the Vice President of Academic Affairs. When the student comes into compliance, the Vice President recommends to the Faculty Council that the student be removed from probation and considered in good standing.

### WITHDRAWAL FROM SEMINARY

If a student desires to withdraw officially from STS, in order to remain in good standing with the school, he or she must complete the Withdrawal form available on the website or from the Registrar's office. After withdrawing, the student must reapply in order to take classes at STS again.

### ATTENDANCE AT THE SEMINARY

Students should notify the Registrar's Office if they do not intend to enroll in courses for more than four consecutive terms (24 months). Those students who do not enroll in courses for more than four consecutive terms are considered officially withdrawn from STS. Students who have officially withdrawn from STS or who have otherwise become inactive for more than four consecutive terms may return to classes by requesting readmission.

### READMISSION

At least two circumstances will require a student to reapply to the seminary:

1. A student applies and is accepted but matriculation is delayed beyond two years.
2. A student fails to enroll in a course for two years.

## CLASS ENROLLMENT

### ENROLLING IN A CLASS

After being admitted, a student is given access to the seminary's online database and communication system (Populi) and is thereby able to enroll in classes. Each semester, the class schedule is published on the website ([www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu)), in Populi, and in the STS office. A student may register and pay online through Populi. It is highly advised that a student meet with their advisor to ensure the classes they choose apply to their degree program. A student must meet with the Director of Mentoring before enrolling in an internship or apprenticeship course. A student will be able to access their courses in Canvas (including RS550) only after registering for those classes in Populi.

### CLASS TEXTBOOKS

It is the student's responsibility to obtain the necessary textbooks from Internet bookstores or local Christian bookstores, as the seminary does not maintain a bookstore. Each course syllabus in Populi or Canvas lists the required and recommended textbooks for the course. It is required that students purchase textbooks before the class begins. The Paul Jackson Library holds a copy of all required texts on reserve for reading in the library.

### REPEATING COURSE WORK

Courses in which a grade of D or lower was earned can be repeated for credit in an effort to gain a better understanding of the material presented. The failing grade remains on the transcript but only the higher grade of the two will be calculated into the grade point average. A student may repeat a course for audit for his own benefit.

### WITHDRAWING FROM CLASS

A student who chooses to drop one or more classes for which he has registered, whether he has attended them or not, must officially withdraw by completing the "Request to Withdraw from Class" form that is available from the Registrar's Office or can be downloaded from the website. This is the same for both resident students and students electing the distance learning synchronous livestreaming option.

A student who withdraws before the 10th class (before the 2nd class if a Winter/Summer session) receives a W (withdraw); this is not computed in the grade point average. Withdrawing after the 10th class (after the 2nd class if a Winter/Summer session) results in a grade of WF (withdraw fail); this is not computed in the grade point average.

Note: Not showing up for class is not sufficient to drop the class. Failure to withdraw officially from a class by completing the “Request to Withdraw from Class” form (<https://shepherds.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Class-Withdrawal-Form.pdf>) will result in a WF (withdraw fail) on the student’s transcript even though the student may never have attended the class. A student who does not withdraw officially will not be entitled to any refund. (See the “Financial Information” section for refund information.)

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The qualitative measure of progress is the student’s cumulative GPA. The quantitative measure of progress includes (1) the comparison of the total number of semester hours successfully completed; and (2) comparison of the total number of hours attempted to the published length of the academic program. All of these calculations include transfer hours. A GPA of 2.5 must be maintained for all degree programs and 2.0 for diploma programs.

## EXTENSIONS

When a semester’s work is incomplete, students may request from the professor a specified extension of time to complete the course requirements. Students must complete the Application for Extension (<https://shepherds.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Application-for-Extension-Form.pdf>), obtain the appropriate signatures prior to the end of the course, and (if applicable) pay the extension fee. No extension may be longer than 2 weeks from the end of the semester. Barring extreme extenuating circumstances, any extension not resolved within this time will be replaced with an appropriate grade as determined by the instructor’s evaluation of the student’s completed work.

## CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS

No information from a student’s records, in a personally identifiable form, will be conveyed to any other party, agency, or organization other than STS officials, teachers, or other schools to which the student may wish to transfer, or authorized federal agencies, and, in connection with application or receipt of financial aid, without first obtaining written consent of the student. Students only have the right of access to their personal academic records, correspondence with STS, and any other material in which they have been directly involved in the procurement of said material. To release any information to anyone other than the student, a Student Information Release Form must be on file. This is true even for the spouse.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that applies to educational agencies and institutions that receive funding under a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The statute is found at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the department’s regulations are found at 34 CFR Part 99.

Under FERPA, schools must generally afford students who are 18 years or over or attending a postsecondary institution:

- Access to their education records.
- An opportunity to seek to have the records amended.
- Some control over the disclosure of information from the records.

A more detailed explanation of each of these points is available in the Student Handbook, Section 8.14, Records Security, Management, and Destruction Policy and on the seminary website (<https://shepherds.edu/policies-disclosures/>).





## TUITION AND FEES

Shepherds Theological Seminary offers students a quality seminary education at reasonable rates. Tuition charges paid by students cover less than one-third of the cost of normal operating expenses. The continuing support of individuals and churches, particularly the members of The Shepherd's Church, in providing financial gifts and facilities, enables STS to offer this exceptional professional preparation in ministry at a modest cost. Shepherds maintains its tuition below the average tuition for comparable sized seminaries that are members of the Association of Theological Schools. However, tuition and fees are subject to change in the fall of any academic year.

### TUITION

#### FULL-TIME STATUS

The full-time rate will be given to any student taking 9 or more hours, regardless of the program. A student's status as full-time or part-time is based upon the hours taken during the current semester (Fall/Spring). Thus, hours for modules are not counted toward this total. The tuition for a module (Winter/Summer) is at the part-time rate. Also, hours for distance learning (livestreaming) courses count towards the credit hour total for the semester or module in which they were taken.

#### TUITION COSTS

| STUDENT CATEGORY                               | TUITION (\$) |
|--|--------------|
| Full-time student (9+ hours) per semester hour | 430          |
| Part-time student (<9 hours) per semester hour | 455          |
| Winter and Summer Modules                      | 430          |
| DMin cost per semester hour                    | 570          |
| Audit student tuition per semester hour        | 75           |

## FEES

| FEE TYPE  | FEE (\$)   |
|---|------------|
| <b>APPLICATION FEES FOR ALL STUDENTS</b>  |            |
| One-time Application Fee (non-refundable)   | <b>65</b>  |
| <b>GRADUATION FEES</b>  |            |
| Graduation Fee  | <b>330</b> |
| <b>OTHER FEES</b>   |            |
| Student Services Fee  | <b>350</b> |
| New Student Orientation Fee   | <b>35</b>  |
| LOGOS Bible Technology Fee  | <b>345</b> |
| Add/Drop fee, if registering for classes or dropping classes after the open registration period   | <b>30</b>  |
| Late Tuition Payment Fee per month  | <b>30</b>  |
| WEST Institute & Texas Program Fee*   | <b>760</b> |
| WEST Institute & Texas Site Fee per course*   | <b>330</b> |
| WEST Institute & Texas Site Fee*  | <b>105</b> |
| Doctoral Library Development Fee per semester   | <b>315</b> |
| Doctoral Dissertation/Research Project Continuation Fee   | <b>630</b> |
| * For detailed breakdown of teaching site fees please visit <a href="http://shepherds.edu">shepherds.edu</a> or contact a teaching site director. |            |

## PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

All tuition, fees, and charges are due and expected to be paid on the first day of each semester. Any tuition that is past due will incur a \$25 per month charge for each month that tuition remains unpaid. Students will not be allowed to register for a new semester with an unpaid balance. Transcripts and diplomas will also be withheld. Your life, including how you pay your bills, reflects on your Christian testimony. “Give everyone what you owe him: ‘If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding.’” Romans 13:7–8a (NIV). Tuition does not cover all the seminary expenses; gifts from interested individuals and churches help meet the seminary’s operating expenses, so your prompt payment of bills is important.

You can pay your tuition by mail, bring a check to the office, or pay online through Populi when you are invoiced by the seminary.

*Note: If your tuition is being paid by another person or organization, it is your responsibility to make sure your tuition is paid on time to avoid penalties. In some cases, this may mean you will have to pay the tuition balance and be reimbursed by your funding source.*

## EXTENDED PAYMENT PLAN

If you are unable to pay your entire semester charges at the start of class, you may use the Extended Payment Plan. If you choose this plan, your semester tuition charges are paid over a four-month period, beginning in August, and ending in November for the fall semester, and beginning in January and ending in April for the spring semester. Although no interest is charged in this plan, there is a \$25 per semester setup fee and a charge of \$25 for each payment received after its due date. Those in the one-year MTS degree program are able to do a six-month extended payment plan each semester. You must contact the Bursar if you wish to set up this extended payment plan.

| EXTENDED PAYMENT PLAN CHARGES                                    | FEE (\$)  |
|--|-----------|
| Setup Fee per semester   | <b>25</b> |
| Late Payment Fee per month (payments due the first of the month) | <b>30</b> |

## REFUND POLICY

If you choose to drop one or more classes for which you are registered, whether you have attended them or not, you must officially withdraw by completing the “Request to Withdraw from Class” form which is available from the Registrar’s Office and online. Refunds of tuition payments are based upon the week that the official withdrawal form is signed by the Registrar’s Office, not on the time you stop attending the class. The application fee is nonrefundable. Simply failing to attend class is not sufficient to drop the class and get a refund. Failure to withdraw officially from a class will result in a WF (withdraw fail) on the student’s transcript, even though the student may never have attended the class. A student who does not withdraw officially will not be entitled to any refund. A student will not receive a refund of tuition payments if a degree credit class is changed to an audit class.

| <b>% OF TUITION REFUNDED</b>                                 |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>SEMESTER SESSION REFUNDS</b>                              |            |
| After 1st class, before 2nd class                            | <b>100</b> |
| After 2nd class, before 3rd class                            | <b>90</b>  |
| After 3rd class, before 4th class                            | <b>80</b>  |
| After 4th class, before 5th class                            | <b>70</b>  |
| After 5th class, before 6th class                            | <b>60</b>  |
| After 6th class, before 7th class                            | <b>50</b>  |
| After 7th class  | <b>0</b>   |
| <b>WINTER/SUMMER SESSION/TEACHING SITE INTENSIVE REFUNDS</b> |            |
| After 1st class, before 2nd class                            | <b>100</b> |
| After 2nd class, before 3rd class                            | <b>50</b>  |
| After 3rd class  | <b>0</b>   |

## SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, LOANS, DISCOUNTS, MILITARY BENEFITS

Scholarships and tuition grants come through the endowment funds and sacrificial gifts provided by friends of STS. A limited number of scholarships are available only for tuition expenses of degree-track, credit students. Traditional degree-seeking students can begin applying for awards once they have completed a full academic year at STS; one-year students can apply after completing their first semester. These scholarships are given on the basis of academic excellence, commitment to ministry, and financial need. Scholarship funding is rarely available for students in their first year at STS. The amount and number of scholarships awarded is dependent on the size of the scholarship fund. More information can be found here: <https://shepherds.edu/financial-aid/scholarships>.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### ART WILLIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is made to help with tuition for deserving students seeking a Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree in Church Ministry who struggle financially to conduct their studies. It is in memory of Art Willis, who was blessed by the Lord, but unable to complete Bible college because of severe financial restrictions.

#### BEAUTIFUL FEET SCHOLARSHIP IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

This scholarship was established to help a full-time student(s) who is preparing for full-time pastoral ministry upon graduation.

#### CARSON AND MOEINE WIGGINS PASTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

The family of Carson and Moeine Wiggins desire to honor their lives of dedicated service to the Lord by providing financial and spiritual encouragement to a student at Shepherds who is both married and preparing for pastoral ministry. Carson, himself the recipient of a scholarship while in grad school, served the Lord faithfully as a pastor for many years.

#### ELIZABETH FITCH SCHOLARSHIP FOR FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

This scholarship grant is made available to alleviate the financial burden for a degree-seeking student who has: one or more children with developmental, physical, or cognitive disabilities; or one or more live-in family members with developmental, physical, or cognitive disabilities.

#### EPPERSON FAMILY PASTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

To cover the tuition needs of an active Pastor who desires to complete his studies in any of our programs, one who is willing to continue his pastoral ministry while at the same time give ample time to finishing a degree at Shepherds Theological Seminary. This scholarship requires continuous enrollment.

#### JAMES F. LANGLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In loving memory of James F. Langley, a Christian gentleman, faithful husband, and loving father by which this scholarship is made available to help with the tuition needs of a student who demonstrates a financial need, is seeking a vocation of full-time ministry upon graduation and displays the values of consistent Christian character.

#### JANE LASSITER BAKER AND EMMA LEE HUGGETT SCHOLARSHIP

It is the desire of Paul W. Baker Jr. and Deborah H. Baker to honor the lives of Jane Lassiter Baker and Emma Lee Huggett by providing financial and spiritual encouragement for students at Shepherds who are committed to vocational Christian ministry and service.

#### LARRY PETTEGREW SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose of the Larry Pettegrew Scholarship is to annually recognize, celebrate and facilitate the academic efforts at STS of one selected student who has demonstrated commitment and proficiency in theological studies, and thus to honor the seminal and enduring contribution of Dr. Larry Pettegrew to Shepherds Theological Seminary.

#### PAUL K. JACKSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is awarded to a student who shows a heart for a teaching ministry. The namesake of this scholarship, Paul K. Jackson, had a heart for teaching and was the first professor of Old and New Testaments at the seminary, as well as Pastor of Adult Ministries at The Shepherd's Church.

#### TULLY M. FLETCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Tully M. Fletcher memorial scholarship is awarded to a student who has best demonstrated a spirit of compassion for the lost by the habitual practice of personal or church group evangelism. The namesake of this scholarship, Tully M. Fletcher III, had an intense interest in winning souls.



## GRANTS

### SHEPHERDS TUITION GRANT-IN-AID FUND

Before each main semester (August and January), students may apply for benefits from the Student Tuition Grant-in-Aid Fund. These funds, which are received from private donors to the seminary, are disbursed by the Scholarship Committee to deserving students who apply. Students should apply for these benefits each term through the seminary office.

### HOME CHURCH ASSISTANCE

Assistance from your home church does more than help meet the budget—it provides accountability for the student and a prayer commitment by the church. Consequently, students are encouraged to discuss financial assistance possibilities with their pastor and church leaders.

### FEDERAL GRANTS AND LOANS

STS has approval from the Department of Education to participate in Title IV federal direct loans. This approval allows students to defer previously received federal student loans. Please call the seminary office if you have questions regarding federal grants and loans.

## DISCOUNTS

STS also wants to help support those who are advancing the cause of Christ in vocational ministry. The following discounts can be petitioned for but must be approved by the Director of Advancement. Discounts are only a percentage off the tuition costs and not any fees associated with the program.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 10%     | Member of a church which includes the seminary in its yearly budget.   |
| 10%     | Full-time Ministry worker not under scholarship.   |
| 10%     | Member of The Shepherd's Church.   |
| 25%     | Active Duty military.  |
| 25–50%* | An active missionary on the mission field, back from the field on a furlough, on deputation, or finished deputation school. You must have been appointed by a recognized mission/ministry agency. STS defines missionary as an individual required to raise support for the majority of your salary. |

It must be understood that discounts are not stackable and you may only claim one discount per semester. Discounts may not be included if a student is already receiving a scholarship or a Shepherds tuition grant-in-aid.

\* Percentage of discount is determined by enrollment numbers.

## MILITARY AND VETERANS BENEFITS

STS is approved in North Carolina, Wyoming, and Texas to certify students who are eligible to receive benefits through the military and Veterans Affairs. Certification takes place through the Registrar's office.

Shepherds Theological Seminary will inquire about each veteran's previous education and training, and request transcripts from all prior institutions, including military training, traditional college coursework, and vocational training. Previous transcripts will be evaluated and credit will be granted, as appropriate. The student will be made aware of final decisions regarding the granting of credit.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), this school adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. This school will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment.
- Assess a late penalty fee.
- Require student to secure alternative or additional funding.
- Deny their access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Provide necessary documentation showing eligibility for VA benefits (ie., Certificate of Eligibility).
- Provide written request to be certified.
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies.

## VERIFICATION OF TITLE IV ELIGIBILITY AND RETURN OF FUNDS

Verification is the process of confirming the accuracy of student reported data on financial aid applications. The Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) verifies those applicants identified by the Department of Education (DOE). In addition, the FAA may select a student for verification if there is a discrepancy or a condition that is unusual and warrants investigation. Students are notified of the results of verification by receipt of an award letter. Because the Financial Aid Office (FAO) is liable for disbursements made prior to verification, the FAO policy does not allow interim disbursements. Students must complete the verification process before aid is awarded or disbursed.

Title IV Funds are awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of the Title IV disbursement.

The Financial Aid Office is required by federal statute to recalculate federal financial aid eligibility for students who withdraw, drop out, are dismissed, or take a leave of absence prior to completing 60% of a payment period or term. The federal Title IV financial aid programs must be recalculated in these situations. The calculation must be performed even if the student has completed 60% of the payment period to show that the school determined that the student withdrew. After calculation, funds must be returned to the federal government within 45 days.

For further details on verification and return of Title IV funds, see the Student Handbook available at [www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu).



## TITLE IX ADMINISTRATION

Shepherds Theological Seminary is a Christ-centered institution of higher education which values the biblical principles of love and mutual respect. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the seminary takes appropriate steps to create and maintain an environment that allows for spiritual growth, work, and study free of all forms of sexual misconduct and to ensure compliance with regulations set forth in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. As stated in the Title IX Resource Guide:

*Title IX prohibits sex-based harassment by peers, employees, or third parties that is sufficiently serious to deny or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education programs and activities, (i.e. creates a hostile environment).*

In compliance with federal law, including the Provision of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Shepherds Theological Seminary does not illegally discriminate against persons on the basis of race, religion, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in the administration of educational policies, programs, or activities, its admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other seminary administered employment. The school maintains its Christ-centered, biblically based Christian character, but does not discriminate on the basis of religion, except to the extent that applicable law respects its right to act in furtherance of its religious objective.

Furthermore, Shepherds has strict sexual harassment policies against the following types of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, hostile environment caused by sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and the like.

This policy applies to all enrolled students (full-time or part-time, credit or audit), employees (full-time, part-time, Resident Faculty, adjunct faculty, and staff), volunteers, and third parties who associate with the seminary either on the main campus in Cary, NC, or at designated teaching sites. This policy applies to conduct which occurs on or off seminary grounds.

Questions regarding Shepherds' Title IX policies and its compliance with Title IX regulations may be directed to Pam Gerace, Title IX Coordinator: 6051 Tryon Rd., Cary, NC; 919-573-5350.

## SUPPORTING STS

We at STS are humbled that so many have given so much. The dynamic growth in this seminary is all attributed to God, who has provided dozens of volunteers, dedicated staff, and hardworking students, as well as hundreds of donors to make this ministry possible. When you give to STS, you can be sure that we are carefully allocating resources efficiently and effectively to reach our goal of “Equipping Servant Leaders for Life.” For the many around the world who are blessed by your gifts, we thank you. Your gifts are vital to the success of Shepherds Theological Seminary.

*Fact: Student annual tuition covers less than 30% of the total seminary cost of preparing students for their ministry field.*

We make a concerted effort to keep our tuition low so students can afford to study and graduate without a large debt weighing them down. Your generous gifts allow for the fulfillment of President Davey’s vision “to invest in the lives of our seminary students, equipping them to not only know the Word of God, but to communicate the Word of God through lives passionately committed to Jesus Christ!”

Shepherds has organized its giving priorities under five categories. Prayerfully consider assisting us in meeting our critical needs.

- **STS Annual Fund:** Supports the operating budget and subsidizes student tuition and services. It serves as the most effective way to help a student because every dollar to the annual fund is a dollar toward a student’s overall education costs, keeping tuition as low as possible.
- **Endowment Fund:** This fund is the financial foundation by which the entire seminary finds stability. This fund reduces the cost of tuition for all students and provides for operating expenses.
- **Planned Giving:** Planned giving enables individuals to make larger gifts to charitable organizations than would be possible from their ordinary income. It is a major gift made throughout the donor’s life or at death as part of a donor’s estate planning. These can include gifts of equity, life insurance, real estate, personal property, or cash. The benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive for both the donor and the charity.
- **Memorial Funds:** Gifts to named and general memorials or scholarships give us the ability to provide much needed assistance to students and the mission of Shepherds.
- **Scholarships and Grants:** These are gifts giving directly to the students based on financial need or according to the design of the scholarship to accomplish specific educational purposes.

We have two giving partnerships, called Shepherds Partners and The Association of Friends, which are a collaborative relationship of business partners, Christian individuals who desire to impact the world for Christ by sharing in the responsibility to train qualified ministers of God’s Word. Please contact the Office of Advancement if you are interested at 919-573-1559.

## WAYS TO GIVE

Your participation in the life of Shepherds is welcome. Your investment in the seminary, regardless of size, is important to the mission of training servant leaders for life and ministry through the church. A gift from you can come in many forms and in addition to supporting Shepherds and advancing the cause of Christ, may provide tax and estate benefit to you.

- **Online:** You can give online through a secure site. Your giving to Shepherds will have long term impact for Christ and His Church ([www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu)).
- **Check/Money Order:** Make checks payable to “Shepherds Theological Seminary.”
- **Direct Deposit:** You can give to Shepherds by an electronic draw from your checking or savings account. This can be done on a month to month basis or as a one-time gift.
- **Corporate Matching Gifts:** You can double or triple the value of your gift by participating in a corporate matching program.
- **Gift-in-Kind Stocks and Real Property:** You can convey these to Shepherds as a current gift or a planned gift. Through a gift like a home, farm, commercial property, or other real property to Shepherds, you can avoid capital gains taxes and receive a charitable income tax deduction.
- **Planned Gift:** Gifts like those above provide resources for Shepherds today, whereas deferred gifts, estate plans, bequests, wills, trusts, etc., ensure our future and make Shepherds a vital part of your Christian legacy. They can also help in minimizing your estate taxes. Legal help can be recommended by Ewart Hodgins, the Chief Financial Officer, at 919-573-1584.

## CONTRIBUTE TO SHEPHERDS

To contribute to STS please go to: <https://shepherds.edu/giving/>

*We are convinced that the motivation for all giving comes in direct response to God’s leading and wise financial planning. At STS, we are deeply thankful for all those who join us in this labor as partners and investors. Together we maintain our mission and we launch another generation of servant leaders into the mission fields of the world. Without your participation, we would be unable to complete this.*



# STUDENT LIFE

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

### INTRODUCTION

Shepherds Theological Seminary, as an institution dedicated to equipping servant leaders for life and ministry, necessarily requires the highest ethical standards for every one of us connected with it, whether a student, faculty member, or staff member. All of us come under the clear teachings of Scripture to live as mature Christians under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. On the one hand, we are taught to be walking in the Spirit, and live so that the Holy Spirit is able to produce His fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). On the other hand, the works of the flesh have no place in the lives of us who are striving to please Christ and glorify God: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these (Galatians 5:19–21).

### CHRIST-LIKE BEHAVIOR

Our conviction is that STS belongs to Jesus Christ. We believe that all faculty members, staff members, and students (whether preparing for ministry in counseling, the pastorate, missions, or education) should seek to imitate our Lord's model of servant leadership. This includes:

- Maintaining Christ-like attitudes and behavior toward those in our secular and Christian communities, including respect, courtesy, humility, and caring (Ephesians 5:15–17; Colossians 4:5–6).
- Maintaining conduct consistent with biblical principles, including refraining from gossip, cheating, stealing, vulgarity, dishonesty, slander, fraud, and profanity (Ephesians 4:25–32; 5:3–4).
- Refraining from improper and pornographic involvement with the print, internet, and broadcast media that are dangerous to one's life of godliness (Romans 12:1–2; James 1:21; Galatians 5:22–23).
- Refraining from all types of illegal behavior, from enslavement to any activity or habit (1 Corinthians 6:12), and from any activity that would cause a weaker brother to stumble (Romans 14).
- Upholding with priority one's family roles and responsibilities as detailed in the Scriptures (Ephesians 5:22–33; 6:1–4).
- Maintaining a biblical standard of sexual morality, as detailed in the following statement.

## PERSONAL SEXUAL PURITY STATEMENT

This statement is the logical outworking of doctrinal beliefs as stated in the “Moral Issues” section of the Doctrinal Statement in this Catalog. STS believes it is important that it be clear that faculty, students, and staff members are to uphold the highest standards of biblical purity in their interpersonal relationships. Without a clear understanding of sexual identity and consistent practice of sexual purity by these, STS cannot be an effective agent of the healing power of Jesus Christ to the advocates of sexual sin in our world.

We believe that God’s design for the gift of sexuality is that it is to be exercised and enjoyed only within the covenant relationship of marriage between one man and one woman. It is God’s intention that those who enter marriage shall seek, in mutual love and respect, to live, one man and one woman, in Christian fidelity as long as both shall live (Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Mark 10:9; Luke 16:18).

We believe God has expressly condemned sexual intercourse outside of the marriage covenant. This prohibition applies to married persons committing adultery, unmarried heterosexual relationships, and any form of homosexual relationship. It is God’s expectation that the unmarried shall live pure and celibate lives, refraining from sexual intimacy (Leviticus 18:22; Deuteronomy 23:17; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

Because of the serious consequences unrepentant sexual sin can have on ministry, faculty, students, and staff members who disagree with this policy or who do not conform their conduct to it are expected to resign their relationship with STS or they will be dismissed.

## PERMANENCE OF MARRIAGE

We believe that Scripture teaches us that marriage should be a permanent relationship and does not condone divorce as a desirable way of solving marital differences. A student who is experiencing marital difficulties is encouraged to meet with the Vice President of Academics or a faculty member for counsel immediately. If divorce becomes probable, the student must notify the Vice President of Academics. The student may be asked to drop out of school for a period of time to work on resolution and/or reconciliation.

Divorce does not necessarily bar a student from attending or graduating from Shepherds, although it may limit ministry recommendations and placement.

## DRESS CODE

The appearance of STS students should reflect modesty and normally means shirts with collars and long pants for men, and skirts or pants for women. No shorts or tank tops please. Exceptions can be made when it is a hardship to change from special work clothes prior to class.

## CLASSROOM DECORUM

Students are expected to address faculty with traditional classroom respect that recognizes their academic standing. They are to be addressed as “Doctor,” “Professor,” “Mister,” “Miss,” or “Mrs.”

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND MISCONDUCT

STS will not tolerate sexual harassment or misconduct of any sort. This policy includes the following types of sexual misconduct: sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, hostile environment, sexual violence/assault, dating violence, and stalking.

This policy applies to all applicants for admission or employment, enrolled students (full-time or part-time, credit or audit), employees (full-time, part-time, Resident Faculty, adjunct faculty, and staff), volunteers, and third parties who associate with the seminary either on the main campus in Cary, NC, or at designated teaching sites.

This policy applies to conduct occurring within the context of providing an educational program or activity, either on or off seminary grounds.

Any sexual harassment or misconduct should be reported immediately to Susan McAllister, Title IX Coordinator: 6051 Tryon Rd., Cary, NC; 919-573-5350.

## CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

All STS students must comply with the seminary’s academic dishonesty policy below (adapted from “Academic Dishonesty,” The Masters University, Santa Clarita, CA).

*“He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good...”* (Ephesians 4:28).

Seminary education is based upon certain shared values concerning the nature of learning and the pursuit of knowledge. One of the most basic assumptions is the respect for intellectual property and right of recognition for this pursuit of knowledge. Violation of this basic assumption includes such practices as cheating, plagiarism, abuse of technology, falsification of research data, unapproved collaborative research, and other deceptive academic practices.

Sometimes these abuses are unintentional, but much intentional abuse is found in higher educational institutions, even Christian seminaries.

## POLICY GUIDELINES

In an attempt to clarify the problem and offer consequences for participation in such activities, the following materials are offered as both a warning and as a guideline to avoid unconscious participation in questionable practices. Of course, questions regarding the appropriateness of any debatable activity should be cleared in advance with an instructor. Certainly, students preparing for the Lord's work need to make sure that truth and honesty pervade their lives.

### DEFINITIONS

- **Plagiarize**—to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own; to use someone else's material without crediting the source (see Merriam-Webster Dictionary online).
- **Cheat**—to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to violate rules of honesty as on an examination (see Merriam-Webster Dictionary online).

## AI POLICY

Shepherds Theological Seminary acknowledges the potential and perils of Artificial Intelligence (AI). We recognize that rejecting any use of AI technology may be shortsighted. But we also recognize that uncritical acceptance of new technology is not wise. Therefore, we strive for a balanced approach, recognizing its potential benefits, while seeking to avoid the potential dangers. To clarify our stance on the use of AI in the seminary, we have developed the following statements of acceptable and unacceptable use.

### UNACCEPTABLE USES OF AI

- **Using AI as Primary or Secondary Source Material**—While this use is not immoral, it is problematic. AI is woefully inadequate as an academic source. It will give you wrong answers and sometimes entirely fabricated ones, lacking a consistent verification method.
- **Use of AI to Revise Published Material to Evade Plagiarism Checks**—This use of AI circumvents the learning process by plagiarizing another's work in a way that is difficult to detect. To use AI for this purpose is academically dishonest and morally unacceptable.
- **Using AI to Rewrite Your Work**—This is not an immoral use of AI; however, it circumvents a critical part of the learning process. The seminary curriculum is, in part, designed to aid students in honing their ability to craft arguments clearly and succinctly. Such learning is inhibited by this uncritical use of AI. More purposeful uses of AI to aid in refining one's written work are acceptable as noted below.

## ACCEPTABLE USES OF AI

- **Using AI as a Grammar or Logical Check on Written Work**—Using AI to identify where your work could be clearer can be a part of the educational process. With this use, AI is rightly compared to the friend you asked to look over your paper for grammatical errors or logical leaps. The line between unacceptable and acceptable use of AI for revision is this: Are you learning in the process of revising, or is the AI doing the work independently?
- **Using AI to Aid in Learning**—This use is intentionally vague. As AI develops, more uses than at present will become available. The critical question a student must ask is this: Does my use of AI increase my learning or does it substitute for my learning? When in doubt, ask your professor. It is always better to have a clean conscience than a good grade.

While the above guidelines are the general standard for the seminary, faculty members have the authority to specify if and how AI will be used in their classes. Their standards should be stated in the course syllabus and any questions should be directed to the professor of the class.

## UNQUESTIONABLE VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The faculty will generally approach the following cases with severe academic penalties.

| VIOLATION  | STANDARD CONSEQUENCE  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copying answers directly from another student</li><li>• "Cribbing" answers in any form to be accessed during an examination</li><li>• Usage of a substitute person for writing an exam or term paper</li></ul> | F for the assignment and probable F for the course                      |
| Unauthorized access to faculty files (electronic and/or paper)   | F for the course and probable expulsion                                 |
| Unauthorized discussion of exam content  | F for the course for both parties                                       |
| Usage of purchased or preexisting term paper   | F for the assignment, probable F for the course, and possible expulsion |

## QUESTIONABLE VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The following issues are deemed unacceptable by most STS faculty members and will result in confrontation with the student over potential charges of academic dishonesty. In most cases, such unacceptable practices will result in at least a warning, and possibly an F for the assignment.

- Significant amount of continued writing after the conclusion of an exam.
- Multiple submissions of the same assignment or paper without approval.
- Technological manipulation of electronic text by copy and paste without citation.
- Usage of a source without documentation or citation credit.
- Artificial additions and inflation of bibliographic sources.
- Deliberate alteration of time and date on late assignments.
- Exaggerated computer problems or technical problems due to procrastination.

## SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

Attendance at STS is a privilege and not a right. Students who, in the opinion of seminary faculty and administration, violate any academic integrity or student conduct policy may be recommended for dismissal by the Vice President of Academics or Director of Mentoring/Dean of Women. Accusations of questionable/offending conduct will be investigated prior to final adjudication. The student can appeal this decision through the Vice President of Academics.

## CAMPUS SECURITY

Shepherds will abide by the provisions given in the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (or Clery Act) at 20 U.S.C. 1092(f) that requires all colleges and universities participating in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses. A full statement of the Clery Act is available on the seminary website ([www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu)).

## STUDENT AFFAIRS

### REQUIRED EVENTS LIST

STS students are required to be at the following events:

- Monday Chapels (students taking Block Monday Courses)
- Graduation & Commencement
- Fall Convocation
- Fall Picnic
- Shepherds 360 National Church Leaders' Conference

Details for these events are posted on the website and are available in the seminary office.

## CHAPEL

During the fall and spring semesters, the seminary community comes together on Mondays for a 35-minute chapel service (11:40–12:15). The purpose of chapel is twofold: (1) worship, expressed in the proclamation of the Word, prayer, and music; and (2) exposure to current issues and ministries. Our speakers include pastors, missionaries, faculty members, and other Christian leaders.



Because chapel is an important component in pastoral training, the student's spiritual formation, and the seminary educational experience, attendance is required. Students are asked to make every attempt to order their schedules in a way to adhere to chapel requirements. Students enrolled for Monday classes (daytime classes) are allowed two unexcused absences per semester. Students with extenuating circumstances may set up an appointment with the Seminary Chaplain to request permission to be excused from chapel and to listen to the recorded chapel messages.

## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION COURSE

At the beginning of each semester, new students are required to attend an orientation to the seminary. The orientation program is designed to acquaint students with information that is vital to an effective and efficient entry into life at STS.

## HOUSING

Because STS is a church-based seminary, we do not have on-campus housing. We also do attempt to connect prospective students with housing options in the region.

## EMPLOYMENT

Many classes are scheduled in the evenings so students may work during the day. Opportunities for employment at the seminary are limited; however, our community is growing and there are numerous jobs available.

## STS WOMEN TOGETHER

STS Women Together meets monthly during the academic school year for a time of biblical teaching, encouragement, fellowship, and sharing of prayer needs. The goal is to help equip women, including students, wives, and staff, in all aspects of life and ministry. More information about dates and times can be found by contacting the Dean of Women at 919-233-9100 ext. 1130 or visiting [www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu).



## ADVISING, COUNSELING, THESIS, AND MENTORING

The strong academic curriculum that STS requires, combined with both a faculty of practicing ministers and the intentional mentoring and discipleship that takes place in each degree, provides a biblical foundation for spiritual growth, character formation, and development of practical skills. These high expectations give the opportunity for each student to combine their learning with experience that confirms their ministry direction and develops confidence for effective work at an early stage.

### ADVISING

From the beginning, each student will find experienced and competent advice for development of a plan of work that includes the selection of academic classes required for degree completion as well as the practical experience that is expected. This process is important in order for the student to bring the best balance between core course requirements and electives against the frequency and timing of course offerings. This planning will enable the student to balance seminary work with other outside responsibilities, and yet complete degree requirements in a timely fashion. The Registrar and Vice President of Academics are assigned as the advisors for the academic portions of seminary studies. The student is encouraged to contact his or her advisor before registration for each semester if there are any questions about schedule. In addition, when considering an internship or apprenticeship, the student must meet with the Director of Mentoring for direction and approval.

### COUNSELING

Our faculty is composed of academically qualified professors who are also practicing pastors and Bible teachers. This provides the wonderful opportunity for the student to seek counseling about careers from people who are now having, or have had, direct experience in the appropriate field.

### THESIS

A scholarly thesis is required for the Master of Arts in Biblical Literature and Languages (MABLL) and Master of Theology (ThM) degrees under the leadership of a faculty mentor. As part of the requirements for the Master of Divinity (MDiv), the student may choose to use six units of open electives for a scholarly thesis. Those MDiv students who desire to pursue further study for an advanced degree are encouraged to write a thesis to sharpen their research and writing skills. The thesis project demonstrates the student's ability to perform biblical and theological research at a scholarly level.

Thesis projects may involve many different topics or fields of study, but the MABLL thesis must significantly employ the original languages and demonstrate facility in exegesis and textual matters. The ThM thesis should build a topic around the concentration that was studied. The thesis is completed over one year, which is usually the final year of study. Students should meet with their prospective thesis mentor over the summer and begin research prior to the fall semester. Near the beginning of the fall semester, the student



will submit a prospectus for approval. A first draft is due at the end of the fall semester. During the spring semester the mentor will comment on the first draft and the student will subsequently submit a second draft. If so arranged or required, a second reader will review the second draft. Upon approval by the thesis mentor, a third and final draft is submitted to the Jackson Library by graduation time. Further details and requirements can be found in the “STS Guidelines for Papers and Theses” online.

## MENTORED APPRENTICESHIP

STS employs the time-honored apprenticeship model of education as an experience-based program to enable students to gain confidence and competence in the practice of ministry and leadership. Mentoring is also an opportunity for students to confirm their chosen vocational ministry. Mentored Apprenticeship is a one-credit course usually conducted in the student’s last year of seminary to complete the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree. This involves working in a major role in an active ministry which relates to the student’s future ministry plans. The apprenticeship should include experience in various ministry work such as teaching, preaching, leading an assigned area of church ministry, directing personal discipleship programs, participating in church leadership meetings, practicing personal evangelism, or designing special curriculum for use in the church. At the conclusion of the apprenticeship, a written formal report will be submitted to the Director of Mentoring. This report should include a summary of assignments, goals accomplished, impact of the apprenticeship (both on the student as well as any others), as well as any supporting documentation which helps the reader understand the apprenticeship.



## PAUL JACKSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Paul K. Jackson Memorial Library represents Shepherds Theological Seminary's commitment to academic excellence and scholarly research. The library holdings are structured to support the research needs of both faculty and students. The holdings are composed of print and digital materials. Printed materials are organized into general circulation, reference, faculty reserves, and journals. The library subscribes to several scholarly printed periodicals and offers an extensive database of digital journals as well. The library offers local and remote access to several databases including the ATLA Religion with Serials, the Theological Journal Library, the Biblical Archaeology Society Library, and ProQuest. A number of e-books are also accessible through the EZproxy authentication platform. The library's online catalog also includes links to other public access research materials.

The Paul Jackson Library holdings are housed on the joint campus of STS and The Shepherd's Church. The Library facilities include over 3,000 feet of shelving, study carrels, study tables, and a circulation desk. The teaching sites at Laramie Valley Chapel and Texas have separate library collections for those students.

The Jackson Library is also a member of the Carolina Theological Libraries Consortium and offers reciprocal borrowing privileges to many other major theological schools across North Carolina. The STS course RS500 offers student orientation regarding research methods, tools and resources that are available within the library. RS500 also provides guidance with student research projects, developing writing and argument skills, and becoming more proficient in the use of STS formatting and documentation standards.

Main campus students have access to the Jackson Library from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., every day, by means of an electronic key card. Local patron access is by appointment. The Jackson Library OPAC is found at: <https://shepherdsjacksonlibrary.booksys.net/opac/shepherds/index.html#menuHome>

The Paul Jackson Library can be reached at 919-390-1104. The Director of Library Services is available at: [mcorder@shepherds.edu](mailto:mcorder@shepherds.edu).



## CONVOCATION

STS inaugurates each academic year with a fall convocation that celebrates the beginning of another year of theological education and ministry training. This is a time when the Board of Directors, faculty, students, family members, and friends of the seminary gather to worship and to hear what God has been doing in the life of the seminary. Along with recent reports from the administration and student council, there is a challenge from the Word of God. All students are expected to attend the fall convocation.



## GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT

Graduation is a special time in the life of the seminary. It is the recognition of work completed and the granting of degrees to those students who have met all the requirements of their program. All students are expected to attend the commencement service.



## HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS

STS seeks to honor Christian leaders who have made significant contributions to the cause of Christ in their various spheres of ministry by granting them an honorary degree honoris causa (“as a mark of honor”). This degree is the most significant accolade the seminary can give and is granted to distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for genuine achievement and distinction in a field or activity consonant with the mission of the seminary. Only the Board of Directors may authorize the award of an honorary degree, which is given as part of the graduation ceremony. Previous honorees have been:

| YEAR | NAME   |
|------|--|
| 2011 | Paul Martin, Senior Pastor, Laramie Valley Chapel                |
| 2007 | Miško Horvatek, President, Theological Biblical Academy, Croatia |
| 2006 | Jim Jeffery, President, Baptist Bible College                    |
| 2005 | Stephen Etches, Professor, Theological Biblical Academy, Croatia |
| 2004 | David G. Tucker, President of Trans World Radio                  |

## ISRAEL INITIATIVE

The Israel Initiative is Shepherds’ commitment to provide our students with a full study trip to Israel. STS covers the entire land cost portion of this trip. STS treasures Israel—the land and the people—as a remarkable strategic and amazingly accessible teaching tool in the effort to equip students to do grammatical-historical exegesis.

If you have questions regarding the Israel Initiative, please email Dr. Doug Bookman ([dbookman@shepherds.edu](mailto:dbookman@shepherds.edu)) or call the STS office 919-573-5350. More information can also be found at [www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu).



## DEPARTMENT OF BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The Department of Biblical Archaeology exists to provide a venue and apparatus for instruction, research, and field experience in archaeology within ancient Near Eastern and Greco-Roman contexts. Biblical archaeology seeks to illuminate our understanding of the biblical world by recovering and investigating its material culture and ancient texts. This department provides the opportunity for students to participate in scheduled excavations throughout the modern countries representing this historical context. Participants in such excavations will be equipped to demonstrate the skills necessary for all phases of fieldwork, follow-up analysis, conservation, and the publication of such findings.



## CENTER FOR RESEARCH OF BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS & INSCRIPTIONS

The Center for Research of Biblical Manuscripts and Inscriptions (CRBMI) located at Shepherds Theological Seminary provides advanced teaching and research in biblical textual criticism and manuscript studies. As such, the mission of the center is to equip servant leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in scholarly study of the manuscripts of the Greek and Hebrew Bible.

The scope of the teaching and research conducted by the center will primarily involve textual criticism of the Greek and Hebrew Bible, including cooperative participation with external projects involving the textual transmission history of the Bible. Additional projects of the center may include the study of ancient extra-biblical manuscripts or inscriptions that inform our textual research of the Bible. These cognate studies (e.g., Hebrew orthography and lexicography or paratextual elements of Greek manuscripts) may indirectly answer questions about the transmission history of the text.

With regard to teaching, the center offers (and will continue to develop) MA, MDiv, and ThM students a number of courses in the area of New Testament and Old Testament textual criticism. Additionally, a current project of the CRBMI involves a partnership with the Museum of the Bible Scholars Initiative (MOTB-SI) to produce manuscript transcriptions of the Pastoral Epistles for the International Greek New Testament Project. Students in this project (under the three-hour course NT 704 or 705) participate in webinars with a range of students and scholars and contribute to a major international project (the Editio Critica Maior (ECM)). Students who excel in this project may have the opportunity to engage more advanced research topics in manuscript studies (ideal thesis work for MABLL or ThM students), apply to participate in MOTB-SI's fully-funded international summer programs, and apply for the Yamauchi Award to fund PhD work in textual history. For more information, see <http://crbmi.org>.



## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

STS seeks to be a resource for advancing biblical education globally by reaching out to train pastors, missionaries, and lay people in areas where other higher academic resources are not available. The primary emphasis is preparing people in these areas for service within their native countries. In all these venues, education proceeds through a combination of three elements:

1. Classes taught by Shepherds' professors traveling to the national location.
2. Distance learning via livestreaming.
3. Selected national students/faculty attending classes on Shepherds' campus.

Students at the Texas teaching sites may complete a maximum of 49% of their coursework with classes that originate from that teaching site, while at least 51% must originate from the Cary main campus. Students at the Laramie teaching site may complete more than 50% but less than 100% of their coursework with classes that originate from that teaching site. The remainder must originate from the Cary main campus.

### LARAMIE TEACHING SITE (THE WEST INSTITUTE)

STS has partnered with Laramie Valley Chapel, located in Laramie, Wyoming, to create the Laramie teaching site known as The WEST Institute. Students who complete the program earn the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree from STS.

Our unique teaching site in Laramie, WY, provides students a life experience of living in a community of committed followers of Christ and enjoying God's creation through outdoor pursuits that stretch them physically, mentally, and spiritually. Included in this unique program is an opportunity to explore God's creation. Through the guidance of TWI, students receive instruction in rock climbing, backpacking, mountaineering, skiing, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, ice climbing, fly fishing, and much more. Students then explore God's creation together as they venture into the Rocky Mountains on a series of student-led trips.

Here we balance academically challenging classroom study with the faculty of Shepherds Theological Seminary with direct application under the mentoring of practicing ministers in local churches and ministries. The full-time student can complete academic course and mentored internship requirements in one year; the part-time student can complete requirements in two or more years. Students enroll in the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program through the normal application process after meeting standard entrance requirements. Students enter the program as a cohort following a one-year schedule to meet degree requirements.

Courses are taught in classrooms outfitted at Laramie Valley Chapel (LVC) for academic teaching. Various means are used to conduct the teaching: 1) classes taught by professors on the LVC campus; 2) an STS professor located at the main campus teaching the class through livestreaming, where the professor and class members can see and talk to one another and print materials are displayed on screen; and 3) module classes taken by students on the main campus.

This program is open to all academically eligible students. Those who feel called to be teachers, accountants, engineers, etc., are encouraged to consider this program to prepare themselves with a biblical foundation prior to entering the workforce. For anyone who wants to devote a season of their life to become a more effective minister of the Gospel, live in community with fellow believers, and explore God's creation, this is the ideal program.

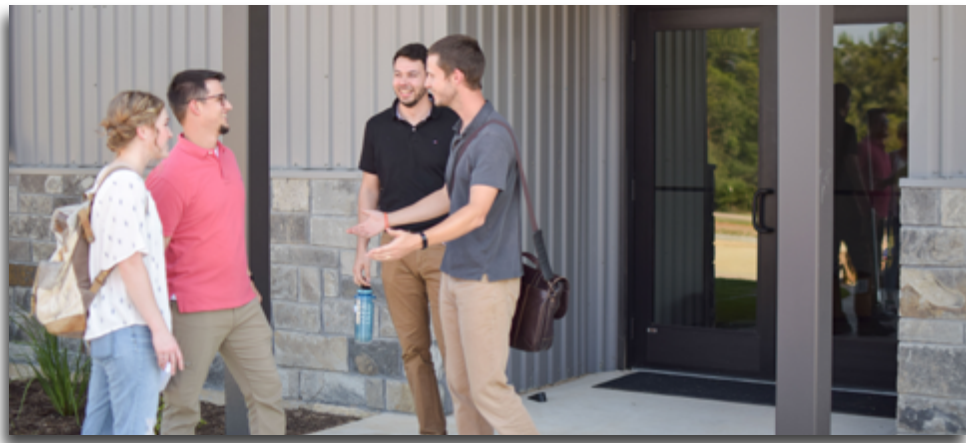
## TEXAS TEACHING SITE

STS Texas is located at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas, near the campuses of Texas A&M University and Blinn University, where students can pursue the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree. Classes are taught on weekends and weeknights in a semester-long format. Classes are conducted by Shepherds faculty via 1) live classroom lectures; 2) livestreaming; and 3) module classes taken by students on the main campus.

Local pastors serve as class monitors to foster discussion and questions. Regular livestreaming sessions are held with the professor.

## ROUTE 66

Route 66 is a verse-by-verse study of the entire Bible in one academic year and is offered in Cary, NC, and Bryan, TX. This study is available to all STS students and spouses, adult church members of The Shepherd's Church, surrounding churches, and college/university students. Route 66 is offered via Zoom for those who are unable to attend in person. Tuition and fees for non-Shepherds students is \$300/semester.



# MASTER'S DEGREE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



*The following course descriptions are mostly limited to those courses required for various degree programs. Students should consult the course lists in Populi to see what additional courses are currently available.*

## BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

### **AR 500—INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY—3 HOURS**

This course provides an introduction to the most significant discoveries, contributions, and controversies that have emerged in the world of biblical archaeology and provides students with opportunities to assess how ancient material cultural remains (such as tools, pottery, jewelry, architecture, monuments, and inscriptions) enlighten our understanding of the biblical world.

### **AR 505—ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD AND THEORY—3 HOURS**

This on-site seminar provides students with an experience-based introduction to the theoretical foundations and basic methods employed in an excavation while demonstrating how to analyze and interpret data both from the field and from reports. Students will learn the standards of archaeological survey, excavation techniques, field recording, use of relevant technology, and field-related laboratory skills.

### **AR 610—ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK I—3 HOURS**

Archaeological Fieldwork is a practicum in which students are on-site during an archaeological field project. Students must put into practice their field recording, excavation techniques, and laboratory skills while participating in a current excavation. Prerequisites: AR 500 & AR 505.

### **AR 615—ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK II—3 HOURS**

Archaeological Fieldwork II is a practicum in which students are on-site during an archaeological dig. Students will put into practice their field recording, excavation techniques, and laboratory skills while participating in a current excavation. Since this will not be the student's first excavation or project, greater responsibility and opportunity will be expected. Prerequisite: AR 610.

### **AR 625—ARCHAEOLOGICAL LABORATORY—3 HOURS**

Archaeological Laboratory is an advanced practicum in which students are on-site during an archaeological dig. Students will continue to develop skills in field recording, excavation techniques, and laboratory skills while participating in a current excavation. Prerequisite: AR 615.

### **AR 630—ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE OT—3 HOURS**

A study of significant archaeological discoveries that aid in the interpretation of the Old Testament in areas such as history, social contexts, religion, and material culture, and that also affirm the inerrancy of Scripture.

## AR 632—ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE NT—3 HOURS

A study of significant archaeological discoveries that aid in the interpretation of the New Testament in areas such as history, social contexts, religion, and material culture, and that also affirm the inerrancy of Scripture.

## BIBLICAL COUNSELING

### BC 500—FOUNDATIONS OF BIBLICAL COUNSELING—3 HOURS

Introductory course that addresses the definition and theological foundations of biblical counseling. Primary focus is on understanding the dynamics of biblical change and progressive sanctification. Students will be challenged to apply these principles to their own lives as they consider how to effectively assist others in bringing about change.

### BC 507—FOUNDATIONS OF BIBLICAL MARRIAGE—3 HOURS

Designed to equip students with a biblical understanding of how God designed marriage to work. The issues of gender roles, communication, conflict resolution, physical intimacy, parenting, and finances are discussed. Premarital counseling best practices are explored, and role-play is used to give the students the opportunity to apply their knowledge in a simulated counseling environment.

### BC 508—BIBLICAL SOUL CARE—3 HOURS

This course explores the biblical understanding of personhood: its origin in the imago Dei; the physical, emotional, and noetic effects of the fall; and the biblical approach to the treatment of the whole person, including the methods demonstrated by Christ in caring for others.

### BC 514—COUNSELING SKILLS AND METHODOLOGIES—3 HOURS

Students will become acquainted with the tools and methods of the effective biblical counselor such as empathy, active listening, discernment, the role of prayer and the Holy Spirit, speaking the truth in love, note-taking, the use of homework, etc. Ample opportunity will be given to develop and test these skills through the use of simulated counseling situations.

### BC 611—CRISIS COUNSELING—3 HOURS

Students will develop skills regarding the issues of crises such as suicide, grief, abuse, anger, addictions, psychotic episodes, etc., and how to assess, treat, and follow up as a biblical counselor. Classroom opportunities will be given to practice these skills and receive criticism from classmates and the professor.

## BIBLE EXPOSITION

### BE 501—OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES I: PENTATEUCH & FORMER PROPHETS—3 HOURS

The first half of a comprehensive introduction to the Old Testament. Combines the two disciplines of OT introduction and OT theology. Introduces the importance of and problems involved with studying the OT in traditional and contemporary scholarship. Explores issues relevant to authorship, literary structure, purpose, and content of each book covered.

### BE 502—OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES II: LATTER PROPHETS & WRITINGS—3 HOURS

The second half of a comprehensive introduction to the Old Testament. Combines the two disciplines of OT introduction and OT theology. Introduces the importance of and problems involved with studying the OT in traditional and contemporary scholarship. Explores issues relevant to authorship, literary structure, purpose, and content of each book covered.

### BE 504—INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS—3 HOURS

An introduction to the science and art of biblical interpretation. Surveys the major approaches of interpreting the Bible. Develops general and specific principles of interpretation for reading the various types of literature in the Bible. Equips the student to read and interpret the Bible competently while developing a greater love for God and His Word.

### BE 511—NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES I: MATTHEW TO ACTS—3 HOURS

The first half of a comprehensive introduction to the New Testament. It combines the three disciplines of NT introduction, NT theology, and NT survey. This course will expose students to the importance of, and problems involved with, studying the NT in relation to both traditional and contemporary scholarship. The course will explore issues such as authorship, literary structure, occasion/purpose, and the theological content of each NT book covered. The course will also introduce students to key NT issues such as translation theory, 1st century backgrounds, the synoptic problem, and canonicity.

### BE 512—NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES II: ROMANS TO REVELATION—3 HOURS

The second half of a comprehensive introduction to the New Testament. It combines the three disciplines of NT introduction, NT theology, and NT survey. This course will expose students to the importance of, and problems involved with, studying the NT in relation to both traditional and contemporary scholarship. The course will explore issues such as authorship, literary structure, occasion/purpose, and the theological content of each NT book covered. The course will also introduce students to key NT issues such as translations and Pauline theology.

### BE 513—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF ISRAEL—3 HOURS

A study of the geography of the lands of the Bible, including Old Testament, New Testament, and modern geography; emphasis is upon the relationship between the land and the narrative. Includes a survey of the post-biblical history of the land, as well as key elements of Hebrew culture.



### **BE 613—LIFE OF CHRIST—3 HOURS**

A chronological study of the life of Christ based upon the Gospels. Explores Christ's relationship to Israel and the Church. Deepens one's understanding of the deity and humanity of Christ.

### **BE 705—ADVANCED HERMENEUTICS—3 HOURS**

The Seminar in Advanced Hermeneutics expands on the introductory hermeneutics class by focusing on specific interpretational challenges of biblical interpretation. As a seminar, the class is discussion based, with assigned readings and responses, and students will lead some of the class sessions. Topics include, but are not limited to, authorial intention, single meaning, genre, ideological interpretation, principlizing or contextualization, hermeneutical virtue, the role of presuppositions, the dispensational system, and objectivity versus subjectivity within interpretation. Students will also prepare, present, and defend a research paper on a hermeneutical issue of their choice. Prerequisite: BE 504.

### **BE 710—GRECO-ROMAN AND JEWISH BACKGROUNDS—3 HOURS**

This course examines the history of the Jewish people from the rebuilding of the Temple in 516 BC to the destruction of Herod's Temple in AD 70. The transition from Persian to Greek influence and domination in Israel begins a period of development and diversity in the spheres of both Jewish politics and religion. The Hasmonean dynasty, Rabbinic Judaism, Alexandrian Judaism (including translating the Hebrew Bible into Greek), the Samaritans, and Qumran will be explored as well as how Rome's entrance into Israel's history influences Jewish leaders, city planning, Israel's economy, and the rise of the First Jewish Rebellion.

## **BIBLICAL LANGUAGES**

### **BL 750—BIBLICAL ARAMAIC—3 HOURS**

An introduction to the vocabulary and grammar of biblical Aramaic. Includes translation of the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament. Prerequisite: OT 650.

### **BL 760—LATIN FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES I—3 HOURS**

Latin served not only as the language fundamental to Western thought, but also as the primary language of theology and scholarship of the church in the West. This course begins with issues in introductory grammar and reading Latin with student helps. Readings include the Vulgate and a variety of other works in Classical, Ecclesiastical, Medieval, and later Latin.

### **BL 781—LATIN FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES II—3 HOURS**

This course is a continuation of Latin for Theological Studies I. New grammatical concepts are introduced and readings include the Latin Bible and a variety of other Ecclesiastical and Medieval Latin works. Prerequisite: BL 760.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **CE 520—PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT—3 HOURS**

This course will discuss the role and development of leadership within a church and educational setting. Patterns of leadership, examples of Godly leadership from within Scripture, methods of leadership in church settings, and developing leaders in educational and church settings will be discussed as the student develops a philosophy of leadership.

### **CE 521—HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—3 HOURS**

This course provides students with an understanding of the historical and philosophical foundations for educational practice in both academic and church-related settings. Additionally, students will examine current philosophies of education in practice today.

### **CE 522—LEARNING THEORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF INSTRUCTION—3 HOURS**

The course will focus on the major theories of learning, models of instruction, current best practices of instruction, and biblical and historical foundations of teaching and learning, and will relate them to the design of instruction.

### **CE 620—CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN—3 HOURS**

For future educators, instruction is provided related to curriculum design, developing a philosophy of education, and instructional design for the modern classroom.

## **GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

### **ME 505—INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL MINISTRY—3 HOURS**

This course is a brief reconnaissance mission for those preparing for global ministry engagement. Students will gain an overview of the basic checkpoints in a missional journey such as missions theology and philosophy, strategic planning, the complexities of culture, the biblical basics of a church, church-planting methods, teamwork, and partnerships in the field.

### **ME 506—CROSS-CULTURAL LEADERSHIP—3 HOURS**

This course provides key ministry tools necessary for various roles in global ministry. Students will focus on strategic team development, personality and spiritual gifting, current trends in missions, conflict coaching, biblical counseling, risk management, and intentional leadership development.

### **ME 507—ENGAGING IN CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY—3 HOURS**

This course prepares the student for global deployment. The student will focus on building healthy churches utilizing various models and ministries, finalizing departure preparation, and preparing for on-field team integration.

### **ME 514—CHURCH PLANTING—3 HOURS**

An examination of the biblical philosophy of planting churches in a postmodern culture. Evaluates current models in light of the Scriptures. Provides key principles for planting biblically based churches that impact their community.

### **ME 515—APOLOGETICS, EVANGELISM, AND MISSIONS—3 HOURS**

A study of the methods and schools of thought used for defending the Christian faith and for promoting a biblical worldview, including the practical application of such methods in local and global evangelism. Discusses strategies for implementing this biblical methodology.

*In Association with the Rural Home Missionary Association through the TACT program (PT 520, PT 521, PT 522, PT 523, PT 524).*

### **ME 605—THEOLOGY OF MISSIONS—3 HOURS**

A canonical survey of the Missio-Dei, building toward a biblical theology of mission. Course material includes a survey of the history of missions, the scriptural scope and plan of mission work, and the role of missions in the local church. Attention will also be given to contemporary theological problems and issues that impact the concept and practice of missions.

## **HISTORICAL THEOLOGY**

### **HT 500—HISTORICAL THEOLOGY—3 HOURS**

A survey of the history of theological thought within the Christian church from the apostolic age through the modern church. The course will focus on major developments, movements, and persons.

### **HT 707—AMERICAN FUNDAMENTALISM AND EVANGELICALISM—3 HOURS**

An historical and theological analysis of the evangelical movement in America as it developed beginning in the 1940s to the present time.

### **HT 710—PATRISTIC THEOLOGY—3 HOURS**

A deep look at patristic theology and major figures within the early church fathers. Prerequisite: HT 500 or HT 501.

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

### **NT 550—ELEMENTARY GREEK GRAMMAR I—3 HOURS**

An introduction to the Greek language of the NT. Provides an overview of grammar and vocabulary, enabling the student to read the NT in its original language.

### **NT 551—ELEMENTARY GREEK GRAMMAR II—3 HOURS**

The completion of NT 550. Expands an understanding of vocabulary and grammar, specifically with respect to the verb system. Prerequisite: NT 550.

### **NT 640—BIBLICAL GREEK FOR EXPOSITION—3 HOURS**

A review of Greek that reinforces the fundamentals, including vocabulary, morphological principles, and key grammatical/syntactical structures for engaging with commentaries and preparing for exposition. Emphasis is placed on developing skills for the use of various linguistic helps in using Greek for Bible exposition. Prerequisite: NT 551 or equivalent.

### **NT 650—BIBLICAL GREEK EXEGESIS I—3 HOURS**

An extension of basic Greek grammar designed to increase vocabulary, to sharpen translation skills and to develop a better understanding of Greek syntax. Prerequisite: NT 551 or equivalent.

### **NT 651—BIBLICAL GREEK EXEGESIS II—3 HOURS**

The continuation of NT 650. Develops the exegetical method of reading the Greek text. Demonstrates how Greek is used in the preparation of sermons and teaching lessons. Prerequisite: NT 650.

### **NT 704—NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM LAB I—3 HOURS**

The line of inquiry for this laboratory is agreed on between the student and professor. Projects include aspects of investigation of New Testament manuscripts (e.g., manuscript transcription, collation, analysis of variant readings, etc.) and will build competence in paleography, understanding textual variants, scribal habits, and the history and transmission of the biblical text. Prerequisites: NT 650/NT 651 or NT 550/NT 551 by faculty approval.

### **NT 705—NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM LAB II—3 HOURS**

A continuation of NT 704. The line of inquiry for this laboratory is agreed on between the student and professor. Projects include aspects of investigation of New Testament manuscripts (e.g., manuscript transcription, collation, analysis of variant readings, etc.) and will build competence in paleography, understanding textual variants, scribal habits, and the history and transmission of the biblical text. Prerequisites: NT 650/NT 651 or NT 550/NT 551 by faculty approval.

**NT 706—APOSTOLIC FATHERS—3 HOURS**

This course introduces the body of early Christian writings called the Apostolic Fathers with focus on the development of early church doctrines, associated historical and social issues, and the relationship of these writings to biblical literature. Prerequisites: NT 651 or equivalent, HT 500 or equivalent.

**NT 715—SCRIPTURE CITING SCRIPTURE—3 HOURS**

This course introduces the study of the use of Scripture within Scripture. The course delves into how the authors of Scripture utilize allusions, themes, topics, citations, etc. from other texts of Scripture in their writings. The goal of the course is to develop skills that will make the student a better reader and interpreter of Scripture.

**NT 720—NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM—3 HOURS**

This course surveys the transmission of the New Testament texts from the first century to the modern age, examining the manuscripts we have available today, the process by which the texts were disseminated, and how variant readings of the text were produced and are subsequently evaluated. Special topics will include how our understanding of text types informs an evaluation of the KJV-only controversy and what the manuscripts tell us about the New Testament canon. Prerequisite: NT 550.

**NT 725—CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND DEBATES IN NT STUDIES—3 HOURS.**

Topics include: the philosophical roots of the historical-critical method, historical criticism and the gospels, the synoptic problem, the Jesus Quest and the criteria for authenticity, the New Perspective on Paul, Biblical Theology and New Testament Theology as a discipline, translation theory, and a response to Bart Ehrman on the issue of early orthodoxy.

**NT 752—ADVANCED GREEK READING—3 HOURS**

This course, which assumes facility with biblical Greek appropriate to a student with at least two years of coursework, addresses advanced topics in reading Hellenistic Greek in order to provide the student with the skills to identify discourse features and then utilize those data for exegesis. Focus is on reading the Greek of the Bible as Greek and communicating the linguistic features of that Greek to others. Prerequisites: NT 550, NT 551, NT 650, NT 651.

**OLD TESTAMENT****OT 550—BIBLICAL HEBREW I—3 HOURS**

An introduction to the basic vocabulary and grammar of biblical Hebrew.

**OT 551—BIBLICAL HEBREW II—3 HOURS**

A continuation of OT 550. Expands an understanding of the verb system. Develops skills necessary to read the Hebrew text and to use it efficiently in Bible study and sermon preparation. Prerequisite: OT 550.

**OT 640—BIBLICAL HEBREW FOR EXPOSITION—3 HOURS**

A review of Hebrew that reinforces the fundamentals, including vocabulary, morphological principles, and key grammatical/syntactical structures for engaging with commentaries and preparing for exposition. Emphasis is placed on developing skills for the use of various linguistic helps in using Hebrew for Bible exposition. Prerequisite: OT 551.

**OT 650—BIBLICAL HEBREW EXEGESIS—3 HOURS**

An introduction to intermediate Hebrew grammar, the syntax of Hebrew texts, and the exegetical method used in reading the Old Testament text. Prerequisite: OT 551.

**OT 701—OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY—3 HOURS**

A study of the methodology of studying OT theology and a general overview of the theology developed in the OT.

**OT 702—OLD TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM—3 HOURS**

This course surveys the transmission of the Old Testament books, examining the manuscript witnesses and their associated textual traditions. Students discover how variant readings in the text were produced and use external and internal criteria to evaluate those readings. Topics include the use of a critical Hebrew text, the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and importance of the Septuagint. Prerequisite: OT 550.

**OT 705—SEPTUAGINT—3 HOURS**

An introduction to the ancient witness of the Greek translation of the biblical texts and the associated materials. Special attention is paid to translation and grammar, as well as the contribution to textual criticism. Selected Old Testament passages are also studied in relation to their use in the New Testament. Having a working understanding of Greek and Hebrew is important for the class. Prerequisites: OT 650, NT 650.

**OT 710—ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN BACKGROUNDS—3 HOURS**

This course examines the following major people groups mentioned in the Scriptures or having a direct connection to its historical cultural background: Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Hittites, Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans. The course introduces each of these groups and identifies their relationship to and impact on biblical events. Key archaeological finds (both material and textual) contribute evidence for these peoples in regard to their origins, flourishing, and demise.

### **OT 752—ADVANCED HEBREW READING—3 HOURS**

An extension of the student's study of biblical Hebrew including reading of various texts in the Hebrew Bible. Prerequisite: OT 650.

## **PRACTICAL THEOLOGY**

### **PT 502—HERMENEUTICS TO EXPOSITION—3 HOURS**

An introduction to basic theory and skill related to communicating biblical truth effectively. Enables the student to discover the main idea of a text, develop an outline, and effectively teach the lesson. Includes opportunities for the student to speak and receive feedback.

### **PT 511—SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP—3 HOURS**

A biblical approach to pursuing spiritual growth and conformity to Christ through spiritual disciplines. This course also introduces the principles of disciple making by analyzing key texts regarding the disciple-making model of Jesus and discussing the implementation of Jesus' model by the early church.

### **PT 512—FOUNDATIONS OF BIBLICAL TEACHING—3 HOURS**

An introduction to basic theory and skill related to communicating biblical truth accurately and effectively. Enables the student to discover the main idea of a text, develop an outline, and effectively teach the lesson. Includes opportunities for the student to speak and receive feedback.

### **PT 517—ENGAGING WOMEN IN MINISTRY—3 HOURS**

This practical course prepares the female students for engaging women and children of all age demographics for disciple-making. Students are introduced to a pipeline of spiritual growth teaching them how to guide unbelievers to personal faith in Christ, establish them in biblical faith, and equip them through the various stages of spiritual maturity, and ultimately prepare them to become servant leaders and co-laborers in an effective ministry of disciple-making.

### **PT 583—FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY I—1 HOUR**

This class is designed to aid students and their spouses as they prepare for a life of ministry. This course focuses on personal holiness, discipleship, and ministry preparation. Students and their spouses participate in this course.

### **PT 584—FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY II—1 HOUR**

A continuation of PT 583. This class is designed to aid students and their spouses as they prepare for a life of ministry. This course focuses on personal holiness, discipleship, and ministry preparation. Students and their spouses participate in this course. Both PT 583/584 must be completed in order to meet the core requirements in the WEST/Shepherds Institute core requirements.

### **PT 600—LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY—3 HOURS**

An overview of the pastoral ministry and principles for effective ministry leadership at all levels within a church. This course includes a study of the biblical passages that have information on shepherding a local flock and ministering to the community around it. Prepares the student for the tasks of pastor, leader, visionary, and administrator. Discusses and practices pastoral responsibilities such as officiating the ordinances of communion and baptism.

### **PT 606—NT LITERATURE AND PASTORAL MINISTRY—3 HOURS**

A study of Paul and his personal relationship to the leadership of Timothy in the church of Ephesus establishing what is important for Timothy in person and in leadership. This course is specifically offered as part of the Church Planting and Pastoral Ministry concentrations.

### **PT 613—CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY—3 HOURS**

An in-depth survey of vocational service in the chaplaincy, whether in the military or civil service (VA, hospital, correctional facility, fire, or police departments), designed specifically to equip the student to serve in the military Chaplains Corps. This course will emphasize the role of biblical counseling and will include a visit to a military base or hospital and chapel.

### **PT 617—COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR MINISTRY—3 HOURS**

This course will prepare a man or woman preparing for ministry to speak in any situation. Students will practice how to appear confident, passionate, and professional through the basic skills of posture, eye contact, facial expressions, gestures, vocal variety, movement, and the pause. Applications will include counseling, announcements, small group discussion, teaching, and preaching. Additional topics covered include how to maintain an audience's attention, dealing with unforeseen issues and interruptions, technology, and visuals. Maximum eight students.

### **PT 618—WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH—3 HOURS**

This course is designed to prepare the female student to minister to women. Students will consider the theological basis for ministry to women while also focusing on practical application.

### **PT 701—FOUNDATIONS OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING—3 HOURS**

An in-depth study in the development of expository outlines and messages that emanate from a historical, theological, contextual, and grammatical approach to interpreting the biblical text. Enables the student to preach with greater confidence in a variety of settings. Allows evaluation by both the student's professor and peers.

### **PT 705—FOUNDATIONS OF CHURCH GOVERNANCE—3 HOURS**

A practical study of leading the local church administration. It will focus on the biblical and theological foundations for church leadership and administration, specifically the role of the pastors/elders in leading a local church.

### **PT 711—MENTORED APPRENTICESHIP—1 HOUR**

The MDiv student develops a learning contract with his mentor and the Director of Mentoring in an approved area of ministry which relates to the student's future ministry. In addition, the student spends significant time each week in reflective conversation with his mentor. Mentored Apprenticeship is usually most appropriate in the final year of the Master of Divinity program. Prerequisite: PT 511.

## **RESEARCH**

### **RS 500—RESEARCH AND WRITING—1 HOUR**

This course is an introduction to master's level research methods and writing standards. Course material will cover the topics of information literacy, research strategies, types of theological resources, navigating online journals, developing a good thesis statement, proper argument and organizations, and tips for improving writing skills. Attention is also given to understanding the STS Writing Guidelines, with an emphasis on proper formatting and documentation of an academic theological research projects.

### **RS 505—RESEARCH FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION—2 HOURS**

This course is an expanded version of RS 500 for students who are not in the intensive one-year MTS degree program.

### **RS 711—THESIS I—3 HOURS**

The first half of the preparation and writing of a master's thesis. Designed for thesis work within the MA/MDiv program.

### **RS 712—THESIS II—3 HOURS**

The second half of the preparation and writing of a master's thesis. Designed for thesis work within the MA/MDiv program. Prerequisite: RS 711.

### **RS 761—ADVANCED THESIS I—3 HOURS**

The first half of the preparation and writing of a master's thesis. Designed for thesis work within the ThM program.

### **RS 762—ADVANCED THESIS II—3 HOURS**

The second half of the preparation and writing of a master's thesis. Designed for thesis work within the ThM program. Prerequisite: RS 761.

## **THEOLOGY**

### **TH 501—SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I—3 HOURS**

A survey of a prolegomena to systematic theology as well as the doctrines of revelation (bibliology) and God (theology proper). Introduces, defines, and supports each doctrine using pertinent passages of Scripture. Prerequisite: BE 504.

### **TH 502—SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II—3 HOURS**

A survey of the doctrines of Christ (Christology), the Holy Spirit (pneumatology), and angels (angelology). Introduces, defines, and supports each doctrine using pertinent passages of Scripture. Prerequisite: BE 504.

### **TH 503—SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY III—3 HOURS**

A survey of the doctrines of man (anthropology), sin (hamartiology), and salvation (soteriology). Introduces, defines, and supports each doctrine using pertinent passages of Scripture. Prerequisite: TH 501.

### **TH 601—SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY IV—3 HOURS**

A survey of the doctrines of the church (ecclesiology) and last things (eschatology). Introduces, defines, and supports each doctrine using pertinent passages of Scripture. Prerequisites: TH 501, TH 502.

### **TH 630—CHRISTIAN ETHICS—3 HOURS**

An introduction to Christian ethics. This course will evaluate various philosophical systems of ethics viewed in light of the moral teaching of Scripture. Major consideration is given to developing a systematic ethical code from the Bible and its application to selected ethical issues and choices of moral conduct in the twenty-first century.

### **TH 701—SEMINAR IN ESCHATOLOGY—3 HOURS**

A study of the sequence of last days events. Prerequisite: TH 601.

### **TH 702—SEMINAR ON THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL—3 HOURS**

This course is a historical and theological analysis of the issues that have led the historic Christian church to devise and perpetuate replacement theology, that the church has permanently replaced Israel in the plan of God.

### **TH 703—ISSUES IN DISPENSATIONAL AND COVENANTAL THEOLOGY—3 HOURS**

A deeper study of Dispensationalism, including the issues within the framework and its comparison to other competing frameworks such as covenant theology, new covenant theology, and progressive covenantalism. Prerequisite: TH 601 & 604.

**TH 706—PHILOSOPHY AND CHRISTIAN EPISTEMOLOGY—3 HOURS**

This course covers the topics of logic & critical thinking, the history of western philosophy, and epistemology. Attention is given to explaining the correct form of an argument, identifying logical fallacies, surveying the views of the major philosophers, critiquing how various philosophies intersect or diverge from a Christian position, and analyzing the significant distinction between universals and particulars. Course material will also cover epistemological topics such as truth, knowledge, various models for the justification of beliefs, and responses to skepticism. Class discussion will assess the impact, both positive and negative, of philosophy on theological systems and worldview perspectives.

**TH 715—BIBLICAL MANHOOD & WOMANHOOD—3 HOURS**

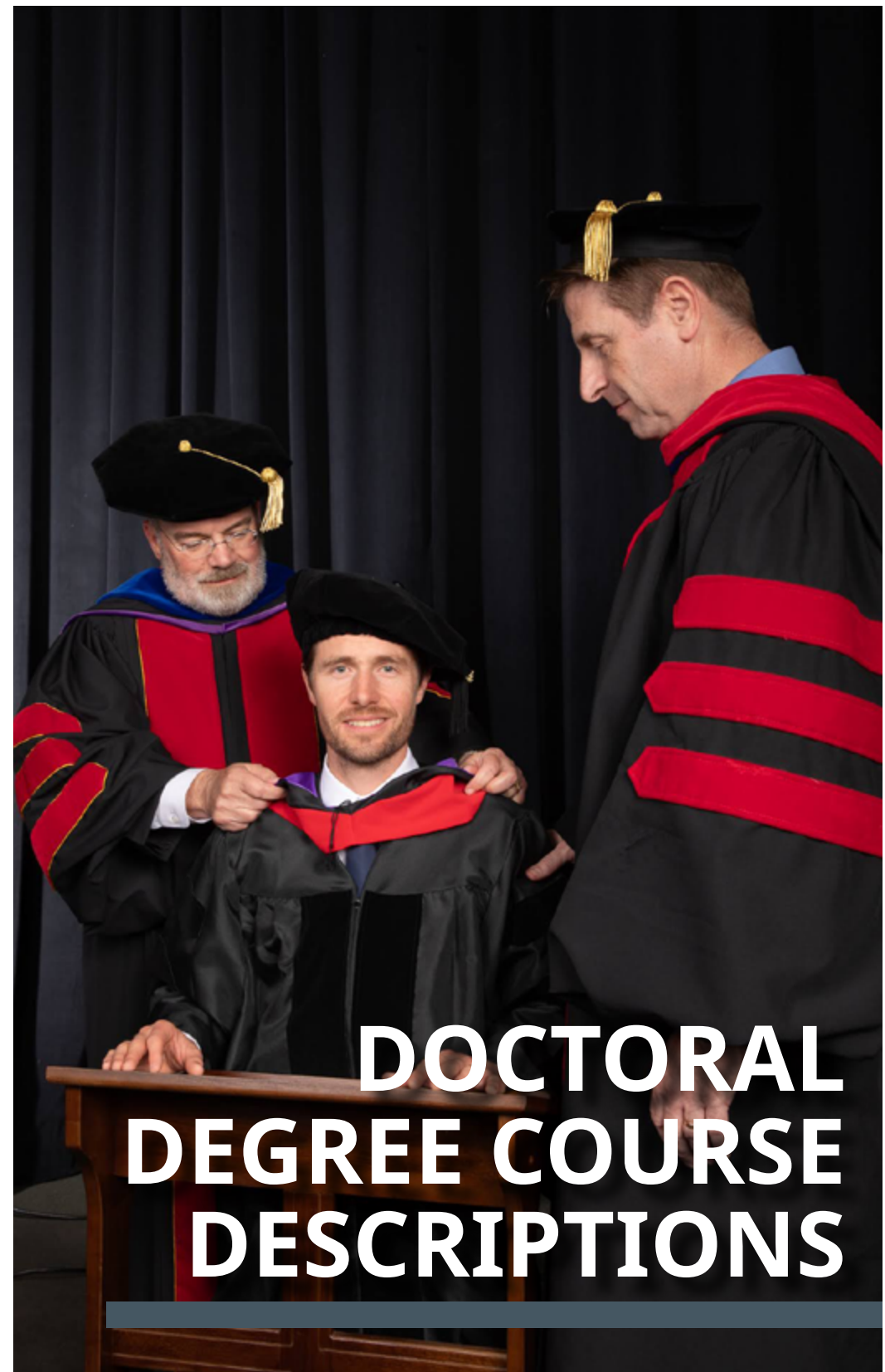
An introduction to the biblical teaching on men and women, including the uniqueness of their roles in the home and the church. The course traces the biblical theology of marriage and the family through Scripture. Related topics include parenting, singleness, homosexuality, divorce and remarriage, and family requirements for church leaders. Students will develop a thorough grasp of the biblical teaching on manhood and womanhood in both testaments, sharpen exegetical and hermeneutical skills in interpreting relevant scriptural passages on the subject, and develop a growing sense of their own calling as men or women in God’s plan for their lives and the church.



**MASTERS COURSES AT A GLANCE**

| COURSE                     | TITLE   | COURSE        | TITLE                                       |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| <b>ARCHAEOLOGY</b>         |   |               |   |
| <b>AR 500</b>              | Introduction to Biblical Archaeology                  | <b>AR 615</b> | Archaeological Fieldwork II                 |
| <b>AR 505</b>              | Archaeological Method and Theory                      | <b>AR 630</b> | Archaeology and the Old Testament           |
| <b>AR 610</b>              | Archaeological Fieldwork I                            | <b>AR 632</b> | Archaeology and the New Testament           |
| <b>BIBLICAL COUNSELING</b> |   |               |   |
| <b>BC 500</b>              | Foundations of Biblical Counseling                    | <b>BC 514</b> | Counseling Skills & Methodologies           |
| <b>BC 507</b>              | Foundations of Biblical Marriage                      | <b>BC 611</b> | Crisis Counseling                           |
| <b>BC 508</b>              | Biblical Soul Care                                    |               |   |
| <b>BIBLE EXPOSITION</b>    |   |               |   |
| <b>BE 501</b>              | Old Testament Studies I: Pentateuch & Former Prophets | <b>BE 513</b> | History and Geography of Israel             |
| <b>BE 502</b>              | Old Testament Studies II: Latter Prophets & Writings  | <b>BE 613</b> | Life of Christ                              |
| <b>BE 504</b>              | Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics                 | <b>BE 705</b> | Advanced Hermeneutics                       |
| <b>BE 511</b>              | New Testament Studies I: Matthew to Acts              | <b>BE 710</b> | Greco-Roman & Jewish Backgrounds            |
| <b>BE 512</b>              | New Testament Studies II: Romans to Revelation        |               |   |
| <b>BIBLICAL LANGUAGES</b>  |   |               |   |
| <b>BL 750</b>              | Biblical Aramaic                                      | <b>BL 781</b> | Latin for Theological Studies II            |
| <b>BL 760</b>              | Latin for Theological Studies I                       |               |   |
| <b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b> |   |               |   |
| <b>CE 520</b>              | Principles of Leadership Development                  | <b>CE 522</b> | Learning Theory & Philosophy of Instruction |
| <b>CE 521</b>              | History & Philosophy of Christian Education           | <b>CE 620</b> | Curriculum and Instructional Design         |
| <b>GLOBAL MINISTRIES</b>   |   |               |   |
| <b>ME 514</b>              | Church Planting                                       | <b>ME 605</b> | Theology of Missions                        |
| <b>ME 515</b>              | Apologetics, Evangelism, & Missions                   |               |   |
| <b>HISTORICAL THEOLOGY</b> |   |               |   |
| <b>HT 500</b>              | Historical Theology                                   | <b>HT 710</b> | Patristic Theology                          |
| <b>HT 707</b>              | American Fundamentalism & Evangelism                  |               |   |

| COURSE                    | TITLE                                       | COURSE        | TITLE  |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| <b>NEW TESTAMENT</b>      |   |               |  |
| <b>NT 550</b>             | Elementary Greek Grammar I                  | <b>NT 705</b> | New Testament Textual Criticism Lab II         |
| <b>NT 551</b>             | Elementary Greek Grammar II                 | <b>NT 706</b> | Apostolic Fathers                              |
| <b>NT 640</b>             | Biblical Greek for Exposition               | <b>NT 715</b> | Scripture Citing Scripture                     |
| <b>NT 650</b>             | Biblical Greek Exegesis I                   | <b>NT 720</b> | New Testament Textual Criticism                |
| <b>NT 651</b>             | Biblical Greek Exegesis II                  | <b>NT 725</b> | Contemporary Issues & Debates in NT Studies    |
| <b>NT 704</b>             | New Testament Textual Criticism Lab I       | <b>NT 752</b> | Advanced Greek Reading                         |
| <b>OLD TESTAMENT</b>      |   |               |  |
| <b>OT 550</b>             | Biblical Hebrew I                           | <b>OT 702</b> | Old Testament Textual Criticism                |
| <b>OT 551</b>             | Biblical Hebrew II                          | <b>OT 705</b> | Septuagint                                     |
| <b>OT 640</b>             | Biblical Hebrew for Exposition              | <b>OT 710</b> | Ancient Near Eastern Backgrounds               |
| <b>OT 650</b>             | Biblical Hebrew Exegesis                    | <b>OT 752</b> | Advanced Hebrew Reading                        |
| <b>OT 701</b>             | Old Testament Theology                      |               |  |
| <b>PRACTICAL THEOLOGY</b> |   |               |  |
| <b>PT 502</b>             | Hermeneutics to Exposition                  | <b>PT 606</b> | NT Literature and Pastoral Ministry            |
| <b>PT 511</b>             | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship        | <b>PT 613</b> | Chaplaincy Ministry                            |
| <b>PT 512</b>             | Foundations of Biblical Teaching            | <b>PT 617</b> | Communication Skills for Ministry              |
| <b>PT 517</b>             | Engaging Women in Ministry                  | <b>PT 618</b> | Women's Ministry in the Church                 |
| <b>PT 583</b>             | Foundations for Ministry I                  | <b>PT 701</b> | Foundations of Expository Preaching            |
| <b>PT 584</b>             | Foundations for Ministry II                 | <b>PT 705</b> | Foundations of Church Governance               |
| <b>PT 600</b>             | Leadership Principles and Pastoral Theology | <b>PT 711</b> | Mentored Apprenticeship                        |
| <b>RESEARCH</b>           |   |               |  |
| <b>RS 500</b>             | Research and Writing                        | <b>RS 712</b> | Thesis II                                      |
| <b>RS 505</b>             | Research for Theological Education          | <b>RS 761</b> | Advanced Thesis I                              |
| <b>RS 711</b>             | Thesis I                                    | <b>RS 762</b> | Advanced Thesis II                             |
| <b>THEOLOGY</b>           |   |               |  |
| <b>TH 501</b>             | Systematic Theology I                       | <b>TH 701</b> | Seminar in Eschatology                         |
| <b>TH 502</b>             | Systematic Theology II                      | <b>TH 702</b> | Seminar on the Church & Israel                 |
| <b>TH 503</b>             | Systematic Theology III                     | <b>TH 703</b> | Issues in Dispensational & Covenantal Theology |
| <b>TH 601</b>             | Systematic Theology IV                      | <b>TH 706</b> | Philosophy and Christian Epistemology          |
| <b>TH 630</b>             | Christian Ethics                            | <b>TH 715</b> | Biblical Manhood & Womanhood                   |



**DM 800—RESEARCH METHODS—2 HOURS**

This seminar is designed to equip students to research, write, and format a doctoral-level argumentative research paper. Students will develop research proficiency and learn techniques for conducting competent doctoral-level bibliographic research. Attention to the planning, preparation, and writing of a dissertation or course project will be covered.

**DM 801—SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION AND SERVANT LEADERSHIP: THE PERSONAL LIFE OF THE MINISTRY LEADER—4 HOURS**

An advanced seminar that addresses the struggles faced in ministry and offers realistic strategies of hope for ongoing spiritual maturation. The seminar is designed to promote the leading of an exemplary Christian life amid the pressures of ministry. This seminar provides opportunity for integrative reflection on the biblical foundations, contemporary research, and historical and contemporary case studies of transformational servant-leadership. Special attention will be given to understanding emotional, relational, and spiritual issues that hinder ministerial effectiveness.

**DM 803—THE MINISTRY LEADER AS THEOLOGIAN: ADDRESSING CURRENT THEOLOGICAL AND MINISTERIAL ISSUES—4 HOURS**

An advanced study of the historical and theological development of current issues and trends in theology. Issues discussed in the seminar focus on biblical or systematic theology with special relevance to pastoral ministry. Topics chosen will be in relation to the special competence of resident and visiting faculty, as well as current interests and needs.

**DM 805—SELECTED TOPICS OF THEOLOGICAL ISSUES FOR TODAY'S MINISTRY—4 HOURS**

A study of selected theological issues and their significance in ministry.

**DM 811—CHURCH PLANTING AND EXTENSION—4 HOURS**

An advanced study of church planting models, methods, systems, and processes with an emphasis on the analysis of missiological and sociological factors affecting the planting of reproducing churches.

**DM 813—ADVANCED ECCLESIOLOGY AND THE PRACTICE OF MINISTRY—4 HOURS**

An advanced study of various approaches to and issues in ecclesiology from both biblical and historical perspectives, with application to contemporary worship, ministry, and practice. Focus will be primarily given to the local church, including its organization, ministry, ordinances, government, and purpose. The seminar will focus on the leader's role in working with church staff and board, understanding diverse congregational polities, communicating effectively as a leader, fostering a healthy organizational culture, and navigating conflict and change that may arise in these churches and ministry organizations.

**DM 815—BIBLICAL AND CONTEMPORARY MODELS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP—4 HOURS**

An advanced study that considers the biblical, theoretical, and foundational issues of Christian Leadership with specific focus on their relevance to the practice of leadership in Christian ministry. Biblical and contemporary examples of leaders will be examined. Attention will be given to personal development and skill improvement necessary to lead at a higher level.

**DM 817—ADVANCED ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY MANAGEMENT—4 HOURS**

An advanced study designed to address the role of organizational leaders in congregational and ministry settings. Attention is given to the dynamics of leadership development in both the leader's own life and in the ministry organization. The seminar will survey leadership history and theories; the character of the leader; and topics such as teams, communication, power, conflict, change, ethics, administration, and mentoring. Case studies will be used to assist participants in applying leadership theory to practice. This seminar will provide strategies and practices for the continued development of the ministry leader and for growth of new leaders for the church or ministry organization.

**DM 819—ADVANCED EXPOSITORY PREACHING—4 HOURS**

An advanced study of the practical art and discipline of expository preaching as practiced in a church context. A major focus includes leading from the pulpit, long-range sermon planning, and preaching the major biblical genres with accuracy and creativity.

**DM 821—CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN PREACHING FROM OT AND NT TEXTS—4 HOURS**

An advanced seminar involving a study of the hermeneutical issues related to the various biblical genres of the Old and New Testaments. Special attention will be given to the development and delivery of expository sermons that are biblically and hermeneutically sound and transformative in the lives of the listeners.

**DM 823—LEADING FROM THE SECOND CHAIR: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR (OR ASSOCIATE)—4 HOURS**

An advanced seminar that focuses on the role of those leaders who deal with the ultimate leadership paradox: being a leader and a subordinate. This seminar will focus on the second chair's role and responsibilities, in addition to the tensions, attitudes, actions, problems, programs, and procedures unique to executive and associate pastors. Insights will be gained through the study of biblical models and contemporary case studies.

**DM 825—CHURCH BOARDS: THE THEOLOGY, DESIGN, ROLE, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS, ELDERS, AND DEACONS—4 HOURS**

An advanced study of the biblical rationale and theology of the church. This seminar examines the basic structural forms and functions of organizational governance within the local church, especially the roles of elders/pastors and deacons.



**DM 827—DEVELOPING LEADERS IN YOUR MINISTRY—4 HOURS**

This seminar will survey and analyze contemporary theory, practices, and processes in developing emerging leaders.

**DM 829—CHURCH HEALTH, VISION, AND STRATEGIC PLANNING—4 HOURS**

A seminar that will address the problems, programs, and/or procedures unique to church health, church leadership, and church multiplication. This seminar is designed to help the ministry leader assess the health of their church and design a strategy (strategic plan) that will implement the mission and vision of the church.

**DM 833—LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ADMINISTRATION: CONSTITUTIONS, BYLAWS, PERSONNEL ISSUES, FINANCES, ARCHITECTURE, SAFETY & SECURITY, AND STATE-OF-THE-ART CHURCH TECHNOLOGY—4 HOURS**

A study of legal issues affecting ministry organizations, with attention to administration, compliance with state and federal regulations, plant and property concerns, and various forms of liability, coupled with an analysis of good financial practice for nonprofit ministries, including budgeting, accountability, and general stewardship of gifts and revenues. Additional topics include cash management, capitalization issues, risk management, ethical and legal issues in financial decision-making, and approaches to financial planning. Students learn to assess the financial operations and positions of an organization using various analysis methods.

**DM 840—ADVANCED HERMENEUTICS AND BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION—4 HOURS**

An advanced study that explores hermeneutical theories and principles which have been developed by the leading biblical scholars including historical, philosophical, linguistic, theological, and biblical issues related to the discipline. Special attention will be given to hermeneutical issues relating to biblical genres such as narrative, poems and prophecy; the New Testament use of the Old Testament; contextualization; and the contemporary relevance of Scripture. This seminar will explain why the grammatical-historical method can be applied to understanding New Testament use of the Old Testament, evaluating theological systems, and addressing contemporary issues in hermeneutics.

**DM 843—TEACHING ON THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST—4 HOURS**

An in-depth study of the complementary portraits of Jesus in the four gospels, focusing on the events of His life, the content of His message, and His understanding of His own person and mission. Study in the methods and content of Jesus' teaching with collateral reading in the modern interpreters of Jesus.

**DM 845—APPLIED THEOLOGY: CULTURE, CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW, AND ETHICS—4 HOURS**

An advanced study of biblical and theological norms and their significance for Christians in the world. This seminar includes a study of the relationship between Christian theology and philosophy including an overview of the history of ideas and worldviews. This seminar is designed to encourage students to develop an intentional and critical methodology for interpreting and engaging culture from a Christian perspective.

**DM 847—CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN DISPENSATIONAL AND COVENANTAL THEOLOGY—4 HOURS**

An advanced study focusing on current developments in both Dispensational theology and Covenantal theology. Includes a study of the history and key figures past and present in each system. Special focus will be given to examination of the interpretive methods of each, the developments of their respective understanding of key biblical themes, and continuities/discontinuities between the testaments.

**DM 848—ADVANCED STUDY OF THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT—4 HOURS**

A study of the historical and theological development of current trends (and issues) in the theology and practice of the evangelical church today. This course will study the shaping of American religious culture, beliefs, and practices from the time of the Great Awakening in the eighteenth century; the cultural and scientific shifts of the nineteenth century that birthed fundamentalism in the early twentieth century and gave rise to the neo-evangelical movement in the twentieth century; and also the post-conservative evangelical movement in the church today. Discussion will include evaluation of the fundamentalist movement, charismatic movement, contemporary evangelicalism, and the rising progressive liberalism within evangelicalism today. This course is designed to aid the ministry leader in evaluating current cultural and theological issues and their significance for ministry.

**DM 849—ADVANCED PEDAGOGY: METHODS OF CREATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING—4 HOURS**

An advanced study designed to provide an understanding of the principles for effective teaching and learning in both formal education and church-related settings. This seminar will investigate various topics including the characteristics of different learning styles; key teaching and learning principles that encourage active, engaged, and effective student learning; constructivism; autonomous learning; creative environments conducive to learning; and designing and implementing training programs and instructional design techniques. The seminar includes the study of the principles and motivation for developing creativity in oneself and for teaching others to be creative.

**DM 850—ADVANCED ESCHATOLOGY—4 HOURS**

An advanced study of the sequence of events in the last days. This seminar will investigate the various views and how each affects the local church.

**DM 861—THE HISTORY, THEOLOGY, & PHILOSOPHY OF BIBLICAL COUNSELING—4 HOURS**

A study of the epistemological and anthropological implications of the Bible and systematic theology for the foundations of biblical counseling theory as well as the resulting practical implications for biblical counseling methodology and the role of the local church.

**DM 863—CONGREGATIONAL SOUL CARE—4 HOURS**

An advanced study in providing biblical member care and counseling in the local church. This course seeks to establish competency in the helping skills (i.e., listening, problem-solving, attending, responding, treatment planning, etc.). This seminar also seeks to explore some of the current issues related to church membership, discipline, reconciliation, and biblical one-another ministry.

**DM 867—CONTEMPORARY MINISTRY CARE AND COUNSELING ISSUES—4 HOURS**

An advanced study that will examine contemporary developments and controversies in the general domain of counseling and in the specific domain of biblical and Christian counseling. Students will participate in an advanced examination of the practical and strategic issues relevant to the local ministry context. The seminar will examine the practical application of ministry-oriented counseling for commonly encountered problems. Best procedures for biblical counseling will be discussed. Additionally, this seminar will address various legal, ethical, and liability issues, and discusses specific treatment issues.

**DM 869—BIBLICAL CONCEPTS OF ANALYSIS AND DIAGNOSIS / BIBLICAL PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY / ROLE OF THE CHURCH—4 HOURS**

A seminar that seeks to help the student learn how to analyze differing situations of a counselee's experience and surround it with a framework that will help the individual grow in Christ within the Body of Christ.

**DM 871—COUNSELING AND LEGAL ISSUES—4 HOURS**

A seminar designed to introduce students to the legal aspects and implications of the interaction between the disciplines of counseling and law. It prepares students to recognize legal issues that arise in counseling practice and to identify situations in which the counselor should advise clients to seek legal assistance. This seminar attempts to survey the legal rights and responsibilities of pastor, church, and church-related institutions related to counseling practices. Various counseling ethical dilemmas, and statutory, regulatory, and case laws will be reviewed.

**DM 875—MARITAL AND FAMILY COUNSELING—4 HOURS**

A seminar that will examine the biblical foundations of healthy Christian family life, with emphasis on practical skills and counseling techniques in the assessment, intervention, and resolution of marital and family problems.

**DM 877—BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD—4 HOURS**

An advanced study of the biblical teaching on men and women, including the uniqueness of their roles in the home and the church. The course traces the biblical theology of marriage and the family through Scripture. Related topics include counseling, parenting, singleness, homosexuality, divorce and remarriage, and family requirements for church leaders. Students will develop a thorough grasp of the biblical teaching on manhood and womanhood in both testaments, sharpen exegetical and hermeneutical skills in interpreting relevant scriptural passages on the subject, and develop a growing sense of their own calling as men or women in God's plan for their lives and the church.

**DM 879—COUNSELING SEMINAR/PRACTICUM—4 HOURS**

An interactive study equipping the student to evaluate, critique, and refine his/her counseling skills through interaction with the professor and class peers. This seminar will provide students with instructional oversight of their ongoing cases, with special emphasis on improving counseling skills and understanding the counseling relationship and the counseling process. Current issues in biblical counseling will also be discussed. The class may be offered at times for women only and designed on those occasions for the purpose of women counseling women.

**DM 881—CONTEXTUALIZED LEARNING EXPERIENCE—4 HOURS**

Students will participate in an advanced practicum designed to utilize field experience in the student's ministry setting to test and apply theory and methodology in the practice of ministry.

**DM 882—THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING OF THE BIBLE—4 HOURS**

A study of the geography of the lands of the Bible, including Old Testament, New Testament, and modern geography; emphasis is placed upon the relationship between the land and the narrative. This includes a survey of the post-biblical history of the land as well as key elements of Hebrew culture. This is done in conjunction with the Israel Initiative trip.

**DM 885—DISSERTATION/RESEARCH PROJECT I—3 HOURS**

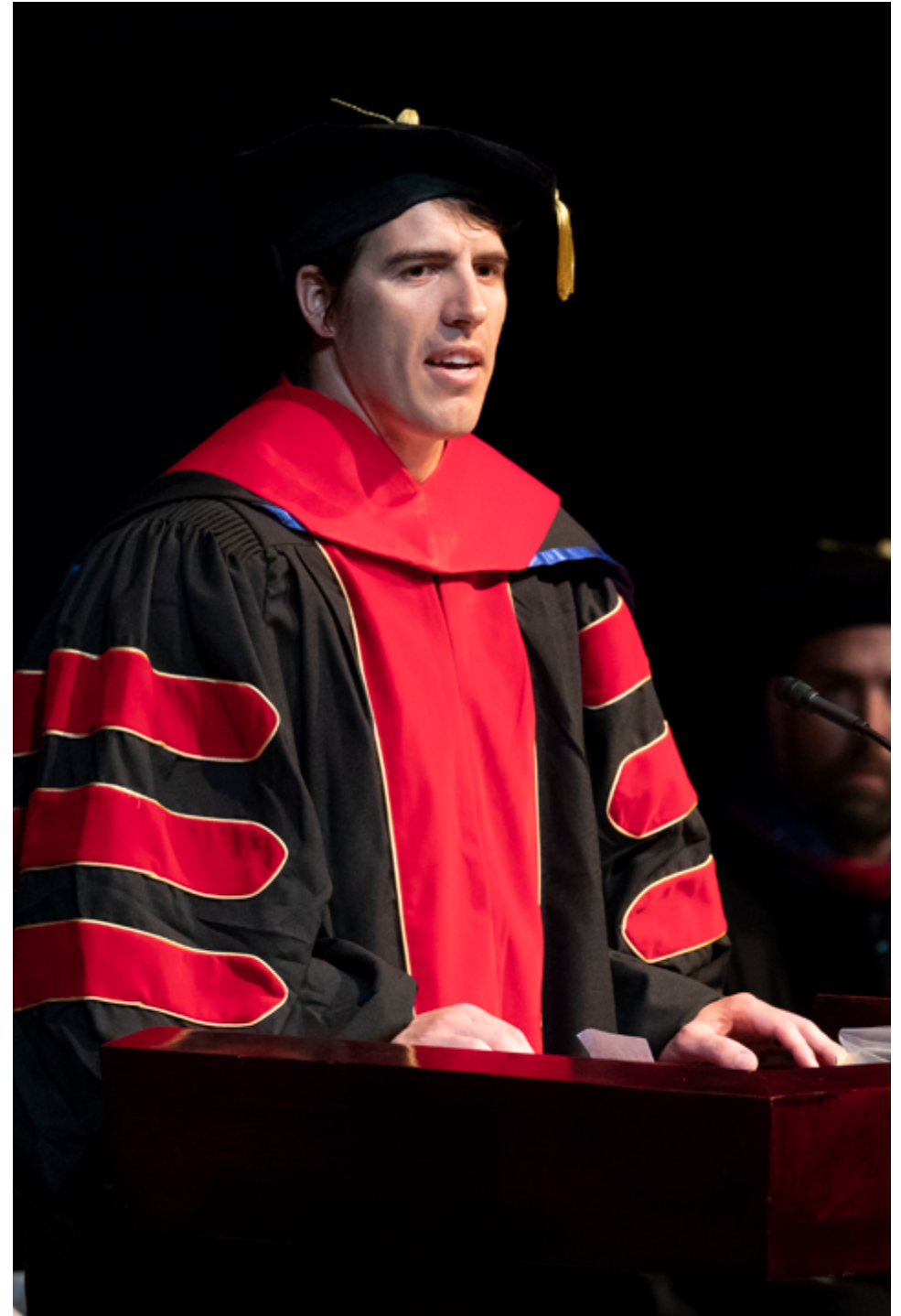
This is the first of two courses designed to assist and guide the DMin student through the writing and development of each section of their DMin dissertation or construct the framework for the research project. Prior to this course the student needs to have his dissertation advisor approve the dissertation, research topic, and research questions. The goals of this course are the development of chapters one to three of the dissertation, and preparation for conducting a review of related literature at the doctoral level. Those doing a research project should have the scope already designed and have started the research portion.

**DM 887—DISSERTATION/RESEARCH PROJECT II—3 HOURS**

The dissertation or research project completion course consists of supporting the student in finalizing all chapters of the dissertation and compiling the dissertation into a complete form (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). The student then defends the dissertation before a select panel and must pass the defense, complete any recommendations, and bind the dissertation before receiving credit for this course. Those completing a research project must have the final report outlining the scope and results. This student must also defend before a select panel. The requirements of this course must be complete, and credit given before a student is eligible to walk at the commencement ceremony. Once enrollment in the dissertation sequence has begun, a student must register each semester until the dissertation is completed. Prerequisite: DM 885.

**DM 890—DISSERTATION CONTINUATION—NO CREDIT**

Students who have not completed their dissertation or research project in DM 887 must enroll in a continuation course until the completion of the dissertation. These courses are non-credit bearing and are charged a flat fee each semester.



## DOCTORAL COURSES AT A GLANCE

| COURSE                    | TITLE  | COURSE        | TITLE  |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| <b>DOCTOR OF MINISTRY</b> |  |               |  |
| <b>DM 800</b>             | Research Methods   | <b>DM 847</b> | Contemporary Issues in Dispensational/Covenantal Theology  |
| <b>DM 801</b>             | Spiritual Transformation & Servant Leadership              | <b>DM 848</b> | Advanced Study of the American Evangelical Movement        |
| <b>DM 803</b>             | The Ministry Leader as Theologian                          | <b>DM 849</b> | Advanced Pedagogy  |
| <b>DM 805</b>             | Selected Topics of Theological Issues for Today's Ministry | <b>DM 850</b> | Advanced Eschatology                                       |
| <b>DM 811</b>             | Church Planting & Extension                                | <b>DM 861</b> | The History, Theology, & Philosophy of Biblical Counseling |
| <b>DM 813</b>             | Advanced Ecclesiology & the Practice of Ministry           | <b>DM 863</b> | Congregational Soul Care                                   |
| <b>DM 815</b>             | Biblical & Contemporary Models of Christian Leadership     | <b>DM 867</b> | Contemporary Ministry Care & Counseling Issues             |
| <b>DM 817</b>             | Advanced Organizational Leadership & Ministry Management   | <b>DM 869</b> | Biblical Concepts of Analysis & Diagnosis                  |
| <b>DM 819</b>             | Advanced Expository Preaching                              | <b>DM 871</b> | Counseling & Legal Issues                                  |
| <b>DM 821</b>             | Contemporary Issues in Preaching from OT/NT Texts          | <b>DM 875</b> | Marital & Family Counseling                                |
| <b>DM 823</b>             | Leading from the 2nd Chair                                 | <b>DM 877</b> | Biblical Manhood & Womanhood                               |
| <b>DM 825</b>             | Church Boards  | <b>DM 879</b> | Counseling Seminary/Practicum                              |
| <b>DM 827</b>             | Developing Leaders in Your Ministry                        | <b>DM 881</b> | Contextualized Learning Experience                         |
| <b>DM 829</b>             | Church Health, Vision, & Strategic Planning                | <b>DM 882</b> | The Geographical & Historical Setting of the Bible         |
| <b>DM 833</b>             | Legal and Practical Administration                         | <b>DM 885</b> | Dissertation/Research Project I                            |
| <b>DM 840</b>             | Advanced Hermeneutics & Biblical Interpretation            | <b>DM 887</b> | Dissertation/Research Project II                           |
| <b>DM 843</b>             | Teaching on the Life & Ministry of Jesus Christ            | <b>DM 890</b> | Dissertation Continuation                                  |
| <b>DM 845</b>             | Applied Theology   |               |  |



For the latest calendar information, please check the STS website ([www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu)) or call the office (919-573-5350).

| 2024-2025 ACADEMIC CALENDAR* |  |                      |  |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Fall Semester 2024           |  | Spring Semester 2025 |  |
| August 8                     | Faculty Retreat  | January 13           | One-Year Students–<br>Spring Classes Begin                               |
| August 10–11                 | Opening Weekend–One-Year<br>Students                                   | February 3           | Spring Classes Begin<br>for Regular Semester<br>Students                 |
| August 10                    | Convocation–Cary   | March 27             | Last Day to Withdraw<br>without Penalty                                  |
| August 12                    | Fall Classes Begin–Semester<br>and One-Year Students                   | April 14–18          | Easter Recess  |
| September 2                  | No Monday Classes (Labor<br>Day Weekend)–Makeup Nov.<br>25             | May 15               | Last Day of Classes<br>for Regular Semester<br>Students                  |
| September 17                 | Constitution Day Observed  | May 18               | Graduation   |
| October 10                   | Last Day to Withdraw without<br>Penalty                                | May 20–July 27       | Summer Session<br>Modules/Intensives<br>for Regular Semester<br>Schedule |
| October 16–19                | DMin Cohort  | July 11              | Last Day of Class For<br>One-Year Students                               |
| October 21                   | Day at Shepherds   |                      |  |
| October 21–23                | Shepherds 360 National<br>Church Leaders Conference                    |                      |  |
| October 21–25                | Conference Week  |                      |  |
| October 23–26                | DMin Cohort  |                      |  |
| November 20–26               | ETS/SBL Conference   |                      |  |
| November 25                  | Last Day of Class For Regular<br>Semester Students                     |                      |  |
| December 2–14                | Israel Trip  |                      |  |
| Dec. 2–Jan. 25               | Winter Session Modules/<br>Intensives for Regular<br>Semester Schedule |                      |  |
| January 10                   | Last Day of Class For One-<br>Year Students                            |                      |  |

*In case of severe weather, the seminary decides when classes are canceled and communicates the decision through several means: a recorded phone message at 919-573-5350; notices placed at Paul Jackson Library and all Seminary offices; a message on WRAL Channel 5 under Universities/Colleges; and, when possible, by emails to the affected students.*



**Q: What degrees and diplomas does Shepherds offer?**

**A:** Shepherds offers degrees/diplomas that meet a range of educational needs:

| DEGREE/CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENT                     | CONCENTRATION   |
|--|---|
| Doctor of Ministry (DMin)/32                       | Advanced Biblical & Theological Studies<br>Biblical Counseling & Care<br>Executive Management & Ministry Leadership<br>Pastoral Ministry & Leadership   |
| Master of Theology (ThM)/27                        | Bible Exposition<br>Historical/Systematic Theology<br>New Testament<br>Old Testament<br>Interdisciplinary   |
| Master of Divinity (MDiv)/93                       | Advanced Biblical Languages<br>Advanced Biblical Studies<br>Advanced Theology<br>Biblical Archaeology<br>Biblical Counseling<br>Chaplaincy<br>Christian Education<br>Church Planting<br>Global Ministries<br>Pastoral Ministry<br>Interdisciplinary |
| Master of Divinity—Advanced Placement (MDiv-AP)/78 | Advanced Biblical Languages<br>Advanced Biblical Studies<br>Advanced Theology<br>Biblical Archaeology<br>Biblical Counseling<br>Chaplaincy<br>Christian Education<br>Church Planting<br>Global Ministries<br>Pastoral Ministry<br>Interdisciplinary |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Master of Arts Biblical Literature and Languages (MABLL)/77 | None  |
| Master of Arts in Biblical Archaeology (MABA)/65            | None  |
| Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS)/62                | Advanced Biblical Studies<br>Bible Exposition<br>Biblical Archaeology<br>Historical/Systematic Theology<br>Interdisciplinary  |
| Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM)/48              | Biblical Counseling<br>Christian Education<br>Church Ministry<br>Church Planting<br>Global Ministries<br>Interdisciplinary Studies  |
| Master of Theological Studies (MTS)/42/44                   | None  |
| Diploma/41  | Christian Ministry<br>Biblical Counseling<br>Theological Studies  |
| Certificate of Advanced Studies/15                          | Advanced Biblical Languages<br>Advanced Biblical Studies<br>Bible Exposition<br>Biblical Archaeology<br>Biblical Counseling<br>Chaplaincy<br>Christian Education<br>Church Planting<br>Global Ministries<br>New Testament<br>Old Testament<br>Pastoral/Church Ministry<br>Interdisciplinary |

***Q: Do I need to have a bachelor's degree?***

**A:** If you want to enter a master's degree program, you usually need to have completed a traditional (minimum 120 credit hours) bachelor's degree granted by an accredited institution. However, under certain circumstances a student may be accepted to STS with conditional or probationary status. If you have questions regarding this, please speak with the Vice President of Academics. The Diploma Program is intended for people who have not completed a bachelor's degree. You can also audit classes without a bachelor's degree. Please refer to the "Academic Programs" section of this catalog for more information.

***Q: I graduated from a Christian college. May I receive advanced standing or placement?***

**A:** Yes. See the section regarding the Advanced Placement Master of Divinity or see the Advanced Standing Acceptance sub-section of the "Admissions Policies" section.

***Q: If I plan on entering a PhD program, is it better for me to pursue a Master of Theology, Master of Divinity, or the Master of Arts in Biblical Literature and Languages?***

**A:** All three are acceptable. The Master of Theology (ThM) is a pre-doctoral program built upon the foundation of the MDiv. The Master of Divinity (MDiv) and the Master of Arts (Biblical Literature and Languages) (MABLL) degrees are appropriate for a student who wishes to go on to pursue postgraduate studies. However, the MABLL is specifically designed for students preparing for vocational ministry within academia or in a related teaching ministry, whereas the MDiv prepares for pastoral and church ministry positions. Writing a thesis at the master's level is important preparation for writing a doctoral dissertation; thus, a thesis is required for ThM and MABLL students. A student in the MDiv program is strongly encouraged to write a thesis if the MDiv is not going to serve as a terminal degree.

***Q: Is financial aid available?***

**A:** Yes. All full-time ministry workers or members of churches who financially support Shepherds Theological Seminary at \$300/month receive a 10 percent discount on tuition. Missionaries who are in the mission field for significant periods of time outside the United States or are actively on deputation (must be under a Missionary Sending Agency or Church Board) receive a 50 percent discount. There are limited funds for tuition grants and for scholarships to current students. We encourage you to contact your home church for tuition assistance. STS is approved by the Department of Education to participate in Title IV student financial aid.

***Q: Is the Seminary accredited?***

**A:** Yes. Shepherds Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of **The Association of Theological Schools (ATS)** in the United States and Canada (ATS) [10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275, Telephone: 412-788-6505, Fax: 421-788-6510, Website: [www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)]. The seminary has been accredited by ATS since June 2016, and the following degree programs are approved as specified: Doctor of Ministry (DMin), Master of Theology (ThM), Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts in Biblical Literature

and Languages (MABLL), Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS), Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM), and Master of Theological Studies (MTS). STS is approved for a Comprehensive Distance Education Program. Shepherds Theological Seminary can provide distance education to 49 states and the District of Columbia through the **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)**. The following ongoing extension sites are approved as specified:

- Laramie Valley Chapel (4801 Quarter Horse Drive, Laramie, WY 82070) to offer the MTS degree.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church (7320 Steep Hollow Road, Bryan, TX 77808) to offer the MTS degree.

Shepherds Theological Seminary is accredited by the **Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)** [440 West Jubal Early Ave., Winchester, VA 22601, Telephone: 800-323-9473, Website: <http://www.ecfa.org>]. ECFA accreditation is based on the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™ that include financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance, and ethical fundraising.

***Q: How much does tuition cost?***

**A:** Tuition at STS is maintained below the average tuition charged at peer seminaries across the USA. Tuition per credit hour is:

- \$430 for a full-time student (9+ hours).
- \$455 for a part-time student (<9 hours).
- \$75/credit hour for an audit student.

*Other fees, which are listed in the "Financial Information" section of this catalog, may apply.*

***Q: How do I apply?***

**A:** Please follow the complete application process outlined on the website at least one month before classes begin. Forms are available online at [www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu) and in the seminary office. Also, on the website, you will find the latest calendar, news items, upcoming courses and course information, course enrollment, text listings, other forms, and a PDF of this catalog. Contact the seminary office to meet with the registrar to discuss your particular situation. For more information, call 919-573-5350 and refer to the "Admissions Enrollment" section of this catalog.

***Q: May I audit classes?***

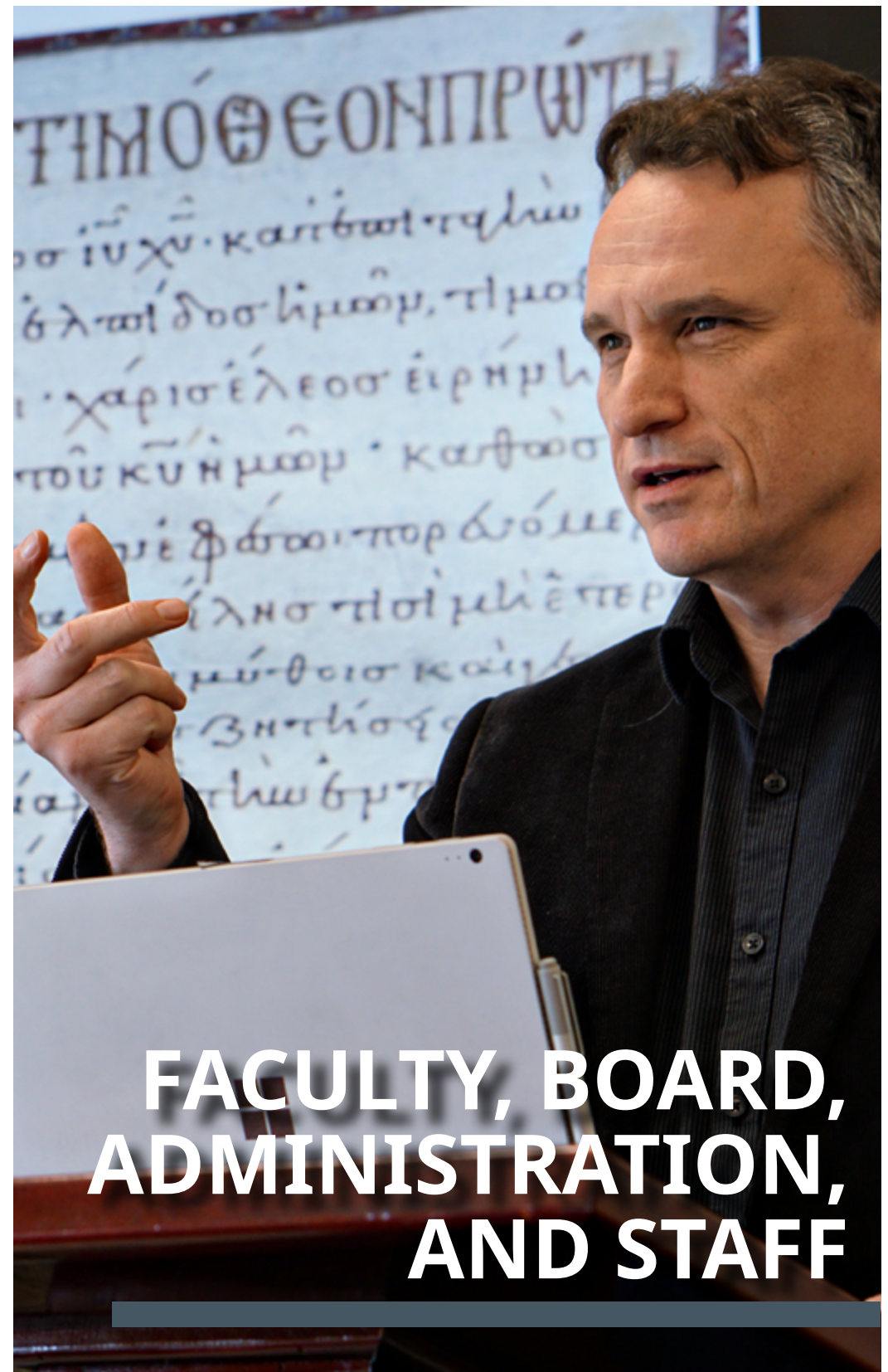
**A:** Yes. People who do not intend to go into full-time ministry but want to increase their knowledge of God's Word may take classes for audit. A student, however, cannot decide to convert an audit class to a degree credit class.

**Q:** *Is distance learning available?*

**A:** Yes. Distance Learning is available through teaching sites or through synchronous livestreaming, however all programs may have some residency requirement at the main campus. Because STS is committed to discipleship, community, and mentoring for all of our students, we do not offer online learning that is disconnected from a physical class in session.

**Q:** *Does the Seminary offer anything for my spouse?*

**A:** Yes. Spouses of credit students may audit one class each semester/module for a fixed fee, provided that the spouse who is a credit student is enrolled in at least 2 courses during the semester in which the course is audited. In addition, STS Women Together meets each month during the school year for encouragement and fellowship.



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The greatest asset of a theological seminary is not measured by its beautiful buildings but by the quality of its faculty. The STS faculty is committed to sound scholarship and absolute loyalty to God’s inerrant and infallible Word. The faculty’s goal is to embrace a biblical balance for life and ministry in the subjects being taught. Those who teach will also model these principles in and out of the classroom. Faculty members have earned academic degrees and many years of ministry experience. We believe equipping servant leaders is best accomplished by servant leaders who themselves combine biblical scholarship with actual experience in the work of the ministry.

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*Then I will give you shepherds after  
my own heart, who will lead you with  
knowledge and understanding.*

JEREMIAH 3:15