

# Northern Seminary Catalog

2021-2022



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This catalog describes Northern Seminary's programs for the academic years 2020-2021. Northern Seminary reserves the right to change without notice any statement in the catalog concerning, but not limited to, policies, procedures, tuition, fees, professors, curricula, and courses.

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## From the President

For over 100 years, Northern Seminary has been training pastors to lead local churches to engage the world. With the addition of new degree programs and live streaming technology, we are positioned to strengthen the body of Christ and transform the world. Students from Naperville and the Netherlands are connected to our seminary, and I am grateful that you too have chosen Northern.

We are a thoughtful, prayerful, vibrant people of faith. We believe that God calls and gifts women and men to bear witness to the power of the resurrection through the local church. Our classroom experience will connect you to friends from diverse cultural backgrounds and churches from a variety of settings. Our hope is that you will be equipped with a renewed passion for your work and a desire to evangelize our world with the gospel. With a strong biblical foundation and under Christ's authority, we will commission you to minister and to live on mission wherever the Spirit sends you.

Inside this catalog, you'll find a menu of training opportunities to enhance your witness. Our faculty have designed these courses and programs with you and your congregation in mind. Their robust scholarship and faithful discipleship offer examples for all of us to emulate. When you enter the classroom, when we stream these courses to your laptop, or when you visit our Lawndale, South Side, or Greater Cincinnati Centers, you will find teachers and students who care about you personally and who are committed to be with you throughout your Northern journey and beyond.

As you continue your journey at Northern, my hope is that you will "know Christ and the power of his resurrection." Our seminary is committed to partnering with you and your congregation to live Christ's call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William D. Shiell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

William D. Shiell  
President

## **Mission Statement**

Northern Seminary affirms its evangelical heritage through its commitments to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to the authority of Scripture. The Seminary offers an educational context that is international, interracial, and intercultural for the preparation of men and women who are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit for the mission of Christ in the world and the ministries of the Church.

Our strategic role is to educate leaders who will be personally whole and spiritually mature, biblically grounded, and theologically competent, pastoral, evangelistic and prophetic.

In partnership with American Baptist churches and in cooperation with the wider Church, the Seminary commits itself to excellence in the pursuit of the mission.

## **Vision Statement**

To lead the church and engage the world by providing sustainable resources, training successful students, and equipping strong churches.

## **Statement of Faith**

Northern has a Statement of Faith to promote unity and cooperation within the Seminary, akin to the spirit that was proclaimed by the New Testament Church, and to make known to others the tone and substance, which is to be expected in public pronouncements.

All of Northern's full-time faculty, administrators and trustees have affirmed this statement as a testimony of their common commitment to Christ and to the advancement of His Church. While students need not sign the statement, they are encouraged to give special heed to the biblical teachings that form its foundation. Our life of worship, instruction, prayer and fellowship together centers on the shared commitment to Christ.

The doctrinal basis of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary is and shall be:

The Bible is the revealed Word of God, given by the Holy Spirit, and so is fully inspired, authoritative, and the sufficient rule of faith and practice for the believer.

God exists eternally in three persons who are revealed in Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. While these three are one, each has a special office and activity: God, the Father, is the source, support, and end of all things; God, the virgin-born Son, is the medium of revelation and redemption by virtue of his incarnation, life and death; God, the Holy Spirit, is the one who inspires divinely chosen persons, reproves the world because of sin, regenerates and sanctifies the believer, and now represents the Son on earth.

Creation is the act by which God brought the universe and all that it contains into existence; the universe is preserved by natural law which is an expression of God's will; at the same time, God's miraculous working is not excluded from nature, as a means of making known God's plan and purpose according to the pleasure of God's will.

Humanity was made in the image of God and originally sinless. Men and women are fallen in Adam, the head of the race, and are now by nature and choice sinners, living in revolt against their Creator, and are unable to escape from their sinful state on their own.

The only way of reconciling sinful humanity to God is provided in the work of Christ, the incarnate Son, fully human and fully divine; in his sinless life, sacrificial death on the cross, resurrection, ascension, and present intercession, he reveals at the same time God's grace and loving provision for all creatures. Humans are reconciled unto God only as they by faith appropriate for themselves the salvation provided in Christ.

The Church is that universal and spiritual body which includes all the redeemed of which Christ the Redeemer is the head; the church in the local and visible sense is a group of believers, immersed on profession of faith in Christ, united under the direct, personal, undelegated lordship of Christ, voluntarily joined together for worship of God, service to others, and for carrying out the work of the Great Commission as given by Christ. Each local church is an autonomous body under Christ, cooperating with other churches of like faith and order in the work of evangelizing the world and advancing the Kingdom of God.

The ordinances are two in number. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, following the confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; baptism symbolizes the death of the old life and the rising of the new. The Lord's Supper is a memorial instituted by Christ to be kept by believers as a symbol of atoning death, and of himself as the Bread of Life, the one through whom believers have spiritual life and vitality.

The second advent of Christ is his personal return by which the present age will be terminated. The ultimate hope of the believer is not in history but in the great eschatological event by which the present age is brought to its conclusion. The culmination of history takes place in the final judgment, in which the unredeemed will be punished through eternal separation from God, and the redeemed will enter into a state of eternal peace and righteousness with God.

(revised 9/2002)

## **Community Standards**

Every Christian believer is called by God's grace into sanctified living to become more Christ-like in holiness. Especially because a seminary seeks to develop leaders for the Church, we hold one another to high standards in our work, study, relationships, and ministry, seeking to develop spiritual maturity that evidences the fruit of the Spirit. Commitment to right living in Christ produces a radical common witness to God's power at work to redeem, restore, and empower God's people in God's mission to transform the world.

Christian formation and community are core values of Northern Seminary and are, therefore, foundational to these Standards. All members of the community—employees, students, board members, and residents—are called to respect one another in regard to diversity of denomination, ethnicity, culture, and calling. All members are expected to refrain from behavior which Scripture forbids, including sexual misconduct (sexual relations outside of marriage, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, same-gender sexual relations, use of pornography), theft, academic or personal dishonesty, substance abuse, misuse of property, threats to health and safety of others, physical or emotional abuse (including intimidation or bullying), misogyny, financial irresponsibility, disrespect to seminary

employees and students, or violation of housing rules and center regulations. These behaviors destroy community and the personal wholeness which Christ purchased through his life, death, and resurrection.

The Seminary may deny admission, place on probation, suspend, expel, withhold a degree, terminate employment, or take other action in response to personal conduct outside of these Standards.

## **Policy on Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking.**

### **Policy against Sexual Assault, Misconduct and Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking, Dating Violence**

#### **Northern Seminary Policy Statement**

Northern Seminary is committed to the safety and security of all students and visitors to its centers. All members of the Northern Seminary community, including but not limited to students, faculty (including adjunct and affiliate faculty), staff, volunteers and independent contractors are subject to this policy.

In the event of a reported instances of Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking, the Seminary shall uphold:

*The Secretary of Education amends the regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). The final regulations specify how recipients of Federal financial assistance covered by Title IX, including elementary and secondary schools as well as postsecondary institutions, (hereinafter collectively referred to as “recipients” or “schools”), must respond to allegations of sexual harassment consistent with Title IX’s prohibition against sex discrimination. These regulations are intended to effectuate Title IX’s prohibition against sex discrimination by requiring recipients to address sexual harassment as a form of sex discrimination in education programs or activities. The final regulations obligate recipients to respond promptly and supportively to persons alleged to be victimized by sexual harassment, resolve allegations of sexual harassment promptly and accurately under a predictable, fair grievance process that provides due process protections to alleged victims and alleged perpetrators of sexual harassment, and effectively implement remedies for victims. The 2 final regulations also clarify and modify Title IX regulatory requirements regarding remedies the Department may impose on recipients for Title IX violations, the intersection between Title IX, Constitutional protections, and other laws, the designation by each recipient of a Title IX Coordinator to address sex discrimination including sexual harassment, the dissemination of a recipient’s non-discrimination policy and contact information for a Title IX Coordinator, the adoption by recipients of grievance procedures and a grievance process, how a recipient may claim a religious exemption, and prohibition of retaliation for exercise of rights under Title IX*

Further information about Title IX and sex discrimination in education is available from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-4544, Tel: (312) 730-1560, TDD: (877) 521-2172), Email: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov) ).

In the event of a reported instance of Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking, the Seminary shall uphold the following:

- ***Actual Knowledge:***  
Northern Seminary is not obligated to take action unless we receive actual knowledge of allegations of sexual harassment. The seminary will have actual knowledge if a report is made to the Title IX Coordinator or any official of the seminary who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the school.
- ***Jurisdiction:***  
Northern Seminary is only responsible for addressing sexual harassment that occurs under an education program or activity. The seminary can choose to address incidents outside its jurisdiction but does not have to do so. Title IX does not apply to incidents occurring outside the United States, such as during a study abroad trip.
- ***Standard of Proof:***  
Northern Seminary can choose the burden of proof for Title IX adjudications: the lower burden of "preponderance of the evidence," or the higher burden of proof, "clear and convincing."
- ***Live Hearing:***  
We will provide for live hearings for formal complaints of sexual harassment. The seminary will create an audio or audiovisual recording or transcript of the live hearing and make it available to the parties for inspection.
- ***Cross-Examination:***  
Cross-examination at the live hearing must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor and never by a party personally.
- ***Single-Investigator Model:***  
Northern Seminary is committed to using an investigator for the Title IX cases and not the Title IX Coordinator. The investigator cannot be the same person who determines whether the respondent is guilty.
- ***Students' Rights:***  
The investigator must provide all parties an equal opportunity to examine all evidence gathered during the investigation that is directly related to the allegations. A copy of the investigative report must be given to the parties at least ten days prior to the hearing.
- ***Respondent's Right:***  
The Title IX Coordinator must tell respondents in writing they are presumed innocent until determined to be guilty. A respondent cannot be summarily expelled from the seminary unless the respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of the complainant (or anyone else).
- ***Informal Resolution:***  
Northern Seminary can offer informal resolution options, such as mediation, to the parties, but both parties must give voluntary, informed, written consent. Note that the seminary cannot offer informal resolution for allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

***Recordkeeping Requirements:***

Northern Seminary must maintain Title IX records for seven years

**Title IX Coordinator, Linda Owens, [lowens@seminary.edu](mailto:lowens@seminary.edu) or**

**Title IX Deputies,**

Greg Armstrong, [garmstrong@seminary.edu](mailto:garmstrong@seminary.edu)

Lynn Cohick, [lcohick@faculty.seminary.edu](mailto:lcohick@faculty.seminary.edu)

Definition of sexual harassment as the following by Title IX:

- “Unwelcomed conduct” determined to be “severe, pervasive and objectively Offensive.”

## 1. Definitions of Violence

a. **Sexual harassment** can take one of two forms. The first form involves unwelcome verbal, electronic, physical and/or visual conduct based on sex, which both (1) unreasonably interferes with a person’s work or educational performance, and (2) creates an environment that both a reasonable person and the specific person being harassed would find intimidating, hostile or offensive. The second form involves either.

- submission to unwelcome advances of a supervisor as an express or implied condition of receiving work or educational benefits, or
- a tangible work or educational detriment resulting from a person’s failure or refusal to submit to sexual demands of a supervisor. Examples of sexual harassment include (but are not limited to):
  - Unwelcome sexual flirtation or advances.
  - Offering employment, promotions, grades, or other benefits in exchange for sexual favors.
  - Making or threatening reprisals for refusing sexual advances.
  - Unwelcome visual and/or electronic conduct such as leering; making sexual gestures; displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, or posters; and suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations.
  - Unwelcome verbal or electronic conduct such as derogatory comments; epithets; slurs; sexual innuendo; sexual jokes; graphic verbal commentaries about a person’s body; and sexually degrading words used to describe a person.
  - Unwelcome physical conduct such as unwarranted, suggestive, or offensive touching; and impeding or blocking movement.

b. **Sexual Assault** refers to any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against the person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the survivor is incapable of giving consent, as well as incest or statutory rape. Examples of sexual assault for purposes of this policy include but are not limited to:

- Intentional touching of another person’s intimate parts without that person’s consent;
- Other intentional sexual contact with another person without that person’s consent;
- Coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force a person to touch another person’s intimate parts without that person’s consent; or

- Rape, which is penetration, no matter how slight, of (1) the vagina or anus of a person by any body part of another person or by an object, or (2) the mouth of a person by a sex organ of another person, without that person's consent.

**c. Domestic Violence** includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by

- A current or former spouse or intimate partner of the survivor.
- A person with whom the survivor shares a child in common.
- A person who is or was residing in the same household as the survivor; or
- Any person against someone who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

**d. Stalking** occurs when someone engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.

**e. Dating Violence** refers to violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the survivor.

**2. Definition of Consent** - Consent is a freely given agreement to sexual activity, a person's lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use or threat of force does not constitute consent, a person's manner of dress does not constitute consent, a person's consent to past sexual activity does not constitute consent to future sexual activity, a person's consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not constitute consent to engage in sexual activity with another, marital relationship does not constitute consent, a person can withdraw consent at any time, and a person cannot consent to sexual activity if that person is unable to understand the nature of the activity or give knowing consent due to circumstances, including without limitation the following:

- (A) the person is incapacitated due to the use or influence of alcohol or drugs
- (B) the person is asleep or unconscious.
- (C) the person is under age; or
- (D) the person is incapacitated due to a mental disability

### **3. Reporting Procedures and Confidentiality**

- a. Reporting Procedures-** Students are free to utilize one or more of the following procedures for reporting instances of violence as defined above.

#### **i. Immediate Assistance**

- 1. Lisle Police Department-** The police department may be reached by dialing 9-1-1 or (630) 271 – 4200.

2. **RAINN Crisis Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)**
3. **Pillars (La Grange Park) 708-482-9600** (Pillars is a local resource center for victims of Sexual Violence)
4. **DuPage Women Against Rape (DWAR)**  
24-hour emergency number (630) 971-3927  
Non-emergency number (630) 790-6600
5. **DuPage County State's Attorney Victim/Witness Advocates**  
505 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
(630) 407-8008

ii. **Seminary Reporting-**Within 12 hours of a receiving a report, the reporting party shall be contacted with contact information for the Confidential Advisor.

1. **Online Reporting:** Online reporting is available at the link below and is clearly marked on the Northern Seminary Student Website under the My Northern tab.  
<https://northernseminary.formstack.com/forms/sexualviolenceform>
2. **Directly Contact any Seminary Employee-** Seminary employees can assist a reporting student in filing a report, outline Seminary procedures, and assist in ensuring that the reporting student is safe.

**b. Confidentiality**

- i. All reports will be considered confidential, and the substance of these reports will not be shared with any Seminary staff beyond the Dean of Academic Affairs office except in circumstances where Dean of Academic Affairs office officials may be directly named in the report or when adjudication requires the involvement of the Cabinet or Board of Trustees. Further, reports may be made anonymously according to the desire of the reporting party.
- ii. **Amnesty Clause-** The Seminary agrees to give amnesty for policy violations that may surface as a result of a report of violence. Reporting individuals will not be subject to disciplinary action for any violations disclosed in the course of reporting an incident of sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, or stalking.

**4. Victim Rights and Services**

- a. The Seminary will provide victims and/or reporting parties with a Confidential Advisor who will detail procedures, resources, and next steps in the process. The Confidential Advisor will remain available to the reporting party indefinitely.



- b. The seminary will work with local law enforcement to ensure the immediate physical safety of the reporting party.
- c. The Seminary will assist the victim in gaining access to medical services, counseling services, and pastoral care services as needed. Further, the seminary will assist students in paying for counseling services in the event of a report.
- d. The Seminary will provide the contact information for local and national sexual violence support centers.
- e. The Seminary will maintain confidentiality in all matters pertaining to an instance of sexual violence according to guidelines established by FERPA and other legislation.
- f. Pertaining to course work, victims of sexual assault will be offered full access to extensions on coursework according to existing Seminary guidelines. The Confidential Advisor will arrange for these extensions upon request by the victim but will not disclose details of the incident when contacting faculty.
- g. In the event that an incident of sexual violence results in the victim wishing to withdraw from Seminary, the student will receive a full refund on any payment made on the unfinished quarter and on any money paid in advance for future quarters.
- h. While individuals named as aggressors are entitled to a fair hearing, the Seminary will act primarily to protect the alleged victim until such a time as the alleged sexual violence is found to be false. False reporting is largely a myth and represents a statistically insignificant number of sexual violence reports.
- i. The above listed rights and services shall be offered and discharged regardless of the sex, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity of both the victim and alleged aggressor.

## **5. Internal Hearing Process, Sanctions, and Appeal**

- a. In instances where the alleged aggressor in an instance of sexual violence is also a Northern Student, Northern Seminary commits to conducting a fair hearing based on initial report, witness statements, physical evidence which can be reasonably interpreted by Seminary staff, and the testimony of the accused. This hearing will be conducted separately from any legal action taken as a result of reports made to law enforcement agencies. The hearing procedure is as follows:
  - i. The alleged aggressor will be informed of the reported violation only after the safety of the victim or reporting party has been assured. Further, the alleged aggressor will not be notified by the school until local law enforcement has had an opportunity to respond. The victim may or may not be present for the hearing according to the desire of the victim. The victim may choose to enter an additional written statement if they do not wish to be present.

- ii. The Seminary promises to hold the hearing within 30 days of the initial report unless pending legal action prevents the alleged aggressor from being present for the hearing.
  - iii. The hearing will be carried out by the Dean of Academic Affairs in cooperation with the President of Northern Seminary. The Dean's Office team will make all decisions in regard to sanctions and their decisions may be appealed to the Board of Trustees according to procedures outlined in the next section "c" of policy item 5.
  - iv. The Dean's Office team will consider all information and evidence before reaching a sanctioning decision. The Dean's Office Team may take up to 48 hours to reach a decision and, within that time frame, may request an additional hearing time if one is deemed necessary.
  - v. The Dean's Office will clearly and promptly communicate all sanction decisions with the alleged aggressor within 24 hours of reaching their decisions. This sanction meeting should take place in person and should be scheduled at the conclusion of the hearing.
  - vi. The Dean's Office must ensure that all sanctioning decisions are upheld according to the timeframes laid out below.
- b. At the conclusion of the hearing process, if the alleged accuser is found to be in violation of the sexual violence policy, that individual shall be subject to some or all of the following sanctions according to the discretion of the Hearing team.
- i. **Expulsion-**Individuals found to have violated the Sexual Violence policy may be subject to immediate expulsion. This expulsion must be carried out according to all policies which apply to the expulsion of a student under other circumstances.
  - ii. **Suspension-** Individuals found to have violated the Sexual Violence policy may be subject to immediate suspension. Suspension can last for up to a full academic year and return to Northern Seminary may be made contingent upon completion of additional restorative sanctions.
  - iii. **Restorative Justice-** In some circumstances, Individuals found to have violated the Sexual Violence policy may be subject to sanctions which are intended to assist them in their rehabilitation, mental health, and spiritual restoration. This sanction may only be applied if it does not directly contradict any legal decision. Additionally, this sanction may only be applied if the Hearing Team can reach a level of reasonable certainty that the physical, mental, and emotional safety/wellness of the victim would not be compromised by seeking restorative Justice. Restorative justice may not be offered in instances where the student will be expelled as expulsion constitutes a termination of relationship between the Seminary and the alleged aggressor.

- iv. **Bar from Grounds-** Individuals found to have violated Sexual Violence policy may be barred from entering the ground of Northern Seminary. Students who violate this ban will be subject to legal action.
- v. **Hearing Fee-** Individuals found to have violated the Sexual Violence Policy shall be subject to a \$250 hearing fee to cover the administrative cost of the hearing process.

**c. Appeals**

- i. Both the alleged aggressor and the victim have the right to appeal the decision of the Hearing Team to the Office of the President.
- ii. In the case of such an appeal, the President may decide whether to uphold or overturn the entire ruling of the team. Additionally, the President may make adjustments to the sanctioning decisions of the team provided the sanctions remain within the options outlined above.
- iii. The President will clearly communicate their timeline for reaching an appeal decision and that timeline must be reasonable.
- iv. All sanctions remain in effect, and their timelines must be honored, during the course of the appeal.

**6. Commitment to Ongoing Training**

- a. **Confidential Advisor-** The confidential advisor will receive a minimum of 40 hours of training within the first 6 months of their appointment. Further, the Confidential Advisor will be expected to complete at least 10 hours of training per year of appointment.
- b. **Staff/Faculty-** Faculty and Staff will be expected to attend at least one mandatory training on how to support victims of sexual assault per academic year. This training will be facilitated either by the Confidential Advisor or by a community resource center.
- c. **Students-** Northern Seminary will offer annual training opportunities for students which will focus on educating them on Northern's Sexual Violence policy, available resources, and reporting procedures. Additionally, the Seminary will create an annual opportunity for students to participate in training which focuses on equipping students to identify, prevent, and escape sexual violence in their own lives.

## Core Values

Founded in 1913, Northern Seminary is an evangelical community, rooted in Baptist heritage, passionately committed to graduate-level educational excellence with a mission of preparing women and men for effective leadership for the church of Jesus Christ.

We treasure these commitments:

<b>Gospel</b>	We live by personal faith in the good news of what God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit - has accomplished in the incarnation, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.
<b>Scripture</b>	We submit to the Word of God, incarnate in Jesus Christ, made known in the whole of Scripture as the supreme authority for faith and practice.
<b>Mission</b>	We are driven by God’s mission, which is both global and local, culturally engaged, and holistically committed to evangelizing, discipling, and serving others with compassion.
<b>Leadership</b>	We focus on preparing women and men, called by God, to lead local churches and other ministries to faithful effectiveness with wisdom and vision.
<b>Formation</b>	We are committed to the spiritual formation of Christ-like leaders to nurture Spirit-formed communities by modeling personal wholeness, biblical faithfulness, and theological competence.
<b>Community</b>	We celebrate a vibrant community that brings together in Christ women and men from across racial, cultural, generational, and denominational lines.

(Adopted 3/07)

## History of the Seminary

Like many theological seminaries in the United States, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary began as a “protest school.” By the second decade of the twentieth century, many evangelicals in the old Northern Baptist Convention (now the American Baptist Churches, USA) were concerned about the spread of theological liberalism within the denomination. In 1913, a group of lay people from the Second Baptist Church of Chicago decided to establish a new seminary committed to preparing men and women for effective service as pastors, educators, missionaries, and evangelists within an evangelical theological context.

Northern’s first president was Dr. John Marvin Dean, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Chicago, and its first student was Amy Lee Stockton of California, who went on to become an effective evangelist and Bible teacher. Classes were held in the Second Baptist Church for the first few years. In 1918, in the middle of the Spanish Influenza outbreak and at the end of World War 1, President George Taft met with Illinois Baptists to discuss Northern’s future. The seminary was growing and needed larger facilities to train educated pastors to preach the gospel. The following year, Illinois Baptists donated money to purchase a mansion on West Washington Boulevard and moved the seminary out of the basement of Second Baptist Church. In 1919 Northern moved to its new campus on Chicago’s west side and in 1920 was recognized by the Northern Baptist Convention as one of its seminaries. In its early history, Northern, like many other theological schools of the time, had both undergraduate and graduate programs for the training of Christian workers. During the 1960s, these two programs separated, and the undergraduate program became Judson College of Elgin, Illinois.

The twenties, thirties, and forties were difficult years for traditional American denominations, which found themselves caught up in fierce debates over theological diversity and the control of institutions. During those decades, Northern Seminary played an important role in leading the more conservative evangelical forces in the Northern Baptist Convention, but resisted mounting pressures to separate from the denomination. Northern championed a broadly evangelical position distinct from liberal and fundamentalist extremes. Long before it became fashionable elsewhere, Northern also pioneered in its commitments to women, ethnic minorities, and internationals in ministry.

When during the 1940s many conservatives called for a “new evangelicalism,” Northern provided impressive leadership. Northern graduates served in significant numbers on the founding faculties of Fuller Theological Seminary (1947) and Denver Conservative Baptist Seminary (1950). They founded many of the newer para-church organizations that revitalized American religious life after World War II. The founder of Youth for Christ was a Northern graduate; many of the early editors of Christianity Today magazine, including Carl Henry, Harold Lindsell, and Gilbert Beers, had either graduated from or taught at Northern. In addition, international evangelist and historian of revival, J. Edwin Orr, and Kenneth Taylor, who published the Living Bible and founded Tyndale House Publishers, are Northern alumni. Other Northern graduates have served with great distinction as pastors, missionaries, educators, and evangelists, just as the founders of the seminary envisioned.

Northern has graduated a significant number of ethnic leaders from all over the world, including Hispanics, Asians, Africans, and African-Americans. Northern recruited African-Americans during those years when many southern schools refused them admission. Miles Mark Fisher, the first black graduate from Northern (1922), was recognized by Ebony magazine as one of the top black preachers in America in 1954. Louis S. Rawls (1938) made a prodigious contribution to the Kingdom serving as pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Chicago, launching ministries such as Tabernacle Hospital, funeral homes, senior citizen housing, and the Chicago Baptist Institute. Bill Bentley, a 1960 graduate, organized the National Black Evangelical Association and contributed much to racial reconciliation among evangelicals.

During the 1960s, Northern moved to its Lombard campus. While staying true to its tradition, Northern continued to develop new programs and perspectives for ministry. Under Dr. Ian Chapman, Northern's seventh president, the seminary renovated its campus, built the Lindner Conference Center, added new academic programs, dramatically increased its endowment, and positioned itself as a leader among evangelical schools in North America and around the world. The year 2001 was one of transition as Dr. Chapman retired as president and became the seminary's chancellor, and Dr. Charles Moore was elected president. He served until 2006, at which time John Kirn became the interim president. In 2008, Northern opened a new center on the West Side of Chicago in partnership with Lawndale Community Church and Dr. Wayne “Coach” Gordon. In 2008, Dr. Alistair Brown was selected as president and served until 2016. In 2016, Dr. William Shiell was selected as president, beginning an exciting new era at Northern Seminary.

After more than 50 years at our Lombard campus, in 2017 the seminary took a major step forward to make Northern more accessible, affordable, and contextual for the changing world. Northern embraced a new future by relocating its main campus to a state-of-the-art facility in Lisle, Illinois, opening a site on the South Side of Chicago, and expanding its programs delivered on the West Side of Chicago and its live-streaming programs through “Northern Live.”

In 2018, Northern opened a new center in Fairfield, Ohio, in partnership with Tabernacle Bible Church City of Promise. In 2020, we launched a new on-demand platform in partnership with InterVarsity Press called Seminary Now. This new service provides access to course content on a subscription basis to anyone regardless of education.

Northern retains a unique style. We are evangelical, culturally, and socially engaged, and racially diverse. We are convinced that effective ministry today demands a special kind of evangelical faith, one that is committed to the truth of the gospel, unwavering in its loyalty to the Scriptures, empowered by the Spirit, reflective of the Body of Christ's ethnic and cultural diversity, culturally transformative, and unbending in its support of women in ministry

## **Accreditation**

Northern Baptist Theological Seminary is a graduate school accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), 10 Summit Park Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1103. Phone: (412) 788-6505. ATS is the national accrediting agency for theological schools in the United States and Canada. The following degree programs are approved by the Commission on Accrediting: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Christian Ministries, Master of Arts in Worship, Master of Arts in Urban Leadership, Master of Arts (Theology and Mission), Master of Arts (New Testament), and the Doctor of Ministry. Northern is approved to offer the Master of Arts in Urban Leadership at its Chicago extension site at New Life Covenant Church Southeast and the Greater Cincinnati Center in Fairfield, Ohio.

The seminary is related to the American Baptist Churches, USA. It offers equal opportunity for students, administrative staff and faculty concerning matriculation, employment, or service without regard to matters of gender, race, ethnic heritage, nationality, or economic position.

Northern Baptist Theological Seminary is approved for attendance of non-immigrant students under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Degree Programs at the seminary are approved by the state-approving agency for attendance of veterans eligible for VA Educational Benefits under the provisions of the Veterans Administration.

Other public information: Annual financial audit reports and the President's annual report are available on file in the Library.

# Staff

## **Office of the President**

William Shiell, President

Amy S. DiSanto, Executive Assistant to the President and the New Kind of Preacher Program

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Pamela Grandison, Executive Assistant to the Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs

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Wayne Gordon, Director of the Master of Arts and the Doctor of Ministry in Christian Community Development Program

Scot McKnight, Director of the Master of Arts in New Testament Program and the Doctor of Ministry in New Testament Context Program

Mike Moore, Assistant Director of the Master of Arts in the Theology and Mission Program and the Anabaptist Studies Program

## **Office of Admissions**

Gregory Armstrong, Director of Enrollment

Andrea Pingel, Coordinator of Marketing and Enrollment

Samantha Jones, Recruiter for the BA-MDiv/Advanced Pastoral Degree Program

## **Office of Student Services & Advising & the Registrar**

Linda D. Owens, Senior Executive Director of Student Services

Pamela Grandison, Office Coordinator for Academic Affairs and Student Services

## **Office of Federal Loans and Scholarships**

Loydeen Reichman, Scholarship Coordinator/Accounting Assistant

## **Office of Supervised Ministry**

Linda Owens, Interim Director of Supervised Ministry

## **Library**

Justin Gill, Interim Assistant Director of Library and Library Technology

## **Office of Institutional Advancement**

Phil Bailey, Advancement Administration Assistant

Bill Janus, Director of Special Projects

## **Office of Business Administration**

Tristian Williams, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

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## **Seminary Now**

**Jason Gile**, Executive Director of Seminary Now

**Laura Tarro**, Assistant to the Executive Director of Seminary Now

## **Grow Center for Church and Mission**

**Tommy Lee**, Executive Director of the Grow Center for Church and Mission

# Faculty

## **Regular Faculty**

**Lynn H. Cohick**, *Professor of New Testament*

BA, Messiah College; PhD, University of Pennsylvania

**David E. Fitch**, *Betty R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology*

BA, Wheaton College; MA, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; PhD, Northwestern University

**Wayne Gordon**, *Professor of Urban Ministry*

BA, Wheaton College; MDiv, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; MA, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; DMin, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Nijay Gupta**, *Associate Professor of New Testament*

BA, Miami University; MDiv, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; ThM, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; PhD, University of Durham

**Marshall Elijah Hatch**, *Associate Professor of Ministry*

BA, Western Illinois University; MA, Georgetown University; MA, McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago; DMin, McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago

**Beth Felker Jones**, *Professor of Theology*

BA, DePauw University; MTS, Duke Divinity School; PhD, Duke University

**Scot McKnight**, *Julius R. Mantey Chair of New Testament*

BA, Cornerstone College; MA, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; PhD, University of Nottingham

**William D. Shiell**, *Professor of Pastoral Theology and Preaching*

BA, Samford University; MDiv, George W. Truett Seminary of Baylor University; PhD, Baylor University

## **Affiliate Faculty**

**Gerald Dew**, *Affiliate Professor of Leadership*

**Ingrid Faro**, *Visiting Professor of Old Testament*



**Jason Gile**, *Affiliate Professor of Old Testament*  
**Geoffrey Holsclaw**, *Adjunct Professor of Theology*  
**James Kent**, *Affiliate Professor of Ministry*

### **Adjunct Faculty**

**Michael Bradburn**, *Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Care*  
**Ivan Hartsfield**, *Adjunct Professor of Theology*  
**Gary Hayles**, *Adjunct Professor of Preaching*  
**Mark Mulder**, *Adjunct Professor of Ministry*  
**Brad Nassif**, *Adjunct Professor of Church History*  
**John Perkins**, *Adjunct Professor of Urban Ministry and Christian Community Development*  
**Alan Roxburgh**, *Adjunct Professor of Ministry*  
**Felecia Thompson**, *Adjunct Professor of Formation*

### **Faculty Emeriti**

**Reidar Bjornard**, *Professor of Old Testament, Emeritus*  
Cand. Theol., University of Oslo; ThD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Study: Uppsala University, American School of Oriental Research, Jerusalem

**E. Alfred Jenkins**, *Professor of Education and Ministry, Emeritus*  
BA, Wheaton College; BD, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; MA, PhD  
University of Chicago. Study: Harvard University; Oxford University

**Claude F. Mariottini**, *Professor of Old Testament, Emeritus*  
BA, California Baptist College; MDiv, Golden Gate Theological Seminary; PhD,  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Study: Graduate Theological Union

**Oswaldo L. Mottes**, *Professor of Religion and Society, Emeritus*  
BS, Instituto Politécnico Otto Krause, Buenos Aires; L Soc, Universidad Argentina de Ciencias  
Sociales; BTeol, Seminario Bíblico Latinoamericano, San José, Costa Rica Princeton Theological  
Seminary; PhD, Emory University. Study: Seminario Internacional Teológico Bautista, Buenos Aires;  
Princeton University

**Robert J. Price**, *Associate Professor of Evangelism and Urban Ministry*  
BE, ME, University of Illinois; MA, Governors State University; DMin, Northern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**Michael J. Quicke**, *Emeritus Professor of Preaching and Communications*  
MA, Cambridge University; MA, Oxford University; DD, William Jewell College

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# Campus Life and Student Resources

## Location and Facilities

Northern Seminary operates three centers in the greater Chicago area, and one in virtual space.

These are:

- **The Lisle Center** - The main center, located at 410 Warrenville Road in Lisle, is easily accessible to downtown Chicago, as well as O'Hare and Midway Airports. Aside from classroom space, and staff and faculty offices, the Lisle Center also houses student services, and a student lounge area.
- **The Center for Urban Leadership** - Located in the Chicago Baptist Institute at 5120 S. King Dr, Chicago, IL 60615, The Center for Urban Leadership offers courses at CBI as well as Lisle and Northern Live.
- **The Lawndale Center** - Established in 2008 in partnership with Lawndale Community Church, on the West Side of the city of Chicago, the Lawndale Center has given Northern students the ability to immerse themselves in an urban setting while studying topics around community development, urban ministry, youth subculture, and much more. It's home to our master's and doctoral programs in Christian Community Development (CCD).
- **Northern Live** - Aside from our four physical locations, the seminary also offers classes via its interactive Northern Live streaming technology that enables students to learn and engage directly with classmates and professors in real time from anywhere in the world. This includes the offering of fully distance Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Arts in Christian Ministries (MACM) programs.

## Student Services

Student Services are located on the third floor of the Lisle center. This includes Student Advising and Enrollment, Student Accounts, Supervised Ministry, and the Office of the Registrar.

## Student Commons

The student commons area is located on the third floor of the Lisle center. It includes seating and tables for studying and eating, a refrigerator, a sink and countertop space, hot drinks, phone chargers, and a vending machine with both snacks and cold drinks. There is also an accessible outdoor balcony area with tables and seating. Bulletin boards announcing upcoming events and job opportunities are also located on the monitor in the student commons.

## Community Life

Northern's student body is international, interracial, and intercultural. Founded on Baptist principles, Northern includes students from many other denominational affiliations. Students bring their rich and varied experiences into the classrooms, community worship, and Northern events, enriching the lives of others with their perspectives. Every Monday night students are offered the opportunity to partake in a community meal together, provided by the seminary's Student Services office.

## Worship

The Seminary community worships together on Tuesday evening each week at the Lisle Center and via Facebook Live between classes. Worship leaders and speakers include members of the faculty, staff, and students.

## Thriving Through Seminary

Northern offers an introductory online course, *IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary*, which is designed to help new students who are re-entering academic life to prepare for seminary and sharpen their writing and study skills. The seminar focuses on time management, reading skills, preparation for exams and quizzes, the proper use of the library, researching and writing term papers, and how to use the computer in the preparation of footnotes and endnotes.

## Library

The main library is located on the Third Level of the Lisle center. The collection includes more than 3,500 volumes and 40 journal subscriptions. All Northern students, faculty and staff can borrow from the Lisle library. Satellite libraries are located on our Lawndale Center.

The library also offers access to electronic resources. *The ATLA Religion Database* contains over 1.8 million citations and more than 450 full-text journals. *JSTOR* provides access to more than 12 million [academic journal articles](#), [books](#), and [primary sources](#) in 75 disciplines. *EBSCOhost* contains more than 8,500 multi-disciplinary full-text journals. The library has also purchased more than 8,000 e-books. These electronic resources can be accessed on campus or remotely.

Another essential resource is the rich network of library consortia available at the local, state, and national levels:

- Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS). The ACTS Library Council members' combined library collections comprise more than 2 million, 5,000 currently received periodicals and electronic resources. Students, staff and faculty have borrowing privileges at all of the libraries but must abide by the circulation policies of each library.
- Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) includes over 135 libraries in the state of Illinois. 90 of these member libraries have joined together to create the I-Share database, which contains over 12.9 million unique bibliographic records and nearly 38 million item records. Current students, faculty, and staff of Northern Seminary may borrow materials directly from any other I-Share library.  
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/i-share>
- ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program creates an arrangement between participating North American ATLA Institutional Members to grant check-out privileges to each other's patrons/students. A Northern student, faculty, or staff can walk into a participating library, shows proof of current enrollment at another participating library, and check out materials based on the library's local lending policies. More than 70 libraries in the U.S. and Canada participate in this program. Go to:  
[https://northernseminary.libguides.com/resource/atla\\_reciprocal\\_borrowing\\_program](https://northernseminary.libguides.com/resource/atla_reciprocal_borrowing_program)

- WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services, with records of 72,000 libraries in its union catalog. The catalog lets you search the collections of libraries in your community and thousands more around the world. WorldCat contains over 400 million bibliographic records in 491 languages. Interlibrary loan (ILL) privileges are provided to all users if they have an active membership with a library that owns (or can borrow) the item. Some libraries charge a borrowing fee. <https://www.oclc.org/en/worldcat.html>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WorldCat>

## **Books**

Required texts for Northern courses may be purchased through online bookstores. Books listed as "Required Reading" in course syllabi are kept on reserve at the front desk in the Lisle Library.

## **Computer Lab**

There are computer terminals available for student use in the library on the third level of the main campus.

## **Placement**

The Senior Executive Director of Students Services, and the President are available to counsel and assist seniors in securing placement while students at Northern. The Seminary networks within the American Baptist Churches, USA, as well as with churches and denominational offices outside the ABC, making openings known to students through the Seminary's website, bulletin boards, and the Supervised Ministry Office.

<https://student.seminary.edu/students/student-resources/ministry-opportunities/>

Students interested in serving in American Baptist churches are encouraged to create a profile at <https://ministrelife.org/>

## Academic Programs

In our master's degree programs and in the Doctor of Ministry Program, Northern Seminary seeks to bring together three key elements. Each of them intersects with the social contexts of ministry today:

- Academic rigor
- Ministry practice
- Spiritual formation

The classical disciplines of Bible, theology, Christian history, and ethics open our minds and hearts for growth in wisdom as leaders in Christ's church. Practical disciplines like preaching, pastoral care, educational ministry, youth ministry, pastoral leadership and administration, evangelism, and supervised ministry bring us face to face with deeper biblical and theological questions than we have ever asked before. Spiritual formation happens in every classroom, no matter what the subject matter, as well as in chapel worship and special times of prayer and fellowship. One of the great blessings of study at Northern Seminary is that every professor understands him or herself not only as a teacher and scholar, but – most deeply – as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Selecting the right program involves candid discussion with family, mentors, and seminary staff. This decision requires careful thought, financial planning, and spiritual discernment. For most of our students it means balancing the many parts of a complex set of personal responsibilities. Most of all, commitment to an academic program at Northern Seminary must be undertaken in a context of much prayer. We are here to partner with you along the way as the Lord guides you.

## Master's Programs

### Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is the flagship academic seminary degree. It is a professional degree and is required for ordination in many denominations. In keeping with the many specializations in ministry today, the MDiv program is flexible and seeks to prepare persons for numerous potential ministry vocations, including pastoral ministry in a local congregation; missions; teaching; leadership in denominational, social service, and community agencies; and chaplaincy in a college, hospital, or military setting. The MDiv (or its equivalent) is also a prerequisite for pursuing the Doctor of Ministry degree and is considered the best preparation for those who plan to do PhD work with the goal of teaching in a theological seminary.

### Goals of the Master of Divinity Program

The goals of the MDiv program are to prepare men and women for effective, culturally relevant ministry through academic study, ministerial training, and spiritual and professional formation. Specifically, the MDiv program is designed to enable students to:

- Develop a thorough and critical understanding of Christian heritage (Bible, Theology, Church History, and Ethics).
- Acquire an understanding of the social structures and cultural realities within which Christian institutions live and carry out their missions.

- Grow in spiritual and personal maturity, vital personal faith, and commitment to the practice of ministry.
- Develop the skills of ministry under the supervision of trained personnel.

## Description of the Master of Divinity Degree

The MDiv degree consists of 108 quarter hours (equivalent to 72 semester hours) and can be completed in three years of full-time study (i.e., four courses per term), though many students find that four years is a more reasonable expectation, given the complexities of their lives and schedules. The program consists of four parts.

- **Christian Heritage** – 45 quarter hours are required in Christian Heritage. Christian ministry arises from solid biblical, historical, theological, and ethical foundations. Therefore, MDiv students take three required courses and an elective course in both Old Testament and New Testament; three required courses and an elective in Theology; two required courses in Church History; and an Ethics course. These courses should be taken at Northern Seminary with a minimum grade of C- in order to count toward graduation requirements.
- **Cultural Context** – Effective Christian ministry requires an understanding of the socio-cultural contexts that shape how congregants understand and experience the world, as well as the ability to discern and speak intelligently to the pressing issues of our times. Students are therefore required to take six to twelve quarter hours in Cultural Context (see the summary below for details). These may include Cultural Exegesis and Ethnography; Race, Poverty, Justice, and Reconciliation; and World Religions and Cultures, as well as the opportunity to participate in a Cultural Immersion Experience.
- **Formation and Ministry Skills** – Northern believes the best way to learn ministry leadership is in a ministry context. In the new MDiv program, students study and practice the skills of effective ministry leadership under the supervision of a faculty mentor and a pastoral or ministry mentor. Utilizing the best of competency-based education, students' competencies in ministry will be demonstrated in context. The program allows each student's learning journey to be personalized to address the particular needs of the student and their ministry context.
- **Electives/Specialization** – students may take 15 to 21 quarter hours of electives or specialization courses.

During the first quarter of study, students are assigned a personal Academic Advisor who assists the student with assimilation to seminary life and provides academic counsel from the beginning of seminary studies through to graduation.

Students are required to complete the MDiv within seven years. Extensions must be approved by the faculty. A minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5 is required to graduate.

Students may transfer up to 50% of course work earned at another ATS-accredited theological institution; but they must take a minimum of 36 quarter hours with Northern faculty at the main center. Online courses and courses taken at one of Northern's satellite locations do not count toward the required number of courses to be taken at the main center. The Registrar will officially

determine the number of hours of transfer credit when the student has been admitted to the seminary and has provided official transcripts of the work for which he or she is requesting transfer credit.

## Summary of MDiv Degree Requirements

### Pre-Orientation Course (0 hours)

IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary (on-line) 0

### Christian Heritage (15 courses/45 quarter hours) \*

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, OT 307, 308, WT 307)*

OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books 3

OT 308 Historical Books and the Prophets 3

WT 307 Women in the OT 3

OT 419 Hebrew Tools and OT Interpretation 3

OT xxx Old Testament Elective 3

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, NT 307, 308, WT 308)*

NT 307 Gospels and Acts 3

NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation 3

WT 308 Women in the NT 3

NT 418 Greek Tools and NT Interpretation 3

NT xxx New Testament Elective 3

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, TH 301, 302, WT 309)*

TH 301 Christian Theology I 3

TH 302 Christian Theology II 3

WT 309 Theology and Gender 3

TH 303 Theology of Church and Culture 3

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, CH 301, 302, WT 311)*

CH 301 Early/Medieval Christianity 3

CH 302 Reformation/Modern Christianity 3

WT 311 Women in the Early Church 3

TE xxx Ethics Course 3

### Cultural Context (2-4 courses/6-12 quarter hours)

CT 333 Cultural Exegesis and Ethnography 3

CT 335 Cultural Immersion Experience 3

CT 406 Race, Poverty, Justice, Reconciliation 3

ME 308 World Religions and Cultures 3

### Formation and Ministry Skills (12 courses/36 quarter hours)

SM 305 Formation for Ministry 1 3

SM 306 Formation for Ministry 2 3

SM 307 Christian/Pastoral Leadership 1 3

SM 308 Christian/Pastoral Leadership 2 3

SM 310 Church/Ministry Administration 3

SM 311 Preaching/Communication 3

SM 314 Mission/Evangelism 3

SM 315 Mission/Community Engagement 3



SM 316 Discipleship	3
SM 320 Generational Ministry	3
SM 321 Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
SM 322 Worship	3

**Electives/Specialization (5-7 courses/15-21 quarter hours)\*\***

XX XXX _____	3
XX XXX _____	3
XX XXX _____	3
XX XXX _____	3
XX XXX _____	3
XX XXX _____	3
XX XXX _____	3

**Total Hours Required 108**

*\* Pastoral Ethics may be required for ABC/USA ordination*

*\*\* IN 302 Baptist Polity and History is required for ABC/USA ordination*

**Specializations for Master of Divinity**

A specialization may be completed as part of the MDiv program. In order to complete a specialization, a student may select five (or in some cases six) courses from a specific concentration of study (e.g. NT, OT) or customize a specialization. The student’s Academic Advisor and the Registrar can help in the selection of courses for a particular specialization. Below is a list of popular specializations and the programs through which they may be completed.

**Biblical Studies Specialization**

This specialization is for those who want to enrich their knowledge of the Bible, theology, ethics and/or biblical languages. Six courses are needed. Examples of Biblical Studies courses include:

- New or Old Testament Electives
- Introduction to Christian Ethics
- Greek or Hebrew

**Christian Community Development Specialization**

Northern Seminary has partnered with Lawndale Community Church in Chicago and the Christian Community Development Association to offer a unique opportunity for individuals passionate about serving Christ in urban communities, particularly for those interested in “reclaiming and restoring under-resourced communities.” Students can study with some of the top leaders in the Christian Community Development movement. This specialization provides a dynamic, first-hand educational experience that challenges and prepares students to engage in holistic transformation of the urban community. Examples of Christian Community Development courses include:

- Understanding the City
- Understanding Poverty (with CCDA Conference)
- Church and Community Development
- Community and Economic Reconciliation

Race, Reconciliation, and Reparations (with CCDA Conference)  
Leadership with Justice and Compassion (with CCDA Conference)  
Urban Field Experience  
Creative Preaching in Urban Ministry

### **New Testament Specialization**

This specialization is for those who want to enrich their scriptural knowledge by studying subjects such as the Gospels, New Testament epistles, specific books of the New Testament or worship in the early church. Six courses are needed. Examples of New Testament courses include:

Gospels and Acts  
New Testament Letters and Revelation  
Greek Tools and New Testament Interpretation  
New Testament Electives

### **Old Testament Specialization**

A specialization in Old Testament is for those who want to deepen their knowledge of the Bible through the study of subjects such as The Pentateuch, Former Prophets, Old Testament theology, or specific books of the Old Testament. Six courses are needed. Examples of Old Testament courses include:

Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books  
Historical Books and the Prophets  
Hebrew Tools and Old Testament Interpretation  
Old Testament Electives

### **Theology Specialization**

This specialization includes a variety of theology courses which challenge students to think biblically and critically about the Christian faith, witness and praxis. Examples of Theology Specialization courses include:

Christian Theology I  
Christian Theology II  
Theology of Church and Culture  
Theology Electives

### **Theology & Mission Specialization**

This specialization is suggested for those who want to learn how to: address the unique issues encountered in ministry in the contemporary context; reflect on and engage in shifting congregational paradigms; and develop practical, authentic and culturally relevant ministries. Examples of Missional Church Ministry courses include:

Mission-Shaped Church  
Christianity and Pluralism

Theology of Church and Culture  
Sexual Ethics  
Medical Ethics  
Missional Ecclesiology: Renewing the Practices  
Topics in Missional Theology  
Theology Electives

### **Urban Leadership Specialization**

Individuals preparing for ministry in a contemporary urban context are faced with unique challenges, from addressing the complex needs of the community to developing culturally relevant ministries. This specialization is for those who are called to minister in an urban context and want to learn more about the unique issues encountered in the urban church. Examples of Urban Ministry courses may include:

Urban Ministry of the Church  
Issues Facing Urban Communities  
Leadership in Urban Churches  
Church in Community  
Preaching in Urban Contexts  
Urban Ministry: Creative Preaching  
Urban Field Experience

### **Worship Specialization**

This specialization provides a solid theological foundation for worship leaders and practitioners. Examples of Worship Specialization courses include:

History of Worship and Spirituality  
Theology of Worship and Spirituality  
Leading and Designing Worship  
Current Practices of Worship and Spirituality  
The Worship Pastor as Communicator  
Worship Electives

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### **Master of Arts in Christian Ministries (MACM)**

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministries (MACM) is a professional ministry degree designed to provide theological grounding and skills training for those called to various fields of non-ordained Christian service. The MACM is available as a fully distance degree. More specifically, this degree is meant for:

- Persons serving in church or para-church staff positions who desire leadership training in specific areas of their ministry along with course work in the basic disciplines of theological education.
- Lay people who want graduate theological education and practical skill training in Christian ministries.

- Ordained ministers without the MDiv who seek formal theological and practical ministry training.

## **Goals of the MACM Program**

The MACM program is designed to enable students to:

- Develop a thorough and critical understanding of Christian heritage (Bible, Theology, Church History, and Ethics).
- Grow in spiritual and personal maturity, vital personal faith, and commitment to the practice of ministry.
- Exhibit understanding of and skills in the practice of Christian ministry.
- Integrate theology and ministry practice.

Students are encouraged to work with their Academic Advisor to tailor the program to their specific vocational goals.

## **Description of the MACM Program**

The MACM program consists of 54 quarter hours (equivalent to 36 semester hours) and is designed so it can be completed in two years of full-time study (i.e., three to four courses per term).

Requirements include 10 Christian Heritage Core courses in Bible, Theology, and Church History; and 8 courses in Formation and Ministry Skills. The Christian Heritage Core courses should be taken at Northern Seminary with a minimum grade of C- in order to count toward graduation requirements.

During the first quarter of study students are assigned an Academic Advisor who assists the student with assimilation to seminary life and provides academic counsel from the beginning of seminary studies through to graduation. The advisor will assist the student in designing a course of study that will best serve the student's ministry goals.

Students are required to complete the degree in five years. Extensions must be approved by the faculty. A minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5 is required to graduate.

MACM students may transfer up to 50% of coursework from another ATS-accredited theological institution; however, a minimum of 27 hours must be completed on Northern's main center. The Registrar will officially determine the number of hours of transfer credit when the student has been admitted to the seminary and has provided official transcripts of all work for which he or she is requesting transfer credit.

The program consists of two parts.

- **Christian Heritage** – Christian ministry arises from solid biblical, historical, theological, and ethical foundations. Therefore, MDiv students take three required courses and an elective course in both Old Testament and New Testament; three required courses and an elective in Theology; two required courses in Church History; and an Ethics course. These courses should be taken at Northern Seminary with a minimum grade of C- in order to count toward graduation requirements.

- **Formation and Ministry Skills** – We believe the best way to learn ministry leadership is in a ministry context. In the MACM program, students study and practice the skills of effective ministry leadership under the supervision of a faculty mentor and a pastoral or ministry mentor. Utilizing the best of competency-based education, students’ competencies in ministry will be demonstrated in context. The program allows each student’s learning journey to be personalized to address the needs of the student and their ministry context.

## Summary of MACM Degree Requirements

### Pre-Orientation Course (0 hours)

IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary (on-line) 0

### Christian Heritage Core Courses (10 courses/30 quarter hours)

#### General

IN 304 Introduction to Biblical Interpretation 3

#### Old Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, OT 307, 308, WT 307)*

OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books 3

OT 308 Historical Books and The Prophets 3

WT 307 Women in the Old Testament 3

#### New Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, NT 307, 308, WT 308)*

NT 307 Gospels and Acts 3

NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation 3

WT 308 Women in the New Testament 3

#### Church History

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, CH 301, 302, WT 311)*

CH 301 Early/Medieval Christianity 3

CH 302 Reformation/Modern Christianity 3

WT 311 Women in the Early Church 3

#### Theology

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, TH 301, 302, 303, WT 309)*

TH 301 Christian Theology I 3

TH 302 Christian Theology II 3

TH 303 Theology of Church and Culture 3

WT 309 Theology and Gender 3

### Formation and Ministry Skills (8 courses/24 quarter hours)

SM 305 Formation for Ministry 1 3

SM 306 Formation for Ministry 2 3

SM 307 Christian/Pastoral Leadership 1 3

#### Select 5 of the following courses

SM 308 Christian/Pastoral Leadership 2 3

SM 310 Church/Ministry Administration 3

SM 311 Preaching/Communication	3
SM 314 Mission/Evangelism	3
SM 315 Mission/Community Engagement	3
SM 316 Discipleship	3
SM 320 Generational Ministry	3
SM 321 Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
SM 322 Worship	3
SM 506 Clinical Pastoral Education (1/2 unit)	3
SM 506 Clinical Pastoral Education (1/2 unit)	3

**Total Hours Required** **54**

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## **Master of Arts (Theology and Mission) (MATM)**

The Master of Arts in Theology and Mission is a 54-quarter credit hour (36 semester hours) program meant to equip students for local and sustainable mission by offering a strong biblical and theological basis for understanding God’s mission, and by helping them to develop greater skills in theological reflection, cultural analysis, and building local community.

### **Goals of the MATM Program**

The MATM program is designed to enable students to:

- Identify and trace themes of the Mission of God through the Old and New Testaments, into the early church, and into the present work of the Holy Spirit in the world.
- Demonstrate theological faithfulness in their articulation of the Christian understanding of the Triune God and how this shapes the Church for mission.
- Describe historical paradigms for how Church and culture intersect, with added emphasis on understanding contemporary developments in the study of culture(s), Christianity, Christendom, and mission.
- Demonstrate cultural fluency by their ability to listen to and read cultural context and theologically reflect in context.
- Develop a lifestyle that increases the integration of life, work, family, community, and ministry.

### **Description of the MATM Program**

The MATM program is designed around 16 required 3-credit courses (with no electives) arranged in four sequences and a 6-credit final thesis. The sequences are intended to be independent of each other, so new cohorts can start each year with whatever sequence is currently being offered. After completing all four course sequences, students will be ready for their final year of study which involves the 17th course, the thesis.

The classes for the MATM will be offered on Mondays and Tuesdays in the afternoon and evening, and online, requiring students to be in class only one day a week to complete the course requirements.

In addition to its innovative content and cost, the Master of Arts in Theology and Mission will offer pastoral and theological mentoring throughout the program. Northern faculty, and guest

practitioners will regularly interact with the MATM cohort, enabling all students to integrate classroom studies with real-life situations. Students are required to complete the degree in 5 years. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required to graduate.

## Summary of MATM Degree Requirements

### Pre-Orientation Course (0 hours)

IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary (on-line) 0

### Christian Heritage Core Courses (9 courses/27 hours)

#### General

IN 304 Introduction to Biblical Interpretation 3

#### Old Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, OT 307, 308, WT 307)*

OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books 3

OT 308 Historical Books and The Prophets 3

WT 307 Women in the OT 3

#### New Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, NT 307, 308, WT 308)*

NT 307 Gospels and Acts 3

NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation 3

WT 308 Women in the New Testament 3

#### Church History

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, CH 301, 302, WT 311)*

CH 301 Early/Medieval Christianity 3

CH 302 Reformation/Modern Christianity 3

WT 311 Women in the Early Church 3

#### Theology

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, TH 301, 302, WT 309)*

TH 301 Christian Theology I 3

TH 302 Christian Theology II 3

WT 309 Theology and Gender 3

### Theology and Mission Courses (7 courses/21 hours)

MN 433 Mission-Shaped Church 3

TH 431 Discerning the Triune God 3

TH 406 Christianity and Pluralism 3

CT 333 Cultural Exegesis and Ethnography 3

TE 417 Sexual Ethics and the Family 3

MN \_\_\_ Topics in Missional Theology Intensive 3

MN \_\_\_ Topics in Missional Theology Intensive 3

### Final Thesis (3 hours)

MA 507 Thesis Orientation 0

**Total Hours Required****54****Master of Arts (New Testament) (MANT)**

The Master of Arts (New Testament) is a 54-quarter credit hour (36 semester credits) program that provides teaching pastors and those interested in pursuing further New Testament scholarship grounding in the theology that emerges from studying the first century context of the New Testament writings. Since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, there has been a renewed interest not only in Jewish texts but also a greater concern to understand both Jesus and Paul in their Jewish contexts. The rise of what is often called “the new perspective” has shed wonderful light on both Jesus and Paul, but a major problem remains: the lack of translating that very good scholarship into church life and into lay understanding. The MANT will focus on that very task: taking the best scholarship and making it accessible and relevant to the life of the local church.

**Goals of the MANT Program**

The MANT program is designed to enable students to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, religious, and social contexts of the New Testament.
- Identify the influences of Old Testament narratives and first century Jewish life within the New Testament texts.
- Develop a comprehensive contextual theology of the New Testament.
- Apply this comprehensive contextual theology to the mission of the Church today, demonstrating its importance to informing contemporary New Testament understanding and scholarship.

**Description of the MANT Program**

The degree program offers 3 options: (1) Final Thesis Option is designed around 16 required 3-credit courses with no electives, with an additional 9 hours of credit awarded for the completion of a thesis during the last two quarters of study; (2) NT Professional Project Option is designed around 15 required courses and one elective course (3 credits), plus a project that reflects focused attention on the New Testament story and context. Projects could include popular writing (novel, children’s book), Sunday School or VBS curriculum, website/digital learning; (3) Portfolio Option includes submitting five papers from Northern seminary courses: one paper must reflect NT context; one paper must reflect NT Story; one paper must reflect NT Theology. Additionally, a Reflection Essay of 4,000-5,000 words (approximately 15 pages) is required. The paper engages in the relationship between context and story, with a focus on method, and is a self-reflection on the student’s theological formation. Students will have 3 elective courses (9 total credits).

While addressing the application of the New Testament in the context of church ministry, this remains an academic degree focused on an articulation of a better hermeneutic of the New Testament. Students will be required to master both biblical and cultural exegesis, demonstrated by their successful completion of a concise 50-75 page thesis, professional project, or portfolio.



Students can complete the degree program in 3-5 years. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required to graduate.

## Summary of the MANT Degree Requirements

### Pre-Orientation Course (0 hours)

IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary (on-line) 0

### Christian Heritage Core Courses (8 courses/24 hours)

#### Old Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, OT 307, 308, WT 307)*

OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books 3

OT 308 Historical Books and The Prophets 3

WT 307 Women in the OT 3

#### New Testament

NT 307 Gospels and Acts 3

NT 418 Greek Tools and NT Interpretation 3

#### Church History

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, CH 301, 302, WT 311)*

CH 301 Early/Medieval Christianity 3

CH 302 Reformation/Modern Christianity 3

WT 311 Women in the Early Church 3

#### Theology

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, TH 301, 302, WT 309)*

TH 301 Christian Theology I 3

TH 302 Christian Theology II 3

WT 309 Theology and Gender 3

### NT Program Courses (21)

NT 401 Orientation to NT Studies 3

NT 406 NT Contextual Studies 3

NT 408 New Testament Story 3

NT 403 Mission of the Apostles (tour) 3

NT 412 NT Theology I 3

NT 413 NT Theology II 3

NT 303 Christian Formation and the Church 3

### Final Thesis (9) or Project (9) or Portfolio (0)

MA 509 MANT Thesis 9

NT 511 Professional Project 9

Elective Credits up to 9 total

**Total Hours Required 54**

## Master of Arts in Worship (MAW)

In partnership with the 10,000 Fathers Worship School in Atlanta, GA, the Master of Arts in Worship is a 54-quarter credit hour (36 semester hours) program that provides a strong biblical, theological, and practical basis for reflecting on the ministry of crafting and leading liturgies for the weekly gatherings of local congregations.

### Goals of the MAW Program

The MAW program is designed to enable students to:

- Develop a thorough and critical understanding of Christian heritage (Bible, Theology, Church History, and Ethics).
- Acquire an understanding of the social structures and cultural realities within which Christian institutions live and carry out their missions.
- Exhibit growth in personal and spiritual formation.
- Demonstrate growth and development in the following areas of ministry: leadership of worship, musicianship, song-writing, and team building.
- Increase capacity for critical and constructive theological reflection regarding the content and practice of Christian worship.

### Description of the MAW Program

This program affirms the value of mentoring, peer accountability, friendship, and life together as disciples towards personal and professional development. Hence, students will form a cohort and progress together for forty months as a community of disciples. The worship courses WO 440, WO 442, and WO 444 require participation in three one-week intensive experiences with our ministry partner, the 10,000 Fathers Worship School in Atlanta, Georgia. Students must be admitted to both Northern Seminary's MAW degree program and the 10,000 Fathers Worship School to earn the MAW degree. 10,000 Fathers has a separate application and tuition. The application for 10,000 Fathers can be found at: <http://worship.school/apply/>.

The program makes theological education accessible by making flexible use of week-long intensives, small group mentoring, synchronous courses, and online content; this approach allows students to remain in their ministry contexts while completing the degree. The content of the program will reflect Northern Seminary's historical commitment to progressive evangelicalism while respectfully engaging issues of ecumenism and pluralism. Students are required to complete the degree in 5 years. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required to graduate.

### Summary of the MAW Degree Requirements

#### Pre-Orientation Course (0 hours)

IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary (on-line)	0
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#### Christian Heritage Core Courses (9 courses/27 hours)

<u>General</u>	
IN 304 Introduction to Biblical Interpretation	3

<u>Old Testament</u>	
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<i>(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, OT 307, 308, WT 307)</i>	
OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books	3
OT 308 Historical Books and The Prophets	3
WT 307 Women in the OT	3

New Testament

<i>(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, NT 307, 308, WT 308)</i>	
NT 307 Gospels and Acts	3
NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation	3
WT 308 Women in the New Testament	3

Church History

<i>(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, CH 301, 302, WT 311)</i>	
CH 301 Early/Medieval Christianity	3
CH 302 Reformation/Modern Christianity	3
WT 311 Women in the Early Church	3

Theology

<i>(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, TH 301, 302, WT 309)</i>	
TH 301 Christian Theology I	3
TH 302 Christian Theology II	3
WT 309 Theology and Gender	3

**Worship and Supervised Ministry Courses (27 hours)**

WO 301 Theology of Worship and Spirituality	3
WO 405 Designing and Leading Worship	3
WO 417 History of Worship in America	3
WO 440 The Character of a Worship Pastor**	3
WO 442 The Craft of a Worship Pastor**	3
WO 444 The Influence of a Worship Pastor**	3
SM 301-MAW Formation for Christian Ministry	3
SM 401-MAW Internship I	3
SM 402-MAW Internship II	3
SM 501-MAW Integrative Seminar*	0

**Total Hours Required** **54**

\* *Two-day integrative seminar the week of graduation for graduating MAW students only*

\*\* *Offered in conjunction with a week-long intensive at 10,000 Fathers*

**Master of Arts in Urban Leadership (MA-UL)**

The Master of Arts in Urban Leadership program is designed to train culturally competent ministers for urban communities, and to equip urban church leaders to lead their congregations in engaging the specific needs of their neighborhoods with the hope of the gospel.

**Goals of the MA-UL Program**

The MA-UL program is designed to enable students to:

- Understand the heritage of Christian faith, including the Old and New Testaments, and the history and theology of the global church and the urban church in America.
- Understand the social and cultural issues facing urban communities, including systemic racism, poverty, violence, and incarceration, and exegete their cultural contexts using ethnographic skills.
- Grow in the personal qualities needed for effective ministry.
- Reach the urban community through evangelism and discipleship.
- Lead in urban ministry and community contexts.
- Preach the Christian message in a way that is faithful to the Bible's ancient context and relevant to the modern urban context.

The program will have the following effects in urban communities:

- To encourage and strengthen urban pastors to remain in their churches, and enable urban churches to sustain their ministries.
- To help equip churches to become centers of healing, hope, and help during troubled times.
- To equip pastors and church leaders to practice evangelism in urban contexts.
- To empower and equip churches provide sustainable financial solutions in their communities.
- To help urban churches find ways to offer the hope and help that can reduce violence and poverty in urban areas.

### **Description of the MA-UL program**

The degree program requires 54 hours of coursework (36 semester hours) and is designed to build on a foundation of biblical knowledge, theology, and church history, focusing on urban theology and the history of the urban church in America. Leading practitioners in urban ministry will train students in preaching, evangelism, conflict mediation, and pastoral care. Students will engage with complex social and cultural issues facing urban communities, including systemic racism, poverty, violence, and incarceration, and exegete their cultural contexts using ethnographic skills. Students are required to complete the program within four years. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required to graduate.

### **Summary of the MA-UL Degree Requirements**

#### **Pre-Orientation Course (0 hours)**

IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary (on-line) 0

#### **Christian Heritage Core Courses (9 courses/27 hours)**

##### Old Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, OT 307, 308, WT 307)*

OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books	3
OT 308 Historical Books and The Prophets	3
WT 307 Women in the OT	3

New Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, NT 307, 308, WT 308)*

NT 307 Gospels and Acts	3
NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation	3
WT 308 Women in the New Testament	3

Church History

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, CH 301, 302, WT 311)*

CH 301 Early/Medieval Christianity	3
CH 302 Reformation/Modern Christianity	3
WT 311 Women in the Early Church	3

Theology

*(Choose 2 out of 4 courses, TH 301, 302, 303-UL, WT 309)*

TH 301 Christian Theology I	3
TH 302 Christian Theology II	3
TH 303-UL Theology of Church and Culture	3
WT 309 Theology and Gender	3

**Urban Leadership Ministry Courses (18 hours)**

UR 410 Leadership in Urban Churches	3
ME 404 Evangelism/Discipleship in Urban Contexts	3
CT 309 Church in Community	3
WO 483 Worship & the Arts in Urban Contexts	3
MN 485 Preaching in Urban Contexts	3

**Supervised Ministry/Capstone Courses (9 hours)**

SM 301-UL Formation for Urban Ministry Leadership	3
SM 400-OL Internship Information Session (Winter Term)	0
SM 401-UL Supervised Ministry I	3
SM 501-UL Integrative Seminar	3

**Total Hours Required: 54**

**Master of Arts, specialization in Christian Community Development (MA-CCD)**

The Master of Arts, specialization in Christian Community Development (MA-CCD), is designed to engage with the complex social and cultural issues facing urban communities, including racism, poverty, and violence, and integrate the principles of Christian Community Development in their own context. The program also provides a foundation of biblical knowledge, theology, and church history, focusing on urban theology and the history of the urban church in America.

## Goals of the Program

The MA program with specialization in Christian Community Development is designed to enable students to:

1. Demonstrate an overview and critical understanding of the history and theology of the Old and New Testaments, the history of Christianity, and the doctrines of Christian theology.
2. Recognize how the Church relates to culture and exegete cultural contexts using ethnographic skills.
3. Discuss the issues facing metropolitan cities in America and how these relate to the church in community, including racism and poverty.
4. Integrate the principles of Christian Community Development in the practice of ministry within one's own context.

## Description of the Program

The degree program requires 54 quarter hours of coursework (36 semester hours) through a partnership with Lawndale Community Church and working with the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA). The program is led by "Coach" Wayne Gordon, the co-founder of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA). Courses will be taught by Wayne Gordon, with participation from John Perkins. The MA-CCD can be completed in three or four years so that students can balance the course work with their commitments to family, work, and ministry

## Summary of the Degree Requirements

### Pre-Orientation Course (0 hours)

IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary (on-line) 0

### Christian Heritage Core Courses (9 courses/27 hours)

#### Old Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, OT 307, 308, WT 307)*

OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books 3

OT 308 Historical Books and The Prophets 3

WT 307 Women in the OT 3

#### New Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, NT 307, 308, WT 308)*

NT 307 Gospels and Acts 3

NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation 3

WT 308 Women in the New Testament 3

### Church History

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, CH 301, 302, WT 311)*

CH 301 Early/Medieval Christianity	3
CH 302 Reformation/Modern Christianity	3
WT 311 Women in the Early Church	3

### Theology

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, TH 301, 302, WT 309)*

TH 301 Christian Theology I	3
TH 302 Christian Theology II	3
WT 309 Theology and Gender	3

### **Christian Community Development Courses (24 total quarter hours)**

UR 301 Understanding the City	3
CT 317 Understanding Poverty (& CCDA)	3
CT 400 Church and Community Development	3
CT 410 Race, Reconciliation & Reparations	3
CT 412 Community and Economic Reconciliation	3
CT 311 Nurturing Our Call to Ministry	3
CT 316 Leadership with Justice and Compassion	3
CH 310 History of the American Urban Church	3

### **Capstone Thesis (3 quarter hours)**

MA 500 Thesis Orientation	0
MA 504 MA Thesis	3

**Total Hours Required: 54**

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## **Master of Arts, specialization in Theological Studies**

The MA in Theological Studies is our most flexible program in which half the required courses draw from a broad curriculum in biblical, theological, historical, and cultural core courses, and the other half consists of electives that can be selected from across all of our degree offerings to meet the student's ministry needs and interests. The degree can be completed entirely as a distance student using our Northern Live technology.

## **Summary of the Degree Requirements**

### **Pre-Orientation Course (0 hours)**

IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary (on-line)	0
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### **Christian Heritage Core Courses (9 courses/27 hours)**

#### Old Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, OT 307, 308, WT 307)*

OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books	3
OT 308 Historical Books and The Prophets	3

WT 307 Women in the OT 3

New Testament

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, NT 307, 308, WT 308)*

NT 307 Gospels and Acts 3

NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation 3

WT 308 Women in the New Testament 3

Church History

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, CH 301, 302, WT 311)*

CH 301 Early/Medieval Christianity 3

CH 302 Reformation/Modern Christianity 3

WT 311 Women in the Early Church 3

Theology

*(Choose 2 out of 3 courses, TH 301, 302, 303-UL, WT 309)*

TH 301 Christian Theology I 3

TH 302 Christian Theology II 3

TH 303-UL Theology of Church and Culture 3

WT 309 Theology and Gender 3

**Theological Studies Emphasis Electives (9 courses/27 hours)**

xx xxx Elective 3

xx xxx Elective 3

xx xxx Elective 3

xx xxx Elective 3

xx xxx Elective 3

xx xxx Elective 3

xx xxx Elective 3

xx xxx Elective 3

xx xxx Elective 3

**Total Hours Required: 54**

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**Master of Arts in Women and Theology**

The MA in Women and Theology provides an in-depth look at women in Scripture and the Church, to equip students to lead well in contemporary society. The program explores gender and theology and emphasizes the contributions of women of color. Church leaders are equipped to implement biblically sound and theologically rigorous solutions to critical issues faced by women in their church and local communities.

**Description of the Program**



This 54-credit MA program is designed to be completed in 3-4 years. This includes one weekly class, typically on Thursday 4:00–6:40pm CT (on occasion, a class may be held Thursday 7:00–9:40 or on a Tuesday), as well as one week-long intensive in late-August/early September.

\*Master of Divinity students will complete these Women and Theology specialization courses as well as the other [Master of Divinity requirements](#).

## Summary of the Degree Requirements

### Specialization Required Courses (18 total credits)

WT 307 Women in the OT	3
WT 308 Women in the NT [x-listed NT 412]	3
WT 309 Theology and Gender	3
WT 310 Women of Color in the Church	3
WT 311 Women in the Early Church	3
IN 304 Hermeneutics	3

### Specialization Elective Courses (15-18 total credits)

WT 403 Women, the Church, and the Arts	3	
WT 404 Women and Theology Annual Conference		3
WT 412 Women in Leadership	3	
WT 413 Women in Reformation/Modern Christianity	3	
WT 416 Women, Preaching, Evangelism	3	
WT 417 Women and Social Justice	3	
WT 418 Thriving in Ministry	3	
TE 417 Sexual Ethics and the Family	3	

### Christian Heritage Courses (12 total credits)

OT 307 Pentateuch, Poetry and Wisdom Books <b>OR</b>	
OT 308 Historical Books and the Prophets	3
CH 301 History of Christianity I (Early & Medieval) <b>OR</b>	
CH 302 History of Christianity II (Ref. & Modern)	3
TH 301 Christian Theology I <b>OR</b>	
TH 302 Christian Theology II	
TH 303 Theology of Church and Culture	3

### Final Thesis (9 credits) **OR** Project (6 credits)

WT 509 Thesis Proposal	3
WT 510 Thesis Writing	3
WT 511 Thesis Completion	3
WT 512 Project 1	3
WT 513 Project 2	3

**Total Hours Required: 54**

**Graduate Certificate, specialization in Women and Theology:** 15 credits, can be done in 1 year, August intensive, 1 course in Fall, Winter, Spring, and June conference. Student must take at least

two courses from the required courses of the Women and Theology degree, and all courses for this certificate must be taken from the required or elective options for the degree.

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## **Pursuing More than One Master's Degree**

### **Second Master's Program after Completing One Program**

After completing a MA or MDiv degree at Northern, students may reapply and enroll in a second master's degree.

Option 1: A maximum of 50% of credits from the smaller degree may count towards both degrees. The Registrar will evaluate the student's academic record and determine the plan of study based on the amount of permissible overlap for two degrees.

Option 2: If the student relinquishes the first degree, up to 100% of a previously earned MA from Northern may count towards the MDiv. The MA credits will be good for ten years upon graduation. Only one degree will show on the transcript. The MA diploma must be returned to the Registrar's Office by May 15 the year of graduation.

### **Dual-Degree Program: MDiv/MA**

Students may enroll concurrently in the MDiv and an academic MA (either the MATM or MANT). Since each degree must have its own integrity, a maximum of 27 quarter credits (18 semester credits) of Christian Heritage courses—i.e., Bible, Theology, Church History—may count towards both degrees. The total number of quarter credit hours for a dual degree is 135 (90 semester credits). This dual degree option has a reduced per-credit tuition rate, which requires the student to take the MA courses in the cohort sequence.

## **Doctor of Ministry Program**

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree is the highest earned professional degree for ministry. Built upon the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent, the program enables pastors, chaplains, judicatory officials, and other ministry professionals to undertake doctoral study that is both academically rigorous and deeply engaged in ministry practice.

The DMin program is based on a cohort model, where groups of students engage in an intentional reflective community of learning where ministry issues and opportunities are seen in light of the Bible, theology, culture, and our shared focus on Christ's mission. During intensive course weeks, faculty and colleagues in ministry studies provide insight, raise questions, and facilitate dialogue, which leads to fresh ministry responses in each person's ministerial context.

### **Goals of the Program**

The DMin program is designed to enable students to:

- Think biblically and theologically in context about critical issues related to ministry.
- Integrate theological, cultural, and missional perspectives with ministry.
- Analyze issues relevant to ministry in order to improve skills in ministry.
- Integrate enhanced knowledge with growth in one's ministerial capacity and spiritual maturity.

### **Program Completion Time**

The maximum time to complete the program is seven years. Occasionally a student will need more time to complete program requirements. At the end of the seventh year a program extension must be requested through the DMin Committee. A Program Continuation Fee of \$1,250 will be charged annually at the start of the eighth year. The outer limit for completion of the program is ten years. A minimum grade point average of 2.7 is necessary for graduation.

### **Full-Time Status**

In order to be considered a full-time student in the DMin program, you must register for at least 8 hours of credit each year. To prevent student loans and/or deferments from being withdrawn, a student must be registered as a full-time student.

### **Curriculum**

The Doctor of Ministry program requires the completion of 36 quarter-hours of study. Students engage in 3 required core courses, 4 classes within an area of specialization, and the development of a ministry project that culminates in a written thesis. Each course is offered in a one-week intensive format.

12 quarter hours  
8 quarter hours  
16 quarter hours

Required Core Courses  
Thesis Project, Research and Writing  
Specialization Courses

### **Course Content**

- **Pre-Course Work**

Prior to each intensive course, students complete reading, reflection, and the development of projects/papers through which learning is applied to one's own ministerial context. Participants bring a variety of individual ministry issues to the course. Each course is designed with this in mind, so readings and assignments allow for flexibility in terms of personal focus.

- **Intensive Week**

Class sessions involve engagement of heart, intellect, and issues of practical implementation. The goal is to create a community of faith, learning, and support. During class weeks, participants engage in reflection, critique of learning, and the development of action plans for responding in new ways to issues and opportunities in ministry.

- **Post-Course Work**

Following each intensive week, students will complete reflective assignments, often leading to further research and study in order to faithfully implement new ministry action within one's ministerial context.

## **Required Core Courses**

All DMin students are required to complete the following core courses along with the specific courses related to their particular program.

- **DM 7015 Becoming Doctors of the Church**
- **DM 7045 Biblical/Theological Reflection on Ministry and Culture**
- **DM 7060 Thesis Design and Research Methodology**

## **Candidacy Review**

- **DM 7059 Candidacy Review**

After the completion of their course work and prior to enrolling in DM 7060 Thesis Design, the student's course record is reviewed by the faculty to determine if the student should proceed to the thesis stage of the program. Those students whose prior coursework does not meet an acceptable minimum standard or who have displayed a lack of academic rigor will be encouraged to accept an Advanced Graduate Certificate.

## **Thesis**

- **DM 7190 Thesis**

Upon approval of the Thesis Proposal, the student will implement the ministry project and complete the writing of the thesis. Once the writing of the thesis is completed, the student will defend the thesis orally. The thesis is done under faculty supervision. An additional \$500 thesis supervision fee is required.

## **Candidacy**

Admission to the thesis phase of the DMin program is granted upon successful completion of a **formal** Candidacy review. (Students who completed *DM 7015 Becoming Doctors of the Church* prior to January of 2014 are exempt.)

Upon completion of *DM 7015 Becoming Doctors of the Church* and *DM 7045 Biblical/Theological Reflection on Ministry and Culture*, the DMin office will register the student for *DM 7059 DMin Candidacy*.

A recommendation regarding Doctor of Ministry Candidacy will be brought to the DMin Committee by the Dean of Academic Affairs and the Thesis Director. This recommendation will be based on a review of the following documents:

- DMin transcript and Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.7.
- Final paper for *DM 7045 Biblical/Theological Reflection on Ministry and Culture*
- Written recommendation from the professors of *DM 7045 Biblical/Theological Reflection on Ministry and Culture*.

Upon the recommendation of the DMin Committee, the student will be admitted to Candidacy and may register for *DM 7060 Thesis Design*. Students who are not admitted to Candidacy will not be permitted to advance to the thesis stage but will be offered an Advanced Graduate Certificate.

## **Costs and Completion Times**

Tuition and fees, set by the Board of Trustees, are published in the catalog and online on an annual basis (see Academic Expenses 2020-2021 below).

DMin Cohort-Groups have a set (discounted) price for the entire program, payable in 48 monthly installments.

Should the student be granted an extension by the faculty after failing to complete the program within seven years, a program continuation fee of \$1,250 will be charged annually at the start of the eighth year.

## **Cohort-Group Program Policies**

### **Registration**

Once a student begins a Cohort-Group, he or she is continually enrolled in each successive course and charged the tuition and fees. If the student wishes to take a Leave of Absence or drop out of the program, he or she must contact the DMin office in writing to make those arrangements. (*Note: Verbal instructions do not constitute an official request for a Leave of Absence or to drop out of the program.*)

### **Missed Payment Policy**

Any student on a long-term payment agreement who misses two consecutive payments may not enroll in another course until the balance of his or her account has been paid in full. The student also loses the privilege of participating in a long-term payment agreement.

After the student's account is in balance, he or she may once again enroll in courses at Northern.

Students will then be billed for each course as they take it and will need to pay for the course in full before they can register for another course. A short-term payment plan (no more than 3 payments) may be worked out with the Business Office.

### **Leave of Absence**

If a student needs to take a Leave of Absence from the program, he or she must complete the “Doctoral Program Request for Leave of Absence” form, which is available on the Registrar’s page on Northern’s website. The Leave of Absence fee is \$50 per quarter. The course(s) missed during the Leave of Absence must be completed before enrolling in *DM 7060 Thesis Design*.

After completing the form, the student has two options:

**Option 1.** Pay the Leave of Absence fee and continue paying the monthly amount. The payment plan will continue until the student has reached the end of the payment agreement. At any time, the student may return to the program. If the payment agreement is fulfilled prior to the student’s completion of the coursework in the program, the student may continue to take the required courses needed to graduate without adding additional payments.

**Option 2.** Pay the Leave of Absence fee but stop paying the required monthly payment amount. If the student chooses to stop paying the monthly amount, he or she must pay any outstanding balance on his or her account which the monthly payments have not covered up to the point of requesting a Leave of Absence. This means a student may be required to pay the remaining balance for some coursework that has already been taken (whether completed or not). When the student returns to the program, he or she will be required to pay for each course as a standalone course and will be charged at the current Cohort Group or Partnership per hour tuition rate rather than participating in the monthly payment program.

### **Drop Out**

If a student drops out of a program, he or she will be responsible for paying any outstanding balance for courses in which he or she participated (whether completed or not) at the current academic year’s Traditional Program per credit hour tuition rate. The discounted tuition rate is lost because the student did not complete the entire program. The student will be refunded for any overpayment.

## **Policies and Procedures for All DMin Programs (See the *DMin Policy Manual*)**

## **DMin Specializations**

### **New Testament Context**

Directed by Dr. Scot McKnight, the DMin in New Testament Context will provide pastors with the opportunity to focus study on Jewish texts and how to understand the context of the Jewish world that informs the New Testament. Students will develop an ability to bring the Bible to life for the people in their ministries and help to create church cultures that learn to read the Bible better.

#### **Required Core Courses:**

Becoming Doctors of the Church  
Biblical and Theological Method

Thesis Design

**The following courses comprise the New Testament Context specialization:**

The New Testament and its World 1  
The New Testament and its World 2  
The New Testament and its World 3  
Trip to Israel: Education Beyond the Books

**The following are completed by each student individually:**

Thesis

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### **Contextual Theology**

Dr. David Fitch directs this program for missional leaders which provides a practical and academic framework for sharpening one's thinking, faith and praxis. Through missional theology, community learning and cultural exegesis, participants emerge with a renewed spirit and passion for Christ's mission, and skill in shifting congregational paradigms. All courses are taken with one's cohort group.

**Required Core Courses:**

Becoming Doctors of the Church  
Biblical and Theological Method  
Thesis Design

**The following courses comprise the Contextual Theology specialization:**

Missional Ecclesiology: Renewing the Practices of the Church  
The Bible in Context  
Missional Leadership  
Incarnating the Gospel in Culture

**The following are completed by each student individually:**

Thesis

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### **Christian Community Development**

This program is offered through partnership with Lawndale Community Church, working with the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA), and under the faculty leadership of Dr. "Coach" Wayne Gordon and Dr. John Perkins. Students are required to attend three CCDA conferences, which are held each fall, as well as participate in an immersion experience either in Chicago or Africa. In addition, students spend a week in the Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago.

**Required Core Courses**

Becoming Doctors of the Church  
Biblical and Theological Method  
Thesis Design

### **Required Specialization Courses**

Church-Based Community Development (Lawndale Intensive)  
Leadership with Justice and Compassion (CCDA Conference)  
Understanding the City (Lawndale Intensive)  
Understanding Poverty (CCDA Conference 2019)  
Race, Reconciliation, and Reparations (CCDA Conference 2020)

**The following are completed by each student individually:**

Thesis

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### **Preaching**

This new DMin is built on Northern Seminary's New Kind of Preacher (NKP) program, which is funded by the Lilly Foundation. Focusing on the life of the person, rather than the product of the sermon, the NKP program trains seminarians and Pastors holistically. The program focuses on five core aspects of the Preacher's life: worship leader, proclaimer, collaborator, community builder, and missionary.

#### **Required Core Classes**

Becoming Doctors of the Church  
Biblical and Theological Method  
Thesis Design

#### **Specialization Classes**

Preaching in the Ancient World  
Preacher as Worship Leader  
Prophetic Preaching to Audiences & Cultures  
Preaching from Jesus' Context (Israel Trip)

**The following are completed by each student individually:**

Thesis

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## **Doctor of Theological Ministry (DTM)**

The Doctor of Theological Ministry (DTM) is a professional doctoral degree designed specifically for equipping current ministers for advanced ministerial practice through applied theological instruction in a selected area of specialization. It prepares the person in ministry to use Scripture and theology for life and practice, particularly service within the local church. The DTM degree is conferred based on scholarship and research skills demonstrated by the student's participation in Seminars and Professional Development Modules, and application to ministry through a thesis project related to the student's area of specialization and service.



The DTM program is a non-residential modular degree, allowing students to maintain their ministry and life in their local context. DTM students will participate in cohort groups alongside their peers in the DMin program for their core courses and specialization courses, while also being required to complete several additional courses specific to the DTM program.

## **Program Information**

The DTM program is designed to complete in four (4) years. It may be completed in a minimum of three (3) years or at a maximum of six (6) years. The program consists of seminar style courses, professional development modules, and a thesis.

### **Required Core Classes**

Becoming Doctors of the Church  
Biblical and Theological Reflection on Ministry and Culture  
Thesis Design and Research Methodology

### **Specialization Courses**

In addition to the three Core Courses preparing the student for advanced applied research and collaboration, DTM students will complete four specialization courses and a thesis in one of the following areas of Specialization (*see the description and required courses for each specialization under the DMin program course description.*)

- Christian Community Development
- Contextual Theology
- New Testament Context
- Preaching

### **Additional Required Courses Specific to the DTM**

DTM students must also complete 1 Interdisciplinary Seminar with their peers within other Specializations, and 3 modules of Professional Development.

### **Thesis**

A student who has completed all the seminars and courses and has an approved thesis proposal will work with his or her thesis advisor to complete a thesis in their selected area of specialization.

After composing the thesis, the student will submit it to the thesis reader(s) and will become eligible to graduate after a successful oral defense.

## **Program Outline**

The DTM degree is 52 quarter hours in total (equivalent to 35 semester hours), and usually takes four years to complete. The program is comprised of eleven courses including: eight one-week intensive Seminars (3 Core Seminars, 4 Specialization Seminars, and 1 Interdisciplinary Seminar), three Professional Development modules, and a Thesis which includes an oral presentation and defense. To complete the degree, the student will typically need to come to a center eight times for the Intensive Seminars (one week each).

**Core Seminars – 3 (12 quarter hours):**

- Becoming Doctors of the Church
- Biblical and Theological Method
- Thesis Design

**Specialization Seminars – 4 (16 quarter hours):**

- 4 Integrative Seminars within the student’s Specialization (see each Specialization for list of courses)

**Interdisciplinary Seminar – 1 (4 quarter hours)**

- Apply theological and ministry skills to a particular issue or problem with colleagues from different specializations to learn from each other in a collaborative applied seminar
- Topic may include: Ethnography and Culture, Gender and Sexuality, Communicating the Gospel, Problem of Evil

**Professional Development Module – 3 (12 quarter hours)**

- Any combination of the following planned within the students Specialization
  - Reading Course with reflective and integrative paper
  - Conference Wrap-Around Specialization Seminar
  - Trip with DTM Specialization’s Cohort

**Thesis – (8 quarter hours)**

**Path to Completion**

The usual path to completion of the DTM in four years requires the following:

- Each year for first three years, come to a campus center for 2-3 one-week Seminars and/or Workshop intensives, plus 1 Professional Development Module (Reading, Conference, and/or Trip). The scheduling of courses will vary for each Specialization.

- For example:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>
1	Seminar #1	Seminar #2	Prof Dev #1	Seminar #3
2		Seminar #4	Prof Dev #2	Seminar #5
3	Seminar #6	Seminar #7	Prof Dev #3	Seminar #8
4	Thesis			

- Fourth year: Thesis

## Non-Degree Programs

Northern offers certificates both with and without master's credit.

### Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate is a 15-quarter credit (10 semester credits) non-degree program which offers graduate-level credit to students wishing to strengthen their ministry without committing to a full-length program. It is a flexible way for students to deepen their biblical understanding and expand ministry skills. In order to receive a certificate, the student must complete five (5) courses in a chosen specialization. Students must complete the same course requirements as degree seeking students, since they are receiving master's level credit. These five courses are transferrable into a master's degree program. These chosen specializations include the following:

- **Graduate Certificate, specialization in Anglican Studies**

In this specialization, students will engage the Anglican history, theology and practice that offers pastors, church planters and lay ministers a treasure chest of tools for contemporary evangelism and spiritual formation. The program provides a practical foundation for ministry with an Anglican ethos.

- **Graduate Certificate, specialization in Biblical Studies**

Many pastors, teachers, and church members feel intimidated by the formal study of the Bible. The Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies provides a solid foundation for continued scholarly and personal study of the Bible. While exploring our Old and New Testament curriculum, you will develop new and useful skills that will help you in responsibly interpreting the Bible.

- **Graduate Certificate, specialization in Christian Community Development**

This specialization will provide a foundation of biblical knowledge, theology, and church history, focusing on urban theology and the history of the urban church in America, while also engaging with the complex social and cultural issues facing urban communities, including racism, poverty, and violence, and equipping students to integrate the principles of Christian Community Development in their own context.

- **Graduate Certificate, specialization in Church History**

The Graduate Certificate in Church History gives the student an opportunity to explore the rich history and traditions of the Church. With a curriculum that covers the life of the church from the days of the apostles on through to the modern world, this program is perfect for anyone hoping to establish a historical context for their understanding of the Christian faith.

At least 9 hours (3 courses) must be completed at Northern. Coursework transferred in from another institution must follow the guidelines stated under "Transfer of Credit" in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the catalog.

### **(Non-Master's) Certificate**

The Certificate is a non-degree program without master's credit. Students complete five (5) courses in a chosen area but have fewer requirements in their courses than students who are receiving master's level credit. Grades will be awarded on a pass/fail basis (see page 106). These classes cannot be transferred into a degree program, as they are not master's level credit classes.

## **Additional Educational Opportunities**

### **Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS)**

Since Northern is a member of ACTS, master's students may cross-register at any of the other Association schools:

Catholic Theological Union, Chicago  
Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston  
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago  
McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago  
Meadville/Lombard Theological School, Chicago  
Mundelein Seminary/Univ. of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein  
North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield

For more information about ACTS, see their web site at [www.acts-chicago.org](http://www.acts-chicago.org).  
To cross-register, go to <https://student.seminary.edu/students/registrar/registration-tools/cross-register>.

### **Jerusalem University College**

Northern Seminary is a partner with Jerusalem University College, also known as the American Institute of Holy Land Studies, an extension campus in Jerusalem. Students may enroll in the JUC 3-week course, *Geographical and Historical Settings of the Bible*. This would fulfill a General Elective requirement. There are a limited number of scholarships available to assist with travel costs.

### **Wheaton College Graduate School**

Students may also register at the Wheaton College Graduate School, which is approximately eight miles from Northern's center. Courses in the fields of communications, clinical psychology, Bible, and theology at the Wheaton College Graduate School are open to Northern's students.

# Admission Requirements

## Requirements for the Master's Programs and Certificates

Admission to the academic programs of Northern Seminary is open to individuals who have experienced the call of God to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ and desire to pursue a theological education in response to that call.

Selection for all programs is based on the student's ability to complete high quality graduate and/or postgraduate work as shown by the distinction of their previous academic record, writing proficiency as evidenced in the student's autobiographical statement, support of a local congregation, and personal qualities and gifts appropriate for ministry as evidenced by letters of recommendation.

As you consider enrolling in seminary, you will need to decide which program of study best meets your career, formation, and educational needs. Northern Seminary is committed to assist you to find the program that is the best fit for you.

- **Admission Criteria for All Master's Programs**

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college of recognized standing or its equivalent
2. Undergraduate cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
3. Completed application for admission
4. Letter of reference from your pastor
5. An autobiographical statement
6. An academic essay on a topic related to the program of application
7. A formal interview upon the request of the Admissions committee if needed.

Any exception to these requirements must be approved by the Admissions Committee.

- **Admission Criteria for Certificates**

Completed application for admission

## Procedures for Admission

1. The Application for Admission must be completed in full and returned with the \$35 application fee (nonrefundable) to the Office of Admissions.
2. Official transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended and transcripts of all graduate work done elsewhere, (if required for the program you are applying to) must be forwarded directly to the Office of Admissions. These transcripts should indicate that the student has completed a bachelor's degree program with at least a 2.5 Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent. The Seminary retains the right to request supplementary information, and a student may be admitted provisionally or on academic probation.
3. A candid autobiographical statement of 400 words or more. The statement must be typewritten and include information on the following:

- a. Christian experience, including Christian conversion and spiritual pilgrimage.
  - b. Your understanding of your Christian responsibility and the vocational role to which you have been called.
  - c. Christian work/ministry you have already done which parallels or validates your decision to apply to seminary.
  - d. Why you have decided to apply to seminary.
  - e. Why you have decided to apply specifically to Northern Seminary.
4. The letter from your pastor is submitted using the provided recommendation form.
  5. A typewritten academic essay of 800 words or more. The essay is on a topic of your choice, related to the academic program for which you are applying. The essay should include: a clear thesis statement (usually one sentence summarizing the main point or claim you are making in the essay); logical progression of supporting information and ideas; interaction with reference with scholarly articles and books with citations; generally, interaction with Scripture with citation of book, chapter, verse; conclusion; and bibliography.
  6. The Admissions committee may request a formal interview if deemed necessary.

### **Advanced Standing**

Student's with prior undergraduate theological degree or courses from an accredited institution may be able to receive up to one quarter of their professional MA or MDiv degree. Determination will be made by the Dean of Academic Affairs. The student may need to provide the course syllabus to complete determination whether the course(s) is/are eligible for Advanced Standing to receive a waiver for the compatible course(s) at Northern Seminary in the student's program.

### **Bachelor's Equivalency Policy**

In most cases, admission to a master's program at Northern Seminary requires an accredited bachelor's degree or its educational equivalent. Northern Seminary may consider for admission students who demonstrate their achievement of a bachelor's degree equivalency. Students must have the interests, aptitudes, and personal qualities necessary for success in a master's program. The Admissions Office, in consultation with the Dean of Academic Affairs, will complete a bachelor's Equivalency Assessment.

To be considered for admission with a bachelor equivalency:

1. Applicants must complete the regular admission process, including providing official transcripts of all academic work completed at the postsecondary level at either an accredited or non-accredited higher education institution.
2. Applicants will be interviewed by the Director of Enrollment and recommended for consideration to a faculty member and the Dean of Academic Affairs.
3. Applicants to the academic MA's (MANT and MATM) must be formally evaluated for readiness to successfully complete the degree by the faculty program director, who will determine if the student has the interests, aptitudes, and personal qualities necessary for the

particular application of the degree they are seeking and recommend their admission to the Admissions Committee.\

Following the submission of all of the above, a Bachelor's Equivalency Articulation will be completed, and the results will be communicated to you by the Office of Admissions.

### **Bachelor's Exception Policy**

A maximum of 15% of students may be admitted to the MDiv and professional MA programs (MACM, MA-UL, and MAW) without a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. This policy does not apply to the MATM or MANT. Students must be able to demonstrate that they possess the knowledge, academic skill, and ability necessary for post-baccalaureate studies. Admission of such applicants shall be restricted to persons with experience that has prepared them for theological study at the graduate level.

In addition to standard master's admissions procedures, prospective students must comply with the following:

1. Submit a formal resume | includes your ministry experience/pastoral experience.
2. Submit any official transcripts for other undergraduate-level/college course work.
3. Submit a 3-page biography | explaining your education/learning that describes
  - a. How you became the person you are now.
  - b. How these learning methods have shaped your leadership.
  - c. How these learning capacities have prepared you for graduate-level theological study.
4. Northern Seminary will conduct a formal interview with your pastoral reference.
5. A formal interview with a regular member of the Northern Seminary faculty to evaluate your achievement of bachelor's degree level learning.

Following the submission of all the above, the Admissions Office, in consultation with a faculty member, will make an admission decision.

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### **Admission Criteria for Doctor of Ministry Programs**

1. A Master of Divinity or its equivalent from an ATS- accredited institution with at least a 3.0 (B) cumulative grade point average.
2. Three years of ministry experience after receiving the MDiv.  
*NOTE: Up to 20% of participants in the DMin program can apply and enroll who have less than three years of ministry experience following the receipt of their MDiv degree. The following criteria must be fulfilled:*
  - *At least 5 years of comprehensive ministry experience*
  - *Active engagement in ministry while pursuing the MDiv degree, providing a context for biblical and theological reflection*
3. A context of professional ministry.



4. A score of at least 550 on the paper-based or 213 or better on the computer-based TOEFL test for those applicants whose first language is other than English and who have not graduated from an English language degree program.

### Application Process

1. Submit the completed application form (available at [www.seminary.edu](http://www.seminary.edu)) with a \$50 application fee and the names of three references.
2. Have original transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate study sent to the Admissions Office.
3. Submit a ministry résumé including all ministry positions.
4. Write and submit a self-assessment paper in accordance with the provided guidelines.
5. Write a 5-page academic essay using the provided guidelines.
6. Applications are reviewed as they are completed by the Admissions Committee.

### MDiv Equivalency

Prospective students who have earned a two-year, theologically oriented master's degree equivalent to a minimum of 52 semester-hours or 78 quarter-hours from an accredited institution are encouraged to apply to the DMin program. The remaining deficiencies needed for the full MDiv Equivalency completed during the DMin Program.

The following template is used to determine whether an applicant who has not earned an accredited Master of Divinity degree has met the minimum number of master's level courses and hours to qualify for a MDiv equivalency.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Semester Hours</u>	<u>Quarter Hours</u>
Biblical Studies	12	18
Church History	6	9
Christian Thought (including Ethics)	8	12
Ministry Studies (including Preaching)	20	30
Electives	26	39
<b>Total:</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>108</b>

- Before an MDiv Equivalency Assessment will be completed, the following must be submitted: DMin Application, Application Fee, Official Transcripts, and MDiv Equivalency Assessment Fee.
- Upon completion of the Assessment, the student will be provided with a formal list of equivalency requirements. If it is determined that the student is more than 12 semester-hours or 18 quarter-hours deficient, those hours must be completed prior to being considered for admission to the DMin program.
- After being admitted provisionally, students who need to complete master's courses toward MDiv Equivalency will be required to enroll in classes for graded credit from an accredited institution to complete the balance of course work.
- Official transcripts of all equivalency work must be submitted to the DMin Office before the student is permitted to register for the final course in the program, *Thesis Design and Research*

*Methodologies.* Once transcripts have been received and the coursework has been approved, the provisional admission status will be removed.

- Many of the courses will be available through Northern's on-center, weekend, intensive, and online course options.

### **Provisional Admission**

A student who does not meet all of the admission requirements but shows high promise in ministry may be admitted on a provisional status. Certain stipulations, which will be put in writing, must be met in order to gain regular admission status. Failure to meet these stipulations will result in a rescinding of admission.

### **Advanced Student-at-Large**

This is a preliminary admission status that allows persons who meet the admission requirements to take one course to test the relevance of the DMin program for their vocational goals. The credit earned for the course will count toward DMin program requirements if the student is later admitted as a regular Doctoral student, or the credit may be transferred to another school.

### **Transfer Credit**

It may be possible to request transfer of up to eight hours of doctoral credit from an accredited school for work done prior to beginning the DMin program. An official transcript and syllabus (if available) should be submitted for each course to be transferred. In addition, the following conditions must be met:

- The course(s) must be doctoral level, completed with a grade of 3.0 (B) or better and not applied to another earned degree.
- Course(s) must be less than 10 years old.
- The course(s) must relate to the participant's DMin ministry issue. This is assessed in conversation with the Vice-President of Academic Affairs. An additional three to five-page paper may be necessary to show relevance to the participant's ministry issue.
- Transfer credit will be officially considered after 8 hours have been completed at Northern.

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## Admissions Criteria for Doctor of Theological Ministry Programs

### **Educational Foundations**

Applicants must have completed an MDiv degree or its educational equivalent, or other advanced master's-level degree within a cognate field related to the student's selected area of Specialization, from an Association of Theological Schools (ATS) approved school or other institution of higher learning accredited by the Council for Higher Education or comparable accreditation if outside of the US. Examples of degrees that may be considered as eligible for admission include: a Master of Arts in Christian Ministries, a Master of Arts in Theological Studies, or a comparable degree with suitable academic coursework to provide a foundation for advanced study in the DTM Specialization program, as determined by the Office of Admissions and the Director of the Doctoral Program(s). Applicants must have earned an overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0.

### **Vocational Ministry**

Applicants must have served in a full-time ministry position for at least three (3) years prior to applying to the DTM program. It is expected that applicants are involved in vocational Christian ministry during the time they are enrolled in the degree program.

A personal essay, sample academic writing of at least 12 pages, and two professional recommendations are required.

For further information about Admissions Requirements, click [here](#).

Note: According to ATS Standards, “as many as 15 percent of the students in the specialized doctoral degree program may be admitted in any given year without the requisite three years of ministry experience, provided that the institution has demonstrable, objective means for determining that these persons have the capacity for the level of competence and reflection appropriate for advanced, professional ministerial studies. The admission of such applicants should be restricted to persons with ministry experience that has prepared them for theological study at the advanced level.”

## **How to Apply**

All applicants must apply for the DTM program through the Office of Admissions. The application along with a list of all required supplementary materials is available online at:

<https://www.seminary.edu/apply/#doctoral-degree>

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## **Admission Procedures for International Students**

In addition to the general Admission Application, all applicants who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. must fulfill the following requirements and submit the following additional documentation by February 1, prior to the Fall of anticipated enrollment.

1. International applicants must submit a notarized English translation of the official transcripts of courses taken on the university level which has been prepared by a professional academic translator. A description of the programs and requirements of the institution from which the student received their education should accompany these transcripts. As a graduate professional school, Northern Seminary requires each applicant to hold a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution for the master's programs and a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent if applying to the Doctor of Ministry program. In most cases, applicants will be required to have their academic work evaluated by the World Education Services (WES) or a similar organization to establish U.S. education equivalency. Additional information about the World Education Services can be found on the WES web site: [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org).
2. International Student Admission Application Supplement—to be completed and returned with the general Application for Admission to the Office of Admission.
3. International Student Financial Responsibilities Form—to be completed and returned to the Office of Admission.
4. Language proficiency. All applicants who are nonnative speakers of English and have received their education outside of the United States are required to demonstrate English language

proficiency. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is the preferred way to demonstrate English language proficiency. Only those applicants who score 550 or better on the paper-based exam or 213 or better on the computer-based exam will normally be considered for unrestricted admission to a full course of study. Information for TOEFL exams is available by writing the Educational Testing Service, Box 899, Princeton, NJ 08540, U.S.A. Northern's institutional code number is: 1558. Information is also available on the TOEFL web site: [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org).

5. Letter of Endorsement from home church or denomination. The letter should indicate that the church or denomination confirms that enrollment at a graduate theological institution is a needed factor in the applicant's future ministry. This endorsement must be specific, identifying the type of ministry and position of leadership the applicant will assume upon completion of study at Northern. The letter should also indicate that there is mutual understanding and expectation between the applicant and the home church or denomination that the applicant will return to the home country to minister with the applicant's own people immediately upon completion of the degree.

All documents should be sent to:

Office of Admissions  
Northern Seminary  
410 Warrenville Rd, Suite 300  
Lisle, IL 60532  
Phone: 630-620-2108  
[admissions@seminary.edu](mailto:admissions@seminary.edu) · [www.seminary.edu](http://www.seminary.edu)

### **Additional Information for International Students**

1. International students must begin studies during a Fall quarter.
2. International student application deadline is February 1 prior to the Fall quarter of intended enrollment.
3. Northern will issue a Form I-20 ONLY after receipt of all required applications and financial documentation. (See the section, Application for a F-1 (Student) Visa, below.)
4. The Designated School Official (DSO) for Northern Baptist Theological Seminary is the Director of Operations, Pam Sheldon. She can be reached by phone at 630-620-2188 or by FAX at 630-620-2190 or by email at [psheldon@seminary.edu](mailto:psheldon@seminary.edu).
5. International students are required to submit to Northern Seminary a \$2,000 deposit for return airfare, and a \$3,000 cost of living deposit by Aug. 1, prior to the Fall quarter of intended enrollment.
6. International students are expected to arrive on center by August 15, preceding the Fall quarter of first enrollment. This allows adequate time for transition and orientation to both the U.S., Northern Seminary, center life, the climate of the Midwest, and for timely registration of children for public school enrollment. The local school year for children usually begins during the last week of August.

7. Each student is responsible for arranging adequate care for their family in the home country during their absence. Students should not plan to financially support the family at home while attending seminary.
8. It is expected that International students will return home immediately upon completion of the course of study at Northern. The goal of the seminary in the admission of international students is to serve Jesus Christ through the training of leaders who rise up out of a specific context and will return to that context further prepared to serve Christ's church. When students choose to remain in the United States upon completion of their studies, the seminary believes it has contributed to the hindrance of God's development of leadership across the world.

### **Application for an F-1 (Student) Visa**

1. The Form I-20 is a government form through which Northern Seminary certifies to the U.S. government that a student is eligible for F-1 student status. It certifies that the student has: met the seminary's admission requirements; been accepted for a full course of study; and proven that the student has sufficient money to study and live in the United States without working illegally or suffering from poverty. Students need a Form I-20 to obtain an F-1 student visa or status, or to keep lawful F-1 status when transferring or changing schools within the United States. Transferring students do not have to receive the Form I-20 before coming to Northern Seminary unless they are traveling outside the United States before classes begin. Northern Seminary will issue a Form I-20 only after a student has been admitted and has submitted the Application for Form I-20 and required supporting documentation. If a student has not received the Application for Form I-20, the student should contact the Office of Admissions at Northern Seminary.
2. To come to the United States and attend Northern Seminary, international students must make an appointment with their nearest American embassy or consulate and apply for an F-1 student visa. Before applying for the visa, the student should understand the process and rules governing the issuance of U.S. visas. Many visa applications fail. In some countries, most applications fail. Often it is because the student did not understand the rules or was not prepared. Do not let this happen to you.
3. In order to maintain F-1 student status, a student must:
  - a. Keep one's passport valid.
  - b. Attend the authorized school.
  - c. Carry a full course of study.
  - d. Make normal progress toward completing a seminary degree.
  - e. Complete the transfer procedure to change schools.
  - f. Complete a program extension procedure if permission is needed to remain longer than the time estimated on the Form I-20.
  - g. Limit authorized employment to no more than 20 hours per week while school is in session or 40 hours in the summer. Do not work without authorization.
  - h. Report a change of address to the INS and the Registrar at Northern Seminary within 10 days of completing the move. All required forms and applications can be obtained by contacting the Office of Admissions at Northern Seminary.

- i. Submit documentation of any change of visa status to the Registrar at Northern Seminary within 10 days of the change.

## 2021-2022 Academic Year Tuition and Fees

(Approved by the Board of Trustees 10.12.2019)

### Tuition Per Hour

MDiv, MACM, Grad. Certificate <i>Northern Live or on-campus</i> per hour .....	\$502
Dual Degree MDiv/MA per hour .....	\$480
Dual Degree MDiv/MA per hour <i>Northern Live</i> .....	\$480
Audit per hour (Master's and DMin) .....	\$175
Certificate per hour (non-degree) .....	\$250
Lawndale Certificate per hour (non-degree) .....	\$100
Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Theological Ministry per hour (non-cohort) .....	\$570

### Master's Cohort-Based Program Costs\*

MDiv Cohort (4 yrs, 48 monthly payments, 108 quarter hrs coursework) .....	\$56,000
Master of Arts Programs <i>Northern Live or on-campus</i> (54 hrs coursework)** .....	\$27,500

### Master's Partnership-Based Program Costs

MA in Worship ( <i>Plus</i> \$7,500 paid to 10,000 Fathers for 18 hrs coursework) .....	\$16,500
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### Doctor of Ministry Program Costs\*

Cohort-based DMin Programs (36 hrs coursework) .....	\$19,900
Cohort-based DTM Programs (52 hrs coursework) .....	\$28,700

*\*Cost per program includes tuition and quarterly registration fees.*

*\*\* Master of Arts Programs include all Master's Programs except the MDiv. Note that for the MA in New Testament, there is an additional cost for the Greece-Turkey trip.*

*NOTE: All educational and other costs are determined by the Board of Trustees and are subject to change without notice.*

**Master's Fees**

Application Fee (non-refundable) .....	\$ 35
Registration and Community Fee per Quarter (non-refundable) .....	\$125
Replacement Diploma .....	\$ 50
Independent Study Administrative Fee per course .....	\$150
Late Registration Fee .....	\$100
Leave of Absence Fee per Term .....	\$ 50
Reinstatement Fee .....	\$100
Extension and Incomplete Course Fee .....	\$ 35
Add/Drop Fee per Class (once term begins) .....	\$ 20
Graduation Fee with Degree Audit .....	\$225
Graduation Fee (non-participant) with Degree Audit.....	\$ 45
Official Transcript of Academic Record Fee .....	\$ 15
Required Paper Re-write and/or Tutoring Fee .....	\$150

**Certificate Program (non-degree) Fees**

Application Fee (non-refundable) .....	\$ 35
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**Doctor of Ministry Fees**

Application Fee (non-refundable) .....	\$ 50
Registration Fee per Quarter (non-refundable) .....	\$100
Independent Study Administrative Fee per course .....	\$400
Late Registration Fee .....	\$100
Extension and Incomplete Course Fee .....	\$100
Leave of Absence Fee per Term .....	\$ 50
Add/Drop Fee per Class (once term begins) .....	\$ 20
Continuation Fee per Year .....	\$1,250
Final Project Supervision Fee (with DM7060) .....	\$500
Graduation Fee with Degree Audit.....	\$250
Advanced Graduate Certificate Fee (participant) .....	\$100
Official Transcript of Academic Record Fee .....	\$ 15
Thesis Formatting Fee (with DM7190) .....	\$250



# Financial Information and Scholarships

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the scholarship program at Northern Seminary is to provide financial assistance to master's students who have experienced the call of God to minister to the needs of others and are pursuing a theological education in response to that call. Northern offers scholarships and grants to students admitted to and enrolled in master's degree programs, full-time and part-time.

Students attending Northern are encouraged to make every effort to arrange adequate resources to enable them to pay for the costs involved in theological education. However, when a student's total resources prove insufficient to meet educational expenses, the seminary seeks to provide financial assistance for those who might not otherwise be able to afford preparation for ministry. The goal of the seminary's scholarship program is to assist students in working out a scholarship package that will help avoid undue financial pressure, excessive employment or extensive indebtedness. This is accomplished through a combination of resources and funds raised by the student, resources provided by the seminary through scholarships or grants, and federal loans. Students from all denominations are strongly encouraged to work with their church and denominational regional authorities to receive financial support.

## **General Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for financial assistance, you must:

1. be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a master's degree with an enrollment status of at least half-time.
2. make satisfactory academic progress.
3. meet enrollment status requirements. Students in the MDiv or MACM program must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credits per term). Students in the MA cohorts must enroll in the required class sequence for their program for the year. All MA cohort students enrolled in the required class sequence for the year are considered full-time.
4. must not be in default of a federal student loan or owe an overpayment of a federal student grant.

## **Renewal Information for Federal Loans and Scholarships**

Financial assistance is not automatically renewed each year. **Recipients must apply each year.** Students can reapply using Renewal FAFSA on the Web.

## **Federal Student Aid (Title IV Funds)**

Students pursuing a Master of Divinity or a Master of Arts Program may apply for federal student loans. In order to receive federal student loans, students must:

- Be admitted into a master's-level degree program
- Be enrolled at least half-time in a master's program

- Complete a yearly academic plan with their advisor prior to enrolling in their first quarter and then continue to do so each summer

### **Federal Aid Application Process:**

1. Complete the [FAFSA](#) (Federal School Code: G01736).
2. Register for the entire academic year on the [STUDENT PORTAL](#) on the My Northern page. You must be enrolled at least half time for the entire academic year. All MA cohort students are considered full-time if they enroll in the required course sequence for their program for the year. Contact your advisor if you need assistance.
1. Apply for any scholarships or grants that you are eligible for from Northern Seminary. See the available scholarships and grants [HERE](#).
2. Read the [FAQ](#) page about federal loans.
3. Complete the [VFAO Online Federal Aid Interview](#).
4. Sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) at [studentloans.gov](#). Students who do not have a Master Promissory Note (MPN) on file with the government must sign their MPN for Unsubsidized Loans.
5. Complete the [Title IV Student Loan Disbursement Agreement Form](#). Your loan funds automatically pay your tuition and fees. The funds can then be used to pay other account items, but you must give us permission to do so by selecting them on this form. Return the Disbursement Agreement to Northern Seminary at [businessoffice@seminary.edu](#).
8. Complete a Payment Agreement by contacting the Business Office: 630-620-2111. You must complete a Payment Agreement for each year.

\*After completing the online interview, students may be required to verify certain items. This is normal procedure and required by the federal government. Students will be notified about their loan awards by mail.

### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

This form provides the Federal Processing Center with household income and asset information used to determine the expected family contribution and aid eligibility for each applicant. The FAFSA is required for federal and state financial assistance. The FAFSA uses the most recently filed Federal Tax Return.

Northern Seminary's Financial Aid School Code is 001736. The Business Office will receive your results electronically if the school code is listed.

Complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA online at <http://fafsa.ed.gov/>. Students must apply for a FSA ID, which can be done on the FAFSA website. If you do not have Internet access, you may visit any public library. The 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should be

submitted to the Federal Processing Center when the current year application opens. If you submit your FAFSA after the priority deadlines, it will be processed in the order received.

### **Return of Title IV Funds**

Federal Title IV funds are awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which assistance is awarded. If a student who received Title IV funds withdraws, either officially or unofficially, on or before completing the payment period, the Office of Financial Aid is required to recalculate and review the student's eligibility for the scholarship.

### Consequences of Withdrawing from Courses

Withdrawing from courses may affect a student's Northern scholarship awards, and federal aid awards and eligibility. Prior to withdrawing from courses, students are advised to speak with their scholarship counselor and academic advisor. Also refer to the information under "Withdrawing from Seminary".

### Financial Consequences of Withdrawing

Federal Financial aid is awarded to assist with educational expenses for the length of an entire payment period. If a Title IV recipient withdraws prior to completing 60% of the payment period, the Office of Financial Aid must determine how much of the federal funding was "earned" up to the time of withdrawal

Federal Financial Aid Office (Seminary Business office) is required by federal statute to recalculate federal aid eligibility for students who [withdraw](#) (click for form to submit to Registrar), drop out, are dismissed, or take a [Leave of Absence](#) (click for form to submit to Registrar) prior to completing 60% of a payment period or term. The federal Title IV aid programs must be recalculated in these situations to determine how much of the federal funding was earned up to the time of withdrawal. This review and recalculation is called a "Return of Title IV Aid" (R2T4). The last day of attendance is determined based on faculty records.

If a student leaves the institution prior to completing 60% of a payment period or term, the Federal Financial Aid Office recalculates eligibility for Title IV funds. Recalculation is based on the percentage of earned aid using the following Federal Return of Title IV funds formula:

Percentage of payment period or term completed = the number of days completed up to the withdrawal date divided by the total days in the payment period or term. (Any break of five days or more is not counted as part of the days in the term.) This percentage is also the percentage of earned aid.

Funds are returned to the appropriate federal program based on the percentage of unearned aid using the following formula:

Aid to be returned = (100% of the aid that could be disbursed minus the percentage of earned aid) multiplied by the total amount of aid that could have been disbursed during the payment period or term.

If a student earned less aid than was disbursed, the institution would be required to return a portion of the funds, and the student would be required to return a portion of the funds within 30 days.

Keep in mind that when Title IV funds are returned, the student borrower may owe a balance to the institution.

If a student earned more aid than was disbursed to him/her, the institution would owe the student a post-withdrawal disbursement which must be paid within 120 days of the date the institution determined that the student withdrew.

For a 10-week term, a student must complete 6 weeks of the term (60%) in order to retain the aid that was disbursed for the payment period.

Student will be notified of the adjusted amounts by email and US mail.

Refunds are allocated in the following order:

- Federal (Plus) Loan
- Unsubsidized Federal Loan
- Private and institutional aid
- The student

## **Making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

### **Academic Standards:**

- **SAP Standard for Title IV Students:** 3.0 cumulative grade point average or above for DMin, DTM, MANT, MATM and MA students. 2.0 cumulative grade point average or above for MDIV, MACM, MA-UL and MAW students.
- **Standard for student enrolled in same educational program who is not receiving Title IV Assistance:** 3.0 cumulative grade point average or above for DMin, DTM, MANT, MATM and MA students. 2.0 cumulative grade point average or above for MDIV, MACM, MA-UL and MAW students. Cumulative grade point average calculations are the same for all students.  
While all MDiv students must complete their program in no more than seven years, and MA students must complete their program in no more than five years, students receiving Title IV funds must be enrolled in their degree program at least half-time each term.
- **Qualitative Component for Measuring SAP:** Master's-level students must show satisfactory academic performance; 3.0 or 2.0 cumulative grade point average or above, as described above.
- **Quantitative Component (that consists of a maximum time frame) for which a student must complete his/her educational program:** Completion of all degree program requirements is no more than seven years from the time of matriculation for an MDiv, six years for the DMin and DTM, seven years for a five-year master's program, and five years from the time of matriculation for a three-year Master's program.

Student must maintain a completion rate of coursework equal to at least 67% of the total number of credits attempted. This quantitative requirement ensures that the student is steadily

progressing toward the degree by completing at least two-thirds of all attempted credit hours. For example, a student who attempts 9 credit hours must complete at least 6 credit hours to meet the requirement ( $9 \text{ credits} \times .67 = 6$ ).

The pace of education must be such that the degree can be completed within a maximum time frame of 150% of the required hours for degree completion. For example, a student in the MDiv program which requires 108 credits, would have a maximum limit of 162 credits.

Incomplete courses do not count toward completion of the program. Withdrawal from a course removes the course from counting toward completion. Repeated courses to improve a grade only count toward the pace of completion if the first grade was too low to count in the program.

If a student cannot complete their degree program in the allowed time, they must send a letter to the Master's Committee or Doctoral Committee requesting a program extension. Such extension must be approved by the faculty. Financial aid would not be available if the SAP had not been achieved.

### **SAP Process**

1. The Dean of Academic Affairs office checks SAP at the conclusion of each quarter.
2. The process the school uses to ensure consistent application of standards to all students within categories of students: Students are required to maintain satisfactory progress toward their degrees in order to continue eligibility for Northern assistance. At the end of the Add/Drop period each quarter, the Financial Aid Committee will review the GPA and academic load of all students receiving financial assistance.
3. If a student's cumulative GPA no longer meets the criteria for the scholarship awarded, or the hours have changed from those used to determine the student's scholarship award, there may be an adjustment made to the scholarship award. The student will be notified of the adjustment and will be responsible for covering any outstanding balance on their account.
4. Students who do not meet GPA requirements will receive an academic warning letter after their first quarter of failing to maintain the required GPA. This warning letter will list the options available to retain eligibility to receive scholarship. If the GPA requirement, and/or the options outlined in the academic warning letter, are not met in the subsequent term, their aid may be adjusted or removed, and the student will not be eligible to receive federal student loans. Students may reapply for financial assistance when they have reestablished the required grade point average.

### **Appeals**

Students may appeal a determination of probation or termination due to unsatisfactory progress or any other academic policy mentioned herein within 14 days from the date of determination, if extenuating circumstances (illness, family problems, death of a family member, etc.) led to academic difficulties. The appeal must include information explaining why the student failed to meet SAP, what has changed in the student's situation that would allow the student to demonstrate SAP at the

next evaluation, a realistic educational plan that outlines how the student will meet the SAP criteria, and a meeting with an academic advisor to assess the viability of the educational plan to meet the degree requirements.

All appeals shall be submitted in writing and submitted to the Financial Aid Office. All appeals will receive a written response that shall remain final.

## **Exit Counseling**

Federal regulations and Northern Seminary policy require that students who take out a student loan must complete exit counseling before they leave school (graduate), drop below half-time (6 credits), or withdraw from the school. This requirement is in place so that the student will receive essential information regarding their **rights** and **responsibilities** as a student loan borrower. They will receive information about the types of loans they received, when and where to make payments, what to do if payments cannot be made, and what can happen if payments are not made.

Failure to complete exit counseling will result in a hold being placed on the student's records. The student will not be able to re-enroll in classes or obtain other seminary services and documents including, but not limited to, transcripts or diploma.

- Exit counseling may be completed online. To complete exit counseling go to the National Student Loans Data System (NSLDS) at <https://studentloans.gov>
- Log in and select the "Exit Counseling" link.
- Click the "Start" button beneath "Loan Exit Counseling."
- Follow the instructions to complete the counseling.

Federal Financial Aid Office (Seminary Business office) can answer any questions. Contact them at 630-620-2188.

## **Veteran's Benefits**

The Registrar's Office coordinates veteran's benefits for eligible students. Contact [registrar@seminary.edu](mailto:registrar@seminary.edu) or call 630-620-2130. For more information on veteran's benefits, please visit [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov).

## **Northern Seminary Scholarships for Master's Programs**

Scholarships are awarded on an annual basis and is distributed in roughly equal installments at the beginning of Fall, Winter, Spring, and June. Funds are applied directly to the student's account by the Business Office. Recipients have the responsibility of notifying the Scholarship Coordinator at [reichman@seminary.edu](mailto:reichman@seminary.edu) or by calling 630-620-2111 with any change in resources or expenses that could alter the determination of their financial need. Northern scholarships and grants are awarded without obligation of repayment and are subject to the student's maintaining "satisfactory academic progress." There is an application process for each scholarship and grant. All information provided by the applicant will be considered confidential.

## **Statement of Responsibility**

Students are responsible for knowing the information contained in the Seminary Catalog, and in their scholarship award letter. Failure to read and understand this information could result in missed opportunities to receive and/or retain aid/scholarships. Questions regarding scholarship information should be directed to the Business Office at [lrecihman@seminary.edu](mailto:lrecihman@seminary.edu) or (630) 620-2111 .

Students are able to defer payments on prior federal student loans while enrolled at least half- time at Northern Seminary. Submit Deferment Request forms to the seminary Registrar.

## **Northern Seminary Scholarships and Grants for Master's Students**

Students are encouraged to complete the application early in the admission process so that they may receive information regarding their award in a timely manner.

### **Presidential Scholarship: up to 100% Tuition throughout entire program**

Applicant must:

- Be admitted to the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program for the Fall term.
- Have a degree from an accredited undergraduate institution with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Submit a completed Presidential Scholarship application form.
- Be able to articulate a call to ministry through a two to three-page essay.
- Participate in an on-site interview.
- Submit two references in support of their Presidential Scholarship application, in addition to the required Northern admission application reference
- Take at least 9 hours each quarter (3 courses)
- Complete the [FAFSA](#) (Federal School Code: G01736)
- Application deadline: August 1
- **Eligible for renewal or transfer to other programs**

### **John Perkins Fellowship: up to 100% Tuition throughout entire program**

Applicant must:

- Have a degree from an accredited undergraduate institution.
- Be admitted into the Master of Divinity program starting in the Fall term, with a specialization in Christian Community Development.
- Submit a completed John Perkins Fellowship Application form
- Be able to articulate a call to urban ministry through a two to three-page essay.
- Participate in an on site interview.
- Submit two reference letters in support of their John Perkins Fellowship application, in addition to the required Northern admission reference.
- Currently live or agree to live in an urban setting approved by the program director.

- Attend the community building activities, which are normally held in the Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago
- Currently serve or agree to serve in a ministry role at an urban church or ministry
- Complete their degree and graduate in three to five years
- Complete the [FAFSA](#) (Federal School Code: G01736)
- Application deadline: August 1
- **Eligible for renewal or transfer to other programs**

### **Northern Scholarship: Up to 25%**

- Based on a combination of academic merit and financial need, as determined by the student's GPA and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA.

Applicant must:

- Be admitted to a master's program.
- Take at least 6 hours each quarter (or 18 hours in an academic year) or, if they are a cohort student, take all the prescribed classes for their program for the year.
- Maintain the required GPA for graduation from their program.
- Complete the [FAFSA](#) (Federal School Code: G01736).
- Register for courses for an entire year (Fall, Winter, and Spring terms).
- **Reapply for aid with each new school year.**
- Financial Aid is awarded for an entire academic year. **Returning and new students must apply by August 1 annually. Students applying after the deadline are subject to the availability of funds.**

### **Partners in Ministry Grant (MDiv or MACM Students Only)**

- The student's church or ministry pledges to provide 25% of tuition for each quarter the student is enrolled.
- The seminary will also pay 25% of the tuition.
- The student commits to paying the remaining 50% of tuition and all fees.

Applicant must:

- Take at least 6 hours each quarter (or 18 hours in an academic year)
- Complete the [FAFSA](#) (Federal School Code: G01736)
- Must maintain cumulative GPA required for graduation from their program.
- **Reapply for aid with each new school year.**
- Financial Aid is awarded for an entire academic year. Returning and new students must apply by August 1 annually. Student applying after the deadline are subject to the availability of funds.

### **CIOS Loan**



- Complete the FAFSA
- Available to women and persons of color.
- Interest free loan up to \$5000/year.
- **Must reapply for the loan each year.**
- Preference is given to new applicants.
- Can be received up to four years in row.
- Based upon availability of funds.

### **Spouse Grant: 50% of One Course per Term**

- Complete the FAFSA
- Available to the spouse of any current full-time student
- The seminary will provide 50% of the tuition for one class per quarter.

Students are considered on a priority basis for all financial aid.

### **American Baptist Seminarian Support Program**

For American Baptist seminarians attending an ABCUSA-related seminary or theological school. Pledges of support from local churches or ABCUSA organizations will be matched up to \$1,000 per academic year for designated students. Applications for this program are available from the seminary. All pledges should be sent directly to the seminary by Aug. 1.

Requirements:

- Enrolled at least 9 credits in one of the following first professional degree programs: M.Div.
- Hold active membership in an American Baptist church
- Enrolled at an accredited institution in the United States or Puerto Rico.
- Maintain GPA of 2.75
- Enrolled at ABCUSA-related seminary that will award the degree.

The money received may be used to cover tuition, fees, and required books related to seminary courses. Funds received from the churches or region will be deposited in the student's seminary account upon receipt. ABC/USA will send half of its matching funds in Fall and half in Winter.

### **American Baptist Churches of Indiana/Kentucky Fellowship**

Each year a limited number of new students are offered the American Baptist Churches of Indiana/Kentucky Fellowship. Each student receives this scholarship which covers up to 100% in tuition costs for a Master of Arts with an emphasis in [New Testament](#) or [Theology and Mission](#). Each ABC Fellow will be invited to engage in a transformational experience. During the program, students are mentored and serve in a local congregation in either Indiana or Kentucky.

Benefits of the Program:

- Students are able to fully engage in academic and ministerial training without the financial concern of tuition
- Students are mentored by local pastors

- In-context learning allows for immediate practical ministry training and transformational educational opportunities
- Participation in Northern's New Kind of Preacher program
- Community building activities designed for Fellowship participants allow students to create a network of supportive peers
- Following graduation, students are able to have experience already serving in a local congregation and audit a course at Northern for free each year in order to assist with life-long learning.

To Be Considered, an Applicant Must:

- Have a degree from an accredited undergraduate institution
- Be **ADMITTED** into the Master of Arts Program in either New Testament or Theology and Mission
- Applicant must complete the **FAFSA** (Federal School Code: G01736)
- Submit a completed ABC Indiana/Kentucky Fellowship Application form (filling out the interest form below will initiate your receipt of this application from the Admissions office)
- Be willing to live or relocate to Indiana or Kentucky throughout the program
- Participate in an interview with ABC leaders in Indiana or Kentucky
- Be committed to remain in the program the entire time\*
- Attend the community building activities in Indiana
- Currently serve or agree to serve in a ministry role in Indiana or Kentucky following graduation

*\*Degree must be completed in 5 years*

## **Other Sources of Financial Aid and Scholarships**

Students who receive non-Northern scholarships, grants, or other financial assistance are required to report the amount of the award promptly to the Business Office. Adjustments in students' scholarship packages will be made. The student's Northern aid award will not be adjusted if a combination of the Northern aid and outside gift funds do not meet 100% of the student's financial need as demonstrated through the scholarship application. Failure to disclose outside sources of aid may result in the loss of all Northern assistance. Scholarship money received from non-Northern sources will be used first in meeting a student's demonstrated financial need.

Many public and private foundations offer scholarships to qualified students. These options can be researched through various sources on the Internet such as [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). For the names of many scholarships go to [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) or <https://www.mycccu.com/scholarship>.

### **Additional Potential Resources**

#### **Pelt Foundation**

Scholarship for Baptist African-American students for the Doctor of Ministry or Master of Divinity.  
<http://www.peltfoundation.org/mcp004/Scholarships.aspx>

#### **BGAV Ministerial Education Funds, deadline April 1**

<https://bgav.org/financial-resources/scholarships/ministerial/>

**Virginia Baptist Foundation**  
<http://vbfinc.org/scholarships/>

**CM Cares Religious Scholars**  
<https://www.churchmutual.com/cmcares/cmcares-scholars.cfm>

## **Northern Financial Aid Policies and Procedure**

### **Award Limitations**

Northern Scholarship are limited to a maximum of 108 hours of course work for students enrolled in the MDiv program; or to a maximum of 54 hours of course work for students enrolled in a MACM program. For students enrolled in a master's cohort (MANT, MATM, MA-UL, MA-CCD, etc.) scholarship will only be awarded for the required courses in their cohort. No student will be awarded scholarship for any subsequent courses beyond the allotted number of hours for their program. If at any time a scholarship recipient determines that he or she is not going to complete a Northern Seminary degree, the Registrar's Office must be notified.

**Students may receive funding from only one Northern Scholarship program per academic term.**

### **Summer Courses**

Financial Aid for summer courses will be awarded at the same percentage rate utilized during the regular academic year to calculate award amounts. Summer tuition hours will be counted as part of the 108 hours of aid allowed in the MDiv Program and 54 hours of aid allowed in the MACM program. Summer scholarships will be combined with the fall scholarship distribution.

### **External Courses**

Northern Seminary funded scholarship may not be used to pay for external courses or for a program outside of Northern to which Northern pays tuition. Courses that are cross-registered with other ACTS schools (with the exception of Bexley-Seabury Seminary Federation) are not considered external courses and may be paid for using Northern Seminary scholarship funds.

### **Audit**

Northern scholarship funds may not be used to pay for any coursework taken for audit.

### **Distribution Schedule**

- Summer/Fall – by the end of the second week of the fall term.
- Winter – by the end of the second week of the winter term.
- Spring – by the end of the second week of the spring term.
- June – by the end the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the intensives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the normal course schedule.

### **Living Expenses**

Northern Seminary Scholarship funds may only be applied to tuition for the student's first master's and/or doctoral level seminary degree. Non-Northern scholarships, grants, and gifts may be used to

cover tuition, fees, and required textbooks listed on the course syllabus. Funds intended to cover costs other than tuition, fees, and required books may not be made payable to Northern Seminary and may not be deposited in a student's seminary account. Support for living expenses raised by the student must be sent **directly to the Northern student**. (International students are exempt from this policy. Northern Seminary will accept cost of living funds for deposit into an international student's account.) Funds raised for living expenses must be declared to the IRS as taxable income.

### **Return Policy**

A review of student accounts will be made annually at the end of the academic year. Upon graduation or termination of studies, if a student received outside scholarships, grants and gifts on their account, which when combined with Northern Seminary scholarship funds exceed the actual cost of tuition, fees and required books, excess funds will be returned first to the Northern Seminary scholarship fund and then to the supporting outside agency.

### **Requirements for Maintaining Northern Scholarships**

**No scholarship is guaranteed for renewal**, and scholarships are provided as funds are available through the generosity of Northern friends. Students are required to write a thank you note to the donors upon receipt of their award letter each year, and to maintain satisfactory progress toward the completion of their degree in order to continue eligibility for Northern assistance. This means maintaining the required minimum GPA for their program and enrolling in the required minimum course load. At the end of the Add/Drop period each quarter, the Financial Aid Office will review the GPA and academic course load of all students receiving financial assistance to ensure compliance with these requirements.

- **GPA requirements**

If, upon review, a student's cumulative GPA no longer meets the criteria for the scholarship awarded, the student will receive an academic warning letter. This warning letter will encourage the student to work with faculty and their academic advisor to develop a plan for academic success. If the GPA requirement is not met or if the student has not taken any action towards improving their academic standing, then in the subsequent quarter their aid may be adjusted or removed. Students may then reapply for financial assistance once they have reestablished the required grade point average.

#### **Required GPAs for Graduation from Various Degree Programs**

<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Required GPA</u></b>
MDiv	<b>2.0</b>
MACM	<b>2.0</b>
MANT	<b>3.0</b>
MATM	<b>3.0</b>
MA (with specialization)	<b>3.0</b>
MA-UL	<b>2.0</b>
MAW	<b>2.0</b>

- **Course load requirements**

If a student's enrolled hours have changed from those initially used to determine the student's scholarship award, there may be an adjustment made to the scholarship award.

The student will be notified of the adjustment and will be responsible for covering any outstanding balance on their account. If the student has fallen below the minimum number of hours required for their scholarship and has not been granted an exception, their scholarship may be removed.

**Incompletes** are the student's responsibility. If a student has not achieved the required GPA because he or she is carrying an incomplete, aid may be withdrawn.

**Adding/Dropping a Course:** When a student submits an Add/Drop form, the Registrar's Office will notify the Financial Aid Office if the student is receiving Northern aid. Any necessary adjustments in the amount of aid will be made. Tuition refunds for all students, including those on full scholarships, will be granted as described under "Tuition Refunds" in the *Academic Policies and Procedures* section of the Seminary Catalog.

**Failing a Course:** If a student received scholarship for a required course which he or she failed, aid may not be used for that course(s) the second time it is taken.

### **Renewability**

Students must reapply for Northern Scholarships, Partner's in Ministry Grants, and CIOS Loans each academic year. **These awards are not automatically renewed from year to year.** Students receiving Presidential Scholarships and John Perkins Fellowships do not need to reapply each year.

### **Appeal Process**

If a student believes that there have been extenuating circumstances resulting in his/her failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress or the required GPA, he or she may appeal to retain their aid award by writing a letter to the Scholarship Committee. Letters of appeal should be sent to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

### **Expectations**

It is expected that all scholarship recipients will be good ambassadors for Northern Seminary both on site and among the Christian community at large and assist Northern in maintaining positive relationships with individuals, churches, and foundations providing funds. Scholarship recipients are also expected to assist with various Northern functions such as Founders Day, Convocation, and Commencement if needed.

### **Veterans**

Students who are eligible for VA benefits should apply for assistance at their VA offices. The Registrar's Office of Northern Seminary certifies enrollment and reports any significant change in the student's status to the Veterans Administration. Academic Probationary Status will jeopardize the continuance of VA benefits. For more information on veteran's benefits, please visit [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov).

### **Leave of Absence**

Students are required to submit a request for a formal Leave of Absence to the Registrar's office. Financial aid will be suspended while the student is on a Leave of Absence and will be reinstated if

the student enrolls in subsequent quarters that academic year. **Students on a Leave of Absence do not qualify for deferment of their federal student loans, and withdrawal after a LOA may shorten the payment grace period.**

## **Refund Policy for Scholarship**

Northern Seminary funds and outside scholarship and grant funds that have been awarded to students who withdraw, are suspended, or dismissed will be returned to the proper donor, donating agency, or church according to the appropriate refund schedule. (See Tuition Refunds.)

## **Student Accounts**

At Northern Seminary, students can access their accounts via the Seminary student website (<https://seminary.populiweb.com>) at any time. Northern encourages students to check their account balances and make payments via (<https://seminary.populiweb.com>), or else to set up a Payment Agreement in which recurring tuition payments are automatically made on the same day every month via echeck, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover.

Students are expected to keep their account balances current. **Unless a Payment Agreement has been signed by the student, the total amount of tuition and fees is due prior to the beginning of the term, by the date on the seminary calendar.**

Transcripts and diplomas cannot be released to students with unpaid account balances.

If payment is not made in full by the due date, a minimum of one-third of the tuition and current fees are due. A Payment Agreement must be completed for the remaining two-thirds of the tuition. Questions regarding student accounts should be directed to Student Accounts at 630-620-2111.

## **Short Term Payment Plans**

Northern Seminary MDiv and MACM students have the option of paying tuition in 10 - 12 payments throughout the academic year. Please contact the Business Office to set up a plan that is right for you. A long-term recurring monthly Payment Arrangement is established for students in a Partnership or Cohort programs (see below).

**Unless a Payment Agreement has been signed by the student, the total amount of tuition and fees is due prior to the beginning of the term, by the date on the seminary calendar.**

An automatic payment is one in which the student supplies their account information when the Payment Agreement is set up. Payments are then automatically deducted from their checking account or credit card.

Please direct any questions regarding payment plans or your student account to 630-620-2111.

## Long-Term Payment Plans

For Cohort or Partnership-Based programs, all students participate in a payment plan specifically designed for their degree. Each plan consists of a recurring monthly payment via credit card or checking account, which is paid over a set number of months (24, 36, or 48).

Any student who misses two consecutive payments in his or her long-term Payment Agreement may not enroll in another course until the balance of his or her account has been paid in full. After the student's account is in balance, he or she may once again enroll in courses at Northern.

The monthly amount includes tuition and registration fees. For partnership programs, the monthly payment amount may also include program fees related to the partner's program (such as retreat or travel fees). The payment plan does not include books, housing, or assessment fees. Students must purchase all books and arrange for housing for each course in the program unless otherwise noted.

## Withdrawing from Seminary

Please also refer to information under "Return of Title IV Funds". Students who are withdrawing from Northern Seminary during a term must complete a ["Request for Withdrawal"](#) form and submit it to the Registrar's Office. They should also contact the Registrar's Office so that the appropriate adjustments in their scholarship award may be initiated if needed. The Date of Determination is the date on which we are made aware of the student's intent to withdraw. If the student continues to attend, however, then the Date of Determination is the last date of attendance in an academically-related activity. If a student tells us between terms (summer, etc.), then it is usually the date of the withdrawal form, email, or phone call informing us of the pending withdrawal. Withdrawals are not final until the student's withdrawal form is received by the Registrar's Office.

The withdrawal date is determined in 2 ways:

- 1) Official withdrawal: student completes and submits the official withdrawal form.
- 2) Unofficial withdrawal: student stops attending class but does not notify the school of official withdrawal. In this case, the withdrawal date is based on the last documented student academic activity. If the student was unable to notify the school because of the circumstances beyond their control, the withdrawal date will be based on documentation related to the event once the Federal Financial Aid Office is notified.

Withdrawing from courses may have other implications as well:

1. Call Northern Financial Aid. Call the 630-620-2111 to discuss how Northern Seminary aid may be affected.
2. Call Federal Financial Aid Office at 630-620-2188 to discuss the federal Title IV refund policy and its implications for your current scholarship.
3. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Students must make steady progress toward a degree to remain eligible for federal scholarship. You may review the SAP policy on the following pages.

4. Student loan deferment: if you have federal student loans, your withdrawal will have implications, which may include your grace period beginning, or even the repayment on prior loans. You may view more information at [studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov) .
5. Business Office. Check with the Business Office at 630-620-2111 to discuss any of the following: Outstanding balance, implications for your payment agreement. Any remaining balance must be cleared prior to release of transcripts or future registration.
6. Academic: Discuss your anticipated withdrawal with your academic advisor and with Admissions. If you will be out of school for more than two consecutive terms, discuss readmission procedures.



# Academic Policies and Procedures

*(Note: Doctoral students should also refer to the Doctor of Ministry Program and Policy Manual)*

## Academic Complaints of a Student against a Professor, Including Contesting a Grade

If a student has an academic complaint against a faculty member (regular, affiliate or adjunct) and the matter cannot be resolved with that faculty member, the student has the right to appeal to the Dean of Academic Affairs, who has final authority.

## Academic Disciplinary Procedure

When a student enrolls in seminary, he or she assumes numerous important academic, financial, and personal obligations. Included in these obligations are the commitment to personal integrity and the demonstration of a Christian character. As a theological school whose mission is to prepare academically, personally, and spiritually qualified persons for Christian leadership in the churches and other ministries, Northern is deeply concerned with these issues, too. Therefore, any student who violates the standards of academic honesty is subject to disciplinary action.

If a professor suspects that a student has violated the standards of academic honesty, he or she is to confer with the student about the situation. If the professor concludes that a violation of academic honesty standards has in fact occurred, he or she must report the incident to the Dean of Academic Affairs Office, along with the supporting evidence.

The Dean will review the evidence, solicit a response from the student and any necessary additional input from the professor. If after such examination of the evidence, the Dean determines that a violation of academic honesty has occurred, the Dean will consult with the professor about an appropriate sanction. The Dean will then convene a meeting between the professor and the student in order to inform the student of the decision and the sanction. The student also will be provided with a written copy of the decision and the sanction at the time of the meeting.

Sanctions may vary, depending on the type and severity of the violation. In all cases, no academic credit (a grade of zero) will be given for an assignment when plagiarism or other kinds of cheating have occurred. For some first offenses, the Dean, after consulting with the professor, may allow a paper to be rewritten. In other cases, the decision may be to give a failing grade for the assignment in which the violation occurred or for the entire class. If the violation is judged by the Dean and the professor to be more serious, other sanctions may be given, including reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. In cases where the violation involved damaged, stolen, or misappropriated property, money, and the like, the sanction might include restitution as well.

If the student so chooses, he or she has ten business days after receipt of the decision to file an appeal with the Dean's Office. The appeal will be heard by the Faculty/Student Guidance Committee, which will consist of three faculty (not currently teaching the student) and two students, all of whom are appointed by the President of Northern. The student filing the appeal may challenge the appointment of one professor and one student.

The Committee will meet within three weeks of the filing of the appeal. Members will review the evidence originally supplied by the professor and the decision rendered by the Dean. The Committee may call witnesses whom the student also may cross-examine. But the witnesses will not stay for the entire hearing, which will not be public. The student may ask another student or faculty member to be present during the hearing as a non-voting observer. The Committee has the option of reversing the previous finding and dismissing the case; confirming the finding and the sanction imposed; or confirming the finding and altering the imposed sanction. The Committee is required to produce a written record of the hearing and to submit it and the final decision to the Dean's office at the conclusion of its work. The Committee must deliver its finding in writing to the student within five days of the hearing and obtain a receipt. The student also may examine the Committee's written record of the hearing if he or she desires.

The student has the option of appealing the Guidance Committee's finding to the full faculty. The appeal must be in writing and delivered to the Dean's Office within ten working days after receipt by the student of the Committee's decision. The faculty will review the Committee's minutes and findings, but not undertake a complete re-hearing of the case. The faculty must render its decision within one month of the student's appeal. The faculty's decision is final.

For a second offense, the appropriate sanction is expulsion from the seminary.

During the disciplinary process, the student shall retain all rights and privileges as a student, unless the Dean determines that immediate suspension is in the best interests of the seminary. All disciplinary proceedings and their records are confidential. When the disciplinary process begins, students are obligated to follow the procedures described above. While students are free to seek legal counsel, at no time during the disciplinary process will an attorney be allowed to be present at any deliberations.

Approved by the Faculty of  
Northern Baptist Theological Seminary  
February 28, 2002

## **Academic Honesty Policy**

Northern Seminary is a graduate theological school that is committed to the training of men and women for Christian ministry. As such, the seminary expects its students to be persons of unimpeachable character and to demonstrate the highest integrity at all times and in all situations. An essential part of the formation for Christian ministry, then, is the student's adherence to the principles and practices of honesty in academic and other parts of seminary life. Engaging in dishonest activities while studying for the ministry raises profound questions about the student's fitness for Christian leadership. Therefore, violators of the seminary's standards of honesty are subject to disciplinary action. (See the section on "Academic Disciplinary Procedures" above for details.)

Dishonesty manifests itself in many ways in academic settings and it is impossible to identify an exhaustive list of dishonest behaviors here. Seminary students should have a well-developed sense of right and wrong and hold themselves to the highest ethical standards. "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22, NIV). The seminary and the churches that hire its graduates have a right to expect that students resist the temptation to bypass academic or

other ethical expectations and that they follow the spirit, as well as the letter, of the law. Examples of dishonesty include but are not limited to the following kinds of practices:

## **1. Plagiarism**

### ***What is Plagiarism?***

Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one's own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgment or documentation. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Submitting as one's own material copied, borrowed, or purchased from some other source. This includes, but is not limited to, downloading term papers from the internet, purchasing a paper from a "term paper mill," reproducing parts or all of an article or book section, copying another student's paper, and so on.
- Copying verbatim or taking ideas from a source without providing documentation (i.e., footnote or quotation marks)
- Copying verbatim or taking ideas from a source and providing fraudulent or misleading documentation.
- Copying verbatim from a source without using quotation marks or a block quotation. When copied material is not properly identified with quotation marks, readers are led to believe that the material is the writer's own words, when in fact they are someone else's, which is the essence of plagiarism. Providing a footnote after copied material without using quotation marks is not adequate documentation and constitutes plagiarism.
- Paraphrasing material that is too close to the original, whether documented properly or not. A paraphrase is unacceptable if it merely changes a few words or transposes phrases or sentences in the original source, but retains the bulk of the text as it originally appeared.

Since plagiarism is a form of claiming for ourselves what belongs to another, it constitutes an infringement on someone else's intellectual property and is a form of stealing. It is a very serious violation of Christian ethics and raises profound questions about fitness for Christian ministry. The seminary takes these matters extremely seriously and will take disciplinary action against those who engage in plagiarism.

It is sometimes difficult to know whether or how to acknowledge and document certain kinds of material. When in doubt, consult Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018), especially those sections dealing with using quotations and footnotes. Students are expected to know and follow the guidelines in Turabian. Ignorance of them is no excuse.

### ***What happens when a student plagiarizes?***

When a student is found to have plagiarized, you are placed under academic probation until you have met the following conditions:

1. The professor notifies the student, and reports the student to the Dean of Academic Affairs, along with a copy of the paper that contains the plagiarism.

2. The Dean of Academic Affairs notifies the student who must then complete the following requirements:
  - a. Student will take the following online tutorial and pass the certification test at the end of the tutorial by the date designated by the Dean  
<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>
  - b. Student will pay a fee of \$150 to Northern Seminary.
  - c. Student will then be assigned to a Writing Tutor:
    - i. Writing Tutor will work with the student to re-write the paper containing the plagiarism in order to understand the improper use of sources and learn how to properly cite sources (and more broadly, how to identify the main ideas in sources for use in your papers).
    - ii. Student will need to meet with the Writing Tutor at least three times and submit revisions of the paper to him/her before submitting the revised paper to the professor by the date designated by the Dean.
  - d. Student submits the revised paper to the professor. If the paper is acceptable to the professor, the professor may then re-grade the paper.
3. Successful completion of these requirements by the student will result in lifting the academic probation due to plagiarism.
4. Failure on the student's part to cooperate with these requirements will result in failing the course and remaining on academic probation.

## **2. Cheating**

Using or trying to use unauthorized materials in exams, quizzes, or other academic assignments or intentionally seeking unfair academic advantage. Examples: using a "cheat sheet" during a test; securing an unauthorized advance copy of an exam; changing an already-graded exam, quiz, or paper in hopes of getting a higher grade; copying someone else's answers or assignment; working with another student on a take-home test or other assignment when such collaboration has been prohibited; assisting another student in such acts of academic dishonesty; preventing or obstructing some other student's academic work; lying about excuses for late work or the need for extensions; etc.

## **3. Fabricating Sources**

Using fabricated or altered material in any academic work. Examples include making up information in a report; misrepresenting some other work or an author's intent; providing false or misleading footnotes; padding a bibliography with books that were never consulted.

## **4. Unauthorized Multiple Submissions**

Turning in, without the instructor's permission, any work already submitted for another class or assignment.

## **5. Computer Abuses**

Using computers in inappropriate or illegal ways. Examples: pirating copyrighted software; hacking; constructing and/or knowingly spreading computer viruses; copying programs or downloading materials belonging to someone else; knowingly damaging or tampering with the seminary's computers, printers, or software; using seminary computers for inappropriate activities, such as viewing pornography; etc.

## **6. Altering or Submitting Fraudulent Academic Records**

Tampering with or misrepresenting student transcripts, credentials, or academic records. Examples: submitting false credentials during the admission process; altering a student transcript; forging registration or grade change documents; forging a professor, staff person, or someone else's signature on seminary forms; taking materials from a student file; changing computer records; etc.

### **7. Misuse of the Library**

Failing to follow library rules and regulations or misusing library materials. Examples: taking books or other library materials without properly checking them out; neglecting to return library materials or pay late fees; taking reference materials for one's own use, thus depriving others access to them; defacing, altering, or damaging library materials; using library computers for inappropriate activities (see #5 above); etc.

(Note: Portions of this Academic Honesty statement are adapted with permission from the Marylhurst University Student Handbook, 2000-2002.)

## **Academic Probation**

Students' academic progress is regularly monitored by the Dean's Office and the faculty. When students fail to meet required academic standards for their program, they may be placed on probation.

Probationary status is governed by the following policies:

1. Any student whose cumulative grade point average falls within .25 grade points of the required graduating GPA for their program, will be notified by the Dean of Academic Affairs that they have been placed on the academic warning list with notice to the faculty and Academic Advisor.
2. Master's-level students whose grade point average falls below the required graduating GPA for their program will be placed on probation. Any student remaining on probation during the next two quarters for which they are enrolled will be subject to dismissal by the vote of the faculty.
3. Students enrolled in non-degree programs, including but not limited to Diploma or Certificate programs, whose academic performance is unsatisfactory (below required grade point average, earning a Withdrawal Failing (WF)) will be placed on probation. Any student remaining on probation during the next two quarters for which they are enrolled will be subject to dismissal by vote of the faculty.
4. A student whose cumulative grade point average is raised to a satisfactory level shall be removed from probation.
5. Students who are admitted on probation must achieve the required grade point average for graduation from their program by the end of their second quarter of study or they will be subject to dismissal by vote of the faculty.

## **Add/Drop Procedures**

1. Students have until the end of the first week of the quarter to add courses. For intensive courses, a course can only be added on the first day, or by permission of the instructor and/or program director.
2. Students have until the end of the first week of the quarter or the first day of an intensive to change the basis of course evaluation from letter grade to Pass/Fail.
3. Students have until the end of the third week of the quarter to drop a course and receive at least a partial tuition refund. (See “Tuition Refunds” for refund schedule.) Fees are not refundable. After the first week of class or the first day of an intensive course, the instructor’s signature is required.
4. Before adding or dropping a course, students receiving scholarship must contact the Business Office to verify what impact this change in registration will have on their eligibility to receive the funds they have been awarded. If aid was awarded for a course that is later dropped, the aid will be removed from the student’s account.
5. If a student drops a course after the third week but before the end of the fifth week of the quarter, the instructor of that course will designate the withdrawal as either WP (withdrawal/passing) or WF (withdrawal/failing). After the fifth week, students who drop a course will receive a WF. The withdrawal failing is counted in the Grade Point Average and is calculated as an F. For an intensive course, a drop after the fourth day will receive a WF.

## **Advisor and Advising System**

The Senior Executive Director of Student Services serves as the academic advisor for students enrolled in master’s programs. Those enrolled as students-at-large (non-degree students) are advised by the Registrar. The advisor gives guidance and counsel on curricular options and courses, interpreting and clarifying curricular requirements, and assisting new students in assimilation to graduate theological study. The purpose of academic advising at Northern Seminary is to guide students into deeper understandings of their faith, the ministry, themselves as individuals, their personal sense of vocation, and specific ways they can achieve their academic goals within the Seminary curriculum and course schedule. Prayer should be part of the advising relationship.

The Senior Executive Director of Student Services is available during registration periods and on a regular ongoing basis. Students may monitor their status and progress via the student portal.

Faculty serve as mentors to students on an ongoing basis. They are available by appointment and are reachable by phone and email.

## **Alcoholic Beverages**

Consumption of alcoholic beverages in any public area on site or at any Seminary function is prohibited. This includes classrooms, classes held off site, and Northern Live classes. Anyone who knowingly permits alcohol consumption by underage drinkers is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

## **Anti-Discrimination and Disability Policy**

It is Northern's policy to apply enrollment and academic practices without regard to race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin, age, veteran status, or disability. The person responsible for complying with and carrying out the seminary's responsibilities under this policy in general matters is the Dean of Academic Affairs.

It is the seminary's intent to welcome people with disabilities into the school's communal life and mission. Therefore, seminary policy is to ensure that no qualified student with a disability is denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any seminary program or activity. In response to a request made by a qualified student with a documented disability, the seminary will provide reasonable accommodation and academic adjustments necessary to afford the student the opportunity for full participation in seminary programs. Students should report their academic needs to the Registrar who will communicate with faculty members regarding accommodations to be made. Students should report their general needs to the office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

## **Audit Policy**

In order to have an audit recorded on one's transcript, a student must formally register as an auditor and must attend at least eighty percent of the class sessions. A professor may exclude auditors from a particular offering of a course by notifying the Registrar before registration that auditors will not be permitted. No course credit can be changed to audit after add/drop week.

An auditor who is not enrolled in a degree program should apply as a Student-at-Large.

Northern graduates may audit one master's course, tuition free, per year. The student must pay the registration fees.

## **Changing Degree Programs**

Students may request a "Change of Degree" form from the Admissions Office or on the student website under Registrar-Registrar Forms. It is expected that the student will complete all admission requirements and meet all criteria for admission into the new degree program. When a student changes their degree program, he/she enters under the curriculum currently in place, not the program that was in place when they began their seminary studies. A \$50 change of degree fee will be posted to the student's account in the first quarter of registration under the new degree.

## **Changing Your Name**

In order to officially change your name on your permanent record, submit a valid Driver's License, Passport, Marriage License, or court order documenting your new name to the Registrar's Office.

For international students who are on a visa, the name must reflect the name which appears on the visa.

## **Class Attendance**

It is expected that students will attend and participate in class sessions for courses in which they are enrolled. For a traditional 10-week course, failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. Attendance expectations are higher for intensive, hybrid, and online courses. Each professor has the authority to add additional attendance requirements in the syllabus. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor **in advance** if they will be absent.

## **Class Attendance and Registration**

Any individual attending a course must be properly registered for the course by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the term. Individuals not properly registered for a course are not permitted to further attend the course and their name will be reported immediately to the Registrar's Office. Exceptions include seminary approved guests such as prospective students who are officially scheduled to attend the class by the Admissions Office, employees approved in advance by the instructor, or others approved in advance by the instructor and the Registrar.

## **Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Tuition and Clinic/Hospital Site Fees**

MDiv and MACM students may register and pay tuition to Northern for 3-6 hours of Clinical Pastoral Education as one option for their degree. Students may substitute CPE for up to two of the required Formation and Ministry Skills courses. In addition, students pay the supervising clinic or hospital all fees required by the supervising context. Students who have a credit balance on their Northern Seminary account may request a check for up to the full amount of the clinic/hospital fees (maximum amount of the check request will be dependent upon the exact balance in the student account). In order to request a check, a student must bring documentation of the clinic/hospital fees to the Business Office and complete a Student Account Check Request form.

Students who have successfully completed CPE prior to enrolling in seminary classes may request to have those credits transferred into their degree program by having the hospital send an official copy of their final CPE evaluation and certificate to the Supervised Ministry Office.

Students who do not have these CPE hours recorded on their official transcript from another graduate institution have two options: (1) Students who desire academic credit for CPE will pay Northern's current tuition rate for each hour of credit that is applied to their transcript; or (2) the seminary degree CPE requirement will be fulfilled for 0 credit hours and the student may substitute an elective course or courses for the CPE credit.

## **Community Standards (See beginning of catalog following Mission/Statement of Faith)**

## **Complaints Regarding Compliance with Accrediting Standards**

Any student has the right to file a formal complaint related to the Seminary's compliance with the accrediting standards of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.



Such complaints should be submitted to the Dean of Academic Affairs in writing. It will be the responsibility of the Dean of Academic Affairs to investigate the complaint and respond to the student in writing within thirty days. A record of such complaints will be maintained in the Dean's Office for review by the Association of Theological Schools. Unresolved complaints can also be submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education at <http://complaints.ibhe.org/>

Illinois Board of Higher Education  
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404  
[info@ibhe.org](mailto:info@ibhe.org)

Institutional Complaint Hotline: (217) 557-7359  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 N. 1st Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62777  
<http://webprod1.isbe.net/contactisbe> / (email)

Illinois Attorney General Consumer Fraud Bureau  
500 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62706  
<http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov>  
<https://ccforms submission.ilattorneygeneral.net/>  
Consumer Fraud Hotline: (800) 243-0618

For other states, please click here to view a listing of [State Contact Information for Student Complaints](#).

## **Complaints Regarding Harassment or Discrimination Procedure**

The Seminary affirms its commitment to equality of opportunity, under God, for all individuals. There shall be no harassment or discrimination against any applicant, student or employee on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. This policy is intended to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and 1992, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

Any person(s) who believes he, she, or they have a grievance on account of an occurrence of being harassed or discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap shall, within 30 days after the occurrence, attempt to resolve it by either or both of the following actions: 1) conferring with the person(s) against whom he/she has the grievance; or, 2) conferring with the Senior Executive Director of Student Services, who serves as the designated Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator. [In accordance with Seminary policy, a student complainant may also report the complaint to the Director of Operations or the Dean of Academic Affairs. Anonymous reports may also be made to the Campus Conduct Hotline (<https://www.campusconduct.com/>) at 1-866-943-5787.

If resolution is not reached in the above manner, then the person shall make a written request to the Dean of Academic Affairs for a hearing with an ad hoc Grievance Committee, which written request shall set forth in detail the facts in connection with such harassment or discrimination. The

Committee shall be constituted as follows: the chair of the Committee and two staff members selected by the President, two students and two faculty members selected by the

Dean of Academic Affairs. The Grievance Committee shall be constituted and meet for the hearing within 30 days of the date of the request for a hearing.

The person(s) who brings the grievance and the person(s) accused in the grievance shall have the right to present evidence, confront adverse witnesses, and be accompanied by an advocate who is a member of the Seminary community, and who will have a right to speak on his or her behalf. Although each party is entitled to seek legal counsel, no lawyers are permitted to attend the hearing. A written summary of the hearing shall be made and kept in the Dean of Academic Affairs Office. The summary shall be available for inspection by each party to the grievance and his or her advocate and/or counsel.

Confidentiality by all parties is to be maintained throughout the grievance procedure.

The Committee decision shall be in writing and a copy delivered to each person making a written request for the hearing and each person accused in the grievance, and a receipt obtained, which delivery shall be within five working days from the date of the conclusion of the hearing.

Each person making a written request for the hearing and each person accused in the grievance shall have the right to appeal any Committee decision to the President of the Seminary by written petition within 10 working days after receipt of the Committee decision. The President may, in whole or in part, dismiss the charges, modify the Committee's sanctions, if any, or otherwise act on the Committee's decision.

## **Cross-Registration with ACTS**

Northern students are encouraged to take advantage of the wealth of educational resources available at the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) seminaries. Upon completion of 12 hours of study at Northern, students may cross-register to any of these seminaries. For course listings see the ACTS website at [www.acts-chicago.org](http://www.acts-chicago.org). MDiv students are limited to 30 quarter-hours of study through cross-registration; students in the MACM program are limited to 21 quarter-hours. Tuition is charged at the Northern rate and payment must be made to Northern.

The appropriate electronic form (available online at <http://student.seminary.edu/students/registrar/registration-tools/cross-register/>) must be downloaded and completed at the time of quarterly registration, and sent electronically via email to the Northern Seminary Registrar. Students who are in cross-registered classes are governed by the educational policies of the offering school. Grades are sent to Northern's Registrar by the ACTS seminary.

When selecting coursework for cross-registration, students should note that most institution's courses start and end dates may be different from Northern's academic schedule. Please also note that because Northern must send a tuition payment to Bexley-Seabury Seminary Federation, Northern scholarship cannot be used for courses at BSSF.

## **Dean's List**

The Dean's List recognizes students who have completed a minimum of 27 credit hours and who have achieved a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher. A letter of recognition is sent to these students at the end of the academic year.

## **Enrollment Status**

MDiv and MACM students must be enrolled in at least 9 credits per term (27 credits per year) to be considered full-time.

MA cohort students are considered full-time as long as they enroll in the required course sequence for their program for the year.

## **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Seminary accords to students all the rights under the law to students who are declared independent. No one outside the institution shall have access to, nor will the institution disclose any information from students' education records without the written consent of students except to authorized personnel within the institution, to officials of other institutions in which students seek to enroll, to persons or organizations providing students financial function, to persons in compliance with a judicial order and to persons in an emergency in order to protect the health or safety of students or other persons. All these exceptions are permitted under the Act.

Within the Seminary community, only those members, individually or collectively, acting in the students' educational interest, are allowed access to student education records. These members include personnel in the offices of the President, Dean of Academic Affairs, Registrar, Advancement and Enrollment Management, Financial Aid, academic personnel, Board of Trustees, certain volunteers, and official committees within the limitations of their need to know.

At its discretion, the Seminary may provide Directory information in accordance with the provisions of the Act to include: student's name, home and local addresses, home and local telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, photo, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, classification, program of study, degree received, church membership, physical factors, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. If students do not want their contact information listed in the seminary directory, they can indicate at the time of application or by contacting the Registrar's Office in writing.

The Registrar at Northern has been designated by the Seminary to coordinate the inspection and review procedures for student education records which include admissions, resumes for placement, academic and financial files and records. Students wishing to review their education records must make written requests to the Registrar listing the item or items of interest. Only records covered by the Act will be made available within forty-five days of the request. Students may have copies made of their records with certain exceptions: a copy of the academic record for which a financial "hold" exists, a transcript of an original source document which exists elsewhere and previously waived rights to examine letters of recommendation for admission and placement. These copies would be made at the student's expense and at prevailing rates.

Education records do not include records of instructional, administrative and educational personnel, which are the sole possession of the maker and are not accessible or revealed to any individual.

Students may not inspect and review the following, as outlined by the Act: financial information submitted by their parents; confidential letters and recommendations associated with admissions, employment or job placement, or education records containing information about more than one student, in which case the Seminary will permit access only to that part of the record which pertains to the inquiring student. The Seminary is not required to permit students to inspect and review confidential letters and recommendations placed in their files prior to January 1, 1975, provided those letters were collected under established policies of confidentiality and were used only for the purposes for which they were collected. Education records which are accessible to a student do not include records which are maintained by a seminary and contain information on the spiritual and psychological development of candidates for church vocations.

Students who believe that their education records contain information that is inaccurate or misleading or is otherwise in violation of their privacy or other rights, may discuss their problems informally with the Registrar. If the decisions are in agreement with the students' requests, the appropriate records will be amended; and they will be informed by the Office of the Registrar of their right to a formal hearing. Student requests for a formal hearing must be made in writing to the Dean of Academic Affairs, who, within a reasonable period of time after receiving such requests, will inform students of the date, place and the time of the hearing. Students may present evidence relevant to the issues raised and may be assisted or represented at the hearing by one or more persons of their choice, including attorneys at the student's expense. The hearing panel, which will adjudicate such challenges, will be appointed by the Dean of Academic Affairs. Decisions of the hearing panel will be final, will be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing, will consist of written statements summarizing the evidence and stating the reasons for the decisions, and will be delivered to all parties concerned. The education records will be corrected or amended in accordance with the decisions of the hearing panel, if the decisions are in favor of the student. If the decisions are unsatisfactory to the student, the student may place in the education records statements commenting on the information in the records, or statements setting forth any reasons for disagreeing with the decisions of the hearing panel. The statements will be placed in the education records, maintained as part of the student's education records and released whenever the records in question are disclosed.

Students who believe that the adjudications of their challenges were unfair or not in keeping with the provisions of the Act may request, in writing, assistance from the President of the Seminary. Further, students who believe that their rights have been abridged may file complaints with the Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20202, concerning the alleged failures of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary to comply with the Act. Revisions and clarifications will be published as experience with the law and the institution's policy warrants.

For more information see: <http://student.seminary.edu/students/registrar/registration-tools/policies/ferpa/>

## Government Regulations

Northern Baptist Theological Seminary is a graduate theological institution with the primary purpose of preparing men and women as effective leaders in the Church. At the same time, it is also registered as a state-chartered institution of higher education to meet the requirements of Federal and State laws and ordinances. In accordance with Federal regulations, the sections on Educational Rights and Privacy and the Drug-Free Workplace Policy are included here. The Seminary administration seeks to function in accordance with standards of excellence that meet or exceed the standards of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

It is our concern and heartfelt prayer that those charged with the administration of the Seminary as well as all persons related to the Seminary, will conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate for servants of Christ, especially in those matters which are legally supervised by government. Our intention is to seek to be models of Christian faith and integrity, and to strive to solve our misunderstandings in a spirit of Christian love and concern for the community. Our goal, insofar as possible, is aimed at reconciliation of differences, striving for justice and fairness for all persons in the Seminary.

## Grading System

Course work is normally evaluated on the basis of letter grades:

- A = Outstanding
- B = Good
- C = Satisfactory
- D = Unsatisfactory
- F = Failure

Grades are given with a plus or a minus recorded on the transcript and calculated on a weighted four-point scale:

A+ to A =	4.0
A- =	3.7
B+ =	3.3
B =	3.0
B- =	2.7
C+ =	2.3
C =	2.0
C- =	1.7
D+ =	1.3
D =	1.0
D- =	0.7
F =	0.0
WF =	0.0

All required courses must be taken for a letter grade, but students may choose to take up to two general elective courses for Pass/Fail (see below). *Students have until the end of the next quarter to challenge a course grade or seek a grade change.*

All courses require a grade of C- or better to count toward graduation requirements. A grade below C- will require that the course be retaken. This applies to all master's and Diploma students regardless of start date. Coursework completed prior to Fall Quarter, 2013, will not be subject to this policy.

## Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used in all Northern Seminary classes.

A =	100-95	A- =	94-90
B+ =	89-87	B =	86-83
B- =	82-80	C+ =	79-77
C =	76-73	C- =	72-70 *
D+ =	69-67	D =	66-63
D- =	62-60	F =	59 and below

\*NOTE: All courses require a grade of C- or better to count toward graduation requirements. A grade below C- will require that the course be retaken. This applies to all master's and Diploma students regardless of start date.

## Graduation Requirements

All degrees are conferred by vote of the Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the faculty. Such recommendation is based not only on the fulfillment of the minimum course requirements, but the quality and coherence of the student's program, including assessment reviews with faculty and peers.

Other requirements include:

1. Satisfactory completion of all academic requirements, including supervised ministry, clinical components, and assessments. The last 30 hours of study must be completed through coursework listed on Northern's academic schedule or the ACTS catalog. A minimum of 33% of the courses in the MDiv program or 50% of the courses in the MACM program must be completed on Northern Seminary's center.
2. Students may walk at commencement if they have only 1-2 courses left or are in the process of completing an approved thesis (all-but-thesis), which will be completed no later than the coming Fall quarter. All students participating in commencement will be handed an empty graduation diploma holder, and their actual diploma will be mailed to the student once verification is made of the following:
  - a. All monies owed to Northern Seminary are paid in full
  - b. All course/thesis are completed and have received a minimum required grade.
3. Completion of all degree program requirements in no more than seven years from the time of matriculation for an MDiv and six years from the time of matriculation for other master's programs.

4. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 is necessary for graduation in the MDiv, MAW, MA-UL, MA-CCD, and MACM, 2.7 in the DMin Program, and 3.0 in the MA-AB, MA-AS, MANT, and MATM.
5. A student must submit the “Application for Graduation” to the Registrar’s office by February 1 of the year they intend to graduate.
6. The name printed on the diploma will be the legal name that is listed in Northern’s student information system, allowing for the first or middle name to be an initial or deleted. Requests for an official name change on the student’s diploma must follow the process for an official name change. (see Changing Your Name)
7. Clearance with the Business Office and Library of all financial obligations to the Seminary by May 15 of the year of graduation.
8. Students who are receiving federal loans must complete the exit counseling online by going to the National Student Loans Data System (NSLDS) at [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov) and selecting the “Exit Counseling” link.
9. Completion of the Graduating Student Questionnaire. A request to graduate in absentia must be approved by the Registrar no later than the first Friday in May.

## **Inclusive Language**

The Seminary is committed to the equality of men and women in all areas of life. The use of inclusive language in reference to human beings in all oral and written communication by all members of the Seminary community is expected.

## **Independent Study**

An independent study course may be negotiated with a member of the regular, affiliate or adjunct faculty of the Seminary for any quarter of the academic year. Independent Studies are not permitted for regularly scheduled courses at Northern or for courses available from the ACTS seminaries. Only students who have earned at least 24 credit hours at Northern and who have a 2.75 cumulative grade point average or better will normally qualify for an Independent Study. A maximum of four Independent Studies toward the MDiv degree or a maximum of two Independent Studies toward a two-year degree will be approved.

The student must register for the Independent Study at the prescribed period of registration and submit an “[Independent Study Contract](#),” including an attached bibliography, to the Registrar. The contract must be filled out by the student and signed by the supervisor and the Registrar. Independent Studies require similar levels of academic work when compared to a course carrying the same number of credit hours and are subject to the same rules and regulations as regularly offered courses. Faculty supervisors exercise their own discretion in accepting Independent Studies. A \$150 administrative fee will be charged for each approved Independent Study.

## Language Credit

A maximum of nine quarter-hours may be earned in Hebrew and/or Aramaic and nine quarter-hours in Greek for 300-level language courses. No academic credit may be earned for language studies apart from the biblical languages.

## Late Work and Grade of Incomplete

All course work must be completed by the deadlines stipulated by course instructors. The following policy has been adopted to cover those instances when deadlines cannot be met for the completion of coursework within the duration of the course:

1. The student must secure approval to take an incomplete from the course instructor on a form provided by the Registrar's Office. **Any prior requests for a grade of incomplete for the previous term must be completed and the grade received before requesting another incomplete.**
2. The instructor and student may negotiate a due date and the grade will normally be reduced one letter grade. The maximum extension is to the last day of the following term, or until September 20th for the summer term.
3. The request for an incomplete, with approval signatures (the instructor and Director of Student Services), must be filed with the Registrar's Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the quarter. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "F" on the incomplete work.
4. Upon receipt of the completed request, the student will receive an "I" (Incomplete) for the course grade until such time as the grade is turned in by the course instructor, or until the agreed deadline.
5. If the instructor does not submit a new grade by the end of the term following the term in which the course was taken (or three months in the case of summer), the Registrar will change the "Incomplete" to a grade of "F" or "No Credit" (for a Credit/No Credit course).
6. An incomplete must be made up before May 15 of the year in which the student intends to graduate.
7. A \$35 fee will be charged for each approved incomplete.

## Leave of Absence/Continuing Registration

Students in an MDiv or a master's program are expected to be enrolled, at least on a part-time basis, in each quarter of the regular academic year in order to maintain steady progress toward the completion of their program. In the event that a student believes that such progress must be temporarily interrupted and that it is not possible to enroll as a part-time student in a regular academic term (Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters), the student must submit a completed "Request for Leave of Absence" form to the Registrar before the beginning of the term for which the leave is requested indicating the reasons for the request and the duration of the leave. (The Leave of Absence form is available online at <http://student.seminary.edu/registrar-forms/>) A leave of no less than



one quarter and of no more than two consecutive terms may be requested. Zero-credit courses do not count toward enrollment. *Students on leave of absence do not qualify for deferment of their student loans. A student's financial aid may be decreased or discontinued as well.*

A fee of \$50 will be charged each term of the leave which will maintain one's student status. This fee will cover the same activities generally covered by the registration and technology fees, and will guarantee the student access to center resources such as the library, computer lab, advising time, etc., during the approved leave of absence.

Any student who fails to secure an approved leave and who fails to enroll in a subsequent academic term, or who fails to re-enroll at the expiration of an approved leave, will be considered as having withdrawn and will have to reapply for admission. In the case of reapplication and admission, and in the event curriculum changes have occurred during the unauthorized absence, the readmitted student will be subject to curricular requirements in place at the time of readmission. Any questions regarding Leave of Absence should be directed to the Registrar's Office.

## **Master's Program Policies**

The Master's Committee is charged with primary responsibility for the formulation and supervision of policies and procedures which implement the educational goals of the curriculum as developed and monitored by the faculty in dialogue with students. The Committee has authorized the Registrar to decide all student requests that clearly fall within the guidelines of established policies. The Dean of Academic Affairs is ultimately responsible for the implementation and administration of educational policies recommended by this Committee and approved by the faculty.

A student is responsible for the curricular requirements in effect at the time he or she enters a degree program. Any changes in degree requirements during a student's program will not be retroactive unless the Registrar so approves and grants to students the possibility of changing curriculum. In such a case, the student will have to meet all the new degree requirements and so indicate in a formal letter in which the reasons for changing curriculum are given.

Educational policies and procedures apply to all students uniformly. Changes in these policies and procedures will normally be made at the beginning of a new academic year or quarter. Those changes which do not directly give advantage or disadvantage to any students may go into effect immediately upon the faculty's approval.

## **Normal Course Load**

Full-time study for MDiv and MACM students is 9-12 quarter hours per term. In order to complete the 108 credit hours required for the MDiv program in four years, students will need to average approximately 9 credit hours per quarter. Many students, however, find it difficult to do quality work while carrying that many hours in addition to other responsibilities. Students should work with their academic advisor to develop a realistic plan of study. Enrollment Advisors may authorize up to 12 hours of credit per quarter. Any student registering for more than 12 credit hours must secure the approval of the Dean. In calculating a course overload, audit hours will be computed at one-third the value of credit hours.

## **Northern Live Courses**

Northern Live courses are offered during the normal academic term and are indicated on the course listing as Northern Live.

## **Online Courses**

Online courses are offered during a normal academic term and are indicated on the course schedule by an (OL) following the course number. The tuition is the same as a regular course.

## **Pass/Fail**

Students who wish to make use of the Pass/Fail grading option may choose to take up to two courses for grades of P (Pass) or F (Fail). Students making use of this option are held to the same standards of performance within the courses as all the other students and must complete all the same coursework. This option creates only two differences, both of which take place after the completion of the class and all coursework. The first is that the instructor will assign a grade of CR (Credit) or NC (No Credit), rather than a letter grade. The second difference occurs when the grade is applied to the student's transcript. The grades of CR and NC are not figured into the student's Grade Point Average (GPA). Thus, such a class will have no impact, positive or negative, on the student's GPA. In the event that a student earns a grade of NC in such a class, the instructor will provide a written evaluation of that student's work in place of a grade.

In order to take a course for Pass/Fail, students should indicate to the Registrar their intent to make use of this grading option when registering through the student portal. Students have until the end of the first week of the quarter to change the basis of course evaluation from letter grade to Pass/Fail. Heritage area courses (listed below) may not be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. Instructors may also designate that their individual courses may not be taken on a Pass/Fail basis.

### **The following core courses may not be taken on a Pass/Fail basis:**

- CH 301 Early and Medieval Christianity
- CH 302 Reformation and Modern Christianity
- CH 305 History of Christianity Survey
- CH 407 History of American Religion
- IN 304 Intro to Biblical Interpretation
- NT 307 The Gospels and Acts
- NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation
- OT 307 The Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books
- OT 308 Historical Books and Prophets
- OT 458 Old Testament Theology
- TH 301 Christian Theology I
- TH 302 Christian Theology II
- TH 303 Theology of Church and Culture

## **Probation (See Academic Probation)**

## **Registration and Enrollment Deposit (See Payment Agreements)**

Official registration must be completed by Friday of the first week of classes of each quarter: Winter 2021 by November 1, 2020; Spring 2021 by February 14, 2021; Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 by May 11, 2021. A late registration fee of \$100 will be charged after these dates.

A Registration and Community fee of \$125 will be charged for each quarter of the regular school year. Registration fees help cover classroom, technology and library services. Community fees go toward student events, chapel, Student Commons supplies, and community dinners. Registration and community fees are non-refundable.

A student's total account must be paid in full before registration for the next quarter will be authorized (see Student Accounts on page 88 for details). Unpaid accounts will be placed under financial lock to prevent further registration.

Newly admitted students must pay the enrollment deposit before registering for classes. The deposit is \$250 for master's students and \$500 for doctoral students.

## **Releasing Student Information**

Northern Seminary's policy on releasing "directory" information (name, address, phone, email, degree, enrollment status, dates of attendance, etc.) is that we do not confirm or release any student information over the phone to a third party. All legitimate requests for information must be in writing and sent to the appropriate office for a response.

If a student requests "personal" information over the phone (account balance, registration status, grades, copier codes, etc.), he or she must correctly supply the student name, student ID and address before the information can be given. If they request the information in person, they must match the photo in Populi, or they must provide their student ID number. Personal information cannot be released to a student's spouse or church unless the student has signed a release form permitting this and the third party can supply the same three pieces of security information (name, ID, address) correctly.

[https://student.seminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/12/Release\\_ofStudentInfo\\_to\\_3rdParty-1.pdf](https://student.seminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/12/Release_ofStudentInfo_to_3rdParty-1.pdf)

## **Required Heritage Courses**

Northern degree students must take the required Heritage courses (Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology) at Northern. In unusual circumstances where exceptions are sought, a substitution for a course must be approved by the Northern faculty member teaching the heritage course and the Registrar.

All courses must receive a grade of C- or better to count toward graduation requirements. A grade below C- will require that the course be retaken.

## **Retaking a Course to Raise the Grade**

A course can be retaken once but not as an Independent Study. To retake a course you must have the Registrar's approval, register for the course and pay tuition and fees. Financial aid will not apply. The grade for the previous course will remain on the student's transcript, however, the higher grade will be computed in the student's GPA from the time it is earned, and only one course will count toward credit hours for graduation.

## **Security and Crime**

For your own safety, use common sense in all matters of personal safety. Always lock your vehicle and do not leave valuable items in plain sight inside the vehicle. If you observe anyone involved in a suspicious or dangerous activity, report them to the Lisle Police immediately by calling 911. If you don't feel safe walking to or from your vehicle, walk with a companion.

Students are encouraged to determine where fire alarm boxes, fire extinguishers, fire hoses, and stairways are located. If emergency sirens sound, immediately take appropriate action (fire alarm: exit building; tornado: seek shelter away from windows).

The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires institutions of higher learning to report statistics on certain criminal activities. Northern keeps official statistics of any criminal activity which happens on site which involves a student or employee while functioning as a member of the Seminary.

The following criminal activities must be reported: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, or motor vehicle theft. The Seminary also maintains statistics concerning the number of arrests for the following crimes occurring on site: liquor law violations, drug abuse violations, and weapons possessions. All criminal activities listed above must be reported to the Director of Operations.

The full *Annual Security and Fire Safety Report* can be found at [www.seminary.edu/safety](http://www.seminary.edu/safety).

## **Sexual Assault – Victim Rights and Services**

(see Sexual Violence Policy – pg. 12)

## **Smoking**

Northern Seminary's entire centers are designated as a non-smoking area; therefore, smoking is prohibited in any area of the centers including classrooms (also including off center classrooms and Northern Live), restrooms, hallways, and outside buildings. This includes e-cigarettes.

## **Student-at-Large**

A Student-at-Large who desires to be admitted to degree standing must make formal application to the admissions office for degree status before exceeding 12 hours of credit. Persons who do not wish to complete a degree may be advised to enroll in the Graduate Certificate program.

## Student Portal

All students are assigned a seminary email and password which are used to log into the Student Portal from Northern's website at <https://seminary.populiweb.com> . Pre-registration for the entire academic year and tuition payments may be done through the student portal as well as printing unofficial transcripts and grade reports.

## Student Right-to-Know Disclosures

The graduation and time-to-completion rates for 2020-2021 are as follows:

Program	Graduation Rate	Average Time to Completion (years)
MDiv	62.5%	4.5
MACM	66.6%	4
Advanced Graduate Cert	100%	3
Academic MA	64.2%	4

## Technology Use in the Classroom

The use of electronic devices in the classroom must be in connection with matters related to classroom activities only.

## Time-Limit for Completing Program Requirements

The time-limit for completing the MDiv program is seven years; for the MA programs and the MACM program it is six years. If a student cannot complete their degree program in the allowed time, they must send a letter to the Master's Committee requesting a program extension. Such extension must be approved by the faculty.

### Transferring from Undergraduate Programs

Students in professional degree programs, MDiv, MACM, MA-UL, MAW are eligible for advanced standing (see Advanced Standing – pg. 31). For students in academic degree programs, (MA-AB, MA-AS, MA-CCD, MANT, MATM) no credit can be given for work which was applied to an undergraduate degree. Such work, however, may be the basis for waiving an introductory level course (300 level) and taking an advanced course in the same area. Students must secure faculty permission from a regular Northern faculty member teaching in the discipline. That faculty member must supply written notification to the Registrar, stating the course(s) to be waived and giving approval for substitution.

### Transferring from Other Graduate Programs

Transfer credit will be considered by the Registrar upon formal request following application to the seminary. For master's degree programs, theological work from an ATS-accredited school or from seminaries in other countries which can be legitimately evaluated will be considered for transfer credit. Up to 50% of a previous master's degree can be transferred into a Northern master's program. Only B- level grades or better or "pass" will be considered for transfer. Normally transfer credit that is more than ten years old will not be accepted.

Graduate level credit will also be considered from schools accredited by the US Department of Education for transfer into a master's program. Credit for transfer will be determined by the Registrar.

In the case of required Heritage courses for a degree program, transfer credit can only be applied if the Registrar judges a course from another school to be equivalent to Northern's required courses. The student may be asked to provide a course syllabus for review by the Registrar and the professor from the discipline in question.

Transfer students must take at least 33% of their classes at Northern for the MDiv or 50% for the MA programs.

For students in the Graduate Certificate program, transfer credit will be evaluated on an individual basis. Coursework from non-ATS accredited institutions may be considered for transfer. There are no location restrictions, so coursework may be completed at any Northern location.

## Tuition Refunds

Changes in registration after drop/add week, including dropping a course, must be approved by the Registrar. In the case of approved course drops, tuition refunds for all students including those on full scholarships, will be granted as follows:

<b>For Regular Master's Courses</b>	<b>% Reimbursement</b>
By the last day of the first week	100%
By the last day of the second week	80%
By the last day of the third week	50%
After the last day of the third week	0%

<b>For Master's Weekend Intensives</b>	<b>% Reimbursement</b>
By the first Monday following the first weekend session	100%
By the Friday of the 2nd full weekend session	80%
By the Monday following the 2nd full weekend session	50%
After the Monday following the 2nd full weekend session	0%

<b>For Master's Summer Intensive Courses</b>	<b>% Reimbursement</b>
By the end of the 2nd day	100%
By the end of the 3rd day	80%
By the end of the 4th day	50%
After the 4th day	0%

<b>Doctor of Ministry Intensives</b>	<b>% Reimbursement</b>
Before the end of the first day	100%
Before the end of the second day	60%
After the end of the second day	0%

## **Veterans Readmission**

Northern Seminary is required to readmit veterans who have left in order to perform military service. The veteran is to be readmitted with the same academic status he or she had when last in attendance at Northern and will be allowed to enter the current equivalent of the original degree program. In most cases, the length of the absence from Northern Seminary cannot exceed five years. This bill was signed into law on August 14, 2008. Exceptions to the law include veterans receiving a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge, or veterans sentenced in a court-martial.

# Master's Course Descriptions

Courses are listed with both a letter prefix and a number. The prefix denotes the area of study and the number identifies the level of instruction. For example, according to the following chart, CH 301 is an introductory level course in Church History; while NT 411 is an intermediate course in New Testament. Interdisciplinary courses carry the IN prefix.

Course offerings are published annually and updated quarterly.

## Areas of Study

BL	Biblical Languages
CH	Church History
CT	Church and Community
ED	Christian Education
IN	Integrative/Interdisciplinary
ME	Missions and Evangelism
MN	Pastoral/Parish Ministry
NT	New Testament
OT	Old Testament
SM	Supervised Ministry
SP	Spirituality
TE	Ethics
TH	Theological Studies
UR	Urban Ministry
WO	Worship
WT	Women and Theology

## Levels of Courses

300-399	Introductory
400-499	Intermediate
500-599	Advanced

All courses are 3 quarter-hours of credit unless otherwise noted.

## Class Listings

### **BL 301 Biblical Hebrew I**

A basic introduction to the grammar and vocabulary of the Hebrew Old Testament. After completing this course, the student will be able to utilize the tools for Biblical study such as Hebrew lexicons and concordances and commentaries, recognizing Hebrew script and transliteration.

*Curricular area:* OT

### **BL 302 Biblical Hebrew II**

This course is a continuation of a basic introduction to the Hebrew grammar, vocabulary and syntax. This course will prepare the student to be able to read and translate the Hebrew Bible expressively.

*Curricular area:* OT; *Prerequisite:* BL 301



**BL 303 Hebrew Syntax/Exegesis**

This course will prepare students to gain knowledge of Hebrew syntax through reading and translating texts. It will also equip students to be able to write an academic exegesis paper.

*Curricular area:* OT; *Prerequisite:* BL 301 and BL 302

**BL 350 New Testament Greek I**

A basic introduction to the grammar and vocabulary of the Greek New Testament. On completion of this course, the student will be able to read parts of the Greek New Testament without constant reference to a lexicon. The student will also understand the purposes and limits of exegesis.

*Curricular area:* NT

**BL 351 New Testament Greek II**

A continuation of BL 350. The student will be able to read much of the Greek New Testament without constant reference to a lexicon and understand the purposes and limits of exegesis.

*Curricular area:* NT; *Prerequisite:* BL 350

**BL 352 Greek Syntax/Exegesis**

An intermediate study of Greek syntax and exegesis using a particular New Testament text.

*Curricular area:* NT; *Prerequisite:* BL 350 and BL 351

**CH 301 Early and Medieval Christianity**

This course is a basic introduction to the history of Christianity from its beginning to the end of the Middle Ages and the dawn of the Reformation. It covers the development of the institutional church, explores Christianity as a lived religion, traces the progress of doctrine, and introduces some of the men and women whose thoughts and lives influenced the course of Christian history.

*Curricular area:* CH;

**CH 302 Reformation and Modern Christianity**

An examination of major developments in Christianity from the time of the Reformation to the present. The class explores how and why the church evolved as it did with a focus on personalities whose ideas and actions molded Christian piety and belief. *Curricular area:* CH;

**CH 310 History of the Urban American Church**

This classroom-based course will examine the historical development of the urban church in America within the larger narrative of African American history. In addition, students will have the opportunity to not only contextualize the urban landscape and its challenges from this historical perspective, the students will be asked to incorporate this theoretical knowledge and apply it to their context.

**CH 407 History of American Religion**

This course introduces the panorama of people, movements, issues, groups, events and institutional developments which have characterized religious experience in the United States from the colonial period to the present. *Curricular area:* CH; Required for MDiv

**CT 301 Understanding the City**

The course is designed to acquaint participants with the socio-cultural dynamics that affect the quality of life, inform theology, and challenge the manner in which ministry is conducted in our

urban world. This course helps the student explore contemporary models of urban mission in the extraordinarily diverse context of Chicago. There will be visits, observations and interviews throughout the Chicago area.

### **CT 302 Christian Community Development II**

Christian Community Development is a biblically based philosophy of ministry among the poor and hurting people. It is based on eight key components that come along side of people and empower them to help themselves. The roots, philosophy and principles of Christian Community Development will be explored. The course will be held in conjunction with the CCDA National conference. *Curricular area:* CC; Ministry Elective

### **CT 305 Christian Community Development: Understanding Poverty**

This class will explore the roots of Christian Community Development and give the student a deep understanding of the principles. This will be accomplished by three class sessions in Lawndale and attendance at the national CCDA conference in Dallas, TX, in the Fall of 2019. Every student will grasp how to apply the principles in practical productive ministry. (Church in Community, Gen. Elec.) (DM7821)

### **CT 307 A Biblical Theology of Ministry to the Poor**

This class will study poverty and its effect on our world. A study of both Old Testament and New Testament passages will show God's heart for the hurting and poor. This biblical theology of poverty gives us a mandate as Christians to live life in community in the church and help and care for the poor. *Curricular area:* CT; Ministry Elective

### **CT 308 Exploring Christian Community Development**

This course will explore the means and methodologies to do Christian community development which is a philosophy of ministry to reach under resourced communities. Some of the key issues that have kept poor communities poor and individuals trapped in poverty will be studied. Special emphasis will be on the meaning of biblical justice and how to live out a just life in America. *Curricular area:* CT, ME, Ministry Elective.

### **CT 309 Church in Community**

This course examines how churches should understand and engage their communities, particularly through ethnographic methods and evangelism. *Curricular Area:* CT; Required for MA-UL students

### **CT 311 Nurturing Our Call to Ministry**

This course will explore the means and methodologies to stay the course in ministry for a lifetime. We will study some of the key issues that arouse, discourage and deter people from staying and working in ministry. The purpose is to create patterns and habits that will carry the minister through the ups and downs of a lifetime in ministry and avoid burnout. *Curricular area:* CT or UR

### **CT 315 Ministry in Rural and Small Communities**

This intensely practical course will introduce students to the basic pastoral skills needed to effectively serve churches in small and rural communities. Students will be exposed to issues affecting ministry such as low populations, large geographic areas, powerful subcultures and traditions, as well as rural poverty and ignorance. Students will interact with actual case studies and be given a notebook with specific tools and resources. *Curricular area:* CT; Ministry Elective

### **CT 316 Leadership with Justice and Compassion**

This class will explore Leadership in the context of Christian Community Development giving the student a deeper understanding of leadership being lived out in under resourced communities. This will be accomplished by attending the CCDA conference in Chicago November 1-3, 2018 and two class sessions before the conference and two class sessions following the conference and extensive reading and discussion.

### **CT 333 Cultural Exegesis and Ethnography**

This course explores how to use cultural exegesis and ethnography to “read” the cultural context of the church. The purpose of this course is to equip the pastor, evangelist, missionary, and church planter in the ethnographic research skills of participant observation, empathic “insider” interpretation of culture, and writing and presenting cultures from the standpoint of “the other.” This course will focus on narrative inquiry and ethnography as primary research methods. Emphasis will be placed on the relational skills of empathy and dialogue as critical for effective fieldwork.

### **CT 340 Jesus Ascended: Implications for Embodied Christian Community**

This class will consider what it means to be God’s people, joined to the present life of Jesus by the Spirit, aligned in praxis to his mission, witness, and Kingdom. Engaging Biblical and theological texts and contexts, the course will take as its starting point Jesus’ Incarnate life in his Kingdom on earth and “in heaven.”

### **CT 400 Church-Based Community Development**

This course will move beyond the philosophy and principles of Christian Community Development and will look at ways churches can love their neighborhood while playing a major role in the development of the community. It will provide a theological foundation for engagement in holistic community development. *Curricular area:* CT; Ministry Elective

### **CT 409 Reconciliation and Racism**

In this course we seek to gain a theological and sociological understanding of race social inclusion and exclusion, especially with respect to race and ethnic relations. Therefore, this course will deconstruct the myths of white superiority and non-white inferiority, especially black inferiority. It will address internalized racial superiority and internalized racial inferiority. Students will be encouraged to think critically regarding cultural hegemony and orthopraxy that seeks justice and equality for all people. Specifically, we seek to understand how negative stereotypes affect others in their social contexts different from our own to develop empathy and action toward social improvement and reconciliation. *Curricular area:* CT; General Elective, Ministry Elective

### **CT 410 Race, Reconciliation, and Reparations**

This class builds off of the course, Community and Economic Reconciliation, and delves into more solution-based discussions. Race is a construct that has been used to oppress people for centuries. We will deconstruct race and pursue resolutions that can have lasting implications. The Christian Church and Community has been given the ministry of reconciliation and is called to lead our world in the practice of reconciliation. Again, this course will work to devise answers and practical actions to bring true healing to the racial healing.

### **CT 412 Community and Economic Reconciliation**

This class will study the effects of racism on communities and the economic systems in America. A study of both Old Testament and New Testament passages will show God's heart for people who have been the discriminated against, marginalized and disenfranchised as people. This course will seek to understand better the systems that continue to hold people in bondage and have created a permanent underclass in America.

### **ED 302 The Teaching Ministry of the Church**

This course utilizes several contemporary approaches to the practice of educational ministry for all age groups. This course will explore the theological and biblical foundations for educational ministries, especially 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy. This course celebrates a variety of teaching styles and approaches to helping Christians grow in the knowledge and character of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 1:5).

*Curricular area:* ED; Ministry Elective

### **ED 430 Ethnography and Evangelism**

The purpose of this course is to equip the evangelist, missionary, and church planter in the ethnographic research skills of participant observation, empathic "insider" interpretation of culture, and writing and presenting cultures from the standpoint of "the other." It will focus on narrative inquiry and ethnography as primary research methods. Emphasis will be placed on the relational skills of empathy and dialogue as critical for effective fieldwork.

### **IN 200 Thriving Through Seminary**

On-line preparation for new first-time seminary students, taken prior to Orientation.

### **IN 301 Exploring the Bible**

This course will introduce students to both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Focus will be on the literary and theological themes of the Bible as well as provide students with guidelines for the study of biblical material in its literary, historical, cultural and social contexts.

*Curricular area:* Required

### **IN 302 Baptist Polity and History**

This course is an introduction to the history, practices and principles of Baptist congregational life and mission. While students will be expected to acquaint themselves with a general understanding of Baptist history, the specific focus of the course will be found in the history, practices and polity of the American Baptist Churches in the USA. *Curricular area:* CL; Ministry Elective (Also OL)

### **IN 304 Introduction to Biblical Interpretation**

This course is an introduction to biblical interpretation. Students will learn the procedures of exegesis, the hermeneutical issues related to bridging the world of the Bible and our world, along with attention to the doctrine of Scripture, inspiration, and biblical authority.

### **IN 310 American Baptist Churches USA Orientation**

The orientation provides a wealth of information about the American Baptist Churches USA and also celebrates a common calling to ministry. Students will become better informed about ABC heritage, identity, and mission. Students will also be part of a larger pastor's conference that brings together ministers currently serving ABC churches as well as seminarians and others new to the denomination. *Curricular area:* CL; General Elective; Prerequisites: Member of an ABCUSA congregation; have not attended a previous ABCUSA orientation event

**LA 301 Leave of Absence**

Leave of Absence for one term. Maximum of 2 consecutive terms. Must complete a separate Leave of Absence Request Form found at [www/seminary.edu/Registrar/forms](http://www/seminary.edu/Registrar/forms) and pay fee.

**MA 507: MATM Thesis Preparation Workshop**

This "workshop" on Zoom must be taken in Fall Term prior to registering for the MATM Thesis in Winter and Spring Terms. Students will review the Thesis Guidelines and select their topics/proposals.

**MA 508 MATM Thesis**

Final thesis for MA Theology and Mission students. Students will complete a thesis consisting of one integrative theological paper and one extended research paper on a theological topic approved by the program director, the goal of which is to provide evidence that the program goals have been accomplished. This course extends two quarters and includes regular correspondence with the professor on record to ensure the thesis requirements are being completed.

**MA 509 MANT Thesis**

Students in the MA New Testament program write a 100-150-page thesis working out theology in context for each student.

**ME 301 Missions and Evangelism**

The purpose of this course is to develop critical awareness to ensure relevant communication of the Gospel in postmodern contexts. Principles utilized by missionaries to exegete culture will be integrated. This course will identify and challenge assumptions about traditional methods of evangelism and explore alternative ways of thinking and action in ministry. This course will equip church leaders as evangelists with the ability to incarnate the Gospel through friendship evangelism and to reconcile seekers to God. *Curricular area:* E; M; Ministry Elective

**ME 305 Introduction to World Religions**

An introductory study of the major living religious traditions, with attention to contemporary religious pluralism and secularization. The course will include lectures, discussion, videos, and selected student presentations. *3 hours.*

*Curricular area:* Missions or General Elective

**ME 404 Evangelism/Discipleship in Urban Contexts**

The purpose of this class is to develop a biblically grounded plan which features evangelism and making reproducing disciples as the central mission of the church in the urban context. This course will focus on four rites of passage in which the evangelist and disciple-maker comes alongside to help believers to grow in Christ: (1) lost to lordship, (2) lordship to true discipleship, (3) true discipleship to faithful worker, and (4) faithful worker to fruitful leader. Given particular rites of passage in spiritual formation, this course will equip students to identify learning events for evangelism and discipleship.

**ME 409 Discipling and Mentoring**

The purpose of this course is to equip students for the roles of discipling and mentoring in the local church. The development of ministry skills is punctuated by the continued spiritual formation as

leaders and thinkers in the discipling and mentoring functions of church ministry. *Curricular area:* E; General Elective

### **ME 430 Ethnography, Evangelism, and Mission**

The purpose of this course is to equip the evangelist, missionary, and church planter in the ethnographic research skills of participant observation, empathic “insider” interpretation of culture, and writing and presenting cultures from the standpoint of “the other.” This course will focus on narrative inquiry and ethnography as primary research methods. Emphasis will be placed on the relational skills of empathy and dialogue as critical for effective fieldwork.

*Curricular area:* Required for MATM; General Elective, Ministry Elective

### **MN 307 Topics in Missional Theology I**

The challenges raised by the missional church discussion call for a new kind of leader and a new approach to leadership. This unit will reintroduce the basics of the missional paradigm to students and then explore the distinguishing contours of a distinctly missional leadership. Major attention will center on three necessary shifts: the shift from an internal to an external focus; the shift from program delivery to people development as a central activity of the missional church; and the shift from traditional church-based leadership to apostolic-era leadership. This course is for students in the MATM program, as well as other master’s students. Rotating series of Missional topics in Theology. (Required for MATM, Gen. Elective)

### **MN 321: Missional Leadership**

This course is part of the MA with a specialization in Anglican Studies but is also open to MDiv students.

### **MN 433: Mission-Shaped Church**

This seminar explores the practices of the local church via a) the cultural and philosophical critiques of post-Christendom and postmodernity, b) the reorientation required when we view the church as the participant in the Trinitarian Mission of God (*missio Dei*). The seminar will introduce the student to the basic intellectual assumptions of modernity versus postmodernity, and the core cultural assumptions of Christendom versus post-Christendom, and the Trinitarian theology of the *missio Dei*. Pre-requisites: TH301, TH302 and TH303 (or CT310). Equivalent to MN432 (see also DM7614). (Congregational Life, Missions, Evangelism, Min. Elective)

### **MN 329 Anglican Pastoral Leadership: Parish & Priest**

This course examines the leadership place of the ordained ministry in the mission of the church, and the development of Holy Orders in the Anglican Communion, along with the role of the sacraments within the life of the Church. We will consider issues related to church identity, authority, and government, including an introduction to canon law. There will be particular attention to the ordained leadership of congregations of different sizes and settings, and various issues of pastoral theology and ministerial ethics. Emphasis will be given to the character and spiritual qualities of Anglican leadership as it relates to church health, systems, growth, and renewal. (Anglican Studies)

### **MN 330 Christian Leadership**

A development of pastoral leadership, understanding the uniqueness of various leadership styles for engaging in effective ministry. *Curricular Area:* CL; General Elective, Ministry Elective

### **MN 335 Church Administration**

Administration is the bringing together of people, programs, and procedures in such a way as to produce effective working relationships that lead to the realization of organizational goals. This course will analyze and evaluate several aspects of the administrative process while encouraging each student to utilize the best principles and procedures in their role as pastor. *Curricular area:* CL; Ministry Elective

### **MN 343 Practical Ministry Applications**

This course introduces students to a variety of pastoral care opportunities that arise, on days other than Sunday, in the life of the resident pastor. Attention will be given to the broad subjects of pastoral visitation and spiritual direction as well as the critical issues of identity, role, and responsibilities of the pastor. In the process, the class will address practical areas such as conducting funerals and weddings. *Curricular area:* CL; Ministry Elective

### **MN 348 Missional Church Planting Seminar**

There is no greater need in the body of Christ today than effective church planting. Increasing secularization, the rate of change accelerated by the introduction of new technology, sustained globalization, and the proliferation of a variety of religious faiths and pluralistic philosophies have combined to drive many communities of Christian faith into a posture of disengagement from culture. The result has been irrelevance and decline in church involvement, especially among the younger generation. Living in the midst of this new world, fresh expressions of the church are necessary in order to engage with the masses of people that the gospel of Jesus calls us to reach. Planting new congregations will be the most successful way of inviting unreached people into the life of the gospel. This course serves as a theological and practical introduction to that process. *Curricular area:* CL; E

### **MN 350 Theology of Pastoral Ministry**

What does it mean to be a pastor? What my role in the church? How do I measure my effectiveness? What authority—and what kind of authority—do I have as a pastor? Those questions and more will be addressed as we explore the subject of pastoral theology and how that theology takes shape in the context of local congregations. *Curricular areas:* Cong. Life; Ministry Elective; General Elective

### **MN 351 Transitional Leadership**

This seminar is designed to expose participants to proven methods, tools and techniques for effective transitional leadership of a church, ministry or faith-based organization. Participants will employ information from the required reading, seminary lectures, and small group assignments and discussions to address real-life ministry situations that require transition. *Curricular areas:* Congregational Life; Ministry Elective; General Elective

### **MN 382 Principles of Preaching**

This introductory course aims to help students engage with the main principles involved in preaching by collaborating on set texts and preaching. Based on Michael Quicke's text, *360 Degrees of Preaching: Hearing, Seeing and Living in the Word*, the course introduces students to aspects of culture change and communication shift in our postmodern context. Within this context, students will apply a preaching model called the "preaching swim," working through key stages of exegesis (understanding Scripture), interpretation (understanding its message for listeners), homiletics (sermon design), delivery and evaluating the outcomes. *Curricular area:* H; Ministry Elective

### **MN 383 Practice of Preaching**

This course provides a supervised “lab” experience in both the practice and evaluation of preaching. It builds on the “Practice of Preaching” course (MN 382), but places more emphasis on biblical interpretation and delivery of the sermon. *Curricular area:* Homiletics; Ministry Elective; *Prerequisite:* Introductory course in preaching

### **MN 387 Preaching and Pastoral Communication**

This course will explore the methodologies and practices of preparing and delivering a dynamic sermon with relevance to a twenty-first century church. The class will teach how to prepare a sermon from a Biblical text with emphasis on expository preaching. Special emphasis will be given to bridging the gap between the dominant culture in modern America and the Biblical truths of scripture. *Curricular Area:* Homiletics

### **MN 433 Mission-Shaped Church**

This course will first examine the cultural shifts known as postmodern/post-Christendom. Students must be able to discern whether and how these shifts are present in our own contexts. The course will then deconstruct current practices of being church based on Christendom assumptions. After this, it will seek to develop an ecclesiology that engages Scripture, practical concerns, and the challenges posed by postmodernity and post Christian culture. The class aims to prepare pastors/leaders to lead churches into Mission amidst the various cultural challenges of the North American continent. *Curricular area:* CL, M, E; Ministry Elective

### **MN 435 Leading From the Second Chair**

This course is for Assistant/Co-Pastors, Associate Ministers, and/or Lay-Leaders whose roles are to enhance the effectiveness of the Senior Pastor/Leader and the ministry as a whole. This course will present the value of the second chair leader, what effective leading from the second chair looks like, and how to keep that leadership innovative, fresh, engaging, relevant, and God-honoring.

### **MN 489 Preaching in the Ancient World**

In this seminar, students will examine preaching from the perspective of the ancient churches and discover how they can apply oral, visual, written, and auditory forms of communication, retention, and community formation to the practice of studying and delivering sermons on the book of Philippians. Students will learn to study scripture passages using methods from oral, rhetorical, and biblical performance criticism; to examine the role of the ancient audience in the reading of texts and preaching of sermons; to reflect on the importance of these methods for biblical preaching today; and to practice these methods on their congregation.

### **NT 300 Philippians**

This course examines the background, content, and theological meaning of Paul’s letter to the Philippians for personal and ministry formation. A key theme for exploration will be Philippians’ message of faith, joy, and hope in hard times, especially with the COVID-19 crisis in view. We will also consider how to preach the text of this powerful letter to believers today.

### **NT 307 The Gospels and Acts**

This course introduces the literature of the Gospels, the teaching and mission of Jesus, and the history of the early church in the book of Acts. *Curricular area:* NT; Required.

### **NT 308 New Testament Letters and Revelation**



This course introduces the literature, historical context, and theology of the NT epistles. Students will study the mission, letters and theology of Paul, as well as the epistles of Peter, Hebrews, James, Jude, and John as well as the Book of Revelation. The focus is on exegesis and theology in the service of building up one's own biblical-theological basis for preaching, teaching and other practices of ministry. Curricular area: NT; Required.

### **NT 350 Women in Ministry**

Women in Ministry will focus on understanding, recognizing, and encouraging the gifts God has given to women in the church. Focus is on biblical texts and women, both from the Old Testament and the New Testament, with concentration on problem passages. The course will also feature a section on husbands and wives and Christian marriage, developing how the Bible understands love. *Curricular area:* NT Elective; TH Elective; General Elective

### **NT 401 Orientation to NT Studies**

This is a core required class open to MANT students ONLY. An introduction to NT studies as practiced in the history of the Western theological tradition by NT specialists. Students will have the opportunity to encounter the most important voices in NT studies. *MANT Requirement.*

### **NT 403 Mission of the Apostles (Tour)**

Education is more than intellect; the trip through major Pauline sites (Ephesus, Athens, Corinth, Rome), along with some John sites in Western Asia Minor, provide tactile experienced education of where Paul and the apostles were and what they were saying in context, and open up the Bible to fresh social vision. *MANT Requirement.*

### **NT 406 NT Contextual Theology**

All theology is done in context. Students learn how contextual interpretation by focusing on Romans 12-16 with separate forays into other Pauline letters. This course also focuses on inductive method for Bible study, for learning to read the best commentaries, and for collaborative efforts in educating one another. *MANT Requirement.*

### **NT 408 New Testament Story**

One of the major developments in Bible studies today is the importance of the Bible's story -- God's story in the world -- and this means comprehending the large features of this story. To do this we will focus on NT Wright's *The NT and the People of God* for seeing how NT scholars discuss story. We then investigate together how Paul adapts that story in Romans 9-11, and then we use that learning experience to move into other Pauline letters and how story emerges in each. *MANT Requirement.*

### **NT 412 New Testament Theology I**

Students will work together through Romans 1-4, venturing into other Pauline letters to see the theology at work in those letters. The goal is to how Paul's theology is shaped by context and story so we can explore how our context shapes our theology and how our theology is shaped to speak to our context. Similarly, we learn to master the Bible's story and have it master us so we can speak into our world and challenge ruling stories in our world. *MANT Requirement.*

### **NT 413 New Testament Theology II**

Students will work together through Romans 5-8, venturing into other Pauline letters to see the theology at work in those letters. The goal is to how Paul's theology is shaped by context and story so we can explore how our context shapes our theology and how our theology is shaped to speak to

our context. Similarly, we learn to master the Bible's story and have it master us so we can speak into our world and challenge ruling stories in our world. *MANT Requirement.*

### **NT 418: Greek Tools and NT Interpretation**

This course provides an essential introduction to the language of the NT, Koine Greek, with a specialization on its use in ministry settings. This “functional approach” equips students to access the original Greek through, and with reliance upon, software and other reference tools. Students will develop a foundational Greek vocabulary, an understanding of the structure of the language and essentials of Greek grammar along with learning the software and other reference tools. They will also learn to employ the basics of the exegetical method using these Greek tools.

### **NT 421 Paul and Slavery**

This course provides a basic introduction to slavery in the ancient world, from the Old Testament through the New Testament, especially with attention to Greco-Roman slavery, and examines both how the Bible responds to slavery and how that response can begin a template for responding to slavery and its implications in our world. *Curricular:* NT Elective, General Elective

### **NT 424 Paul's Pastoral Theology**

In an effort to deepen student's pastoral theology this course will examine the apostle Paul through the lens of his mission work as pastoral work, and it will also examine his letters as pastoral theology.

### **NTCEU 100 Faith and Joy in Difficult Times: A Study in Philippians**

See description for NT 300 above.

### **OT 307 The Pentateuch, Poetry, and Wisdom Books**

This course explores the history, theology, and relevance of the Pentateuch, Poetry and Wisdom Books. Focus is upon composition and formation; overview of each book with their interrelationships; major themes; ancient Near Eastern historical and cultural context; literary genres and framework; historical and theological issues; and the applicability for the Christian. *Curricular area:* OT; Required. *Three hours.*

### **OT 308 Historical Books and Prophets**

This course explores the Historical Books and the Prophets of the Old Testament. The course surveys the history of Israel from the time of the nation's entrance into Canaan until the restoration of the nation after the Babylonian exile. Focus will be on the historical, political, religious and social events that shaped Israelite society and provided the impetus for the preaching of the prophets. *Curricular area:* OT; Required (Also OL)

### **OT 419 Hebrew Tools and Interpretation**

This course provides an essential introduction to the language of the Old Testament, biblical Hebrew, with an emphasis on its use in ministry settings. This “functional approach” equips students to access the original Hebrew through, and with reliance upon, software and other reference tools. Students will learn the Hebrew alphabet and develop a foundational understanding of the structure and grammar of the language. They will also learn how to move from word study to interpretation through employing the basics of exegetical methods using these Hebrew tools.

**OT 423 Isaiah**

A study of the book of Isaiah, its literary and historical contexts, its meaning for its original audience(s), and its significance for Christian theology. Throughout the course, attention will be devoted to studying the theological message of the book; its composition; its ancient literary, geographical, and historical backgrounds; its importance for the development of New Testament ideas; and its place in the life and faith of the church.

**OT 450 Women in the Old Testament**

This course will help students to discover the important contribution of biblical women to the life, culture, religion and history of Israel. This course also will provide students with guidelines for the interpretation of the biblical material in its theological, cultural, social, and historical context, and will help students develop an appreciation for the Old Testament as an integral part of the Christian Scripture. *Curricular area:* OT Elective; *Prerequisite:* OT 301 or OT 302.

**OT 458 Old Testament Theology**

A study of the major themes, issues, and approaches to theology of the Old Testament. Emphasizes the contributions of various biblical books and genres to the unity of the Old Testament. Relates theology of the Old Testament to the Bible as a whole, and how to understand the New Testament better in light of the Old Testament. The contextual milieu of the ancient Near East will also be examined for its impact upon the theology and writings of the Old Testament.

**PC 311 Conflict Mediation**

This course is designed to equip participants with conflict mediation skills, which when used, will help them effectively work with congregations in various conflicted situations. It will give participants a theoretical framework and practical skills and experiences to support them in skillfully managing a mediation process. *Curricular area:* PC; Ministry Elective

**SM 301 MAW Formation for Christian Ministry**

Offered to MA in Worship cohort students only. This course has been designed to complement work completed with the 10,000 Fathers "Track One." Students are asked to read 500+ pages. During the quarter, students read noteworthy books that have been carefully selected from the field of worship and/or ethnodoxology. They then write a review of each one.

**SM 305 Formation for Ministry 1: Disciplines**

Students master the skill that demonstrates a spiritually and relationally mature believer. As such, students develop a deep personal relationship with God that reflects interaction and intimacy. Students also display their confidence as children of God and heirs with Christ with a conviction that indicates their personal vocational calling. Students further display such spiritual disciplines in their theological knowledge and practice of prayer both in their studies and personal time with the Lord. Additionally, students display daily habits of self-care and seeking the Spirit for filling and refreshment. *Curricular area:* SM; Required

This course is a mentored ministry module, which includes a mentored internship at a church or ministry site as agreed to between the student, Ministry Mentor and the Director of Supervised Ministries (DSM) for at least 3-5 hours per week and a self-directed online course with a faculty mentor assigned to the student by the DSM.

The Formation for Ministry: Disciplines component is to be integrated into the student's mentored internship experience.

### **SM 306 Formation for Ministry 2: Character**

Students will be people of deep Christian character that reflects conviction and a drive to better oneself so as to master the skill of self-awareness and the formation of their character. As such, students display emotional competency to recognize, interpret, and respond constructively in a Christ-like manner to the emotions of self and others. Students also display cultural competency that respects and exegetes an unfamiliar cultural context to afford interaction with awareness and a Christ-like attitude. Students further display relational competency that allows for effective interpersonal communication. Prerequisite: SM 305

This course is a mentored ministry module, which includes a mentored internship at a church or ministry site as agreed to between the student and the Director of Supervised Ministry for at least 3-5 hours per week and a self-directed online course with a faculty mentor assigned to the student by the Department of Supervised Ministry.

The Formation for Ministry: Character component is to be integrated into the student's mentored internship experience.

### **SM 307 Christian/Pastoral Leadership 1: People**

Students master a theological understanding and conviction about servant leadership and what entails shepherding a local congregation. In line with this, students develop the ability to lead through times of transition, change and disruption in accordance to Ron Heifetz's theory of *adaptive leadership*. Students also apply knowledge of church life cycles in building teams and managing volunteers. Additionally, students display the capacity of developing other leaders by being able to identify individuals along with their spiritual gifts. Along with sensitivity and spiritual discernment of power structures within an organization, students display the ability of handling conflict resolution and leading within multicultural settings. Prerequisite: SM 305

This course is a mentored ministry module, which includes a mentored internship at a church or ministry site as agreed to between the student, Ministry Mentor and the Director of Supervised Ministries (DSM) for at least 3-5 hours per week and a self-directed online course with a faculty mentor assigned to the student by the DSM.

The Christian/Pastoral Leadership 1 component is to be integrated into the student's mentored internship experience.

### **SM 308 Christian/Pastoral Leadership 2:**

Students master skills and practical ministry competency leading a ministry. Students also apply the competencies learned in SM 307 in building teams and managing volunteers. Additionally, students display the capacity of developing other leaders along with their spiritual gifts in the development, maintenance and assessment of projects that further the mission of the ministry. Along with sensitivity and spiritual discernment of power structures within an organization, students display skills learned in handling conflict resolution and leading in the project(s) of the ministry. Prerequisite: SM 305

This course is a mentored ministry module, which includes a mentored internship at a church or ministry site as agreed to between the student and the Director of Supervised Ministry for at least 3-5 hours per week and a self-directed online course with a faculty mentor assigned to the student by the Department of Supervised Ministry.

The Christian/Pastoral Leadership 2 Projects component is to be integrated into the student's mentored internship experience.

### **SM 310 Church Ministry/Administration**

Students master the skill to assess and build both organizational and congregational systems. Students also display the ability to create and analyze existing budgets in relation to church or ministry finances, as well as exhibit a working knowledge of the day-to-day operations of a Christian organization. Students further display aptitude in managing staff. Additionally, students demonstrate the ability to communicate strategically through various analog and digital mediums, such as: emails, memos, and blogs. Prerequisite: SM 305

This course is a mentored ministry module, which includes a mentored internship at a church or ministry site as agreed to between the student and the Director of Supervised Ministry for at least 3-5 hours per week and a self-directed online course with a faculty mentor assigned to the student by the Department of Supervised Ministry.

The Church-Ministry Administration component is to be integrated into the student's mentored internship experience.

### **SM 311 Preaching/Communication**

Students master the skill of formal and informal communication of the Bible growing out of deep personal conviction regarding the fundamental importance of preaching the Word of God, and an abiding interest in the person of the listener within their culture and context. Students will develop a deep knowledge and conviction of the self-revelatory nature of God and his commitment to bring his Kingdom through the proclamation of his Word. This knowledge undergirds the student's skill in preaching and the authenticity required to speak the truth with integrity into a counter-culture. Prerequisite: SM 305

This course is a mentored ministry module, which includes a mentored internship at a church or ministry site as agreed to between the student and the Director of Supervised Ministry for at least 3-5 hours per week and a self-directed online course with a faculty mentor assigned to the student by the Department of Supervised Ministry.

The Preaching and Communication component is to be integrated into the student's mentored internship experience.

### **SM 314 Mission/Evangelism**

The purpose of this course is to develop critical awareness to ensure relevant communication of the Gospel in postmodern contexts. Principles utilized by missionaries to exegete culture will be integrated. This course will identify and challenge assumptions about traditional methods of evangelism and explore alternative ways of thinking and action in ministry. This course will equip church leaders as evangelists with the ability to incarnate the Gospel through friendship evangelism and to reconcile seekers to God.

This course is a mentored ministry module, which includes a mentored internship at a church or ministry site as agreed to between the student, Ministry Mentor and the Director of Supervised Ministries (DSM) for at least 3-5 hours per week and a self-directed online course with a faculty mentor assigned to the student by the DSM.

The Formation for Ministry: Performance Indicators below are to be integrated into the student's mentored internship experience.

### **SM 315 Mission/Community Engagement**

The purpose of this course is to develop philosophical and practical approaches to wholistic community engagement in the context of the local church. Topics covered will include critical assessment of traditional models of outreach, strategies from community organizers, how to integrate discipleship and community engagement, and community exegesis.

### **SM 316 Discipleship**

Students master the skill of developing and enhancing the spiritual formation and vitality of a local congregation. As such, students display the ability to disciple church members who grow spiritually so as to practice the habits and traits of discipleship. This includes the core attribute and action to love their neighbor as themselves. To facilitate such growth and practice, students also display the capacity to mentor and coach others in a diversity of aptitudes such as reading the Bible. This facilitation also displays the ability of students to mobilize church members into small groups to afford the opportunity to be discipled by other leaders within a congregation.

### **SM 320 Generational Ministry**

Students master an understanding of generational differences and skills in developing a multi-generational church. As such, students display the ability to reach emerging adults. Students also display the capacity to foster youth with a faith that sticks. Additionally, Students demonstrate aptitude for operating contextualized ministries, which are sensitive to social-economic dynamics that target singles, couples, and families.

### **SM 321 Pastoral Care and Counseling**

Students master the skill of performing pastoral care and counseling. As such, students acquire foundational knowledge from theology and biblically informed psychology, so as to demonstrate the application of wisdom and Christian counseling that is both specific to a situation and holistic in its approach. Students display capacity for counseling couples dealing with marital issues; and individuals dealing with issues such as addictions (e.g., substance or pornography), sexual orientation, or confusion over gender identity. Students also display aptitude in providing Christ-like care for those suffering from abuse or personal crisis as a result of emotional suffering, physical illness, or death. Additionally, students display the ability to conduct weddings and funerals.

### **SM 322 Worship**

The purpose of this course is to develop a theology and philosophy of corporate worship that will be applied through planning and leadership in the student's local ministry or church context. A basic theology and philosophy of worship will be formed from scriptural, historical, and cultural reflection. Specific topics covered and related skills that will be developed include worship structure and planning, selecting music, navigating tensions in worship, and remembrance at the Lord's Table.

This course is a mentored ministry module, which includes a mentored internship at a church or ministry site as agreed to between the student, Ministry Mentor and the Director of Supervised Ministries (DSM) for at least 3-5 hours per week and a self-directed online course with a faculty mentor assigned to the student by the DSM.

### **SM 400 Internship Information Session**

This course will equip students who are planning to complete Internship I or Internship II in the next academic year with all of the information necessary to have a successful experience. The best internship experiences happen when students are well prepared and have thought about their ministry goals. Students need to begin developing and planning their steps 6-12 months prior to taking the internship classes. Pre-requisites: SM301, and 15-20 credit hours. The online information session must be completed before entering into Internship I or Internship II.

### **SM 401/402 Internship I and II**

After the first year of study, students complete a two-quarter internship (SM401 and SM402) in a local church or other ministry context, under the supervision of an experienced pastor or ministry mentor. In class, students present case studies which are used for theological reflection and peer reflection to foster growth and understanding of one's ministerial identity and skills. Pre-requisites: SM301 and SM401. (Required for MDiv, MACM)

### **SM 401 MAW Internship I**

For MAW students. This section of Internship is for the MAW cohort students. This course has been designed to complement work completed with the 10,000 Fathers "Track Two." Students are asked to read 500+ pages. During the quarter, students read noteworthy books that have been carefully selected from the field of worship and/or ethnodoxology. They then write a review of each one. Pre-requisites: SM301.

### **SM 402 MAW Internship II**

This course is offered to MA in Worship cohort students. This course has been designed to complement work completed with the 10,000 Fathers "Track Three." Students are asked to read 500+ pages. During the quarter, students read noteworthy books that have been carefully selected from the field of worship and/or ethnodoxology. They then write a review of each one.

### **SM 401-UL Internship I**

After the first year of study, MA in Urban Leadership students complete an internship in a local church or other ministry context, under the supervision of an experienced pastor or ministry mentor. In class, students present case studies which are used for theological reflection and peer reflection to foster growth and understanding of one's ministerial identity and skills. Pre-requisites: SM301 and SM400.

### **SM 500 CPE Information Session**

This online information session will equip students who plan to complete ACPE or SM514 Internship III in the academic year. This orientation course provides all the information necessary to have a successful experience. This online information session must be completed before beginning any of the options for ACPE or SM514 Internship III. Options 2, 3 and 4 require the partnership course, SM 514 Internship III, offered in the Spring. *Pre-requisites:* SM301, PC301 or PC302 and 30 credit hours.

### **SM 501 Integrative Seminar**

In this class students demonstrate their ability to integrate their knowledge of the theological disciplines with their practice and skill in ministry. This small group experience enables students to write a statement of faith (required by many denominations for ordination) and correlate that statement with a ministry application paper in which students apply their “stated” theology to a ministry issue. Recommended during last year of study. *Curricular area:* SM; Required

### **SM 501 MAW Integrative Seminar**

This section of SM501 is only available to MA in Worship students. Students will demonstrate their ability to integrate their knowledge of the theological disciplines with their practice and skill in ministry. This small-group experience enables students to write a statement of faith (required by many denominations for ordination) and correlate that statement with a ministry application paper. Recommended in the last year of studies. Prerequisites: SM301, SM401, SM402, TH301, TH302, TH303 and be within 24 credits of completion.

### **SM 501 UL Integrative Seminar**

This section of SM501 is only available to MA in Urban Leadership students. Students will demonstrate their ability to integrate their knowledge of the theological disciplines with their practice and skill in ministry. This small-group experience enables students to write a statement of faith (required by many denominations for ordination) and correlate that statement with a ministry application paper. Recommended in the last year of studies. Prerequisites: SM301, SM401, SM402, TH301, TH302, TH303 and be within 24 credits of completion.

### **SM 502 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) (6 hrs. credit)**

A supervised pastoral experience in a clinical setting accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE), utilizes a concentrated experiential method of theological education which examines pastoral care practice in acute ministerial contexts with attention to the religious issues of illness and death, medical ethics, the formation of pastoral identity and development of interpersonal competence in ministry. In order to enroll in CPE at a site accredited by ACPE, students must complete an application (available online at [www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu)) and interview with the hospital’s CPE supervisor approximately six months in advance of the quarter they intend to complete CPE. A full-time basic unit requires an intensive experience of at least 10 weeks of involvement (40 hrs./wk). *Curricular area:* SM; Required or Ministry Elective; *Prerequisite:* SM 305 and SM 306 and completion of at least 30 hours of seminary coursework.

### **SM 503 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) - Extended Unit, Part 1 (3 hrs. credit)**

See course description for SM 502 above. In an Extended CPE Program the student is able to complete the CPE requirement on a part time basis during two terms of study. Students register for SM 503 for Fall quarter. *Curricular area:* SM; Required or Ministry Elective; *Prerequisite:* PC 301 or PC 302 and completion of at least 30 hours of seminary coursework.

### **SM 504 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) - Extended Unit, Part 2 (3 hrs. credit)**

See course descriptions for SM 502 and SM 503 above. This is the second part of SM 503. Students register for SM 504 for Winter quarter. *Curricular area:* SM; Required or Ministry Elective; *Prerequisite:* SM 503

### **SM 505 Second Full Unit of CPE (6 hrs. credit)**

See course description for SM 502 above.



*Curricular area:* SM *Prerequisite:* SM 502

**SM 506 CPE Half Unit, Non-extended** (3 hrs. credit)

See course description for SM 502 above. *Curricular area:* SM; Required or Ministry Elective;  
*Prerequisite:* PC 301 or PC 302 and completion of at least 30 hours of seminary coursework.

**SP 306 Intro to Spiritual Disciplines**

Students will be introduced to the disciplines of formational reading of Scripture (lectio divina), contemplative and communal prayer, Biblical and Christian meditation, journaling, stillness (silence) and solitude, personal Sabbath keeping, attending and savoring, cultivating wonder, gratitude, and hospitality, and creating lifestyle margins for the preservation of disciplines. The course will follow the pattern of day retreats, each day following a rhythm of worship throughout the day, while introducing the disciplines, beginning practice, communal mid-day meals, sacred time and space for study, stillness, and journaling. *Curricular:* SP, Ministry Elective, General Elective

**TE 415 Pastoral Ethics**

This course will focus special attention on the moral dilemmas the pastor will face in ministry. In addition, special attention will be devoted to working out the “kind of person” each pastor must become in order to walk the life of ministry in the 21st century. Spiritual disciplines will be explored as the means to develop a pattern for ministerial life. *Curricular area:* TE

**TE 416 Christoform Ethics**

See NT 406 description above. This course is the same course content as NT 406. *Curricular area:* Anabaptist Studies

**TE 417 Sexual Ethics and the Family**

This course covers the fundamental moral issues concerning the Christian ordering of human sexuality in the life of the Christian and our life together as Christians in the church. Sexuality raises questions about our theological understandings of intimacy, love, God and creation. It also raises practical questions about the nature of moral discernment, personal character, celibacy, and "how do we marry?" It raises questions about brokenness, sin, grace, reconciliation and the church as redeeming community. Finally, it raises questions about mission. How does the church live in and among the world of alternative sexualities, narratives, and ideologies, and give witness to the redemption in Christ God is working for our sexual lives? This course will provide a foundation for addressing all of these issues in the Christian life. *Curricular area:* TE

**TE 426 Medical Ethics and the Pastor**

This course will cover the fundamental moral issues facing every Christian as he or she encounters modern medicine and many of the issues the pastor must face as he/she leads her congregation amidst the new worlds of modern medicine. *Curricular area:* TE

**TH 301 Christian Theology I**

This course is the first in a two-course series. The two-course theology sequence is a critical investigation into the content and contemporary significance of Christian doctrine, emphasizing biblical themes, comprehensiveness, and implications for Christian practice and ministry. The first course includes method, doctrine of scripture, creation, doctrine of God, and theological anthropology. *Curricular area:* TH; Required

### **TH 301 MAW Christian Theology I – MAW**

This course is offered to MA in Worship cohort students, and is the first in a two-course series. It will introduce the student to the major loci in theological construction. The historical and traditional engagements with theological issues will be correlated with the student's confession of faith and the biblical foundations of theology, the sociocultural contexts of faith and practice, and the life and mission of the Christian community. TH301 and TH302 should be taken with the same professor whenever possible, since the two courses together comprise a 20-week pattern unique to each professor. Prerequisite: Student must have completed 12 credits before taking this course. (Required)

### **TH 302 Christian Theology II**

This course is the second in a two-course series. The two-course theology sequence is a critical investigation into the content and contemporary significance of Christian doctrine, emphasizing biblical themes, comprehensiveness, and implications for Christian practice and ministry. The second course includes Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, and eschatology. *Curricular area: TH*; Prerequisite: TH301 (Required)

### **TH 302 MAW Christian Theology II**

This course is offered to MA in Worship cohort students, and is the second in a two-course series. An introduction to theological construction, engagement with the historical and traditional sources of theology and the practice of ministry. Note: TH301 and TH302 should be taken with the same professor whenever possible, since the two courses together comprise a 20-week pattern unique to each professor. Prerequisite: TH301 MAW

### **TH 303 Theology of Church and Culture**

This class will explore the church's relation to culture, as well as theological principles for guiding such an engagement between church and surrounding culture. The class will guide the student through forming his/her own position on the church/culture relationship and the implications of how each pastor will lead his/her congregation, shape the local congregation as a discerning people amidst the social and moral issues of our times, and provide strategies for witness, ministry and justice in the world. *Curricular area: TH, CC*; Required for MDiv

### **TH 303 MAW Theology of Church and Culture**

Offered to students in the Master of Arts in Worship cohort. In this class, we will explore the church's relation to culture, as well as theological principles for guiding such an engagement between church and surrounding culture. The class will guide the student through forming his/her own position on the church/culture relationship and the implications of how each pastor will lead his/her congregation, shape the local congregation as a discerning people amidst the social and moral issues of our times, and provide strategies for witness, ministry, and justice in the world. (Required)

### **TH 303 UL Theology of Church and Culture**

Offered to students in the MA-UL cohort. In this class, we will explore the church's relation to culture, as well as theological principles for guiding such an engagement between church and surrounding culture. The class will guide the student through forming his/her own position on the church/culture relationship and the implications of how each pastor will lead his/her congregation, shape the local congregation as a discerning people amidst the social and moral issues of our times, and provide strategies for witness, ministry, and justice in the world. (Required)

**TH 380 Anglican Theology and Ecclesiology**

Students are introduced to the Anglican approach to theology, core doctrines, and the Anglican understanding of the church and its sacraments.

**TH 385 Cruciform Hermeneutics**

This course will review the Cruciform Hermeneutic, as presented in G. Boyd, *Crucifixion of the Warrior God* (2 Vols) and, in a more popular format, *Cross Vision*. The biblical, historical, and theological foundations of this hermeneutic will be explored, as will potential objections that this hermeneutic must overcome. This course will also explore the implications the Cruciform Hermeneutic may have for various theological doctrines as well as for our understanding of how Christians are to grow spiritually and engage the world.

**TH 386 God, Evil, and Spiritual Warfare**

This course will review the spiritual warfare motif that runs throughout Scripture, consider the implications of this motif for our understanding of the problem of evil, and consider the implications of the motif for our understanding of other Christian doctrines (e.g. God, Atonement, Salvation, and especially the Church) as well as applications for Christian response and action in the church and the world.

**TH 403 God the Transforming Holy Spirit**

Students will study the full witness of God's Presence/Spirit in Scripture, particularly in the life of Jesus, and certain historical "movements" of the Spirit over time. The class will also focus on the theological realities and practicalities of living together as "Spirit people" - empowered and equipped as God's people together to bear his character and to minister healing, justice, reconciliation in the church and out into the world. Students will also do ministry in class to practice life in the Spirit together.

**TH 406 Christianity and Pluralism**

An examination of the theological problem of modern pluralism as confronted by the Church in American culture. The course will attempt to address both the doctrinal and practical theological questions that pluralism presents to a pastor and her/his church. *Curricular area:* TH, CC, M, E; Ministry Elective

**TH 431 Discerning the Triune God**

This course is designed to examine Christian understandings of the Triune God in both historic and contemporary contexts. Looking at Scripture, the early fathers and creeds and moving on to current 20th and 21st century dialogue, we will ask about the implications of knowing God as Triune for humanity, creation, Christian community, and the mission of the church. Prerequisites: TH301 and TH302. (TH, Gen. Elect.)

**TH 450 African American Theology**

A study to develop/construct historical perspectives in African American theology that are relevant for the preacher in the pulpit and the lay person in the pew. *Curricular area:* Theology Elective; General Elective

**UR 301 Urban Ministry of the Church**

This course will explore complex systems of urbanization and dynamics of holistic ministry in urban contexts with a special emphasis on justice to the oppressed. The class will visit urban ministries in the Chicago area to observe and interview practitioners in action. *Curricular area:* CC; Ministry Elective

### **UR 303 Urban Ministry: Creative Preaching**

This course introduces the skill set and techniques of creative preaching in urban settings that encourages positive interaction between pastor and parishioners. Participants will gain practical as well as theological knowledge of creative preaching. *Curricular area:* CC, H; Ministry Elective

### **UR 310 Issues Facing Urban Communities**

This course will examine the social and cultural issues impacting urban communities, including systemic racism, poverty, and violence.

### **UR 405 Toward a Theology of Urban Ministry**

This course will read and analyze recent efforts to articulate theology for urban ministry and confront basic theological issues raised by the urban context. Focus will be on the changing dynamics of the urban context and culture as it relates to building faith communities and the local church. *Curricular area:* CC; Ministry Elective

### **WO 301 Introduction to Worship**

This introduction to the weekly gathering of local communities of Christ-followers will provide an opportunity for students to touch on several areas including, but not limited to, the theology and history of worship, contemporary state of worship, prayers of worship, the culture of worship, and planning and leading worship.

### **WO 412 Everything but Sermon and Song**

The course will deal with the other third of the weekly gathering including study on the variety of prayers in a worship service, elements in a worship service and some or all of the following: testimony, sacraments/ordinances, creeds and confessions, children's sermons, and greetings. *Curricular Areas:* WO; Ministry Elective; General Elective

### **WO 417 History of Worship in America**

This course explores the current status of American Protestant Worship by examining the history of worship in several streams including, but not limited to Mainline Protestantism, Pentecostalism, the Charismatic Movement, the African American Church, the Immigrant Church, and American Evangelicalism. The course explores the formation and development of worship in each of these traditions, as well as how these movements have influenced one another, leading us to where we are today. Specialization course for MAW students; open to other students at instructors discretion.

### **WO 440 The Character of the Worship Pastor**

This course is designed to assist students as they seek to understand themselves and prepare to serve Christ's church in ministry. Students, with their leaders, immerse themselves in community with fellow students for five days to eat, study, pray, worship, and play together, creating an atmosphere for authentic community, collegial conversations, transformative mentoring, and intellectual growth. This course integrates the theological, spiritual, ethical, psychological, sociological, and functional dimensions of Christian ministry through the contemporary church. Upon completion, it flows

seamlessly into a course on spiritual formation (SM 301-MAW). *Curricular area:* MAW only. Requires 10,000 Fathers intensive.

#### **WO 442 The Craft of the Worship Pastor**

This course is designed to assist students as they seek to hone their craft as worship leaders and songwriters. They will explore what theologians and musicians throughout history have believed about creativity and art within the Church. Students will practice the art of songwriting individually and with groups. These peer groups will offer reflection and support as students work to communicate the truths of the Gospel in their songwriting. Students will also dive deeper into understanding their personality style, spiritual gifts, and calling in ministry. *Curricular area:* MAW only. Requires 10,000 Fathers intensive.

#### **WO 444 The Influence of the Worship Pastor**

The Influence of the Worship Pastor course is designed to assist students as they seek to disciple and train members of their ministry teams. Students will learn to journey with those around them so that together they may grow in both character and craft. This course explores how Jesus led those around him, and what that means for the worship pastor to raise up the next generation of worshipers. This course flows seamlessly into SM 402 Internship II. *Curricular area:* MAW only. Requires 10,000 Fathers intensive.

#### **WO 446 The Worship Pastor as Communicator**

The Worship Pastor as Communicator course is designed to equip the worship leader for the various speaking responsibilities unique to his or her role, with a specialization on crafting and delivering a sermon. In the process, students will learn and practice good public speaking techniques to be used when introducing and transitioning between elements of the worship gathering, praying, reading scripture, and preaching. *Curricular area:* Specialization course for MAW students; open to other students at instructor's discretion.

#### **WO 482 Worship and the Arts**

Despite the challenges in the relationship between the arts and worship throughout the centuries, some churches work at strengthening that relationship by incorporating the arts thoughtfully, sensitively, and with theological rigor and reflection. We will examine the role of various forms of art in services of Christian worship and provide practical experiences and usable applications for their inclusion as worship elements. Theological and pastoral criteria for discernment and implementation of the arts in worship, all within the context of Trinitarian theology, will also be offered. *Curricular area:* WO; Ministry Elective; General Elective

#### **WT 301 Theology of Worship and Spirituality**

This course explores the biblical, historical and doctrinal foundations of the kind of weekly gathering that results in healthy, spiritual formation. *Curricular area:* W, S; Ministry Elective

#### **WT 307 Women in the Old Testament (x-listed with OT 430)**

This course will examine women's lives and the concept of female in the Old Testament and the wider culture of the ancient Near East by studying the biblical text, literary sources and archaeological evidence. General pictures of women's lives in Israel and the religions of the ANE world will supplement the portrait of Israelite women. This course will explore Old Testament women's participation in and contributions to the people of God.

**WT 308 Women in the New Testament (x-listed NT 412)**

This course will examine women's lives and the concept of female in the New Testament and the wider Greco-Roman world (including Second Temple Judaism) by studying the biblical text, literary sources and archaeological evidence. This course will explore New Testament women's participation in and contributions to the Christian story in the first century and discuss women's participation in leadership in the church today. General pictures of women's lives in Judaism and the religions of the Greco-Roman world will supplement the portrait of early Christian women.

**WT 309 Theology and Gender (WT 309)**

A theological examination of the representation of women and gender in Christianity. Attention is given to the historical and cultural contexts of the first century and contemporary period. Theological, historical, literary, exegetical, and feminist methods are variously employed.

**WT 310 Women of Color in the Church**

Examination of the social, political, cultural, and religious impact of women on color in their context. Special attention is given to the African American woman's experience in U.S. slavery through the civil rights era, to issues facing women in the church today. The class also addresses the contribution of women of color in the history of the church and the global church today.

**WT 311 Women in the Early Church**

A historical overview of women's activities in the first five centuries of the early Church, this course will address women's participation in the intellectual, liturgical, ascetic and monastic arenas of the emerging orthodox Church and the various heterodox movements. Attention will be paid to writings about women as well as to theological issues of gender.

**WT 403 Women, the Church, and the Arts [study tour of Italy]**

A study of the spiritual practice of the medieval church and the art that supported its worship in Italy, with special attention to the role and influence of women such as Catherine of Siena. Attention will be paid to writings by women well as to theological issues of gender. Students will opportunities to spend time in reflection.

**WT 404 Women and Theology Annual Conference (WT 404)**

This annual conference will feature a topic pertinent to women in the Church. Students attend the course and have additional readings and assignments that support the conference's topic. The conference is typically held in June or July.

**WT 412 Women in Leadership**

This course addresses the complexity of women leading churches, organizations, and places of influence. It analyzes the double standards women leaders face, and offers practical skills to better negotiate, manage conflict and work-life balance.

**WT 413 Women in Reformation/Modern Christianity**

A historical overview of women's activities in the church from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century. This course will address women's participation in the intellectual, liturgical, political and cultural expressions of the Church. Attention will be paid to writings by as well as to theological issues of gender.

**WT 416 Women, Preaching, Evangelism**

This course focuses on women's public voice in preaching and evangelism. Students learn about historical women's preaching and evangelism in the U.S. and the global church. The course explores the methodologies and practices of preparing and delivering a relevant sermon and the barriers women face in presenting the Word with authority.

### **WT 417 Women and Social Justice**

Women have long led social movements to improve the social and political conditions in their communities. This course focuses on the historical efforts of women who challenged unjust social structures, and the current social, cultural and political needs around the globe. The course offers practical skills for becoming agents of change and provides a biblical foundation of justice in the church and the wider society.

### **WT 418 Thriving in Ministry**

This course explores the spiritual dynamics of leading in ministry and offers strategies for remaining in ministry over a lifetime. Attention is paid to the causes for discouragement and burnout for women. The class provides practical skills to develop habits of spiritual resilience and growth.

## **Doctorate Course Descriptions**

### **New Testament Context Class Listings**

#### **7015 “Becoming Doctors of the Church”**

When it comes to the Scriptures, who is the expert and what should that mean for the church today? By considering the influence of scribes and prophets during Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity and the dialectical relationship between texts and oracles, we are going to study the role of the teacher in New Testament times. In particular, our study will include a historical description of the scribe, their role in early Judaism, their relationship with Jesus, and their influence in the early church. We will also consider the silence of the prophetic voice during the inter-biblical period, the re-emergence of the prophet in the ministries of John and Jesus, and the role of the prophet in early Christianity. Questions regarding literacy in the ancient world, the privileging of texts in Judaism and Christianity, and the emergence of expert interpreters as guardians of oral tradition will help us determine the differences and similarities between the teacher then and now.

#### **7045 “Biblical and Theological Method”**

The New Testament in Context DMin focuses on combining historical method – exegesis and interpretation in historical context – with theological study. DM 7045 works out a consciousness about method by doing theology in historical context. The focus in this class will be a biblical and theological method as worked out in a biblical book. For example, the course could focus on slavery both as constantly present in the Bible and as something to be examined theologically for what to make of what the Bible says for the church today. It would examine what to make of a practice (slavery) that is not condemned in the Bible but which we now consider to be morally wrong.

#### **7060 Thesis Design**

The Thesis Design course will assist students at the thesis stage of their program in the conception, formulation, research process, preparation and writing of an acceptable thesis proposal. Special

attention is given to the integration of the theological disciplines into the writing of the thesis proposal and final thesis. The course will provide step by step instruction concerning the various segments of the thesis proposal and will assist the student in formulating the required sections of the proposal.

### **7850 “The New Testament and its World 1”**

This course will study the world of Jesus and the Gospels. The seminar will focus on five topics, one per day: Sexuality, Torah Observance and Ethics, Eschatology, Judgment and Hell, Social Realities, and Jesus and Judaism. These issues can be controversial in our day, and we examine them in their historical contexts.

### **7851 “The NT and its World 2”**

This course will examine earliest Christianity in the context of Greco-Roman religions. This seminar builds on the previous courses on Judaism, Jesus and earliest Christianity. This course will extend the previous study of Judaism and the Greco-Roman world into the world of the apostle Paul. We will look especially at the similarities and differences between early Christianity and Roman religion, Greek religious influence, Jewish religion, Foreign/imported cults and mystery cults, Household religion, and the Imperial cult (“Divine Honors for the Caesars”). Key questions we will examine overall: What made Christianity distinctive? What made it dangerous and offensive? What made it attractive and inviting?

### **7852 “The NT and its World 3”**

Students of the Bible are always striving to understand the Bible in its original context while making connections to their own contexts. Key to such contextual analyses are the topics of race and ethnicity. This course seeks to develop a biblical theology of race and ethnicity by considering these questions: what is meant by race and ethnicity, particularly in antiquity? How does race and ethnicity relate to slavery? How our understanding of race and ethnicity inform the contemporary Christian church?

**DMin 7853 “Education beyond the Books” [x-listed with DM 7752 “Preaching from Jesus’s Context”]. This is a trip to Israel**

## **Contextual Theology Class Listings**

### **7015 “Becoming Doctors of the Church”**

This seminar considers how ethnography might be employed as a pastoral discipline. Students will be introduced to the process of applying systematic ethnographic methods in a congregational setting. Ethnography typically involves the observation and study of people in their natural settings. Here we focus on churches and their contexts (neighborhoods, districts, towns, cities).

Ethnography’s potency resides in its ability to undermine assumptions and give voice to those who have been previously muted. It allows for reinterpretation and restructuring in a way that nurtures the creation of better maps and better stories. Along the way, though, ethnography may yield more complicated and less linear explanations of congregational culture(s).

The course will also introduce students to the scholarship of engagement through a central, culminating project that will engage the students in the study of a local congregation. These original ethnographic studies of congregations will give particular attention to two aspects: (1) the nature of a



church as a social institution and (2) the vision of society that is implicit in the practices of the congregation. Throughout the course we will be building a theoretical and analytical “toolbox” for considering the church as a social institution embedded within a wider societal context. The “toolbox” will, hopefully, allow students to attend to the actual life of the church and, in turn, process those patterns and habits through a theological lens that allows for strengthened congregations.

### **7045 “Methods in Biblical and Theological Reflection”**

Each of us lives and acts according to our own convictions, however explicit or implicit. This course seeks to enhance our ability to serve in ministry by integrating sound theological understanding into the practice of ministry leadership. Particular attention is paid to the integration of scripture, reason, tradition, and experience in our theology and ministry. To this end, the course moves from these sources to theological reflection, with a focus on ministry and leadership the local context.

### **7060 “thesis Design and Research Methodologies”**

The Thesis Design course will assist students at the thesis stage of their program in the conception, formulation, research process, preparation and writing of an acceptable thesis proposal.

The course will provide step by step instruction concerning the various segments of the thesis proposal and will assist the student in formulating the required sections of the proposal.

### **7613 “Incarnating the Gospel in Culture”**

Gracious and effective communication of the good news of the Christian faith involves the complex interplay of many factors. Drawing from studies in holistic missiology and socio-cultural studies, participants in this course will engage in an exegesis of culture, an exploration of the mandate and means of gospel communication, and the development of skills in both speaking and embodying the gospel message

### **7614: “Renewing the Practices of the Church: The Mission Shaped Church in Post Christendom”**

This course serves as the introduction to core theological and cultural concepts that shall guide the program. The practices of the N American protestant church in the twentieth century have largely been dependent upon Christendom assumptions that make Mission a program of the established church. The theology of Missio Dei however calls these assumptions into question. The onset of new post-Christendom contexts of N America presses the church for a fresh approach to cultivating ‘church’ in ways not dependent upon Christendom. This course examines the assumptions of culture engagement, the practices of the church and how each practice is dependent upon these assumptions. We then explore how we might lead/reorient them to foster Christian communities of Mission in the post-Christendom contexts of N America.

### **7616 “Missional Leadership: A Theological Imagination and a New Practice”**

This course proposes a leadership praxis framed around a missional hermeneutic. The framing of such praxis must be grounded in an understanding of God as the primary agent in the world. Engaging such biblical themes as creation, incarnation and kingdom it argues that the primary understanding of leadership in our time must be transformed from that of technocratic rationality to be shaped by the metaphor of ‘space-between’. The primary work of leadership is to continually

stand in this ‘space-between’ asking “what is God about among this group of people who comprise this local community of God’s people in this particular time?”

### **7618 “The Bible in Context”**

The contextual theologian must both understand the Bible in its original context and be able see his/her own context through the Bible. He or she must be able to move from the text to interpreting his/her local context through the lens of what God is doing as revealed in the Bible. In this ability to see context through the Bible, one must acknowledge how one’s own gender, ethnic history, tradition shape and influence one’s hermeneutic in understanding the Bible. With a sensitivity to these hermeneutical issues, this course will examine the following three key themes of the Bible: Gospel, Salvation, Mission of God.

## **Christian Community Development Class Listings**

### **7015 “Becoming Doctors of the Church”**

This is the foundational core course that helps clarify a ministry issue which will serve to focus the DMin project and thesis.

### **7045 “Biblical and Theological Method”**

Each of us lives and acts according to our own convictions, however explicit or implicit. DM 7045 seeks to enhance our ability to serve in ministry by integrating sound theological understanding into the practice of ministry leadership. Particular attention is given to the integration of practical and theological thinking.

### **7060 “Thesis Design”**

The Thesis Design course will assist students at the thesis stage of their program in the conception, formulation, research process, preparation, and writing of an acceptable thesis proposal. Special attention is given to the integration of the theological disciplines into the writing of the thesis proposal and final thesis.

The course will provide step by step instruction concerning the various segments of the thesis proposal and will assist the student in formulating the required sections of the proposal.

### **7809 “Church-Based Community Development”**

Church-Based Community Development is based on the Biblical Philosophy of Christian Community Development. This class will move beyond the philosophy behind Christian Community Development and will look at ways churches can love their neighborhood while playing a major role in the development of the community.

This course examines the concepts and practices of Christian Community Development, especially for culturally and economically diverse communities. The course provides a theological foundation for engagement in wholistic community development. Participants will be introduced to the principles and strategies of resident-based community organizing, collaboration and mobilization, the role of the church in the community transformation, leadership development and community exegesis, and understanding of the ramifications of institutional racism as an impact on urban communities.

This course provides theoretical and practical skills for the participants to negotiate the immersion experience in the Lawndale Community of Chicago. Students gain appropriate skills through a variety of learning modes: Lecture, field trips, and presentations by local community leaders.

### **7810 “Understanding the City”**

The course is designed to acquaint participants with the socio-cultural dynamics that affect the quality of life, inform theology, and challenge the manner in which ministry is conducted in our urban world. This course helps the doctoral student explore contemporary models of urban mission in the extraordinarily diverse context of Chicago. Much of the city will be our lab. There will be visits, observations and interviews throughout the greater-Chicago area.

### **7820 “Leadership With Justice and Compassion**

Christian Community Development is a Biblically based philosophy of ministry among the poor and hurting people. It is based on Eight Key Components that come alongside of people and empower them to help themselves.

This class will explore Leadership in the context of Christian Community Development giving the student a deeper understanding of leadership being lived out in under resourced communities. This will be accomplished by attending the CCDA conference in Kansas City November 10-13, 2021, and 1½ hour class sessions before the conference and 1½ hour class sessions following the conference and extensive reading and discussion.

This course examines the concepts and practices of Christian Community Development, especially for culturally and economically diverse communities. The course provides a theological foundation for engagement in wholistic community development. Participants will be introduced to the principles and strategies of resident-based community organizing, collaboration and mobilization, the role of the church in community transformation, leadership development and community exegesis, and understanding of the ramifications of institutional racism as an impact on urban communities. The conference course provides theoretical and practical skills for the participants to negotiate leading with justice and compassion in difficult situations.

### **7821 “Understanding Poverty and A Biblical Theology of Overcoming”**

Poverty is a reality and a way of life for millions of people in our world. The gap continues to widen between the rich and poor both in the underdeveloped world but also here in the United States. How can there be such abject poverty in a world created by a loving God?

This class will study poverty and its effect on our world. A study of both Old Testament and New Testament passages will show God’s heart for the hurting and poor. The Biblical theology of poverty gives us a mandate as Christians to live life in community with the church and help as well as care for the poor. This course provides theoretical and practical skills for the participants to negotiate the immersion experience in the Lawndale Community of Chicago or Kenya.

### **7822 “Race, Reconciliation, and Reparations”**

Race continues to be a huge divider of people. Fifty years after the Civil Rights movement and the Civil Rights legislations... and we still struggle. In fact, things may even be worse today. This class builds off of the course, Community and Economic Reconciliation, and delves into more solution-based discussions. Race is a construct that has been used to oppress people for centuries. We will deconstruct race and pursue resolutions that can have lasting implications. The Christian Church

and Community has been given the ministry of reconciliation and is called to lead our world in the practice of reconciliation. Again, this course will work to devise answers and practical actions to bring true healing to the racial healing. Reparations is one of the practical solutions and this course will look at creative reparations for people and people groups that have been harmed in America.

This class will continue to use the principles of Christian Community Development. This will be accomplished by class sessions in Lawndale. Every student will grasp how to apply the principles in practical productive ministry.

## **Preaching Class Listings**

### **7015 “Becoming Doctors of the Church**

This is the foundational core course that helps clarify a ministry issue which will serve to focus the DMin project and thesis. Particular attention is given to addressing an issue of strategic leadership that preaching and worship will address at the thesis stage. Participants will grow in confidence in their leadership and vision by expanding their work from DM 7751. Particular attention will be given to the role of telling stories, shaping narratives, memorizing, and paraphrasing scripture, delivering sermons and speeches from memory, and improvising sermons, prayers, and speeches in public and liturgical spaces.

### **7045 “Biblical and Theological Method”**

Each of us lives and acts according to our own convictions, however explicit or implicit. DM 7045 seeks to enhance our ability to serve in ministry by integrating sound theological understanding into the practice of ministry leadership. Particular attention is paid to the integration of scripture, reason, tradition, and experience in our theology and ministry. To this end, the course moves from these sources to theological reflection, with a focus on ministry and leadership the local context. Particular attention is given to addressing one’s theology of preaching and developing a pattern of sermon exegesis for use in a local congregation.

### **7060 “Thesis Design and Research Methodologies”**

The Thesis Design course will assist students at the thesis stage of their program in the conception, formulation, research process, preparation and writing of an acceptable thesis proposal. Special attention is given to the integration of the theological disciplines into the writing of the thesis proposal and final thesis and the integration of the preaching and worship life of the local congregation into the thesis.

The course will provide step by step instruction concerning the various segments of the thesis proposal and will assist the student in formulating the required sections of the proposal.

### **7751 “Preaching in the Ancient World” (x-listed MN 489)**

Preaching is a multimedia experience of delivery and reception. Since the first century, preaching has involved oral, visual, written, and auditory forms of communication, retention, and community formation. Congregations participated in the experience, and the preacher and the listeners were shaped together by the preparation and resurrection power of the proclamation.

In this seminar, students will examine preaching from the perspective of the ancient churches and discover how they can apply these methods to the practice of studying and delivering sermons from scripture. Students will learn to study scripture passages using methods from oral, rhetorical, and biblical performance criticism; to examine the role of the ancient audience in the reading of texts and preaching of sermons; to reflect on the importance of these methods for biblical preaching today; and to practice these methods on their congregation.

**7752 “Preaching in Jesus’s Context” [x-listed with DMin 7853 “Education beyond the Books”. This is a trip to Israel**

**7753 “The Preacher as Worship Leader”**

We explore the preacher as worship leader in the following areas: the preacher’s importance, purpose, mission, distinctives, and power. We explore the historical aspect of Christian worship, the sociological aspect of preaching, the theological functionality of the preacher, and the ecclesiological aspect of worship. We discuss the concepts of the New Kind of Preacher model and help the preacher form a preaching and worship planning group in the congregation. This group addresses the person of the preacher and the formation of the congregation as much as the content and outcome of the message.

**7754 “Prophetic Preaching to Audiences and Cultures”**

From issues of sin, racial reconciliation, justice, cultural change and congregational needs, preachers have multiple audiences and multiple needs. As preachers, we are called to be representatives of God, speaking on God’s behalf to the churches as well as the cultures in which we live. Therefore, in this course, we will explore Prophetic Preaching from a Biblical perspective, all it sought to accomplish in ancient times in an effort to discern how we are to use it today to address and confront the sin and injustices we face. We do this in an effort to bring justice, reconciliation and peace to the many and varied contexts to which we are called to speak. We will also discuss the role of the listener in preaching and how preachers prepare to understand their audiences and adapt their messages.

**Doctor of Theological Ministry (DTM) Class Listings**

**DM 7015 Becoming Doctors of the Church**

This seminar considers how ethnography might be employed as a pastoral discipline. Students will be introduced to the process of applying systematic ethnographic methods in a congregational setting. Ethnography typically involves the observation and study of people in their natural settings. Here we focus on churches and their contexts (neighborhoods, districts, towns, cities).

Ethnography’s potency resides in its ability to undermine assumptions and give voice to those who have been previously muted. It allows for reinterpretation and restructuring in a way that nurtures the creation of better maps and better stories. Along the way, though, ethnography may yield more complicated and less linear explanations of congregational culture(s).

The course will also introduce students to the scholarship of engagement through a central, culminating project that will engage the students in the study of a local congregation. These original ethnographic studies of congregations will give particular attention to two aspects: (1) the nature of a church as a social institution and (2) the vision of society that is implicit in the practices of the congregation. Throughout the course we will be building a theoretical and analytical “toolbox” for

considering the church as a social institution embedded within a wider societal context. The “toolbox” will, hopefully, allow students to attend to the actual life of the church and, in turn, process those patterns and habits through a theological lens that allows for strengthened congregations.

**DM 7045 Biblical/Theological Reflection on Ministry and Culture**

Each of us lives and acts according to our own convictions, however explicit or implicit. This course seeks to enhance our ability to serve in ministry by integrating sound theological understanding into the practice of ministry leadership. Particular attention is paid to the integration of scripture, reason, tradition, and experience in our theology and ministry. To this end, the course moves from these sources to theological reflection, with a focus on ministry and leadership the local context.

**DM 7060 Thesis Design and Research Methodology**

The Thesis Design course will assist students at the thesis stage of their program in the conception, formulation, research process, preparation and writing of an acceptable thesis proposal.

The course will provide step by step instruction concerning the various segments of the thesis proposal and will assist the student in formulating the required sections of the proposal.

**Northern Seminary  
Academic Calendar  
2021-2022**

**FALL QUARTER - September 20 - December 9, 2021**

<b>August</b>	27-28	Faculty Retreat
<b>September</b>	6	Labor Day (Seminary closed)
	7	Fall Tuition and Fees
	20	Classes Begin
	24	Last Day to Add a Class
	24	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a 100% Refund
<b>October</b>	2	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive an 80% Refund
	7	Founder's Day (BOT Meetings Oct. 8-9)
	8	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a 50% Refund (no tuition refunded for dropped classes after this date)
	15	Winter Syllabi Due to Dean's Office
<b>November</b>	1	Final Winter Registration (\$100 late fee after this date)
	22-26	Thanksgiving Break (No classes will be held)
	25-26	Thanksgiving Holiday (Seminary closed)
<b>December</b>	3	Winter Tuition and Fees Due
	3	Last Day to Contest a Grade from the Summer Term
	3	Graduation Applications Due
	3	Fall Quarter Classes End
	24-Jan 1	Christmas Break (Seminary closed until January 4 <sup>th</sup> )

**WINTER QUARTER - January 10 - March 21, 2022**

<b>January</b>	10	Classes Begin
	14	Last Day to Add a Class
	14	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a 100% Refund
	14	Spring Syllabi Due to Dean's Office
	17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no classes will be held)
	21	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a 80% Refund
	28	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a 50% Refund (no tuition refunded for dropped classes after this date)
<b>February</b>	22	Final Spring Registration
<b>March</b>	11	Spring Tuition and Fees Due
	15	Last Day to Contest a Grade from the Fall Term
	21	Winter Quarter Classes End
	22-Apr. 3rd	Spring Break (no classes will be held)

## April

### SPRING QUARTER – April 4 – June 10, 2022

<b>April</b>	1	Final day for faculty to submit grades in Populi
	4	Spring Quarter Classes Begin
	8	Last Day to Add a Class
	8	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a 100% Refund
	15	Good Friday
	15	Summer and Fall 2021 Syllabi Due to Dean's Office
	16	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a 80% Refund
	17	Easter
	23	Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a 50% Refund (no tuition refunded for dropped classes after this date)
<b>May</b>	13	Final Day to Register for Summer Term
	13	Summer Tuition and Fees Due
	27	Final Day to Register for Fall
	20	Graduates Library and Business Office accounts must be cleared
	20	Pass/fail indication for Spring 2021 Graduates due from faculty
	30	Memorial Day <b>(CLASSES WILL BE HELD)</b>
<b>June</b>	10	Last Day to Contest a Grade from Winter term
	10	Spring Quarter Classes End
	11	Graduation Ceremony, 10:00 a.m. TBA



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## **Appendix I: VA Pending Payment Compliance**

Beginning August 1, 2019, and despite any policy to the contrary, Northern Seminary will not take any of the four following actions towards any student using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill<sup>®2</sup> (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while their payment from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is pending to the educational institution:

- Prevent their enrollment;
- Assess a late Penalty fee too;
- Require they 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:

- Produce the VA's Certificate of Eligibility by the first day of class;
- Provide written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies (see our VA School Certifying Official for all requirements).