

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

2025–2026 Catalog

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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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Erskine!

I am honored to serve as Erskine's 18th 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 "glorifies God as a theological community where students embody the gospel of Jesus Christ, confess historic Christian orthodoxy, engage Reformed theology, value the Church, and grow as whole persons to serve as pastors and leaders who advance Christ's Kingdom."

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 2025-2026 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. 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. Our students are 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. We are 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

VISION & MISSION

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.

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 and School of Biblical Studies glorifies God as a theological community where students embody the gospel of Jesus Christ, confess historic Christian orthodoxy, engage Reformed theology, value the Church, and grow as whole persons to serve as pastors and leaders who advance Christ's Kingdom.

Core Values

Erskine Theological Seminary & School of Biblical Studies affirms seven core values.

❖ Gospel Centrality & Historic Christian Orthodoxy

- We believe that God calls us to proclaim and embody the gospel of Jesus Christ and to participate in his Kingdom mission to renew all things. We confess the lordship of Jesus Christ and believe that the Bible is God's infallible and inerrant Word. Further, we adhere to the historic, orthodox expression of the Christian faith, best summarized in the *Nicene Creed*.

❖ Biblical Worldview

- Grounded in the eternal truth of God's Word and reliant upon the transformative work of the Holy Spirit, we seek to guide students to love, think, and act more like Jesus Christ throughout God's world. A biblical worldview includes viewing all aspects of life through the lens of God's Word and aligning the desires of our hearts with God's character and Kingdom values.

❖ Gracious Reformed Theology

- We believe that the Reformed understanding of the Christian faith, as articulated by the *Westminster Standards*, best expresses the teaching of the Bible. As recipients of God's grace, we humbly hold this conviction and respectfully engage with those who interpret the Bible differently, inviting them to appreciate the treasures of Reformed theology.

❖ **The Priority of the Church**

- We value ministry in and through the local church because the Church is God's central vehicle for accomplishing Christ's mission in the world. As the denominational school and seminary of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, we especially seek to meet the educational and pastoral training needs of our denomination. Further, we serve the broader Church by welcoming students from many denominations, equipping them for diverse ministries.

❖ **Faithful Stewardship**

- We are committed to financial responsibility, providing an affordable and valuable theological education accessible to students from diverse backgrounds, regardless of their location, stage of life, or ministry context. We aim to be good stewards of our students' time with us, equipping them for an effective life-long ministry.

❖ **Academic Excellence with Practical Application**

- We strive to deliver a high-quality theological education that fosters thoughtful and humble engagement with academic scholarship, while also emphasizing practical pastoral application. Our goal is to equip students for effective ministry and leadership in Christ's Kingdom.

❖ **Whole-Person Formation**

- We value the whole-life transformation of our students towards greater conformity to the image of Jesus Christ as pastors and ministry leaders. Therefore, we teach and seek to facilitate learning that integrates students' intellectual, spiritual, emotional, relational, and ministerial formation.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Erskine College and Theological Seminary adheres to an evangelical understanding of Christianity and affirms that the Bible is God's inspired Word and that an individual can become a Christian only by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Erskine College and Theological Seminary faculty, staff, administration, and trustees affirm that:

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. That 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. That 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; that 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 5 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. Demonstrate the ability to theologically evaluate and pastorally address contemporary issues in the Church and the world. (*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 in Christ's Church and its mission to the world. (*Christian Leadership*)

EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Erskine conducts ongoing administrative and educational evaluation to determine its effectiveness in accomplishing its mission and success in student learning and formation. The annual evaluations of degree programs, administrative structures, and personnel follow the Seminary's comprehensive evaluation plan and, as the theological graduate school of Erskine College, Erskine College's institutional evaluation plan. Erskine 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 5 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 concentration in biblical studies (with a focus in Old Testament or New Testament) theological studies (systematic theology), or historical studies (historical theology or Church history), ordinarily culminating in writing a thesis.

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 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.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE 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). For 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.

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).

ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS (ATS)

Erskine Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (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) 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) 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

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 a signed adherence to Erskine College and Theological Seminary's Statement of Faith and Statement of Biblical Distinctives.
2. 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.)
3. A 400-600 words personal essay to include (a) a brief testimony of faith in Jesus Christ and (b) why they would like to pursue a seminary education.
4. Two letters of recommendation from people 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.)

SPECIAL ADMISSION TO MASTER'S DEGREES

Applicants who lack undergraduate degrees may apply for admission to the MDiv, MAPM, or MATS programs on a probationary basis. In addition to completing the regular application for admission, they will need to submit (1) a 10-page biblical, theological, or historical essay following the *ETS Style Manual*, to be approved by the appropriate program director, and (2) a current resume that shows at least 5 years of church or other ministry experience. Once admitted, these students will remain on probationary status for the first 15 credit hours and must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA. After the completion of the 15 credits, the Graduate Committee will review the student's academic records and decide whether to approve full admission into a master's degree.

ADVANCED PROGRAMS (THM AND DMIN)

1. A completed application form, including a signed adherence to Erskine College and Theological Seminary's Statement of Faith and Statement of Biblical Distinctives.
2. 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 MDiv) and at least 3 years of ministry experience.
3. A 400-600 words document to include (a) a brief testimony of faith in Jesus Christ and (b) how the program will contribute to their competence in academic work, ministry, or service to the Church.
4. (ThM applicants only) A master's level academic paper (at least 10 pages, double spaced, with notes and bibliography properly formatted).
5. (DMin applicants only) A brief resume of their experience in ministry. Applicants must ordinarily have at least 3 years of *full-time* ministry experience *following* completion of their MDiv. Students with less than 3 years of post-MDiv experience must provide information about ministry experience and qualifications for advanced ministerial studies.
6. Two letters of recommendation from people 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.)
7. An interview may be deemed necessary to establish the student's level of interest, aptitude, and personal qualities necessary to engage in advanced study.

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.

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.

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, 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 iBT score of at least 80 (out of 120) or IELTS score of 6.5 – 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. Demonstrate the ability to theologically evaluate and pastorally address contemporary issues in the Church and the world. (*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 in the Church and 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 3 years of full-time study. Students must normally complete the program within 8 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 (6-9 hours)

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 (18-21 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)

- PM 505 Educational Ministries in the Local Church
- PM 507 Evangelism
- WP 650 Introduction to Preaching
- WP 651 Christian Worship
- PM 608 Pastoral Care and Counseling
- PM 704 Christian Leadership and Church Administration
- 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 701 Presbyterian Church and Polity or EP 701 Evangelical Presbyterian Church History and Polity.

Students seeking ordination in the African Methodist Episcopal Church are encouraged to take ME 701 AME History and Polity, ME 702 AME Doctrine, and ME 703 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 (6-9 hours)

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 (18-21 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)

PM 505 Educational Ministries in the Local Church

PM 507 Evangelism

WP 650 Introduction to Preaching

WP 651 Christian Worship

PM 608 Pastoral Care and Counseling

PM 610 Introduction to Chaplaincy

PM 704 Christian Leadership and Church Administration

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 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. Demonstrate the ability to theologically evaluate and pastorally address contemporary issues in the Church and the world. (*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 in the Church and its mission to 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 2 years of full-time study. Students must normally complete the program within 5 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 students’ program directors.*

Pastoral Care Ministry (12 hours)

Required Courses (3 hours)

PM 608 Pastoral Care and Counseling

Electives (9 hours)*

PM 610 Introduction to Chaplaincy

PM 774 Clinical Pastoral Education I

PM 775 Clinical Pastoral Education II

ST 787 The Problem of Suffering

Evangelism and Missions (12 hours)

Required Courses (6 hours)

PM 507 Evangelism

ST 780 Apologetics and World Religions

*Electives (6 hours)**

MS 755 Islam in the West

PM 610 Introduction to Chaplaincy

PM 742 Developing the Missional Church

PM 745 Church Planting and Renewal

Biblical Studies (12 hours)

Required Courses (6 hours)

OT 701 Old Testament Backgrounds and Theology

NT 701 New Testament Backgrounds and Theology

*Electives (6 hours)**

OT exegesis elective

NT exegesis elective

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. Demonstrate the ability to theologically evaluate contemporary issues in the Church and the world. (*Theological Evaluation*)
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 in the Church and its mission to the world. (*Christian Leadership*)
7. Author a capstone thesis or applied 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 2 years of full-time study. Students must normally complete the program within 5 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 concentration in biblical studies (with a focus in Old Testament or New Testament) theological studies (systematic theology), or historical studies (historical theology or Church history), ordinarily culminating in writing a thesis. The degree requires 24 credit hours and should be completed in a timeframe of maximum 3 years.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Conduct advanced biblical, theological, and/or historical interpretation, drawing upon the Church's orthodox and Reformed heritage, especially through writing and teaching. (*Advanced Interpretation*)
2. Critically and graciously evaluate diverse biblical, theological, and/or historical issues. (*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 one research language relevant to students' theses sufficient to support advanced research. (*Language*)
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 2 years of full-time study. Students must normally complete the program within 3 years.

To graduate, each ThM student writing a thesis must submit the final ThM thesis according to the specifications listed in the [ETS Style Manual](#). The final 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 September conferral, all degree requirements and the final thesis must be submitted by August 15. For January conferral, the deadline is December 15. The defense of the thesis will be held before a thesis defense committee prior to submitting the final copies of the thesis. (Students taking the non-thesis option are exempt from this requirement.) 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, their research language, and a potential thesis topic with the director. Students must complete program requirements as outlined below:

- TH 800 Becoming a Christian Scholar during one of the first two (2) semesters of studies, whenever offered first.
- TH 091 Biblical Hebrew Proficiency (no credit)
- TH 092 Biblical Greek Proficiency (no credit)
- At least four 800-level ThM courses in the students' concentration (biblical, theological, or historical studies)
- The remaining course (elective) can be 800-level seminars, 700-level courses in biblical, theological, or historical studies (with additional requirements), and DMin Norms courses.
- TH 095 Research Language Competence (no credit)
- 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 a thesis defense committee in the semester in which they expect to have their degree conferred.

LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

Biblical Language Proficiency—Proficiency in both biblical languages is a prerequisite for students enrolling in the ThM program. A proficiency exam in Greek and Hebrew will be waived for students who possess previous academic work in Greek and Hebrew grammar, syntax, and exegesis in the past 5 years with a grade of B or higher. Students who do not possess such work will take a proficiency exam. If they do not pass the proficiency exam, together with the ThM director they will develop a plan for improving the lacking proficiency.

Research Language Competence—Students who are writing a thesis first need to demonstrate working competence in one research language appropriate to their concentration or area of research. Students may demonstrate language competence either formally or informally. Formal demonstration involves submitting transcripts that show successful completion of at least three semesters of study in the given language at the university level or higher. If such study has not been very recent or if the students' grades are marginal, the ThM director may ask the students to demonstrate proficiency informally as well. For more details, consult the ThM Manual and the ThM program director. Informal demonstration of competence involves meeting with a faculty member or approved proctor who is skilled in the given language and arranging a way of assessing a student's ability in that language.

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' research language 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](#). The thesis will count as two courses (6 hours), graded pass/fail, with two levels of achievement: successfully passing and passing with distinction. A defense of the thesis will be held before a thesis defense committee prior to submitting the final thesis.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

ThM students are required to register every semester (fall, spring, and summer) without interruption (unless granted a temporary withdrawal). During the coursework stage, students 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. If the thesis is not completed in two semesters, they must register for TH 086 Continuation of the ThM Thesis each semester until completion. Students who miss the registration deadline will be automatically enrolled in the appropriate continuation course after the drop/add day of the semester (unless they requested a withdrawal). However, the continuation courses (TH 081 and TH 086) carry no academic credit and are not eligible for financial aid.

Temporary Withdrawal—Students may request a temporary withdrawal from the program for a period of up to one year per request (and not more than 2 years total) by writing to the Postgraduate Committee through the ThM director. A temporary withdrawal eliminates the need for continuous enrollment. Students wishing to return to the program after a temporary withdrawal must request reinstatement by writing to the Postgraduate Committee through the ThM director.

Extension—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 students must pay an extension fee. Under no circumstances will more than two such extensions be granted. If the Committee denies such a request, the students will be permanently suspended from the program.

Readmission—Students returning to the program after a long period of time or after being suspended must re-apply for admission by completing a new full application. Readmission is not automatic.

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 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). The degree should be completed in a timeframe of maximum 5 years.

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.

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. 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.

The DMin director is the default academic advisor and should be consulted on all matters pertaining to the program. An additional faculty supervisor will be appointed to guide the student through the 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 and present a 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 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 3 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 3 years of full-time study. Except in cases of substantial transfer credit, candidates are not eligible to receive the DMin degree in less than 2 years. Students must normally complete the program within 5 years.

In order to graduate, each DMin student must submit the final DMin dissertation according to the specifications listed in the [ETS Style Manual](#). The final 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 September conferral, all degree requirements and the final dissertation must be submitted by August 15. For January conferral, the deadline is December 15. Students with September or January conferral will be invited to participate in the following May graduation ceremony.

Once the dissertation is finalized and approved by the supervisor and the reviewer, each student will be scheduled for an oral presentation with the dissertation supervisor, second reviewer, and the DMin director 7-14 days prior to degree conferral. The DMin closing review will also take place at this time.

Transfer and Advanced Standing

Students may transfer up to 15 credit hours into Erskine's Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program from an accredited institution, provided each course was completed with a grade of B or higher.

Additionally, advanced standing with credit may be awarded for up to one-third of the total degree requirements, which equates to a maximum of 12 credit hours. These advanced standing credits are included within the 15-hour transfer limit, not in addition to it.

The DMin director will determine the area (Functions or Contexts) for the transfer credit and/or advanced standing. Below is a list of possible advanced standing credit hours:

- Students may receive 3 advanced standing credit hours for completing CPE III or 6 credits for completing both CPE III and CPE IV, upon approval of their Advanced Standing Paper (see details in the DMin Manual).
- Military chaplains who have completed Chaplain Captains Career Course (C4) may receive 9 hours of advanced standing credit, upon approval of their Advanced Standing Paper (see details in the DMin Manual).

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). Repeated courses do not qualify for financial aid or institutional scholarships.

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 (Loc)i
Ethics
Missions

Ministry

Worship
Preaching
Evangelism
Pastoral Ministry
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 are permitted to complete these, while enrolled in the DMin program. Applicants with more substantial deficiencies will normally be required to make up for 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)

Two Norms (DN) elective – one must be in biblical studies

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 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 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. Once the dissertation is finalized and approved, the student will be scheduled for an oral presentation with the dissertation supervisor, second reviewer, and the DMin director 7-14 days prior to conferral.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

DMin students are required to register every semester (fall, spring, and summer) without interruption (unless granted a temporary withdrawal). During the coursework stage, students must either register for a credit course or for DR 091 Continuation of the DMin Program

(non-credit) each semester. Students who have been approved to begin work on their prospectus must normally register for DR 940 Candidacy (the prospectus is expected to be finished in one semester). After completing the prospectus, students must normally register for DR 941/942/943 DMin Dissertation in the next three consecutive terms (fall, spring, and summer). Students who do not complete the dissertation within these three terms must register for DR 095 Continuation of the DMin Dissertation (non-credit) each semester. Students who miss the registration deadline will be automatically enrolled in the appropriate continuation course after the drop/add day of the semester (unless they requested a withdrawal). However, the continuation courses (DR 091 and DR 095) carry no academic credit and are not eligible for financial aid.

Temporary Withdrawal—Students may request a temporary withdrawal from the program for a period of up to one year per request (and not more than 2 years total) by writing to the Postgraduate Committee through the DMin director. Such a temporary withdrawal eliminates the need for continuous enrollment. Students wishing to return to the program after a temporary withdrawal must request reinstatement by writing to the Postgraduate Committee through the DMin director.

Extension—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 students must pay an extension fee. Under no circumstances will more than two such extensions be granted. If the Committee denies such a request, the students will be permanently suspended from the program.

Readmission—Students returning to the program after a long period of time or after being suspended must re-apply for admission by completing a new full application. Readmission is not automatic.

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)
- ST 782 Cultural Apologetics in Contemporary Society

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN APOLOGETICS (TRACK B)

- ST 780 Apologetics and World Religions
- ST 787 The Problem of Suffering
- ST 790 Advanced Apologetics and World Religions
- ST 782 Cultural Apologetics in Contemporary Society

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIOMEDICAL ETHICS (TRACK C)

- ET 711 Christian Ethics
- ST 787 The Problem of Suffering
- 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, available 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 website. Students should use their academic worksheets to monitor their progress with their program directors.
- 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 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 program directors to determine the best way to meet these requirements.
- The following **program directors** serve as student advisors:

MDiv	Dr. Mark Ross
MDiv – Chaplaincy	Dr. Michael Stewart
MAPM	Dr. Florica Saracut
MATS	Dr. Richard Winston
ThM	Dr. Richard Winston
DMin	Dr. T. Chris Crain (until the dissertation supervisor is selected)

- Students in their last year of study must meet with their **program directors** 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

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 were completed with a letter grade and are directly relevant to students' course of study (pass/fail courses will not be considered for transfer credit). For master's programs (MDiv, MAPM, MATS), transfer credits can only be accepted for up to two-thirds of the credits required; in other words, at least one-third of the credit hours required for a degree must be earned at Erskine. Furthermore, 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. The ThM and DMin degrees have a different transfer credit threshold detailed under those program descriptions. 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 directors, 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 with 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 website), where they log in using the passcode provided when they are 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 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.

	MDiv	MATS, MAPM	ThM, DMin
Fall	15 hours	12 hours	6 hours
Spring	15 hours	12 hours	6 hours
Summer	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 registration form available on the Seminary website. 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 an audit 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 and 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 the necessary foundation for their studies, entering master's students must register during their first three semesters for PM 502 Christian Vocation and Transformation, BI 501 Bible Survey (or pass the Bible Challenge Exam), and BI 502 Principles of Exegesis.

Students entering the ThM and DMin programs must register in their first or second semester for a foundational course in theological research and writing: 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 (fall, spring, and summer). 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 approved by the professor to enhance the student's knowledge in a particular field of study. Students must ordinarily submit the request for directed or independent study to the Dean's office for approval thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the semester. 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. Upon completion of the cross-registered course(s), students must request their cross-registered academic transcript to be sent to Erskine's Registrar office for the grade to be added to the student's record.

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 wishing to obtain master's level CPE credit can take CPE through Erskine or from another facility approved by Erskine's director of MDiv–Chaplain Ministries. For CPE credit, students must register for three hours credit (1 unit) or six hours credit (2 units) in the same semester(s) they are completing the CPE training program.

CPE at Erskine (PM 774 and PM 775) is offered 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 on the Erskine Seminary website, “CPE at Erskine.”

MDiv Chaplaincy students who have previously completed Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in a certified clinical CPE facility may receive academic credit upon review and approval of the Director the MDiv–Chaplain Ministries. Ordinarily, the CPE units must have been completed within the past 10 years in order to be considered for academic credit. In order to be considered, students must submit a signed copy of the supervisor’s final evaluation from the CPE unit(s) and the supervisor’s certification that the unit(s) was/were completed successfully. Students may additionally be required to submit theological reflection papers for each CPE unit, as determined by the Director.

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. For asynchronous online courses, students should follow the specific attendance and participation requirements detailed in your syllabus. 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.

RECORDING CLASSES

Students may record classes 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.

COPYRIGHTED CLASS MATERIALS

Students should use class materials (which include, but are not limited to, lectures, class notes, presentations, and slides) provided in class or online only for class purposes and studying. Such materials should be treated with the same respect as any copyrighted material and can be quoted in written assignments. However, class materials may not be used outside of the class, shared with others, or distributed without first obtaining the written permission from the course instructor.

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.

DEADLINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Type of Course	Work due no later than	Grades due no later than
Master's level (500-799)		
All classes	Last day of semester or term	3 days after last day of semester or term
ThM and DMin		
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

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. 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 fails 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](#) link. 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 Erskine 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 (fall, spring, and summer). Students should either register for a course, thesis (ThM), or dissertation (DMin), or otherwise register for continuation (TH 081 or DR 091). If circumstances require it, students may request a temporary withdrawal from the program for a period of up to one year per request (and not more than 2 years total) by writing to the Postgraduate Committee through the program director. A temporary withdrawal eliminates the need for continuous enrollment. An approved withdrawal does not count against the maximum time allowed to complete the 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, and MDiv; 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, and MDiv; 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, and MDiv; 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 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 program directors *before* submitting their application for graduation. All business office, Seminary, and library accounts must be cleared two weeks prior to the conferral date. Students who fail to meet all 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 must agree 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."

The Dale W. Johnson Outstanding Thesis Award, established in 2025 in honor of Dr. Dale W. Johnson, Distinguished Professor of Church History Emeritus, is given to the graduate who has written the most outstanding master's thesis in church history or theological studies.

The Loyd D. Melton Doctor of Ministry Award, established in 2025 in honor of Rev. Dr. Loyd D. Melton, the John Montgomery Bell Distinguished Professor of New Testament Emeritus, is given to the Doctor of Ministry graduate who most exemplifies a spirit of graciousness matched with a keen theological mind, and who has written a superior dissertation, identifying a critical ministry need and providing exemplary pastoral response.

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
- 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

Ministry Department Courses

- WP Courses in Worship and Preaching
- PM Courses in Practical Ministry

Denominational Courses

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

ThM Courses

- TH ThM Required Courses (or T suffix)
- BI Seminars in Biblical Studies
- HT Seminars in Historical Studies
- ST Seminars in Theological Studies

DMin Courses

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

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 COURSES

Professors – Ross, Schwab, Winston

BI	General Bible Courses
OT	Old Testament Courses
NT	New Testament Courses
HB	Courses in Biblical Hebrew
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 teaches the basics of New Testament (Koine) Greek grammar. This course prepares students to read and interpret the Greek New Testament through a 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

Prerequisite BR 405. This course teaches the remaining basics of New Testament (Koine) Greek grammar and pushes further into matters of syntax. Students read longer passages in the Greek New Testament and learn how to use 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 (Greek Exegesis)

Prerequisites BR 407 and BR 408. This course develops the student's biblical Greek competency for New Testament exegesis and application. Students investigate Greek syntax, New Testament literary structures, textual criticism, genre, word studies, Greek lexica, exegetical methodology, and the relevance of exegesis for ministry.

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 (Advanced Greek Exegesis)

This course develops the student's ability to conduct biblical Greek exegesis at an advanced level. Students consider more technical aspects of grammar and syntax as informed by studies in modern linguistics. Students perform detailed analysis of passages in the Greek New Testament and engage secondary literature.

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

This course prepares the student for Old Testament interpretation through a study of biblical Hebrew vocabulary, morphology, and introductory syntax.

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 biblical Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and introductory syntax, and introduces the student to using 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 (Hebrew Exegesis)

This course integrates a student's biblical Hebrew competency into Old Testament exegesis and application. Students investigate intermediate Hebrew syntax, literary genres and structures, textual criticism, and lexicographical method for word studies.

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 (Advanced Hebrew Exegesis)

The course fosters students' ability in reading Biblical Hebrew at an advanced level by studying a variety of literary genres in the Hebrew Bible, including poetry, prophecy, and legal texts. Students gain facility in using advanced syntactical, lexical, and text-critical resources and in reading secondary research literature.

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 701 Old Testament Backgrounds and Theology

This course examines the literary and historical backgrounds, history of interpretation, and theology of the Old Testament. The purpose of the course is to orient the student to the central issues in contemporary Old Testament studies. This course builds on the introduction to the Old Testament in OT 501 and OT 502.

Prerequisites: Students must complete BI 502 Principles of Exegesis, OT 501 Old Testament I, and OT 502 Old Testament II prior to taking this course. 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: Students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class.

Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.

OT 762 Old Testament Wisdom Literature

This course explores the wisdom books of the Old Testament, specifically Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. The unique theological and literary features of these books are highlighted so that students can accurately interpret and apply these books in ministry. Students consider the New Testament's final word on wisdom and learn to interpret the wisdom texts in their whole canonical context.

Prerequisite: 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: 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: 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: 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 701 New Testament Backgrounds and Theology

This course examines the literary and historical backgrounds, history of interpretation, and theology of the New Testament. The purpose of the course is to orient the student to the central issues in contemporary New Testament studies. This course builds on the introduction to the New Testament in NT 601 and NT 602.

Prerequisites: Students must complete BI 502 Principles of Exegesis, NT 601 New Testament I, and NT 602 New Testament II prior to taking this course. Exegesis/Elective. 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: Students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class.

Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.

NT 771 1—2 Timothy, Titus

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: Students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis prior to taking this class.

Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.

NT 773 Galatians through Thessalonians, Philemon

This course provides a focused study of Galatians through Thessalonians, as well as Philemon. Detailed attention is given to issues of introduction, exegesis of key texts, and overarching theological themes.

Students also discern the functional impact of these letters for the life of the Christian and the Church.

Prerequisite: 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: 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: 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 1st century context. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of the book for the present-day Church and world.

Prerequisite: 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: 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 AND CHURCH HISTORY COURSES

Professors – Crain, Gore, Ross

- ST Systematic Theology Courses
- HT Historical Theology Courses
- CH Church History Courses
- ET Ethics Courses
- MS Missions/Contextualisation 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 701 The Methodology of Systematic & Historical Theology

This course explores the philosophies and methodologies of systematic and historical theology. The course investigates the questions: What makes them unique disciplines? What tools does the historian/systematic theologian employ? How does history inform theology and theology inform the study of history?

Elective. Three credits.

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 20th century background and the emerging theology of the 21st 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

This course explores the person and work of Jesus Christ. Attention is given to Scripture, significant writing from Church history, and contemporary authors on the doctrine of Christ.

Elective. Three hours.

ST 755 Union with Christ

This course provides a comprehensive study of the doctrine of union with Christ. Students investigate its systematic formulation (especially with reference to a Reformed *ordo salutis*), exegetical basis (particularly in Paul), and historical significance (both in Reformed theology and modern Pauline studies). The significance of this doctrine is applied to Christian identity and mission, sanctification, and the life and ministry of the Church.

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 787 The Problem of Suffering

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.

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 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 742 Calvin's Political and Social Philosophy

This course explores John Calvin's political and social philosophy, with particular attention paid to his teachings on natural law, community building, and the role of the individual within society. Students will learn how Calvin's thought shaped the development of early modern political theory and how his ideas continue to have relevance today in the formation of the Christian mind, in developing a deep love of the Church and God's created order, and in disciplining Christians to impact the world.
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 15th 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 LAPM 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 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 702 History of Missions

This course studies the growth of Christianity from its origins in the Roman Empire in the first century to its spread around the world into the twenty-first century. The course will highlight major events, persons, and issues in missions. Using a biblical and theological framework, the course examines the methods employed to propagate the Christian faith in various historical, cultural, and social contexts.

Elective. Three hours.

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 COURSES

Professors – Crain, Nelson, Saracut

WP Worship and Preaching Courses

PM Practical Ministry Courses

WORSHIP AND PREACHING COURSES

WP 650 Introduction to Preaching

In this introductory course for the preparation and delivery of sermons, students will draw on their work in exegesis, history, and systematic theology. Students will be instructed in the classical expository model that roots sermons in the biblical text, proclaims the good news of the gospel, and calls listeners to an obedient response to God's Word. Students will learn how preaching remains at the heart of pastoral ministry as a means of grace.

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 MAPM and MATS students. Three hours.

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 651 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 public worship of the Church.

Required for MDiv students. Three hours.

WP 652 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 director and the roles of hymnody, song, and music within the liturgy of Christian worship.

Elective. 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 Preaching Practicum

Building on WP 650 Introduction to Preaching, this course equips students through practice and workshops to strengthen their organization and delivery of sermons. Students will prepare and deliver sermons from various genres and portions of Scripture. Students will also explore other types of and occasional sermons ordinarily preached in pastoral ministry.

Prerequisite: WP 650 Introduction to 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. One to 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 500 Theological Writing

This course introduces students to the foundations of theological research and writing, providing training in the requirements of the *ETS Style Manual*.

MAPM, MATS, and MDiv transfer students must complete this course in one of their first two semesters of enrollment. One hour.

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 two semesters of enrollment. Three hours.

PM 505 Educational Ministries in the Local Church

This course examines the theology and practice of educational ministries in the local church. Students explore biblical and theological foundations of learning, creative methods of teaching the Bible, models of intentional educational ministries, and discipleship strategies. Particular attention is given to the responsibilities and opportunities for pastors and other ministry leaders as teachers within the local church. *Required for MDiv students. 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 mission of the Church.

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. The 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: corporate, military, healthcare, public safety, institutional, sports, educational, and crisis/disaster relief.

Required for MDiv-Chaplain Ministries elective for all other students. Three hours.

PM 701 Sanctification and the Spiritual Disciplines

This course engages sanctification as a process of being shaped by the story of Scripture that centers on the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ. Numerous spiritual disciplines are explored as "scripts" which empower our participation in the drama of redemption. Within this framework, the course highlights the shaping power of several practices inherited from the ancient Church, including liturgical worship, the Christian calendar, praying the Psalter, and *lectio divina* (scriptural meditation with contemplative prayer).

Elective. Three hours.

PM 704 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 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 that will support the student's growth for leadership in ministry. This field experience must include 130 hours of ministry over the span of at least 13 weeks, with a minimum of one hour per week of direct supervision by the field supervisor.

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 720 Teaching and Learning

This course challenges students to deepen their conceptual understanding of the processes of learning and sharpen their pedagogical skills for teaching adults within the context of the local church and Christian ministries. Students engage a redemptive, transformational approach to learning, which can also strengthen their approach to preaching. Students have opportunities to explore various teaching methods for ministry.

Prerequisite: PM 505 Educational Ministries in the Local Church. Elective. Three credits.

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 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 21st 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 the 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, 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 (CPE) 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 receive approval from the Director of the MDiv–Chaplain Ministries program 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.

Prerequisites: PM 608 Pastoral Care and Counseling and PM 610 Introduction to Chaplaincy.

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. One to 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.

DENOMINATIONAL COURSES

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

BP 701 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 701 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 701 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 702 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 703 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 701 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 Seminars in Biblical Studies
- HT Seminars in Historical Studies
- ST Seminars in Theological Studies

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 091 Biblical Hebrew Proficiency

ThM students must demonstrate proficiency in biblical Hebrew. Students can demonstrate proficiency formally through appropriate transcripts or informally through successful completion of a proficiency exam.

Required. No credit.

TH 092 Biblical Greek Proficiency

ThM students must demonstrate proficiency in Koine (NT) Greek. Students can demonstrate proficiency formally through appropriate transcripts or informally through successful completion of a proficiency exam.

Required. No credit.

TH 095 Research Language Competence

Students who are writing a thesis first need to demonstrate working competence in one research language appropriate to their concentration or area of research. At the beginning of their studies, students will meet with the ThM director to discuss choice of a research language. Students should then work on developing working competency in that language throughout the program.

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 – starting with 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 801 Seminar in Teaching and Learning for Theological Education

This course challenges ministry leaders and teachers to deepen their conceptual understanding of the processes of learning and sharpen their pedagogical skills for teaching adults within the context of Christian educational ministries and formal theological education contexts. Students engage and practice a redemptive, transformational approach to learning, which can also strengthen their approach to preaching. This course provides the advanced educational frameworks and tools for effective teaching in Christian higher education.

Elective for ThM students. Three hours.

TH 806 Comprehensive Exam – starting with 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 concentrating 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.

BI 802 Seminar in Old Testament Backgrounds and Theology

This course examines the literary and historical backgrounds, history of interpretation, and theology of the Old Testament. The purpose of the course is to orient the student to the central issues in contemporary Old Testament studies. This course provides the historical and theological tools for advanced Old Testament interpretation.

Required for ThM students with a concentration in biblical studies focusing on the Old Testament; elective for other ThM students. DMin students may take this course as a Norms elective. Three hours.

BI 803 Seminar in New Testament Backgrounds and Theology

This course examines the literary and historical backgrounds, history of interpretation, and theology of the New Testament. The purpose of the course is to orient the student to the central issues in contemporary New Testament studies. This course provides the historical and theological tools for advanced New Testament interpretation.

Required for ThM students with a concentration in biblical studies focusing on the New Testament; elective for other ThM students. DMin students may take this course as a Norms elective. Three hours.

HT 801 Seminar in Historical Studies

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

Required for ThM students concentrating in historical studies (focusing on historical theology or Church history), elective for other ThM students. DMin students may take this course as a Contexts elective. Three hours.

HT 802 Seminar in Historical & Theological Method

This seminar examines philosophies of history and theology, the practice of history and theology, and historical and theological methods. Particular attention will be given to the work of an historian and theologian within a Christian context while at the same time engaging modern developments in historiography and theological method.

Required for ThM students with a concentration in theological or historical studies; elective for other ThM students. DMin students may take this course as a Norms elective. Three hours.

ST 801 Seminar in Theological Studies

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

Required for ThM students concentrating in theological studies (focusing on systematic theology), 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, 21st 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

Students may undertake an independent study in an area of the ThM curriculum (Old Testament, New Testament, systematic theology, historical theology, Church history). The student's request is to be made in writing to the ThM program director and approved by the Dean before a professor is assigned to supervise the work. The student and professor together then work out the particulars of the study and submit the signed plan of study to the Registrar's office. *Elective. One to 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 dissertation supervisor 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 – **starting with 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 – starting with Summer 2024

Candidacy entails satisfactory completion of a DMin prospectus that outlines in detail the proposed 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 dissertation supervisor 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 Dissertation

This course indicates that a student is continuing work on the 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 Dissertation

The climax of the DMin program, this component is worked out between a candidate and his/her dissertation supervisor 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 dissertation supervisor and reviewer. 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

BI 802 Seminar in Old Testament Backgrounds and Theology

BI 803 Seminar in New Testament Backgrounds and Theology

ST 801 Seminar in Theological Studies

ST 802 Seminar in Contextual Theology

DN 908 The Books of Judges & Ruth and Christian Faithfulness

This course examines the Old Testament books of Judges and Ruth, considering their history, content, milieu, text, structure, and meaning. Attention is given to the books' ancient historical setting and the light they shed on the gospel of Jesus Christ. Drawing from the Christological message of these books, students explore applications of Christian faithfulness within their contemporary contexts of ministry.

Elective (Norms). Three hours.

DN 913 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 915 Old Testament Wisdom for Life and Ministry

This course examines the skill set needed to competently interpret and apply the wisdom books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs in pastoral ministry. Care and attention will be given to the literary structure of each of book, their unique theological contributions and practical uses, how they interpret Scripture and are interpreted by Scripture, and how they deliver a Christological message.

Elective (Norms). Three hours.

DN 917 Isaiah and Pastoral Ministry

This course explores the theology of Isaiah and examines how the New Testament authors assimilated Isaiah's message to present the gospel of Jesus Christ. The course also discusses how Isaiah applies to the work of pastors today. Students conduct exegetical work on the book and make application to their current ministry contexts.

Elective (Norms). Three hours.

DN 919 Daniel and Ministry in "Exile"

This course situates the book of Daniel within the genre of apocalyptic literature and then considers in detail the history, composition, and theological message of the book. The intimate connection between Daniel and the gospel of Jesus Christ is explored. The implications of Daniel for contemporary ministry in a society in which the Church's experience is one of "exile" are emphasized.

Elective (Norms). Three hours.

DN 920 The Minor Prophets and the Church's Ministry

This course examines the twelve minor prophets, focusing on their theologies and how they contribute to a single message for the Church. Students explore the call of the prophets to an ethical, just, and God-centered community. Students conduct exegetical work on one of the minor prophets and make application to their current ministry contexts.

Elective (Norms). Three hours.

DN 924 The Sermon on the Mount and Contemporary Ethical Issues

This course examines the history of the interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount, its relationship to the whole body of Jesus' teaching, and its relationship to the book of James. The course then examines each pericope of the Sermon, noting the radical nature of Jesus' teaching. Students choose a pericope or a theme from the Sermon and examine a contemporary ethical issue in light of Jesus' teaching.

Elective (Norms). 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 1st 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 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 938 The Letters to the Corinthians

This course surveys the historical background, content, structure, and theological meaning of 1–2 Corinthians. Special emphasis is given to applying the candid view of early Church life in 1–2 Corinthians to current ministry contexts. Students conduct exegetical work on select passages with a view to maturing their theology of pastoral ministry.

Elective (Norms). Three hours.

DN 941 Church Life in Galatians—Thessalonians, Philemon

This course provides a focused study of early Church life as seen in Galatians through Thessalonians, as well as Philemon. Detailed attention is given to issues of introduction, exegesis of key texts, and overarching theological themes in order to discern how Paul instructed these Christian communities. Students formulate their approach to ministry and discipleship as informed by these letters.

Elective. 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 1st 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 Interpreting 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 952 Union with Christ: Church and Christian Life in Christ

This course provides an integrated study of the doctrine of union with Christ. Students investigate its systematic formulation (especially with reference to a Reformed *ordo salutis*), exegetical basis (particularly in Paul), and historical significance (both in Reformed theology and modern Pauline studies).

Application is made to personal sanctification and identity and the life and ministry of the Church.

Elective. Three hours.

DN 954 Christology for Pastoral Ministry

This course explores the person and work of Jesus Christ. Attention is given to Scripture, significant writings from Church history, and contemporary authors on the doctrine of Christ. Course application focuses on the importance of the person and work of Jesus Christ for pastoral ministry.

Elective. Three hours.

DN 955 Theology of Worship

This course studies a Christian theology of worship within the context of the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, the Church, ministry, the Word, prayer, and the sacraments. Course content systematically focuses on the thought of major Reformed theologians and the historic creeds and confessional documents of the Church in dialogue with other Christian traditions. Students investigate worship as an elaboration of faith in the triune God and his activity in the Church through his Spirit.

Elective (Norms). 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 983 The Problem of Pain

This course addresses the existential dilemma of suffering and wrestles with the intellectual problem of theodicy, namely, how does a good, all-powerful, and all-loving God allow his people to suffer. Students will consider a range of explanations from biblical, theological, and pastoral perspectives in pursuit of answers that will provide effective ministry to those who are suffering.

Elective. Three hours.

DN 991 Independent Study in Norms (Bible or Theology)

Students may undertake an independent study in Bible or theology on a topic of particular interest or importance to them. The student's request is to be made in writing to the DMin program director and approved by the Dean before a professor is assigned to supervise the work. The student and professor together then work out the particulars of the study and submit the signed plan of study to the Registrar's office.

Elective. One to three hours.

FUNCTIONS COURSES

DF 912 Spiritual Growth and Christian Practices

This course engages spiritual growth as a process of being shaped by the story of Scripture that centers on the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ. Numerous traditional Christian practices are explored as “scripts” which empower our participation in the drama of redemption. Within this framework, the course highlights the shaping power of several practices inherited from the ancient Church, including liturgical worship, the Christian calendar, praying the Psalter, and *lectio divina*. Students will develop their own philosophy of spiritual growth, integrated with appropriate Christian practices to promote individual and communal maturity in Christ.

Elective. Three hours.

DF 920 Teaching & Learning in the Church and in Christian Higher Education

This course challenges pastors and ministry leaders to deepen their conceptual understanding of the processes of learning and sharpen their pedagogical skills for teaching adults. Students engage and practice a redemptive, transformational approach to learning, which can also strengthen their approach to preaching. This course provides the advanced educational frameworks and tools for effective teaching in the educational ministries of the Church and in Christian higher education.

Elective (Functions). Three hours.

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 21st 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 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.

DF 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.

DF 958 Pastoral Resilience & Navigating Conflict

This course explores how pastors and ministry leaders can cultivate resilience in the face of the persistent challenges and inevitable conflicts in ministry. Participants examine some of the cultural, theological, ecclesiastical, interpersonal, and intrapersonal dimensions of conflict. 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.

Elective. Three hours.

DF 978 Church Planting/Church Renewal

This course equips students with the principles and strategies that can develop healthy, growing, reproducing churches. Students, in hands-on ways, learn how to formulate a biblical vision for ministry and core values for church growth. Lectures, discussion, readings, and workshop activities will support the students' learning.

Elective. Three hours.

DF 980 Vocational Renewal in Ministry

This course studies the themes of endurance and renewal in vocational ministry. Students study literature and key biblical texts on the topics of burnout and personal revitalization. Students also develop a plan for personal, familial, and professional flourishing in vocational ministry.

Elective. Three hours.

DF 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.

DF 991 Independent Study in Functions

Students may undertake an independent study in ministerial functions on a topic of particular interest or importance to them. The student's request is to be made in writing to the DMin program director and approved by the Dean before a professor is assigned to supervise the work. The student and professor together then work out the particulars of the study and submit the signed plan of study to the Registrar's office.

Elective. One to three hours.

CONTEXTS COURSES

In addition to the courses listed in this section, DMin students may take the HT 801 seminars (ThM) as Contexts electives.

DC 910 The Legacy of Martin Luther

This course explores the legacy of Martin Luther and considers the Protestant Reformation he sparked from the perspectives of its theological, social, political, and ecclesiastical roots. Students will study those people and groups within Luther's circle who shaped or opposed his vision for reformation. Attention will be given to how Luther's legacy influences the continuing reformation of the Church and how Christians can hold fast to the grace of the gospel today.

Elective. Three hours.

DC 912 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.

DC 914 The Political and Social Philosophy of John Calvin

This course investigates the political and social philosophy of John Calvin. Students will explore how Calvin's thought provides wisdom for deeper community building, for discipling believers toward maturity in Christ, and for a robust world-and-life-view, one capable of taking on the challenges of ministry in a post-Christian world. In the end, students will uncover the enduring relevance of Calvin's ideas, gaining valuable insights for contemporary ministry and societal engagement, empowering their own leadership and ministry callings.

Elective (Contexts). Three hours.

DC 918 The Legacy of John Knox

This class explores the people, events, and key documents surrounding the Scottish Reformation, with special attention to John Knox. Students will examine Knox's key role in the Scottish Reformation through his developing theology, leadership, and his growing sense of his own prophetic abilities. Further attention will be given to Knox's pastoral relationship to seven congregations, including those in London, Frankfurt, Geneva, Edinburgh, and St. Andrews, and what lessons students might draw for contemporary pastoral ministry.

Elective (Contexts). Three hours.

DC 923 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.

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 925 Presbyterianism Through the Ages

This course will examine the historical origins and subsequent developments of the presbyterian form of church government from its biblical roots to the present day. Students will do advanced research in some aspect of Presbyterianism and consider its relevance for churches and ministry today.

Elective. Three hours.

DC 935 The History of Christianity in the United States

This course examines the history of Christianity in the United States from colonial times to the present. It traces the historical development of religious motifs and particular denominational expressions of Christianity, to better understand the context of Christianity in America today.

Elective (Contexts). 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 21st 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 952 Christian Missions in History

This course explores the growth of the Christian faith beginning within the Roman Empire and the Middle East and then its spread over the centuries into Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia. It examines major missionary figures, themes, and events in missions from biblical, historical, and cultural perspectives. Students will evaluate missions models in light of biblical principles.

Elective (Contexts). 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. Students develop a wise approach to navigating contemporary ethical issues.

Elective (Contexts). Three hours.

DC 960 Cultural Apologetics in Contemporary America

This course examines why good arguments often fail when Christians engage the worldviews inherent in a 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 and the existential threats of cultural pluralism.

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. Students develop a model of ministry that is appropriate in helping the small church to be more effective in its ministry.

Elective (Contexts). 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 Christians 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

Students may undertake an independent study in contextual studies on a topic of particular interest or importance to them. The student's request is to be made in writing to the DMin program director and approved by the Dean before a professor is assigned to supervise the work. The student and professor together then work out the particulars of the study and submit the signed plan of study to the Registrar's office.

Elective. One to three hours.

FINANCES

TUITION AND FEES FOR 2025–2026

Tuition Fees

Tuition for Master's-Level Courses	\$550
Tuition for ThM and DMin Courses (per semester hour)	\$600

Other Fees

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

Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry Degree Fees

TH 090 Research Methodologies Fee	\$200
TH 095 Research Language Competence	\$125
TH 097 Comprehensive Examination Fee	\$200
DR 010 DMin Prospectus Writing Seminar Fee	\$225
DR 090 Candidacy	\$500
DR 943 Dissertation	\$750
Program or Thesis/Dissertation Continuation Fee (per semester/term)	\$200
Extension of Time to Complete Degree (per year)	\$1,500

Academic Service Fees

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

Campus Housing Fees (Due West Only)

Room (Fall-Spring)	\$6,350
Board (all plans, Fall-Spring)	\$6,900
Room Key or Campus FOB Replacement	\$75
Student ID Card Replacement	\$25
Guestroom	\$35

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. 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, students who withdraw from the classes may receive a partial refund in accordance with the schedule below. For one-week intensives or 8-week courses, the refund schedule will follow the drop/add deadline published in the Academic Calendar. Full tuition refunds are available up to the drop/add deadline. Withdrawn courses 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.

Refund Schedule	Refund
Up to drop/add	100%
Within 10 business days after drop/add	75%
After 10 business days of drop/add	No Refund

Failing to attend classes or simply talking with a faculty or staff member do not constitute withdrawal. Students must submit the appropriate Withdrawal Form to the Registrar's office if they wish to withdraw from a course(s) or from the school.

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 the 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 website](#). 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 website](#).

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 – Minimum
MDiv	12 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)	6 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)
MAPM	9 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)	6 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)
MATS	9 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)	6 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)
ThM	6 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)	3 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)
DMin	6 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)	3 hours each semester (fall, spring, summer)

FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS (TITLE IV)

Erskine Theological Seminary participates in government loan programs that make funds available to students enrolled in one of Seminary’s degree programs (not 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. 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 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.

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.

When a student has failed to maintain prescribed standards of progress, VA must be informed promptly so that payments can be discontinued in accordance with the law. The termination date will be the last day of the term in which the student's progress became unsatisfactory. Erskine will report a termination due to unsatisfactory progress if a student remains on academic probation beyond two terms or semesters.

For assistance with coordinating VA benefits, please contact the financial aid office at 864-379-8832 or 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 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 – 8 years maximum | • ThM – 3 years maximum |
| • MATS – 5 years maximum | • DMin – 5 years maximum |
| • MAPM – 5 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 1st.
- 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 students 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 expressions 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, PLAGIARISM, AND AI-USAGE

Each student is responsible for his/her own work and is expected to remain honest in all academic activities. Academic dishonesty—including (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence (AI)—is a serious violation of both academic standards and biblical teaching. Plagiarism occurs when a person, intentionally or unintentionally, presents the words or works of others as one’s own. Unless used under the direction of the course instructor or required as part of an assignment, using generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) is prohibited and will be considered plagiarism; it is taking content that you did not create and claim it as your own.

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.

Erskine 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*. 2025.

Turabian, Kate L., et. al. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 9th 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 website (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 with 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 and classrooms are located in Bowie Divinity 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 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.

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 FACILTIES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, THE BRIDGE, 1400 LADY STREET

The Seminary offices for faculty and staff, and the library are located on the 2nd floor.

MINISTRY BUILDING, 1420 LADY STREET

Seminary classes are held on the 3rd 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 refence 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 FACILTIES

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)

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 Univ. of South Carolina, 1998; MD, Univ. of South Carolina School of Medicine, 2002; Additional training, Duke Univ. Medical Center, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Univ. Hospital

T. Chris Crain (crain@erskine.edu)

Associate Professor of Historical Theology

Director of the Doctor for Ministry Program

BS, Clemson University, 1993; MDiv, Covenant Theological Seminary, 1998; PhD (historical theology), St. Louis Univ., 2003

R. J. Gore, Jr. (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 Univ., 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)

Distinguished Professor of Church History

BA, Cedarville Univ., 1976; MA (Historical Theology), Covenant Theological Seminary, 1984; MA (American History), Florida Atlantic Univ., 1988; PhD (Reformation/Early Modern European History), Georgia State Univ., 1995; Additional studies: Oxford Univ., English Speaking Union Fellow; Univ. of St. Andrews, Visiting Scholar

Loyd D. Melton (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

Seth J. Nelson (nelson@erskine.edu)

Dean of the Seminary

Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Educational Leadership

BA, Moody Bible Institute, 2004; MDiv, Westminster Theological Seminary, 2009; PhD (Educational Studies), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 2021

Mark E. Ross (ross@erskine.edu)

The First Presbyterian Church – John R. de Witt Chair of Theology

Director of the Master of Divinity Program

Associate Dean for Columbia

BA, University of Pittsburgh, 1974; MDiv (Historical and Systematic Theology), Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 1979; PhD (Theism and Scientific Method), Univ. of Keele, England, 1984

Florica Saracut (saracut@erskine.edu)

Assistant Professor of Educational Ministries

Director of Seminary Assessment and Effectiveness

BS, Emanuel Bible Institute, Romania, 1996; MA in Christian Ed, Erskine Theological Seminary, 2000; MDiv, Erskine Theological Seminary, 2002; DMin (Mentoring), Erskine Theological Seminary, 2020; Additional PhD studies: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

George M. Schwab (schwab@erskine.edu)

Professor of Old Testament

BS, Drexel University, 1982; MDiv, Westminster Theological Seminary, 1992; PhD (Hermeneutics and Biblical Interpretation), Westminster Theological Seminary, 1999; certificates from the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation

Richard W. Winston (winston@erskine.edu)

Associate Professor of New Testament

Director of the Master of Theology Program

BA, Bob Jones Univ., 2004; MDiv, Geneva Reformed Seminary, 2008; PhD, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, 2015

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Brad Anderson (brad.anderson@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of Pastoral and Youth Ministry
BA, Erskine College; MATS and DMin, Erskine Theological Seminary

Chris D. Barney (barney@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of New Testament
BA, MA (Theology), and PhD (NT Interpretation), Bob Jones University, additional studies toward MA (Educational Administration), Univ. of South Carolina

Jim Belcher (belcher@erskine.edu)

Research Professor of Historical and Pastoral Theology
BA, Gordon College; MA (Theology) Fuller Theological Seminary; PhD (Political Philosophy), Georgetown Univ.

Lawrence E. Gordon (gordon@erskine.edu)

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BS, Voorhees College; MDiv, Interdenominational Theological Seminary; MA, Webster Univ.; DMin (Youth Ministry), United Theological Seminary

Thomas D. Hawkes (hawkes@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of Church Planting
BA, Gordon College; MATS, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; MA (Reformed Studies), Vrije University; PhD (Historical Theology), London School of Theology

Daniel J. Janosik (janosik@erskine.edu)

Research Professor of Apologetics
BA, College of William and Mary; MDiv, Columbia Biblical Seminary; MA (Muslim Studies), Columbia Biblical Seminary; PhD (Historical Theology), Brunel Univ.

Philip T. Mohr (mohr@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies
BA, St. John's College; MA (Curriculum and Instruction), Univ. of Mississippi; MDiv, Westminster Theological Seminary; MPhil (Religious Studies) and PhD (Biblical Studies), The Catholic University

David Reiter (reiter@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of Philosophy
BA (Philosophy), Covenant College; MAR (Theological Studies), Westminster Seminary; PhD (Philosophy), Univ. of Nebraska

C. Rebecca Rine (rine@erskine.edu)

Research Professor of Theological Writing and Research
BA, Campbell Univ.; MA (English), Univ. of North Carolina; PhD (Religious Studies), Univ. of Virginia

Max F. Rogland (rogland@erskine.edu)

Research Professor of Old Testament

BA, BMus, Univ. of Washington; MDiv (Biblical Studies), Covenant Theological Seminary; PhD (Classical Hebrew), Leiden Univ.

Kyle E. Sims (ksims@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Ministry

BA (History), Erskine College; MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary; DMin, Erskine Theological Seminary

David Smith (david.smith@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of Historical Theology

BA, Carson-Newman College; MDiv, Covenant Theological Seminary; PhD (Historical Theology), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Michael R. Stewart (stewart@erskine.edu)

Research Professor of Chaplain Ministries

Director of the MDiv—Chaplain Ministries Program

BS, The Citadel; MS (Counseling), Columbus State Univ.; ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary; DMin (Workplace Theology), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Brandon S. Szerlip (szerlip@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of New Testament

BA, Moody Bible Institute; MA (Biblical Exegesis) and MA (Systematic and Historical Theology), Wheaton College; PhD (NT Hermeneutics), Westminster Theological Seminary

Richard F. Williams, Jr. (richard.williams@erskine.edu)

Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Ministry

BA, Presbyterian College; MEd, Clemson Univ.; MDiv and EdD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

PROFESSORS EMERITI

Terry L. Eves (deceased)

Professor of Old Testament Emeritus

BA, Grace College; MAR, Westminster Theological Seminary; MA, PhD, The Dropsie College of Hebrew & Cognate Languages

R. J. Gore, Jr.

Dean Emeritus

BA, MA, Bob Jones Univ.; MA, STM, Faith Theological Seminary; MA, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; PhD, Westminster Theological Seminary; DMin, Erskine Theological Seminary; MSS, US Army War College; Additional studies: Chestnut Hill College; Princeton Theological Seminary; Columbia Theological Seminary; Reformed Theological Seminary; Calvin College and Theological Seminary

Jack Heinsohn (deceased)

Professor of Homiletics Emeritus

BA, Erskine College; MDiv, Erskine Theological Seminary; DD, Erskine Theological Seminary

Dale W. Johnson

Distinguished Professor of Church History Emeritus

BA, Cedarville Univ.; MA (Historical Theology), Covenant Theological Seminary; MA (American History), Florida Atlantic Univ.; PhD (Reformation/Early Modern European History), Georgia State Univ.; Additional studies: Oxford Univ., English Speaking Union Fellow; Univ. of St. Andrews, Visiting Scholar

Merwyn S. Johnson

Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology Emeritus

BA, Univ. of Virginia; BD, ThM, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia; DTheol, University of Basel, Switzerland

Ray A. King (deceased)

Professor of Church History Emeritus

AB, Erskine College; BD, Erskine Theological Seminary; ThM, Austin Presbyterian Seminary; DD, Erskine College; Graduate Studies: Univ. of Edinburgh, Candler School of Theology

Mary Ruth Marshall (deceased)

Professor of Christian Education Emerita

BA, Montreat College; MRE, Presbyterian School of Christian Education; EdD, Presbyterian School of Christian Education

Loyd D. Melton

Distinguished Professor of New Testament Emeritus

BA, Presbyterian College; MDiv, Erskine Theological Seminary; PhD (NT Studies), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Additional studies: Hebrew Union College; Union Theological Seminary

Randall T. Ruble (deceased)

Dean Emeritus

AB, Erskine College; BD, Erskine Theological Seminary; ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary; PhD, Univ. of Edinburgh; DD, Erskine College

LIBRARY

L. Heath Milford (Columbia) (hmilford@erskine.edu)

Columbia Librarian

BA, Univ. of South Carolina; MATS, Erskine Theological Seminary

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Steven C. Adamson

President, Erskine College and Theological Seminary

Dr. Ed Clavell

Provost, Erskine College and Theological Seminary

Dr. Seth J. Nelson

Dean, Erskine Theological Seminary

Mr. J. Paul Bell

Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations

Mr. Bobby Clarke

Vice President of Operations and Strategic Planning

Mr. Darrell Proffitt

Vice President of Finance

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ERSKINE COLLEGE

TRUSTEES

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Mr. E. Phillip Cook, Vice Chair	Clinton, SC
Mrs. R. Joy Webb, Secretary	Fayetteville, NC
Mr. Darrell W. Proffitt, Treasurer	Greenwood, SC
Mrs. Nancy G. Jones, Assistant Secretary	Greenwood, SC

2026

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2027

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Mr. W. Hartley Powell	Columbia, SC
Dr. Karen M. Wicks	Beaufort, SC

2029

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Ex Officio

The Rev. David Walkup	Melbourne, FL
Moderator, ARP General Synod (2025-2026)	
Mr. J.H. "Jim" Moore	Laurens, SC
President, Erskine Alumni Association (2025-2026)	

Advisors

Dr. Steve C. Adamson, President	Due West, SC
Dr. E.A. Clavell, Interim Provost	Due West, SC
Dr. Seth J. Nelson, Dean of the Seminary	Greenville, SC
Mr. Darrell W. Proffitt, Vice President of Finance	Greenwood, SC

CONTACT INFORMATION

Admissions

etsadmissions@erskine.edu, 864-379-8821

Financial Aid

financialaid@erskine.edu, 864-379-8832

Student Bills

studentbilling@erskine.edu, 864-379-8813

Due West Campus

Mrs. Stacey Fleming, Student Services

Stacey.fleming@erskine.edu, 864-379-8821

Columbia Location

Mr. Heath Milford

columbialibrary@erskine.edu, 803-771-6180

Greenville Location

Dr. Seth Nelson, Dean of Seminary

seth.nelson@erskine.edu, 757-560-0040

Library

Due West Staff

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025–2026*

2025 Fall Term

Requests for Directed or Independent Studies Received by	Monday, July 21
Classes Begin	Wednesday, August 20
Drop/Add Day (Class Changes)	Tuesday, August 26
Labor Day Holiday (No Classes)	Monday, September 1
Graduation Applications for JANUARY Conferrals Due	Monday, September 15
One-Week Intensive Begins – Drop/Add Day for Intensive	Monday, September 29
Incompletes from Previous Term to be Removed by	Wednesday, October 1
Fall Break (No Classes).....	Monday, October 13–Tuesday, October 14
Registration Opens for Spring Term	Monday, November 3
Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)	Wednesday, November 26–Saturday, November 29
ThM Thesis Defense (January Grads) by	Monday, December 1
Graduation Applications for MAY Conferrals Due	Tuesday, December 9
Classes End	Wednesday, December 10
Final Theses and Dissertations Due (January Grads)	Friday, December 12
DMin Dissertation Presentation (January Grads) by	Friday, December 12
Fall Term Grades Due	Wednesday, December 17

2026 Spring Term

Requests for Directed or Independent Studies Received by	Friday, December 12
Classes Begin	Monday, January 12
Drop/Add Day (Class Changes)	Friday, January 16
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (No Classes)	Monday, January 19
One-Week Intensive Class Begins – Drop/Add Day for Intensives	Monday, January 26
Incompletes from Previous Term to be Removed by	Monday, February 2
Graduation Applications for SEPTEMBER Conferrals Due	Monday, March 2
Registration Opens for Summer Term.....	Monday, March 2
Spring Break (No Classes)	Monday, March 9–Saturday, March 14
Easter Break (No Classes)	Thursday, April 2–Saturday, April 4
ThM Thesis Defense (May Grads) by	Friday, April 17
Final Theses and Dissertations Due (May Grads)	Monday, May 1
DMin Dissertation Presentation (May Grads) by	Monday, May 1
Graduating Students Grades Due at 9:00 a.m.	Wednesday, May 6
Classes End	Thursday, May 7
Commencement	Saturday, May 9
Spring Term Grades Due	Wednesday, May 13
Registration Opens for Fall Term	Tuesday, May 26

2026 Summer Term

Requests for Directed or Independent Studies Received by	Friday, April 17
Classes Begin	Monday, May 18
Drop/Add Day (Class Changes)	Friday, May 22
Memorial Day Holiday (No Classes)	Monday, May 25
Incompletes from Previous Term to be Removed by	Wednesday, July 1
July 4th Holiday (No classes)	Friday, July 3
One-Week Intensive Classes Begin – Drop/Add Day for Intensives	Monday, July 6
ThM Thesis Defense (September Grads) by	Friday, August 14
Classes End	Tuesday, August 11
Summer Term Grades Due	Friday, August 14
Final Theses and Dissertations Due (September Grads)	Friday, August 14
DMin Dissertation Presentation (September Grads) by	Friday, August 21

*This calendar is subject to change. Some dates/events may need to be adjusted during the academic year.

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**Erskine Theological Seminary
Addendum to the 2025–2026 Catalog
Effective Spring Semester 2026**

Effective the Spring semester 2026, the following policies have been revised and replace the similar policy statements in the Seminary's 2025–2026 Catalog.

On page 43

COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may withdraw from a course after the Drop/Add period has ended (and before the final day of the course) but will be subject to the Seminary's published tuition and fee refund schedule. Students are not eligible for financial aid of any kind (including federal loans) when retaking a course from which they have previously withdrawn.

Courses may be dropped during the published Drop/Add period each term by submitting the appropriate Drop/Add form. When a course is dropped during this period, the course will be removed from the student's transcript. Courses dropped after the Drop/Add period ends will be recorded as WA (Withdrawal Authorized) on the student's transcript through the final drop day published for that term. Courses dropped after the final published drop day for that term will be recorded as WF (Withdrew Failing) on the student's transcript.

Courses recorded as WA are not included in the grade point average calculation. Courses recorded as WF are counted as hours attempted in the grade point average calculation and negatively affect the student's GPA.

To maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), students may have no more than 20% of their courses recorded as WA or WF. Students who are registered for one or more courses remain enrolled until they formally drop or withdraw from those courses. Failing to attend class or discussing withdrawal with a faculty or staff member does not constitute an official withdrawal.

Students who do not formally withdraw through the Registrar's Office before the end of the term will receive failing grades and will not receive any refund of tuition or fees.

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On Page 48 beneath the main heading, “Grading”

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

AS Advanced Standing I Incomplete P Pass WA Withdrawal Authorized

TR Transfer Credit AU Audit R Repeated Course NC No Credit

A student’s grade point average (GPA) is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points the student has earned by the total number of semester hours the student has attempted at Erskine Theological Seminary.

Courses transferred from other institutions do not affect the student’s GPA at Erskine Theological Seminary. However, grades earned in cross-registration courses are included in the student’s GPA calculation.

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On Pages 89–90 [Replaces the opening two paragraphs of the policy. The remainder of the policy and refund schedule on page 90 remains the same as published in the 2025–2026 catalog.]

REFUNDS OF TUITION AND FEES

Students become financially responsible for all tuition charges and fees as soon as they register for classes, subject to the withdrawal and refund policies outlined below. After the drop/add deadline, students who withdraw from classes may receive a partial refund in accordance with the published refund schedule. For one-week intensives or 8-week courses, the refund schedule follows the drop/add deadline published in the Academic Calendar.

Full tuition refunds are available up to the drop/add deadline. Courses from which a student withdraws will appear on the student’s transcript as WA (Withdrawal Authorized) or WF (Withdrew Failing) in order to meet federal loan requirements by verifying that the student was registered for the course and withdrew on a specific date.

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On Page 96 [Replaces the opening paragraph of the policy. The remainder of the PACE policy remains the same as published in the 2026–2026 catalog.]

Quantitative Standard (PACE)

PACE is defined as the rate at which a student must progress through his or her educational program to ensure completion within the maximum allowable time frame. To maintain satisfactory PACE, a student may have no more than 20% of their courses recorded as WA (Withdrawal Authorized) or WF (Withdrew Failing). In addition, students must successfully complete at least 67% of all attempted credit hours.