

# GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

AT CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY

## ACADEMIC CATALOG

2013-2014



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Distance Learning From Cornerstone University  
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# LETTER FROM JOE STOWELL, PRESIDENT OF CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY



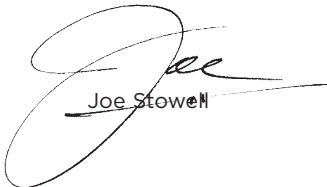
## DEAR PROSPECTIVE ONLINE STUDENT,

I am delighted that you have chosen to review this catalog. It will give you a good introduction to the purposes, programs and people of CU Online. I invite you to follow up your reading of these pages with a phone call to our graduate admissions team. They will be able to provide detailed information about pursuing your graduate theological degree at Cornerstone. Please call 800.947.238 to learn more about how you can pursue an online graduate degree at CU Online.

We are committed to providing our students with a well-rounded program that integrates Christian worldview, biblical knowledge, theology, exegesis and spiritual formation, so that you are equipped for a lifetime of service to Christ and his Church. CU Online provides flexible degree opportunities while still delivering a quality educational experience.

At CU Online you will find faculty that are not only leaders in their disciplines but also value engaging with students. Students will journey together in a common six course core that will provide great networking opportunities as well as a community of learners who hold in common the desire to study God's word as the means to know God and serve the Christian community. I invite you to join us in this journey!

Cordially,



Joe Stowell

# ABOUT CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY

## IDENTITY, MISSION AND VISION

### **OUR IDENTITY: WHO WE ARE**

Cornerstone is a Christ-centered university with a passion for global influence through the transforming power of the Gospel.

### **OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST**

We exist to empower men and women to excel as influencers in our world for Christ by offering a student-focused learning community where Jesus Christ is central.

### **OUR VISION: WHAT WE ASPIRE TO**

We aspire to create a thriving community of fully devoted followers of Jesus in a spiritually contagious, academically excellent, richly resourced and culturally diverse learning environment that attracts outstanding students, faculty and staff who influence our world for Christ, his church and his kingdom.

## HISTORY

Cornerstone University is an independent, evangelical Christian institution. The university (formerly Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary) began as an evening bible institute in the educational wing of the Wealthy Street Baptist Church on Jan. 7, 1941. Two hundred and eleven students enrolled in bible courses designed to make them more effective lay workers in local churches. The response to the program and the expressed desire of many students to enter into ministry led to the inauguration of a day school in 1944, which offered two- and three-year programs of study.

In 1945, the hiring of seminary-educated professors raised the level of education for ministry. As a prerequisite to entrance into the pastoral ministries program, a minimum of two years of general education, including Greek and philosophy, was required. In 1955, the seminary moved to admit only students with baccalaureate degrees. Steps were also taken to change both the level and the function of the bible institute to a degree-granting, undergraduate institution. One of the options considered was to become a liberal arts college. In 1963 the bible institute became a state-approved bible college, chartered to offer the bachelor of religious education and bachelor of Music degrees. The bible college incorporated the general education of the pre-seminary course, added six 15-20 hour concentrations in the liberal arts to its curriculum, and became a four-year college with a two-year general education base and a major in bible. In 1964, the college and seminary moved to a new 64-acre campus, and the same year the college was received as a member of the American Association of Bible Colleges. The campus is now 119 acres.

In 1972, with the development of facilities, faculty and finances, the institution was approved by the state of Michigan as a degree-granting college of arts and sciences. In 1977, the institution was accredited by what is now the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2514, 312-263-0456). Information and documents relative to accreditation are available for public inspection through the office of the executive Vice President. In 2001, the institution was accredited by the national association of schools of Music.

In 1993, Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music was joined to the institution for the preservation of its rich heritage and academic records. The following year (June 1994), the name of the institution was changed from Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary to Cornerstone College and Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary. In 1993, the college also instituted the adult and continuing education program (currently called the Professional & Graduate Studies program). On July 1, 1999, following approval by the state of Michigan, Cornerstone College and Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary became Cornerstone University. In June 2003, the graduate theological school became Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

Cornerstone University holds memberships in the Council of Independent Colleges, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan, the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM, since 2001) and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA, since 1977).

# GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL STUDIES FACULTY



## BYARD J. BENNETT, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Historical and Philosophical Theology*

**DEGREES:** B.A., Duke University; M.Div., Duke Divinity School; Ph.D. University of Toronto.

**CAREER PATH:** Alpha Ministries, 1997-1999; Adjunct Faculty, Tyndale College & Seminary, 1999-2002; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2002-present.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Early Christian understandings of evil and suffering; the psychology of temptation; the role played by the emotions in the Christian life.

**PERSONAL:** Dr. Bennett and his wife Shalini have three school-aged children.

**QUOTABLE:** "GRTS' offerings in historical theology have a depth and academic quality that can be matched by few evangelical seminaries. Our M.A. program explores the connections between the history of doctrine and the history of spirituality, examining how various understandings of doctrine and spirituality have combined to shape the Church's pastoral practice."

**E-MAIL:** Byard.Bennett@cornerstone.edu



## TIMOTHY G. GOMBIS, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of New Testament*

**DEGREES:** B.S., Liberty University; M.Div., Th.M., The Master's Seminary; Ph.D., University of St. Andrews.

**CAREER PATH:** Faculty, Cedarville University, 2004-2011; Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 2011-present.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Pauline theology; encounters between biblical theology and contemporary culture and politics.

**PERSONAL:** Dr. Gombis and his wife, Sarah, have three children, Madeline, Jacob, and Riley. He enjoys golf, baseball, and ancient Greek and Roman history.

**QUOTABLE:** "I love being challenged to dig deeply into the biblical text to explore fresh ways for the Spirit to transform the church of Jesus Christ for the good of the world and the glory of God. I'm thrilled that GRTS envisions theological education as combining these elements into this unified task."

**E-MAIL:** Timothy.Gombis@cornerstone.edu



## JONATHAN S. GREER, PH.D.

*Assistant Professor of Old Testament*

**DEGREES:** B.A., Messiah College; M.A., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; M.A., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University.

**CAREER PATH:** Faculty, Theological College of Zimbabwe, 2003-2004; Instructor, The Pennsylvania State University 2009-2010; Fellow, W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, 2010-2011; Instructor, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2012; Instructor, Samford University and Beeson Divinity School, 2012; Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2012-present.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Bible and archaeology; Latter Prophets; Israelite religion and history; Ancient Near Eastern languages and cultures.

**PERSONAL:** Married with three children.

**QUOTABLE:** It is a great privilege and pleasure to serve at a place that takes seriously the academic study of the Bible while maintaining a profound understanding of the transforming power of what is learned and a desire to impact the world for the glory of the Lord.

**E-MAIL:** Jonathan.Greer@cornerstone.edu



## JEREMY G. GRINNELL, PH.D.

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology*

**DEGREES:** B.A., Cedarville University; M.A., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; Ph.D. Program, Calvin Seminary.

**CAREER PATH:** Christian Camping Administration, 1995-1997; Associate Pastorate, 1998-2000; Administration, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2000-2002; Adjunct Faculty, Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2002-2009; Visiting Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2010-present.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Theological Anthropology and Sin. Mythopoeia and Theology, C.S. Lewis and the role of religious fiction in theological education, and how the 21<sup>st</sup> century desperately needs Aristotle.

**PERSONAL:** Professor Grinnell has the privilege of being married to Denise. They have three daughters, Kyria Elise, Kristine Anatasia and Cassandra Rose-French. His other great joys are found in preparing and sharing food with friends, solitude in nature, writing exploratory mythology and exploring his English roots.

**EMAIL:** jeremy.grinnell@cornerstone.edu



## JOHN W. HILBER, PH.D.

*Professor of Old Testament*

**DEGREES:** B.S., University of Washington; Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Cambridge.

**CAREER PATH:** Pastor, 1985-2000. Faculty, Dallas Theological Seminary, 2004-2012; Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2012-present.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** The Old Testament in its ancient Near Eastern religious and literary context

**PERSONAL:** John and his wife Charlotte have been married over 30 years and have an adult daughter. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, they enjoy outdoor recreation and travel.

**QUOTABLE:** "I desire my students to encounter Christ through my love for them and engagement with his word, and to leave the classroom better equipped for effective service."

**E-MAIL:** John.Hilber@cornerstone.edu



## ROBERT D. LEHMAN, PH.D., LPC

*Professor of Counseling, Counseling Program Director*

**DEGREES:** B.A., Cornerstone University; M.Div., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; M.A., University of Northern Iowa; Ph.D., University of Iowa.

**CAREER PATH:** Pastoral, 1980-1996; Adjunct Faculty, London Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary, London, Ontario, Canada, 1985-1996; Central Baptist Seminary, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1990, 1992; Seminairi Baptiste Evangelique Du Quebec, Montreal Quebec, 1993-present; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1996-present.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Biblical counseling

**PERSONAL:** Dr. Lehman is married to Sarah, who serves as an administrative assistant at Cornerstone University. His hobbies include tennis, camping and canoeing.

**QUOTABLE:** "Finding God's answers to today's problems is the focus of the counseling program at GRTS."

**E-MAIL:** Robert.Lehman@cornerstone.edu





## CATHERINE MUELLER-BELL, M.A., LPC, PH.D. (ABD)

*Associate Professor of Counseling*

**DEGREES:** B.S., Lesley College; M.A., Lesley College Graduate School; Ph.D. Program, Capella University.

**CAREER PATH:** Counselor and Counselor Supervisor 1985-1995; Private Practice, 1995-2002; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2002-present.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Women's studies; the cause and effect of child abuse and neglect; the impact of domestic abuse; the integration of theology and psychology; play therapy with children; Christ-centered parenting; biblical communication skills and conflict resolution; multicultural counseling.

**PERSONAL:** Married for 27 years to Mark Bell, Cornerstone University men's soccer coach. They have two sons, Zachariah and Joshua. She enjoys long distance running, travel, hiking, biking, swimming, reading, gardening and visiting art museums and antique shops.

**QUOTABLE:** "The counseling program at GRTS is the best that I have ever seen due to the balance of theology and counseling courses. The learning process involves a combination of exploring the subjective and objective aspects of counseling theory through the lens of the biblical narrative. Your seminary experience will also provide a unique opportunity to cultivate and enhance your own spiritual formation which is an essential part of preparing to serve others through the role of counselor."

**E-MAIL:** Catherine.Mueller-Bell@cornerstone.edu



## PETER G. OSBORN, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Christian Ministries  
and Associate Dean of Online Programs*

**DEGREES:** B.S., Baptist Bible College; M.A., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Michigan State University

**CAREER PATH:** Associate Pastorates, 1993-1999; Administration, Cornerstone University 1999-2003; Monroe Community College 2009-2010; Rochester Institute of Technology 2010-2011; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 2003-2009, 2011-present.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Organizational transformation, educational technologies, and teaching and learning.

**PERSONAL:** Professor Osborn and his wife, Karen, have been married since 1992 and have four children: Zach, Sawyer, Jake, and Issi. His hobbies include mountain biking and technology.

**QUOTABLE:** "One of the benefits of GRTS is that it models a truly collaborative spirit among both faculty and students. This unique environment provides a wonderful context for learning and serving."

**E-MAIL:** Peter.Osborn@cornerstone.edu



## DAVID L. TURNER, TH.D., PH.D.

*Professor of New Testament*

**DEGREES:** B.A., Cedarville University; M.Div., Th.M., Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary; M.Phil., Ph.D., Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati.

**CAREER PATH:** Pastor, 1974-76; Interim Pastor, 1978-79, 1981-83, 1990-91; Faculty, Baptist Bible College of PA, 1976-79; Grace Theological Seminary, 1980-86; Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1986-present

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** The Gospel According to Matthew, Second Temple Judaism and the New Testament, Hermeneutics

**PERSONAL:** David likes roots music, the Cincinnati Reds, and everything about Lake Superior. He and his wife, Beverly, enjoy exploring the lighthouses of the Great Lakes and Maine.

**QUOTABLE:** "GRTS does not accept educational fads that separate theory and practice. Our educational community constantly strives to integrate biblical thinking, discipleship and ministry."

**E-MAIL:** David.Turner@cornerstone.edu



## MICHAEL E. WITTMER, PH.D.

*Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology*

**DEGREES:** B.A., Cedarville University; M.Div., Th.M., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Calvin Theological Seminary.

**CAREER PATH:** Missionary, 1990-1992; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 1996-present; Director, Center for Christian Worldview; Lecturer, "What It's All About" seminars on Christian worldview.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Christian worldview, Creation/Culture, Anthropology, Redemption.

**PERSONAL:** Dr. Wittmer and his wife, Julie, have three children: Avery, Landon and Alayna.

**QUOTABLE:** "A major strength of GRTS is its small class sizes. We are a learning community, where students and professors stretch and grow together."

**E-MAIL:** Michael.Wittmer@cornerstone.edu



# CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## ADMINISTRATION

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Chancellor

RICHARD OSTRANDER, PH.D.

Provost

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Vice President and Academic Dean of Graduate  
Theological Studies

PETER G. OSBORN, PH.D.

Associate Dean of Online Programs

TARA KRAM, M.A., L.P.C.

Associate Dean of Students

FRED SWEET, D.MIN.

Director of Miller Library & Theological Librarian

GRAHAM MCKEAGUE, M.A.

Director of Graduate Admissions

ASHLEY VANBEMMELLEN, M.A., LLPC

Assistant Director of Admissions

SARAH ENCK, B.A., M.A. PROGRAM

Admissions Counselor

ANNETTE VANRYN, B.A.

Data Coordinator

GAIL DUHON, M.B.A.

Registrar

DIANA O'CONNOR, B.S.

Administrative Assistant to the Vice President  
& Academic Dean

KATE MONDAL, B.S.

Administrative Assistant to Graduate Theological Studies

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Executive Committee

STEVE HAWKS (CU '81), CHAIRMAN

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CAROLE BOS, VICE CHAIRMAN

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Senior Pastor, South Church Lansing, Mich.

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Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

DANIEL R. WIELHOUWER, (CU '68)

President/CEO, Club & Community Corporation Boca Raton, Fla.

DR. LEE ZUIDEMA

Kentwood Family Dentistry Kentwood, Mich.

# THE CORNERSTONE CONFESSION

CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY AFFIRMS A CORE OF CONVICTIONS IN COMMON WITH THE CREEDS OF THE EARLY CHURCH, THE CONFESSIONS OF THE REFORMATION AND ALL CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS.

We believe that the Bible is the word of God, truth without error, clear and powerful in its message, sufficient for all of our needs, and final authority for faith and life.

We believe in the triune God – father, son and Holy Spirit – who is holy, loving, good, wise and almighty; who has created all things by his word out of nothing, who sustains, provides for and rules all things, who is our only redeemer and who will judge all people.

We believe that God created men and women in his image and likeness for fellowship with himself and to carry out the creation mandates; that Adam sinned and that by his disobedience the entire race was alienated from God, deprived and totally lost.

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who added full humanity to his perfect deity, obeyed God perfectly, died for our sins on the cross, rose again to defeat Satan, returned to heaven to pour out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and to intercede for his people.

We believe that the triune God has provided a great salvation for those who repent of their sins and trust Christ and his finished work; that he calls, regenerates, justifies, forgives, adopts, sanctifies, keeps and will glorify them.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who has been sent to complete and perfect in us all of the works that Jesus did for us. He convicts of sin, regenerates, sanctifies us, gifts us for ministry and assures us of our salvation.

We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection and final judgment of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.

WHILE MANY FELLOW CHRISTIANS AFFIRM THE ABOVE TRUTHS, WE AFFIRM THEM FROM WITHIN THE BAPTIST TRADITION AS DEVELOPED AT THE END OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND IS REFLECTED IN THE FOLLOWING BELIEFS.

We believe that the church is a new people of God born at Pentecost, distinct from Israel, and manifest in local congregations of baptized believers who are committed to carry out the Great Commission.

We believe that Jesus gave two ordinances to the church, baptism of believers by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

We believe in the autonomy of the local congregation, the priesthood of all believers and in leadership by elected pastors and deacons.

We believe in the continued expression of the spiritual gifts. The more demonstrative or "sign gifts" such as healing, raising the dead and speaking in tongues were given for the authentication of the apostolic generation and are not normative for today.

We believe that Jesus Christ may return at any moment to deliver His people from the coming wrath, defeat the kingdom of Antichrist, and establish His millennial kingdom.

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment and that we are responsible to be good citizens. However, should civil government command us to violate God's Word, we must obey God rather than man.

We believe in the reality of Satan and his kingdom of darkness, and that our confrontation of Satan demands belief and trust in God and the effective use of Scripture and other resources God has made available to us.

WE ARE AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND WOULD FORFEIT OUR MISSION IF WE ATTEMPTED TO BE A LOCAL CHURCH OR IF WE FAILED TO INTERACT WITH THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD. THEREFORE,

We are committed to do this from a thoroughly biblical worldview in which the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

We are responsible to engage the world of education, business, economics, politics, the sciences, the humanities and everything that is included in contemporary world cultures.

We are responsible to prepare our students to be effective in this wider world. To accomplish these goals it is often necessary for us to listen to and critique people and ideas that are influential in this wider world and yet may be in significant disagreement with our convictions.

On this foundation, we desire to prepare students for Christian life, ministry and service in the various cultures of the global community.

# ACADEMIC INFORMATION

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year corresponds with the following schedule:

Fall Semester – begins in early September.

J-Term – begins within the first two full weeks of January.

Spring Semester – begins during the third or fourth week of January.

Summer Semester – May, June, July and August.

### FALL 2013

Faculty Work Days	Aug. 28-29
Labor Day	Sept. 2
New Student Orientation	Sept. 3
Classes Begin	Sept. 4
Registration Begins	Oct. 21
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 27-29
Final Day of Classes	Dec. 6
Final Exams	Dec. 9-12

Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E	Nov. 11
Last day for withdrawal without W/E	Dec. 2

### SPRING 2014

J-Term	Jan. 6-17
New Student Orientation	Jan. 20
Classes Begin	Jan. 20
Spring Break	March 3-7
Registration Begins	March 10
Good Friday	April 18
Easter Sunday	April 20
Final Day of Classes	April 25
Final Exams	April 28 – May 1
Commencement	May 2

Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E	March 24
Last day for withdrawal without W/E	April 22

### SUMMER 2014

1 <sup>st</sup> Session	May 12-23
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	May 27 – June 6
3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	June 9-20

### FALL 2014

Faculty Work Days	Aug. 27-28
Labor Day	Sept. 1
New Student Orientation	Sept. 2
Classes Begin	Sept. 3
Registration Begins	Oct. 20
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 26-28
Final Day of Classes	Dec. 5
Final Exams	Dec. 8-11

Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E	Nov. 10
Last day for withdrawal without W/E	Dec. 1

### SPRING 2015

J-Term	Jan. 5-16
New Student Orientation	Jan. 19
Classes Begin	Jan. 19
Spring Break	March 2-6
Registration Begins	March 9
Good Friday	April 3
Easter Sunday	April 5
Final Day of Classes	April 24
Final Exams	Apr 27-30
Commencement	May 1

Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E	March 23
Last day for withdrawal without W/E	April 21

### SUMMER 2015

1 <sup>st</sup> Session	May 11-22
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	May 26 – June 5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	June 8-19

# PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

The general purpose of Christian education is to educate persons to live the life of faith. Faith is the appropriate response of the human person to god's self-disclosure in general revelation and in special redemptive revelation. To respond appropriately to this revelation means to believe in the person of Christ as revealed in scripture. It is to place one's loyalty, allegiance and confidence in Christ to such an extent that life gets its meaning from the primacy of this personal relationship. This Christian life is lived in two basic arenas - the Christian community and society.

Christian liberal arts education is comprised of extensive and intensive study of certain academic disciplines. Disciplines have a particular content, a conceptual framework and methods for discerning truth. Christian education in the disciplines implies study of god's creation, illumined and directed by god's special revelation in scripture. The professor will integrate the discipline and biblical revelation with a view to a Christian understanding of the discipline and the formation of a Christian worldview in the learner.

The general education core provides extensive study of many disciplines in order to rightly interpret reality and live out one's faith in all areas of life. The major provides the intensive study of a specific subject area to have precise knowledge and facility in the discipline. In both areas, the study of the disciplines should be illumined and directed by special revelation.

Education also seeks to develop certain competencies in the learner. Communication skills include reading, writing, speaking and listening. These skills are necessary for disciplined study of any aspect of reality. Critical thinking skills and personal wellness transcend any specific discipline and are necessary for scholarship and a healthy life, respectively.

The graduate of a Christian liberal arts education ought to have developed a Christian worldview and the intellectual and community skills necessary to function in the Christian community and society, as well as skills and attitudes conducive to spiritual formation.

## ACCREDITATION AND ACADEMIC STANDING

**ACCREDITED** by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois 60602, 800.621.7440.

**AUTHORIZED** by the Michigan State Board of Education.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

**SEMESTERS AND HOURS** - The academic year is divided into three semesters. The typical full-time course load is 6 hours per semester. A student wishing to receive the maximum financial aid package and/or full veteran's benefits must carry a minimum of 3 hours per semester.

**GRADES** - The student's scholastic standing is indicated both by grades and honor points. The student earns honor points in accordance with his/her grades as follows:

### GRADE INTERPRETATION -

A - 4.0  
A- - 3.7  
B+ - 3.3  
B - 3.0  
B- - 2.7  
C+ - 2.3  
C - 2.0  
C- - 1.7  
D+ - 1.3  
D- - 1.0  
D - 0.7  
F- 0.0  
AU - Audit  
CR - Credit  
NC - No Credit  
I - Incomplete  
W- Withdrew  
W/P - Withdrew Passing  
W/E - Withdrew Failing

## GRADUATION

All senior level students are required to file an Application to Graduate by Sept. 1 for December graduation and Feb. 1 for May graduation. Eligibility for graduation necessitates the completion of all degree specific requirements as outlined in the academic catalog. In fulfillment of degree program requirements, graduates are expected to participate in the commencement exercise, which

occurs each year on the first weekend in May. Approval to participate in commencement exercises prior to the completion of all degree requirements is rare, and requires the approval of the academic dean based on a written request. Such approvals will be limited to six credits or less of outstanding work, substantial rationale for early participation, a plan to complete the work within the next enrollment cycle, and cannot include an outstanding practicum, internship, ministry residency or thesis. Appeals to waive participation in the commencement exercise must be submitted to the Academic Dean by March 1. Three official graduation dates occur each year: December, May and August.

## RETAKING POLICY

Students are permitted to retake a course in which an unsatisfactory grade was achieved during a previous period of enrollment. In such situations, registration for the course and payment of the related tuition and fees at the current tuition rates are required. The grade achieved by the retake course replaces the initial grade in relation to the grade point average calculation, though the initial grade will remain on the permanent transcript record. Students may only receive federal financial aid when retaking a course if it is the first time they have retaken the course and if the original grade in the course does not meet the minimum grade requirement for a student's program.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cornerstone University is committed to a high standard of academic honesty and integrity among its students. Academic integrity is absolutely necessary in the search for and advancement of truth. Dishonesty in any form (i.e., cheating on examinations or quizzes, plagiarism on papers, reports or thesis, and all other forms of compromise in academic integrity) is not acceptable. Penalties for academic dishonesty will be administered according to the following:

**FIRST OFFENSE** - The penalty for first offense academic integrity violation includes failure in the course assignment or failure in the course; enrollment limitation; and academic probation for one academic year. Penalties are imposed by the individual faculty member and the academic dean. Continuing enrollment following such violation requires a letter acknowledging that one understands what constitutes an academic integrity violation, taking full responsibility for the present offense and pledging to avoid such conduct in the future. A meeting with the course professor and academic dean is also required.

**SECOND OFFENSE** - The penalty for second offense academic integrity violation includes failure in the course and suspension from program for one academic year. Penalties for second offense violations are imposed by the individual faculty member and academic dean. Readmission following a second offense violation requires a letter acknowledging that one understands what constitutes an academic integrity violation, taking full responsibility for the present offense and pledging to avoid such conduct in the future. Readmission will also require a meeting with the CU Online admissions committee and the meeting of all conditions stipulated in the letter of suspension. No coursework, internships or field education completed at other institutions during the period of suspension may be transferred to the university for credit or used to fulfill CU Online degree program requirements.

**THIRD OFFENSE** - The penalty for third offense academic integrity violation includes failure in the course and permanent suspension from program. Penalties for third offense violations are imposed by the individual faculty member and academic dean.

Students seeking to appeal academic integrity disciplinary decisions should consult and employ the policies and processes outlined in the CU Online Academic Catalog under the heading "Student Appeal Process."

## INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

As a commitment to honor God's image in all people, rather than for political correctness, the university is committed to being a community that uses inclusive language with reference to all people regardless of gender, nationality, culture, social class or religion. With these commitments in mind, the university's inclusive language policy is as follows:

Persons in the community are expected to use inclusive language with reference to human beings in the conduct of courses, fulfillment of course assignments and patterns of communication in all facets of the work of the seminary. This means avoiding language that is explicitly or implicitly racist or sexist and avoiding "generic" uses of masculine terms or pronouns.

A few examples are:

- Use "humanity", "persons" or "people" instead of "man" or "mankind."
- When giving examples, vary the race and sex of the persons under discussion and avoid stereotypical descriptions.
- Avoid dogmatic generalizations about an entire culture, race, social class, denomination or religious group.

No complete list is possible or necessary in the university's inclusive language policy but all faculty, staff and students agree to exercise care and attentiveness to this priority.

## SCHOLASTIC PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL

Any student who does not achieve the minimum required cumulative grade point average of 2.50 after completion of nine credits will be placed on academic probation. Students placed on academic probation will be notified in writing immediately following the determination, usually at the close of an academic semester. Students on academic probation will not be allowed to enroll in more than three credits per semester; will not be allowed to enroll in independent study courses, and may be required to take remedial courses or work with an academic tutor. Probation is not designed to punish students, but rather to serve as an indication to students that they are not progressing at a satisfactory rate towards graduation.

Students who, after one semester of academic probation, fail to achieve the minimum required cumulative grade point average of 2.50 will be academically suspended. Students placed on suspension will be notified of such action in writing immediately following the determination. Academic suspension means that the student will not be permitted to enroll in courses on a credit or audit basis throughout the duration of the suspension. Students on suspension may be considered for readmission after one semester. Readmission of suspended students will require the approval of the admissions committee. In addition, any student suspended for a second time will be dismissed from Cornerstone University, with no option for future enrollment. Student appeals concerning scholastic probation, suspension and dismissal judgments should be put in writing to the attention of the CU Online academic appeals committee within 10 days of the date of notification of the probation, suspension or dismissal. Judgments of the academic appeals committee are final.

## STUDENT APPEAL PROCESS: ACADEMIC

On occasion, existing policy and/or faculty and administrative decisions can conflict with the academic interests of individuals. When such a situation occurs, the student should exhaust all options to resolve the academic conflict at the staff, administrative or faculty level. However, students wishing to appeal beyond the initial level are encouraged to write a letter of appeal. The letter should identify and explain the nature of the conflict, request a review of the judgment and/or action and provide a rationale for the appeal. The letter of appeal should be sent to the Academic Dean of CU Online. For cases related to academic probation and suspension, the letter of appeal must be submitted to the academic dean within five business days of written notification of the probation or suspension status. Personal appointments with the Academic dean on such matters may be scheduled only after a formal letter of appeal has been submitted. Upon receiving the appeal, the academic dean will engage in an investigation of the grievance and seek to foster an acceptable resolution. If an acceptable resolution to the conflict/grievance is not possible, the academic dean will coordinate a meeting of the faculty academic appeals committee. The committee will review the grievance and the facts of the case and render a judgment. The judgment will be rendered within 10 business days of receipt of the grievance, the response to the appeal will be in writing and all judgments of the faculty academic appeals committee are final.

## LEARNING DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION

Cornerstone University will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The purpose of accommodation is to provide equal access to educational opportunities to students affected by disabilities, and the university does not intend that the standards be altered, or that the essential elements of programs or courses be changed.

Students having documented disabilities may apply for accommodations through Student Disability Services (SDS), which is part of the Cornerstone University Learning Center located in Miller Hall on the main campus. Disability accommodations for students from the traditional Cornerstone University undergraduate program, Professional and Graduate Studies programs, and Graduate Theological Studies programs are addressed centrally in SDS. Accommodations are granted on the basis of determined need and appropriate documentation of disabilities. Students must complete an application and submit appropriate documentation, which will be reviewed by the Accommodations Officer and the Accommodations Review Committee (ARC). Upon acceptance, the student will meet with the director of Learning Operations to develop an Individualized Student Accommodation Plan (ISAP) based on the ARC recommendations. Students will be given a green verification letter to give to their professors and students should schedule a meeting with each professor at the beginning of each semester to discuss their needs. In the event that students have questions regarding whether they are eligible for accommodations, how they might provide appropriate documentation of disabilities, or how they might handle a disagreement with a professor over questions of accommodation, the director of Learning Operations should be contacted immediately at 222.1596 or through e-mail at [learning.center@cornerstone.edu](mailto:learning.center@cornerstone.edu). If a disagreement arises surrounding eligibility for services, or the manner in which a specific accommodation is being implemented, the student has a right to an informal and formal grievance procedure. A copy of the Grievance Procedures is available at the Learning Center in Miller Hall, or online at [www.cornerstone.edu](http://www.cornerstone.edu).

Please note that the process for determining eligibility for accommodations can take 5-6 weeks. Students should complete an application and submit appropriate documentation well in advance of the semester in which accommodations are required to begin. To be deemed appropriate documentation, testing and assessment of disability must have been completed no more than 3 years prior to the application for accommodations at Cornerstone University.

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Applicants who are transferring from other accredited graduate schools or seminaries are required to have official academic transcripts sent directly to the director of graduate admissions from all schools previously attended. This is a condition for admission.

Transfer credit evaluations are conducted during the admission process, although formal transfer of credit is not posted to the student's academic record until after the admission process is complete. Students will be notified in writing concerning the results of a transfer credit evaluation. Transcripts from foreign institutions will be evaluated by an outside agency. The student will be responsible for following the procedure required by that agency.

Cornerstone University will accept a maximum of 12 credit hours of the selected degree program requirements through transfer credit, or through a combination of transfer credit and advanced standing, completed within the 10 years prior to matriculation at Cornerstone from the following types of schools:

1. All regionally accredited institutions.
2. All Association of Theological Schools (ATS) institutions.



3. All Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) institutions.
4. Non-accredited institutions, if those institutions supply to the director of graduate admissions three letters of acceptance from regional, ATS or ABHE accredited institutions.
5. Those non-accredited institutions due to the nature of their relationship with Cornerstone University.

Students planning to take courses at other institutions for transfer into their degree program at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary should contact the assistant registrar for Grand Rapids Theological Seminary to verify the acceptance of these courses. Transfer credit will not be given for remedial or non-graduate level work or for any course in which a grade lower than a C was received. Grade point average does not transfer with the transfer credits.

## ADVANCED STANDING

Advanced standing credit is available to new students for certain undergraduate courses completed within the previous ten years at regionally accredited institutions, institutions accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education, and other institutions approved by Cornerstone University. Consideration for advanced standing credit is limited to 300/400 level undergraduate courses in which a grade of "B" (3.0) or better was achieved in an equivalent course. Evaluative judgment for advanced standing is made on the basis of examination in the content area, review of student work, review of course description and syllabi, or a combination of the above. New students have one calendar year from their original matriculation date to apply for advanced standing credit. Credits granted by advanced standing will appear on the student's academic transcript and contribute to program completion, but will not be included in the student's cumulative grade point average calculation.

At Cornerstone, advanced standing is assessed and administered by three means. First, advanced standing is assessed and administered on the basis of examination. The graduate theological department faculty has identified a select grouping of courses for which advanced standing by examination is permitted. Advanced standing exams will be offered at the beginning of each semester. Faculty member approval is required to sit for an advanced standing exam. New students are encouraged to work with an admissions representative to coordinate this process. A non-refundable \$50.00 fee, payable to GRTS prior to taking the advanced standing exam, is charged for each exam administered. All advanced standing exams will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students are limited to one attempt on any given exam.

Second, advanced standing is assessed and administered on the basis of formal articulation agreement. By formal agreement, the university partners with select undergraduate institutions to grant advanced standing credit for specific courses without the requirement of an examination. In these cases, evaluative judgment for advanced standing is made on the basis of a review of student work and performance in the undergraduate course(s) and routine monitoring of the undergraduate course syllabi by graduate faculty members. For a listing of partner institutions and eligible courses, new students should contact a CU Online admissions counselor or the CU Registrar's Office.

Third, advanced standing is assessed and administered on the basis of syllabi and transcript review for students with excessive credits on the undergraduate level (i.e., credits achieved beyond those required for the completion of the undergraduate bachelor's degree). Generally, this will consist of a thorough review of the undergraduate course description, course syllabus and the student's academic performance in the course. New students should contact a CU Online admissions counselor or the CU Registrar's Office to explore this form of advanced standing credit.

## INCOMPLETES

A student is expected to complete all work within the semester. If an incomplete is deemed necessary, permission must be obtained from the professor and the academic dean. Grade changes from the fall semester must be turned into the Registrar's Office no later than March 15. Grades from the spring semester must be turned in no later than Aug. 1 and from summer school no later than Nov. 15. Every effort should be made to have incomplete work completed in the shortest time possible following the close of the academic term in which the work is taken. Incompletes will be assigned an "F" grade after the above dates. The time limit for a student to change an "F" to another grade is one calendar year from the receipt of the initial incomplete.

## DROP/ADD

Courses may be dropped or added without penalty during the first week of classes. After the first week of classes, courses cannot be added and refunds for courses dropped will be calculated using the chart listed under "Withdrawal Refunds." In regards to course drops, courses will be treated as follows on the student's official record:

Before end of Drop/Add - No record on transcript

Before end of 10<sup>th</sup> week W - No effect on grade point average

After end of 10<sup>th</sup> week W/P or W/E W/P - No effect on grade point average; W/E - treated as "F" for grade point average

After end of 14<sup>th</sup> week W/E - treated as "F" for grade point average (no W/P option)

## COURSE WAIVER

In order to preclude repetition of previously mastered material, students may apply to waive such a course and replace it with another course. Approval for course waiver is granted by the professor who teaches the duplicated course and by the academic dean. Waiver forms are available in the graduate theological department office.

# WITHDRAWAL

A student who wishes to withdraw must complete a withdrawal form, available from the graduate theological studies office. To complete the withdrawal process, the student should return the completed withdrawal form to the Registrar's Office. Failure to do this will result in the student receiving an "F" in the related course or courses. In addition, any student leaving school during the semester without completing the official withdrawal process will be academically suspended.

## WITHDRAWAL REFUNDS - Withdrawal from Individual Courses

Students who do not officially withdraw from a course will receive a failing grade for that course. Students withdrawing from individual courses will receive refunds based upon the following schedule:

One week or less	100% of tuition
Second week	86% of tuition
Third week	80% of tuition
Fourth week	73% of tuition
Fifth week	66% of tuition
Sixth week	60% of tuition
Seventh week	53% of tuition
Eighth week	46% of tuition
Ninth week	40% of tuition
More than nine weeks	No refund

Appropriate adjustments will be made to financial aid programs following formulas mandated by federal, state and institutional regulations. Students whose enrollment status (i.e., full time, 3/4-time, 1/2-time) would change if classes were dropped should consult with the Student Financial Services Office to determine the extent of these adjustments.

## WITHDRAWAL REFUNDS - Withdrawal from the Institution:

Tuition refunds for students who withdraw from the seminary during the course of the semester, as well as those who are dismissed or suspended, will be computed as follows:

One week or less	100% of tuition
Second week	86% of tuition
Third week	80% of tuition
Fourth week	73% of tuition
Fifth week	66% of tuition
Sixth week	60% of tuition
Seventh week	53% of tuition
Eighth week	46% of tuition
Ninth week	40% of tuition
More than nine weeks	No Refund

Students receiving financial aid who withdraw from the institution during the semester may be required to return a portion of the aid to the appropriate programs. A calculation will be made based on the student's withdrawal date to see what portion of the financial aid must be returned. Students may request a copy of the Refund and Repayment Policy from the Student Financial Services Office.

# FEDERAL TITLE IV AID

If a student withdraws before completing 60 percent of the semester or period of enrollment, the institution must determine the percentage of Title IV assistance the student has earned. The percent earned is determined by dividing the total number of calendar days in the semester into the number of calendar days completed as of the withdrawal date. Any unearned amount must be returned to the Title IV program(s).

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

The Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership (MAML) is a fully online degree for those in various ministry leadership positions and service roles who desire advanced biblical, theological and ministry education to promote personal, spiritual and professional growth. The MAML degree is not intended as a basis for doctoral study. The program consists of 36 semester hours (12 courses) and it is cohort based, which means that groups of students journey through the program together. Biblical interpretation, Christian Worldview and servant-leadership are pillars of the curriculum, and these pillars are incorporated throughout the program of study. In certain circumstances, individual students may gain admittance to the program independent of a cohort, but must do so by vote of the admissions committee. Individuals seeking admission to this program independent of a MAML cohort are encouraged to work closely with the Director of Admissions. Applicants for the MAML degree must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.50 cumulative grade point average from an accredited undergraduate institution. The MAML degree is conferred through Cornerstone University and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. All courses are completed through Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

### THREE-YEAR COURSE PLAN

FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
<b>YEAR 1</b>								
BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	BBL-502	OT Biblical Theology	3
MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3						
<b>YEAR 2</b>								
THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3	BBL-503	NT Biblical Theology	3
MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3						
<b>YEAR 3</b>								
MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3	MIN-560	Global Impact	3		General Elective	3
	Bible Elective	3						
								<b>TOTAL HOURS 36</b>

### TWO-YEAR COURSE PLAN

FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
<b>YEAR 1</b>								
BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	BBL-502	OT Biblical Theology	3
MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3	MIN-560	Global Impact	3		General Elective	3
<b>YEAR 2</b>								
THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3	BBL-503	NT Biblical Theology	3
MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3	MIN-543	The Educational Mission of the Church	3		Bible Elective	3
								<b>TOTAL HOURS 36</b>

## MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP - DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership degree is conferred through Cornerstone University when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 36 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. The program consists of an eighteen hour Bible and theology core, a twelve hour ministry leadership core, and six hours of elective options.
2. A minimum of 24 semester hours must be achieved at Cornerstone University.
3. Advanced standing credits are limited to 1/6 of the degree program, and the combination of advanced standing and transfer credits is limited to a total of 12 hours.
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Six years from matriculation are allowed to complete the degree requirements.
6. Completion of all required assessments.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations.
8. Participation in commencement is voluntary.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP - STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership degree is designed to enable students to:

1. Conduct disciplined biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible text.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian Theology.
3. Exhibit basic knowledge, values, and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS) is a fully online degree for those interested in advanced biblical and theological studies to promote personal, spiritual and professional growth. The MABS degree is not intended as a basis for doctoral study. The program consists of 36 semester hours (12 courses) and it is cohort based, which means that groups of students journey through the program together. Biblical interpretation and worldview are pillars of the curriculum, and these pillars are incorporated throughout the program of study. In certain circumstances, individual students may gain admittance to the program independent of a cohort, but must do so by vote of the admissions committee. Individuals seeking admission to this program independent of a MABS cohort are encouraged to work closely with the Director of Admissions. Applicants for the MABS degree must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.50 cumulative grade point average from an accredited undergraduate institution. The MABS degree is conferred through Cornerstone University and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. All courses are completed through Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

## THREE-YEAR COURSE PLAN

FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
<b>YEAR 1</b>								
BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	BBL-502	OT Biblical Theology	3
	General Elective	3						
<b>YEAR 2</b>								
THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3	BBL-503	NT Biblical Theology	3
	General Elective	3						
<b>YEAR 3</b>								
	Bible Elective	3		Bible Elective	3		Bible Elective	3
	Bible Elective	3						
						<b>TOTAL HOURS 36</b>		

## TWO-YEAR COURSE PLAN

FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
<b>YEAR 1</b>								
BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	BBL-502	OT Biblical Theology	3
	General Elective	3		General Elective	3		Bible Elective	3
<b>YEAR 2</b>								
THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3	BBL-503	NT Biblical Theology	3
	Bible Elective	3		Bible Elective	3		Bible Elective	3
						<b>TOTAL HOURS 36</b>		

## MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES - DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degree is conferred through Cornerstone University when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 36 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. The program consists of a twenty-one hour Bible core, a nine hour theology core, and six hours of general electives.
2. A minimum of 24 semester hours must be achieved at Cornerstone University.
3. Advanced standing credits are limited to 1/6 of the degree program, and the combination of advanced standing and transfer credits is limited to a total of 12 hours.
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Six years from matriculation are allowed to complete the degree requirements.
6. Completion of all required assessments.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations.
8. Participation in commencement is voluntary.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES - LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degree is designed to enable students to:

1. Conduct disciplined biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible text.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian Theology.



# ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

## ADMISSIONS STAFF

### **GRAHAM MCKEAGUE, M.THEOL., M.A.**

**Title** - Director of Admissions

**Degrees** - M. Theol., University of St. Andrews; M.A. Intercultural Ministries, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary

**Contact Information** - 616.222.1559 | [Graham.McKeague@cornerstone.edu](mailto:Graham.McKeague@cornerstone.edu)

### **ASHLEY VANBEMMELLEN, B.A., M.A., LLPC**

**Title** - Assistant Director of Admissions

**Degrees** - B.A., Cornerstone University; M.A., Counseling, Western Michigan University

**Contact Information** - 616.222.1442 | [Ashley.VanBemmellen@cornerstone.edu](mailto:Ashley.VanBemmellen@cornerstone.edu)

### **SARAH ENCK, B.A.**

**Title** - Admissions Counselor

**Degrees** - B.A., Taylor University

**Contact Information** - 616.254.1632 | [Sara.Enk@cornerstone.edu](mailto:Sara.Enk@cornerstone.edu)

### **ANNETTE VANRYN, B.A.**

**Title** - Data Coordinator

**Degree** - B.A., Cornerstone University

**Contact Information** - 800.697.1133 | [Annette.Vanryn@cornerstone.edu](mailto:Annette.Vanryn@cornerstone.edu)

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Cornerstone University will consider for admission students with bachelor's degrees and a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. from the following types of schools:

1. All regionally accredited institutions.
2. All Association of Theological Schools (ATS) institutions.
3. All Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) institutions.
4. Select schools accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).
5. Non-accredited institutions, if those institutions supply to the Director of Admissions three letters of acceptance from regional, ATS or ABHE accredited institutions.
6. Non-accredited institutions approved on a case-by-case basis.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

CU Online admits qualified persons without regard to denomination or association, race, national or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability.

The graduate theological department operates a "rolling" admissions process for all master's degree programs. You may apply to begin your program during any academic term - fall, spring, J-term or summer. Application for admission is encouraged 4-8 months in advance of your anticipated enrollment date.

Acceptance for admission will be considered upon receipt of the following items:

1. Application for admission, located in the back section of the academic catalog or online at [online.cornerstone.edu](http://online.cornerstone.edu)
2. Official academic transcripts from each undergraduate and graduate school attended
3. One Personal Reference Form
4. One Ministry Reference Form
5. Affirmation of the Statement of Faith and Lifestyle Statement, by checking the appropriate box in the Autobiographical Information section of the application form.
6. \$25.00 non-refundable application fee (fee waived for online applications)

## TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who wish to transfer to Cornerstone University should submit to the Graduate Admissions Office, with their application for Admission, transcripts of all credits previously earned. Credit is given for comparable work taken at other accredited seminaries, graduate programs or universities. By approval of the Dean, a maximum of 50 percent of the particular degree program requirements may be fulfilled through transfer credit. See paragraph on "Transfer of Credit" for more information.

## READMISSION

Any former student who has not been enrolled for one semester or more must apply for readmission. The application for readmission should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the opening date of the semester enrollment is desired. Official academic transcripts of all studies that have been completed in the interval must be submitted. Updated reference forms may also be required. Any student who has not been enrolled for more than 3 academic semesters will be required to submit a full application with all necessary supporting documents.

## NON-DEGREE ENROLLMENT

CU Online permits the enrollment of students seeking advanced education in Bible, theology or ministry, without a specific degree objective. These students are required to complete a Non-Degree Application, submit official academic transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate schools, and sign a general statement of Christian faith. Non-Degree students who possess an accredited undergraduate degree may take courses for graduate credit, while those without a baccalaureate degree will be limited to enrollment by audit. Students are permitted to take a maximum of 12 credits under the non-degree enrollment status. A maximum of 12 credits achieved under the Non-Degree enrollment status can be utilized in fulfillment of the requirements for a specific degree program.

## GUEST STUDENTS

CU Online welcomes guest students from other institutions for limited enrollment. A Non-Degree/ Guest Application with authorization from the home institution is required for admission. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the home institution will accept the transfer credits. Upon the completion of a given course, an academic transcript can be requested from the Registrar's Office for the transfer of credits to the home institution.

## ADMISSION STATUS

### FULL ADMISSION

An applicant is given full admission to the university when the criteria for application and admission have been fulfilled. Applicants are notified concerning full admission on a rolling basis throughout the year.

In some cases, students can be admitted pending receipt of official documentation to complete their application file. The student's admission status is complete when all documentation arrives at the Graduate Admissions Office and meets all admission and degree program standards. The University reserves the right to reverse an admission decision if the documentation is inconsistent, or the admission and degree program standards are not fully met.

### CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

A limited number of students whose cumulative undergraduate grade point average does not meet the minimum degree program admission standard (2.5/4.0) may be granted conditional acceptance upon the recommendation of the Graduate Admissions Committee. In such cases, the conditions of the conditional acceptance and terms for the removal of this status will be provided to the student in writing during the admission process and monitored by the Academic Office. Students enrolled on a conditional admission basis will be limited to a maximum of nine hours per semester. Those students admitted on a conditional admission basis must achieve a minimum 2.5 grade point average. See the section "Scholastic Probation, Suspension and Dismissal for more information.

## REGISTRATION

The registration process provides students with the opportunity to meet with their faculty advisor, to select and register online for courses in the upcoming enrollment period, and to plan how they will complete the remaining requirements of their particular degree program. For continuing students, online course registration occurs each semester on the published dates (See "Academic Calendar"). The Graduate Admissions Office staff will assist new students in course selection and registration during their initial period of enrollment.

Once registered, each student will receive a tuition bill. Each student should then settle his or her financial obligations by doing one of the following: paying in full at the Cornerstone University Business Office, partially paying according to the FACTS payment plan or coordinating financial arrangements with the Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office. Students will be permitted to attend classes when course registration and financial balances have been finalized.

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

New Student Orientation (NSO) is available online. Students will receive a web address for NSO in their acceptance letter from the Graduate Admissions Office. This orientation provides students with an opportunity to learn more about seminary faculty and staff and to gain information about campus technology resources, library usage, student identification cards and more.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Cornerstone University values the presence and contribution of students from the various cultures, countries and continents of the world. In an effort to improve our service to international students and to facilitate a smooth transition, international students are encouraged to begin their degree programs in the fall semester, which begins in August.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1. Pre-Application** – Complete the pre-application form and submit it to the Graduate Admissions Office. After the university receives and approves your pre-application form, you will be prompted to continue the application process.
- 2. Official Application** – Once your pre-application form has been approved, complete the official application for admission, including the \$40 application fee and all supporting documents including:
  - a. Ministry Reference
  - b. Personal Reference
  - c. Certification of Finances Form – This form will serve as evidence of financial support for the duration of your degree program. You will also need to submit letters of support from each group or individual that will provide financial assistance. Each supporter will need to submit 3 months worth of bank statements demonstrating their ability to meet their commitment. Bank statements should be from the three most recent months.
  - d. Transcripts – Official transcripts must be sent directly from your undergraduate institution to Graduation Admissions Office.
  - e. Transcript equivalency will be determined by the university.
  - f. TOEFL – International students who are not lifetime residents of Australia, Canada (other than Quebec), New Zealand, United Kingdom, or the United States (other than Puerto Rico) are required to demonstrate their proficiency with the English language by submitting TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores taken within one year of the admission application date. GRTS requires a minimum TOEFL score of 577 written, 90 internet based, or 233 computer based for admission. Information about the TOEFL may be obtained from TOEFL, P.O. Box 6154, Princeton, NJ 08541-6154, USA or [www.est.org/toefl](http://www.est.org/toefl).  
Cornerstone University's TOEFL institution code is 1253.  
Cornerstone University also accepts scores from IELTS for English language competency, with a Band 7 minimum score.
- 3. Registration** – After you have been accepted to the university, the admissions staff will register you for classes (provided registration has begun).
- 4. Tuition Deposit** – Once you have been accepted for admission, you will be required to send a tuition deposit of at least the cost of your first semester's tuition and fees. This will be approximately \$6,000 for the 2013-2014 academic year. If for any reason you do not enroll as planned, all of the funds will be returned to you and your supporters immediately.
- 5. Student Visa** – After receiving your tuition deposit, we will send you a Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant Student Status. This form is more commonly called the I-20. You will then apply for your student visa at your country's consulate office. You will also need to take the following to the consulate:
  - a. A valid passport – must be valid for a period that extends six months past the last date you expect to be in the USA (which will be your expected date of graduation).
  - b. Proof of sufficient finances – your completed Student Financial Support form, letters of support from each supporter and copies of bank statements verifying that those funds are available.
  - c. Proof of English proficiency – citizenship in English-speaking country or TOEFL examination scores.

# STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Cornerstone University does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, age or disability in its policies and programs.

# CONSUMER INFORMATION

## GRADUATION RATE INFORMATION

Available upon request from the Registrar's Office.

## FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 requires institutions to obtain written consent from a student prior to releasing information from the student's education record to most sources outside the university. Schools are allowed to release directory information that includes name, address, e-mail address, phone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, degrees and awards, cumulative hours, participation in officially recognized sports and weight and height of athletes. As an enrolled student, you have the right to restrict the release of directory information. To restrict the release of directory information, contact the Registrar's Office.

## EQUITY IN ATHLETICS DISCLOSURE

To view Cornerstone University's Equity in Athletics Disclosure report, go to <http://ope.ed.gov/athletics/index.asp>. Simply enter Cornerstone University in the "Institution Name" field once you are on the selection screen.

## CAMPUS SECURITY REPORT

To view the Cornerstone University crime statistics page, visit [www.cornerstone.edu/departments/campus\\_safety/cleary-report](http://www.cornerstone.edu/departments/campus_safety/cleary-report).

## THIRD-PARTY SERVICERS

Cornerstone University has contracted with several third-party servicers for various aspects of the Title IV aid process. Below is a list of those servicers and their responsibilities:

- University Accounting Services - performs Perkins loan billing, servicing and NSLDS reporting functions
- National Student Loan Clearinghouse - reports enrollment data to the NSLDS
- Institute for Professional Development - recruits students for PGS programs, posts aid to PGS student accounts, monitors and issues checks for Title IV credit balances and collects student accounts
- Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation - provides online student loan counseling
- National Enterprise Systems - collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts
- RMA - collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts
- General Revenue Corporation - collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts
- West Michigan Document Shredding - destroys student information that is no longer required to be retained
- Williams and Fudge - collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts.
- LexisNexis Risk Solutions - provides background checks.

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION INFORMATION

Available in the student handbook.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH AND LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

Cornerstone University seeks applicants who demonstrate commitment to Christ and evidence the new birth, possess gifts for ministry and service, have earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university and affirm the following doctrinal statement which is in common with the creeds of the early church, the confessions of the Reformation and all conservative Evangelical Christians. This confessional commitment is required of students for admission, degree candidacy and graduation:

Cornerstone University affirms a core confession of convictions in common with the creeds of the early church, the confessions of the Reformation and all conservative Evangelical Christians.

1. We believe that the Bible is the word of God, truth without error, clear and powerful in its message, sufficient for all of our needs, and final authority for faith and life.
2. We believe in the triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — who is holy, loving, good, wise and almighty; who has created all things by his word out of nothing, who sustains, provides for and rules all things, who is our only redeemer and who will judge all people.
3. We believe that God created men and women in his image and likeness for fellowship with himself and to carry out the creation mandates; that Adam sinned and that by his disobedience the entire race was alienated from God, depraved and totally lost.
4. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who added full humanity to his perfect deity, obeyed God perfectly, died for our sins on the cross, rose again to defeat Satan and returned to heaven to pour out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and to intercede for his people.
5. We believe that the triune God has provided a great salvation for those who repent of their sins and trust Christ and his finished work; that he calls, regenerates, justifies, forgives, adopts, sanctifies, keeps and will glorify them.
6. We believe in the Holy Spirit who has been sent to complete and perfect in us all of the works that Jesus did for us. He convicts of sin, regenerates, sanctifies us, gifts us for ministry and assures us of our salvation.
7. We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection and final judgment of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.

Students, by virtue of their enrollment, agree to live within the framework of the school's standards of conduct. While some may not have personal convictions concerning all of these standards, agreeing to them obligates the student to assume responsibility for honorable adherence to them while enrolled at the seminary. It should, of course, be understood that any behavior, either on campus or away, which indicates that a student has disregard for the spirit of the schools standards would be sufficient reason to ask him/her to withdraw from the school.

Students of Graduate Theological Studies, agree to:

1. Honor biblical teaching in order to maintain a right relationship with God, people, and creation. Exhibit integrity in academic pursuits, professional work, personal finances and relationships.
2. Practice discernment in the areas of media and entertainment. Avoid behaviors clearly prohibited in Scripture including but not limited to drunkenness, immoral sexual behavior, lying, and stealing.
3. Support Cornerstone University's commitment to maintain an alcohol-free and tobacco-free campus. This means that the consumption of alcohol or use of tobacco will be prohibited in, on, and around all campus properties and at University events. Due to the public and personal health hazards posed by tobacco, students shall avoid the habitual use of tobacco.
4. Actively participate in a local evangelical church.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## TUITION AND FEES

### TUITION

Graduate Theological Studies tuition per credit hour. . . . . \$410

### SEMESTER FEES

Technology fee, per credit hour. . . . . \$12

Academic Resource Fee, per credit hour. . . . . \$25

### OTHER POTENTIAL FEES

Application fee (online free). . . . . \$40

Late payment fee (initial charge) . . . . . \$100

Late payment fee (monthly after initial charge if financial obligations are not fulfilled) . . . . . \$25

Replacement ID Card fee . . . . . \$10

Transcript fee. . . . . \$5

### COURSE FEES

Spiritual Formation Assessment fee (MIN-500). . . . . \$150

## FINANCIAL AID

Cornerstone University provides financial aid to students who can benefit from further education but cannot do so without assistance. It is important to keep in mind that the primary responsibility for financing a graduate theological education rests with the student. The Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office, along with the Graduate Admissions Office, is committed to assisting students in receiving the maximum amount of financial assistance for which they qualify under federal and institutional programs.

Students enrolled in three or more credit hours per fall or spring semester are eligible to apply for institutional and federal grants and loans. Students seeking consideration for grants and loans must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on an annual basis. Cornerstone University's code is 002266. Priority consideration for awards is granted on an annual basis to those who apply by March 31 for the fall semester and November 1 for the spring semester. FAFSA applications can be submitted online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

It is important that all requested information for institutional and federal aid is submitted in a complete and timely manner. Failure to do so will create delays. Once all requested information is received, the Student Financial Services staff will conduct an evaluation of the file and determine the student's eligibility for gift aid and federal loan eligibility. Notification is sent to students informing them of their awards.

## ENROLLMENT STATUS

A student's enrollment status is used for determining federal and state eligibility and for reporting enrollment information for loan deferment eligibility, insurance eligibility, etc.

Institutional financial aid is calculated based on a financial aid enrollment level rather than the official full-time/ part-time enrollment status. Contact the Student Financial Services office for more information regarding these levels.

Enrollment status for state and federal aid eligibility is as follows:

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>FULL-TIME</b>	<b>HALF-TIME</b>
M.A. Min. Leadership	6	3
M.A. Biblical Studies	6	3

## PAYMENT OF BILLS

Students may choose to pay in four or five equal monthly installments. Fall semester payment due dates are the 5<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, August-December, depending on the payment plan chosen. Spring semester payment due dates are the 5<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, January- May, depending on the payment plan chosen.

**Pay in Full:** Payment due dates for each semester will be indicated on the semester bill.



# WITHDRAWAL REFUNDS

## WITHDRAWAL FROM INDIVIDUAL COURSES:

Students who do not officially withdraw from a course will receive a failing grade for that course. Students withdrawing from individual courses will receive refunds based upon the following schedule:

One week or less	100% of tuition
Second week	86% of tuition
Third week	80% of tuition
Fourth week	73% of tuition
Fifth week	66% of tuition
Sixth week	60% of tuition
Seventh week	53% of tuition
Eighth week	46% of tuition
Ninth week	40% of tuition
More than nine weeks.	No refund

Appropriate adjustments will be made to financial aid programs following formulas mandated by federal, state and institutional regulations. Students whose enrollment status (i.e., full time, three-quarters time, half-time) would change if classes were dropped should consult with the Student Financial Services Office to determine the extent of these adjustments.

## WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INSTITUTION:

Tuition refunds for students who withdraw from the seminary during the course of the semester, as well as those who are dismissed or suspended, will be computed as follows:

One week or less	100% of tuition
Second week	86% of tuition
Third week	80% of tuition
Fourth week	73% of tuition
Fifth week	66% of tuition
Sixth week	60% of tuition
Seventh week	53% of tuition
Eighth week	46% of tuition
Ninth week	40% of tuition
More than nine weeks	No refund

Students receiving financial aid who withdraw from the institution during the semester may be required to return a portion of the aid to the appropriate programs. A calculation will be made based on the student's withdrawal date to see what portion of the financial aid must be returned. Students may request a copy of the refund and repayment policy from the Student Financial Services Office.

# FEDERAL TITLE IV AID

If a student withdraws before completing 60 percent of the semester or period of enrollment, the institution must determine the percentage of Title IV assistance the student has earned. The percent earned is determined by dividing the total number of calendar days in the semester into the number of calendar days completed as of the withdrawal date. Any unearned amount must be returned to the Title IV program(s).

# LOANS

## FEDERAL STAFFORD LOAN PROGRAM

Eligibility for the Federal Stafford Loan is determined through the submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This federally insured loan program is available to all qualified degree-seeking students enrolled at least half-time at the university. The government pays the interest while the student is in school, for those who qualify for a subsidized need-based loan. Students who are awarded unsubsidized loans are responsible for paying the interest while in school, which accrues from the date of disbursement. Repayment of both principal and interest begins six months after the student ceases at least half-time enrollment or graduates. Loan promissory notes can be completed online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

## STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

To receive federal financial aid, a student must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student. The student must sign a statement indicating that all federal financial aid will be used for expenses related to study at Cornerstone University.

## STATEMENT OF REFUND AND DEFAULT

To receive federal financial aid, a student must not owe a refund or an overpayment of any federal grant or loan. A student must not be in default on any federal student loan or must have made satisfactory arrangements to repay any such defaulted loan, and also have not borrowed in excess of the loan limits under federal student loan programs at all institutions previously attended.

## SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

Male students who are United States citizens or permanent resident aliens born after Dec. 31, 1959, are required to comply with Selective Service registration regulations prior to receiving federal financial aid.

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

To remain eligible for financial aid, a student must have maintained Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in accordance with the following guidelines:

**Qualitative Requirements** - The student must meet the appropriate cumulative grade point requirement. Cumulative G.P.A.'s are monitored at the end of each semester. Entering freshman have NO MINIMUM G.P.A. requirement.

1-20 credits completed	2.25 G.P.A.
21-40 credits completed	2.42 G.P.A.
41-ABOVE credits completed	2.49 G.P.A.

**Quantitative Requirements** - A student must complete his/her program within a period not greater than 150% of the normal program length (measured in credit hours). A student who receives financial aid is required to maintain the following pace to ensure progression towards the 150% completion requirement:

CUMULATIVE HRS. ATTEMPTED	MINIMUM % COMPLETED
1-24	65%
25-48	70%
49+	75%

SAP and all related criteria are evaluated at the end of each academic term.

All regularly accepted and continuing students who do not meet either/or both of the above requirements will be placed on financial aid warning. After a semester on financial aid warning, students still not meeting the criteria will have their financial aid suspended.

If a student suffers unusual circumstances and would like to appeal the financial aid suspension, he/she must submit to the Academic Dean a written explanation regarding noncompliance with these criteria. The Academic Dean will then determine the academic status of the student. If it is determined that the student is making SAP, the student will be placed on financial aid probation. The Student Financial Services office will then consider eligibility for financial aid based upon the availability of funds and financial need.

If a student meets the qualitative requirements but does not meet the quantitative requirements and is allowed to continue enrollment, he/she will not be eligible for any type of financial aid until the proper level of progress is attained.

## REPEATED COURSES

Federal rules allow a student to receive federal aid for a course more than once as long as it is not a result of more than one repetition of a previously passed course or any repetition of a previously passed course due to the student failing other coursework. A repeated course will be counted towards the 150% maximum time frame.

Please contact the Student Financial Services Office for a complete copy of the SAP policy.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## VERIFICATION PROCESS

Approximately 30 percent of those seeking Federal Stafford Student Loans will be required to participate in the verification process. Verification is a process whereby the validity of the data reported is confirmed through the submission and review of specific documents. If the student is selected for verification, aid will not be awarded until the process is completed.

## FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENT

Deferment of Stafford Student Loans is available to most students enrolled for degree seeking graduate study. Approval of a Stafford Student Loan deferment will necessitate student enrollment of at least five credits per semester (classified as at least half-time). The Stafford Student Loan Deferment Form should be processed through the Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office. The loan deferment form cannot be certified by the Student Financial Services Office until after the student has begun classes.

## VETERANS BENEFITS

Cornerstone University cooperates with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in processing benefits for the education of honorably discharged service members. Veterans who wish to use the benefits should apply at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). After submitting the application to the VA students need to complete the VA Benefit Form that can be obtained from the Student Financial Services office or online. The grade point average of veterans will be monitored at the end of each semester. Veterans who are placed on academic probation and fail to come off probation within two additional semesters will be reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs. This action may result in termination of benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs. If benefits are terminated, the veteran may reapply to the seminary for reinstatement of the benefits after the probationary status has been removed. Veterans entering as transfer students will be provided a written statement of the number of credits accepted in transfer and the number of required credits remaining to complete the program. The Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office will also provide a copy of this information to the Department of Veterans Affairs. This information will be provided to the student prior to submission of the enrollment certification for veterans' benefits and will be based on the student's stated educational goals. This transfer credit evaluation may be subject to change should the student decide to change degree program or major/concentration. Please visit [www.cornerstone.edu/veterans-benefits](http://www.cornerstone.edu/veterans-benefits) for additional information on veteran's benefits at the university.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## BIBLE COURSES

### **BBL-501      BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS**

An introduction to the process of determining the original meaning and contemporary significance of biblical texts. The course includes lecture, discussion and individual research.

### **BBL-502      OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

A study of Old Testament history, literature and theology with emphasis upon the historical development of key concepts of Old Testament biblical theology.

### **BBL-503      NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

A study of the leading themes of the New Testament as these themes correlate into a New Testament biblical theology.

### **BBL-505      OLD TESTAMENT HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS**

A detailed study of the history and culture of Israel in the context of the world of the ancient Near East as an aid to interpreting and communicating the Old Testament within its historical, cultural and religious settings.

### **BBL-507      NEW TESTAMENT HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS**

A detailed study of the historical period from the Persian period through the Bar Kokhba's revolt as an aid in interpreting the New Testament within its historical and cultural setting.

### **BBL-520      GENESIS**

Analysis of the English text in terms of the historicity, theology, cultural background and significance of this book of beginnings. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

### **BBL-523      PSALMS**

A study of the forms of Psalms with an analysis of selected Psalms, including their continuing significance. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

### **BBL-526      PENTATEUCH**

The Pentateuch will be examined from the holistic perspective, while giving special attention to "how the Pentateuch means", and the strategically situated legal collections and poems.

### **BBL-550      THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Exposition of this Gospel with emphasis on its themes of Christology, kingdom and church. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

### **BBL-553      THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

An exegetical examination of the Acts of the Apostles with concentration on the biblical theology of the Book of the Acts, the historical background of events and the theological emphasis of the speeches. Special attention is given to the relationship between the church and Israel in the early church era.

### **BBL-554      ROMANS**

An exposition of this letter in terms of its significance for biblical and systematic theology. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

### **BBL-555      GALATIANS**

The course engages students in readings, critical reflection, on-line discussion, and in reflective and exegetical writing related to the Book of Galatians. Consideration is given to the history of interpretation, exegetical method for interpretation, difficult issues related to interpretation, and to theological development. The course culminates for the student in the development of a written exegetical research commentary on one section of the Book of Galatians. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

### **BBL-557      HEBREWS**

A verse-by-verse interpretation of the epistle with special attention to the literary structure, the use of the Old Testament, the Christology and the problem of apostasy. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-558 JAMES**

The text of James will be studied with special emphasis on its connections to the Old Testament, the Gospels, Second Temple Judaism, and its contribution to wisdom and ethical literature in the New Testament.

**BBL-559 REVELATION**

An exposition of the Apocalypse in view of genre, history of interpretation, structure and theological significance. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-612 A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL**

Knowing God's will is a subject of perennial interest for the community of God's people. This course investigates this concept through the entire Bible and clarifies God's will for daily life as a set of revealed values by which decisions should be made. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-627 EPHESIANS**

A literary and theological study of the letter with special attention to its structure, the character of its argument, its theological orientation within its ancient ideological and cultural setting, and its vision for the church.

**BBL-630 WISDOM LITERATURE**

A study of the Old Testament wisdom literature (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, wisdom Psalms and the Song of Songs), with comparisons and contrasts with other ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature. Course emphasizes student papers, class presentations and interaction. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-632 ISAIAH**

An inductive biblical and theological study of the major passages of Isaiah. The student develops an understanding of the prophet's historical message and its futuristic aspect. The result is a compilation of the major themes of the book and their importance to the redemptive program of God. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-651 1 CORINTHIANS**

A detailed study of the text of 1 Corinthians with emphasis on the relevance of this epistle for the contemporary church. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-762 THE PARABLES OF JESUS**

Methods of interpreting Jesus' parables are surveyed and then an eclectic model drawing on the best insights of each is applied to each of the major narrative parables in the Gospels. Conclusions are drawn concerning the theology and significance of this portion of Jesus' teaching. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

## THEOLOGY COURSES

**THE-540 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I: INVITATION TO THEOLOGY**

This course introduces and practices a metanarrative for doing theology. The biblical narratives and propositions are heard in the context of the story that begins with creation, is centered in Jesus' first coming and reaches its culmination in the new heavens and earth. The doctrines of the Scriptures and God are studied, and the foundation laid for THE-640 Systematic Theology II and THE-641 Systematic Theology III.

**THE-572 CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW**

An elaboration of the Christian perspective upon all of life and reality with emphasis on basic matters such as method, being, knowing and doing.

**THE-640 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II: CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW**

This course continues our metanarrative theology by examining the Christian story of creation, fall, redemption and consummation, with special attention given to the nature and task of humanity, the distortion of the world through sin and the redemptive work and person of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Prerequisite: THE-540 Systematic Theology I

**THE-641 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY III: KINGDOM OF GOD**

This course will examine in detail the doctrine of salvation (soteriology), the church (ecclesiology), the basic elements of pastoral theology (internal and external call to the ministry, ordination, ministry of the word and sacraments, church discipline and pastoral spiritual formation) and the four last things (death, judgment, heaven and hell). Prerequisites: THE-540 Systematic Theology I

# MINISTRY COURSES

## **MIN-500 CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

An investigation into the meaning of biblical Christianity and its relationship to faith and practice within contemporary cultural contexts. Special attention is given to the corporate dimensions of spirituality and spiritual formation. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional \$150.00 for specialized course materials. The fee will be automatically charged to the student's account upon registration. and must be completed within the first 15 credits of enrollment.

## **MIN-510 ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

This course sets a foundational framework of knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to develop intercultural and international organizational leaders. Students examine theories, issues and skills of leadership, motivation, decision-making and communication from a transcultural biblical values perspective using case studies and texts. Class exercises apply skills in specific problem-solving situations that help identify requisite thinking processes and abilities necessary for transitioning ministries and organizations from leader to leader consistent with cultural norms and expectations.

## **MIN-534 EVANGELISM/DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES**

This class is designed to develop the ministry leader's knowledge and skill in evangelism and discipleship ministries. The course will examine personal as well as corporate models of evangelism and discipleship.

## **MIN-543 CHRISTIAN FORMATION IN THE CHURCH**

Serves as an introduction to understanding the nature and mission of educational ministry in the church. Biblical, theological, historical and developmental foundations allow students to form a coherent strategy for nurturing the whole faith community.

## **MIN-560 GLOBAL IMPACT: BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MISSION**

This course is designed to help students develop a biblical theology of mission that shapes how the church intersects with the 21st Century world. Students will consider the essence of mission Dei (the sending of God) and of mission ecclesia (the sending of the church) as rooted in the biblical narrative. Simultaneously, students will consider global trends and the implications of those trends for life and ministry. Students will examine the validity of traditional and emerging models for global missions in light of the above.

## **MIN-643 EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES FOR ADULTS**

The course engages students in readings, critical reflection, on-line discussion, and reflective and critical writing in areas foundational to adult religious education. Consideration is given to the nature of knowing, adult learning theory, learner-centered teaching, diverse learning styles, and methods of instruction that facilitate adult learning. The course culminates for the student in the development of a written philosophy of adult religious education.

# COUNSELING COURSES

## **COU-525 MULTICULTURAL COUNSELING**

This course will examine substantive and theoretical constructs concerning the inherently complex dynamics involved in counseling people from diverse cultural contexts. An emphasis will be placed on expanding awareness about diverse cultures and personal bias in the effort to enhance cultural sensitivity and diffuse potential barriers in the counseling relationship and process. Current research about cultural specific issues will be addressed including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation and disability.

## **COU-651 CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT OF ADDICTIONS**

This course will provide the clinical knowledge that is necessary to facilitate an initial intake and diagnostic orientation for the client in the counseling process. Students will learn the diagnostic skills necessary to administer a comprehensive and thorough evaluation for the purpose of determining effective treatment plans for clients who are suffering from diverse addictive and compulsive disorders. An emphasis will be placed on integrating and analyzing current research in the field of addictions counseling assessment from a Christian worldview. This course is administered through an online format.

## **COU-652 SOCIOLOGY OF ADDICTIONS**

This course provides an introduction to the sociological perspective of addictions counseling by relying on studying systems perspective from a Christian Worldview. The environmental context of the client will be considered in order to promote cultural competence and an awareness of the sociopolitical and economic aspects of addictions. Special attention will be devoted to expanding awareness about collaboration, consultation, case management, client education, service coordination and how to develop a referral network in the community. This course is administered through an online format.

**COU-653      ADDICTIONS COUNSELING: TREATMENT AND INTERVENTION**

This course is designed to help the student become more knowledgeable about counseling philosophy, techniques, theory and professional/ethical standards that are most effective in counseling clients who have been diagnosed with an addictive or compulsive disorder. Current research about the most effective and practical theoretical counseling models that foster personal growth, recovery, healing and change are studied and critiqued from a Biblical perspective. There will be a concentration on documentation/record keeping, crisis intervention, treatment planning and the important aspects of clinical supervision. Students will also have an opportunity to learn and critically examine how their intrapersonal awareness can enhance the counseling process. This course is administered through an online format.



# DEGREE CHECKLIST

## M.A. IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CHECKLIST 2013-2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Matriculation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Specialization \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

### BASIC CORE

#### *Bible*

___ BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
___ BBL-502	O.T. Biblical Theology	3
___ BBL-503	N.T. Biblical Theology	3
___	English Bible Elective:	3

**Total 12**

#### *Theology*

___ THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
___ THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
___ THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3
___ MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3

**Total 12**

**Total Hours Basic Core 21**

### SPECIALIZATION

#### *Ministry Leadership*

___ MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
___ MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3
___ MIN-560	Global Impact	3

**Total 9**

#### *General Elective*

___	General Elective:	3
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**Total Hours in Specialization 15**

**Total Hours for M.A.M.L. 36**

**Total Hours Completed \_\_\_**

# DEGREE CHECKLIST

## M.A. IN BIBLICAL STUDIES PROGRAM CHECKLIST 2013-2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Matriculation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Specialization \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

### BIBLE CORE

#### ***Biblical Foundations:***

<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-502	O.T. Biblical Theology	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-503	N.T. Biblical Theology	3

**Total 9**

#### ***Bible Electives***

(select four courses from the options below)

<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-520	Genesis	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-523	Psalms	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-527	Pentateuch	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-550	The Gospel of Matthew	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-553	The Acts of the Apostles	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-554	Romans	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-555	Galations	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-557	Hebrews	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-558	James	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-559	Revelation	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-630	Wisdom Literature	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-632	Isaiah	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-651	1 Corinthians	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-762	The Parables of Jesus	3

**Total 12**

**Total Hours Basic Core 21**

### THEOLOGY CORE

<input type="checkbox"/>	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3

**Total Hours Theology Core 9**

#### ***General Electives***

(Select two courses from the options below or two additional Biblical Elective courses)

<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-505	Old Testament Historical Backgrounds	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-507	New Testament Historical Backgrounds	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-612	A Biblical Theology of Knowing God's Will	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	THE-572	Christian Worldview	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3

**Total Hours in General Elective 6**

**Total Hours for M.A. Biblical Studies 36**

**Total Hours Completed —**