

Graduate Studies

Course Descriptions: Each course is worth 3 credit hours. Credit hours are non-transferrable.

MINISTRY

Personal Spiritual Formation

This course explores the processes and goals of spiritual formation in the life of the Christian minister, counselor, or leader from a multi-disciplinary viewpoint including personal, biblical, theological, psychological, and historical perspectives. You are introduced to the historic disciplines and practices of the Christian faith that promote intimacy with God and Christ-likeness in character.

Pastoral Counseling

This course is an overview of current trends in counseling theory and practice and the role of counseling in public, private, and church settings. Basic counseling skills taught in this course include interviewing, assessment, and therapeutic listening in a laboratory situation. Application is made to premarital, family crisis, grief, and substance abuse counseling, with emphasis on developing strategies and applying scriptural principles.

Mentoring and Small Groups

This course is a study of New Testament mentoring principles and their application, with special emphasis upon building discipling relationships and small group ministry. Small groups are becoming an increasingly important component of church-based ministry. Leaders must understand groups because group process directly affects creativity, problem solving, decision-making, and productivity.

Christian Ethics and Contemporary Challenges

This course is designed to provide wisdom to ministers on how to conduct themselves ethically in virtually every phase of ministry. This course emphasizes renewed ethical challenges.

Youth Ministry

This course deals with the consideration of the principles, methods, and materials in youth work which develop effective Christian leadership in this ministry of the church. A program of Bible study, evangelism, worship, recreation, and stewardship designed to win and hold the adolescent group is given.

Biblical Worship

This course offers a study of the biblical and theological foundations of worship, highlighting the historical practice of the church and demonstrating its relevance for the life of the church in our age. Key aspects of worship that will be considered include music, the word of God, prayer, baptism, and the Lord's Supper. The course will also cover such things as the Christian year, symbols used in worship, and the physical environment of worship.

Preaching with Purpose

This course covers the construction and delivery of expository biblical sermons with special emphasis given to preaching sermons true to the meaning of the original authors of biblical text. It includes the dynamics of effective communication, preaching to meet human needs in the context of the worship service and anticipating results in terms of transformed human behavior.

Women in Ministry

From the earliest disciples of Jesus to the present time, women have been vitally involved in the mission of the church. This course will examine the biblical, theological, and socio-cultural issues related to gender, race, and female roles in ministry, missions, and the local church. Special attention will be given to interpretive issues that help define perceptions of women and their roles of service in the local church context.

Principles of Church Growth

This course is a study of church growth and renewal dynamics from a biblical, theological, historical, and cultural perspective. Topics include church growth and renewal principles, typologies, and methodologies, with attention to the roles of prayer worship, preaching, teaching, fellowship, and evangelism in church growth and renewal.

Church Planting

This course is designed to equip church planters, pastors, and overseers with the principles and strategies needed for starting and developing healthy, growing, reproducing churches. This will be an intensive and comprehensive learning experience. Leaders will learn, in hands-on ways, how to develop a biblical vision for ministry, philosophy of ministry, and church development. Lectures, discussion, and workshop activities will allow participants to formulate visions, values, mission, and ministry strategies.