

# January 2024 Edition



Assembly at Westminster



## 2023 - 2024 Academic Catalog

# CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

**2023–2024 Catalog**

**January 2024 Edition**

I certify that this catalog is true and correct in content and policy as required by 38 CFR21.4253(d)(1) of the Federal Code and states progress requirements for graduation.

**Dr. Steven C. Adamson**

**President, Erskine College**

Erskine College is an equal opportunity college open to any qualified individual without regard to race, religion, sex, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

Pursuant to all applicable federal anti-discrimination laws and regulations, Erskine does not discriminate against any of the protected categories of individuals in the administration of its policies, programs, or activities.

This non-discriminatory policy includes admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, employment practices, and athletic and other school-administered programs except where required by specific religious tenets held by the institution.

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# CONTENTS

<b>Certification Statement .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>From the President.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>From the Dean of the Seminary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>About Erskine .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Mission.....	5
Commitments .....	6
History .....	8
Denominational Relationships .....	9
Degree Programs.....	10
Locations .....	12
Erskine Online.....	13
Accreditation.....	15
Relations with Other Educational Institutions .....	16
Partnerships for Transfer Courses.....	16
<b>Admissions .....</b>	<b>17</b>
Applying to Erskine .....	17
International Students.....	20
<b>Degree Programs Descriptions.....</b>	<b>22</b>
Master of Divinity (MDiv) .....	22
Master of Arts in Practical Ministry (MAPM).....	26
Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS).....	29
Master of Theology (ThM) .....	31
Doctor of Ministry (DMin).....	35
David Livingstone Institute (DLI) Graduate Certificates .....	40
<b>Academics .....</b>	<b>41</b>
Academic Advising.....	41
Transfer Credit.....	42
Registration.....	43
Directed and Independent Study .....	45
Cross-Registration .....	45
Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).....	46
Institutional Review Board (IRB) .....	47
Instructional Policies.....	47
Grading .....	48
Academic Status.....	51
Graduation .....	53

	<b>2</b>
<b>Course Descriptions .....</b>	<b>55</b>
Bible Department Courses.....	56
Theology Department Courses .....	64
Ministry Department Courses .....	71
MATS Courses.....	78
Master of Theology (ThM) Courses .....	78
Doctor of Ministry (DMin) Courses.....	80
<b>Finances .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Financial Aid.....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Student Life Information .....</b>	<b>98</b>
Community Life Statement.....	98
Academic Conduct.....	101
Other Institutional Policies .....	103
Students' Right to Privacy .....	105
STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.....	106
General Student Grievances .....	106
Initial Review .....	106
Provost Review .....	107
Presidential Appeal .....	107
Student Grievances Regarding Academic Matters.....	107
Student Grievances Regarding Non-Academic Matters .....	108
DUE WEST CAMPUS SERVICES AND FACILTIES .....	109
COLUMBIA SERVICES AND FACILTIES .....	110
GREENVILLE SERVICES AND FACILTIES .....	110
<b>People .....</b>	<b>111</b>
Faculty .....	111
Administration .....	116
Board of Trustees of Erskine College .....	117
Contact Information .....	118
Emergency Contacts .....	118
<b>Academic Calendar 2023-2024*.....</b>	<b>119</b>
Index.....	120

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Erskine!

I am honored to serve as Erskine's 18<sup>th</sup> president and pleased that you have chosen to attend this historic institution as a seminary student. Today, more than 185 years since its founding, Erskine seeks to fulfill its mission "to glorify God as a Christian academic community where students are equipped to flourish as whole persons for lives of service."

As a graduate school of Erskine College, Erskine Theological Seminary focuses on preparing men and women "to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through theological higher education that is ecclesial, missional, and confessional."

My hope for you is that you will find a warm and supportive community here as you follow the Lord's leading, whether you experience Erskine on campus or through online study. Members of our faculty and staff stand ready to assist you.

My prayer for you is that as you reflect on the Word of God and the witness of those who have gone before us in the faith, you will find that your studies bear good fruit, both in your life and in the lives of people to whom you minister.

It is my privilege to welcome you to Erskine Theological Seminary for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Dr. Steve Adamson*

Steve Adamson, PhD  
President



# FROM THE DEAN OF THE SEMINARY

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and welcome to Erskine Theological Seminary, a graduate school of Erskine College! For more than 185 years, our Seminary has been training Christians to serve as pastors in Christ's Church and as leaders in God's Kingdom. In the Lord's kind providence, he has sustained us to be the oldest continuing evangelical seminary in North America, holding steadfastly to the centrality of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the inerrancy of the Bible as the Word of God. We pursue this conviction in ways that are not only biblical and Reformed, but also ecclesial, missional, and pastorally-sensitive.

In fact, while our faculty are scholars in their disciplines, they are also pastorally-hearted and eager to pray for you and invest in you. Many professors have extensive previous (or current) pastoral ministry experience which deepens the quality of the courses they teach. Moreover, our staff loves to serve, help, and pray for you as a seminary student. Indeed, the word "pastoral" is key around Erskine. This is a family: a gracious family waiting for our next brother or sister to join us.

With Erskine Online, you can remain in your current ministry context and earn a complete degree, including the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Practical Ministry or in Theological Studies, Master of Theology, or Doctor of Ministry. You can also study in-person in Columbia or Greenville, or at our historic campus in Due West, SC.

We have students in Europe, Asia, and parts of the world that require confidentiality for fear of persecution. You will join a student body of Christian servants from over thirty denominations that are bonded by our love of the Lord and our desire to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. You will learn in a Presbyterian and Reformed seminary that teaches with a gracious and ecclesial spirit. Indoctrination is not our goal. Rather, our goal is to see you transformed—better conformed to the image of Jesus Christ across your whole person as a leader for Christ's Church.

Whether you are just starting out at Erskine or close to graduating, my prayer for you is that you know, feel, and deeply believe that God "who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Seth J. Nelson, Ph.D.  
Dean of the Seminary  
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology  
and Educational Leadership



# ABOUT ERSKINE

## ERSKINE COLLEGE INSTITUTIONAL VISION

Erskine College exists to equip students for lives of service and leadership, building Christ's Church, and influencing society for God's glory.

## MISSION

### ERSKINE COLLEGE INSTITUTIONAL MISSION

The mission of Erskine College is to glorify God as a Christian academic community where students integrate knowledge and faith, equipped to flourish as whole persons prepared for lives of service, leadership, and influence through the pursuit of undergraduate liberal arts, graduate, and seminary education.

**Erskine Theological Seminary is a graduate school of Erskine College.**

### ERSKINE SEMINARY (THEOLOGICAL GRADUATE PROGRAMS) MISSION

Erskine Theological Seminary prepares men and women to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through theological higher education that is ecclesial, missional, and confessional.

## Vision and Values

- ❖ **Burden** (Why we exist): Erskine Theological Seminary, an agency of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, exists because Jesus Christ calls laborers for his harvest who are skilled in the handling of the Word of God.
- ❖ **Vision** (How we lift the burden): Erskine Theological Seminary is a Biblical, Reformed, and Evangelical Seminary community of learning sustained in prayer, supported by a growing constituency, united in faith, and fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit for gospel transformation in every area of life.
- ❖ **Values** (Non-negotiable essentials that guide us): Erskine Theological Seminary is grounded in the person and work of the only Savior of humanity, our Lord Jesus Christ, as he is presented in the inerrant and infallible Holy Scriptures; the summary of which is found in the Westminster Standards; and taught with academic excellence by qualified pastor-scholars in a nurturing and gracious community of learning.
- ❖ **Philosophy of Ministry** (How we do our work): Erskine Theological Seminary promotes the Vision and Mission through biblical and confessional faithfulness, multiple modalities, and academic excellence, set in a loving, pastoral community of service.



## COMMITMENTS

### **Erskine Theological Seminary Seeks to Glorify God.**

We are committed to honoring God in everything we do. We believe that our highest calling is to glorify and enjoy the God who made us. We believe that the only proper response to the grace of Christ is to love, trust, and obey him. And we seek, by the power of his Holy Spirit, to serve him and his Church.

### **Erskine Theological Seminary Is Biblical.**

We are committed to the authority of the Bible, the historic Christian faith, and the gospel of Jesus Christ. As an agency of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Seminary affirms with the ARP Church that “the Bible alone, being God-breathed, is the Word of God Written, infallible in all that it teaches, and inerrant in the original manuscripts.” The Scriptures are the standard by which we evaluate faith, life, and ministry.

### **Erskine Theological Seminary Is Evangelical.**

We are committed to the essential doctrines taught in the Bible and repeated in the great creeds and confessions of the Church throughout its history. In particular, we are committed to the gospel of salvation by God’s grace alone, based entirely upon the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. We seek to keep this message of God’s grace at the heart of our teaching and to experience its reality in our lives and ministries. (See the ARP Church’s definition of “Evangelical Christian” below.)

### **Erskine Theological Seminary Is Reformed.**

We are committed to the Reformed tradition and especially to the doctrinal standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, as set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms. We believe that this tradition best captures the teaching of the Scriptures. Yet we recognize that we did not come to this conviction by our own wisdom or insight, but by God’s grace, and so we deal humbly, graciously, and respectfully with those who understand the Scriptures differently. We also recognize that we must continue to deepen our understanding of the Scriptures and to apply the insights of the Reformed tradition faithfully and thoughtfully to issues of faith, life, and ministry in a changing world.

### **Erskine Theological Seminary Is Missional.**

We are committed to serve as a resource for the entire Christian Church to prepare students for service from a variety of denominations and backgrounds to accomplish the Mission of God in the world.

### **Erskine Theological Seminary Serves the Whole Church.**

We are committed to serving the whole Church of Jesus Christ. Our Reformed tradition teaches that there is only one holy, universal, and apostolic Church, to which all who confess Christ belong and whom we are bound to love and serve. It teaches us that the things that unite us



with other Christians matter more than the things about which we differ. We therefore view the Reformed faith as a treasure to share with the wider Church, not a cause for isolation. We find that diverse perspectives in our community enrich learning and prepare students to work respectfully alongside others in ministry. And so, while our first priority is serving the ARP Church and similar Reformed churches, we gladly open our doors to students from many denominations, and through academic programs, special events, and the varied ministries of our faculty, staff, and students, Erskine serves the whole Church of Jesus Christ.

### **Erskine Theological Seminary Prepares Students for Ministry.**

We are committed to preparing students for ministry. Because we are committed to the Church, our primary focus is on preparing men and women to serve in Christ's Church. We provide rigorous academic instruction in the Bible, theology, Church history, and the practice of ministry, always seeking to apply these to the needs of the Church and its ministry. We also seek to develop students' spiritual and personal maturity, clarity about their gifts and calling, and the skills and dispositions required for effective ministry. One way of promoting our competency-based theological education is the inclusion of the Applied Ministry Evaluation Report (AMER) in most master's courses, requiring students to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it in their present church or ministry setting. The measure of our ministry is the faithfulness and fruitfulness of theirs.

### **DEFINITION OF "EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN"**

In 2008, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church adopted the following definition of the beliefs that constitute Evangelical Christian faith. All faculty members and director-level staff members (hired since 2008) subscribe to this statement:

The word "evangelical" comes from a Greek root meaning "good news," and it refers to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In a broad sense, Evangelicals are people who believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word and that an individual can become a Christian only by accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Evangelicals believe:

1. The Bible alone, being God-breathed, is the Word of God written, infallible in all that it teaches, and inerrant in the original manuscripts.
2. There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. In the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his miracles, in his vicarious and atoning death through the shed blood, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in his personal return in power and glory.
4. For the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. In the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## HISTORY

Erskine Seminary was founded in 1837 by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod of the South. Presbyterians have historically believed that educated ministers are essential for healthy churches and the Seminary was founded to meet this critical need. Two years later, the faculty was enlarged to establish the first four-year denominational college in South Carolina, with the Seminary operating as an arm of the College. The two institutions were formally separated in 1859 but were reunited in 1926 under the name Erskine College, with the Seminary serving as a professional graduate school alongside the undergraduate Christian liberal arts school.

The Seminary's name honors the heritage of the brothers Ralph and Ebenezer Erskine, who served as pastors and leaders in the Presbyterian Church in Scotland in the early 1700s. The Erskines are particularly remembered for two courageous stands. When some claimed that people must repent of their sins (and clean up their lives) *before* they could come to Christ, the Erskines insisted that God in his grace invites people to come to Christ as they are, as sinners, to receive forgiveness ("the *Marrow* controversy"). When wealthy landowners claimed the right to name pastors of churches built on their land ("patronage"), the Erskines insisted that Christ, the Lord of the Church, had given that right to the people in the Church. For these stands (God's grace and the authority of Christ), the Erskines eventually "seceded" to form an "Associate Presbytery" (one of the predecessors of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church) and continued to proclaim God's free grace.

Erskine seeks to share its heritage and resources with the wider Church. The Seminary began offering courses outside of Due West in 1980. Following the provision of the expanded facilities of Bowie Divinity Hall in 1985, the Board of Trustees approved the expansion of the Seminary's mission to serve the larger Evangelical community and to accommodate commuting students. Since that time, students from many other churches – Presbyterian, Baptist, AME, Methodist, Pentecostal, and non-denominational – have joined students from the ARP Church to receive training for ministry. In the 1990s, the Seminary launched its distance education program and in 2010 was approved to offer complete degree programs at its Columbia location. Without wavering from its Evangelical and Reformed commitments, the Seminary continues to seek additional ways to serve the whole Church of Jesus Christ.

In 2019, the Seminary expanded its online course offerings through Erskine Online and, in partnership with Erskine College's undergraduate school, launched an accelerated ministry program that allows students to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree and the Master of Divinity degree in five years. The Seminary also entered into a gospel alliance with Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC to host its Greenville extension site and now offers a variety of in-person classes there.

## DENOMINATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Erskine Theological Seminary was originally founded by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) to train ministers for that denomination. The Seminary is still governed by a Board of Trustees elected by the ARPC, is committed to the doctrinal standards of the ARPC, and continues to supply many of the ARPC's ministers.

At the same time, the Seminary's commitment to serve the whole Church means that we welcome students each year from many denominations, such as the Presbyterian Church in America, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Southern Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention, and many other mainline, Pentecostal, independent, and non-denominational churches.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR SEMINARY GRADUATES

In dependence upon the grace of God, our graduates will be able to:

1. Articulate (both orally and in writing) the essential biblical, theological, historical, cultural, and ministerial concepts requisite for a lifetime of learning and effectiveness in their callings and ministries. (*Articulation and Essentials*)
2. Interpret the Bible within its canonical and historical contexts and apply the message of the Bible to contemporary life and to their ministry contexts, while drawing upon the Church's theological and historical heritage. (*Interpretation and Application*)
3. Discuss graciously the essentials of evangelical Christianity and the Reformed theological tradition within the contexts of diverse ecclesiologies, contemporary cultures, and global Christianity. (*Evangelical and Reformed*)
4. Identify contemporary issues in the Church and the world and demonstrate the ability to theologically evaluate and pastorally address those issues. (*Theological and Pastoral Integration*)
5. Demonstrate love for Jesus Christ and growth in sanctification toward personal, relational, and spiritual maturity appropriate to their vocational callings and ministry contexts. (*Sanctification*)
6. Demonstrate growth in their competencies for faithful and effective Christian leadership within Christ's Church and in its mission to the world. (*Christian Leadership*)

## EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Erskine Seminary conducts ongoing administrative and educational evaluation to determine its effectiveness in accomplishing its mission and success in student learning and formation. The Seminary conducts annual evaluations of degree programs, administrative structures, and personnel in accordance with its comprehensive evaluation plan and, as the theological graduate school of Erskine College, in coordination with Erskine College's institutional evaluation plan. The Seminary annually publishes a [Statement of Educational Effectiveness](#) on its website.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS

### MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDiv)

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is a professional ministerial degree that equips people for pastoral leadership and service in churches, Christian ministries, and chaplaincy contexts, especially for ministerial settings that require ordination. The MDiv also prepares people for advanced theological degrees (e.g., ThM, DMin, and/or PhD). The degree provides a broad and integrated curriculum of foundational studies in Bible, theology, Church history, and the practice of ministry. The chaplaincy track is 84 credit hours including Clinical Pastoral Education. The general MDiv track is 90 credit hours.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS / MASTER OF DIVINITY (BA/MDiv) –

#### ACCELERATED MINISTRY PROGRAM

Erskine has developed a partnership program that enables highly motivated undergraduate students who seek to enter the ministry to complete the Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Religion and a Master of Divinity in five years. Students who begin as freshmen in the undergraduate school will need to apply by their sophomore year. Students follow closely a regimented course of study participating in a cohort that will integrate fellowship, academic counsel, and mentoring in ministry (internships) throughout the program.

Students enrolled in this accelerated program will meet the same graduate academic and departmental requirements listed for the general MDiv degree (see above) and will build on the undergraduate courses. Accelerated ministry students can receive up to 18 hours of advanced standing toward the MDiv. This dual degree, 85 undergraduate credit hours and 66 graduate credit hours, will total 151 hours, with a significant weight in Bible, religion, and ministerial practice.

### MASTER OF DIVINITY – CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES

The MDiv Chaplain Ministries is a flexible MDiv track designed for Christians seeking professional training for ministry as chaplains. This track provides a balanced curriculum in biblical studies, theology, Church history, and the practice of chaplaincy ministry.

### MASTER OF ARTS IN PRACTICAL MINISTRY (MAPM)

The Master of Arts in Practical Ministry (MAPM) is a professionally oriented degree that equips students for leadership and service in Christian ministries which ordinarily do not require ordination. It provides an integrated curriculum of foundational studies especially focusing on the Bible and the practice of ministry. The degree requires 36 credit hours. Students may take an additional 12 credit hours to expand their foundational knowledge or add a concentration in a specialized area of ministry.

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (MATS)**

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) is an academically oriented degree that equips students for teaching the Bible, theology, and Church history in various ministry contexts and prepares them for advanced theological degrees. The integrated and focused curriculum provides the opportunity for personal enrichment or concentration on an area of research through writing a capstone project or thesis. The degree requires 48 credit hours.

## **MASTER OF THEOLOGY (ThM)**

The Master of Theology (ThM) degree is an advanced, academically oriented, master's degree that equips students for biblical and theological scholarship and teaching in various educational and ministry contexts. Students often pursue a ThM in preparation for doctoral studies or to enhance their current ministries through deeply exploring one specific area of theological research. This degree builds upon a previous master's degree, a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree or other graduate theological degree providing equivalent academic background. Students choose a focused area of study, either biblical studies (Old Testament or New Testament) or theological/historical studies (systematic theology, historical theology, or Church history), ordinarily culminating in writing a thesis. The degree requires 24 credit hours.

## **DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (DMin)**

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree is an advanced, professionally oriented, doctoral degree that prepares students more deeply for leadership in congregations, Christian ministries, and chaplaincy contexts, including teaching in some Christian higher education settings. The DMin degree builds upon an accredited master's degree in a ministry-related area (ordinarily the MDiv) and upon significant prior ministry experience. The integrated curriculum focuses upon the norms, functions, and contexts of leadership in Christian ministries and culminates in writing a dissertation. The degree requires 36 credit hours (30 hours of coursework and 6 hours of dissertation writing).

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATES**

Erskine offers four (4) graduate certificates through the David Livingstone Institute for Christianity, Medicine, and the Sciences at Erskine Theological Seminary. Students who choose to take any of these courses for graduate (master's level) credit will attend lectures and do the required readings and research as stipulated in the various course syllabi.

## **DIPLOMAS**

As the ATS accreditation standards allow schools the freedom to admit into a master's degree applicants lacking an undergraduate diploma, the Seminary will evaluate such applications on an individual basis. Applicants who are not eligible to be admitted into a master's degree may be admitted into one the diploma programs corresponding to the Seminary's masters' degrees

curricula: Diploma in Divinity (=MDiv), Diploma in Practical Ministry (=MAPM), or Diploma in Theological Studies (=MATS). These diploma programs follow the same curricular and credit-hour requirements as the corresponding master's degree programs (90 hours for Diploma in Divinity, 36 hours for Diploma in Practical Ministry, and 48 hours for Diploma in Theological Studies).

## **DAVID LIVINGSTON INSTITUTE**

Erskine Seminary houses an institute for focused research and the advancement of professional ministry practice. The David Livingstone Institute exists to foster discussion about and provide educational opportunities to study the relationship between Christianity and science, including faith and medicine. Named for the renowned nineteenth century Scottish physician and scientist, Christian missionary, African explorer, and staunch abolitionist, Dr. David Livingstone (1813–1873), the Institute offers four graduate certificates designed especially for practicing medical and scientific professionals and students in the biomedical sciences.

## **LOCATIONS**

Since 1980, Erskine has sought to make theological education accessible to students in and around South Carolina. The Seminary offers complete degree programs in Due West, Columbia, and online, and many classes toward all degrees in Greenville, SC.

### **DUE WEST MAIN CAMPUS**

Students may pursue any of the Seminary's degrees at its historic campus in Due West, South Carolina: Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts in Practical Ministry (MAPM), Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS), Master of Theology (ThM), and Doctor of Ministry (DMin). The Due West campus offers amenities that include the McCain Library, on-site housing, food services, and athletic facilities.

### **COLUMBIA LOCATION**

Students may take courses toward any degree at the Seminary's site in Columbia, South Carolina. A small library is available on-site and students have access to the full holdings of Erskine's McCain Library through Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and other services.

### **GREENVILLE LOCATION**

Students may take courses toward any degree at the Seminary's site in Greenville, South Carolina, and have access to the full holdings of Erskine's McCain Library through Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and other services.

## ERSKINE ONLINE

Erskine students may complete the MATS, MAPM, MDiv, ThM, and DMin degrees through Erskine Online. Some online courses follow the same academic calendar as on-campus courses, while other courses may be offered as 8-week intensives. Many traditional residential courses also make use of Erskine Online through hybrid or flipped models. The online classes use the [Brightspace platform](#) as the learning management system. Course access is restricted to registered students (and auditors). Once admitted into the Seminary, students are issued an Erskine email and a student ID number which provide access to online courses and the Seminary's [student portal](#).

### ONLINE ADMISSIONS

Admission requirements and registration procedures for online students are the same as for in-person students. Likewise, all student fees and charges for online students and courses are the same as those for in-person classes. The requirements for admission into the Seminary's degree programs are evaluated by the admissions office and the Graduate Committee (for master's degrees) or the Postgraduate Committee (ThM and DMin degrees).

### ONLINE COURSE DROP/ADD

Students who wish to add or make changes in their registration can do so in the student portal or submit a completed Drop-Add form (available on the Seminary website) to the Registrar's office by the drop/add day (published in the Academic Calendar). The 8-week online classes scheduled for the second half of the semester (online term 2), students will be able to drop courses by a later drop day (published in the academic calendar).

Students may not make any changes after the drop/add day or after the first meeting of an all-day class without penalty. For full details on drop/add and withdrawal policies, please see the Academics section of this catalog.

### ONLINE STUDENT PRIVACY

Student privacy in online coursework is protected in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as online enrollment falls under the FERPA privacy and disclosure rules detailed in this catalog. Erskine Online accounts are verified by means of Erskine email accounts (SingleSignOn), with an added multi-factor authentication. Login information is strictly confidential and must not be shared. If login information is shared, disciplinary actions may be taken against the student, up to and including expulsion from the institution. Emails sent through Erskine Online's learning management system are linked to student's Erskine email account, providing privacy and confirmation of identity.



## CONFIRMATION OF STUDENT IDENTITY

Erskine Online ensures that students who register in online courses are the same persons who participate and complete courses and receive course credit. Erskine Online verifies the identity of each student with every login attempt to both Erskine Online and the Erskine email system.

Erskine Online verifies the identity of the student by utilizing multi-factor authentication through single sign on technology with the student's official Erskine email account. The student's official Erskine email account is communicated to the student through the admissions/registration process. Upon receiving the official student Erskine email account, each student must immediately enroll in the multi-factor authentication process. The multi-factor authentication process utilizes the Erskine email password as the first form of authentication and a number (or device) that the student is in personal possession of as the second form of authentication. There are no additional student charges associated with the verification of students' identity.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students who wish to enroll in online courses must be aware that the USA Patriot Act places certain restrictions on the use of distance education courses to complete degree requirements. International students must note that the USA Patriot Act stipulates that "No more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester or trimester may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance." For more information, please contact the Admissions and Financial Aid offices.

Federal regulation 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G) states:

For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An online or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no online or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

For more information, please contact Mr. Nathan Turner, [nturner@erskine.edu](mailto:nturner@erskine.edu).

## **ACCREDITATION**

### **SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS (SACSCOC)**

Erskine College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Erskine College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Erskine College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

### **ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS (ATS)**

Erskine Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools ([www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)) and is approved to offer the following degrees: MDiv, MA (Theological Studies), MA in Practical Ministry, ThM, and DMin. The school is approved for comprehensive distance (online) education and the following additional locations: Columbia and Greenville, SC.

Contact the Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools at:

10 Summit Park Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15275, USA

Telephone: 412-788-6505; Fax: 412-788-6510

### **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS (NC-SARA)**

The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) helps expand students' access to educational opportunities and ensure more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs.

Erskine College has been approved to participate in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). For details about NC-SARA, please access the official website <https://nc-sara.org/>.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Seminary participates in the Evangelical Seminary President's Council, the Evangelical Seminary Deans' Council, the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education in Ministry, and the International Alliance for Christian Education (IACE).

Erskine also participates in PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries), which provides students access to the resources of over 50 academic libraries throughout the state. Through PASCAL and the Erskine's library, students have access to a wide variety of electronic journal databases including, Academic Search Complete, ATLA, ERIC, and JSTOR, New Testament Abstracts, and Old Testament Abstracts.

The Seminary maintains a cooperative agreement with the Carolina Theological Consortium (CTC, including Columbia International University, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Charlotte, and Reformed Theological Seminary-Charlotte). Students have cross-registration and library privileges at all these institutions.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSFER COURSES

Erskine has partnerships agreements for transfer courses with:

- *Bible Mesh* ([biblemesh.com](http://biblemesh.com)) is comprised of biblical and theological scholars who teach introductory courses and language courses that can be transferred into the master's degrees.
- *Reasons to Believe* ([reasons.org](http://reasons.org)) emphasizes the relationship between the Christian faith and science and contributes to the area of apologetics. Their courses target medical students seeking continuing education credit hours, although all students can take them as part of their elective options. These courses are part of the David Livingstone Institute.

Erskine students can take our partners' courses and transfer them in toward an Erskine Seminary degree. These partners give ETS students access to courses that are not on our schedule for a particular semester, thus increasing the course options while still enrolled at Erskine. Enrollment in any of these partnership courses is not counted toward full-time and part-time status and is not eligible for institutional financial aid. Before registering, students need the approval of their program director and the approval of Dean of the Seminary.

# Admissions

## APPLYING TO ERSKINE

Undergraduates who anticipate enrolling in the Seminary are encouraged to pursue a well-rounded course of study with a broad foundation in the liberal arts, including English, history, philosophy, Bible and religion, and the social sciences. Graduates with degrees in other fields, however, may still pursue a theological education.

In order to be admitted to Erskine Seminary, students must normally possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Students applying to the ThM or DMin programs must also possess an appropriate graduate degree. Applicants must demonstrate the academic ability needed to succeed in graduate education as well as the personal and spiritual qualities appropriate to their desired program of study. Students whose degrees are from unaccredited institutions, or whose previous academic work does not meet Erskine's standards, may be admitted on probation.

Students are encouraged to apply by August 1 for enrollment in the fall semester, January 1 for the spring semester, and May 1 for the summer term.

The requirements for admission into Erskine Seminary's degree programs are evaluated by the admissions office and the Graduate Committee (for MDiv, MAPM, and MATS) or Postgraduate Committee (for ThM and DMin) to ensure that only students capable of doing graduate-level work are admitted.

## MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Students applying to the Seminary's master's degree programs (MDiv, MAPM, and MATS) must submit the following:

1. A completed application form including
  - Signed adherence to Erskine College and Theological Seminary's Statement of Faith and Statement of Biblical Distinctives.
2. A \$35 nonrefundable application fee;
3. Official transcripts for all degrees previously earned. These must show a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum 2.5 grade point average (GPA) for application to the MDiv, MAPM, and MATS. (Students with a lower GPA may be considered for admission on probation.)
4. Two letters of recommendation from persons who know them well and can address their Christian character, commitment, potential for effective ministry (such as a pastor, mentor, or colleague in ministry), and aptitude for advanced academic work (such as a former teacher). (The Seminary reserves the right to request additional recommendations.)
5. A brief testimony of faith in Jesus Christ.
6. A two-page essay stating why they would like to pursue a seminary education.

## ADVANCED PROGRAMS (ThM AND DMin)

1. A completed application form including
  - Signed adherence to Erskine College and Theological Seminary's Statement of Faith and Statement of Biblical Distinctives.
2. A \$35 nonrefundable application fee;
3. Official transcripts for all degrees previously earned. These must show appropriate graduate degrees from accredited institutions with a 3.0 graduate grade point average. (Applicants with a GPA between 2.75 and 2.99 may be considered for admission on probation; those with a GPA below 2.75 may be considered on a case-by-case basis.)
  - ThM applicants must possess a MDiv or another graduate theological degree providing equivalent academic background (e.g., MA in Theological Studies or MA in Religion).
  - DMin applicants must normally possess a master's degree (of at least 72 credits) in a ministry related area (usually an MDiv) and at least three years of ministry experience.
4. Two letters of recommendation from persons who know them well and can address their Christian character, commitment, potential for effective ministry (such as a pastor, mentor, or colleague in ministry), and aptitude for advanced academic work (such as a former teacher). (The Seminary reserves the right to request additional recommendations.)
5. A brief testimony of faith in Jesus Christ.
6. A 600-word statement explaining how the program will contribute to their competence in academic work, ministry, or service to the Church.
7. (ThM applicants only) Submission of a master's level academic paper (at least 10 pages, double spaced, with notes and bibliography properly formatted).
8. (DMin applicants only) A brief resume of their experience in ministry. Applicants must ordinarily have at least three years of *full-time* ministry experience *following* completion of their MDiv. Students with less than three years of post-MDiv experience must provide information about ministry experience and qualifications for advanced ministerial studies.
9. An interview may be deemed necessary to establish the student's level of interest, aptitude, and personal qualities necessary to engage in advanced study.

## DIPLOMAS AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Students who lack an undergraduate degree may apply for admission into one of the diploma programs. These students and those applying for any of Erskine's Graduate Certificates must submit a completed Special Student Application and follow the same admission process as outlines for the master's degree programs.

Students admitted in the diploma programs will have the opportunity to convert a completed Diploma into a master's degree, if they subsequently acquire an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, by submitting an official transcript documenting the completed undergraduate degree program and conferral date, along with the applicable fee.

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATES**

Students applying for any of Erskine's Graduate Certificates (4–5 courses and 12–15 credit hours) must submit a complete Special Student Application and follow the same admission process as outlined for the master's degree programs.

## **AUDIT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Auditors and CEU students are permitted in most courses on a space-available basis, subject to the approval of the course instructor. All auditors and CEU students must submit a Special Student Application and pay the published admission fee.

Any senior citizen (65 and older), Erskine alumni, and members of churches or presbyteries in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) can audit Seminary courses at no cost.

## **NON-DEGREE STUDENTS**

Students who are not seeking a degree but wish to take courses for academic credit may apply as non-degree students by submitting a Special Student Application form. These students pay all regular tuition and fees, and do not qualify for any type of financial assistance. They may not take more than six courses without applying and being admitted into a degree program.

## **ERSKINE ALUMNI**

Alumni of Erskine who wish to pursue a second degree must normally complete a new application. Graduates who completed their studies within the past year need only submit a written request to the admissions office.

## **RETURNING STUDENTS**

Master's students who have not been enrolled for more than a year are considered to have withdrawn from the Seminary. Those wishing to reenroll must submit a letter to the admissions office explaining the reasons for their absence, requesting readmission, and outlining their plans for completing the degree.

Advanced students (ThM and DMin) who do not remain continuously enrolled will be suspended. Those who wish to return must send a written request to the Postgraduate Committee through the appropriate program director.

Fees for reapplication and readmission will be assessed. The Seminary reserves the right to require a full application from those seeking readmission after a substantial length of time (or for other reasons).

Students who have been suspended for academic or other reasons and wish to reenroll must follow the instructions they were given at the time of their suspension.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Erskine Theological Seminary follows the guidelines and regulations set forth by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for all international students applying. To be eligible to enter the United States on a F-1 visa or F-1 student status, students must be qualified to pursue a full course of study on a full-time basis at an academic institution. When applying for a F-1 visa, applicants must prove to a U.S. consular official that they wish to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of study and that they have a permanent residence in a foreign country and have no intention of abandoning that country.

Erskine Theological Seminary is allowed to issue a Form I-20A-B to a foreign applicant only after the following conditions have been met:

1. The school has received all required application materials as outlined above (e.g., application, application fee, transcripts, references, essay, etc.).
2. The school has received proof of the applicant's financial responsibility and other supporting documents and has reviewed and evaluated them at the school's location in the United States.
3. The school has received their TOEFL score of at least 550 (out of 677) for paper-based examination, 213 for computer-based examination, or 80 (out of 120) for internet-based examination (if their native language is not English).
4. The school has determined that the applicant's qualifications meet all standards for admission and that the applicant has adequate English skills for the intended course of study.
5. The school official responsible for admission has accepted the applicant for enrollment in a full course of study.

NOTE: Applicants who completed their undergraduate degree at an institution outside of the United States should submit their transcripts to World Education Services (WES) for a credential evaluation. A credential evaluation is a comparison of one's academic accomplishments to standards in the U.S. WES will generate a report that is sent to Erskine Seminary. As a rule, Erskine Seminary will only accept foreign transcripts that have been verified by a credential evaluation service.

Erskine Theological Seminary must receive reliable documentation indicating that the applicant has financial resources adequate to meet expenses at this institution. These funds must come from any dependable source, including scholarships, fellowships, sponsoring agencies, or family. The documentation must demonstrate that the applicant has adequate funds on hand for at least the first year of study and that, barring unforeseen circumstances, funding will be available from the same or equally dependable sources for subsequent years. Tuition, fees, room, and board for the first full year must be paid prior to enrollment. Applicants are also responsible for their own transportation and medical expenses.



Applicants should be aware that they may be required to present documentary evidence of financial support at the time they apply for a visa and again to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) when they arrive in the United States.

Once applicants have been admitted to the United States as a F-1 student, they must meet certain obligations in order to maintain their status. Under current regulations, they must:

1. Have a passport that is kept valid at all times, unless exempt from the passport requirement.
2. Attend the school they were authorized to attend.
3. Continue to carry a full course of study.
4. Leave the United States by the anticipated completion date shown on Form I-20, or, by that date, apply to the school for a program extension.
5. Apply to the school to continue from one educational level to another at the same school.
6. Limit employment, both on-campus and off, to a total of 20 hours per week while school is in session.
7. Refrain from off-campus employment without authorization. Students must be enrolled in F-1 status for one full academic year before they may be authorized by USCIS to work off-campus based on unforeseen severe economic hardship.
8. Report a change of residence to USCIS within 10 days of the change.

In addition, Erskine Seminary requires that students first consult Erskine's SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) Designated School Official (DSO) when requesting verification of enrollment, transcripts, or other school documentation that they may need during their enrollment at Erskine. The DSO will then submit a request, or authorize them to submit their request, to the respective Seminary office from which they need or desire the documentation. This policy is to ensure that the DSO is informed of any plans or changes that could potentially affect the student's visa status.

International students who wish to enroll in online courses must be aware that the USA Patriot Act places certain restrictions on the use of distance education courses to complete degree requirements. Federal regulation 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G) states:

For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination, or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An online or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no online or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

# DEGREE PROGRAMS DESCRIPTIONS

## MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV)

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is a professional ministerial degree that equips people for pastoral leadership and service in churches, Christian ministries, and chaplaincy contexts, especially for ministerial settings that require ordination. The MDiv also prepares people for advanced theological degrees (e.g., ThM, DMin, and/or PhD). The degree provides a broad and integrated curriculum of foundational studies in Bible, theology, Church history, and the practice of ministry. The chaplaincy track is 84 credit hours including Clinical Pastoral Education. The general MDiv track is 90 credit hours.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In dependence upon the grace of God, Master of Divinity (MDiv) graduates will be able to:

1. Articulate (both orally and in writing) the essential biblical, theological, historical, cultural, and ministerial concepts necessary for a lifetime of learning and effectiveness in pastoral ministry. (*Articulation and Essentials*)
2. Interpret the Bible within its canonical and historical contexts and apply the message of the Bible to contemporary life through preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, while drawing upon the Church's theological and historical heritage. (*Interpretation and Application*)
3. Discuss graciously the essentials of evangelical Christianity and the Reformed theological tradition within the contexts of diverse ecclesiologies, contemporary cultures, and global Christianity. (*Evangelical and Reformed*)
4. Identify contemporary issues in the Church and the world and demonstrate the ability to theologically evaluate and pastorally address those issues. (*Theological and Pastoral Integration*)
5. Demonstrate love for Jesus Christ and growth in sanctification toward personal, relational, and spiritual maturity appropriate to pastoral ministry. (*Sanctification*)
6. Demonstrate competence for faithful and effective pastoral leadership within the Church and in its mission to the world, through preaching, teaching, worship leading, evangelism, pastoral care, and administration. (*Pastoral Leadership*)

### MDIV PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### Admission

Applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree at an accredited institution with an acceptable grade point average. (See "Admissions" for details.)

## Graduation

Students must complete 84 semester hours of coursework for the MDiv Chaplaincy or 90 semester hours for the standard MDiv as outlined below with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to remain in good standing and maintain eligibility for financial aid. The program may be completed in as little as three years of full-time study. Students must normally complete the program within nine years.

## Transfer

Students who already possess a MATS or MAPM degree from Erskine Theological Seminary or equivalent degrees from other accredited seminaries or graduate schools may transfer most if not all those courses toward an Erskine MDiv degree.

## MDiv CURRICULUM (90 CREDIT HOURS)

### Foundational Courses

BI 501 Bible Survey or BI 080 Bible Challenge Exam\*

BI 502 Principles of Exegesis (*required of first-year students*)\*\*

PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation

*\*BI 501 Bible Survey is required of first-year students who have not passed the Bible Challenge Exam.*

*\*\*Students must have successfully completed BI 502 to earn "exegesis credit" for Bible electives and normally should have completed OT and NT survey courses.*

### Bible Courses (18-24 hours)

OT 501 Old Testament I

OT 502 Old Testament II

NT 601 New Testament I

NT 602 New Testament II

Bible elective\*

OT Exegesis elective

NT Exegesis elective

*\*Students who pass the Bible Challenge Exam must take an additional Bible elective in lieu of BI 501 Bible Survey.*

### Theology and Church History Courses (24 hours)

CH 501 Early and Medieval Church History

CH 502 Reformation and Modern Church History

ST 601 Systematic Theology I

ST 602 Systematic Theology II

ST 603 Systematic Theology III

Ethics elective

Missions/Contextualization elective (any MS course, or PM 742, PM 745, ST 780)

Theology/Church History elective or denominational history and/or doctrine course

## Ministry Courses (24 hours)

- CE 505 Christian Education
- PM 507 Evangelism
- WP 550 Basic Preaching
- WP 551 Christian Worship
- PM 604 Christian Leadership and Church Administration
- PM 608 Pastoral Care and Counseling
- PM 705 Supervised Ministry or PM 774 Clinical Pastoral Education I (CPE I)

## Electives (18 hours)

- PM 775 Clinical Pastoral Education II (CPE II) can be taken as a Ministry elective
- Language courses (required by ARP Church and other presbyterian denominations)
- Denominational courses

## Denominational Requirements

Erskine Seminary educates students from a variety of denominations. Students must consult with church officials to become familiar with their denomination's requirements for ordination and should consult with the MDiv program director to determine the best way to meet those requirements. Students may pursue up to six hours of additional work, beyond what is required for their degree, to satisfy denominational requirements or personal interests.

Students seeking ordination in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church in America, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and Orthodox Presbyterian Church should take 9 hours of biblical Greek and Hebrew, ST 715 Westminster Standards, and PS 501 Presbyterian Church and Polity or EP 501 Evangelical Presbyterian Church History and Polity.

Students seeking ordination in the African Methodist Episcopal Church are encouraged to take ME 501 AME History and Polity, ME 502 AME Doctrine, and ME 503 Preaching in the African American Church.

## BACHELOR OF ARTS / MASTER OF DIVINITY (BA/MDIV) – ACCELERATED MINISTRY PROGRAM

Students enrolled in this accelerated program will meet the same graduate academic and departmental requirements listed for the general MDiv degree (see above) and will build on the undergraduate courses. Accelerated ministry students can receive up to 18 hours of advanced standing toward the MDiv. This dual degree, 85 undergraduate credit hours and 66 graduate credit hours, will total 151 hours, with a significant weight in Bible, religion, and ministerial practice.

**MASTER OF DIVINITY (CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES TRACK – 84 CREDIT HOURS)**

**Foundational Courses**

BI 501 Bible Survey or BI 080 Bible Challenge Exam\*

BI 502 Principles of Exegesis (*required of first-year students*)\*\*

PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation

*\*BI 501 Bible Survey is required of first-year students who have not passed the Bible Challenge Exam.*

*\*\*Students must have successfully completed BI 502 to earn “exegesis credit” for Bible electives and normally should have completed OT and NT survey courses.*

**Bible Courses (18-24 hours)**

OT 501 Old Testament I

OT 502 Old Testament II

NT 601 New Testament I

NT 602 New Testament II

Bible elective\*

OT Exegesis elective

NT Exegesis elective

*\*Students who pass the Bible Challenge Exam must take an additional Bible elective in lieu of BI 501 Bible Survey.*

**Theology and Church History Courses (24 hours)**

CH 501 Early and Medieval Church History

CH 502 Reformation and Modern Church History

ST 601 Systematic Theology I

ST 602 Systematic Theology II

ST 603 Systematic Theology III

ST 780 Apologetics and World Religions

Ethics elective

Missions/Contextualization elective (any MS course, or PM 742, PM 745)

**Ministry Courses (30 hours)**

CE 505 Christian Education

PM 507 Evangelism

WP 550 Basic Preaching

WP 551 Christian Worship

PM 604 Christian Leadership and Church Administration

PM 608 Pastoral Care and Counseling

PM 610 Introduction to Chaplaincy

PM 705 Supervised Ministry

PM 774 Clinical Pastoral Education I

PM 775 Clinical Pastoral Education II

**Electives (3 hours)** ----- *The Seminary recommends that students take Greek and/or Hebrew.*

## MASTER OF ARTS IN PRACTICAL MINISTRY (MAPM)

The Master of Arts in Practical Ministry (MAPM) is a professionally oriented degree that equips students for leadership and service in Christian ministries which ordinarily do not require ordination. It provides an integrated curriculum of foundational studies especially focusing on the Bible and the practice of ministry. The degree requires 36 credit hours. Students may take an additional 12 credit hours to expand their foundational knowledge or add a concentration in a specialized area of ministry.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In dependence upon the grace of God, Master of Arts in Practical Ministry (MAPM) graduates will be able to:

1. Articulate (both orally and in writing) the essential biblical, theological, historical, cultural, and ministerial concepts necessary for a lifetime of learning and effectiveness in their various callings and ministries. (*Articulation and Essentials*)
2. Interpret the Bible within its canonical and historical contexts and apply the message of the Bible to contemporary life and to their ministry contexts, while drawing upon the Church's theological and historical heritage (*Interpretation and Application*)
3. Discuss graciously the essentials of evangelical Christianity and the Reformed theological tradition within the contexts of diverse ecclesiologies, contemporary cultures, and global Christianity. (*Evangelical and Reformed*)
4. Identify contemporary issues in the Church and the world and demonstrate the ability to theologically evaluate and pastorally address those issues. (*Theological and Pastoral Integration*)
5. Demonstrate love for Jesus Christ and growth in sanctification toward personal, relational, and spiritual maturity appropriate to their vocational callings and ministry contexts. (*Sanctification*)
6. Demonstrate competence for faithful and effective Christian leadership, teaching, and pastoral care within the Church and to the world. (*Christian Leadership*)

### MAPM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### Admission

Applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree at an accredited institution with an acceptable grade point average. (See "Admissions" for details.)

#### Graduation

Students must complete 36 hours of coursework as outlined below with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to remain in good standing and maintain eligibility for financial aid. The program may be completed in as little as two years of full-time study. Students must normally complete the program within six years.

**MAPM CURRICULUM****Foundational Courses**

BI 501 Bible Survey or BI 080 Bible Challenge Exam\*

BI 502 Principles of Exegesis (*required of first-year students*)\*\*

PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation

*\*BI 501 Bible Survey is required of first-year students who have not passed the Bible Challenge Exam.*

*\*\*Students must have successfully completed BI 502 to earn “exegesis credit” for Bible electives and normally should have completed OT and NT survey courses.*

**Bible Courses (15 hours)**

OT 501 Old Testament I

OT 502 Old Testament II

NT 601 New Testament I

NT 602 New Testament II

Bible elective\*

*\*Students who pass the Bible Challenge Exam must take an additional Bible elective in lieu of BI 501.*

**Theology and Church History Courses (6 hours)\***

CH 551 Survey of Church History

ST 551 Survey of Systematic Theology

*\*Students who have a relevant undergraduate degree in biblical or theological studies may be eligible for advanced standing for these courses and substitute them with higher level theology or Church history courses.*

**Ministry Courses (9 hours)**

PM 705 Supervised Ministry

Ministry electives

**MAPM WITH CONCENTRATION – 48 HOURS**

Students may add 12 hours of coursework in one of the concentrations below for a 48-hours degree.

*\* Students may take other electives approved by the student’s academic advisor.*

**Pastoral Care Ministry (12 hours)*****Required Courses (3 hours)***

PM 608 Pastoral Care and Counseling

***Electives (9 hours)\****

CO 580 Family and Marriage Counseling

PM 570 Ministry Throughout the Life Cycle

PM 715 Family Ministries

PM 774/775 Clinical Pastoral Education I/II



## Educational Ministries for Youth and Families (12 hours)

### *Required Courses (6 hours)*

CE 505 Christian Education

CE 713 Teaching the Bible

### *Electives (6 hours)\**

PM 715 Family Ministries

PM 720 Children and the Church

PM 725 Youth Ministry

PM 733 Effective Ministry with Adults

## Evangelism and Missions (12 hours)

### *Required Courses (6 hours)*

PM 507 Evangelism

ST 780 Apologetics and World Religions

### *Electives (6 hours)\**

MS 775 Islam in the West

PM 742 Developing the Missional Church

PM 745 Church Planting and Renewal

PM 786 The African American Church

## Sports Ministry (12 hours)

### *Required Courses (6 hours)*

PM 610 Introduction to Chaplaincy

ET 711 Christian Ethics

### *Electives (6 hours)\**

CE 551 Spiritual Formation

CE 750 Promoting Spiritual Growth

PM 507 Evangelism

## MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (MATS)

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) is an academically oriented degree that equips students for teaching the Bible, theology, and Church history in various ministry contexts and prepares them for advanced theological degrees. The integrated and focused curriculum provides the opportunity for personal enrichment or concentration on an area of research through writing a capstone project or thesis. The degree requires 48 credit hours.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In dependence upon the grace of God, Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) graduates will be able to:

1. Articulate (both orally and in writing) the essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural concepts necessary for a lifetime of learning and effectiveness in their callings and ministries. (*Articulation and Essentials*)
2. Interpret the Bible within its canonical and historical contexts and apply the message of the Bible to contemporary life, especially through teaching, while drawing upon the Church's theological and historical heritage (*Interpretation and Application*)
3. Discuss graciously the essentials of evangelical Christianity and the Reformed theological tradition within the contexts of diverse ecclesiologies, contemporary cultures, and global Christianity. (*Evangelical and Reformed*)
4. Identify contemporary issues in the Church and the world and demonstrate the ability to theologically evaluate those issues. (*Theological Integration*)
5. Demonstrate love for Jesus Christ and growth in sanctification toward personal, relational, and spiritual maturity appropriate to their vocational callings and ministry contexts. (*Sanctification*)
6. Demonstrate competence for faithful and effective Christian leadership within the Church and in its mission to the world. (*Christian Leadership*)
7. Author a capstone thesis or project that demonstrates academic writing and synthetic research skills and contextual application abilities appropriate to a graduate degree. (*Capstone*)

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### Admission

Applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree at an accredited institution with a acceptable grade point average.

## Graduation

Students must complete 48 semester hours of coursework as outlined below with an acceptable grade point average. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to remain in good standing and maintain eligibility for financial aid. The program may be completed in as little as two years of full-time study. Students must normally complete the program within six years.

## MATS CURRICULUM

There are two components to the MATS program: coursework and a thesis or a capstone project.

### Foundational Courses

BI 501 Bible Survey or BI 080 Bible Challenge Exam\*

BI 502 Principles of Exegesis (*required of first-year students*)\*\*

PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation

*\*BI 501 Bible Survey is required of first-year students who have not passed the Bible Challenge Exam.*

*\*\*Students must have successfully completed BI 502 to earn "exegesis credit" for Bible electives and normally should have completed OT and NT survey courses.*

### Bible Courses (12-15 hours)

OT 501 Old Testament I

OT 502 Old Testament II

NT 601 New Testament I

NT 602 New Testament II

Bible elective\*

*\*Students who pass the Bible Challenge Exam must take an additional Bible elective in lieu of BI 501 Bible Survey.*

### Theology and Church History Courses (18 hours)

CH 501 Early and Medieval Church History

CH 502 Reformation and Modern Church History

ST 601 Systematic Theology I

ST 602 Systematic Theology II

ST 603 Systematic Theology III

Ethics elective

### Electives (6 hours)

Students interested in using the MATS as preparation for further study (i.e., ThM, PhD) should take biblical Greek or biblical Hebrew for their elective hours and are encouraged to write a thesis as the culmination of the degree.

### MA 700 Capstone Project or MA 701 Thesis (3 hours)

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY (ThM)

The Master of Theology (ThM) degree is an advanced, academically oriented, master's degree that equips students for biblical and theological scholarship and teaching in various educational and ministry contexts. Students often pursue a ThM in preparation for doctoral studies or to enhance their current ministries through deeply exploring one specific area of theological research. This degree builds upon a previous master's degree, a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree or other graduate theological degree providing equivalent academic background. Students choose a focused area of study, either biblical studies (Old Testament or New Testament) or theological/historical studies (systematic theology, historical theology, or Church history), ordinarily culminating in writing a thesis. The degree requires 24 credit hours.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In dependence upon the grace of God, Master of Theology (ThM) graduates will be able to:

1. Interpret the Bible at an advanced level within its canonical and historical contexts and apply the message of the Bible to contemporary life, especially through writing and teaching, while drawing upon the Church's theological and historical heritage. (*Interpretation and Application*)
2. Critically evaluate contemporary issues in the Church and the world with theological acumen. (*Theological Evaluation*)
3. Demonstrate love for Jesus Christ and growth in sanctification toward personal, relational, and spiritual maturity appropriate to their vocational callings and ministry contexts, especially as emerging Christian scholars. (*Sanctification*)
4. Demonstrate research and writing abilities sufficient to support scholarly research. (*Scholarship*)
5. Demonstrate competence in two ancient or modern languages relevant to students' theses sufficient to support advanced research. (*Languages*)
6. Author a thesis which demonstrates original and synthetic research competencies appropriate to a postgraduate degree. (*Thesis*)

### ThM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### Admission

Applicants must possess a MDiv or another graduate theological degree providing equivalent academic background, from an accredited institution, ordinarily with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. (See "Admissions" for details.)

## Graduation

Students must complete 24 semester hours of credit as outlined below with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required for students to remain in good standing and maintain eligibility for financial aid. The program may be completed in as little as two years of part-time study. Students must normally complete the program within four years.

To graduate, each ThM student writing a thesis must submit final copies of the ThM thesis according to the specifications listed in the [ETS Style Manual](#). The final copies of the thesis must be submitted by April 15 of a given year to qualify for graduation in May of that year, when Erskine's annual commencement service is held. For a September conferral, all degree requirements and the finished copies of the thesis must be submitted by August 15. For a January conferral, the deadline is December 15. The defense of the thesis will be held before the appropriate department after the finalized copies have been received. Students with September and January conferrals will be invited to participate in the following May graduation ceremony.

## Transfer

Students may transfer up to six hours into Erskine's ThM program from another accredited ThM, DMin, or PhD program. Only courses with grades of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or higher may be transferred.

## CURRICULUM

The ThM director is the default program advisor, and students will, from the very beginning, negotiate coursework, research languages, and a potential thesis topic with the director. Students must complete program requirements as outlined below:

Students must complete the program requirements as outlined below:

- TH 800 Becoming a Christian Scholar during one of the first two (2) semesters of studies, whenever offered first.
- At least four 800-level ThM courses in the student's area of concentration (biblical or theological/historical studies).
- The remaining coursework can be selected from 700-level courses in biblical or theological studies (with additional requirements), DMin Norms courses, or fourth-semester biblical Greek or Hebrew.
- Demonstrate competence in two relevant ancient or modern languages (see below).
- TH 806 Comprehensive Exam – after the completion of coursework.
- A thesis of 25,000-35,000 words or two additional courses approved by the ThM director (6 hs).
- Students who write a thesis will have to sustain a thesis defense before the faculty of the appropriate department during the semester in which they expect to graduate.

**LANGUAGE COMPETENCE**

Students may demonstrate language competence either by completing three semesters of a language at college or seminary level, or by passing a reading comprehension exam. Students may, in consultation with their theses advisors, choose from Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, or German, depending on their interests and intended research topics. Other languages may be substituted if the student can demonstrate relevance of those languages for the intended thesis. For more details, consult the ThM Manual and the ThM program director.

**THESIS (6 HOURS)**

The research for the thesis is to include substantial work in both primary and secondary sources and is to involve the use of the students' two research languages as well as English. The thesis is to be between 25,000 and 35,000 words and must conform to the Seminary's specifications for theses/dissertations, as detailed in the [ETS Style Manual](#) (*manual includes thesis/dissertation submission checklist*).

The thesis defense will be held after the finalized copies have been submitted to Erskine. The thesis will count as two courses (6 hours), graded pass/fail, with two levels of achievement: successfully passing and passing with distinction.

**CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT**

ThM students are required to register each fall and spring semester without interruption (unless granted a temporary withdrawal). Students who fail to do so will automatically be suspended from the program and will lose access to library materials and the services of their advisors. Students who have not yet begun their theses must either register for a credit course or for TH 081 Continuation of the ThM Program (non-credit) each semester. Students who have been approved to begin work on their theses must normally register for TH 808/809 ThM Thesis in two consecutive semesters; students who do not complete their theses in two semesters must register for TH 086 Continuation of the ThM Thesis each semester until completion.

Students receiving financial aid should be aware that some program requirements (such as TH 081 Continuation of the ThM Program, TH 086 Continuation of the ThM Thesis) carry no academic credit and hence no eligibility for financial aid. Students receiving financial aid should plan their schedules to ensure that they are enrolled in at least three credit hours each semester.

Students may request a temporary withdrawal from the program for a period of up to one year per request (and not more than two years total) by writing to the Postgraduate Committee through the ThM director. During a temporary withdrawal, students do not have to remain continuously enrolled. Students who wish to return to the program must request reinstatement by writing the Postgraduate Committee through the ThM director.

Students who fail to maintain continuous enrollment without receiving permission for a temporary withdrawal will be suspended from the program. Students who wish to return to the program must send a written request to the Postgraduate Committee through the ThM director and pay any applicable fees. The Postgraduate Committee reserves the right to require a full application from those seeking readmission, especially if they have been out of the program for a long period of time.

Students may request a one-year extension to complete the degree by writing a letter to the Postgraduate Committee through the ThM director explaining the circumstances that have prevented them from completing the degree and outlining their plan and timeframe for completing all requirements. If the Committee approves the extension, the student must pay a fee for the extension. If necessary, students may apply for a second one-year extension. Under no circumstances will more than two such extensions be granted. If the Committee denies the request, the student will be permanently suspended from the program.

Students who fail to complete the program within four years (excluding the time of temporary withdrawal) will be suspended unless they have requested and received an extension of time from the Postgraduate Committee. Any student who is suspended will receive grades of F for any outstanding work (including the thesis). If subsequently readmitted, the student must register again for any such outstanding work and pay the appropriate readmission fees and tuition at current rates.



## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (DMin)

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree is an advanced, professionally oriented, doctoral degree that prepares students more deeply for leadership in congregations, Christian ministries, and chaplaincy contexts, including teaching in some Christian higher education settings. The DMin degree builds upon an accredited master's degree in a ministry-related area (ordinarily the MDiv) and upon significant prior ministry experience. The integrated curriculum focuses upon the norms, functions, and contexts of leadership in Christian ministries and culminates in writing a dissertation. The degree requires 36 credit hours (30 hours of coursework and 6 hours of dissertation writing).

A three-dimensional perspective guides the overall design of the program:

- Norms (DN) courses address the biblical and theological foundations of the gospel, Church, and ministry.
- Functions (DF) courses emphasize the professional skills for the practice of ministry, such as preaching, pastoral care, administration, and teaching.
- Contexts (DC) courses encompass the environment and realities of the modern world in which ministry takes place.

The program seeks to integrate these dimensions into a working whole for each student. Each course embodies all three dimensions in varying combinations and the student's own ministry setting serves as a primary learning resource. Course assignments typically involve in-service projects of direct benefit to the student's ministry. The DMin emphasizes learning from group interaction among peers. Classes typically include students from a wide variety of denominations, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, locations, and points of view, providing a diversity that enriches each student's education.

Our DMin program is flexible and able to meet the special needs of military chaplains, whose duty stations may change quickly or place them at a considerable distance from campus. Graduates of an approved professional military school may receive transfer credit. The DMin director is the primary academic advisor and may be consulted on all matters pertaining to the program. An additional faculty advisor will be appointed to guide the student through the prospectus – dissertation process.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In dependence upon the grace of God, Doctor of Ministry (DMin) graduates will be able to:

1. Interpret the Bible at an advanced level within its canonical and historical contexts and apply the message of the Bible to contemporary life, especially through writing, preaching, and teaching, while drawing upon the Church's theological and historical heritage. (*Interpretation and Application*)
2. Discuss graciously evangelical Christianity and the Reformed theological tradition within the contexts of diverse ecclesiologies, contemporary cultures, and global Christianity. (*Evangelical and Reformed*)

3. Critically evaluate contemporary issues in the Church and the world with theological acumen and pastoral sensitivity. (*Theological and Pastoral Integration*)
4. Demonstrate love for Jesus Christ and growth in sanctification toward personal, relational, and spiritual maturity which enables graduates to reinvigorate and deepen their ministerial callings. (*Sanctification*)
5. Demonstrate growth in their capacity for effective Christian leadership in their specific ministry settings as pastor-shepherds with advanced skill in preaching, teaching, worship leading, evangelism, pastoral care, and administration. (*Christian Leadership*)
6. Author a project-based or concept-based dissertation that demonstrates advanced contextual and theological analysis and synthetic research competencies appropriate to an advanced professional degree. (*Dissertation*)

## DMIN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### Admission

Applicants must normally possess a master's degree (of at least 72 credits) in a ministry related area (usually a MDiv) from an accredited institution with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. (Prospective students with a GPA between 2.75 and 2.99 may be considered for admission on probation; those with a GPA below 2.75 may be considered on a case-by-case basis.) Applicants must ordinarily also have completed at least three years of ministry experience following completion of the MDiv.

### Graduation

Students must complete 36 semester hours of credit as outlined below with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (grades of B or higher). Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to remain in good standing and maintain eligibility for financial aid. The program may be completed in as little as three years of part-time study. Except in cases of substantial transfer credit, candidates are not eligible to receive the DMin degree in less than two years. Students must normally complete the program within five years.

In order to graduate, each DMin student must submit final copies of the DMin dissertation according to the specifications listed in the [ETS Style Manual](#). The final copies of the dissertation must be submitted by April 15 of a given year to qualify for graduation in May of that year, when Erskine Seminary's annual commencement ceremony is held. For a September conferral, all degree requirements and the finished copies of the thesis must be submitted by August 15. For a January conferral, the deadline is December 15. The DMin closing review will be held after the finalized copies have been received. Students with a September or January conferral will be invited to participate in the following May graduation ceremony.

### Transfer

Students may transfer up to 15 hours (12 CPE hours) into Erskine's DMin program from another accredited program (only grades of B or higher). The DMin director will determine to which areas (Norms, Functions, or Contexts) such transfer credit applies. Ordinarily, students may include no more than six hours of cross-registered courses.

DMin students may take ThM courses for DMin credit but may not take master's-level courses (although DMin students may participate in a master's-level course as part of the requirements for an independent study).

Students who are graduates of approved professional military schools may receive transfer credit for up to 15 hours into the DMin program. For example, Army chaplains may receive such transfer credit for their Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course and their Chaplain Advanced/Career Course. The exact number of hours accepted in transfer will be determined by the DMin director in consultation with the Dean. Such transfer credit will count toward Functions and Contexts electives, leaving students to take two Norms electives unless granted an exception by the DMin director.

### Repeated Courses

Only courses with grades of C or higher count toward the DMin degree. Students who receive a grade lower than C in a required course must repeat the course. Students who receive a grade of C or lower in an elective may repeat the course or take another elective (subject to distribution requirements).

### MDiv EQUIVALENCE

Admission to the DMin requires an MDiv (or its educational equivalent). For purposes of admissions, the Seminary defines "MDiv equivalence" as including the following:

1. A master's degree with at least 72 hours of graduate-level work in a ministry-related field from an accredited seminary or graduate school, with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA.
2. Completion of graduate-level courses in each of the three major areas of Erskine's MDiv curriculum (Bible, theology, and ministry). Students normally should have taken 18-24 semester hours in each area. Courses in the following subject areas are desirable:

#### Bible

OT Intro/Survey  
NT Intro/Survey  
Principles of Exegesis  
OT Exegesis  
NT Exegesis

#### Theology

Pre-Ref Church History  
Ref/Mod Church History  
Prolegomena to Theology  
Systematic Theology (Loci)  
Ethics  
Missions

#### Ministry

Worship  
Preaching  
Evangelism  
Pastoral Ministry  
Counseling  
Leadership  
Practicum

DMin applicants who lack MDiv equivalence may be admitted provisionally if they have only minimal deficiencies (usually no more than two courses) and permitted to complete these, while enrolled in the DMin program. Applicants with more substantial deficiencies will normally be required to make up the deficiencies before being admitted.

**CURRICULUM**

DR 900 Advanced Research and Writing for Ministry (2 hs)

DR 901 Theological Foundations for Ministry (3 hs)

DR 902 Ministry in Context (3 hs)

One Norms (DN) elective

One Functions (DF) elective

One Contexts (DC) elective

Four other electives (students may choose electives that concentrate on their area of study)

- ThM courses BI 801 and ST 801 can be taken for DMin credit as Norms electives.

DR 940 Candidacy (1 hr)

DR 941, 942, 943 DMin Project/Dissertation (6 hs)

Students may enter the program in any semester or term but are expected to take the three foundational courses in their first year of the program. Students should normally begin with DR 900 Advanced Research and Writing, followed by DR 901 Theological Foundations for Ministry, and then DR 902 Ministry in Context.

DMin classes are typically taught in five or six day-long sessions throughout the semester or term or in week-long intensives. All courses require significant work prior to their first class meetings. Course syllabi are available on the Seminary's website approximately two months prior to class start.

**DISSERTATION**

The dissertation is the culmination of the DMin program, consolidating the results of the DMin coursework. Some students will identify a particular activity or project to be conducted with people in their own ministry setting, such as starting a major program, addressing a pastoral conflict or need, or leading a congregation to a fresh vision. Students may also elect to do a dissertation that is more concept-based that researches a theological, historical, or ministry issue/need rather than conduct an actual project in a ministry setting.

**CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT**

Students in the DMin program must remain continuously enrolled and are required to register each fall, spring, and summer without interruption (unless granted a temporary withdrawal). Students who fail to do so will automatically be suspended from the program and will lose access to library materials and the services of their advisors. Students who have not yet begun their

dissertation must register each term (fall, spring, summer) either for a credit course or for DR 091 Continuation of the DMin Program (non-credit). Students who have completed candidacy must normally register for DR 941/942/943 DMin Project/Dissertation in the next three consecutive terms (fall, spring, and summer). Students who do not complete the project and dissertation within these three terms must register for DR 095 Continuation of the DMin Project/Dissertation (non-credit) each semester or term until the dissertation is completed.

Students receiving financial aid should be aware that some program requirements (such as DR 091 Continuation of the DMin Program, and DR 095 Continuation of the DMin Project/Dissertation) carry no academic credit and hence no eligibility for financial aid.

Students receiving financial aid should plan their schedules to ensure that they are enrolled in at least three credit hours each semester or term (fall, spring, summer).

Students may request a temporary withdrawal from the program for a period of up to one year per request (and not more than two years total) by writing to the Postgraduate Committee through the DMin director. During a temporary withdrawal, students do not have to remain continuously enrolled. Students who wish to return to the program must request reinstatement by writing the Postgraduate Committee through the DMin director.

Students who fail to maintain continuous enrollment without receiving a temporary withdrawal will be suspended from the program. Students who wish to return to the program must send a written request to the Postgraduate Committee through the DMin director and pay any applicable fees. The Postgraduate Committee reserves the right to require a full application from those seeking readmission, especially if they have been out of the program for a substantial period of time.

Students who fail to complete the program within five years (excluding any time of temporary withdrawal) will be suspended unless they have requested and received an extension from the Postgraduate Committee. Any student who is suspended will receive grades of F for any outstanding work (including the dissertation). If subsequently readmitted, the student must register again for any such outstanding courses and pay the appropriate readmission fees and tuition at current rates.

Students may request a one-year extension to complete the degree by writing a letter to the Postgraduate Committee through the DMin director explaining the circumstances that have prevented them from completing the degree and outlining their plan and timeframe for completing all requirements. If the Committee approves the extension, the student must pay a substantial fee for the extension. If necessary, students may apply for another one-year extension – under no circumstances will more than three such extensions be granted. If the Committee denies the request, the student will be permanently suspended from the program.

## DAVID LIVINGSTONE INSTITUTE (DLI) GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

As part of the David Livingstone Institute for Christianity, Medicine, and the Sciences, Erskine also offers four (4) Graduate Certificate programs for practicing medical and scientific professionals and students. Students who choose to take these courses for graduate (master's level) credit will attend lectures and do the required readings and research as stipulated in the various course syllabi. Others may attend the lecture portions of these courses as auditors and may receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending the lectures. Each of the four (4) Graduate Certificates requires four (4) graduate courses with three (3) semester hours of credit each. These Graduate Certificates may be rolled into the Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) degree (48 semester hours required).

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW (TRACK A)

- PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation
- ST 780 Apologetics and World Religions
- ET 711 Christian Ethics (or, other Ethics elective)
- HT 712 Christian Thought and Modern Science

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN APOLOGETICS (TRACK B)

- ST 780 Apologetics and World Religions
- ST 785 Evidences or DN 983 The Problem of Pain
- ST 790 Advanced Apologetics and World Religions or DN 985 Advanced Apologetics
- HT 712 Christian Thought and Modern Science

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIOMEDICAL ETHICS (TRACK C)

- ET 711 Christian Ethics
- HT 712 Christian Thought and Modern Science or DN 983 The Problem of Pain
- ET 750 Medical Ethics
- ET 755 Bioethics

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN RELIGION AND SCIENCE (TRACK D)

Courses in this track are offered in partnership with Reasons to Believe, "Reasons Institute" and are currently being templated for the Erskine syllabus model.

<https://reasons.org/education/reasons-institute>

# ACADEMICS

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

The Seminary seeks to provide students with the information and advising necessary for them to complete their studies successfully and in a timely manner. However, Erskine Seminary is a graduate school and students are expected to take responsibility for themselves and their learning. Students are therefore responsible for familiarizing themselves with curricular requirements, academic policies, and various resources (course schedules, academic worksheets, support, etc.) and for making wise decisions about their course of study. In particular, students should note the following:

- Curricular requirements for each degree program are outlined in this *Catalog* and in **Academic Worksheets** available on the Seminary’s website (see “[ETS Student Documents](#)” under “[Resources](#)”). Students should use their academic worksheets to monitor their progress with their advisors.
- In general, master’s degree students should **progress** from 500-numbered courses to 600-numbered courses, then take 600-numbered courses before 700-numbered courses.
- Course descriptions identify **core and elective courses**, and specify if there are any course prerequisites (other courses students must take first), etc.
- The course schedule for each year is posted on the Seminary’s website to assist students in planning their course of study.
- Students seeking ordination must become familiar with their **denominational requirements** and should be in frequent contact with appropriate denominational officials to review their progress. Students should consult with their faculty advisors to determine the best way to meet these requirements.
- The following **program directors** serve as academic advisors:

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<b>MDiv</b>	Dr. Mark Ross
<b>MDiv – Chaplaincy</b>	Dr. Michael Milton
<b>MAPM</b>	Dr. R. J. Gore
<b>MATS</b>	Dr. R. J. Gore
<b>ThM</b>	Dr. Richard Winston (Interim)
<b>DMin</b>	Dr. Richard Winston (until the dissertation supervisor is selected)

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- Students in their last year of study must meet with their advisors to review their progress and finalize a plan for completing their degree. This **senior audit** must be completed before students can apply for graduation (see the Academic Calendar for specific dates).

## TRANSFER CREDIT

Students wishing to receive transfer credit for courses taken from other institutions must present official transcripts for evaluation. Courses may be considered for transfer credit only if they come from appropriately accredited institutions or from institutions with which Erskine Theological Seminary has a partnership (e.g., BibleMesh, Reasons to Believe). Additionally, such courses may be considered for transfer credit only if they are directly relevant to students' course of study. Transfer credits can only be accepted for up to two-thirds of the credits required for any degree program at Erskine Theological Seminary. In other words, at least one-third of the credit hours required for a degree must be earned at Erskine. Only courses with grades of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or higher may be considered for transfer credit into the MDiv, MATS, and MAPM programs. Only courses with grades of B or higher may be considered for transfer into the ThM, and DMin programs.

Applicants may request an initial, unofficial evaluation of the transcript during the admission process, but the final, official evaluation of the transcript will not be completed until students have been admitted and enrolled; in some cases, final evaluation will be completed only after completion of the student's first semester or term of study at Erskine.

Furthermore, courses considered for transfer credit must be of a comparable level (e.g., undergraduate courses may not be transferred into master's programs; and only courses designed specifically for advanced students may be applied to ThM and DMin degrees.) No transfer credit will be given for prior experiential or portfolio-based learning, or for denominational training programs for which no academic credit was earned.

Additionally, in consultation with their program advisors, students may transfer courses from BibleMesh or Reasons to Believe, but only courses that are not offered by Erskine and are necessary for degree completion can be transferred. Contact the Dean's office for details and approvals.

## ADVANCED STANDING

Students with relevant undergraduate majors, such as biblical studies, theology, or pastoral studies, may request transcript evaluation for Advanced Standing without Credit (AS – certain basic courses are waived in lieu of more advanced work) or Advanced Standing with Credit (AS/C) in which students *may* receive credit for up to one third of a master's level degree program. Advanced Standing with or without credit will only be considered for a 300 or 400 level undergraduate course based on the academic rigor of the course and the student's performance.

Graduate credits earned from non-accredited institutions may be considered for Advanced Standing with credit (AS/C) if they meet the Erskine Seminary standards and if they are relevant to the student's course of study. Advanced standing with credit can only be granted for up to one third of a graduate degree program.



## REGISTRATION

Each semester or term, students will be provided information regarding registration and course offerings for the upcoming semester or term. Students register through the online student portal (link at the top right corner on the Seminary's website), where they log in using the passcode provided when they were admitted. Students on academic probation or who have unpaid bills may find their access blocked and may need to fill out a paper registration form.

Students cannot register for directed study, independent study, or cross-registration courses through the portal, but must submit the appropriate paper form to the Registrar's office (available as PDF files through the "Resources" link on the Seminary website).

The Seminary may occasionally find it necessary to cancel courses. Students whose courses are canceled will be allowed to change their registration after drop/add day without penalty.

## ACADEMIC LOAD

Students should carefully plan their courses each semester or term to ensure that they will be able to give sufficient time to their studies, as well as to work, family, ministry, and other responsibilities. Following the Carnegie calculation, a standard three-hour course requires three hours per week in class plus six hours outside of class, or at least nine hours per week (approx. 135-140 hours of interaction time), regardless of course modality or length. A four-course load at the master's level is equivalent to a full-time job (a 40-hour week). It is often wiser to take fewer courses in order to master course content and be better prepared for effective ministry.

The normal full-time academic load is 12 hours per semester for MDiv students, 9 hours per semester for MATS and MAPM students, and 6 hours for ThM or DMin students. The Seminary has established maximum allowable loads for each semester and term (below), while overloads may only be granted by the Dean in exceptional cases.

	<b>MDiv</b>	<b>MATS, MAPM</b>	<b>ThM, DMin</b>
<b>Fall</b>	15 hours	12 hours	6 hours
<b>Spring</b>	15 hours	12 hours	6 hours
<b>Summer</b>	12 hours	9 hours	6 hours

## AUDIT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Auditors and CEU students are permitted in most courses on a space-available basis, subject to the approval of the course instructor. They may participate in class discussions at the invitation of the instructor, so long as their participation does not limit participation by credit students, but they do not submit assignments, do not receive grades, nor earn academic credit. All auditors and CEU students will register for courses using the paper registration form available on the Seminary website, under "Resources." Senior citizens (65 yrs. and up), alumni, ARPs, and spouses of Seminary staff, faculty, and students may audit without charge. Other auditors and CEU students are required to pay a course fee and no financial aid is available to them. Students may not change from audit or CEU to credit after the drop/add deadline.

**REGISTRATION CHANGES – DROP/ADD POLICY**

Students who wish to add or make changes in their registration can do so in the student portal or submit a completed Drop-Add form (available on the Seminary website) to the Registrar's office by the drop/add day (published in the Academic Calendar). Students may not make any changes after the drop/add day or after the first meeting of an all-day class. Courses dropped prior to the drop/add day will not appear on the student's transcript.

For full semester online classes (15 weeks) and online classes scheduled for the first eight weeks of the semester (online term 1), students who wish to make changes in their registration must follow the instructions listed in the above paragraph. For 8-week online classes scheduled for the second half of the semester (online term 2), students will be able to drop courses by a later drop day (published in the Academic Calendar).

**COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

Students may withdraw from courses after a drop deadline (and before the final day of the course) without academic penalty but will be subject to the Seminary's published tuition and fee refund schedule. Students will not be eligible for financial aid of any kind (including federal loans) when they retake a class from which they have previously withdrawn. Students' transcripts will show a W for the course(s) from which they have withdrawn after the drop deadline. In order to maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP), students may have no more than 20% of the courses listed as W.

Students who are registered for one or more courses remain enrolled until they formally drop their courses by submitting a completed Drop/Add form or they withdraw by submitting a completed and signed Course Withdrawal form (available on the Seminary website) to the Registrar's office. Failing to attend class or talking with a faculty or staff member about withdrawing does not constitute withdrawal. Students who do not formally withdraw through the Registrar's office before the end of the semester or term will receive failing grades and will receive no refund of tuition or fees.

**SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

Students may withdraw from the Seminary by submitting a completed and signed School Withdrawal Form (available on the Seminary website) to the Registrar's office. They must also settle all financial obligations to the Seminary, subject to the policy on refunds in this *Catalog*. Students will not be considered to have withdrawn from the Seminary in good standing until they have paid all outstanding accounts, returned all library books, and have turned in their keys, key fobs, and other institutional property.

The Seminary reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student at any time if the student's academic record, financial accounts, or conduct are unsatisfactory to its officials.

**CHANGE OF DEGREE**

Students who wish to change degree programs or add a second master's program must submit a completed Degree Program Change form (available on the Seminary website) to the Registrar's office and pay any fee that may be required. The form must be signed by the student, the director of the degree program that the student wishes to enter, and the Dean. Students seeking to enter a ministry-related degree (MDiv, MAPM, DMin) may be required to obtain additional references that address their potential for effective ministry.

**FOUNDATIONAL COURSES**

In order to provide a necessary foundation for their studies, entering master's students must register during their first year for PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation, BI 501 Bible Survey (or pass the Bible Challenge Exam), and BI 502 Principles of Exegesis.

The students entering the ThM and DMin programs are required to start their studies with a foundational course in theological writing and research: TH 800 Becoming a Christian Scholar (ThM students) or DR 900 Advanced Research and Writing for Ministry (DMin students).

**THM AND DMIN CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT**

Advanced students (ThM and DMin) must be continuously enrolled in order to remain active in the program. DMin students must register each term (fall, spring, and summer); ThM students must register each fall and spring. Students who are not registered for a course, thesis (ThM), or dissertation (DMin), must register for continuation (TH 081 or DR 091) unless they have formally requested and been granted a temporary withdrawal.

**DIRECTED AND INDEPENDENT STUDY**

A directed study is an elective course from the Seminary's *Catalog* taken individually under the direction of a faculty member instead of a regularly offered course; required courses may not normally be taken as directed study. An independent study is a course designed by the student and the professor to enhance the student's knowledge in a particular field of study. Students must submit the appropriate completed and signed form (available on the Seminary website) to the Registrar's office. The Independent Study form must be accompanied by a detailed description of the work the student is expected to complete.

**CROSS-REGISTRATION**

Erskine students are able to take courses through Erskine at a number of other institutions. The Seminary maintains a cooperative agreement with the Carolina Theological Consortium (CTC, including Columbia International University, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Charlotte, and Reformed Theological Seminary-Charlotte). Erskine students have cross-registration and library privileges at all these institutions.

Students may cross-register and pay Erskine tuition rates for courses at CTC institutions, subject to certain limitations:

- Permission to cross-register for a particular course ultimately rests with the host institution and cannot be guaranteed. Decisions are normally made on a space-available basis after the host institution's registration period for its own students has closed.
- Students must secure approval from Erskine's Registrar office *in advance*.
- Counseling courses that lead to state licensure are not included.
- DMin courses from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Charlotte are not included.
- RTS-Virtual and Gordon-Conwell Semlink courses are not included.

## CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE)

Students may receive academic credit for completion of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) with Erskine or another certified CPE training facility upon submission of a signed copy of the supervisor's final evaluation with the supervisor's certification that the unit was completed successfully. Ordinarily, the CPE units must have been completed within the past ten years to be accepted for credit.

Erskine offers CPE academic credit (PM 774 and PM 775) through a partnership with the [Institute of Clinical Pastoral Training](#) (ICPT), in association with the [Association of Certified Christian Chaplains](#) (ACCC) and the [Spiritual Care Association](#) (SCA). [CPE at Erskine](#) means you can train without suspending your conscience and faith. Erskine students also enjoy fully accredited CPE training with multimodal teaching and learning (a hybrid of online and on-site), allowing students to complete training in their place of ministry or other approved location, without having to move.

The Erskine courses PM 774 + PM 775 *Clinical Pastoral Education* (6-credit hours total) require the following prerequisites: PM 608 *Pastoral Care and Counseling*, and PM 610 *Introduction to the Chaplaincy*. The CPE courses involve two consecutive semesters – 800 hours total, of which 600 hours are documented as a ministry of presence with the “parishioner” (“patient,” “inmate,” “soldier,” veteran;”) and 200 hours are in didactic and reflection, i.e., lectures, supervised theological reflection, and peer-to-peer dialogue – culminating in competency-based review/examination that measures knowledge and praxis to standards and stated outcomes. More information about CPE may be found in the Seminary “Student Documents” folder on the Erskine Seminary website, “CPE at Erskine.”

Students wishing to obtain master's level CPE credit from another facility must register for three hours credit (1 unit) or six hours credit (2 units) in the semester following completion of the CPE training program.

DMin students who have previously completed three units of CPE (9 hours) may apply to the DMin director to receive credit for Functions electives as determined by the program director

and the Dean of the Seminary. DMin students who have completed more than three units of CPE may petition the Dean to receive up to three additional hours of credit.

## **INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)**

At Erskine, the IRB serves a regulatory function that is essential to ensuring both ethical and legal standards regarding data and research at the institution as a whole. As a vital part of this Christian community, it is essential that the process of maintaining the highest standards be clear to all individuals. This includes all research involving talking to people, surveys, biomedical assays, interventions, analyses of personal information, etc. All faculty, staff, and students at Erskine are required by federal law to submit such forms BEFORE collection of any data. The information for submitting an IRB proposal and all other required forms are available on [Erskine's IRB page](#).

## **INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES**

### **CATALOG**

Students will ordinarily be governed by the degree requirements stated in the *Catalog* in effect when they first enrolled at Erskine. Students who fail to maintain good academic standing either by not registering or by being suspended must reapply and will then be governed by the provisions of the new *Catalog*, which may reflect curricular changes adopted by the faculty.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL TIME (CREDIT HOUR CALCULATION)**

Erskine Theological Seminary has adopted the Carnegie unit as the standard for all course offerings, i.e., a standard-length semester (approximately 15 weeks) with one hour of class contact and two hours of external student work for each contact hour. For three credit-hour courses that meet once a week, the standard is three hours of direct faculty instruction per week with six hours of external student work per week. All other modalities, including one-week intensives, 8 or 13/16-week online classes, hybrid (a combination of in-person and online) classes, directed studies, seminars, and reading courses all require students to engage in the equivalent of 135-140 hours of programmed study per three-hour semester credit course.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. For in-person and hyflex courses (i.e., attending via live video conference), students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. For full day classes meeting once a month, students may be allowed to miss up to one day of class (8 hours) without penalty but will be required to make up their absence by watching the class recording and contributing to the online class discussion board. It is the student's

responsibility to arrange for making up any missed class time and subject matter. Each professor may indicate in writing additional class attendance expectations at the beginning of the course.

Students who are currently in ministry or preparing for ministry are encouraged to attend meetings of their regional church bodies. Those who notify their instructors in advance will not be penalized for missing class, but students will be responsible for class lectures, discussions, assignments, etc. that they missed.

## DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING COURSE WORK AND GRADES

Type of Course	Work due no later than	Grades due no later than
<b>Master's-level (500-799)</b>		
All classes	Last day of semester or term	3 days after last day of semester or term
<b>ThM and DMin</b>		
Once-a-week classes	Last day of semester or term	3 days after last day of semester or term
Spring intensives (DMin)	Last day of semester or term	3 days after last day of semester or term
Summer intensives (DMin)	Last day of fall semester	3 days after last day of fall semester

## RECORDING CLASSES

Students may use recording devices in class only if (1) the professor grants approval and (2) the student signs an agreement that the use of the resulting recordings will be restricted to studying for that or closely related courses and will not be released, copied, duplicated, or used for any other purpose.

## EXAMINATIONS

Examinations are normally given at the end of each semester or term. Professors are free to have or not to have examinations in a given course.

## GRADING

The Seminary employs the following grading scale:

Master's and ThM Students			DMin Students		
Letter Grade	Numerical	GPA	Letter Grade	Numerical	GPA
A	95-100	4.0	A	95-100	4.0
A-	93-94	3.7	A-	93-94	3.7
B+	91-92	3.3	B+	91-92	3.3
B	88-90	3.0	B	88-90	3.0
B-	86-87	2.7	B-	86-87	2.7
C+	84-85	2.3	C+	84-85	2.3
C	80-83	2.0	C	80-83	2.0
C-	78-79	1.7	C-	78-79	1.7
D+	76-77	1.3	—	—	—
D	72-75	1.0	—	—	—
D-	70-71	0.7	—	—	—
F	0-69	0.0	F	0-77	0.0

The following grades are not used in calculating grade point average:

AS	Advanced Standing	I	Incomplete	P	Pass	W	Withdrawal
TR	Transfer Credit	AU	Audit	R	Repeated Course	NC	No Credit

In calculating a student's grade-point average (GPA), the total number of quality points accumulated by the student is divided by the total number of semester hours attempted by the student at Erskine Theological Seminary. Courses transferred from other institutions do not affect the student's GPA at Erskine Seminary. Grades from cross-registration courses are computed into the student's GPA.

## GRADE REPORTS

Final course grades are available via the student portal where students may view their entire transcript (unofficial). For privacy concerns, grade reports are not mailed/emailed to students.

## PASS/FAIL POLICY

Required courses (including required electives) must normally be taken for a letter grade. Only truly free electives may be taken pass/fail, and only at the discretion of the professor. Students who wish to take a course pass/fail must submit a completed and signed form to the Registrar's office. A grade of P (pass) is not computed in the grade point average.

## INCOMPLETE GRADES

The grade of I (incomplete) is given at the discretion of the professor. An incomplete grade is normally given when the student has *substantially completed the requirements* for a course but has been *prevented by extraordinary circumstances* from completing the remainder of the course requirements. Students who wish to *request an incomplete* should do so *prior to the end of the semester or term* by making their request to the instructor. If the instructor grants the request, he/she will submit an incomplete grade. The instructor must remove the incomplete in any course by February 1 for the fall semester, July 1 for the spring semester, and October 1 for the summer term, otherwise grades will be automatically changed to F. DMin incompletes from summer intensives need to be removed by February 1. Students must determine in advance from the instructor when work must be submitted prior to these deadlines. Only the Dean (in consultation with the instructor) may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become F.

Students may not carry more than two incomplete grades beyond the deadlines found in the Academic Calendar. Students having more than two incomplete grades will not be permitted to register for the following semester or term.

## RIGHT TO APPEAL A GRADE

Students have the right to appeal a grade received in any course. Any appeal must be initiated in writing within six months after the close of a semester or term. It is the responsibility of the

student to check with the Registrar if grades are not posted in a timely fashion. The appeal must include specific issues regarding the grade and must be sent first to the professor. If the resulting correspondence between the faculty member and student does not resolve the differences, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of the Seminary, providing a complete copy of the correspondence between the student and faculty member. If differences are not resolved with the Dean of the Seminary, the student may make a final appeal by submitting a letter to the Provost, along with copies of all correspondence relating to the case and any other documentation deemed appropriate. Other issues may be addressed under the Seminary's Grievance Policy (see the *Student Handbook*).

## **REPEATED COURSES**

Courses may be repeated, but the original grade assigned for a course remains unchanged on the transcript. The repeated course is recorded on the student's transcript, the new grade replaces the original grade into the overall GPA, and the hours are counted only once toward graduation. Students must pay full tuition for any repeated courses and are expected to retake the entire course and not submit only the missing or inadequate work from the first attempt.

If the student takes a different course instead of the original course taken, the original course grade remains on the student's transcript and both grades are computed in the grade point average (GPA).

Repeated courses are charged with full tuition and are not eligible for financial aid or institutional scholarships. The VA will pay for a repeated course if the student failed it the first time, but not if the student wishes merely to improve a grade.

## **ACADEMIC RECORDS**

Students may, in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), review their educational records upon request. Such records are not available to unauthorized persons without the student's written approval. Students are urged to check the accuracy of their grade records at regular intervals during their academic career.

## **TRANSCRIPTS**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that all transcript requests be made by the person to whom the record belongs. A transcript must be requested in writing, using the [Official Transcript Request form](#) available on the Seminary website (under "Resources" and "ETS Student Documents"). Erskine will not process a transcript request without the student's signature, date, and payment. Fees for transcript requests may not be charged to a student's Erskine account. No transcript will be sent if the student has an outstanding financial obligation to the Seminary or is not in good standing. Transcripts are normally processed within (7) working days.



## ACADEMIC STATUS

### CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

Master's students who fail to register for at least one class in two consecutive semesters (not counting summer terms) will be suspended and will have to reapply through the admissions office if they wish to return. Readmission is not automatic.

Advanced students (ThM and DMin) must remain enrolled each semester: DMin students must register each term (fall, spring, and summer); ThM students must register each fall and spring. Students who are not registered for a course, thesis (ThM), or dissertation (DMin) must register for continuation (TH 081 or DR 091) or they will be automatically suspended, unless they have been granted a temporary withdrawal. Suspended students who wish to complete their degrees must request to be readmitted by the Postgraduate Committee. Readmission is not automatic.

Advanced students whose circumstances require them to interrupt their studies may request a temporary withdrawal by submitting a letter to the Postgraduate Committee through their program director. An approved withdrawal does not count against the maximum time allotted for the student's degree.

### PROBATION AND SUSPENSION

#### Academic Warning

A student is given an academic warning when the GPA for any semester or term falls below the minimum required for their degree (2.0 for MAPM, MATS, MDiv, or Diplomas; 3.0 for ThM and DMin), ***even if the cumulative GPA remains satisfactory***. An academic warning is given to advise the students whose work in that particular semester or term is not of the quality needed to earn their degrees. Students who receive a warning are encouraged to carefully review their extracurricular commitments and study habits to ensure that their work in succeeding semesters and terms will be sufficient to complete their degree.

#### Academic Probation

A student is placed on academic probation at the end of any semester or term in which his/her *cumulative grade point average* (GPA) falls below the minimum required to earn a degree (2.0 for MAPM, MATS, MDiv, or Diplomas; 3.0 for ThM and DMin). Academic probation serves as a warning that the student's work is not of sufficient quality to receive the degree. The following regulations apply to academic probation:

1. Students on probation are required to develop an Academic Plan in consultation with their program director before they may begin classes for the following term.

2. The program director and the Dean must approve the semester's course load for students on probation.
3. Students on probation must attend all classes unless specifically excused by the professor.
4. Students on probation should limit extracurricular activities.
5. A student placed on probation will not be eligible for institutional scholarships during the probationary semester or term but may be eligible for federal funds.
6. If, while on academic probation, the term GPA falls below the minimum for their degree program, the students will be suspended from Erskine Theological Seminary. Otherwise, students will remain on academic probation until the cumulative GPA is no longer below the minimum for their degree program.

Note: In the event of extenuating circumstances involving Seminary error, a waiver granting eligibility for financial aid may be granted for one semester or term to any student who has been placed on academic probation. Such waivers must be approved by the Dean.

**Academic Suspension**

If while on academic probation the term GPA falls below the minimum for their degree (2.0 for MAPM, MATS, MDiv, or Diplomas; 3.0 for ThM and DMin), the students will be suspended from Erskine Theological Seminary.

**Readmission Following Suspension**

1. Readmission is not automatic. Students who have been suspended may apply for readmission after one semester by sending a letter to the Dean along with a completed Academic Plan *at least two weeks* before the beginning of the semester or term in which they hope to reenroll. The letter must address specific changes the students will make to ensure that their academic work will meet the required standards.
2. Students readmitted following suspension will be placed on probation in the semester or term in which they return. All provisions regarding probation (above) apply.
3. If, while on probation following suspension and readmission to the Seminary, the student's term GPA falls below the minimum required for the degree program, the student will be suspended indefinitely.
4. Students returning following academic suspension are not eligible for any financial aid (institutional or federal) while on probation. All other policies pertaining to academic probation outlined above also apply.

## GRADUATION

### DEGREE CONFERRALS

Erskine Theological Seminary is authorized by the Board of Trustees to confer degrees in January, May, and September of each year. Students' transcripts will not show that the degree has been conferred until after the official conferral date, even if all requirements have been completed earlier.

### APPLYING FOR GRADUATION

In order to receive their degree, students must submit a completed and signed Graduation Application to the Registrar's office and pay the appropriate fees. (The form is available on the Seminary website.) Applications are due by September 15 for January conferrals, by December 10 for May conferrals, and March 1 for September conferrals. Students must have completed their senior audit with their advisors *before* submitting their application for graduation. Students must clear all business office, Seminary, and library accounts two weeks prior to the conferral date. Students who fail to meet requirements by the conferral date must reapply for graduation and pay an additional fee.

### GRADUATION FEES

The graduation fee covers the cost of the diploma, the cap and gown, and other expenses related to graduation (even for students who are not able to attend the Commencement service). If a student applies for graduation but does not meet the requirements for the specified conferral date, he/she must reapply for graduation, and an additional fee will be charged.

### COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

Erskine College and Theological Seminary holds a single commencement service in May of each year to honor students whose degrees are being conferred at that time or have been conferred the previous September or January. All students are encouraged to participate in the service.

Master's level students (MDiv, MAPM, and MATS) who expect to receive their degrees in September and wish to participate in the preceding May commencement service must have no more than six credit hours remaining at the end of the spring semester and are able to complete the remaining work by August 31.

ThM and DMin students may participate in May's commencement service only if final, corrected copies of their theses or dissertations have been submitted by April 15. ThM and DMin students whose degrees are conferred in September or January will be invited to participate in the following May's commencement service.

### STUDENT AWARDS

Erskine Seminary honors students each year during commencement exercises in May.

*The Zondervan Publishing House Awards in Biblical Greek and Biblical Hebrew* are presented to the first-year language students who do the most outstanding work in the biblical languages.

*The Douglas Joel Culver Award in Hebrew*, established in 2007 in memory of Erskine's late Old Testament professor, is given to the second-year Hebrew student who does the most outstanding work in the use of Hebrew for pastoral ministry.

*The Ray A. King Church History Award*, established in 2004 in honor of a former Church History professor, is given to the student who does the most outstanding work in Church History courses.

*The Bruce G. Pierce Award for Christian Leadership* was established in memory of a student who exemplified Christian humility, service, and leadership. Bruce tragically lost his life in an automobile accident in 2000, just weeks before he was to graduate. This award is presented annually to the graduating master's student who "most completely integrates a spirit of Christian servanthood with principles of Christian leadership."

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each course at Erskine Theological Seminary is identified by a two-letter code and a three-digit number. The code indicates the subject category into which the course falls. “Z” suffix indicates ERSKINE ONLINE.

## Bible Department Courses

- BI General Bible Courses
- OT Old Testament Courses
- NT New Testament Courses
- HB Courses in Biblical Hebrew
- AM Courses in Biblical Aramaic
- GK Courses in Biblical Greek

## Theology Department Courses

- ST Systematic Theology Courses
- HT Historical Theology Courses
- CH Church History Courses
- ET Ethics Courses
- MS Missions/Contextualization Courses
- RS Religion and Science Courses

## Ministry Department Courses

- WP Courses in Worship and Preaching
- PM Courses in Practical Ministry
- CE Courses in Christian Education
- CO Courses in Pastoral Counseling
- SM Courses in Sacred Music

## Denominational Courses

- BP Baptist
- EP Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- ME African Methodist Episcopal
- PS Presbyterian Studies

## ThM Courses

- TH ThM Required Courses (or T suffix)
- T Suffix indicates ThM credit

## DMin Courses

- DR DMin Required Courses
- DN Norms Courses
- DF Functions Courses
- DC Contexts Courses
- D Suffix indicates DMin credit

The number indicates the level of the course, according to the following scheme:

- 080-099 Courses for which no credit hours are given
- 501-599 Courses for MDiv, MATS, MAPM students, normally taken in the first year
- 601-699 Courses for MDiv, MATS, MAPM students, normally taken in the second year
- 701-799 Courses for MDiv, MATS, MAPM students, normally taken in the third year
- 801-809 ThM Area Seminars
- 901-999 DMin Courses

## BIBLE DEPARTMENT COURSES

*Professors – Ross, Schwab, Winston*

BI	General Bible Courses
OT	Old Testament Courses
NT	New Testament Courses
HB	Courses in Biblical Hebrew
AM	Courses in Biblical Aramaic
GK	Courses in Biblical Greek

## FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE COURSES

### BI 090 Bible Challenge Exam

Students in all master's-level degree programs must demonstrate competence in English Bible content in one of their first three (3) semesters (and as a prerequisite for WP 550 Basic Preaching (Homiletics I)). Students may demonstrate competence by taking the Bible Challenge Exam or by enrolling in BI 501 Bible Survey. The exam is taken by arrangement with the Bible Department and students must register for the exam during the semester in which they intend to take the exam.

*All master's-level students must complete BI 501 Bible Survey course or pass the Bible Challenge Exam in one of their first three semesters of enrollment. Elective. No credit.*

### BI 501 Bible Survey

In this one-semester course, students lay a foundation for other seminary courses by reading through the entire Bible, Old and New Testaments. The major events, persons, places, and chronologies of the biblical materials are introduced, as well as the major themes of each individual book. Finally, the redemptive-historical thread of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is expounded. Students may exempt themselves from this course by passing the Bible Challenge Exam administered by the Bible Department, and, in that case, they are to use the hours for another Bible course.

*All master's-level students must complete this course or pass the Bible Challenge Exam in one of their first three semesters of enrollment. MDiv students may pass the Bible Challenge Exam or take this course as an elective. MAPM students normally take this course, although they may pass the Bible Challenge Exam and take a Bible elective in place of this course. MATS students may opt out of this course by passing the Bible Challenge Exam and will take a Bible/Theology elective in place of this course. Three hours.*

### BI 502 Principles of Exegesis

This course introduces the student to the principles and practice of exegesis of the Old and New Testaments and surveys the history of the texts and translations of the Bible, as well as the ways the Old and New Testaments have been interpreted by the Church. Passages for exegetical practice are selected from both Testaments.

*Required during the first year of study for MDiv and MATS students. This course is a prerequisite for all exegesis-credit courses. Three hours.*

### BI 503 Introduction to the Biblical Languages

This course is an introduction to biblical Hebrew and *Koine* Greek, presenting the basic structure of the languages, their alphabets, their classical pronunciations, and a minimum of vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on the use of tools such as lexicons, concordances, theological wordbooks, and Hebrew or Greek commentaries.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## BIBLICAL LANGUAGE COURSES

### GK 501 Biblical Greek I

This course introduces the fundamentals of New Testament (Koine) Greek grammar. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of vocabulary, morphology, and syntax. *Students taking the biblical languages must complete this course and GK 502 prior to taking their Greek exegesis course. Three hours.*

### GK 502 Biblical Greek II

This course completes Greek Grammar I and introduces the student to the Greek New Testament and standard Greek lexica. *Prerequisite: GK 501 (biblical Greek I). Students taking the biblical languages must complete this course prior to taking their Greek exegesis course. Three hours.*

### GK 601 Biblical Greek III

The aim of this course is to increase the students' knowledge and understanding of New Testament Greek. Students translate and analyze selected passages from the Gospels and Acts. In addition to reading, the students review principles of word-formation and syntax, enlarge Greek vocabulary, and use an advanced Greek grammar to perform in-depth analysis of New Testament texts. *Prerequisites: GK 501, 502 (biblical Greek I and II). To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Three hours.*

### GK 602 Biblical Greek IV

The aim of this course is to increase the students' knowledge and understanding of New Testament Greek. Students translate and analyze selected passages from the Pauline and non-Pauline letters and from the book of Revelation. In addition to reading, the students review principles of word-formation and syntax, enlarge Greek vocabulary, and use an advanced Greek grammar to perform in-depth analysis of New Testament texts. *Prerequisites: GK 501, 502, 601 (biblical Greek I, II, and III). To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

### HB 501 Biblical Hebrew I

A study of the fundamentals of classical Hebrew grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, this course prepares the student for Old Testament interpretation. *Students taking the biblical languages must complete this course and HB 502 prior to taking their Hebrew exegesis course. Three hours.*

### HB 502 Biblical Hebrew II

This course continues the study of Hebrew grammar, syntax, and vocabulary and introduces the student to the Hebrew Bible and standard Hebrew lexica. *Prerequisite: HB 501 (biblical Hebrew I). Students taking the biblical languages must complete this course prior to taking their Hebrew exegesis course. Three hours.*

### HB 601 Biblical Hebrew III

Selected readings in the Hebrew Old Testament provide the basis for fostering the student's facility in translation and further familiarity with classical Hebrew grammar. *Prerequisites: HB 501, 502 (biblical Hebrew I and II). To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Three hours.*

### HB 602 Biblical Hebrew IV

Selected readings in the Hebrew Old Testament continue to foster the student's facility in translation and further familiarity with classical Hebrew grammar. *Prerequisites: HB 501, 502, 601 (biblical Hebrew I, II, and III). To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## OLD TESTAMENT COURSES

### OT 501 Old Testament I

This course surveys the history and literature of Israel to the end of the united kingdom. In dealing with Israelite economic, social, political, cultural, and religious life, the Old Testament is illumined by studies in archaeology, geography, and ancient Near Eastern texts. Introductory issues such as canon, historical-critical approaches, and the authority of the Old Testament are also treated.

*Required for MDiv, MAPM, and MATS students. Three hours.*

### OT 502 Old Testament II

This course traces the history and examines the literature of the Israelite people from the division of the kingdom through the development of Judaism. In this course, the Hebrew poetic and wisdom literature of the Old Testament is studied along with such other topics as the content, interpretation, and the unity of the Old Testament.

*Prerequisites: Students should complete OT 501 Old Testament I prior to taking this course. Required for MDiv, MAPM, and MATS students. Three hours.*

### OT 716 Genesis

The course is designed to acquaint the student with the book itself, its theological message, and the implications of the biblical message for our day. The student is required to do extensive analysis of the book and of a commentary that relates to Genesis.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

### OT 719 Exodus

This course introduces students to the indispensable significance of Exodus in the Church's teaching, preaching, worship, and living. Careful attention is given to the book's various perspectives (such as historical, literary, covenantal, and canonical). The following themes are emphasized: the nation Israel as fulfillment of Abrahamic promises, Israel's indispensability to God's redemptive plan, Law and Gospel, the significance of the Sinai Covenant and the life that flows from it, and valid principles for appropriating Exodus into New Covenant reality and ministry.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

### OT 727 Deuteronomy

The course is an intensive study of the book which forms the capstone of Mosaic teaching. Attention is given to the importance of the content of the book to Israel, to Judaism, and to the Christian Church.

*Prerequisite: to receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

### OT 728 Joshua

This course examines the history, content, milieu, text, structure, and meaning of the book of Joshua. Attention is given to its ancient historical settings and the light it sheds on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*



## **OT 729 Judges and Ruth**

This course examines the history, content, milieu, text, structure, and meaning of the books of Judges and Ruth. Attention is given to their ancient historical settings and the light they shed on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 735 1-2 Samuel**

This course is an intensive study of the background and content of 1-2 Samuel, paying special attention to the books' historical content, literary artistry, and theological message. Students analyze Messianic themes in 1-2 Samuel and relate them to the New Testament's revelation of Jesus as the Christ.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 739 Elijah/Elisha Narratives**

This course examines the history, content, and narratives in 1-2 Kings. Detailed attention is given to their historical setting (i.e., state-sanctioned Baal worship) and how Jesus Christ is shown in the gospels as the fulfillment of the dominant motifs of this collection.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 746 Books of the Restoration: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther**

This course examines the history of Israel under Persian rule as described in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Students consider the significance of the return from exile, the rebuilding of the Temple, the preservation of the covenant people, and the social and religious reforms of the post-exilic community by means of a detailed study of the biblical text. The course also examines the books' contribution to Messianic expectations in the Second Temple period and in the New Testament era.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 753 Psalms**

After a survey of the history of the interpretation of the Psalter, special attention is given to examples of the various types of Psalms which have made significant contributions to the Judeo-Christian tradition. Psalms are particularly analyzed for their religious meaning in relation to Christian preaching, teaching, and other aspects of the Church's life.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 762 The Song of Solomon and Wisdom in the Bible**

This course is designed to give the student familiarity with the wisdom books of the Bible, climaxing with a close study of the Song of Songs. After exploring the Book of Proverbs in its Ancient Near East setting, the mystery of suffering in the book of Job, and the mystery of existence in Ecclesiastes, the mystery of sexuality as encountered in the Song of Solomon is examined. Students consider the New Testament's final word on wisdom and learn to interpret the wisdom texts in their whole canonical context.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 773 Isaiah**

This course analyzes the prophetic messages in the book of Isaiah, dealing with the critical problems associated with this book, its historical background, and its application to the life of the Christian Church today.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 782 The Book of Daniel**

This course briefly surveys the genre of apocalyptic literature and considers in detail the history, composition, and theological message of the book of Daniel. The implications of Daniel for practical ministry and for an understanding of people and society are emphasized. The intimate connection between Daniel and the Gospel is explored.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 785 The Minor Prophets**

This course examines the history, content, milieu, text, structure, and theological meaning of each book of the minor prophets. Detailed attention is given to ethical and doctrinal themes within each book.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 788 Jonah**

This course examines the genre and historicity of the book of Jonah and deals with the way its literary structure contributes to its theology. Students consider God's concern and compassion for those outside the covenant community (even for Israel's enemy Assyria) and for the physical creation itself. The course examines Israel's failure to comprehend her relation to God's purposes for all nations, the use of the book of Jonah in the New Testament, and Jesus' function as the antithesis to Jonah.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of Old Testament under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **OT 795 Current Issues in Old Testament**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Bible Department. Students explore current issues in the field of Old Testament studies, including Old Testament archaeology, history, literature, and studies in the Hebrew Bible. Old Testament topics to be studied and reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. One to three hours.*

## NEW TESTAMENT COURSES

### NT 601 New Testament I

The course explores the background, literary art, theological teaching, and contemporary message of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. Attention is given to the canonical significance of these writings and to their value for ministry.

*Required for MDiv, MAPM, and MATS students. Three hours.*

### NT 602 New Testament II

The course explores the background, literary art, theological teaching, and contemporary message of Romans through Revelation. Attention is given to the canonical significance of these writings and to their value for ministry.

*Prerequisites: Students should complete NT 601 New Testament I prior to taking this course. Required for MDiv, MAPM, and MATS students. Three hours.*

### NT 715 The Kingdom of God

In this course, students examine Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom of God in light of the Old Testament and intertestamental Judaism. Particular attention is given to the relevance of Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom to contemporary life and ministry.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

### NT 720 Gospel of Matthew

The aim of this course is to understand the message of the first canonical gospel by addressing the following issues: origin and purpose of Matthew, history of Matthean interpretation, structure of Matthew, theology of Matthew, and preaching and teaching Matthew. The format includes lectures, classroom discussion, and exegesis of selected texts.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

### NT 722 The Sermon on the Mount

Modern interpretations are surveyed, followed by literary and historical analysis of The Sermon on the Mount and exposition of the text. Relationships of The Sermon to Judaism and the whole body of Jesus' teachings are considered. The ethical relevance of The Sermon is also considered.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

### NT 725 Gospel of Mark

The course is designed to introduce the student to the content, structure, and theology of the gospel according to Mark. Selected passages of the gospel are considered, especially to ascertain their relation to the theological intent of the author. The minister's continuing use of the gospel is kept in view.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

### NT 730 Gospel of Luke

The aim of this course is to understand the message of Luke by addressing the following issues: origin and purpose, history of interpretation, theology, and the preaching and teaching of Luke.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 731 The Parables of Jesus**

In order to explore the meaning of Jesus' parables in the synoptic gospels, students address the following issues: the parables' historical and canonical contexts, their forms of communication, the history of their interpretation, and their relevance for the Church and society today.

*Prerequisite: to receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/ Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 735 Gospel of John**

The course begins with class discussions of introductory problems related to the interpretation of the gospel of John. The next period of the course is devoted to a thorough reading of the gospel in an effort to understand its central message and purpose, its content, and its historical situation. The structure of the gospel is analyzed, followed by a general exposition of its content. The latter part of the course is devoted to more detailed interpretation of several individual passages. Throughout the course special attention is given to recent literature on the gospel of John.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/ Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 737 Luke-Acts**

The course will consider Luke and Acts in close relationship to one another, exploring their common themes and organizational structure, and the various parallels which exist between Jesus, Peter, and Paul.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/ Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 740 Acts**

This course seeks to understand the message of Acts by examining the following issues: origin and purpose, history of interpretation, theology, and the preaching and teaching of Acts. Special emphasis is given to using the book of Acts in understanding Church growth.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/ Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 750 Romans**

This course introduces and examines the theological, historical, and sociocultural backgrounds of Romans as the basis for a detailed interpretation of this epistle. Emphasis is placed on the theological ideas of Romans in relation to the whole of Pauline thought and the rest of Scripture. Methodology of interpretation and application to contemporary ministry are given focused attention.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/ Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 753 1–2 Corinthians**

This course surveys the historical background, content, structure, and theological meaning of these two letters. Special emphasis is given to how the Corinthian letters give us a candid view of early Church life.

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/ Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 758 Philippians**

Students will analyze the structure and teaching of this letter in light of its historical and canonical context and apply its message in six to ten exegetically based sermons (or lesson plans).

*Prerequisite: To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/ Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 771 1—2 Timothy**

This course examines 1–2 Timothy and Titus, including their authorship, date, purposes, and historical circumstances. Special emphasis is placed on discovering the value of these letters for the Church today and exploring the issues of offices and pastoral ministry.

*Prerequisite:* To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.

## **NT 774 The Epistle to the Hebrews**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the historical circumstances, themes, and concerns of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Of special interest will be the Christology and eschatology of the Epistle and their relevance for preaching and teaching.

*Prerequisite:* To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.

## **NT 777 The Book of James**

This course provides an opportunity to explore the message of the book of James by addressing the origin and purpose of the book, its structure and theology, the history of its interpretation (including its canonical history), and preaching and teaching from the book.

*Prerequisite:* To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.

## **NT 780 The Book of Revelation**

The course surveys the literary and historical background of the book of Revelation, with particular attention given to the book's structure. The focus of the course is to understand the message of Revelation in its 1<sup>st</sup> century context. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of the book for the present-day Church and world.

*Prerequisite:* To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.

## **NT 785 The New Testament's Use of the Old Testament**

This course introduces the student to the use of the Old Testament by New Testament authors. A select Old Testament book will be used to illustrate the variety of ways New Testament writers quoted or alluded to other passages of Scripture. Students will learn how to apply the interpretive methods of the biblical writers for their own study of the Bible today.

*Prerequisite:* To receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.

## **NT 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of New Testament under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **NT 795 Current Issues in New Testament**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Bible Department. Students explore current issues in the field of New Testament studies, including New Testament archaeology, New Testament history, New Testament literature, and studies in the Greek New Testament. New Testament topics to be studied and reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. One to three hours.*

## THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT COURSES

*Professors – Gore, Ross*

- ST Systematic Theology Courses
- HT Historical Theology Courses
- CH Church History Courses
- ET Ethics Courses
- MS Missions/Contextualization Courses
- RS Religion and Science Courses

### SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY COURSES

#### **ST 551 Survey of Systematic Theology**

Using both historical and modern materials, this course aims to deepen awareness of the major doctrines of Christian theology and the current discussion of them.

*Required for MAPM students. MDiv and MATS students may not take this course. Three hours.*

#### **ST 601 Systematic Theology I**

This course begins a systematic presentation of the Christian faith. Using biblical constructs, historical developments, and confessional statements, students explore introduction to Systematic Theology (including concepts, methodology, and systems) and the doctrines of revelation and Scripture.

*Required for MDiv and MATS students. Three hours.*

#### **ST 602 Systematic Theology II**

This course continues a systematic presentation of the Christian faith. Using biblical constructs, historical developments, and confessional statements, students explore the doctrine of God, the doctrine of humanity, and the doctrine of Christ.

*Prerequisites: Students should complete ST 601 Systematic Theology I prior to taking this course. Required for MDiv and MATS students. Three hours.*

#### **ST 603 Systematic Theology III**

This course concludes a systematic presentation of the Christian faith. Using biblical constructs, historical developments, and confessional statements, students explore the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and salvation, the doctrine of the Church and sacraments, and the doctrine of last things.

*Prerequisites: Students should complete ST 601 and 602 (Systematic Theology I and II) prior to taking this course. Required for MDiv and MATS students. Three hours.*

#### **ST 715 The Westminster Standards**

This course considers the origin and convening of the Westminster Assembly. Students analyze the theology of the Assembly through a study of the Westminster Standards.

*Recommended for ARP, PCA, and EPC MDiv students; open to others. Three hours.*

#### **ST 728 Eastern Orthodoxy**

This course alerts students to the differences between the Eastern and Western Christian mindsets and the influence of those mindsets on the way each group approaches Scripture and Christian life. Using selections from appropriate primary sources, students study the teaching of the Eastern Orthodox Church on the relation between Scripture and tradition and on God, humanity, and salvation. Students are encouraged both to learn from the insights of Eastern Christendom and to evaluate and critique Orthodox theology in light of Scripture.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **ST 735 Contemporary Theology**

Keeping the 20<sup>th</sup> century background and the emerging theology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century clearly in view, the course considers the theological issues, persons, and movements of current importance to the Church.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

## **ST 745 Doctrine of Revelation**

This course investigates the doctrine of revelation. Using biblical and historical sources, the student investigates the biblical-theological development of the doctrine of revelation and critically examines various models of revelation that have been elaborated over the last three centuries.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

## **ST 750 Christology**

Making use of Scripture, pertinent historical documents from the Church's rich heritage, and contemporary authors, class members explore the pivotal subject of the person and work of Jesus Christ.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

## **ST 765 The Doctrine of the Church**

Using biblical and theological resources, this course seeks to strengthen the student's commitment to and service in the local church. Of particular interest are contemporary expressions of Church, including the emerging church and the missional church, the attributes and marks of the Church, the priesthood of all believers, the relationship of preaching and the sacraments, the Church as Christian community, and the legitimate role of Church polity.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

## **ST 780 Apologetics and World Religions**

Students will identify commonly encountered classical, modern, and postmodern challenges to the Christian faith, including non-Christian religions, secularism, and the new atheism; evaluate the classical and contemporary efforts to defend the Christian faith against these challenges; and develop strategies for setting forth Christianity's truth claims in a world that is increasingly diverse and religiously pluralistic.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

## **ST 782 Cultural Apologetics in Contemporary Society**

Cultural apologetics seeks to demonstrate that Christianity is not only reasonable, but desirable and beautiful. This course examines the present culture-shaping institutions (the university, the arts, business, and government) to discern how people perceive, think, and feel in order to develop an apologetic that demonstrates how the gospel provides a better plausibility structure. This plausibility structure is one that engages our whole being: intellect, will, and emotions.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

## **ST 785 Evidences**

Students seek to develop a biblical world and life view in contrast to that underlying unbelieving thought and culture. This course surveys many of the critical challenges that have been advanced against the Christian faith. Biblical, historical, archaeological, and scientific evidence is used to answer the critics and demonstrate the reliability and accuracy of Scripture.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

### **ST 790 Advanced Apologetics and World Religions**

Students will pursue advanced readings in classical, modern, and postmodern challenges to the Christian faith, including secularism, scientism, the new atheism, and non-Christian religions. Students will select a significant challenge to the Christian faith, evaluate a key classical or contemporary effort to defend the Christian faith against that challenge, and produce a major research project that demonstrates the student's mature reflections on how to defend the Christian faith against that challenge.

*Prerequisites: Students should complete ST 780 Apologetics and World Religions prior to taking this course.*

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **ST 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of systematic theology under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **ST 795 Current Issues in Systematic Theology**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Theology Department. Students explore current issues in the field of philosophical theology and/or systematic theology. Theological issues and required reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. One to three hours.*

## **HISTORICAL THEOLOGY COURSES**

### **HT 560 Reformed Spirituality**

This course examines the biblical foundations, history, and theology of Reformed spirituality (also called the doctrine of the Christian life, or sanctification). Students read spiritual classics such as Calvin's *Golden Booklet of the Christian Life*, Richard Baxter's *Reformed Pastor*, the *Heidelberg Catechism*, and others. Students also consider contributions from other Christian traditions such as the holiness movement and the charismatic renewal, as well as from the history of Christian thinking about the contemplative life.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **HT 705 The Apologetics of the Early Church Fathers**

This course examines the history and writings of the early Church fathers who made *apologia* (defense) of the Christian faith during the eras of Roman persecution. Special attention will be given to the lives and writings of notable apologists, including Justin Martyr, Irenaeus of Lyons, Ambrose of Milan, and Hilary of Poitiers. Apologetic applications will be made to our contemporary post-Christendom cultural context.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **HT 712 Christian Thought and Modern Science**

This course focuses on the interaction between scientific development and Christian thought from the time of Copernicus to the present. Special attention is given to the ways developments in various scientific disciplines have affected philosophical thought, the perception of biblical authority, the practice of biblical interpretation, as well as the structure and content of Christian theology.

*Elective. Three hours.*



### **HT 718 Creeds and Confessions**

The creeds of the early Church as well as Reformation and modern confessions provide windows through which this course examines the development of vital doctrines in their historical and theological contexts.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

### **HT 740 John Calvin**

Recognizing the enduring importance of John Calvin's life and thought for the whole Christian Church but especially the Reformed tradition, this course concentrates on the setting in which he worked, the issues he faced, and the theological insights he attained, by the grace of God. A premium is placed on reading Calvin's own works and probing the deeper levels of his theology.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

### **HT 764 B. B. Warfield**

This course explores the writings and legacy of the American theologian Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield (1851–1921). Students will interact with Warfield's books, essays, and published sermons, while investigating the secondary literature on Warfield and Old Princeton theology. Warfield's relevance for pastoral ministry today will be of special concern.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

### **HT 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of historical theology under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.  
*Elective. Three hours.*

### **HT 795 Current Issues in Historical Theology**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Theology Department. Students explore current issues in the field of historical theology. Theological issues and required reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.  
*Elective. One to three hours.*

## **CHURCH HISTORY COURSES**

### **CH 501 Early and Medieval Church History**

This survey course traces the development of the Christian Church, from the end of the apostolic period to the division between East and West, and the development of the western church up to the 15<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance. Students examine the changing relation between Church and empire, the development of Christian doctrine, the rise of the papacy, and the variety of patterns of Christian spirituality.  
*Required for MDiv and MATS students. Three hours.*

### **CH 502 Reformation and Modern Church History**

This survey course covers the historical, spiritual, and institutional development of western Christianity from the Renaissance to the modern era. Students examine the Protestant reformers, the Counter Reformation, the Enlightenment, Pietism, and the development of Evangelicalism.  
*Prerequisites: Students should complete CH 501 Early and Medieval Church History prior to taking this course. Required for MDiv and MATS students. Three hours.*

## **CH 551 Survey of Church History**

This course surveys the history of the Christian Church from its origins to the present time. Within the broad sweep of the four main periods of the Church [early (50-600), medieval (600-1500), Reformation (1500-1650), and modern (1650-present)], the course will consider key persons, dates, developments, movements, and theological concepts.

*Required for MAPM students. MDiv and MATS students should not take this course. Three hours.*

## **CH 710 Great Figures in Church History**

This course examines the lives of figures who have influenced the life and ministry of the Christian Church during the past 20 centuries. Students consider the important issues confronted by Christians in the past which are still faced in the Church today. Particular attention is given to ministry and pastoral aspects from the lives of prominent past Christians. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **CH 720 The Apostolic Fathers**

This course will explore the Christian theologians and leaders of the first and second centuries after the time of Christ and his first apostles. Their historical setting, biographical backgrounds, and writings will be studied. Special emphasis will be given to their intellectual and spiritual contributions and relevance to the Christian Church today. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **CH 740 Luther and the German Reformation**

This course examines the Reformation led by Martin Luther from the perspective of its theological, social, political, and ecclesiastical roots. Students also study those people and groups within Luther's circle (including Melancthon, Karlstadt, Zwingli, and the Anabaptists) who shaped or condemned his vision for reformation. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **CH 745 John Knox and the Scottish Reformation**

Students examine the early Protestant martyrs, the life, ministry, and theology of John Knox, Mary Queen of Scots, and Andrew Melville. Particular attention is given to the Reformation Parliament of 1560, the Scots Confession, and the 1st and 2nd Book of Discipline.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **CH 750 The English Reformation and Puritanism**

This course provides students with the opportunity to examine the dramatic changes in the English church through the Tudor and Stuart monarchies. Students focus on the causal factors and history of the English Reformation, the origin of Puritanism, and the struggle between the Anglican Church and Puritans over governance, worship, and theology.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **CH 753 The History of the English Bible Translation**

The course explores the history and theological evolution from the Latin Vulgate to the English translations of the Bible from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Special attention is given to the Wycliffe Bible, Tyndale Bible, Coverdale Bible, Geneva Bible, King James Version, and modern translations.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **CH 760 The History of Christianity in America**

In this course students study American religious traditions from colonial times to the present. The stress is on the historical development of the general religious motifs and particular denominational expressions of American religious development.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **CH 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of Church history under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **CH 795 Current Issues in Church History**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Theology Department. Students explore current issues in the field of Church history. Topics to be studied and required reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade. *Elective. One to three hours.*

## **ETHICS COURSES**

### **ET 711 Christian Ethics**

This course examines the nature and principles of Christian ethics and the application of these principles to current social issues. Emphasis is given to the study of biblical morality. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **ET 720 Church and World**

This course examines the Church's relationship to the world. Various models articulated over the last century by Protestant theologians are discussed in light of contemporary theological critiques. Special attention is given to the North American context and to challenges and temptations churches are facing today in their attempt to relate to the world. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **ET 750 Medical Ethics**

This course gives an introduction to approaches to medical ethics, reviews the history of medical ethics, and examines the contemporary medical ethical issues from pre-birth to the end of life, the financial issues of bioethics, and systems of delivering medical care. The emphasis is on the personhood of the patient in terms of the image of God and the derived sacredness of human life. This course places particular focus on current issues such as the human genome project, reproductive issues, and physician-assisted killing.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **ET 755 Bioethics**

This course examines the nature and principles of ethics with an emphasis on Christian norms and applies these principles to current issues in biology and genetics. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **ET 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of ethics under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **ET 795 Current Issues in Ethics**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Theology Department. Students explore current issues in the field of ethics. Topics to be studied and required reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. One to three hours.*

## MISSIONS/CONTEXTUALIZATION COURSES

### **MS 711 Introduction to World Christianity**

This course considers God's love for the world as revealed in Jesus Christ. Students examine what it means to be world Christians – sharing God's concern for the world, being aware of Christians and Christianity in other regions, and helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **MS 725 Contextual Theology**

This course focuses on the relation between culture and the Christian faith, as that relation is expressed in worldwide Christianity. Students examine the influences of culture on biblical interpretation, theological formulation, and Christian practice. Special emphasis is placed on what it means to be both biblical and culturally appropriate in a world of widely diverging perspectives.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **MS 751 World Religions**

The encounter of Christianity and contemporary world religions is the focus of this course. Readings and research papers are considered in seminar sessions.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **MS 755 Islam in the West: A Missiological Perspective**

This course offers an overview of Islam, including its founding, history, beliefs and practices, growth in America, and its development and impact as a sociopolitical and religious movement in the world today. Emphasis is placed on the rapid and recent growth of Islam in the West and the implications this has for Christianity in America. Apologetic and evangelistic methodologies are presented, and students are challenged to formulate their own biblical responses to Islam in America.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **MS 785 Globalization in Theological Education**

This course is designed to deepen global insights and extend ministry through exposure to a variety of cross-cultural experiences, primarily in the Third World. Students spend part of the course in another country engaged in a variety of ministries while listening and learning. Students fulfill specific assignments designed by a faculty advisor, including readings from and/or about the country that the student visits.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **MS 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of missions or contextualization under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **MS 795 Current Issues in Missions**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Theology Department. Students explore current issues in the field of missions or contextualization. Topics to be studied and required reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. One to three hours.*

## MINISTRY DEPARTMENT COURSES

*Professors – Nelson, Saracut*

- WP Worship and Preaching Courses
- PM Practical Ministry Courses
- SM Sacred Music Courses
- CE Christian Education Courses
- CO Christian Counseling Courses

### WORSHIP AND PREACHING COURSES

#### **WP 550 Basic Preaching (Homiletics I)**

In this introductory course for preparation and delivery of expository biblical sermons, students draw on their work in exegesis, history, and systematic theology. Students are instructed in a classical expository model, a model which encourages the preacher to ask questions of the biblical text and prayerfully respond with movements that unveil the divine mind of God to the condition of humanity. The sermon becomes a necessary pastoral exercise in exegesis of both text and context.

*Prerequisites:* Students should satisfy the Bible competence requirement and complete BI 502 *Principles of Exegesis* before taking this course. Required for MDiv students; elective for others. Three hours.

#### **WP 551 Christian Worship**

This course is a study of the history, theology, form, and content of Christian worship. Emphasis is placed upon the development and practice of worship in the Protestant tradition. Opportunities are given for practical experience in planning and conducting of services, which include the Lord's Supper, baptism, weddings, funerals, and other elements of the worship of the Church.

*Required for MDiv students. Three hours.*

#### **WP 753 Preaching Christ from the Old Testament**

This multidisciplinary course deepens the student's ability to use the Old Testament as a foundational and indispensable resource for faithful Gospel preaching and ministry. Students learn methods to overcome potential obstacles to delivering Old Testament sermons in each portion and type of the OT, gaining contextual, covenantal, and whole canon competences. Students improve their interpretive skills as well as gain practical experience in their ability to accurately and ministerially preach First Covenant texts to the New Covenant people of God.

*Prerequisites:* OT 501, OT 502, and WP 550. The ability to work with the Hebrew and Greek texts is optimal but not required. Elective. Three hours.

#### **WP 770 Advanced Preaching Practicum (Homiletics II)**

Following on WP 550 Basic Preaching, this course equips students through praxis and workshop, and focuses more intensely upon sermon delivery. Students will prepare and deliver sermons from the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and the Gospels. While exploring ways to communicate the truth of Christ, the course focuses on the advanced use of the expository model.

*Prerequisite:* WP 550 Basic Preaching. Elective. Three hours.

#### **WP 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of worship and/or preaching under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **WP 795 Current Issues in Worship/Preaching**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Ministry Department. Students explore current issues in the field of worship or preaching. Topics to be studied and reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade. *Elective. One to three hours.*

## **PRACTICAL MINISTRY COURSES**

### **PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation**

This course introduces students to God's great purpose for the world and our calling to serve that purpose in discipleship for the Church, family, and community. Emphasis is placed upon growing in the grace of God and discerning one's gifts and calling within the service of God. Additionally, the course will address the foundations of theological research and writing, providing training in the *ETS Style Manual*.

*All master's-level students must complete this course in one of their first three semesters of enrollment. Three hours.*

### **PM 507 Evangelism**

This course is a study of the nature and practice of evangelism in the Christian Church. Attention is given to the biblical basis of evangelism, the theology and historical development of evangelism, spiritual development principles in evangelism, and methods of developing evangelism as a part of the total mission of the congregation.

*Required for MDiv students. Three hours.*

### **PM 570 Ministry Throughout the Life Cycle**

Students will develop a biblical understanding of biological, social, and psychological factors that influence the development of personality throughout the lifespan and evaluate various theories of personal development, including moral, faith, and sexual development. Students will apply these to develop appropriate strategies for ministries to persons at different stages of the life cycle.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **PM 604 Christian Leadership and Church Administration**

This course is a study of Christian leadership as it relates to the Christian Church. Emphasis is placed upon organizational dynamics, conflict management, spiritual formation, leadership skills, and management practices. Assessment of structures and individuals, problem-solving, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit are formulated in the context of ecclesiastical life cycles and polity.

*Required for MDiv students. Three hours.*

### **PM 608 Pastoral Care and Counseling**

This course is an introduction to pastoral care and counseling with a focus on the problems usually experienced by church leaders in the local congregation (death, aging, grief, sickness, family tensions, etc.). A variety of theories and methods are examined. Goals of the course include personal growth and the development of counseling skills.

*Required for MDiv students. Three hours.*

### **PM 610 Introduction to Chaplaincy**

This course is an introduction to the biblical-theological foundations of chaplain ministry and its history, key concepts, and unique place as a distinctive calling within the larger vocation of the minister of Word and sacrament. Students analyze the unique contexts and callings of eight different chaplaincy sectors including corporate, military, healthcare, public safety, institutional, sports, educational, and crisis/disaster relief.

*Required for MDiv-Chaplaincy track and for MAPM-Sports Ministry; elective for all other students. Three hours.*

## **PM 705 Supervised Ministry**

This course offers students the opportunity to work in a structured ministry setting with an approved supervisor. The focus of the learning centers on the student's own learning goals which the student designs with emphasis on spiritual formation, theology, and ministry practice. The classroom sessions help the student integrate theory and practice of ministry by the use of case studies, group interaction, and peer feedback.

*The instructor must approve the field supervisor and ministry setting prior to registration. The ministry setting must be in a church or religious agency with clearly assigned ministry functions that will provide knowledge and mastery of skills consistent with the focus of the student's ministry electives and ten hours per week of direct ministry experience for thirteen weeks (130 hours), with a minimum of one hour per week of field supervision.*

*Prerequisites: PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation and at least 24 hours of coursework. PM 774 Clinical Pastoral Education I may be substituted for PM 705. Required for MDiv and MAPM students. Three hours.*

## **PM 715 Family Ministries**

The Church's ministry and potential for ministry to families, for families, with families, and by families are all considered in this practical course. A particular focus is on ways the local church can use its existing programs to strengthen and support families, especially in the important task of sharing the faith with children and young people. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 720 Children and the Church**

The Church's ministry and potential for ministry with children, for children and by children are all considered in this practical course. Models of education programs such as Vacation Bible School, Children's Church, and Children's Clubs are examined, together with resources and plans for implementation. The issue of children and worship is a particular focus, as is helping children with questions about faith issues. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 725 Youth Ministry**

The course considers theories of adolescence, the history of youth work in the Church, contemporary youth experience, and models of programs and patterns which offer possibilities for the Church in its youth ministry. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 730 University Ministries**

Designed with a local church's relationship to students and the university campus in mind, this course examines various strategies for building and directing a campus ministry. Special attention is given to several philosophies of campus ministry active in contemporary culture, the mindset of current university-age students, and the ideologies that prevail in university classrooms. The goal is to aid pastors and their congregations in the practice of evangelism and discipleship and to understand students in ministering the Gospel effectively to them through strategic planning. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 733 Effective Ministry with Adults**

This course is designed for anyone who ministers with adults in any ministry setting but especially for those in pastoral ministry. Principles of adult development, learning, and teaching along with a focused study of adult spiritual development will be studied for their use as resources to carry out more effective ministry with Christian adults. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 735 Ministry with Older Adults**

This course helps students understand the life tasks, problems, challenges, life stages, and issues of older adults who comprise more than half of the average congregation. Students are guided through the world of older adults and engage strategies for local church ministry with and by older adults. Particular attention is given to the pastor's role in ministry with older adults. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 740 Resilience & Navigating Conflict in Ministry**

This course explores how pastors and ministry leaders can cultivate resilience in the face of the persistent challenges and inevitable conflicts in ministry. Participants will learn how to engage such challenges and conflicts as opportunities for personal growth as leaders and for significant advancement of the Kingdom of God in their church or ministry, using an array of constructive methods and drawing on numerous examples from outstanding leaders in Scripture and Church history. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 742 Developing the Missional Church**

This course is an analysis of the biblical theme of mission and its significance for the development of a missional ecclesiology of ministry. Students are presented with a missional church model of ministry that is derived from a collaborative study of both Testaments as well as pertinent missional church studies. Implications of the missional church model for 21<sup>st</sup> century Church ministry in a variety of contexts are considered. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 745 Church Planting and Renewal**

This course introduces students to challenges and strategies involved in church planting and church renewal, and considers biblical, spiritual, structural, and sociological factors that impact healthy church development. Students think critically about a typical life cycle of a congregation and the relationship of renewal to that life cycle. In addition, students develop skills in church planting and renewal. *This course may be taken to meet the Missions/Contextualization course requirement. Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 763 Small Church Dynamics**

This course is a study of the peculiarities of ministry and leadership in a small church. The course provides the opportunity for students to integrate biblical research on ministry in small settings and rural sociology, in an attempt to develop contextually appropriate models of ministry in selected small churches. The need to make the small church effective but not necessarily larger is emphasized. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 774/775 Clinical Pastoral Education I / II**

This course provides the opportunity for ministry to be performed in an institutional setting, such as a hospital or correctional facility. The student's work is conducted under the supervision of an accredited clinical supervisor. Enrollment is contingent upon student's acceptance by an accredited Clinical Pastoral Education Center. To receive seminary credit for CPE, students must make arrangements through the Seminary Registrar prior to enrolling in a CPE training site.

*PM 774 may be taken in lieu of PM 705 Supervised Ministry. PM 775 counts as a Ministry elective. Students receive a total of six hours of credit for the two units of CPE, or three hours for one unit. A unit of CPE involves 400 hours of clinical work in an approved institutional setting. Elective.*

## **PM 783 Women's Studies**

This course examines the place and roles of women in the Church throughout its history, a comparative analysis of traditional and feminist theologies, and issues presently raised by and about women in the Church. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 786 The African American Church**

Students will describe the development of the African American church from its beginnings in North America; explain the significance of major figures, movements, events, and denominations; and describe the crucial role of the church in shaping African American identity and culture. Students will examine and evaluate distinctive approaches of African American churches to worship, preaching, political engagement, theology, spirituality, leadership, and ministry. Finally, students will identify key challenges facing the African American church and apply insights from their study to enhance the practice of ministry. *Elective. Three hours.*



## **PM 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of ministry under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **PM 795 Current Issues in Ministry**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Ministry Department. Students explore current issues in the field of ministry. Ministry topics to be studied and reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade. *Elective. One to three hours.*

## **SM 552 Sacred Music in Worship**

This course provides an introduction to the history of biblical worship practice in both the Old and New Testaments, and worship orders and traditions from the Reformation to modern practice. The course will explore the functions of the music worship leader and the roles of hymnody, song, and music within the liturgy of Christian worship. *Elective. Three hours.*

# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COURSES**

## **CE 505 Christian Education**

This basic course in Christian Education deals with the theology and practice of educational ministry in the local church. Biblical and theological foundations for Christian education as a servant ministry for all of the local church's life and mission are examined, and these foundations are developed into models for faithful and intentional educational ministry. Particular attention is given to the responsibilities and opportunities pastors and educators undertake as servant leaders in the Church's educational tasks and ministries, and to the spiritual formation of pastors and educators.

*Required for MDiv students. Three hours.*

## **CE 551 Spiritual Formation**

This course focuses on the individual student's own spiritual formation or growth in grace through Bible study, prayer, personal discipline, the reading of devotional classics, and small group sharing. A portion of each class session is devoted to "spiritual formation" groups which model similar groups in the local church. An additional component of this course focuses on theological critiques of human development theories as they impact spiritual formation. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **CE 713 Teaching the Bible**

This course relates biblical and educational content in a participatory teaching situation. Students utilize various models of teaching, integrating instruction with interpretation of biblical passages. Bible teaching with groups of children, youth, or adults is a particular emphasis of this course.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **CE 750 Promoting Spiritual Growth**

Students are enabled to acquire a basic understanding of the dynamics of spiritual formation so that they can more effectively promote the spiritual well-being of those under their spiritual care. The course examines the biblical teaching on spiritual formation, as well as developmental models that inform one's understanding of the spiritual development process. Students are encouraged to think critically about how to best facilitate spiritual formation in the Christian home, the Christian school, and through the educational ministries of the Church. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **CE 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of Christian education under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

## **CE 795 Current Issues in Christian Education**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Ministry Department. Students explore current issues in the field of Christian education. Topics to be studied and reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. One to three hours.*

## **PASTORAL COUNSELING COURSES**

### **CO 575 Premarital Counseling**

The student is exposed to a variety of components essential for the preparation of the couple for marriage. The student gains familiarity with inventories, personal profiles, family-of-origin instruments, and standardized tests. Church marriage policy, a marriage coordinator's program, group preparation, the writing of a marriage ceremony, and marriage etiquette are explored.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **CO 580 Family and Marriage Counseling**

A study focusing on the concerns of the family and its patterns of communication, this course examines counseling approaches of both a preventive and restorative nature. Practice of counseling skills within the classroom setting is also encouraged.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **CO 791 Independent Study**

The student may do individual work in some area of counseling under the supervision of a department member. This course must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary and filed in the Registrar's office. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **CO 795 Current Issues in Counseling**

This is a reading course conducted under the guidance of the Ministry Department. Students explore current issues in the field of counseling. Topics to be studied and reading assignments will be determined by a department member in consultation with the student. Grading is to be Pass/Fail unless the course is approved by the Seminary faculty for a letter grade.

*Elective. One to three hours.*

## DENOMINATIONAL COURSES

- BP Baptist Studies
- EP Evangelical Presbyterian Church Studies
- ME AME Church Studies
- PS Presbyterian Studies

### **BP 501 Baptist History, Doctrine, and Polity**

This course deals with the distinctive theological emphases of the Baptist church in the context of its historical development. In addition, Baptist government, worship, and discipline are considered.  
*Recommended for Baptist students. Three hours.*

### **EP 501 Evangelical Presbyterian Church History and Polity**

This course surveys the history of American Presbyterianism, with special attention to the story of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, its origins, progress, and contributions to the Presbyterian family of churches. The polity section includes close examination of the EPC Book of Order at the General Assembly level, Presbyteries, and local church Sessions.  
*Recommended for EPC MDiv students. Elective. Three hours.*

### **ME 501 AME History and Polity**

This course introduces students to the history of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the religious, political, social, and economic forces that formed and structured the Church. It will introduce students to the Articles of Religion and give an in-depth knowledge of the organizational structure of the AME Church, including the conferences, boards, and auxiliaries.  
*Recommended for AME MDiv students. Elective. Three hours.*

### **ME 502 AME Doctrine**

This course provides an in-depth study of the doctrinal beliefs of the African Methodist Episcopal Church as contained in the Apostles' Creed and the Twenty-Five Articles of Religion.  
*Recommended for AME MDiv students. Elective. Three hours.*

### **ME 503 Preaching in the African American Church**

This is an introductory course on the planning, construction, and delivery of biblical sermons. Emphasis is placed upon the step-by-step development of sermons which relate the ancient witness of the biblical text to concrete and contemporary human situations and concern, particularly within the African American church. Opportunity is given for practical experience in the writing and delivery of sermons.  
*Prerequisites: Students should satisfy the Bible competence requirement and complete BI 502 Principles of Exegesis before taking this course. Course may be taken in lieu of WP 550 or in addition to WP 550. Elective. Three hours.*

### **PS 501 Presbyterian Church History and Polity**

This course provides an introduction to the history and polity of selected Presbyterian denominations, including the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church in America. Students explore the governing structures, principles, and procedures for Church discipline, and forms of worship of these Presbyterian denominations in order to prepare for a variety of ordained and non-ordained ministries within them.  
*Recommended for ARP, PCA, and EPC MDiv students; open to others. Three hours.*

## MATS COURSES

### MA 700 Capstone Project

Students will complete a summative project that demonstrates integration of learning from the MATS program. The project may take the form of a thesis, a substantial paper, an oral or written examination, or some other project approved by the program director and an appropriate faculty member.

*Elective for all MATS students. Three hours.*

### MA 701 MATS Thesis

Working with a faculty advisor, the student completes a major research project utilizing the skills and knowledge he/she has gained in the course of the program. This project culminates in a thesis of 12,000-15,000 words. *Elective for MATS students. Three hours.*

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY (ThM) COURSES

TH ThM Required Courses

BI General Bible Courses

OT Old Testament Courses

NT New Testament Courses

ST Systematic Theology Courses

HT Historical Theology Courses

CH Church History Courses

## REQUIRED COURSES

### TH 081 Continuation of the ThM Program

This course indicates a continuing relationship to the ThM program when a student is not otherwise taking a course.

*ThM students must register for Continuation in the fall and spring semesters, but not the summer. No credit.*

### TH 086 Continuation of the ThM Thesis

This course indicates that a student is continuing work on the thesis beyond two semesters.

*ThM students must register for Continuation in the fall and spring semesters, but not the summer. No credit.*

### TH 093/095 Language Competence

Each ThM student must demonstrate reading competence in two languages demonstrably related to his/her research field. The languages are to be chosen in consultation with the ThM director early in one's course of study, and the ThM director stipulates how the student is to demonstrate his/her competence. *Required. No credit.*

### TH 090 Research Methodologies – **for students who started before Summer 2024**

This non-credit seminar provides advanced guidance on the tasks of choosing and narrowing a research topic, conducting theological research, using technology in research, analyzing one's findings and articulating their significance, and organizing and writing academic-level theological papers or theses.

*Required for first year ThM students. Open to others. No credit.*

### TH 800 Becoming a Christian Scholar – **for students starting Summer 2024**

This course provides advanced guidance on the tasks of choosing a research topic, conducting theological research, using technology in research, analyzing and articulating one's findings, and writing academic-level theological papers or theses. Student research and writing is approached from a Christian perspective. Students are also given an overview of the ThM program.

*Required in one of the first 2 semesters. Two hours.*

## **TH 097 ThM Comprehensive Examination – for students who started before Summer 2024**

Each ThM student must normally pass an oral examination before an examination committee. In some cases, the ThM director may allow a written examination in lieu of an oral one.

*Required. No credit.*

## **TH 806 Comprehensive Exam – for students starting Summer 2024**

Students must pass a comprehensive examination in their area of concentration before registering for TH 808/809 ThM Thesis. Students work with the ThM program director to propose three areas to prepare for the exam. For systematic and historical theology students, these areas will normally be a person, a doctrine, and a time period. For Old and New Testament students, these areas will normally be a book of the Bible, a biblical- exegetical issue or major interpretive figure, and a biblical-theological issue. Students will submit a bibliography to the ThM program director for approval, consisting of 1,000 pages for each of the three areas. *Required. One hour.*

## **AREA SEMINARS**

### **BI 801 Seminar in Biblical Studies**

In a seminar format, students will examine selected topics and/or methodologies in Old or New Testament studies, biblical theology, or hermeneutics (the specific focus of the seminar will change from year to year). Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, conduct independent research, and present their findings in both papers and oral presentations.

*Required for ThM students majoring in biblical studies (focusing on Old Testament or New Testament); elective for other ThM students. DMin students may take this course as a Norms elective. Three hours.*

### **ST 801 Seminar in Theological/Historical Studies**

In a seminar format, students will investigate a specific topic in the realm of systematic theology or period in the history of the Church. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, conduct independent research, and present their findings in both papers and oral presentations.

*Required for ThM students majoring in theological/ historical studies (focusing on systematic theology, historical theology, or Church history); elective for other ThM students. DMin students may take this course as a Norms elective. Three hours.*

### **ST 802 Seminar in Contextual Theology**

This course focuses on the relation between culture and the Christian faith in a post-Christendom, post-Enlightenment, 21<sup>st</sup> century North American context. Students reflect on the nexus between theology and ministry in light of their own theological tradition, in conversation with a wide range of theological perspectives. Students read and discuss significant theological thinkers and their understanding of Church and ministry. The course culminates with a final Theology of Ministry paper in which students describe their own theological perspective on ministry in the Church today.

*May be taken as Area Seminar for ThM students majoring in theological/ historical studies (focusing on systematic theology, historical theology, or Church history) in lieu of ST801; elective for other ThM students. DMin students may take this course as a Norms elective. Three hours.*

## **THM ELECTIVES**

ThM students may choose their elective courses from the following options. The student should work with the ThM director to choose the most suitable electives:

- An Area Seminar that is not required for the student's concentration;
- 700 or 800-level electives, with modification of academic requirements, as needed;
- DMin Norms courses, as appropriate; or
- Directed or independent studies

## TH 808/809 ThM Thesis

Working with a faculty advisor, each student completes a major research project utilizing the skills, knowledge, and languages he/she has gained in the course of the program. This project culminates in a thesis of 25,000-35,000 words. The student normally defends the thesis orally before a thesis defense committee. *Required. Six hours.*

## TH 891 Independent Study

A student may undertake an independent study in an area of the ThM curriculum (Old Testament, New Testament, systematic theology, historical theology, Church history). The request is to be made in writing to the Postgraduate Committee and approved by the Committee before the professor is assigned to oversee the work. The Dean assigns a professor according to faculty availability. The student and the professor together then work out the particulars of the study and file a study plan (course syllabus) with the Registrar's office. *Elective. Three hours.*

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (DMin) COURSES

- DR DMin Required Courses
- DN Norms Courses
- DF Functions Courses
- DC Contexts Courses

## REQUIRED COURSES

### DR 010 Prospectus Writing Seminar – for students who started before Summer 2024

Erskine Seminary offers this seminar as a courtesy to our DMin students in preparation for writing their DMin Prospectus. The seminar teaches the student to write an acceptable DMin Prospectus which is the requirement for DR 090. *Recommended. Offered in spring and fall. No credit.*

### DR 090 Candidacy – for students who started before Summer 2024

The candidacy step in the DMin program entails satisfactory completion of a DMin Prospectus that outlines in detail the proposed project/study, which the student will do as the culmination of the DMin program. This Prospectus must be approved by both the student's project/dissertation advisor and a faculty reviewer. Specific requirements for the Prospectus are given in the DMin Manual. *Required. No credit.*

### DR 900 Advanced Research & Writing for Ministry – for students starting Summer 2024

This course provides advanced guidance on the task of writing professional papers that integrate theological reflection with ministry experience. Attention is given to the process of choosing a theological/ministerial topic, conducting research, using technology in research, analyzing and articulating one's findings, and writing advanced papers. Student research and writing is approached from a Christian perspective. Students are also given an overview of the DMin program. *Required in one of the first two semesters. Two hours.*

### DR 940 Candidacy – for students starting Summer 2024

Candidacy entails satisfactory completion of a DMin prospectus that outlines in detail the proposed project/dissertation, which students will write as the culmination of the DMin program. To equip students to begin the prospectus, they will attend a day-long prospectus writing seminar. The prospectus must be approved by both the project/dissertation advisor and a faculty reviewer. *Required. One hour.*

## **DR 091 Continuation of the DMin Program**

This course indicates a continuing relationship to the DMin program when a student is not otherwise taking a course at Erskine Seminary or at a Carolina Theological Consortium (CTC) member school. *No credit.*

## **DR 095 Continuation of the DMin Project/Dissertation**

This course indicates that a student is continuing work on the project/dissertation beyond three semesters. *No credit.*

## **DR 901 Theological Foundations for Ministry**

This seminar is designed to help students clarify and articulate a theology of ministry in light of their own theological tradition, in conversation with a wide range of theological perspectives. Students read and discuss significant theological thinkers on the doctrine of the Church and its ministry. The course culminates with a final Theology of Ministry paper, in which students describe their own theological perspective on ministry. *Required. Three hours.*

## **DR 902 Ministry in Context**

In this seminar, students examine the practice of ministry through the Church in the world, in light of the theological foundations of ministry. Special emphasis is given to the careful study of one's ministry context, planning and implementing ministry, conducting research in ministry, and evaluating effectiveness in ministry. *Required. Three hours.*

## **DR 941, 942, 943 DMin Project/Dissertation**

The climax of the DMin program, this component is worked out between a candidate and his/her project/dissertation advisor but requires separate registration for each semester of its continuance. *Prerequisite: Candidates may not register for DR 941, 942 or 943 until their Prospectus has been approved by the advisor and reviewer, as verified by the DMin director. Required. Three hours for each of the first two semesters; no credit for the third semester.*

## **NORMS COURSES**

Please note that in addition to the courses listed in this section, DMin students may take the following ThM seminars as Norms electives:

BI 801 Seminar in Biblical Studies

ST 801 Seminar in Theological/Historical Studies

ST 802 Seminar in Contextual Theology

## **DN 910 The Psalms as Christian Prayer**

This course begins with a study of the biblical Psalms as they were used in the worship of Israel. It looks at the way the psalms were used in the worship of the New Testament Church and traces this development through the ancient Church and into the Middle Ages. Particular attention is given to the revival of psalmody at the time of the Protestant Reformation and the development of the various Protestant Psalters through the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries until the present.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **DN 913 “Blessed Is the Man” – The Book of Psalms**

This course introduces the skill set needed to competently and pastorally use the Psalms as a crucial resource in Gospel ministry. Care and attention will be given to: the structure and movement of the Psalms; major themes and motifs; the theology of the Psalms; genre skills needed in interpreting and applying each type of Psalm; and preaching the Psalms. Special attention will be given to the intertextual use of Psalms in the New Testament, Christological and whole canon interpretation of the Psalms in a New Covenant context. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DN 925 The Gospel of Mark and Contemporary Discipleship**

This course is a study of Mark with particular emphasis on the theme of discipleship. Students examine the literature on Mark and its implications for discipleship in the Church today. Students devise their own theology of Christian discipleship. Emphasis is given to creative ways of using Mark to teach discipleship in the Church. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DN 929 Perspectives on the Kingdom of God**

In this course students examine Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom interpreted in the light of the Old Testament and intertestamental Judaism, and in the context of 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine. Students then analyze contemporary understandings of the Kingdom prevalent in the Church today. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DN 932 The Fourth Gospel**

This course surveys the background, contents, and unique features of the Gospel of John, and gives attention to the history of interpretation of John. Students assess the value of John’s approach in light of the contemporary challenge of bearing witness to Jesus’ coming. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DN 933 Christian Life and Ministry in Luke-Acts**

This course will examine how Christian life and ministry are presented in Luke and Acts when viewed as two works sharing common themes, purpose, and organizational structure. Special attention will be given to how Luke’s literary plan for these books achieves his stated purpose and guides us in preaching and teaching these books today. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DN 935 The Book of Acts and Church Growth**

Within the context of a careful study of the Book of Acts, this course addresses the current concern for church growth. The course covers the history of the church growth movement, the issue of defining church growth, and the use of Acts as a pattern for church growth. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DN 937 The Letter to the Romans**

This course examines the sociocultural and historical backgrounds and contemporary interpretative challenges to Romans as the basis for a detailed interpretation of the epistle. Attention is given to exploring how the theology of Romans relates to the whole of Pauline thought, how Romans informs the doctrine of salvation, and how the epistle informs pastoral practice today. Students conduct exegetical work on select passages and make application to their current ministry contexts.

*Elective (Norms). Three hours.*

### **DN 948 The Book of Revelation and Modern Apocalypticism**

This course begins with a survey of the apocalyptic movement in Judaism and then gives major attention to the interpretation of the Book of Revelation in its 1<sup>st</sup> century setting. Students do exegetical work on representative passages and examine modern secular forms of apocalyptic thought in light of the teachings of the Book of Revelation. *Elective. Three hours.*



## **DN 944 The Pastoral Letters and Pastoral Practice**

This course examines the Pastoral Letters of 1–2 Timothy and Titus, including their authorship, date, purposes, and historical circumstances. Attention is given to exploring how the Pastoral Letters inform the doctrine and practice of the Church today, especially in regard to elders, deacons, and women in ministry. Students develop their own view of ecclesiology broadly and Church office particularly.

*Elective (Norms). Three hours.*

## **DN 949 Scripture Interpretating Scripture**

This course focuses on how biblical authors appropriated the Old Testament in their writings, whether by direct quotation or more indirectly by allusion. A select Old Testament book will be used to demonstrate the biblical authors' interpretative methods. This course considers the relevance of how the biblical authors used Scripture for interpreting, applying, and preaching the Bible today. *Elective (Norms). Three hours.*

## **DN 950 Leadership Theory and Practice**

This advanced leadership course explores the biblical and theological foundations of leadership portrayed in the book of Nehemiah. Students examine current literature on leadership to develop their own philosophy and practice of organizational and strategic leadership. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 951 Christian Leadership**

This course explores the biblical and theological basis for Christian leadership. The principal aspects of Christian leadership – character, competency, and change – are examined in relationship to one another and to their practice in the Church and in society. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 953 Dynamics of Biblical Counseling**

In a seminar format, this course examines the use of the Bible in counseling, focusing particularly on questions of methodology. Students explore the application of Scripture to the counseling problems that arise in pastoral ministry and develop a theology of counseling. Assigned readings, response papers, and seminar presentations are required. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 955 The Theology of the Holy Spirit and the Worship of the Church**

It is in the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, the Church, the ministry, and the Word, prayer, and sacraments that the study of worship fits into Christian theology. This course is by intention systematic, emphasizing the thoughts of major Reformed theologians and the historic creeds and confessional documents of the Church. A central theme of the course is that worship is an elaboration of faith in the triune God and his activity in the Church through his Spirit. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 956 Theology of Worship in Contemporary Discussion**

This course is a comparative study of the different theologies of worship most frequently advanced today. The theologies of worship associated with the Second Vatican Council, high church Anglicanism, the contemporary Christian worship movement, the Charismatic movement, and the church growth movement are discussed and critiqued in light of Scripture and a Reformed theology of worship. This course is intended for working pastors and more advanced students. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 958 Church and Sacraments**

This course examines foundational issues, such as the nature and centrality of the sacraments, the priesthood of the believer, and the mission of the Church in the modern world. Students explore historical and contemporary attributes and marks of the Church. Special attention is given to the biblical foundations of the Church in light of sociological reflections and theological constructs. Each student will produce a personal theology of Church and sacrament, making use of biblical, confessional, and ecclesial resources. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 967 The Legacy of John Calvin**

John Calvin's work in Geneva, beginning in 1536 and ending with his death in 1564, has become exemplary for "the best Reformed churches." This course examines the life and theology of John Calvin as a resource for pastoral ministry today. Students read and discuss Calvin with special attention to his thought about the Church and its ministry. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 976 The Legacy of B. B. Warfield**

This course explores the writings and legacy of Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield, who taught at Princeton Seminary from 1887–1921. Students will do original research into Warfield's scholarly books, essays, and published sermons, while investigating the secondary historiography on Warfield and Old Princeton Seminary. Warfield's relevance for pastoral ministry and the life of the Church will be of special concern. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 983 The Problem of Pain**

This course addresses the intellectual questions which arise as to why and how there can be suffering if God is all-powerful and all-loving. Students explore these questions from biblical, theological, and pastoral perspectives, developing the implications for effective ministry to those who are suffering. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 985 Advanced Apologetics**

This course builds on the student's introductory study of Apologetics through targeted readings and research. Students will identify a significant historical or contemporary Christian apologist and investigate in-depth the apologist's methodology, theological framework, and significant contributions to the apologetics enterprise. Students will make use of their findings to construct a critical response to some significant contemporary challenge to the Christian faith from among the following: contemporary cults, non-Christian religions, the new atheism, secularism, or scientism. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DN 991 Independent Study in Norms (Bible or Theology)**

A candidate may undertake an independent study in Bible or theology on a topic of particular interest or importance to the candidate. The request is to be made in writing to the Postgraduate Committee and approved by the Committee before a professor is assigned to oversee the work. The Dean assigns a professor according to faculty availability. The candidate and professor together then work out the particulars of the study and file a study plan with the Registrar's office. *Elective. Three hours.*

# FUNCTIONS COURSES

## **DF 922 Renewing Your Preaching**

This course examines key movements in intellectual history in order to understand both the background and current shape of the postmodern world. Students consider key trends in contemporary homiletics and explore fresh, innovative ways to preach in the image-rich, digital age of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Elective. Three hours.*

## **DF 928 Christocentric Preaching from Moses to Malachi**

This multidisciplinary course focuses on the need for faithful OT Christocentric preaching "beginning with Moses and the prophets" (Luke 24:27). Participants will learn to interpret biblical texts in each portion of the Old Testament with genre sensitivity, paying attention to their coherent biblical, covenantal, and canonical structure, sensitive to both unity and diversity. Students will develop a vital understanding of the inseparable relationship between the two Testaments as an indispensable resource for faithful Gospel preaching and teaching.

*The ability to work with the Hebrew and Greek texts is optimal but not required. Elective. Three hours.*

### **DF 945 Preaching from Old Testament Wisdom Books**

Students will describe the contribution of Old Testament wisdom literature to the message of the Bible, evaluate its role in pulpit ministry in a postmodern context, and address challenges that it poses for Christian preaching. Students will prepare literary, exegetical, and theological analyses of the Old Testament wisdom books (Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes), with a special interest in homiletical concerns, and develop a detailed plan for preaching a series of sermons from one of these. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DF 953 Renewing Counseling Ministry**

This course provides an opportunity for participants to refresh their pastoral counseling skills by assessing their present practices and examining current pastoral counseling interventions. A biblical model of counseling that includes an understanding of how people change provides the central focus for the renewal of one's counseling ministry. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DF 958 Dealing with Conflict**

The course examines the types of conflict found in both the New Testament and ministry settings. Students examine some of the cultural, theological, ecclesiastical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, familial, and marital dimensions of conflict. Special emphasis is devoted to the concept of power, the sources of conflict, and to recognizing, responding to, and preventing destructive conflicts in biblically and personally responsible ways. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DF 961 Christian Education**

An advanced course in Christian education, the course begins with current dilemmas in Christian education and the need for biblical and theological foundations. The course surveys the theoretical roots of models of Christian education and examines how each is practiced in the Church. Attention is given to evaluation of the Christian education program of a local church. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DF 969 Older Adults and Church Ministry**

This course helps students understand the life tasks, problems, challenges, life stages, and issues of older adults who comprise more than half of the average congregation. Students study and design strategies for local church ministry with and by older adults. The pastor's role in ministry with older adults is addressed with particular interest. *Elective (Functions). Three hours.*

### **DF 978 Church Planting/Church Renewal**

This seminar course equips students with the principles and strategies needed for developing new or reclining (plateaued) and declining churches into healthy, growing, reproducing churches. Students, in hands-on ways, learn how to develop a biblical vision for ministry and core values for church development. Lectures, discussion, readings, and workshop activities allow participants to formulate vision, values, and strategies. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DF 980 Vocational Renewal in Pastoral Ministry**

This course will lead students through a study of the Pastoral Epistles as a way to think theologically and biblically about the vocation of the parish pastor. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DF 991 Independent Study in Functions**

A candidate may undertake an independent study in ministerial functions on a topic of particular interest or importance to the candidate. The request is to be made in writing to the Postgraduate Committee and approved by the Committee before a professor is assigned to oversee the work. The Dean assigns a professor according to faculty availability. The candidate and professor together then work out the particulars of the study and file a study plan with the Registrar's office. *Elective. Three hours.*

## CONTEXTS COURSES

### **DC 920 The Westminster Assembly: Then and Now**

This course examines the Westminster Assembly in its historical context, looking at both its accomplishments and its failures in the light of its stated goals in the Solemn League and Covenant. The influence of this Assembly in the history of the Church will be traced and the lessons and applications for today's Church will be explored.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **DC 941 The Changing Face of the American Church**

This course examines the Church in post-World War II American and western cultures. Students evaluate the philosophical and cultural forces that are changing the metanarratives of the West and consider how the Church can fulfill the mission of God in the world within this environment. Through daily prayer, scholarly research, careful reading of sources and summaries, and thoughtful peer-to-peer collaboration, students will design biblically and confessionally faithful ministry models to best present the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the present postmodern milieu.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **DC 945 Exploring the Missional Church**

This course analyzes the biblical theme of mission and its significance for the development of a missional ecclesiology. Students explore missional church models of ministry and consider implications of the models for 21<sup>st</sup> century Church ministry. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DC 950 Seeking the Shalom of Our Community**

This course will focus on developing a biblical understanding of God's calling for the Church to seek the well-being of its community through engaging in ministries of mercy, justice, and development as a visible representation of the gospel. It will examine practices that will enable the Church to work alongside its community to provide opportunity and resources for those in need as well as address structural injustice. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DC 955 Engaging Islam**

Students describe key elements of the history, beliefs, and practices of Islam, along with its growth in the United States and impact on the contemporary world. Students analyze the implications of the growth of Islam for Christianity in the US and abroad and evaluate and refine apologetic and evangelistic methodologies. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DC 957 Contemporary Ethical Issues**

This course probes ethical issues which Christian leaders encounter in their ministry setting and in working with other professionals. Selected current issues are examined in the light of biblical principles. *Elective. Three hours.*

### **DC 960 Cultural Apologetics in Post-Modern America**

This course examines why good arguments often fail when Christians engage the worldviews inherent in a post-modern, post-secular, post-Christian American context. Cultural Apologetics examines the present culture-shaping institutions (the university, the arts, business, and government) to discern how people perceive, think, and feel in order to develop an apologetic that demonstrates how the gospel provides a better plausibility structure, a structure that is reasonable, desirable, and beautiful. Select contemporary societal topics will be engaged using the apologetical structure developed.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **DC 962 Contextual Theology and Pastoral Practice**

This course explores the relationship between theology, culture, and Christian practice using biblical studies, confessional guidance, historic examples, and pastoral models. Students examine cultural contexts through a biblical-theological lens and make application to their ministerial contexts. Emphasis is placed on establishing the contours for a faithful gospel witness amidst the increasing challenges of cultural plurality, a reality, and the existential threats of cultural pluralism, an ideology.

*Elective (Context). Three hours.*

### **DC 975 Effective Ministry in the Small Church**

Students in this course examine the importance of the small church in Christian history and its unique characteristics. The course focuses on learning the culture of the small church. Special emphasis is given to the small church in a rural setting. Students develop a model of ministry that is appropriate in helping the small church to be more effective in its ministry.

*Elective. Three hours.*

### **DC 985 Past Christians, Contemporary Lessons**

In this course, students examine the lives of prominent men and women who have influenced the life and ministry of the Christian Church during the past 20 centuries. Students consider the important issues confronted by Christian in the past which are still faced in the Church today. Particular attention is given to the relevance and impact of these past Christians for today's Church.

*Elective (Context). Three hours.*

### **DC 991 Independent Study in Contextual Studies**

A candidate may undertake an independent study in contexts (demographics, ethical issues, culture, events) of particular interest or importance to the candidate. The request is to be made in writing to the Postgraduate Committee and approved by the Committee before a professor is assigned to oversee the work. The Dean assigns a professor according to faculty availability. The candidate and professor together then work out the particulars of the study and file a study plan with the Registrar's office.

*Elective. Three hours.*

# FINANCES

## TUITION AND FEES FOR 2022–2023

### Admission Fees

Application for Admission.....	\$35
Application for Readmission .....	\$35

### Tuition Fees

Tuition for Master’s-Level Courses .....	\$530
Tuition for ThM and DMin Courses (per semester hour) .....	\$550

### Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry Degree Fees

TH 090 Research Methodologies Seminar Fee (if started before summer 2024) .....	\$200
TH 097 Comprehensive Examination Fee (if started before summer 2024) .....	\$200
DR 010 DMin Prospectus Writing Seminar Fee (if started before summer 2024) .....	\$225
DR 090 Candidacy (if started before summer 2024) .....	\$500
Program or Thesis/Dissertation Continuation Fee (per semester/term) .....	\$200
DR 943 Project/Dissertation .....	\$750
Extension of Time to Complete Degree (per year) .....	\$1,500
Dissertation/Thesis Binding, Copyright, Electronic Storage (TREN) .....	\$85
Dissertation/Thesis Binding per copy .....	\$25

### Academic Service Fees

Transcript (per copy).....	\$10
Application for Graduation.....	\$150
Graduation Reapplication Fee .....	\$25
Diploma Upgrade to Master’s Degree.....	\$150

### Other Fees

BI 080 Bible Challenge Exam Fee .....	\$100
Audit and Continuing Education Fee (per course) .....	\$225
Administration Fee – degree/credit students (per semester/term) .....	\$100

### Campus Housing Fees (Due West Only)

Room (Fall-Spring).....	\$6,000
Board (all plans, Fall-Spring).....	\$6,450
Room Key Replacement.....	\$75
Student ID Card Replacement.....	\$20
Guestroom.....	\$85

## PAYMENT POLICY

Financial plans for paying all student bills must be finalized with the business office **before** the beginning of each new term. Prior to the beginning of each term, students will receive their award letter and will be responsible for communicating to the business office which of the following methods will be used to pay their net balance:

1. Pay net balance in full before the beginning of the term.
2. Sign-up for a payment plan. Students will sign-up for an auto-payment program that pays their net balance over 5 monthly payments using a credit card or automatic bank draw.

Note: The monthly payments will be automatically adjusted each month to incorporate any changes to the students' bills.

Payment plan involves a fee of \$35.00 per term.

3. Pay net balance with federal or private loans.

Note: Loan paperwork must be submitted before the start of the term.

Registration will not be permitted for any student who has an outstanding financial obligation to Erskine. Any student who does not have an approved financial plan in place prior to the add/drop day will be administratively withdrawn for the semester.

All money orders, drafts, and checks should be made payable to "Erskine College," and no receipts will be mailed for payments. Checks will serve as receipts.

Because economic conditions fluctuate, Erskine reserves the right to adjust tuition and other charges accordingly, in applicable fees, deposits, grants, scholarships, etc. Students are responsible for checking their ebills via student portal for adjusted balances. Some billing adjustments can take place following a term (e.g., course withdrawal, etc.)

All correspondence relating to financial matters should be directed to Erskine's Business Office at [Studentbillingquestions@erskine.edu](mailto:Studentbillingquestions@erskine.edu). A representative will respond and schedule an appointment.

## REFUNDS OF TUITION AND FEES

Students become financially responsible for tuition charges and fees as soon as they register for classes, subject to the policies below regarding withdrawals and refunds.

After the drop/add deadline, the courses withdrawn will be refunded tuition and fees on a pro rata basis for the time in attendance up to a maximum of 50% of elapsed instructional time in accordance with the schedule below, based upon the date that the completed and signed Course Withdrawal form is received in the Registrar's office. The courses withdrawn will appear on the student's transcript as a W to enable the school to meet federal loan requirements by verifying that the student was registered for the course and withdrew on a particular date.

<b>Instructional Time Elapsed at Time of Withdrawal</b>	<b>Refund</b>
Up through 5%	95%
>5% through 10%	90%
>10% through 25%	75%
>25% through 50%	50%
>50%	No Refund

Students who intend to withdraw from school entirely (i.e., no longer be a student at Erskine) must submit a completed and signed School Withdrawal form (available on the Seminary website) to the Registrar's office. Neither failing to attend classes nor talking with a faculty or staff member constitute withdrawal.

Students will not be considered to have withdrawn from the Seminary in good standing until they have paid all outstanding accounts, have returned all library books, and have turned in any keys, key fobs, and other institutional property.

Students who do not formally withdraw through the Registrar's office before the end of the semester or term will receive failing grades and will receive no refund of tuition or fees.

No refund for tuition or other fees will be made to students who are required to withdraw for academic or disciplinary reasons.

## **RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS**

During the first 60% of the semester or term, students "earn" Title IV funds in direct proportion to the length of time they remain enrolled. Unearned Title IV aid is the amount of disbursed Title IV aid that exceeds the amount of Title IV aid earned under this formula and must be returned to the Department of Education. Students who remain enrolled beyond the 60% point earn 100% of the aid for the period. No federal Title IV aid will be returned when a student remains enrolled beyond the 60% period.

## **REFUND OF ROOM AND BOARD**

No refund of room charges will be made after the semester or term begins. Refund of charges for board (meals) will be determined on a pro rata basis for the time in attendance.

No refund of room charges will be made to students who are required to withdraw for academic or disciplinary reasons. Refunds for meals missed as a result of disciplinary withdrawals and/or other extended time periods due to major illness or death will be at the rate of the refund allowed by the institution's food service vendor.



## **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

In the event of extenuating circumstances such as severe injury, prolonged illness, death, or other circumstances beyond the student's control that prohibit completion of a course(s) or program of study, the institution may waive the payment of remaining tuition and fees, and/or repayment of institutional scholarships or funds, in total or in part. (Erskine does not have authority to waive repayment of federal funds.) Details will be determined jointly by the Seminary's chief administrative officer and Erskine's chief financial officer, based upon official documentation of the extenuating circumstances supplied by student or student's family (e.g., physician's statement, death certificate, notarized narrative). A decision will ordinarily be communicated in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of the required documentation.

## **COLLECTIONS**

Erskine reserves the right to utilize outside agencies for collection of past due accounts. Students will be responsible for balance due plus any and all collection costs. By registering for classes, the student agrees that if he/she fails to pay any unpaid balance on his/her account, he/she will be personally responsible for, and agrees to pay all costs of collection, including late payment fees, interest, additional fees of third-party collection agencies or attorneys (up to 40% of the principal, interest, and late charges accrued prior to referral to such agency or attorney), court costs, and/or any other charges necessary for the collection of debt.

The student understands and agrees that, in order to service his/her account or collect any amounts owed, Erskine, its employees, agents, and service providers may contact the student by telephone at any telephone number associated with his/her account, now or in the future, including wireless telephone numbers. Erskine, its employees, agents, and service providers may also contact the student by sending text messages or emails, using any email address or telephone number the student provides. Methods of contact may include using pre-recorded/artificial voice messages and/or use of an automatic dialing device, as applicable.

The student irrevocably consents to the jurisdiction of the state and federal courts located in the state of South Carolina in any lawsuit arising out of or concerning the enforcement of any obligations related to any unpaid balance and collection costs, including any lawsuit to collect amounts that the student may owe.

No degrees are conferred upon students who have not met all their financial obligations to Erskine, and no student may obtain a transcript or an honorable dismissal until all bills are paid, including timely payment of any loan fund notes.

# FINANCIAL AID

Erskine's financial aid program seeks to assist students in their educational preparation for ministry. Financial aid is awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, disability, or denominational affiliation. "Financial need" is the difference between the total cost of attending school for the academic year and the student's expected personal contribution.

In order to be eligible for federal financial aid, students must be accepted into a degree program and enrolled at least half-time. Students must also be in a degree program to meet eligibility for institutional aid. Students who are on probation following suspension are not eligible for federal or institutional financial aid.

Erskine reserves the right to make revisions to a student's award letter at any time upon receipt of additional scholarship/grant funds and/or information relating to need, and to change institutional grants, scholarships, and awards with specific endowment funds as needed.

Erskine reserves the right to withdraw any type of financial award from students who, at the close of any semester or term, have not made satisfactory academic progress (SAP), or who, for other reasons, do not meet the standards of the Seminary. Because students may not receive financial aid funds in excess of tuition, fees, room, and board, regardless of the source(s) of financial assistance, we reserve the right to withdraw any type of financial aid award from students who have financial awards that exceed the cost of attending the Seminary.

## APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

Students must annually complete the application form entitled "Planning Your Finances at Erskine Seminary." The information on this form enables the staff to determine the financial package needed and to keep the student's financial record up to date. For new students, the completed form must be submitted immediately upon admission to the Seminary. For continuing students, the completed form must be submitted annually prior to the beginning of the fall semester. *All students must submit this application, whether they are full-time or part-time, and even if they do not intend to receive financial aid or scholarships.*

The form is available on the [Seminary's financial aid webpage](#). Completed forms with additional required documents should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by fax at 864-379-2172 or by a secure upload link found on the [Seminary's financial aid webpage](#).

Financial aid awards are not renewed automatically and may vary from year to year due to changes in a student's resources or expenses, increased overall demands on the financial aid budget, or changes in institutional or federal financial aid policy.

## DEFINITION OF “FULL-TIME” AND “HALF-TIME”

Federal Direct loans require the student to be enrolled “at least half-time.” Students are considered to be full or half-time according to the following criteria:

	Full-time	Half-time
<b>MDiv</b>	12 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer) 30 hours during the academic year	6 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer) 15 hours during the academic year
<b>MAPM</b> <b>MATS</b>	9 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer) 24 hours during the academic year	6 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer) 12 hours during the academic year
<b>ThM</b> <b>DMin</b>	6 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer) 12 hours during the academic year	3 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer) 6 hours during the academic year

## FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS (TITLE IV)

Ersine Theological Seminary participates in government loan programs that make funds available to students enrolled in one of Seminary’s degree programs (not Diploma or graduate certificate programs) and whose personal resources are not sufficient to pay for graduate studies. Students must meet the following general requirements:

1. Be enrolled at least half-time in a degree program.
2. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (as defined by the federal government).
3. Certify that they do not owe a refund on any grant, are not in default on any student loan, have not filed for bankruptcy, are not in foreclosure, and have not borrowed in excess of the loan limits under the Title IV programs at any institution.
4. Make satisfactory academic progress toward their degree.
5. Register for courses by the official registration deadline for each semester or term.

Students may not receive financial aid for courses that do not count toward their official degree program(s). Students should note that they must ordinarily begin repayment of their Federal Direct loan, with interest, six months after they complete their degree or drop to less than half-time status, unless a deferment is granted.

Graduate or professional students are not eligible to receive federal subsidized loans and may only receive unsubsidized Federal Direct loans. The interest that accrues on Federal Direct unsubsidized loans can be deferred as long as the student is enrolled at least half-time. To apply for the Federal Direct loans, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov). The Seminary’s federal school code is **E00177**; students must include this code on their FAFSA.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Through the generosity of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and other faithful donors, the Seminary provides substantial scholarships to students. Scholarships are available to all degree-seeking students on the basis of demonstrated need, academic record, and the potential for Church service. Students receiving denominational scholarships must be in good standing with their church, presbytery, or judicatory. Additional assistance is provided through student employment, if applicable. Scholarships are given on a first come, first served basis.

Students who drop one or more courses will lose the institutional scholarship for such courses. Students will not receive scholarships for courses that do not count toward their degree or for repeated courses.

## **FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

International students are eligible for institutional scholarships. Students admitted to the Seminary on a F-1 student visa are not eligible for federal loans, and work opportunities are limited by the terms of their visas. International students may be eligible to apply for student employment if they are qualified for the position and have a social security number.

## **MILITARY TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Soldiers are eligible for military Tuition Assistance (TA) upon successfully completing one year of service following graduation from Advanced Individual Training (AIT), Officer Candidate School (OCS) or Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC). Soldiers are limited to 16 semester hours of TA funded courses per fiscal year (<https://www.military.com/education/money-for-school>). TA funds can be used for a graduate degree after 10 years of service (if TA did not pay for any portion of their undergraduate degree, the 10-year policy does not apply). TA is limited to \$250 per semester hour for up to 130 semester hours for completion of a bachelor's degree and up to 39 semester hours for completion of a master's degree. TA forms must be submitted prior to each semester to the Financial Aid office by fax at 864-379-2172 or by a secure upload link found on the [Seminary's financial aid webpage](#).

## **VETERANS BENEFITS**

Eligible veterans are encouraged to apply for Veteran's Education Benefits by contacting their local VA representative at 888-442-4551 or applying through eBenefits at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

The financial aid counselor must certify eligible veterans' enrollment, credits, and total tuition costs each semester or term in which they are enrolled in courses. In order to receive VA benefits each semester or term, the student must follow a two-step process:

1. Send a copy of his/her Certificate of Eligibility before the start of the first semester enrolled as a new student or before each new academic year for continuing students.

2. Before each semester or term, send the financial aid counselor a written statement indicating that he/she plans to use VA benefits for that specific semester or term. The financial aid counselor cannot provide certification to the VA unless this required written request is submitted.

For assistance with coordinating VA benefits, please contact the financial aid office at 864-379-8832 or [financialaid@erskine.edu](mailto:financialaid@erskine.edu).

## **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING FINANCIAL AID**

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

Pursuant to federal regulations regarding financial aid assistance under the Title IV HEA programs (hereinafter referred to as federal financial aid) and institutional aid, Erskine Seminary is required to monitor the academic progress of all students. Federal and institutional financial aid funds can only be awarded to students who meet a minimum qualitative standard (GPA) and meet a minimum quantitative standard (PACE). Students who fail to meet any particular standard or combination of standards will become ineligible for federal or institutional financial aid. Students are considered as making satisfactory academic progress (SAP) and eligible for federal and institutional financial aid if they meet the following:

#### ***Eligibility Criteria***

- A. Admitted and enrolled as degree-seeking.
- B. Maintain a 2.0 GPA in the MDiv, MATS, and MAPM degree programs and 3.0 GPA in the ThM and DMin programs.
- C. Pass 67% of all attempted credit hours (PACE).
- D. Not exceed the maximum timeframe for completion of a degree program.

### **Qualitative Standard (GPA)**

#### ***Courses Included in Cumulative GPA Calculation***

- Any Erskine Seminary academic coursework appearing on transcripts for which letter grades are received.
- Repeated coursework in which an improved grade is received; only the improved grade will be included in the student's cumulative GPA.

#### ***Courses Not Included in Cumulative GPA Calculation***

- Non-credit remedial courses.
- Courses receiving incompletes, work-in-progress, withdrawals, audits, or a pass grade.
- Grades for transfer credit hours accepted by Erskine Seminary.

### **Quantitative Standard (PACE)**

PACE is defined as the rate at which a student must progress through his/her educational program to ensure that the student will complete the program within the maximum time frame. In order to maintain PACE, a student may have no more than 20% of their courses listed as W. Students must pass 67% of all attempted credit hours.

#### ***Courses Included in Quantitative PACE Calculation***

- Any academic coursework including incompletes, withdrawals, passing or failed grades, and repetitions that the student begins (registers for) and is charged for by the institution will be counted as attempted credit hours.
- Any courses transferred from another institution that Erskine is accepting and applying towards a student's degree program will be counted as attempted and earned credit hours.
- All exam credit hours (CPE, etc.) accepted and applied to a student's degree program will be counted as attempted and earned credit hours.
- Any academic coursework with passing grades, repetitions with passing grades and courses with satisfactory grades will be counted as earned credit hours.

#### ***Courses Not Included in Quantitative PACE Calculation***

- Non-credit remedial courses, audits, and work-in-progress are not counted as hours attempted or earned.

### **Maximum Time Frame**

Students are no longer eligible for aid if they exceed the maximum time frame for completion of a degree program.

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • MDiv – 9 years maximum | • ThM – 4 years maximum  |
| • MATS – 6 years maximum | • DMin – 5 years maximum |
| • MAPM – 6 years maximum |                          |

### **Full-Time/Part-Time**

For the purposes of SAP, Erskine does not distinguish between full-time and part-time enrollment. The measurement of the student's GPA, PACE, and maximum timeframe is not impacted by enrollment status.

### **Readmitted and Entering Transfer Students**

Readmitted students will be assessed for eligibility upon reapplication to Erskine Seminary and will be considered eligible for federal or institutional aid if they meet the eligibility criteria noted above. All transfer credit hours accepted by Erskine Seminary will be counted as hours attempted and earned, but grades for these transferred courses will not be calculated in the cumulative GPA.

### **Frequency of SAP Assessment**

All students, regardless of enrollment status, will be reviewed at the end of each semester or term for compliance with the GPA requirement only. Students who do not meet SAP at the end of each semester or term will be placed on warning/probation or suspension.

Students must maintain SAP to receive any type of financial assistance. However, a student can receive Federal Direct loans during their warning/probation period. If students fail to earn the required GPA during the next semester or term in which they are enrolled, they are classified as ineligible for Federal Direct loans. Eligibility is reestablished when the student meets all requirements for financial aid.

Students who do not meet the minimum SAP requirements will be sent a letter or email explaining that they are not eligible for federal financial aid. Students have the right to appeal.

### **Financial Aid Appeals**

After termination/denial of financial aid, a student may appeal. Appeals for financial aid will be considered only when the following conditions have been met:

- Sufficient credit hours are earned, and
- GPA meets the required level for continuing enrollment, or
- It is established through the financial aid appeals process that the student encountered some type of extenuating circumstance during the semester or term in question that hindered academic performance (i.e., prolonged hospitalization, injury, illness, death of a family member or family crisis).

In order to appeal, the student must submit the following:

- A written letter of explanation detailing the extenuating circumstance for failing to meet SAP requirements submitted to the office of Financial Aid by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- An explanation of the student's current situation that will ensure SAP requirements will be met at the next evaluation.
- Supporting documentation of any and all events noted in the letter of explanation, and subsequent documentation if requested after an appeal is filed.

Appeals will be reviewed, and the student will be notified by letter or email whether the appeal was approved or denied.

Students whose appeal is approved will be placed on financial aid probation for one semester and are eligible for Federal Direct loans while on probation. Failure to meet SAP requirements at the end of that semester will result in loss of federal financial aid eligibility for the upcoming semester or term. Once minimum SAP requirements have been met, federal financial aid eligibility can be reinstated.

If a student's appeal is denied, the student will be required to successfully attain minimum SAP requirements using their own financial resources to continue enrollment. Once minimum SAP requirements have been met, aid eligibility can be reinstated.

# STUDENT LIFE INFORMATION

## COMMUNITY LIFE STATEMENT

Erskine Theological Seminary is not a local church, and as such, it does not assume direct responsibility for the spiritual nurture and discipline of believers. Rather, all members of the Seminary community (students, faculty members, and staff members) are expected to be active participants in the life of their respective local churches and/or denominations and to submit themselves to those churches/denominations, under the ultimate authority of Christ and the Scriptures. At the same time, however, Erskine is a community of believers who come together for worship, fellowship, service, and the spiritual and academic preparation of ministers of the Gospel. Therefore, Erskine expects all members of the community to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ (Phil. 1:27), and to live lives worthy of the calling they have received (Eph. 4:1).

The Christian life cannot be reduced to a handful of rules, for Christian maturity involves growing in knowledge of and adherence to the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:28). Members of the Erskine community are expected to rely upon the Holy Spirit in cultivating the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16) and to be growing in the characteristics which Paul prescribes for Christian leaders in 1 Timothy 3. Nevertheless, certain aspects of Christian life deserve special attention in this statement, since these are some of the areas where the Gospel differs radically from the values of our society, and thus they are among the ways in which believers are called to be distinct from the world. *We expect all members of our community to share the following convictions and to uphold the following standards of Christian community life:*

- I. *We believe* that the ultimate goal of human life, and thus especially of Christian life, is the glory of God (Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 10:31). *We believe* that God has created all human beings in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-7), and thus that all people are of value and significance. *We believe* further that all Christians are fellow members of the body of Christ (Rom. 12:5), and thus are of special value to God. In light of these truths, we believe that Christian life is characterized by humility with respect to both God (because God is the ultimate end of Christian life) and other believers (because they are sharers in the grace of life which God has given us).
  - A. *Therefore, we expect* members of the Erskine community to be growing in Christian humility as they grow in awareness of the vastness of God's majesty and grace, and of their own unworthiness before God. *We expect* such humility to manifest itself in a spirit of openness to areas where God wants to teach, reprove, or transform, both in individual and in corporate life.
  - B. *We expect* this humility to manifest itself in relationships with other members of the community. *We expect* community members to respect and value those people with whom they come into contact with whether at our main campus, at of our extension sites, or



- in online classes. They refuse to use other people simply as means to their own ends. They are willing to recognize the presence of Christ with and in other believers. They attempt to encourage, love, and console others as needed. They respect those with whom they disagree, and they treat others charitably and fairly in the midst of theological debate/discussion.
- C. *We expect* members of the community to conduct themselves with integrity and respect for the persons, the property, and the work of others. Community members speak the truth to one another in love, refrain from theft or misuse of others' property, and conduct their academic work honestly, without cheating or plagiarizing. (These are defined in the Seminary's plagiarism policy.)
- II. *We believe* that the Church universal is the body of Christ, which includes people of both sexes and all races, economic classes, and ethnic groups (Gal. 3:28). *We believe* further that Christians are called to celebrate the universality and unity of Christ's body in their relationships with one another (Eph. 4:2-6).
- A. *Therefore, we expect* community members to be active in seeking reconciliation and unity among races, classes, and sexes, both in the Church and in the broader society.
  - B. *We expect* members of the community to be willing to value and learn from the positive contributions which Christians of other groups can make to the universal body of Christ. This involves a respect for the insights and customs of other cultures and a desire to bring all cultures (one's own and others') under the judgment of Scripture.
  - C. *We expect* community members to abstain from discrimination, deliberate divisiveness, malicious humor, and gossip.
- III. *We believe* that God created humanity male and female in his image (Gen. 1:26-28) and that appropriate sexual expression is a gift from God (Gen. 2:24).
- A. *We believe* that God has created only two biological sexes, male and female, each sex worthy of full dignity and respect (Gen. 1:26-28). As a God of order, God opposes the confusion of a male as a female and a female as a male (1 Cor. 11:14-15). To honor God and live in alignment with their image-bearing nature, humans should seek to live in accordance with their biological sex assigned by God.
  - B. *We believe* that God has ordained monogamous, heterosexual marriage (a lifelong commitment of a man and a woman to each other) as the only proper context in which intimate sexual expression is to take place.
  - C. *We believe* that sexual purity involves more than simply abstinence from physical acts, that it is also a matter of honoring God through one's thoughts and desires (Matt. 5:27-30). We also believe that relationships between men and women (between spouses and outside of marriage) are grounded in a respect for other people and a willingness to put others first.
  - D. We believe that the Bible communicates to us that God condemns all sin (e.g., idolatry, lying, stealing, drunkenness, dishonoring parents, false witness (Ex. 20:2-7;

Prov. 6:16-19; Gal. 5:21) which also includes sins of sexuality—whether asexual, bisexual, pansexual, homosexual, or heterosexual (Ex. 20:14; Lev. 18:22; 20:10-16; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 1:19-32; 1 Tim. 1:8-10; Rev. 21:7-8; 22:14-15).

E. *Therefore, we expect* all members of the community to

1. Abstain from engaging in behavior that suggests a willful rejection of one's biological sex assigned by God.
2. Abstain from wearing unprofessional or inappropriate styles of dress, including dressing in such a way as to willfully reject one's biological sex assigned by God.
3. Abstain from all intimate sexual expression either prior to or outside of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.
4. Treat members of the opposite sex with respect and to abstain from sexual harassment and sexual exploitation in any form.
5. Abstain from the use of pornographic material and to exercise wisdom and be selective in their choices of entertainment (which can easily incite lust).

For more on point III, please see the [Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church's Position Statement on Human Sexuality \(2019\)](#).

IV. *We believe* that Christians are called to be filled with and controlled by the Spirit and to avoid enslavement to physical masters such as food and alcohol (1 Cor. 6:12-13; Eph. 5:18).

*Therefore, we expect* members of the Erskine community to avoid enslavement to physical substances which God has given by using them in moderation. Among other things, this involves refraining from the illegal (non-medical) use of drugs and moderation in (or abstinence from) the use of alcohol. (All members of the Erskine community are reminded that Erskine College is a dry campus and seminary students are asked to respect the College's position by not consuming any alcohol on campus.)

Erskine Seminary expects high standards of honesty and integrity in all areas of Seminary life. The Seminary urges its members to exercise humility, forbearance, and, if necessary, loving confrontation in upholding these convictions and expectations. The Seminary encourages individuals always to follow the principles outlined in Matthew 18:15-22. Faculty or students who feel that these standards have not been maintained may deal with these situations first through personal counsel and then, if those measures are not sufficient, through the procedures outlined in the grievance procedures (outlined in the *Student Handbook*). The Seminary reserves the right to request at any time the withdrawal of one whose conduct is detrimental to his or her health or whose conduct is not satisfactory to its officials.

## ACADEMIC CONDUCT

### LANGUAGE ABOUT GOD AND HUMANITY

Erskine Theological Seminary recognizes that God transcends the distinction between male and female, since God introduced that distinction as He created physical beings. At the same time, the Seminary recognizes that the Bible and the historic creeds and confessions of the Christian Church (including the Westminster Confession, which comprises the Seminary's doctrinal basis) use masculine language in reference to God. Therefore, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this biblical and historic usage when speaking and writing about God.

Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, the Seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers. Therefore, in all written work and oral presentations, whenever students are dealing with humanity as a whole (male and female), they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" when referring to the entire human race, or "people" rather than "men" when referring to men and women).

### CONDUCT IN THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSIONS

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it encourages its students toward the same. Thus, the Seminary expects all students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to show respect across all the lines that might otherwise divide Christians (for example, race, gender, ethnic origin, cultural perspective, denominational affiliation, or theological or political persuasion). Issues on which there is disagreement can and should be discussed, and students are never discouraged from expressing honest convictions founded on Scripture, but one should always conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees.

### PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community. Plagiarism injures the community and dishonors God by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. When others' words and/or ideas are used without credit, their gifts fail to be appropriately recognized. At the same time, this illegitimate use of others' work prevents plagiarizers from developing and being recognized for their own gifts. Plagiarism also injures the community and offends God, by undermining unity (Eph. 4:3), violating trust by dishonesty (Ps. 34:13; Prov. 6:19; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9), appropriating honor

due to others (Exod. 20:15; Rom. 13:7), and offending against the great commandment of love for our neighbor (Matt. 22:39).

[The following paragraph definition of plagiarism is adapted from a statement, used by permission, of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, which was itself adapted, with permission, from “Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities,” 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Plagiarism occurs when a person, intentionally or unintentionally, presents the work of others as one’s own. Quoting others’ words, presenting their ideas, or using their outline or approach to a problem is plagiarism unless the original source of all the information is clearly acknowledged. All of the work of others must be acknowledged, whether that work comes from a printed work, electronic media, a speech or sermon, a private conversation, or some other medium. Plagiarism that is unintentional is still plagiarism. Students are responsible for understanding and avoiding plagiarism; those in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor or library staff.

The Seminary takes all instances of plagiarism seriously. All cases of plagiarism (suspected or proven) will be referred to the Dean of the Seminary, who will determine appropriate penalties in consultation with the instructor (and other faculty as needed). A record of the findings will be placed in the student’s permanent file. Penalties may include failure or reduced grade for the assignment, failure of the course, dismissal from the Seminary, or revocation of a degree previously awarded. A second offense will normally result in dismissal.

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, all papers must meet Seminary standards. They must be typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. They must include footnotes documenting all work (words and/or ideas) of others and a full bibliography, in proper form. Documentation, language, style, and formatting must conform to:

Erskine Theological Seminary. [\*ETS Style Manual\*](#). 2022.

Turabian, Kate L., et. al. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2019.

For details about documentation of works in biblical studies, students may also consult:

Alexander, Patrick H. *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, MA: Hendrikson, 2014.

## OTHER INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Full details of policies affecting students are published in the Seminary's *Student Handbook*, available on the Seminary's website ([seminary.erskine.edu](http://seminary.erskine.edu)). Policies governing life on campus in Due West are listed in the College's *Student Handbook*, available from the College's office of Student Development.

### CAMPUS SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

- Firearms and other dangerous weapons are prohibited on Erskine property, with the exception of police officers and instructors authorized by the appropriate dean or vice president. Violation will lead to disciplinary action up to possible dismissal and may result in arrest and prosecution.
- Smoking is not allowed in campus buildings.
- Only service animals are allowed in the Erskine buildings.
- Students are not allowed to leave their children, other underage persons, or incapacitated adults unsupervised on campus while they are in class.

### DRUG-FREE SCHOOL

According to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Erskine has adopted and implements a drug-prevention program for all students and employees – Erskine prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs. The details and implementation procedures can be found on the Erskine's "[Alcohol and Drugs](#)" webpage.

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Erskine offers students with documented disabilities individual accommodations on a case-by-case basis, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAA), and any other relevant local, state, or federal law protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. Erskine's policy prohibits any unlawful actions or decisions that adversely impact or deny rights or privileges to otherwise qualified individuals solely on the basis of a disability or because an otherwise qualified individual is related to or associated with a person with a disability.

In order to receive academic or physical accommodations, students with disabilities must provide current (within 3 years) and comprehensive documentation concerning the nature and extent of the disability and communicate their needs to the Dean of the Seminary, located in Bowie Divinity Hall or call 864-379-6595. Students are required to meet with the Dean of the

Seminary to develop accommodation plans that will be presented to the course instructors at the beginning of each semester. Ultimately, all students with disabilities are responsible for their own academic achievement; they must attend classes, complete assignments, and fulfill all school requirements for their degree. It is up to the students to seek out available assistance on campus and to utilize individualized accommodations that promote academic success. Additional information regarding the ADA may be obtained by contacting the Human Resource Director.

## **EMAIL**

All students are provided an Erskine email account. Students are responsible for checking their Erskine email accounts regularly for official school communications. In order to protect privacy and confirm the identity of the sender and recipient, all Erskine related communications of any kind must be sent through the supplied Erskine email account. Students should refrain from communicating with Erskine faculty and staff using other non-Erskine email addresses.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Erskine seeks to ensure the safety of all during periods of hazardous weather. Faculty, staff, and students are strongly encouraged to use caution and good discretion when traveling to and from campus and while on campus so as to reduce the risk of injury to themselves and to others.

Faculty and students should consult the following news sources to determine the status of classes during hazardous weather conditions:

- Erskine's telephone hotline provides up-to-date recorded messages for Seminary faculty and students 864-379-6652.
- [Erskine Police website](#)
- News stations WYFF Channel 4, WHNS Fox Carolina, and WSPA Channel 7. There will be no announcement if Due West offices and classes are on regular schedule. The timing of posts to the news stations cannot be predicted. Faculty and students are encouraged to call the dedicated numbers above and check the Erskine website first.

Weekly classes that are canceled because of inclement weather will be rescheduled or not, at the discretion of the professor. In the event that an all-day class is canceled, the class will be made up on the next available open date, ordinarily on the same day of the week (e.g., a Saturday class will be made up on the next available Saturday).

## STUDENTS' RIGHT TO PRIVACY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education record(s). The institution may disclose education records without a student's consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to institution officials with legitimate educational interests. An institution official is a person employed by Erskine in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the institution has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using institution employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; a student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee; and/or someone assisting another institution official in performing his/her tasks.

An institution official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibilities for the institution.

Upon request, the institution also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The institution has designated the following information concerning a student as "Directory Information" and the institution will normally release that information without the student's consent: The student's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational institution attended by the student, photographs, enrollment status, academic level, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of members of athletic teams. However, a student has a right to refuse to permit the disclosure of any item of Directory Information. To exercise that right, a student must notify the Registrar in writing that he/she does not want any or all the Directory Information disclosed within the first five days of each semester or term.

Students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the requirements of FERPA by contacting:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5901

# STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

## GENERAL STUDENT GRIEVANCES

In order to maintain a healthy relationship between the institution and its students, it is the policy of Erskine College to provide for the settlement of problems and differences through orderly grievance procedures. Every student shall have the right to present his or her complaint, in accordance with the procedures established. This policy outlines the procedures students should follow in resolving student grievances of a general nature (e.g., student academic freedom). Should a grievance involve sexual assault, sexual or other harassment, discrimination, or classroom grading, the separate, specific policies in the respective student handbook and/or the academic catalog for those areas should be followed.

Because the appropriate course of action is not always clear to students seeking redress of a grievance, the Dean of the Seminary shall serve as a resource for those seeking information regarding grievance and appeal procedures.

## Informal Resolution

Grievance procedures at Erskine College, for both academic and non-academic matters, follow the scriptural principles outlined in Matthew 18:15-22. Prior to invoking the formal procedures described below, the student is strongly encouraged to discuss his or her grievance with the person alleged to have caused the grievance. The student may wish to present his or her grievance in writing instead of orally to the person alleged to have caused the grievance but should not distribute the written communication to others than the person with whom one has a grievance. In either case, the person alleged to have caused the grievance must respond to the student promptly, either orally or in writing. It is the responsibility of the faculty or staff member to notify his or her supervisor of the informal resolution.

## INITIAL REVIEW

If the student is not satisfied with the response, he/she may present the grievance in writing to the chair or director (hereinafter “administrator”) of the department or area where the person alleged to have caused the grievance is employed. Any such written grievance must be received by the administrator not later than thirty (30) business days after the student first became aware of the facts which gave rise to the grievance. (If the grievance is against the chair or director of a department or area, the student should address his/her grievance to the appropriate Dean.) The administrator should conduct an investigation as warranted to resolve any factual disputes. In matters pertaining to the faculty and/or academic matters, the appropriate appeals process will be followed by Erskine College.

Based upon the findings, the administrator shall make a determination and submit his/her decision in writing to the student and to the person alleged to have caused the grievance



within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the complaint. If a decision cannot be made in fifteen (15) business days, the student will receive a letter with an estimated date of completion. The written determination shall include the reasons for the decision, shall indicate the remedial action to be taken, if any, and shall inform the student of the right to review by the Provost.

### **PROVOST REVIEW**

Within five (5) business days of receipt of the administrator's decision, a student who is not satisfied with the response of the administrator after the initial review, may seek further review by submitting the written grievance, together with the administrator's written decision, to the appropriate Provost. The Provost's action may be limited to a review of the basis for the administrator's decision and need not involve a new factual investigation. The Provost may direct that further facts be gathered or that additional remedial action be taken. Based upon the findings, the Provost shall make a determination and submit his or her decision in writing to the student and to the person alleged to have caused the grievance within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the complaint. If a decision cannot be made in fifteen (15) business days, the student will receive a letter with an estimated date of completion. The written disposition shall include the reasons for the decision, direct a remedy for the aggrieved student, if any, and inform the student of the right to seek an appeal to the President.

### **PRESIDENTIAL APPEAL**

Within five (5) business days of receipt of the Provost's decision, a student who is not satisfied with the response of the Provost may apply for further review by submitting the written grievance, the administrator's written decision, and the Dean/Provost's written decision to the President of Erskine College. A review by the President is not considered a matter of right but is within the sound discretion of the President. If a review is granted, the President may refer the case to the Presidential Appeals Committee (PAC). If the case is referred to the PAC, it will make a recommendation to the President who can accept the recommendation or change the decision.

The President's action will be limited to a review of the basis for the administrator's decision and the Provost's decision and need not involve a new factual investigation. Within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the request for review, the President shall submit his or her decision in writing to the student and to the person alleged to have caused the grievance. The written disposition shall include the reasons for the decision, and it shall direct a remedy for the aggrieved student if any. The President's decision will be final.

### **STUDENT GRIEVANCES REGARDING ACADEMIC MATTERS**

If students have a complaint about a faculty member regarding an academic problem, they are obligated first to speak to the professor and seek to resolve the problem. If they cannot resolve the complaint with the faculty member, they should refer the complaint to the Dean of the

Seminary in writing. Any such written grievance must be received by the Dean not later than thirty (30) business days after the student first became aware of the facts which gave rise to the grievance. The Dean normally will refer the complaint to the Seminary grievance committee, consisting of three faculty members. Based upon the findings, the committee shall make a determination and submit its decision in writing to the Dean, the student, and to the person alleged to have caused the grievance, within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the complaint. If a decision cannot be made in fifteen (15) business days, the student will receive a letter with an estimated date of completion.

The written determination shall include the reasons for the decision, shall indicate the remedial action to be taken, if any, and shall inform the student of the right to review by the Dean/Provost. Reviews by the Dean/Provost and/or President will follow the procedures outline under General Student Grievances.

### **STUDENT GRIEVANCES REGARDING NON-ACADEMIC MATTERS**

If a student has a complaint about a non-academic matter or against a staff member, then the complaint should be reported to the Dean of the Seminary or the Non-Discrimination Coordinator. Such complaints will be handled and may be appealed in a manner similar to the procedure described above for academic complaints.

Complaints regarding the institution that cannot be resolved at the institutional level, particularly state related policies and procedures or accrediting concerns, should be filed by the complainants to the [S.C. Commission on Higher Education](#). In the case of students enrolled only in online classes who live in states other than South Carolina, further pursuit of a complaint not resolved at the institutional level may be pursued at the [NC-SARA](#) site.

*These grievance procedures shall not be used to bring knowingly frivolous, false, manipulative, or malicious charges against any faculty member, staff member, or fellow student. Disciplinary action, including dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester, may be taken against any person bringing academic or non-academic complaints in deliberate bad faith.*

## **DUE WEST CAMPUS SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **BOWIE DIVINITY HALL**

The Seminary offices are in Bowie Divinity Hall. Classes are held in Bowie and Reid Hall.

### **MOFFATT DINING HALL**

Food service at Erskine Theological Seminary is provided by ARAMARK Campus Dining Services. Moffatt Dining Hall serves the entire Erskine community and includes a private dining room, Founders Room. ARAMARK also offers meals at Snapper's (featuring pizza, burgers, and other selections) and Java City (a coffee and smoothie bar), both located near the campus bookstore.

### **HANDICAPPED FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

Bowie Divinity Hall, Reid Hall, and Moffatt Dining Hall are accessible to students with disabilities. The Seminary provides recordings of lectures for students with learning disabilities and makes special arrangements for administering exams, as needed. Other accommodations must be made through the office of Student Development (located on the second floor of Watkins Student Center and available by phone at 864-379-8701).

### **HOUSING**

Housing is offered, on a space-available basis, for male and female students, in several buildings on campus. Watkins Student Center provides guest rooms for single men and women, as well as married couples.

### **LAURA BELL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CENTER**

This center serves as a resource for Christian education and is located in Reid Hall. The center was completed in 1997 through the generosity of the late Miss Laura Bell, who donated materials she had collected throughout her career as a Christian educator.

### **MCCAIN LIBRARY**

The library houses both the College and the Seminary library collections. The library's website provides access to its online catalog, along with many electronic databases, e-books, and e-journal titles. The library also oversees a small library on the Seminary's Columbia site. McCain Library is a member of the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL), which affords benefits to students, including statewide academic library borrowing privileges.

### **BOWIE ARTS CENTER**

The center was completed in 1995 through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. W. Parker Bowie. This artistic center of Erskine houses several permanent collections, as well as many traveling exhibits that visit Due West every year.

## **GALLOWAY PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES CENTER**

The 65,000 square-foot center provides classrooms, two gymnasiums, an audiovisual room, handball courts, a rock-climbing wall, a weight room, and an athletic training room.

## **COLUMBIA SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, THE BRIDGE, 1400 LADY STREET**

The Seminary offices for faculty and staff, and the library are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

### **MINISTRY BUILDING, 1420 LADY STREET**

Seminary classes are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

### **THE JOHN R. AND JANE E. DE WITT LIBRARY**

The library houses this Seminary collection at its Columbia site. Services include a circulating and reference book collection, wireless internet access, desktop computers, printers, copiers, study rooms, and on-site resource assistance. Through the library's website, students have access to the online catalog, along with many electronic databases, e-books, and e-journals. Additionally, students and faculty at this location have statewide academic library borrowing privileges through the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL).

## **GREENVILLE SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **MITCHELL ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 207 MITCHELL ROAD**

A Seminary office for faculty and staff is located in the church's main office suite. Seminary classes are held normally in B-105 and B-111 classrooms.

# PEOPLE

## FACULTY

### **Noel A. Brownlee ([brownlee@erskine.edu](mailto:brownlee@erskine.edu))**

Distinguished Professor of Medical Ethics

Director of the David Livingstone Institute for Christianity, Medicine, and the Sciences

BA, BS, Wofford College, 1993; PhD (Experimental Pathology), Medical University of South Carolina, 1998; MD, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, 2002; Additional training, Duke Univ.

Medical Center, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Univ. Hospital

### **R. J. Gore, Jr. ([rgore@erskine.edu](mailto:rgore@erskine.edu))**

Professor of Systematic Theology

Director of the MA in Practical Ministry Program and MA in Theological Studies

Dean Emeritus

BA, Bob Jones University, 1976; MA (Pastoral Studies), Bob Jones Univ., 1979; MA (Biblical Literature), Faith Theological Seminary, 1981; STM (NT Exegesis), Faith Theological Seminary, 1983; MAR (Dogmatic Theology), St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, 1985; PhD (Systematic Theology), Westminster Theological Seminary, 1988; DMin (Preaching), Erskine Theological Seminary, 2009; MSS (Strategic Studies), US Army War College, 2010; Additional studies: Chestnut Hill College; Princeton Theological Seminary; Columbia Theological Seminary; Reformed Theological Seminary; Calvin College and Theological Seminary

### **Dale W. Johnson ([djohnson@erskine.edu](mailto:djohnson@erskine.edu))**

Distinguished Professor of Church History

BA, Cedarville University, 1976; MA (Historical Theology), Covenant Theological Seminary, 1984; MA (American History), Florida Atlantic Univ., 1988; PhD (Reformation/Early Modern European History), Georgia State University, 1995; Additional studies: Oxford University, English Speaking Union Fellow; Univ. of St. Andrews, Visiting Scholar

### **Loyd D. Melton ([melton@erskine.edu](mailto:melton@erskine.edu))**

Distinguished Professor of New Testament Emeritus

BA, Presbyterian College, 1971; MDiv, Erskine Theological Seminary, 1974; PhD (NT Studies), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1978; Additional studies: Hebrew Union College; Union Theological Seminary

### **Michael A. Milton ([milton@erskine.edu](mailto:milton@erskine.edu))**

Distinguished Professor of Missions and Evangelism

Director of MDiv in Chaplain Ministries

Dipl. (now, A.A.) Defense Language Institute; BA, Mid-America Nazarene Univ., 1989; MDiv, Knox Theological Seminary, 1993; PhD (Theology and Religious Studies), Univ. of Wales, 1998; MPA, Univ. of North Carolina, 2016; DMin, Erskine Theological Seminary, 2022; Postdoctoral certification in Higher Education Teaching and Learning, Harvard Univ.; Board Certified Chaplain (BCC); Board Certified Pastoral Counseling (BCPC), Institute for Clinical Pastoral Training

**Seth J. Nelson ([nelson@erskine.edu](mailto:nelson@erskine.edu))**

Dean of the Seminary

Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Educational Leadership

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# ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023-2024\*

## 2023 Fall Term

Classes Begin and Erskine Online Fall 2 Begins.....	Wednesday, August 23
Drop/Add Day (Class Changes).....	Tuesday, August 29
Labor Day Holiday (No Classes).....	Monday, September 4
Graduation Applications for JANUARY Conferrals Due.....	Friday, September 15
Incompletes from Previous Term to be Removed by.....	Monday, October 2
Erskine Online Fall 1 Ends.....	Tuesday, October 17
Erskine Online Fall 2 Begins.....	Wednesday, October 18
Fall Break (Begins After Classes).....	Wednesday, October 18
Classes Resume and Drop Day for Erskine Online Fall 2.....	Monday, October 23
Registration Opens for Spring Term.....	Monday, November 6
Thanksgiving Break (Begins After Classes).....	Tuesday, November 21
Classes Resume.....	Monday, November 27
ThM Thesis Defense (January Grads) by.....	Friday, December 1
Graduation Applications for MAY Conferrals Due.....	Monday, December 11
Erskine Online Fall 2 Ends.....	Tuesday, December 12
Classes End.....	Wednesday, December 13
Fall Term Grades Due.....	Friday, December 15
Grades Due for Summer DMin Intensives.....	Friday, December 15
ThM Thesis Defense (January Grads) by.....	Friday, December 1
Final Theses and Dissertations Due (January Grads).....	Friday, December 15

## 2024 Spring Term

Classes and Erskine Online Spring 1 Begin.....	Monday, January 8
Drop/Add Day (Class Changes).....	Friday, January 12
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (No Classes).....	Monday, January 15
DMin Intensives Begin – Drop/Add Day for Intensives.....	Tuesday, January 16
Incompletes from Previous Term to be Removed by.....	Thursday, February 1
Graduation Applications for SEPTEMBER Conferrals Due.....	Friday, March 1
Erskine Online Spring 1 Ends.....	Sunday, March 3
Registration Opens for Summer Term and Erskine Online Spring 2 Begins.....	Monday, March 4
Drop Day for Erskine Online Spring 2.....	Friday, March 8
Easter Break (Begins After Classes).....	Monday, March 25
Classes Resume.....	Tuesday, April 2
ThM Thesis Defense (May Grads) by.....	Wednesday, April 3
Final Theses and Dissertations Due (May Graduates).....	Monday, April 15
Registration Opens for Fall Term.....	Monday, April 15
Graduating Students Grades Due at 9:00 a.m.....	Wednesday, May 1
Classes End and Erskine Online Spring 2 Ends.....	Thursday, May 2
Baccalaureate Service.....	Friday, May 3
Commencement.....	Saturday, May 4
Spring Term Grades Due.....	Wednesday, May 8

## 2024 Summer Term

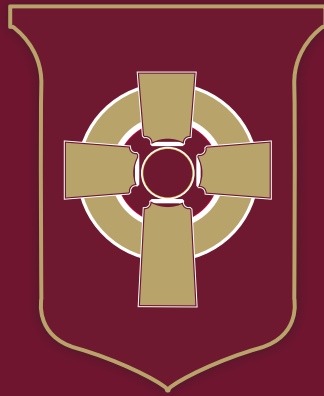
Classes Begin.....	Monday, May 13
Drop/Add Day (Class Changes).....	Friday, May 17
Memorial Day Holiday (No Classes).....	Monday, May 27
Erskine Online Summer 8 Week Term Begins.....	Monday, June 17
Drop Day for Erskine Online Summer 8 Week Term.....	Friday, June 21
Incompletes from Previous Term to be Removed by.....	Monday, July 1
July 4 Holiday (No classes).....	Thursday, July 4
DMin Intensives Begin – Drop/Add Day for Intensives.....	Monday, July 8
ThM Thesis Defense (September Grads) by.....	Thursday, August 1
Classes End and Erskine Online Summer 8 Week Term Ends.....	Saturday, August 10
Summer Term Grades Due.....	Tuesday, August 13
Final Theses and Dissertations Due (September Grads).....	Thursday, August 15
Grades Due for Summer DMin Intensives.....	Friday, December 13

\*This calendar is subject to change.

## INDEX

- Academic advising, 41
- Academic Calendar, 117
- Academic conduct, 100
- Academic load, 43
- Academic probation, 51
- Academic records, 50
- Academic status, 51
- Academic suspension, 52
- Academic warning, 51
- Accreditation, 15
- Additional locations, 12
- Adjunct faculty, 112
- Administration, 114
- Admissions, 17
- Advanced standing, 42
- Alcohol on campus, 99, 102
- Alumni, 19, 114
- Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 9
- Association of Theological Schools (ATS), 15
- Audit, 19, 43
- Bible, authority of, 6, 97
- Board of Trustees, 9, 115
- Capstone (MATS), 29, 78
- Change of degree, 45
- Class attendance, 47
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), 46
- Collections, 90
- Columbia location, 12, 108, 116
- Commencement, 53, 117
- Commitments, 6
- Community life statement, 97
- Conduct in theological discussions, 100
- Contact information, 117
- Continuing education (CEU), 19, 43, 87
- Continuous enrollment, 45, 50
  - DMin, 39
  - ThM, 33
- Cooperative agreements, 16, 45
- Course descriptions, 55
  - Bible courses, 56
  - Biblical language courses, 57
  - Christian education courses, 75
  - Church history courses, 67
  - Denominational courses, 77
  - DMin required courses, 80
  - Ethics courses, 69
  - Historical theology courses, 66
  - Master of theology (ThM) courses, 78
  - MATS courses, 78
  - Missions/Contextualization courses, 70
  - New Testament courses, 61
  - Old Testament courses, 58
  - Pastoral counseling courses, 76
  - Practical ministry courses, 72
  - Systematic theology courses, 64
  - Worship and preaching courses, 71
- Course withdrawal, 44
- Cross-registration, 45
- David Livingston Institute, 12, 16, 40
- Deadlines for assignments and grades, 48
- Degree conferrals, 53
- Degree programs
  - Doctor of Ministry (DMin), 35
  - Master of Arts in Practical Ministry (MAPM), 26
  - Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS), 29
  - Master of Divinity (MDiv), 22
  - Master of Theology (ThM), 31
- Denominational relationships, 9
- Denominational requirements (MDiv), 24
- Diplomas, 11
- Directed study, 45
- Dissertation, 38
- Doctor of Ministry (DMin), 35
- Drop/Add policy, 13, 44, 88
- Drug-free school, 102
- Due West campus, 12, 107
- Educational effectiveness, 9
- Email, 14, 102
- Emergency contacts, 116
- Erskine Online, 13
- Evangelical Christian, 7
- Examinations, 48
- Faculty, 109
- Federal Direct loans, 92, 96
- Fees, 87, 90
- FERPA, 13, 50, 103
- Finances, 87, 91
  - Collections, 90
  - Payment policy, 88

- Refunds, 88
- Tuition and Fees, 87
- Financial aid, 91
  - Academic requirements, 94
  - Applying for financial aid, 91
  - Definition of full and half-time, 92
  - Federal Direct loans, 92
  - International students, 93
  - Military Tuition Assistance, 93
  - Scholarships, 93
  - VA benefits, 93
- Financial aid appeals, 96
- Firearms, 102
- Grade reports, 49
- Grading, 48
- Graduate certificates, 12, 19, 40, 92
- Graduation, 53
- Greenville location, 12, 109
- Grievance procedures, 105
- History of the Seminary, 8
- Housing, 12, 88, 108
- Inclement weather, 103
- Incomplete grades, 49
- Independent study, 46
- Institutional goals, 9
- Institutional policies, other 102
- Institutional Review Board (IRB), 47
- Instructional policies, 47
- Instructional time, 47
- International students, 14, 20
- Language about God and humanity, 100
- Language competence (ThM), 33
- Library, 12, 108, 109
- Locations, 12
- MA in Practical Ministry (MAPM), 26
- MA in Theological Studies (MATS), 29
- Master of Divinity (MDiv), 22
- Master of Divinity (Chaplain Min.), 25
- Master of Theology (ThM), 31
- Military Tuition Assistance, 93
- Mission, 5
- NC-SARA, 15
- Non-degree students, 19
- Partnerships for transfer courses, 16
- PASCAL, 16, 108
- Pass/Fail policy, 49
- Payment policy, 88
- Plagiarism, 100
- Probation, 51
- Readmission, 19, 52
- Recording classes, 48
- Reformed tradition, 6
- Refunds, 88
- Registration, 43-45
- Registration changes, 13, 44
- Relations with other institutions, 16
- Repeated courses, 50
- Returning students, 19
- Right to privacy, 13, 50, 103
- Scholarships, 91, 93
- School withdrawal, 44
- Senior audit, 41, 53
- Senior citizens, 43
- Smoking, 102
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC), 15
- Student awards, 54, 104
- Student learning outcomes
  - MAPM, 26
  - MATS, 29
  - MDiv, 22
  - ThM, 31
  - DMin, 35
- Students with disabilities, 102
- Suspension, 51
- Thesis
  - MATS, 29
  - ThM, 33
- Title IV funds, 89
- TOEFL score, 20
- Transcripts, 17, 42, 44, 50
- Transfer credit, 42
- Tuition, 19, 44, 50, 87, 91
- Veterans benefits, 93
- Vision and values, 5
- Weather, 103
- Withdrawal, 51, 88
- Written assignments, 101, 117



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