



Grand Rapids  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  

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*Cornerstone University*

# ACADEMIC CATALOG

## 2015-2016

LEARNING SERVING LEADING

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Institutional Distinctives . . . . . 2
- Academic Calendar . . . . . 7
- The Faculty of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary . . . . . 8
- Program Features . . . . . 15
- Academic Programs . . . . . 22
  - Master of Divinity . . . . . 23
  - Master of Arts in Counseling . . . . . 25
  - Master of Arts in Christian Formation . . . . . 27
  - Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies . . . . . 29
  - Master of Theology . . . . . 31
- Course Descriptions . . . . . 34
  - Exegetical/Biblical Theology . . . . . 35
  - Historical/Systematic/Philosophical/Moral Theology . . . . . 41
  - Ministry Theology . . . . . 44
  - Counseling . . . . . 50
- Online Courses . . . . . 54
- Admission and Registration Procedures . . . . . 55
- Statement of Faith and Practice . . . . . 59
- Financial Information . . . . . 60
- Academic Policies . . . . . 65
- Student Life . . . . . 75
- Personnel Directory . . . . . 79
- Index . . . . . 82
- Degree Program Checklists . . . . . 84
- Application for Admission . . . . . 93

# INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVES

## IDENTITY, MISSION & VISION

**Who We Are...**Cornerstone is a Christ-centered University with a passion for global influence through the transforming power of the Gospel.

**Why We Exist...**Cornerstone University exists 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.

**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.

## MISSION AND PURPOSE

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is a graduate school that prepares biblically and culturally informed ministry leaders for service through Christ's church.

The seminary exists to achieve the following six purposes:

1. To advance biblical, theological and ministry knowledge and skill.
2. To nurture theological, spiritual and leadership formation.
3. To encourage the development of critical thinking and worldview formation governed by biblical teaching.
4. To nurture a global ministry perspective.
5. To enhance the cultural relevance of ministry practice within the bounds of a distinctively Christian theological framework.
6. To encourage lifelong and collaborative learning.

## CORE VALUES

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary enacts its mission on the basis of the following core values:

1. **Biblical Worldview** – We engage theological education from a high view of biblical authority, with appreciation for the flow of the biblical story, and with a commitment to exegete the whole Bible in its original languages.
2. **Spiritual Transformation** – We understand and pursue ongoing spiritual transformation as a communal redemptive process of growth in faith, a process fostered by knowledge of the Word of

God and expressed in character development, ethical transformation and greater love for God and people.

3. **Critical Thinking** – We believe critical thinking requires a strong commitment to scholarship, engagement with diverse viewpoints, and appreciation for the tension of ideas associated with developmental process.
4. **Christ's Church** – We exist to serve Christ and His worldwide church as partners in the development of ministry leaders through a variety of formal and non-formal means.
5. **Disciplinary Integration** – We nurture skillful integration of the theological disciplines to foster holistic growth in theory and practice, while affirming the value of specialization in the theological disciplines.
6. **Lifelong Collaborative Learning** – We foster a disciplined approach to learn throughout one's lifetime and as a shared journey with others.
7. **Cross-cultural Understanding** – We affirm cross-cultural interdependence with the diverse cultures and perspectives of the world, and recognize the importance of cultural exegesis and sensitivity for effective ministry.
8. **Diverse Community** – We appreciate an academic community which includes men and women of diverse ethnic, socio-economic and Christian theological traditions.

## GRTS MOTTO

The motto of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is "Learning, Serving, Leading." The motto provides insight concerning the identity, values and mission of GRTS and is worthy of further consideration.

**Learning.** Student learning is central to the mission, values, and overall culture of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Through a disciplined and rigorous learning environment, GRTS faculty members temper the challenge with grace and support. The core curriculum at GRTS is designed to enable students to conduct disciplined interpretation and application of the Bible, articulate a coherent understanding of Christian theology, and demonstrate basic knowledge, values and competencies associated with spiritual, worldview, and leadership formation. In addition to core curriculum, the various degrees at GRTS include areas of specialization, equipping students for a wide range of ministry vocations.

GRTS conceives of learning in holistic terms, seeking to foster growth of the whole person. Traditional classroom teaching, interaction with faculty scholars, a battery of student assessments, a student learning portfolio, and an extended ministry residency combine to foster cognitive, affective and behavioral learning. Since ministry is always engaged as whole persons, preparation for ministry must foster holistic learning and growth. GRTS understands this and structures a diverse set of learning experiences that foster maturation of the whole person.

**Serving.** In addition to working with faculty scholars to develop exegetical skills and theological understanding within traditional classroom settings, GRTS offers students the opportunity to work with seasoned ministry professionals to refine their gifts, confirm their calling, and mature in character within the context of authentic ministry practice.

Through Ministry Residency, counseling practicum and internships, and as part of the degree program requirements, students serve side by side with experienced ministry leaders and counselors within a local church and/or parachurch ministry context. The sustained nature of the Ministry Residency experience, throughout the duration of the degree program, enables students to establish a life pattern of learning and serving, the necessary foundation for mature and effective ministry leadership.

**Leading.** At GRTS, we believe that ministry leadership emerges from the mastery of learning and serving. Leadership, or influence, in ministry is not inherent to a position or established by exerting authority, but by the authentic confession of faith, affirmation of gifts, demonstration of commitment and competence, expression of care, and credibility of character.

At GRTS, we believe that ministry leadership is best understood as stewardship, consisting of a stewardship of truth, of persons, and of organizations. Ministry leaders, regardless of position, are responsible to accurately represent God and His word, nurture the faith and contribution of others, and foster a mature and responsive faith community.

Effectiveness and influence in life and ministry require a sustained commitment and engagement in learning and serving. Leadership flows from the expertise and credibility derived from such commitments and actions. GRTS understands itself and its mission in these terms, endeavoring to nurture life patterns of learning, serving and leading.

## HISTORY

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary of Cornerstone University traces its founding as a degree-granting institution to 1948, when the State of Michigan authorized it to grant the Bachelor of Divinity degree (now called the Master of Divinity). The first graduating class in 1949 boasted two graduates. The institution originally opened in January 1941 as an evening Bible institute at Wealthy Street Baptist Church. In 1944, a day school was started that became the seminary four years later, at which time the school was renamed Grand Rapids Bible Institute and Theological Seminary. The Bible Institute became a state-approved, degree-granting Bible college in 1963, moved to its present location in 1964, and transitioned into a Christian liberal arts college in 1972. In 1999, the entire institution acquired state-approved university status. Today, Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary share a 123-acre campus four miles from downtown Grand Rapids. The seminary is housed in the Leon J. Wood Seminary Building, which opened in 1977. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, its administration and faculty, operate under the authority of the Cornerstone University board of trustees.

## GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

Grand Rapids is an excellent locale for a seminary. A quiet, sprawling city with a greater metropolitan area population of more than 600,000, it has been called “the city of churches” and “the center of orthodoxy.” Several hundred conservative evangelical churches within 50 miles of the school offer many opportunities for Christian service and fellowship.

Grand Rapids has an abundance of affordable housing, and the cost of living is lower than in many cities its size. Many seminarians live in off-campus apartments or houses. As the commercial center of Western Michigan, Grand Rapids’ banks, offices, hospitals, school systems and factories provide ample employment opportunities for students and their spouses.

Additionally, Grand Rapids is home to four well-known religious book publishers – William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Zondervan Publishing House, Baker Book House and Kregel Publications. Ryerson Library, the main public library in Grand Rapids, recently underwent a \$17.5 million renovation. Ryerson’s extensive religious holdings make it a valuable resource for theological students. Also available are the library collections of two other area seminaries, in addition to the thousands of rare theological volumes held in Cornerstone University’s Miller Library.

Cultural opportunities include the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Van Andel Public Museum, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Ballet, Grand Rapids Opera, professional and collegiate sports teams,

professional quality community theatre groups, and many traveling artists, concert performances and events held at DeVos Concert Hall and Van Andel Arena. Malls in the area provide comfortable and enjoyable shopping experiences.

## CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY

Cornerstone is a Christ-centered University with a passion for global influence through the transforming power of the gospel. Cornerstone University exists 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. Founded in 1941, the university is a three part academic enterprise: the traditional undergraduate college (TUG), the Professional and Graduate Studies (PGS) which serves working adults through undergraduate and graduate degree programs, along with two graduate theological schools: Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (GRTS) and Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (ABTS) based in Thailand. The school also has two broadcast groups, the first - WCSG - is comprised of five radio signals simulcasting an adult contemporary Christian music format, and the second - Mission Network News - is an internationally syndicated daily radio news feature and online resource.

## CORNERSTONE CONFESSION

The Cornerstone Confession is the foundational doctrinal statement of Cornerstone University, reaffirmed annually by Cornerstone trustees, faculty, and staff. The Confession expresses our commitment to the key teachings of Scriptures as interpreted through the ecumenical creeds of the early church, the chief insights of the Reformation, and evangelical Christianity.

We believe in one sovereign, omnipotent, and fully omniscient God who eternally exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who in love and for his glory created all things out of nothing and pronounced them good.

We believe that God has revealed himself in the sixty-six canonical books of Scripture, which are verbally inspired, truth without error, and serve as our final authority in faith and life. They lead us to Jesus Christ, who shows us the Father, and rightly interpreted, they enable us to understand God's revelation in humanity, nature, and history.

We believe that God directly created Adam and Eve, the historical parents of the human race, distinct from the rest of creation in their bearing of God's image and their stewardship over creation. Their union as man and woman models God's design for marriage and perpetually stands as God's loving and righteous will for all sexual intimacy.

We believe that our first parents forfeited their original righteousness when they succumbed to Satan's temptation and rebelled against God's revealed will. As a result, every human is born in sin, leaving us totally depraved, alienated from God, and destined to spiritual and physical death. As such, our sinful ways have corrupted God's creation, resulting in discord to society and nature.

We believe that God's plan to redeem fallen humanity and renew creation flows through his promises to the Jewish people. God's promises to Abraham and David are fulfilled in Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant.

We believe that the Son of God, while fully divine, became fully human through the virgin birth to save the world from sin. Living a sinless life in perfect obedience to His Father, Jesus proclaimed God's reign in word and deed. In his mercy he atoned for our sins by dying in our place. Having satisfied the just wrath of God on our behalf, he rose bodily and triumphantly over sin, death, and Satan. He then ascended to heaven, sent his Spirit to lead and empower his church, and is seated at the Father's right hand where he reigns and intercedes for His people.

We believe that the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost to establish the church; that he uses the Word of God to give new life to those who repent of their sin and believe in Christ; and that all who by faith alone receive Christ's finished work are by God's grace united with Christ, justified by his shed blood, adopted into the family of God, forgiven of all their sin, indwelt and gifted by the Spirit, and added to the church.

We believe that the one, holy, and universal church is the body and bride of Christ. The church gathers in local assemblies to worship God and celebrate the gospel through the preaching of the Word, baptism, the Lord's Supper, prayer, and fellowship. It disperses to proclaim the gospel to a sinful world which must hear the good news of Jesus Christ in order to be saved. The church makes disciples of Jesus who, through persevering faith, embody the kingdom values of righteousness, peace, and joy. By loving God, serving others, and caring for creation, they anticipate the redemption of all things at Christ's return.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will personally and gloriously return to deliver this world from Satan's rule and bring his reign to its ultimate fruition. Jesus will raise the dead to stand with the living before his judgment throne where he will determine the final state of humanity. The lost will experience everlasting conscious separation from God as the just punishment for their sin, and the redeemed will be welcomed into the unhindered joy of everlasting fellowship with him.

## EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Assessment of student learning is highly valued at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. We take seriously our responsibility to deliver on the promise to provide excellence in graduate theological education. At GRTS, we do not view assessment of student outcomes as an externally imposed burden. Rather, we understand assessment of student learning and the disclosure of educational effectiveness as a theological task of stewardship, a process for organizational learning, and as a matter of legitimate accountability.

The effectiveness of our educational programs is assessed in a disciplined and routine manner. Through a variety of instruments and processes, we assess the achievement of the intended student learning outcomes of our curriculum, student and alumni satisfaction, readiness for ministry of our students, and vocational achievement of our graduates.

The following provides a few highlights and demonstrate how GRTS is delivering on its promise to provide excellence in graduate theological education.

GRTS Graduate Employment and Credentials:

- 81% of graduates are employed in various forms of vocational ministry
- 78% of Master of Divinity graduates are employed in various forms of vocational ministry
- 76% of graduates majoring in Pastoral Ministries are ordained as a minister
- 87% of students achieved the highest outcome (“making good progress in readiness for ministry”) in the mid-point assessment
- 97% of students achieved the highest outcome (“making good progress in readiness for ministry”) in the exit assessment
- 90% of Master of Arts in Counseling graduates are employed in vocational counseling or Christian ministry
- 96% of Master of Arts in Counseling graduates achieved the Limited-Licensed Professional Counselor (LLPC) or the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)

*Note: Data above was taken from the results of a variety of surveys and other evaluative instruments administered in recent years at GRTS.*

## ACCREDITATION & ACADEMIC STANDING

ACCREDITED by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada, and the following degree programs are approved:

*M.Div, MA in Christian Formation, MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, MA in Counseling Ministries, ThM*

*The Commission contact information is:*

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada  
 10 Summit Park Drive  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15275  
 USA

Phone: 412.788.6505  
 Fax: 412.788.6510  
 Website: [www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)

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 to grant the B.D. degree in 1948, the M.Div. degree in 1968, the M.R.E. degree in 1969, the Th.M. degree in 1977, the M.T.S. degree in 1985 and the M.A. degree in 1996.

The U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force accept M.Div. graduates as candidates for chaplaincy. The United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service has approved the seminary for education of international students.

The U.S. Office of Education Directory lists GRTS as an approved graduate theological institution.

# WELCOME FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN John F. VerBerkmoes, Ph.D.

GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## DEAR 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 Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. I invite you to follow up your reading of these pages with a visit to our campus. Such a visit will provide you an opportunity to pose questions and to think together with us about God's calling for your life.

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has been preparing individuals for a variety of Christian ministries for more than 60 years. We are committed to providing our students with a well-rounded program that integrates Christian worldview, biblical knowledge, theology, exegesis and ministry skills, so that you are equipped for a lifetime of service to Christ and his Church. Whether you are a professional looking for continuing education in Christian studies or a person called to vocational Christian ministry, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has programs that will address your needs.

As a graduate school of theology and ministry, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is a community of learners who hold in common the desire to study God's word as the means to know God and serve others. You will have access to seasoned professors, both in and out of the classroom, who desire to help you integrate knowledge and service into a lifestyle. I invite you to join us in this journey!



*John F. VerBerkmoes*

John F. VerBerkmoes, Ph.D.  
Academic Dean

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## FALL 2015

Faculty Workdays	Sept. 2-3
Labor Day	Sept. 7
New Student Orientation	Sept. 8
Classes Begin*	Sept. 9
Registration Begins	Oct. 19
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 25-27
Final Day of Classes*	Dec. 11
Final Exams	Dec. 14-17

Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E	Nov. 16
Last day for withdrawal without W/E	Dec. 7

## SPRING 2016

J-Term	Jan. 11-20
New Student Orientation	Jan. 21
Classes Begin*	Jan. 21
Spring Break	March 7-11
Registration Begins	March 16
Easter Break	March 24-25
Easter Sunday	March 27
Final Day of Classes*	April 29
Final Exams	May 2-5
Commencement	May 6

Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E	March 31
Last day for withdrawal without W/E	April 21

## SUMMER 2016

Online Classes Start	May 9
1 <sup>st</sup> Residential Session	May 16-27
2 <sup>nd</sup> Residential Session	May 31 - June 10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Residential Session	June 13-24

## FALL 2016

Faculty Workdays	Aug. 31 - Sept. 1
Labor Day	Sept. 5
New Student Orientation	Sept. 6
Classes Begin*	Sept. 7
Registration Begins	Oct. 17
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 23-25
Final Day of Classes*	Dec. 9
Final Exams	Dec. 12-15

Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E	Nov. 14
Last day for withdrawal without W/E	Dec. 5

## SPRING 2017

J-Term	Jan. 9-18
New Student Orientation	Jan. 19
Classes Begin*	Jan. 19
Spring Break	March 6-10
Registration Begins	March 15
Easter Break	April 13-14
Easter Sunday	April 16
Final Day of Classes*	April 28
Final Exams	May 1-4
Commencement	May 5

Last Day for withdrawal without W/P or W/E	March 30
Last day for withdrawal without W/E	April 20

## SUMMER 2017

Online Classes Start	May 8
1 <sup>st</sup> Residential Session	May 15-26
2 <sup>nd</sup> Residential Session	May 30 - June 9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Residential Session	June 12-23

\* See course schedule for exceptions



# FACULTY

## GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### BYARD J. BENNETT, PH.D.

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#### *Professor of Historical & 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.

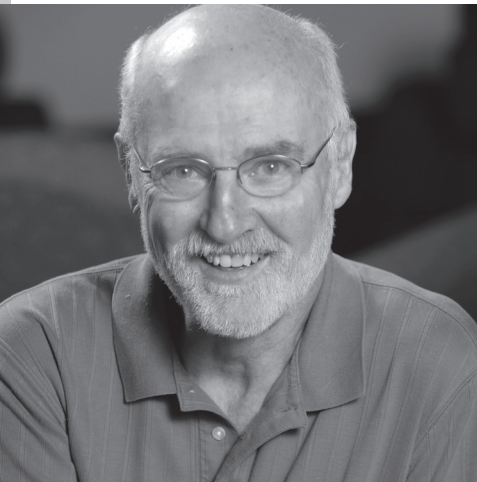
**Personal:** Dr. Bennett and his wife Shalini have three school-aged children.

**Quotable:** "GRTS' offerings in historical theology have a depth and academic quality that can be matched by few evangelical seminaries. Our courses explore 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](mailto:Byard.Bennett@cornerstone.edu)

### PHILIP A. BUSTRUM, PH.D.

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#### *Professor of Intercultural Studies*

**Degrees:** B.A., Bob Jones University; M.S., Portland State University; Ph.D., Biola University/Talbot School of Theology.

**Career Path:** Academic, Moffat College of Bible, 1981-92; Biola University, 1992-93; International School of Theology, 1994-96; Cornerstone University, 1996-present.

**Personal:** With my family, I lived for 14 years in Kenya teaching at a Bible college. Since then I have visited and ministered in over 40 countries and continue to do cross cultural teaching on the undergraduate and graduate level, mostly recently in India.

**Research Interests:** Missions in cross-cultural contexts, spiritual formation, and discipleship in short-term missions.

**Quotable:** "Students at GRTS have the unique opportunity to study with leading professors who mentor and guide their students through life, studies and internships. I appreciate the emphasis at GRTS on scholarship and the practical application of the Biblical text to life and ministry."

**E-mail:** [Philip.Bustrum@cornerstone.edu](mailto:Philip.Bustrum@cornerstone.edu)

## JOHN H. DUFF, PH.D.

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### *Associate Professor of Historical & Systematic Theology*

**Degrees:** B.A., Cedarville University; M.A., Western Kentucky University; M.T.S., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Calvin Theological Seminary.

**Career Path:** Pastoral Ministry, 1985-97; Faculty, Cornerstone University 1996-present.

**Personal:** Married with 5 children; my wife and I enjoy visiting National Parks/monuments and historical sites. I enjoy card and board games, woodworking, landscaping, and fixing stuff. I play the piano and sing. I especially enjoy a capella music.

**Research Interests:** Apologetics, atonement, history of exegesis, 17th century eschatology, and religious epistemology.

**Quotable:** “Everyone is a theologian in some sense of the term, but most do not recognize that fact. We all have thoughts about God and his activity in the world though we do not often take the time to examine them. Helping students to engage in this examination in light of God’s word is a real privilege and a delightful calling.”

**E-mail:** John.Duff@cornerstone.edu

## ROYCE A. EVANS, D.MIN.

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### *Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministries*

### *Director of Ministry Residency & The Urban Cohort Program*

**Degrees:** B.A., Cornerstone University; M.A., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; D. Min., Western Theological Seminary.

**Career Path:** Pastoral, 1989-present; Administration and Teaching, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2009-present.

**Personal:** Rev. Dr. Evans and his wife Marilyn have eight grandchildren who are the light of their lives. Royce enjoys preaching and teaching the biblical text.

**Research Interests:** Present research interests focus on the components of a call to ministry: Character and Competency

**Quotable:** “In my ongoing efforts to be the most precise instrument for Kingdom service I can be, GRTS has been more than a community of teachers and learners. This community has demonstrated a genuine commitment to diversity and the myriad of cultures that comprise our God’s creation. As a context that places high value on critical thinking it affords opportunity for theological expression regardless of denominational or interpretational affinity. I have found the culture here supportive and encouraging.”

**E-mail:** Royce.Evans@cornerstone.edu

## TIMOTHY G. GOMBIS, PH.D.

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### *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.

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### *Associate Professor of Old Testament* *Director of the Hesse Memorial Laboratory*

**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; ABD instructor, The Pennsylvania State University 2009-2010; Fellow, W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, 2010-2011; Adjunct instructor, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2012; Adjunct 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

## JOHN W. HILBER, PH.D.

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### *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

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### *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; Séminaire Baptiste Évangélique Du Québec, Montreal Québec, 1993-2010; 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

## JONATHAN S. MARKO, PH.D.

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### *Assistant Professor of Philosophical & Systematic Theology*

**Degrees:** B.S., The University of Akron; M.Div., Ashland Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Calvin Theological Seminary.

**Career Path:** Mechanical Engineer, 2000-2003; Youth Ministries Intern, 2004-2005; Pastor of Young Adults & Adult Discipleship, 2005-2007; Adjunct Professor, Cornerstone University and Kuyper College, 2008-2010; Faculty, Cornerstone University, 2011-2014; Faculty, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and Cornerstone University, 2014-present.

**Research Interests:** Epistemology, especially the relationships of faith, Scripture, and reason; Enlightenment era philosophers and theologians; Divine sovereignty & human free choice; soteriology.

**Personal:** Dr. Marko and his wife, Meagan, have three children, Marley, Miri, and Millie. He enjoys serving as an elder at his local church, focusing on the area of adult discipleship, reading literary classics, weight training, and softball.

**Quotable:** "I love my time in the classroom. It offers ample opportunities to build up Christ's body. It is an intersection of mentoring, friendships, challenges, the fruits of study and research, and piety."

**Email:** Jonathan.Marko@cornerstone.edu

## CATHERINE MUELLER-BELL, PH.D., LPC

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### *Associate Professor of Counseling*

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

**Career Path:** Counselor and Counseling 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 28 years to Mark Bell, Cornerstone University men's soccer coach. They have two adult sons, Zachariah and Joshua. She enjoys long distance running, travel, hiking, biking, swimming, reading, gardening and partnering with a ministry in the African nation of Zambia on an annual basis.

**Quotable:** "The counseling program at GRTS is the best that I have ever seen due to the balance of Bible, 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.

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*Associate Professor of Christian Ministries*  
*Associate Vice President of Adult Learning*

**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.

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*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.

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### *Professor of Systematic & 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

**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



# PROGRAM FEATURES

## ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

In recognition of the diversity of life circumstances, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary provides a wide range of enrollment options to students. Typically, students progress through degree programs by participating in a combination of the enrollment options. To assist students in mapping their academic program, GRTS maintains a four-year course planner which provides a broad view of the next four years of course rotations. The diverse set of enrollment options available at GRTS are described in greater detail below.

### TRADITIONAL SEMESTERS

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is a semester-based school with the fall semester running from early September to mid-December and the spring semester running from mid-January to early May. Residential courses are scheduled Monday to Friday with morning, afternoon and evening options. Two kinds of residential courses are available during the traditional semesters, split-block and full-block. Split-block courses are offered on Tuesday and Thursday with 80-minute sessions on both days each week. Full-block courses are offered throughout the week, and these courses meet once per week in a two-hour and 50-minute session. See the “Academic” section of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Web page under “Course Schedule” for the current and/or most recent course schedule.

### EVENING COURSES

In response to the recommendations of working professionals desiring seminary education, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary now offers a variety of evening courses during the traditional fall and spring semesters. The evening courses meet one night per week throughout the 15-week semester, are available on an audit or credit basis, and can be applied to a variety of seminary degree programs. See the Academic section of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary web page under “Course Schedule” for the current and/or most recent semester course schedule.

### DISTANCE EDUCATION

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers over forty courses for graduate credit through online distance education. These courses can be completed on a non-degree basis or applied to a particular degree program. The online courses are developed and taught by the faculty of the seminary. Enrollment levels in these courses vary, but are capped at 12-16

students. The courses include required readings, mini-lectures, peer learning through facilitated online discussion, papers and/or projects, and in some cases, exams. The online courses are available fall, spring, and summer semesters in 8 and 15 week formats.

Unless otherwise noted in the program requirements, distance education enrollment is limited to eight courses within a degree program. Students are limited to two distance education courses per semester and are not eligible to enroll for audits. Students on academic probation or students with two or more outstanding “incomplete” grades in other courses are not eligible to enroll in distance education courses.

### J-TERM

A 10-day intensive residential session, J-Term, is available each year during the second and third weeks of January. Given the structure of these courses, students are able to enroll in a morning and/or afternoon course. J-Term courses typically meet Monday through Friday. Morning classes are held from 8 a.m. to noon, while afternoon classes meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. See the Academic section of the Web page under “Course Schedule” for the current and/or most recent J-term course schedule.

### SUMMER SCHOOL

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers additional graduate resident courses through four summer sessions. These 10-day intensive sessions provide opportunity to enroll in a variety of courses between mid-May and late June. These courses are applicable to a variety of degree programs. Book lists can be secured in advance, allowing the student to complete some of the reading requirements before the course begins. After the 10-day session has ended, most classes grant students four to six weeks to complete major papers or projects. See the Academic section of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Web page under “Course Schedule” for the current and/or most recent summer course offerings.

### MODULES - MASTER OF THEOLOGY

The Master of Theology degree program is primarily delivered to students through course modules. The course modules are coordinated on an individual basis with the supervising professor. For specific course requirements, consult the Master of Theology degree listing and related course descriptions in this catalog.



## MINISTRY RESIDENCY

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to equipping students and elevating their integration of theological discipline with ministry experience. The Ministry Residency program at GRTS prepares students for vocational ministry by providing avenues for them to connect with ministry coaches and to invest in local ministries.

If you are a student pursuing a Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Christian Formation, you will invest eight credits of your degree toward serving alongside a mentor in a local ministry. Through the Ministry Residency program, we are committed to assisting your preparation and implementation of this aspect of your program.

GRTS is committed to giving you a solid theological framework that will allow you to assess and grow in an integrated, local ministry context. This is highly valued at GRTS and we are committed to assisting you in your preparation for ministry.

### PROGRAM SCOPE - LEARNING, SERVING, LEADING

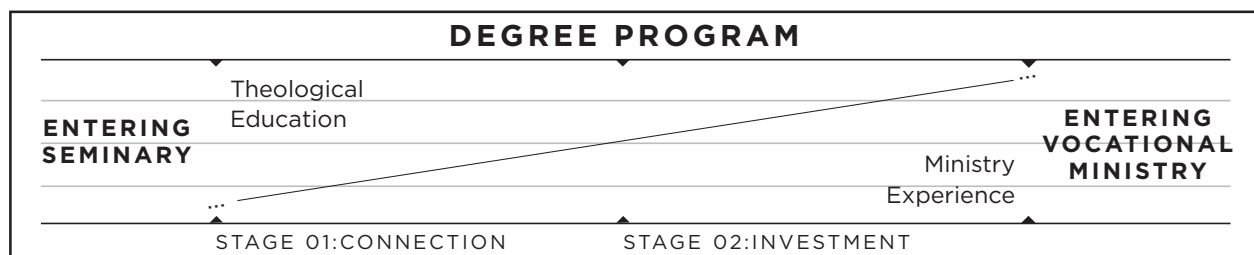
Ministry Residency at GRTS is a tangible expression of the high value we place on integrating solid theological thinking with hands-on ministry experience. We desire to graduate thoughtful leaders who champion theological integrity and who are beginning to demonstrate proven ministry effectiveness.

The Ministry Residency program works to connect students with their local ministry interests, establishing a ministry context in which a student can worship, serve in a ministry capacity and be mentored by a seasoned ministry leader.

### PROGRAM SPIRIT - THEOLOGICALLY INFORMED MINISTRY PRACTICE

It is the spirit of GRTS to work alongside the church to assist in preparing ministry leaders for theologically informed ministry practice and who are theologically competent and ministry capable. GRTS continues to enjoy a growing heritage of ministry leaders in multiple fields expressing the gospel through pastoring, teaching, counseling and leading. It is in these expressions that we find our greatest sense of impact and success.

### Your Degree Journey



## MINISTRY GROWTH THROUGH THE MINISTRY RESIDENCY

The Ministry Residency program is designed as an extended, contextual immersion with a local ministry (8 credits over two years). Our heartbeat is to develop a missional web between GRTS, graduate students and local churches in order to equip emerging leaders as they prepare to serve God through the church.

The Ministry Residency program at GRTS is committed to assisting students in developing their potential and refining their calling as a Christian leader.

- The Ministry Residency program is founded on an educational philosophy intent on encouraging students to extend their theological training into actual ministry environments.
- Residency allows each student program at GRTS to remain dynamic in response to our rapidly changing world and to the contexts in which our graduates endeavor to minister.
- Students' connection with GRTS and the Ministry Residency give them an opportunity to express their calling through theological reflection, through coaching feedback and through actual ministry opportunity.
- Partnerships with proven, local ministries and coaches provide contexts encouraging GRTS students to develop as creative leaders, reflective shepherds, effective practitioners and thoughtful theologians.

## MINISTRY COMPETENCY THROUGH THE MINISTRY RESIDENCY

The goal of Ministry Residency is to provide students the opportunity to explore their ministry calling in a local ministry while growing in their ministry competency.

We have identified pastoral competencies that will guide a resident's learning and will be used to track one's growth in these areas. Ten of these competencies are:

- Time Management and Allocation
- Contemplation/Reflection (Spiritual Disciplines/ Soul Care)
- Ministry Task/Administration
- Teaching/Preaching/Facilitating
- Volunteers: Leading, Staffing, Team Dynamics

- Pastoral/Ministry Duties
- Strategic Planning/Programming
- Counseling/On Call
- Personal Leadership (Identifying gifts and passions)
- Specialized Ministry

### **THEOLOGICALLY INFORMED MINISTRY PRACTICE THROUGH THE MINISTRY RESIDENCY**

Competencies focus on tangible outcomes of applied knowledge and value. The Ministry Residency program seeks to encourage experience and reflection upon competencies based on the following values. These values will enhance students' reflection papers as directed in the course syllabi.

**Theological Reflection** - The student develops a growing ability to navigate ministry situations through the theological matrix emerging through their academic disciplines and ministry experiences. Academic rigor will affect ministry practice and ministry experience will motivate theological study. A student who values theological reflection is able to bring theology into life situations and will constantly be pursuing theological clarity as their knowledge and experiences expand.

**Communal Interdependence** - The student values the necessity of a local community where they invest and are invested in. They recognize their essential connection with their local church and are responsive to the counsel, support and feedback of their ministry coach and academic advisors committed to speaking into their lives. A student with communal interdependence values the necessity for community and is able to receive and contribute freely in this context.

**Spiritual Transformation** - The student develops ongoing disciplines that foster a deepening love for God and maturing worldview that allow for personal and professional choices to flow out of thoughtful reflection and a teachable heart. They recognize the need for continual seeking of God and his purposes and are vigilant in watching their life and doctrine closely. A student who values spiritual reformation is thoughtful, reflective and eager to mature in their following of Jesus.

**Missional Identity** - The student reflects on their own development, discovering and refining their gifts, abilities, passions and limitations. Through their academic interaction and ministry experiences, the student grows in how God is calling them to contribute to his redemptive mission. One would expect the student to grow in written and verbal communication, leadership qualities, counseling experience and pastoral care. A student with missional identity begins to envision their next steps

in God's calling and is aware of their strengths and weaknesses.

**Contextual Vision** - The student grows in wisdom and compassion and seeks to understand their world (social, environmental, economic and cultural setting) in which they minister and live. As servant leaders, they seek ways to love others through understanding them before prescribing formulaic answers. Further, the student gains a broader perspective of the world and the necessity for understanding the global church and the issues surrounding missions, multiculturalism and true partnership. A student with contextual vision is embracing a realistic view of their world (through listening and learning) and is envisioning (and desiring) what God might want it to truly be.

### **GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE MINISTRY RESIDENCY**

As students enter their degree program, they should spend their first semester connecting relationally with a church/ministry while they immerse themselves in theological study.

When the student approaches his/her final four semesters of his/her program, he/she will invest with the local ministry, serving 10-12 hours a week in order to bring their training to a local context and their ministry experiences back to the classroom.

By the end of the program, a student graduates with theological understanding, ministry experience and valuable feedback from faculty and ministry coaches.

### **MINISTRY RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS**

The Ministry Residency program has connections to over 80 area churches, parachurch ministries and mentors who in the past have served, or are willing to serve as a residency site.

The Ministry Residency program at GRTS is working hard to partner with these quality churches/parachurch ministries and coaches to offer diverse opportunities for students to serve in a local ministry setting.

For a general list of ministries connected with Ministry Residency and open to exploring Ministry Residencies with students, contact the GRTS receptionist.

### **MINISTRY RESIDENCY NEXT STEPS**

For more information on the Ministry Residency, access to the Ministry Residency Handbook, program details, and latest updates, visit the Ministry Residency page of the Cornerstone website or look under GRTS on the CU Portal. You can also obtain a copy of the Ministry Residency Handbook by contacting GRTS Receptionist.

Feel free to contact GRTS receptionist for general questions on the Ministry Residency or contact Rev. Dr. Royce Evans to talk about your specific ministry and residency goals.

*The GRTS Receptionist* - 616.222.1422



**Rev. Dr. Royce Evans**  
*Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministries, Director of Ministry Residency & the Urban Cohort Program*  
 Royce.Evans@cornerstone.edu  
 616.222.1422

## THE URBAN COHORT PROGRAM

In an effort to serve as a transformative influence on the urban centers of Western Michigan, Cornerstone University initiated the Urban Cohort Program in Fall 2008. The program, a cohort based educational model offered to students from various Western Michigan urban centers (Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Muskegon) was designed to contribute to the transformation of these urban communities by providing innovative and transformational education to urban ministry leaders. At Cornerstone University, we believe that urban ministry leaders are community leaders and possess the position and potential to foster significant redemptive influence. Our vision for the program is to ignite and equip these leaders to facilitate needed change, and to do so from a theologically informed perspective that is distinctively Christian.

The program is built around a seven course core (foundational courses in Bible and Theology) which is delivered in a one-night per week format to a cohort of students (12-25 students per cohort). Upon completing the seven core courses, the urban cohort student with an existing accredited bachelor's degree can complete the remaining five courses (e.g., Organizational Leadership, Urban Development, Christian Social Ethics, etc.) and achieve the Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership (MAML) or Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS) which are awarded through Cornerstone University. For those urban cohort students without an existing accredited bachelor's degree, five of the seven core courses can be applied to one of several bachelor's degrees offered by the Professional & Graduate Studies division of Cornerstone University. Thus, the program is designed to take the urban ministry leader to the next level of credential in their educational journey, while seeking to achieve the broader vision of urban transformation through these leaders.

For more information concerning the Urban Cohort Program contact Diana Marquez or check out the Urban Cohort section on Cornerstone University's website.

### **Diana Marquez**

*Administrative Assistant to the Urban Cohort Program Director*  
 Diana.Marquez@cornerstone.edu  
 616.222.1422 ext. 1204

## THE KERN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to the local church. Our mission, in part, is to contribute to the growth and vitality of local churches in the United States by preparing and equipping students to serve as local church pastors. With this commitment in view and in partnership with the Kern Family Foundation, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has established the Kern Scholars Program. This unique program provides significant scholarships and intentional leadership development opportunities for a select group of Master of Divinity students. The Kern Family Foundation is deeply committed to promoting strong pastoral leadership in American churches, and we have partnered with them to provide this opportunity to a limited number of qualified young men and women who show strong potential for pastoral ministry or church planting in the United States. The Kern Scholars Program features three primary emphases:

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

One goal of the Kern Scholars Program is to make the M.Div. degree more affordable and reduce student debt, which can limit ministry opportunities for future pastors. The Program offers a generous 75% tuition scholarship to qualified students. Scholarships consist of a four-year grant awarded upon entry to the program provided that recipients meet and maintain all eligibility requirements (see below).

### **COMMUNITY**

Recipients of the Kern Scholarship join a distinct Kern Scholars cohort and participate in cohort activities offered by the seminary and the Foundation. The cohort structure allows for an intentional community to form among students. Cohorts enter and graduate at the same time, take many classes together, and have numerous shared experiences along the way.

### **PASTORAL ENHANCEMENTS**

Each year, Kern Scholars participate in extra-curricular experiences aimed at pastoral formation. These experiences include small group discipleship, seminars, retreats, projects, conferences, and more. The goal of the Pastoral Enhancement program is to invest in students' personal discipleship to Christ, strengthen their ability to disciple others, and gain skills and insights vital for pastoral ministry.

## ELIGIBILITY AND COMMITMENTS

Kern Scholars must meet the following criteria:

- A citizen of the U.S.
- Age 27 years or younger in the year in which the student enrolls in seminary
- Graduate from an accredited college or university with a minimum GPA of 3.25/4.00.
- Committed to entering full-time, lifelong pastoral ministry or church planting in the U.S. pursuant upon graduation. (Kern Scholars graduates often serve as associate or student ministries pastors for a time but plan to eventually serve as senior preaching and teaching pastors with pulpit responsibilities.)
- Maintain a cumulative 3.25 GPA in seminary.
- Submit an annual "Reaffirmation of Call to Pastoral Ministry" during seminary.
- Participate in all Kern Pastoral Enhancements and any Foundation-sponsored retreats during seminary.
- Complete the Master of Divinity degree in four years.
- Committed to participating in the Kern Pastors Network pursuant upon graduation.
- Exhibits eight (8) character qualities essential for pastoral leadership: leader, effective communicator, agent of change, maturing in character, creative, strong relational abilities, culturally engaged and persistent.

### Darrell Yoder

Kern Scholars Program Director  
Darrell.Yoder@cornerstone.edu  
616.254.1654

## ISRAEL STUDY TOUR

In addition to the traditional classes offered at GRTS, the Israel Study Tour provides a way for students to experience the land of the Bible first-hand. The Study Tour will combine extensive travel within Israel and the Palestinian territories, on-site exploration of archaeological remains, and a detailed study of the history, culture and geography of the region with an emphasis on illuminating the world of the Bible. The 10-12 day trip is led by GRTS professors in cooperation with our overseas partners and is held each J-term as the credit offering BBL-601: Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible. The course (or on-campus alternative course BBL-506) is required for all Master of Divinity students who began their program since Fall 2013 and has been heavily subsidized by generous donors. The Study Tour is also open to students in other degree programs, as well as other family and friends of GRTS, though different costs apply. For further information about the Study Tour, see: [cornerstone.edu/israel-study-tour](http://cornerstone.edu/israel-study-tour).

## THE HESSE MEMORIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Located on the campus of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Mich., the Hesse Memorial Archaeological Laboratory exists to facilitate research, train students and serve as a platform for public outreach and education. It is named in honor of Prof. Brian Hesse (1944-2011) of The Pennsylvania State University, a pioneer in the application of "zooarchaeology" (the archaeology of animal bones) to the field of biblical archaeology and teacher, mentor, colleague and friend of the current lab director Dr. Jonathan S. Greer.

### RESEARCH

Current research includes the analysis of a large collection of animal bone remains from the site of Tel Dan (<https://www.google.com/maps/@33.24786,35.650837,14z>) in northern Israel on loan from the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology at the Hebrew Union College of Jerusalem (<http://www.ngsba.org/en/>). This analysis will be included in the final excavation volumes for the Tel Dan project currently being prepared and now benefits from collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Arnold of Grand Valley State University, Department of Anthropology (<http://www.gvsu.edu/anthropology/dr-elizabeth-arnold-4.htm>).

### TRAINING

Consistent with the commitment of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary to provide rigorous training not only in original language exegesis but also in the historical-cultural backgrounds of the Bible, the Hesse Memorial Lab is utilized for training students in methods of scientific archaeology, i.e., zooarchaeology.

Elective courses BBL600 Biblical Archaeology and BBL783 Methods and Archaeology are offered regularly as small group, hybrid, or independent study courses and utilize the lab extensively. The lab is equipped with appropriate manuals, scientific instruments (including a digital microscope and photography station), and an ever-growing reference collection of comparative faunal remains. The space also serves to provide pre-dig training for students participating in the current excavations at Tel Dan for which Dr. Greer will serve as Associate Director in 2016 (<https://www.cornerstone.edu/tel-dan-excavations-2016>).

### OUTREACH

The lab will also co-host public lectures on topics related to biblical archaeology that will be advertised on the website and elsewhere as events are finalized. The lab is also open for tours for interested public and private school groups and religious institutions. Please contact Dr. Greer to arrange a tour. Contact information:

Dr. Jonathan S. Greer  
Associate Professor of Old Testament  
Director of Hesse Memorial Archaeological Lab  
[Jonathan.Greer@cornerstone.edu](mailto:Jonathan.Greer@cornerstone.edu)

## CURRICULAR PRIORITIES

### HISTORICAL/GRAMMATICAL EXEGESIS

The Master of Divinity degree is the historical standard in academic preparation for both vocational ministry and advanced theological study. The program develops essential biblical competencies in leaders who must be skilled in interpreting Scripture. Because of this, GRTS requires three semesters of exegesis in both Hebrew and Greek, in addition to two semesters of basic instruction in each language. There are at least four reasons for this.

First, detailed and close scrutiny of the biblical text in the original languages offers the opportunity for greater interpretive accuracy. The flourishing of God's people depends on them faithfully attending to what God has said. Ministers, therefore, must be skilled and accurate interpreters who can communicate God's word to God's people.

Second, the logic of God's work in the world and the precise and varied contours of the gospel are communicated by the linguistic thought-forms and verbal expressions of biblical Hebrew and Greek. Skilled interpreters will pick up nuances of meaning and shades of expression that translations cannot capture. Because of this, skilled interpreters who know the languages can penetrate into the truth more effectively and communicate with greater freshness the hope held out in Scripture.

Third, translations into any language inevitably shape the biblical text to some extent according to the values, thought-forms, and worldviews of the receptor language. Skilled interpreters who know the languages have a greater opportunity to allow Scripture to critique contemporary cultural values and corrupted mindsets.

Fourth, God calls ministers to faithfully lead his people in the midst of cultural pressures and unanticipated challenges. These leaders need to have confidence that they have rightly understood what God has said and the promise to which he calls his people. Interpreting the biblical text by skillfully working in Hebrew and Greek offers a more strategic opportunity for ministers to faithfully fulfill God's call.

We affirm the excellent and essential work of translators and publishers of translations so that the Word of God is in the hands of as many people as possible. We also affirm the fruitful and God-blessed ministries of many diligent and God-honoring people who have not learned Hebrew and Greek. We remain strongly committed to training ministry practitioners who excel in interpretation of the Bible in the original languages.

### CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

The faculty of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to a curriculum that places emphasis upon Christian Worldview formation rooted in biblical exegesis. We believe that effective ministry requires biblical and theological precision. We firmly believe that sloppy theology represents poor stewardship of truth and is often counter-productive in ministry.

At GRTS, students are taught to think according to the flow of redemptive history through the meta-narrative approach to theology: Creation-Fall-Redemption-Consummation. Consideration is first given to God's design at creation: What did God intend? After establishing the ideal, thought is given to the impact of human rebellion at the fall of man: What are the implications of the fall? Once rebellion, brokenness and incompleteness are considered, thought is given to the influence of Christ's redemptive work: How has Christ brought restoration? Finally, and with a spirit of anticipation, thought is given to God's plan for complete restoration: What will human existence be like without the presence of sin? This biblically-based pattern of thought serves as an invaluable guide for biblical and exegetical work and ministry practice. This meta-narrative approach to doing theology and ministry is embedded within a variety of GRTS courses, though the central focus is within the three-course sequence in Systematic Theology (THE-540, THE-640, THE-641).

### CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

In Jesus Christ, God is restoring us to our original righteous orientation to God and renewing our relationships with others and with the earth itself. The Spirit of God is empowering God's people to grow in wholeness, to overcome sinful temptations, and to develop attitudes, behaviors, and social structures oriented by genuine fellowship with God and enjoyment of mutually genuine relationships with others. Christian spirituality, through Scripture, prayer and other spiritual disciplines restores our relationship with God, our fellow human beings, and the earth itself. Within the context of a faith community, we should explore and seek to creatively embody the attitudes, behaviors, social dynamics, and life patterns, which are appropriate for this process of reorientation. This requires identifying idolatry, attitudes, behaviors, and perverse social practices that embody self-destructive selfishness, and brokenness, and replacing them, by God's grace, with attitudes, behaviors, and social practices that honor God, serve others, and steward the earth. Nothing less is appropriate for those who follow Jesus Christ in their journey of being conformed to His image.

At GRTS, we seek to advance this biblically informed understanding of personal spiritual formation

through the Bible and Theology core, and facilitate the habits, practices and soul-posture necessary for growth in faith in select Ministry courses and other programmatic structures. Our intentions in this area are evident across the entire curriculum (Bible/Theology/Ministries/Counseling) but most focused in the following areas:

- **MIN-510 Christian Spiritual Formation-** a required course that engages students in a biblical and historical overview of spiritual formation, a battery of personal assessments, a spiritual direction process, and culminates in the development of a personal growth plan.
- **MIN-643 Christian Formation in the Church-** a core course that fosters knowledge and competency to lead individuals and groups in the processes associated with spiritual formation within the context of the local church.
- **MIN-630 Small Group Ministries-** an elective course that engages students in a small group experience as a means to foster personal spiritual formation and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to lead others in small group ministry.
- **Ministerial Formation Enhancement in Spiritual Formation-** associated with the Kern Scholars Program, this enhancement utilizes teaching and small group experiences to facilitate personal spiritual formation for future pastoral leaders.
- **GRTS Chapel-** a weekly gathering of the GRTS community to worship and praise God and to fellowship with one another.
- **Ministry Residency-** a core requirement (four semesters) for all Master of Divinity and MA Christian Formation students in which progress in personal spiritual formation is assessed and further cultivated.
- **Mid-Points and Exit Assessments-** personal spiritual formation is an important consideration in determining whether a student is making “sufficient progress” in “readiness for ministry” which occurs at the mid-point and end of the program.

### **LEADERSHIP FORMATION**

The faculty of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is also committed to a curriculum that places emphasis upon leadership formation. We embrace a biblically-based servant-leader model of leadership. Pastors and others engaged in vocational ministry must be, first and foremost, humble servants. At the same time, they are called upon to render a stewardship of biblical and theological truth, of persons and groups of persons, and of church or parachurch organizations. Such a calling requires specialized competencies in theological leadership and organizational leadership. The curriculum of GRTS provides opportunity for the development of these necessary competencies through an extensive series of courses in biblical exegesis and systematic theology, and through the Ministry Leadership Core of the Master of Divinity. Students are further encouraged to develop these needed competencies while in seminary through required ministry involvement, and through various required ministry residencies, practicums and internships.

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## MASTER OF DIVINITY

### *Specialization Options*

- Pastoral Ministries
- Student & Family Ministries
- Small Group & Discipleship Ministries
- Intercultural Ministries
- Formation & Soul Care Ministries
- Chaplaincy Ministries
- Academic

## MASTER OF ARTS

### Master of Arts in Counseling

#### *Specialization Options*

- Addictions Counseling
- Trauma Counseling
- Multi-state Licensure
- Student & Family Ministries
- Small Group & Discipleship Ministries
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Thesis Track

### Master of Arts in Christian Formation

#### *Specialization Options*

- Student & Family Ministries
- Small Group & Discipleship Ministries
- Intercultural Ministries
- Formation & Soul Care Ministries
- Campus & Student Development Ministries
- Interdisciplinary Studies

### Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY

### Master of Theology (Old Testament)

### Master of Theology (New Testament)

# MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity degree is recognized as the historical standard in academic preparation for both vocational ministry and advanced theological study. This particular program is designed to develop essential biblical and theological competencies for ministry leadership in congregations, as well as other ministry contexts. Those interested in building a foundation for advanced study may also find the Master of Divinity an attractive option. The program consists of 94 semester hours which emphasize the study and interpretation of the Scriptures in the original languages, breadth in the disciplines of theology, and the development of essential ministry competencies. The program has been designed around a core of basic biblical and theological studies, a ministry leadership core, ministry specialization courses and eight semester hours of ministry residency. Applicants for the Master of Divinity degree program should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. Applicants not meeting this standard may be considered for probationary admission. For students planning to enroll full time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending part-time enrollment will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

	FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
<b>YEAR ONE</b>	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	BBL-511	Greek II	3	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
	BBL-510	Greek I	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	MIN-560	Global Impact	3
	THE-501	Program Introduction Seminary	2	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3			
				<i>One of the following courses:</i>					
				MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3			
			MIN-545	Teaching & Learning	3				
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>YEAR TWO</b>	BBL-516	Hebrew I	3	BBL-517	Hebrew II	3	MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
	BBL-672	NT I: Introduction to Exegesis	3	BBL-601	Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible (ISRAEL)	2	MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
	MIN-673	Moral Issues in Christian Life & Ministry	3	BBL-677	NT II: The Gospels	3	General Elective		3
				General Elective		3			
				<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>YEAR THREE</b>	BBL-640	OT I: Intro to Hebrew Exegesis	3	BBL-641	OT II: Exegesis in the Pentateuch	3	MIN-711	Program Completion	1
	BBL-678	NT III: The General Epistles	3	History Theology Elective		3	MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2
	Ministry Specialization Course		3	Ministry Specialization Course		3	General Elective		3
	MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2	MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2			
				<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>YEAR FOUR</b>	BBL-642	OT III: Exegesis in the Prophets and Writings	3						
	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3						
	History Theology Elective		3						
	Ministry Specialization Course		3						
				<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>			
<b>TOTAL HOURS: 94</b>									



## MASTER OF DIVINITY SPECIALIZATIONS (CHOOSE ONE):

### **Pastoral Ministries**

MIN-530	Pastoral Competencies
MIN-636	Homiletics I
MIN-637	Homiletics II Ministry Residency

### **Student & Family Ministries**

MIN-553	Sociology of Adolescence
MIN-641	Theology of Youth Ministry Ministry Residency

One of the following:

COU-520	Child & Adolescent Counseling
COU-521	Marriage & Family Counseling

### **Small Group & Discipleship Ministries**

MIN-630	Small Group Ministries
MIN-643	Educational Min. for Adults Ministry Residency

One of the following:

MIN-543	Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry
MIN-554	Theology of Women in Ministry
MIN-567	The Missional Church
COU-532	Counseling Women through the Life Cycle
COU-612	Group Techniques

### **Intercultural Ministries**

MIN-567	Missional Church: Church and Culture—Past and Present
MIN-660	Cultural Intelligence: Multicultural Understanding
MIN-667	Urban and Local Development: Exegeting our Communities Ministry Residency

### **Formation & Soul Care Ministries**

COU-500	Counseling Philosophy
COU-510	Consulting
COU-521	Marriage & Family Counseling Ministry Residency

### **Chaplaincy Ministries**

MIN-525	Introduction to Chaplaincy
MIN-636	Homiletics I
COU-500	Counseling Philosophy
COU-510	Consulting Ministry Elective

### **Academic**

BBL-782 or THE-782	Thesis Research and Proposal
BBL-789 or THE-788	Advanced Topics
BBL-789 or THE-788	Advanced Topics
BBL-789 or THE-788	Advanced Topics
MIN-685	Ministry Residency I
MIN-686	Ministry Residency II
BBL-792 or THE-792	Master's Thesis

## ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATION QUALIFICATIONS

The academic specialization is designed exclusively for the student with superior exegetical and theological capacity who aspires to complete the Master of Divinity degree as a basis for doctoral study and with the goal of a vocation in teaching. In addition to the regular admissions requirements, admission into this specialization requires the following:

1. Achievement of a 3.70 cumulative grade point average at a regionally accredited college or university at the point of admission to GRTS, or achievement of a 3.70 cumulative grade point average at GRTS after completing a minimum of 24 credits which must include

the following: BBL-501, BBL-510, BBL-511, and THE-540. For those receiving advanced standing credits for BBL-510 and BBL-511, they must complete BBL-516 and BBL-517 instead.

2. Two letters of reference from full-time teaching faculty at regionally accredited colleges/universities or ATS member schools.
3. A one to two page statement of educational plan and vocational intent.
4. Completion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). For returning GRTS students making application for access into this specialization, completion of the GRE is required as part of the review and admissions process. For students admitted into the specialization at the initial point of entry into GRTS, the GRE will be required by the mid-point of the program (i.e., achievement of 45 credits).
5. For students new to GRTS (i.e., seeking admission into this specialization at initial point of entry to GRTS), the application process will be administered by the GRTS Admissions Office as part of the regular admission process. For returning students, the application process will be administered by the Bible division via a faculty sponsor.

## MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. The Master of Divinity degree is conferred when the following conditions are met: Completion of 94 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are 68 hours of core curriculum, a 15-17 hour ministry specialization, and 9-11 hours of general elective credit.
2. Transfer students must achieve a minimum of 47 semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to ¼ of the degree program requirements (24 hours).
4. Credits achieved online and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of eight courses (24 hours) within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations.
8. Satisfactory completion of Ministry Residency requirements.
9. GRTS limits the use of credits towards the completion of a degree to those credits (i.e. transfer credits, advanced standing credits, or credits earned at GRTS) achieved within 10 years prior to degree completion.
10. Participation in commencement.

## MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Divinity curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### **Core Curriculum**

1. Conduct disciplined biblical interpretation and application with reference to the Greek and Hebrew texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

The Master of Arts in Counseling is designed to develop basic skills in biblical and theological interpretation, competency in the foundational theories and skills essential to the practice of counseling and the academic base for state licensure. The Master of Arts in Counseling is a 69 semester hour degree program consisting of a 21 hour core in Bible and theology, a 39 hour concentration in counseling, and a 9 hour specialization (i.e., Addictions Counseling, Trauma Counseling, Multi-State Licensure, Student & Family Ministries, Small Group & Discipleship Ministries, Interdisciplinary Studies, or Thesis Track). The counseling concentration includes counseling philosophy and theory, techniques and skill development and participatory learning through a practicum and two internships. A thesis is also optional for the individual intending to pursue advanced study at the doctoral level. Applicants for this degree should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For students planning to enroll full-time the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

	FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
YEAR ONE	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3	BBL-502	OT Biblical Theology	3
	COU-500	Counseling Philosophy	3	COU-501	Counseling Theories	3	THE-550	Theology for Counseling I	3
	COU-502	Counseling Ethics and Issues	3	COU-525	Multicultural Counseling	3	Specialization Course		3
				COU-610	Counseling Techniques	3			
	<b>Total</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>	
YEAR TWO	THE-551	Theology for Counseling II	3	COU-612	Group Techniques	3	BBL-503	NT Biblical Theology	3
	COU-510	Consulting	3	COU-700	Research Methodology	3	COU-784	Internship I: Counseling	3
	COU-601	Testing Procedures	3	COU-782	Practicum: Counseling	3	Bible Elective		3
		Specialization Course	3	Specialization Course		3			
	<b>Total</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>	
YEAR THREE	COU-611	Career Development	3						
	COU-785	Internship II: Counseling	3						
	<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>						
<b>TOTAL HOURS: 69</b>									

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING SPECIALIZATIONS (CHOOSE ONE):

### **Addictions Counseling**

- COU-651 Clinical Diagnostic Assessment of Addictions (Online)  
 COU-652 Sociology of Addictions (Online)  
 COU-653 Addictions Counseling: Treatment and Intervention (Online)

Note: The Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC) credential from the Michigan Certification Board for Addictions Professionals (MCBAP) requires the three addictions specialization courses listed above, along with one internship counseling people with addictive and compulsive conditions (i.e., COU-784 Internship I or COU-785 Internship II in Cornerstone's MA in Counseling program) and one counseling ethics course (i.e., COU-502 Counseling Ethics and Issues in the Cornerstone MA in Counseling program). The additional requirements for the Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor can be found at the following website: [www.mcbap.com](http://www.mcbap.com)

### **Trauma Counseling**

- COU-642 Sociology of Trauma (Online)  
 COU-643 Trauma Informed Advocacy & Crisis Intervention (Online)  
 COU-644 Trauma Counseling & Recovery (Online)

### **Multi-State Licensure**

Three of the following:

- COU-660 Abnormal Psychology (Online)  
 COU-662 Human Growth and Development (Online)  
 COU-670 Diagnostic and Clinical Assessment of Mental Disorders (Online)  
 COU-653 Addictions Counseling: Treatment and Intervention (Online)

### **Student & Family Ministries**

Select three of the following:

- MIN-553 Sociology of Adolescence  
 MIN-641 Theology of Youth Ministry  
 COU-520 Child & Adolescent Counseling  
 COU-521 Marriage & Family Counseling

### **Small Group & Discipleship Ministries**

- MIN-630 Small Group Ministries  
 MIN-643 Educational Min. for Adults

One of the following:

- MIN-543 Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry  
 MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry  
 MIN-567 The Missional Church  
 COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle

### **Interdisciplinary Studies**

- COU-521 Marriage and Family Counseling  
 General Elective  
 General Elective

### **M.A. Thesis Track**

Two course cluster which includes a three credit thesis readings course (COU-584) and a six credit M.A. thesis course (COU-792).

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in Counseling degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 69 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are a 21 semester hour Bible and theology core, 39 semester hour counseling core, and a 9 semester hour specialization.

2. A minimum of 36 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to ¼ of the degree program requirements (18 hours).
4. Credits achieved online and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of eight courses (24 hours) within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
7. Successful completion of the practicum and internship requirements.
8. The meeting of all financial obligations.
9. GRTS limits the use of credits towards the completion of a degree to those credits (i.e. transfer credits, advanced standing credits, or credits earned at GRTS) achieved within 10 years prior to degree completion.
10. Participation in commencement.
11. Graduates of this degree program will have the option of receiving a Cornerstone University or Grand Rapids Theological Seminary diploma.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in Counseling curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### **Core Curriculum**

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.

### **Counseling Major**

1. State a personal philosophy of counseling that reflects awareness of personal beliefs, foundational theories, and worldview integration.
2. Facilitate the counseling process for individuals, groups and/or families by providing consultations that foster awareness, growth and restoration that is based on established client centered goals and a sound systemic framework.
3. Articulate and apply effective counseling strategies reflecting practical techniques and multicultural applications.
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the use of testing instruments and research interpretation in appraisal and diagnosis.
5. Demonstrate theoretical understanding and basic competency in career development counseling.
6. Exhibit understanding and compliance with the legal requirements and ethical codes of the counseling profession.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Master of Arts in Christian Formation is designed to develop basic competencies essential to the study of the Bible and related theological literature, while also nurturing knowledge and skill development in the enactment of educational ministry leadership. The program consists of 65-semester hours, which includes a 32-hour Bible and theology core and a 33-hour educational ministries specialization. In addition to foundational courses, applicants choose a nine-hour ministry specialization (Student & Family Ministries, Small Group & Discipleship Ministries, Interdisciplinary Studies, Intercultural Ministries, Formation & Soul Care Ministries, or Campus & Student Development Ministries) and an eight-hour ministry residency (contextual learning under the supervision of a seasoned ministry mentor). The eight-hour ministry residency can be replaced with MIN-584, MIN-797 and elective credits for the student intending to pursue doctoral study. Applicants for this degree program should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For the student planning to enroll full-time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

	FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
YEAR ONE	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	BBL-503	NT Biblical Theology	3	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
	BBL-502	OT Biblical Theology	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
	THE-501	Program Introduction Seminar	2	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3	MIN-560	Global Impact	3
				MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3			
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>
YEAR TWO	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3	THE-710	Prayer & Spirituality of the	3		Bible Elective	3
	THE-673	Moral Issues in Christian Life and Ministry	3		Early Church or one Historical Theology Elective (THE-515, THE-516, THE-517, or THE-518)		MIN-711	Program Completion	1
	MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2	MIN-545	Teaching and Learning	3	MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
		Ministry Specialization	3	MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2			
					Ministry Specialization	3			
	<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>
YEAR THREE		Bible Elective	3						
	MIN-782	Ministry Residency	2						
		Ministry Specialization	3						
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>						
<b>TOTAL HOURS: 65</b>									

## MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION SPECIALIZATIONS (CHOOSE ONE):

### ***Student & Family Ministries***

MIN-553 Sociology of Adolescence  
MIN-641 Theology of Youth Ministry

*One of the following:*

COU-520 Child & Adolescent Counseling  
COU-521 Marriage & Family Counseling

### ***Small Group & Discipleship Ministries***

MIN-630 Small Group Ministries  
MIN-643 Educational Min. for Adults

*One of the following:*

MIN-543 Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry  
MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry  
MIN-567 The Missional Church  
COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle  
COU-612 Group Techniques

### ***Interdisciplinary Studies***

Three course cluster from ministry disciplines (MIN and/or COU) selected with consultation of faculty advisor.

### ***Intercultural Ministries***

MIN-567 Missional Church  
MIN-660 Cultural Intelligence  
MIN-667 Urban and Local Development

### ***Formation & Soul Care Ministries***

COU-500 Counseling Philosophy  
COU-510 Consulting  
COU-521 Marriage & Family Counseling

### ***Campus & Student Development Ministries***

MIN-533 Sociology of Adolescents  
MIN-518 Foundations of Student Development  
COU-520 Child & Adolescent Counseling

## MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in Christian Formation degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 65 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are a 15-hour Bible core, 17-hour theology core and a 33-hour educational ministries specialization.
2. A minimum of 33 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to ¼ of the degree program requirements (16 hours).
4. Credits achieved online and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of eight courses (24 hours) within the degree program.

5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
7. Successful completion of the Ministry Residency requirement or M.A. thesis component.
8. The meeting of all financial obligations.
9. GRTS limits the use of credits towards the completion of a degree to those credits (i.e. transfer credits, advanced standing credits, or credits earned at GRTS) achieved within 10 years prior to degree completion.
10. Participation in commencement.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in Christian Formation curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### **Core Curriculum**

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

### **Christian Formation Major**

1. Synthesize the historic biblical and theological perspectives that inform the church's task for educational ministries.
2. Evaluate teaching and learning theories for the purpose of crafting a distinctly Christian philosophy of educating God's people.
3. Identify and demonstrate the skills necessary for the effective communication of biblical truth in order that Christian character may be formed.
4. Demonstrate an awareness of the developmental tasks in life cycles in order to contextualize appropriate strategies for addressing human needs.
5. Analyze current societal realities with implication for conceiving of effective educational ministries in today's world.
6. Demonstrate proficiency to direct people and programs necessary for effective educational ministries.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies is designed to develop basic competencies essential to the study of biblical and theological literature, provide foundational knowledge concerning ministry leadership, while allowing students the opportunity to customize a significant portion of the program. The program consists of 60 semester hours, which includes a 26 semester hour Bible and theology core, a 13 semester hour ministry leadership emphasis and 21 hours of general electives. Applicants for the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. Applicants not meeting these standards may be considered for probationary admission. For the student planning to enroll full-time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

	FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
<b>YEAR ONE</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>COURSE</b>	<b>CR.</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>COURSE</b>	<b>CR.</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>COURSE</b>	<b>CR.</b>
	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	BBL-503	NT Biblical Theology	3	BBL-502	OT Biblical Theology	3
	THE-501	Program Introduction Seminar	2		Bible Elective	3	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3		General Elective	3
					General Elective	3			
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>YEAR TWO</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>COURSE</b>	<b>CR.</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>COURSE</b>	<b>CR.</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>COURSE</b>	<b>CR.</b>
	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3		Historical Theology Elective	3	MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
	MIN-560	Global Impact	3	MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3		General Elective	3
		General Elective	3	MIN-711	Program Completion Seminar	1		General Elective	3
		General Elective	3		General Elective	3			
	<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>TOTAL HOURS: 60</b>									

## MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 60 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. The program include 26 semester hours of Bible and theology core, a 13 semester hour emphasis in ministry leadership and 21 semester hours of electives.
2. A minimum of 32 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the degree program requirements (16 hours).
4. Credits achieved online and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of eight courses (24 hours) within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations.
8. GRTS limits the use of credits towards the completion of a degree to those credits (i.e. transfer credits, advanced standing credits, or credits earned at GRTS) achieved within 10 years prior to degree completion.
9. Participation in commencement.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### Core Curriculum

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

# MASTER OF THEOLOGY

The Master of Theology is offered on a limited basis to students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in biblical and theological scholarship at the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts level. The development of mastery and competency in the major field is the primary purpose of this program. The program consists of 30 semester hours in one of two area of concentration: Old Testament and New Testament. The curriculum is structured in a manner that engages the student in independent research under the supervision of a major professor. Applicants for the Master of Theology should possess a minimum 3.0 grade point average in the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree.

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY (OLD TESTAMENT)

	FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
YEAR ONE	BBL-840	Language	4	BBL-844	Biblical Theology	4	BBL-846	Old Testament Introduction	4
	BBL-841	History	4						
	<b>Total..... 8</b>			<b>Total..... 4</b>			<b>Total..... 4</b>		
YEAR TWO	BBL-848	Old Testament Exegesis	4	BBL-890	Th. M. Thesis	6			
	BBL-880	Enrichment	4						
	<b>Total..... 8</b>			<b>Total..... 6</b>					
<b>TOTAL HOURS: 30</b>									

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY (NEW TESTAMENT)

	FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
YEAR ONE	BBL-870	Grammar and Translation	4	BBL-874	Exegesis of the Gospels and Acts	4	BBL-876	Exegesis of the Pauline Epistles	4
	BBL-841	New Testament Introduction and Historical Background	4						
	<b>Total..... 8</b>			<b>Total..... 4</b>			<b>Total..... 4</b>		
YEAR TWO	BBL-877	Exegesis of the General Epistles and Revelation	4	BBL-890	Th. M. Thesis	6			
	BBL-880	Enrichment	4						
	<b>Total..... 8</b>			<b>Total..... 6</b>					
<b>TOTAL HOURS: 30</b>									



## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

1. Candidates for the program should possess an accredited baccalaureate degree and Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in the relevant theological discipline, and achieve a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in graduate level study.
2. Applicants are required to submit a graded writing sample from the M.Div. or M.A. equivalent degree program which demonstrates knowledge of research and scholarly writing. Scores from the General Graduate Record Exam (GRE) may also be requested in addition to or in place of the graded writing sample as determined by the supervising professor.
3. Transfer credits are not generally permitted in this degree program.
4. Candidates for the Old Testament or New Testament concentration should demonstrate advanced competency in the related original language (Hebrew or Greek).
5. Candidates should possess well developed critical thinking and communication skills, both essential to theological research and writing.
6. Candidates should show promise for exceptional productivity in Kingdom ministry from previous academic work and personal spiritual qualifications.
7. Applicants are required to provide two letters of recommendation from former teachers – one from a former teacher in the anticipated major field.
8. Applicants must submit to the Graduate Admissions Office a formal letter to the faculty indicating reasons for pursuing an advanced graduate theological degree. The letter should also include the selection of a major field for the program and life objectives.
9. Admission to the Master of Theology is granted by approval of the supervising professor and the related divisional faculty.

## PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND EVALUATION

1. Major Field (20 hours) – A minimum of 20 semester hours will be achieved through major field units.
2. Enrichment (4 hours) – With the approval of the major professor, a four credit course must be taken in another specialization area with another professor.
3. Professional Practicum (no credit) – Each student will be involved in teaching and/or engaged in related professional activities under the supervision of the major professor and approval of the Dean.
4. Thesis (6 hours) – The thesis is required in the major field. A faculty committee will be appointed by the Dean to review and evaluate the thesis. The thesis topic must be submitted to the major professor by the end of the second week of September for approval. The first draft of the thesis is due at the end of the second week of January. The final draft is to be submitted to the major professor at the end of the first week of March. An oral defense of the thesis is required and will be conducted by the faculty committee.
5. A 3.0 grade point average must be achieved in all Master of Theology course work. Any work below 3.0 grade point average must be repeated according to the seminary retake policy.

## COSTS AND TIME LIMITS

1. See the financial information section of this catalog for the current Master of Theology tuition costs.
2. The degree, including the thesis, is to be completed within three academic years.
3. Failure to complete the program within the three academic year time limit (three years/ two summers) will require a formal evaluative meeting with the major professor and Dean. Program extension is granted only on the basis of faculty vote.

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY: DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. Completion of 30 semester hours with a minimum 3.0 grade point average for each course and a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the program.
2. Completion of 20 semester hours in the major field of study, a 4 semester hour enrichment, and the 6 semester hour thesis.
3. The completion of the professional practicum, fulfilled under the supervision of the program advisor.
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Successful completion and defense of Master of Theology Thesis.
6. Completion of thesis submission to Miller Library.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations.
8. Three years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.
9. Participation in commencement.

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Theology curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### ***Old Testament Major***

1. Read with facility the prose and poetry of the Hebrew Bible with the use of lexical tools.
2. Demonstrate advanced hermeneutical and exegetical skills that apply to Old Testament literature.
3. Identify and describe the academic study of the Old Testament.
4. Demonstrate competency to read the Old Testament against its ancient Near Eastern background.
5. Research and write an advanced level master's thesis in Old Testament.

### ***New Testament Major***

1. Read with facility the Greek New Testament with the use of lexical tools.
2. Demonstrate advanced hermeneutical and exegetical skills.
3. Identify and describe the categories that comprise the academic study of the New Testament.
4. Research and write an advanced level master's thesis in New Testament.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## INTERPRETIVE AIDS

ACADEMIC DIVISIONS are represented by the first three letters within the course number:

- BBL Exegetical/Biblical Theology
- THE Systematic/Historical/Philosophical Theology
- MIN Ministry Theology
- COU Counseling

COURSE LEVEL is represented by the first digit in the course number:

- 5 Junior
- 6 Middler
- 7 Senior
- 8 Master of Theology

COURSE DEPARTMENT and discipline are represented by the second digit in the course number:

### **Bible**

- 0-1 Foundations to Biblical Exegesis
- 2-4 Old Testament
- 5-7 New Testament
- 8-9 Special Enrollments in Bible

### **Theology**

- 0 Foundations to Theological Inquiry
- 1-3 Historical Theology
- 4-6 Systematic Theology
- 7 Moral and Philosophical Theology
- 8-9 Special Enrollments in Theology

### **Ministry**

- 0-1 Foundations to Ministry Leadership
- 2-3 Pastoral Ministries
- 4-5 Christian Formation
- 6-7 Intercultural Ministries
- 8-9 Special Enrollments in Ministry

### **Counseling**

- 0 Foundations of Counseling
- 1-7 Counseling
- 8-9 Special Enrollments in Counseling

## EXEGETICAL/BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

The Bible Division of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to the fundamental importance of Scripture in ministry. Pastors, missionaries, educators and other Christian workers must be able to interpret and apply Scripture for effective ministry in the modern world.

The Old Testament and New Testament departments offer courses in the background, languages, books and themes of the Bible. The objective of these courses is to develop a methodology for lifelong biblical study. Seminary studies are an introduction to the disciplines that are necessary for exegetically accurate and culturally relevant Bible exposition. Therefore, the exegetical/biblical theology courses provide the formative tools and skills students will need for ministry. The student must sharpen these tools and skills through continued study and ministry beyond seminary.

### FACULTY

JOHN HILBER  
*Professor of Old Testament*

DAVID TURNER  
*Professor of New Testament*

TIMOTHY GOMBIS  
*Associate Professor of New Testament*

JONATHAN GREER  
*Associate Professor of Old Testament*

LINDA BELLEVILLE  
*Adjunct Professor of New Testament*

JENNIFER GREER  
*Adjunct Professor of Bible*

DAVID KENNEDY  
*Adjunct Professor of Old Testament*

JOHN LAWLOR  
*Adjunct Professor of Old Testament*

GARY MEADORS  
*Adjunct Professor of New Testament*

WENDY WIDDER  
*Adjunct Professor of Old Testament*

JILL ZWYGHUIZEN  
*Adjunct Professor of Old Testament*

### OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament department seeks to equip students with foundational knowledge and skill in interpreting and applying the Hebrew Scriptures. Depending upon the specific program of studies, courses focus upon learning biblical Hebrew, the primary language of the Old Testament, developing skills in exegeting biblical texts, understanding the historical and cultural worldview of the Old Testament and tracing the historical development of key concepts of Old Testament biblical theology.

Specific studies are offered in the various parts of the Old Testament in the context of God's completed revelation.

### NEW TESTAMENT

New Testament studies seek the fundamental skill of enabling the student to make reasoned judgments about the meaning of the New Testament text. Such skill includes the knowledge of biblical languages, the historical background of the text, the principles for interpreting the text and the skills to apply these tools. The key theological ideas of the New Testament are traced through their historical development in the text.

### COURSES

**BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics 3**  
An introduction to the process of determining the original meaning and contemporary significance of biblical texts. The course includes lecture, discussion and individual research. This course is available both on campus and by distance education, and must be completed within the first 15 credits of enrollment.

**BBL-502 Old Testament Biblical Theology 3**  
A study of Old Testament history, literature and theology with emphasis upon the historical development of key concepts of Old Testament biblical theology. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.

**BBL-503 New Testament Biblical Theology 3**  
A study of the leading themes of the New Testament as these themes correlate into a New Testament biblical theology. This course is available both on campus and by distance education.

**BBL-505 Old Testament Historical Backgrounds 3**  
A detailed study of the history, culture, and geography of Israel in its ancient Near Eastern context with an emphasis on illuminating the world of the Old Testament. The course will include interaction with maps, archaeological resources, and ancient Near Eastern comparative literature. This course is only available by distance education.

**BBL-506 The Ancient World of the Bible 3**  
A detailed study of the history, culture, and geography of ancient Israel, the ancient Near East, and the Mediterranean basin from the Late Bronze Age through the Roman period with an emphasis on illuminating the world of the Bible. The course will include interaction with maps, archaeological resources, and ancient Near Eastern and Second Temple period comparative literature. This course is the on-campus alternative to BBL-601.

- BBL-507 New Testament Historical Backgrounds 3**  
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. This course is only available by distance education.
- BBL-510 Greek I 3**  
A study of the elements of Koine Greek.
- BBL-511 Greek II 3**  
A continuation of Greek I with exercises in reading the Greek New Testament, introduction to NT Textual Criticism, and the use of basic lexical and syntactical tools. Prerequisite: BBL-510 Greek I
- BBL-512 Greek Reading and Review 2**  
A remedial course which reviews the basics of Greek grammar and improves translation skills. Prerequisites: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II, or equivalent
- BBL-516 Hebrew I 3**  
An introduction to the basic grammar and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew.
- BBL-517 Hebrew II 3**  
A continuation of Hebrew I with emphasis on grammar, syntax and expansion of vocabulary by means of translating simple texts. Prerequisite: BBL-516 Hebrew I
- BBL-520 Genesis 3**  
A study of the message of Genesis (English text), with emphasis on interpretive method as well as the foundational theology of this book for understanding the place of humanity in God's created order and the call on those of faith to be a blessing to all nations. For students with Hebrew, the course involves exegesis of selected portions of Hebrew text. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-523 Psalms 3**  
A study of the Book of Psalms (English text), with emphasis on interpretive method as well as the continued relevance of psalms for individual spirituality, corporate worship, and the cry for God's coming kingdom and its King, Jesus the Messiah. For students with Hebrew, the course involves exegesis of selected portions of Hebrew text. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-524 Daniel 3**  
An analysis of the English text of Daniel, its structure and message, and its contributions to Old Testament biblical theology, especially eschatology. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-526 Pentateuch 3**  
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. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-529 Gospel of Mark 3**  
A literary and theological study of Mark with a focus on how the narrative configures the identity and mission of Jesus Christ in relation to the God of Israel and what it means to be disciples of Jesus. Special attention will be given to the Gospel's narrative devices, its use of the Scriptures, and its relevance for discipleship and ministry.
- BBL-550 The Gospel of Matthew 3**  
Exposition of this Gospel with emphasis on its themes of Christology, kingdom and church. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-552 The Gospel of Luke 3**  
An examination of the Gospel of Luke with concentration on its message and preparation of narrative material for preaching and teaching. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-553 The Acts of the Apostles 3**  
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. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-554 Romans 3**  
An exposition of this letter in terms of its significance for biblical and systematic theology. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-555 Galatians 3**  
The course engages students in readings, critical reflection, online 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. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-556 Pastoral Epistles 3**  
Interpretation of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus in relationship to ministry and church life. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics
- BBL-557 Hebrews 3**  
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. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-558 James 3**  
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. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-559 Revelation 3**  
An exposition of the Apocalypse in view of genre, history of interpretation, structure and theological significance. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-584 Thesis Readings: Bible (O.T. or N.T.) 1-3**  
An independent readings course in preparation for writing a master's thesis that focuses on the Old Testament or the New Testament. The student will read approximately 2,000 pages and structure a thesis proposal under the guidance of a thesis advisor and in accordance with seminary standards for form and style. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**BBL-600 Biblical Archaeology 3**  
A study of the application of archaeological method and theory to excavation in the lands and times of the Bible, the history of so-called "Biblical Archaeology," and important archaeological findings that illuminate the world of the Bible. The course may include a "field study" component consisting of on-site training and excavation.

**BBL-601-01 Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible 2**  
Through extensive travel and on-site study, a detailed study of the history, culture and geography of ancient Israel, the ancient Near East, and the Mediterranean basin from the Late Bronze Age through the Roman period with an emphasis on illuminating the world of the Bible. In cooperation with overseas partner GTI Tours, this intensive study trip includes interaction with maps, archaeological resources and ancient Near Eastern and Second Temple period comparative literature. This course is limited to approved Master of Divinity students and each enrolled student will be charged an additional \$1000 course fee (\$1100 after June 26, 2015) to cover a portion of the travel and accommodations costs associated with the study tour. The fee is due upon approval of participation and must be paid directly to the accounting office.

**BBL-601-02 Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible 2**  
An additional section of the study tour BBL-601-01. This course is limited to approved Master of Arts or Non-degree students and each enrolled student will be charged an additional \$3295 course fee (\$3395 after June 26, 2015) to cover a portion of the travel and accommodations costs associated with the study tour. The fee is due upon approval of participation and must be paid directly to the accounting office.

**BBL-603 Methods and Practice in Biblical Archaeology 1-3**  
An independent study focused on the hands-on application of archaeological method and theory as part of an organized field excavation and/or laboratory analysis project.

**BBL-610 Seminar in Old Testament Exegesis 3**  
An exegetical study of a selected Old Testament book. Specific book studies will vary from year to year. Emphasis is upon rapid Hebrew reading, writing student commentaries and classroom presentations. The course will reinforce a working model for doing exegesis of large passages. Prerequisite: BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I: Exegesis in Hebrew Poetry

**BBL-620 Deuteronomy 3**  
A study of the message of Deuteronomy (English text), with emphasis on the Book's call to covenant love for God and relevance to ethical issues in their ancient and contemporary contexts. For students with Hebrew, the course involves exegesis of selected portions of Hebrew text. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-627 Ephesians 3**  
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. The course is available in both on-campus and online formats.

**BBL-630 Wisdom Literature 3**  
A study of the Old Testament wisdom literature (English text of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs, and wisdom psalms), with emphasis on the theology of wise living and the relevance of these books to biblical theology and contemporary culture. For students with Hebrew, the course involves exegesis of selected portions of Hebrew text. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-632 Isaiah 3**  
A study of the message of Isaiah (English text), with emphasis on the prophet's vital contribution to the unfolding message of God's kingdom—the role of his royal, suffering Servant. For students with Hebrew, the course involves exegesis of selected portions of Hebrew text. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-633 Jeremiah 3**

A study of the message of the book of Jeremiah (English text) in its context, with emphasis on interpretive method as well as the importance of the book for understanding the message of the Hebrew prophets and the trajectory of the biblical story of redemption. For students with Hebrew, the course involves exegesis of selected portions of Hebrew text.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-635 Former Prophets 3**

A study of the message of the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings (English texts) in their contexts, with emphasis on interpretive method as well as the importance of these books for understanding the history of ancient Israel and the trajectory of the biblical story of redemption. For students with Hebrew, the course involves exegesis of selected portions of Hebrew text. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-637 Minor Prophets 3**

A study of the message of selected Minor Prophets in their original contexts (English text), with emphasis on interpretive method as well as relevance for spiritual formation and engagement with contemporary culture. For students with Hebrew, the course involves exegesis of selected portions of Hebrew text. The following two groupings are offered regularly.

Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

***Amos and Hosea***

A study of the message of two prophets who ministered as judgment dawned on the northern kingdom, calling Israel back to its covenantal obligation to social justice and loving devotion to God.

***Micah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk***

A study of the message of three prophets who served at crisis points in the history of the southern kingdom, calling the nation's leadership to account and offering hope to the faithful remnant who suffered in the face of national calamity.

**BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I: Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis 3**

An introduction to the methods of Hebrew exegesis, including textual criticism, syntactical and discourse analysis, and lexical studies, with further development of skills in translating and understanding Hebrew narrative. Prerequisite: BBL-516 Hebrew I and BBL-517 Hebrew II (with grade of "C" or better)

**BBL-641 Old Testament Studies II: Exegesis in the Pentateuch 3**

A study of the content and biblical theology of Genesis through Deuteronomy, including exegesis of selected texts from various literary genres. This course engages questions of composition, ancient history and culture, New Testament correlation, contemporary challenges to religion and ethics in the Old Testament, as well as the relevance and communication of the canonical message of these texts to contemporary culture. Prerequisite: BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I

**BBL-642 Old Testament Studies III: Exegesis in the Prophets and Writings 3**

A study of the content and biblical theology of Joshua through Malachi, including exegesis of selected texts from the Prophets, Psalms, and wisdom literature. This course engages questions of composition, ancient history and culture, New Testament correlation, as well as the relevance and communication of the canonical message of these texts to contemporary culture. Emphasis is placed on the message of Isaiah, Psalms, and selected wisdom themes. Prerequisite: BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I

**BBL-650 Gospel of John 3**

Study and analysis of the purpose, structure, emphases and significance of the English text of the fourth Gospel. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-651 1 Corinthians 3**

A detailed study of the text of 1 Corinthians with emphasis on the relevance of this epistle for the contemporary church. This course is available both on campus and by distance education. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**BBL-672 New Testament Studies I: Introduction to Exegesis 3**

An introduction to the theory of translation and practice of exegesis. Selections in the Pauline epistles are used to apply grammatical and hermeneutical principles of Greek exegesis. The life and writings of Paul are introduced. Prerequisite: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II (with grade of "C" or better)

**BBL-677 New Testament Studies II: The Gospels 3**

An introduction to the study of the Gospels, emphasizing exegetical method. Students will become aware of the rudiments of historical, source, form, redaction and literary critical methods. They will also develop their own skills in the exegesis of Gospel texts with a view to biblical theology and the ministry of the word. Prerequisites: BBL-510 Greek I, BBL-511 Greek II and BBL-672 New Testament Studies I: Introduction to Exegesis or permission of the instructor

**BBL-678 New Testament Studies III: The General Epistles** 3

An introduction to the study of the general Epistles (Hebrews-Revelation), emphasizing Greek exegesis and biblical theology. Students will consider the historical setting of these books and develop their exegetical skills by working with selected texts. Growth in doing biblical theology and expository ministry is also targeted. Prerequisites: BBL-510 Greek I, BBL-511 Greek II and BBL-672 New Testament Studies I: Introduction to Exegesis or permission of the instructor

**BBL-742 Biblical Aramaic** 3

An introduction to the grammar, vocabulary, and syntax of biblical Aramaic. The course will focus on reading selections from Daniel and Ezra, but will also include readings in extra-biblical Aramaic texts. Prerequisite: BBL-516 Hebrew I and BBL-517 Hebrew II

**BBL-762 The Parables of Jesus** 3

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

**BBL-770 Intermediate Greek Grammar** 3

A more advanced study of Greek Grammar than Greek I and II with emphasis on learning grammatical labels and applying them to the Greek text. Prerequisite: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II, or equivalent

**BBL-772 Greek Exegesis of Ephesians** 3

This course is an exegetical and theological study of the Greek text of the New Testament epistle to the Ephesians. The text will be translated and grammatically and structurally analyzed in relation to selected commentary and journal literature on the epistle. Prerequisite: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II

**BBL-782 Thesis Readings and Proposal: M.Div.** 1

This guided course will equip the student to survey relevant scholarship and prepare a thesis proposal and outline.

**BBL-783 Independent Study in Old Testament** 1-3

Individual research in a particular area under the direction of a member of the Old Testament faculty. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**BBL-784 Independent Study in New Testament** 1-3

Supervised independent study for advanced students in New Testament. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**BBL-789 Advanced Topics: Bible** 3

A formal class which addresses the interests of students and faculty. Courses may include current issues, biblical and theological areas and other subjects which call for special analysis.

**BBL-792 Master's Thesis** 3

The student will write a 50-75 page thesis under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor on a significant approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by A Manual for Writers of Papers, Theses and Dissertations (current edition) by Kate L. Turabian, along with any supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. Registration for this course requires advisor approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$90.00 for thesis review and binding. Prerequisite: BBL-584 Thesis Readings: Bible

**MASTER OF THEOLOGY COURSES**

Master of Theology courses are research-based, involving regular meetings with the professor for guidance and evaluation. The guided research and reading is particularized to the specific goals of each student.

**BBL-840 Advanced Language Study** 4

Guided study in Aramaic, or if competency already is demonstrated for Aramaic, then Ugaritic, Akkadian, or Middle Egyptian may be substituted.

**BBL-841 Advanced Study in the History and Culture of Israel and the Ancient Near East** 4

Guided study of critical issues in the history and culture of ancient Israel within the context of the ancient Near East. In addition to extensive reading in biblical and ancient Near Eastern literature, archaeology, and historical geography, students will present a final paper before the faculty of Old Testament.

**BBL-844 Biblical Theology** 4

Guided research in Old Testament theologies. The student is expected to interact with contemporary Old Testament biblical theologies and formulate a personal Old Testament biblical theology outline.

**BBL-846 Advanced Study in Critical Issues and Methods in the Study of the Old Testament** 4

Guided study of critical issues and contemporary methods in the study of the Old Testament. In addition to extensive reading in the various subfields of biblical criticism, students will present a final paper before the faculty of the Old Testament.

**BBL-848 Advanced Old Testament Exegesis** 4

Guided exegesis in selected texts in a variety of genres. The student will incorporate a variety of constructive approaches to biblical criticism and demonstrate competency using the advanced search capabilities of electronic tools. The final paper will be an exegetical commentary on a selected text.

**BBL-870 Grammar and Translation** 4

The student will be expected to have a working knowledge of Greek grammar and to have translated the entire Greek New Testament.



**BBL-872 New Testament Introduction and Historical Background 4**

The student will be expected to know the basis, history and methodology of textual criticism. The student must have a general awareness of those significant historical developments from the Persian period through the Bar Kokhba's revolt which form the backdrop for the New Testament.

**BBL-874 Exegesis of the Gospels and Acts 4**

The student will sight-read the Greek text and discuss the exegetical issues with the major professor. He/she will also prepare a list of major exegetical problems for each book.

**BBL-876 Exegesis of the Pauline Epistles 4**

The student will sight-read the Greek text and discuss the exegetical issues with the major professor. He/she will also prepare a list of major exegetical problems for each book.

**BBL-877 Exegesis of the General Epistles and Revelation 4**

The student will sight-read the Greek text and discuss the exegetical issues with the major professor. He/she will also prepare a list of major exegetical problems for each book.

**BBL-880 Enrichment 4**

The student will select, with the guidance of the academic advisor, an enrichment module outside the program major.

**BBL-884 Advanced Study in Old Testament Biblical Theology 4**

Guided study of classic and contemporary Old Testament theologies, engaging as well at the interface with Israelite religions. In addition to written review of the primary literature, the student will present a final paper before the faculty of the Old Testament on a topic that demonstrates his/her own method.

**BBL-890 Th.M. Thesis 6**

The student will write a 60-100 page thesis on a significant and approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by A Manual For Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations (current edition) by Kate Turabian, along with supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. The thesis will be supervised by a thesis advisor and defended before a faculty committee. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$115.00 for thesis review and binding.

## HISTORICAL/SYSTEMATIC/ PHILOSOPHICAL/MORAL THEOLOGY

Building on the foundation of exegesis and biblical theology on the one hand and the context of the proclamation of the Gospel to the whole world on the other, the courses in this department aim at integration and wholeness. This division serves the other divisions by reminding them of the total context of the Bible as developed by God's people in the history of the church and in contemporary cultures. This task is accomplished in historical, systematic, moral and philosophical theology.

### **Historical Theology**

This department emphasizes the history of Christian thought rather than institutional history. The focus is upon the church struggling with the meaning of Scripture and defending itself against attack by means of an increasingly full and accurate statement of theological truth as it proclaims the Gospel in worship, prayer and witness. These courses address post-canonical Christian thought. The leading thinkers, documents, ideas and movements are examined in their historical context. Students gain an understanding of their Christian heritage and evaluate examples of theology in historical and cultural contexts.

### **Systematic Theology**

Building upon exegetical theology, biblical theology and historical theology, systematic theology aims at a logical synthesis of the major themes of the Bible in the context and language of contemporary cultures. The systematic theology sequence confronts the student with theological methodology and the content and interrelationships of the individual doctrines. It is fundamental to the rest of the theological curriculum. Ideally, students who have not previously taken formal biblical courses should take BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics, BBL-502 Old Testament Theology, and BBL-503 New Testament Theology before taking the systematic theology sequence. Students who have completed upper level systematic theology in college may, with the approval of the departmental chairman, be permitted to move directly into the theology seminars.

### **Moral and Philosophical Theology**

Moral Theology is a logical and coherent synthesis of the imperative statements of the Bible on the foundation of systematic theology. These courses aim to present a biblical alternative to legalism, antinomianism and natural theology.

Philosophy has a significant contribution to make to the Christian thinker. It tests and challenges confused and inconsistent theological thought, and it forces theology toward precision and consistency.

It provides language to express theology. It drives theology toward the wholeness of a Christian worldview.

## FACULTY

MICHAEL WITTMER

*Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology*

BYARD BENNETT

*Professor of Historical and Philosophical Theology*

JOHN DUFF

*Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology*

JONATHAN MARKO

*Assistant Professor of Philosophical and Systematic Theology*

STEPHEN GRABILL

*Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology*

STAN GUNDRY

*Adjunct Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology*

ELIZABETH SHELLEY

*Adjunct Professor of Theological Research and Writing*

## COURSES

### **THE-501 Program Introduction Seminar 2**

This course serves as an introduction to graduate theological education at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. It prepares students for the rigors of graduate scholarship by honing the skills of graduate research, reading and writing. This course is generally required for resident students within the first semester and must be completed by all students, with the exception of Master of Arts in Counseling students, within the first 15 credits of enrollment.

### **THE-515 Historical Theology I: The Early Church 3**

The church from the close of the New Testament canon through Augustine in the West and the council of Chalcedon in the East.

### **THE-516 Historical Theology II: The Medieval Church 3**

The medieval church, primarily in the West, from Augustine through the forerunners of the Reformation.

### **THE-517 Historical Theology III: The Reformation Church 3**

The reformation and post-reformation church from Martin Luther through the Puritans.

### **THE-518 Historical Theology IV: The Modern Church 3**

The modern church from the first Great Awakening to the present.

### **THE-540 Systematic Theology I: Invitation to Theology 3**

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-550 Theology for Counseling I: Christian Worldview 3**

This course examines the fundamental concepts of the Christian worldview and demonstrates how to integrate them into counseling situations. The doctrines of Scripture, God, and humanity are covered, and the foundation laid for Theology for Counseling II.

**THE-550 Theology for Counseling II: Kingdom of God 3**

This course completes the survey of the Christian worldview by examining and applying to counseling scenarios the following doctrines: sin, the person and work of Jesus, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the church, salvation, and last things. Prerequisite: THE-550 Theology for Counseling I

**THE-572 Christian Worldview 3**

An elaboration of the Christian perspective upon all of life and reality with emphasis on basic matters such as method, being, knowing and doing. This course is available both on campus and online.

**THE-584 Thesis Readings: Theology 1-3**

An independent readings course in preparation for writing a master's thesis in a focused area of theological study. The student will read approximately 2,000 pages and structure a thesis proposal under the guidance of a thesis advisor and in accordance with seminary standards for form and style. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-640 Systematic Theology II: Christian Worldview 3**

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 3**

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

**THE-670 Christian Social Ethics 3**

This course engages a number of contemporary social issues from a biblical and theological perspective. Through guest presentations, lectures, readings, and interactive discussion, students consider such issues in Christian social ethics as work and economics, racism and affirmative action, marriage and homosexuality, domestic and international poverty, personal and corporate stewardship, differing roles of government, church, private initiative, entrepreneurship, power relations within the church, and leadership integrity.

**THE-673 Moral Issues in Christian Life and Ministry 3**

This course will help students apply the processes of critical moral reasoning to various problems commonly encountered in pastoral care, spiritual direction and Christian counseling. Prerequisites: THE-540 Systematic Theology I and THE-640 Systematic Theology II

**THE-710 Seminar in the History of Christian Thought 3**

An investigation and evaluation of the thought and influence of great theologians and theological movements. The following are offered regularly:

**Augustine**

A study of his life and teachings in the context of his historical, ecclesiastical, philosophical and theological environment. Focus on the Confessions, the City of God, or the Pelagian controversy. Prerequisite: THE-515 Historical Theology I or THE-516 Historical Theology II

**Barth**

A study of his life and teachings in the context of German liberalism, Kierkegaard and the world wars. Focus upon the contributions and dangers of either Volume I, II or IV of the Church Dogmatics.

**Calvin**

A study of his Institutes of the Christian Religion in the context of his commentaries, sermons and late medieval and reformation theology.

**Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church**

This course will examine the development of spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, meditation on Scripture, corporate worship and right use of the sacraments) in the church from the New Testament to 600 A.D. Early Christian understandings of the psychology of temptation, habituation to evil, personal conversion and spiritual discernment will also be investigated and their relevance to the contemporary practice of spiritual direction will be discussed. Prerequisite: THE-515 Historical Theology I or THE-516 Historical Theology II

**The Puritans**

A study of the Puritan concepts of counseling and pastoral care with particular attention to the theologies and methodologies of Richard Baxter and John Owen.

**THE-770 Apologetics 3**

An investigation of the methodology to be used in the defense of Christianity. Attention will be given to various alternative methods as well as crucial aspects of the issue.

**THE-782 Thesis Readings and Proposal: M.Div. 1**

This guided course will equip the student to survey relevant scholarship and prepare a thesis proposal and outline.

**THE-784 Independent Study: Historical Theology 1-3**

Individualized research and writing for the superior student, building upon a concentration in historical theology. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-785 Independent Study: Systematic Theology 1-3**

Individualized research and writing for the superior student, building upon a concentration in systematic theology. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-786 Independent Study: Moral and Philosophical Theology** **1-3**

Individualized research and writing for the superior student, building upon a concentration in moral and philosophical theology. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**THE-788 Advanced Topics: Theology** **3**

A formal class that addresses the interests of students and faculty. Courses may include current issues, biblical and theological areas, and other subjects which call for special analysis.

**THE-792 Master's Thesis** **3**

The student will write a 50-75 page thesis under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor on a significant approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by A Manual for Writers of Papers, Theses and Dissertations (current edition) by Kate L. Turabian, along with any supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. Registration for this course requires advisor approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$90.00 for thesis review and binding. Prerequisite: THE-584 Thesis Readings: Theology

## MINISTRY THEOLOGY

The courses in Ministry Theology enable the student to integrate biblical and theological studies into a philosophy of ministry for Christian service in the multifaceted cultures of our contemporary world. Ministry Theology encourages the student to bring all other biblical and theological study to bear on doing theology through the proclamation of Scripture, the spiritual formation of believers and the extension of biblical witness to the cultures of our world.

### **Pastoral Ministries**

The Pastoral Ministries concentration is intended to develop the skills of preaching, governance and counseling. Organizational Leadership (MIN-510) is basic to the concentration with added skills developed in preaching, administration and relational skills. Electives in this concentration enable the student to pursue breadth for ministry.

### **Christian Formation**

The Christian Formation curriculum is intended to develop the basic competencies necessary to engage effectively in the church's formational mission of making disciples. Course work is designed to enable the student to develop a distinctly biblical philosophy of education. Attention is given in each course to the understanding and application of contemporary educational theory in light of sound biblical exegesis and theology. A special effort is made to develop the competencies necessary to enact the formational ministries of the church in a manner relevant to contemporary multicultural and social contexts.

## FACULTY

ROBERT D. LEHMAN  
*Professor of Counseling*

PETER G. OSBORN  
*Associate Professor of Christian Ministries*

CATHERINE MUELLER-BELL  
*Associate Professor of Counseling*

ROYCE EVANS  
*Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministries*

PHILIP BUSTRUM  
*Professor of Intercultural Studies*

SHARON BROWN  
*Adjunct Professor of Christian Formation*

STEVE ARGUE  
*Adjunct Professor of Youth Ministries*

DON DENYES  
*Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Ministries*

GARY A. HEIM  
*Adjunct Professor of Christian Formation*

LISA HEIM  
*Adjunct Professor of Christian Formation*

DAVID LIVERMORE  
*Adjunct Professor of Intercultural Ministries*

GRAHAM MCKEAGUE  
*Adjunct Professor of Intercultural Ministries*

BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN  
*Adjunct Professor of Christian Ministries*

TOM OLSSON  
*Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Ministries*

REGGIE SMITH  
*Adjunct Professor of Intercultural Ministries*

FRED SWEET  
*Adjunct Professor of Theological Research*

SANDRA UPTON  
*Adjunct Professor of Global Leadership & Intercultural Ministries*

DARRELL YODER  
*Adjunct Professor of Christian Formation*

## COURSES

### **MIN-500 Christian Spiritual Formation 3**

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. This course is available both on campus and by distance education, and must be completed within the first 15 credits of enrollment.

### **MIN-510 Organizational Leadership 3**

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-515 Leading Community Based Ministry 6**

This course is designed to facilitate the student's understanding and competency to lead theologically informed community based ministry. Through readings, standardized assessments, reflective writing, and other assigned projects, the student will explore a systems approach to community based ministry. Consideration will be given to theological foundations, theories of leadership, and theories of change. The course will culminate in the development of a Ministry Transition Plan.

### **MIN-516 Urban Youth Ministry Leadership 9**

This course is designed to facilitate the student's understanding and competency to lead theologically informed urban youth ministry. Through readings, standardized assessments, reflective writing, and other assigned projects, the student will explore a systems approach to urban youth ministry. Consideration will be given to theological foundations, theories of leadership, and theories of change. The course will culminate in the development of a Ministry Transition Plan.

### **MIN-518 Foundations of Student Development 3**

This course is designed to provide a foundation for understanding the administrative and educational functions of student development while giving particular emphasis to the spiritually formative opportunities available during the season of post-secondary education. Topics include ethical and legal issues in higher education, student development theories and practices, program development and assessment, moral and faith development in college students, campus diversity, and supporting, developing, and implementing institutional priorities and vision.

### **MIN-525 Introduction to Chaplaincy 3**

A foundational study of the chaplain ministry. This course is available on an individual basis and by special arrangement.

### **MIN-526 Basic Clinical Pastoral Education 3**

One unit of basic clinical pastoral education accredited by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education may be credited for three hours of field ministry or three hours in the pastoral concentration. Students wishing to take this unit must be approved by one of the area training centers. Information concerning application is available in the office.

### **MIN-528 Introduction to African American Church History 3**

This course is designed as an introduction to the history of the African-American Church. As a social institution, the Black Church has served the African American community in numerous ways; as a social, political, musical and recreational component to Black life in America. The course will serve as a survey of the origins of the African American church from the introduction to the European slave Trade through the first 200 years of chattel slavery in the United States (1600's-1800's). The goal of the course is to add to and correct what Professor Manning Marable has dubbed the enduring "Master Narrative of American History." The course will also consider the effects of the "Negative Socialization" of Blacks in North America and the role it played in the need for the development of the Black Church and its ensuring theological perspectives.

### **MIN-529 Administration and Care of the Church 3**

This course is designed to develop both knowledge and skill in administration and pastoral care of persons. Administrative principles are developed and applied to ministry. A second focus develops the pastor's ability to care for people in both individual and group settings. This course is available only by distance education

**MIN-530 Pastoral Competencies 3**

This course provides for the pastoral specialization an introduction to the broad range of skills that a pastor must develop in the everyday work of the ministry. This includes the administration of ordinances, conducting weddings and funerals, caring for the sick and grief stricken, ministerial ethics, church service development, a preaching calendar, knowledge of the annual liturgical calendar and church life, financial integrity in one's personal life, church staff and officers development, cultivating life habits of professional development and song leading capacity, along with numerous timeless items that contribute to the science and art of pastoral ministry. The student will have contact with regional pastors in the acquisition of these skills and attitudes.

**MIN-534 Evangelism/Discipleship Ministries 3**

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 3**

This course develops and serves as an introduction to understanding the nature and mission of formational ministry for the Church. Biblical, theological, historical, and developmental foundations allow students to form a coherent strategy for nurturing the whole faith community.

**MIN-545 Teaching & Learning for Christian Formation 3**

A consideration of the various factors which influence the teaching and learning process. Students will engage in a critical analysis of how faith is formed through the teaching ministry of the church. This highly interactive skills course allows opportunity to practice various methods of creatively teaching the Bible.

**MIN-553 Sociology of Adolescence 3**

The course is designed to foster an intellectual understanding of the evolution of adolescence in Western society and current influences that shape its constitution. Special attention will also be given to application of this understanding toward effective ministry with youth.

**MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry 3**

This course provides an in-depth opportunity for critical reflection about the roles of women in the church, home and community informed and governed by the text of scripture. Substantial attention is given to examining and defining issues related to gender, understanding the impact of culture on identity development and seeking what God intends for women in ministry. Further emphasis is placed on understanding a historical context that reflects the experiences of women throughout the ages beginning with studying the women of the Bible.

**MIN-560 Global Impact: Biblical Theology of Mission 3**

This course is designed to help students develop a biblical theology of mission that shapes how the church intersects with the 21<sup>st</sup> 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-565 Perspectives on the World Christian Movement 3**

A comprehensive presentation of the tasks of world mission and evangelization through a development of the biblical, historical, strategic and cultural perspectives of Christianity in the world. The lectures are delivered by a variety of individuals with reputation in academic and ministry settings. This course is offered at Calvary Church in Grand Rapids and available to students through a cooperative agreement.

**MIN-567 Missional Church: Church and Culture — Past and Present 3**

This course is designed to provide a historical overview of the church's engagement with culture including and leading up to the recent cultural shift from modernity to postmodernity. As well as a historical perspective on the church and culture, the centerpiece of the course is a close-up look at the emerging cultural shifts and their influence on how the church should live out her mission.

**MIN-584 Thesis Readings: Ministry 1-3**

An independent readings course in preparation for writing a master's thesis in a focused area of ministry. The student will read approximately 2,000 pages and structure a thesis proposal under the guidance of a thesis advisor and in accordance with seminary standards for form and style. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-610 Organizational Assessment, Planning and Change 3**

The course is designed to advance the student's knowledge and competency in the area of organizational leadership with particular emphasis upon organizational and environmental analysis, systems thinking, strategic planning and change management. In addition to the required readings and discussions, the student will develop a substantive strategic plan through a three-draft process.

**MIN-625 Theology and Practice of Christian Worship 3**

This course will examine the biblical basis for Christian worship and the major patterns of corporate worship and related devotional practices (public prayer and fasting) found in the early church, medieval period, Protestant Reformation, Puritan tradition, evangelical revival and contemporary Pentecostal and charismatic movements. Through critical reflection upon this historical material, students will develop an account of Christian worship, its structures and leadership which is relevant to their own church context and integrates theological and practical components.

**MIN-630 Small Group Ministries 3**

The design of this class is to give the pastor an understanding of group dynamics, to develop small groups in church ministry and to develop leadership skills in the congregation.

**MIN-636 Homiletics I 3**

An introduction to homiletics with attention to philosophy and purpose. Emphasis is given to study of available methods for gathering the biblical and non-biblical materials needed for sermons. The course includes a laboratory that allows basic instruction and evaluation regarding the student's communication style in the homiletical situation. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics

**MIN-637 Homiletics II 3**

A concentrated study of the organization of sermonic material with emphasis given to its application in expository preaching. Various types of expository sermons are examined and attention is given to responsibilities related to the pulpit ministry. The laboratory allows instruction in and application of a variety of delivery techniques. Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics and MIN-636 Homiletics I

**MIN-640 Educational Ministries for Children 3**

An investigation of the developmental aspects of children and societal influences on childhood. Special attention will be given to the church's and parent's task in nurturing Christian faith for this important age group. Students will also gain a foundational overview of leading and programming effective ministries for children.

**MIN-641 Theology of Youth Ministry 3**

Students will seek to integrate a theologically-informed perspective with sound principles to create a philosophy of youth ministry. Special attention will be given to exploring how adolescent faith is nurtured.

**MIN-643 Educational Ministries for Adults 3**

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.

**MIN-644 Curriculum Planning 3**

Analysis of the concept of curriculum planning with special focus on the local church context. The various curriculum models that have shaped contemporary thought are investigated with a view towards their suitability to Christian Education. A paradigm for producing a curriculum design at any level will be developed and the student will be expected to draft a curriculum design for a particular ministry application

**MIN-557 Introduction to Women's Studies 3**

This course provides an understanding of the essential aspects of developing various ministries for women within the church and culture. An emphasis is placed on learning the process of building a ministry that is geared towards the specific needs of the women in the community being served. Administrative and leadership skills are addressed from a systems perspective. The student will learn how to assimilate, integrate and apply the organizational skills necessary for cultivating an innovative and successful ministry.

**MIN-660 Cultural Intelligence: Multicultural Understanding 3**

This course is designed to give leaders an introductory grasp of cultural intelligence, a person's ability to adapt successfully to different national, organizational, and professional cultures. Literature from the fields of anthropology and sociology are used as well as studying cultural engagement in light of the biblical narrative, as a way to develop missional communities of incarnational ministry.

**MIN-667 Urban and Local Development: Exegeting Our Own Communities 3**

This course studies the brokenness in our own neighborhoods and explores practical ways for the church to embody the gospel in response to social inequities like racism, inequitable distribution of wealth, illiteracy, abuse, etc. It considers the literature of urban transformation and the use of measures like casework, education, microlending/microenterprise development, etc.



**MIN-685 Ministry Residency I 2**

The first course of four designed for the Ministry Residency. The student will get acquainted with their specific ministry culture. Through the student's ministry, interaction with their mentor, contact with other Ministry Residency residents, and their own personal reflection, the student will lay a foundation for their journey in a ministry context while gaining feedback that will help them in preparation for ministry. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to articulate goals for personal growth and ministry competency; track and evaluate their time management; establish the discipline of journaling and reflection; apply regular feedback and guidance given from their mentor; and be relationally connected with their ministry context as they invest time and relational energy, establishing relationships and rapport. Prerequisite: Approval from the MR Executive Director

**MIN-686 Ministry Residency II 2**

The second course of four designed for the Ministry Residency. This course builds upon the competency goals defined in MIN 686 and begins to explore ministry topics that pertain to small group dynamics, working with elders/boards, pastoral duties (leading communion), strategic planning and staff meetings. Upon successful completion of this course students will gain experience leading/facilitating a small group; become familiar with leading communion/a communion service; establish a ministry initiative and strategic plan for implementation; grow in interacting with staff members; and gain experience attending board/elders meetings. Prerequisites: MIN-685 Ministry Residency I. If Ministry Residency site for MIN-686 is different than your previous site for MIN-685, you will need approval from the Ministry Residency Executive Director.

**MIN-694 Advanced Topics: Ministry 3**

A formal class which addresses the interests of students and faculty. Courses may include current issues related to ministry practice and other subjects which call for special analysis.

**MIN-711 Program Completion Seminar 1**

This course serves to aid students in the transition from student life in the seminary to practice in vocational ministry. Particular focus is given to ministerial identity formation, resume development, ministry search process and resources, and ordination and licensure. Embedded within the course are the administration of several exiting student assessments. The course is required for most resident degree programs during the final year of enrollment.

**MIN-720 Advanced Clinical Pastoral Education 3-9**

Up to nine hours of elective credit may be given for any of these three units. No more than a total of 12 hours will be given for basic and advanced units including hours of field ministry. Students wishing to take advanced units must have completed the basic unit and must be approved by one of the area training centers. Information concerning application is available in the office.

**MIN-781 Ministry Residency III 2**

The third course of four designed for the Ministry Residency. This course builds upon the competency goals of the previous two courses and attempts to extend ministry experience into areas of classroom teaching, board/elders meetings, pastoral duties (weddings), implementing a ministry initiative, leadership and pastoral counseling. Upon successful completion of this semester of residency, students will become familiar with preparing for and officiating a wedding; implementing a ministry initiative and strategic plan; learn to recruit, shepherd, and lead a team of volunteers serving their ministry initiative, and navigate pastoral counseling concepts and strategies.

Prerequisites: MIN-685 and MIN-686. If Ministry Residency site for MIN-781 is different than your previous site for MIN-686, you will need approval from the Ministry Residency Executive Director.

**MIN-782 Ministry Residency IV 2**

The fourth course of four designed for the Ministry Residency. This course builds upon the competency goals of the MIN-781 and brings completion to the student's residency experience. The student's final semester as a Ministry Residency Resident will focus in areas of personal solitude (through a one-day retreat), preaching, pastoral duties (funerals, dedications/ baptisms), assessing and leading a developed ministry initiative, leadership development, "on call" counseling and referrals, gift assessment and strength finder, and summary evaluation of one's calling and next steps beyond formal ministry training. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will gain experience through preaching opportunities and receive feedback; prepare for and, if the occasion arises, lead a funeral service; prepare for and lead a baptism/dedication service; evaluate their ministry initiative and strategic plan and determine it's next steps; evaluate and assess their spiritual gifts and leadership strengths; and intentionally schedule, plan and implement a personal, one-day retreat. Prerequisites: MIN-685, MIN-686, and MIN-781. If Ministry Residency site for MIN-782 is different than your previous site for MIN-781, you will need approval from the Ministry Residency Executive Director.

**MIN-792 Independent Study: Pastoral Ministries 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in Pastoral Ministries. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-793 Independent Study: Educational Ministries 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in Educational Ministries. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-794 Independent Study: Intercultural Ministries 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in Intercultural Ministries. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-795 Independent Study: Chaplaincy 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in the Chaplaincy ministry. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**MIN-797 Master's Thesis 3**

The student will write a 50-75 page thesis under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor on a significant approved topic in the major field. The thesis format should be governed by A Manual for Writers of Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (current edition) by Kate L. Turabian, along with supplemental materials and/or instructions provided by the seminary. Registration for this course requires advisor approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$90.00 for thesis review and binding. Prerequisite: MIN-584 Thesis Readings: Ministry

**TESOL Program Option**

The Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program of Cornerstone University is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to teach English in local and international settings. The emphasis of courses in the TESOL program is on the practical aspects of teaching and ministry opportunities at home and abroad. Most courses in the program are offered on-line, with module courses offered on campus each summer. Courses from the TESOL program can be included within the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, the Master of Divinity, or the Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership degree program.

# COUNSELING

Counseling addresses the need for persons to be competent to counsel in the context of the church's ministry to the community of the redeemed as well as to the unbelieving community. Counseling is a set of skills acquired through knowledge and practice. Competency in the use of these skills enables the practitioner to bring the content of biblical theology to the counseling situation. Persons competent to counsel in the context of church ministry should develop proficiency in doing theology which provides the content that the skill of counseling enacts in its ministry. The goal of this ministry concentration is to enact authentic Christian truth for the spiritual formation of the people of God.

## FACULTY

ROBERT LEHMAN

*Professor of Counseling*

CATHERINE MUELLER-BELL

*Associate Professor of Counseling*

PETER OSBORN

*Associate Professor of Christian Ministries*

MATTHEW CARLSON

*Adjunct Professor of Counseling*

EMILIE DEYOUNG

*Adjunct Professor of Counseling*

LINDA HAVEMAN

*Adjunct Professor of Counseling*

JUDITH KUIPER

*Adjunct Professor of Counseling*

## COURSES

### **COU-500 Counseling Philosophy 3**

The course aids the student in developing an integrated and comprehensive philosophy of counseling informed by a Christian Worldview. Personal beliefs that impact the delivery of counseling services are identified and critiqued. Discussions will include the roles of the counselor and client.

### **COU-501 Counseling Theories 3**

This course provides a survey of various theoretical approaches to counseling. Students engage in research and offer a class presentation of a significant counseling theorist. Through study and interaction with the diverse theoretical models, students are given opportunity to evaluate the models and refine their personal counseling philosophy.

### **COU-502 Counseling Ethics and Issues 3**

The course is a study of the legal requirements and ethical codes for the professional counselor. Discussions include problems commonly encountered within the counseling profession. Consideration is given to the challenges associated with the set-up and supervision of counseling practices and programs. This course also provides foundations for graduate level research and writing in the social sciences and theological disciplines, and it must be taken within the first 15 credits of enrollment in the Master of Arts in Counseling.

### **COU-510 Consulting 3**

An introduction to theories and skills of working with clients during counseling sessions. Opportunities are provided for the development of helping skills through case studies and supervised practice. Emphasis is on students learning consultation skills to manage counseling session dynamics.

### **COU-520 Child and Adolescent Counseling 3**

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the unique developmental issues of the child and adolescent years. Included are strategies necessary for a successful counseling ministry with these important groups.

### **COU-521 Marriage and Family Counseling 3**

The course is focused on issues currently impacting marriage and family, including divorce and single parent situations. Consideration will be given to the subject matter from a theological, sociological, and psychological perspective. Students will perform basic research in this important area, and they will participate in learning activities that foster skill development and strategy formation.

### **COU-525 Multicultural Counseling 3**

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-532 Counseling Women Through the Life Cycle 3**

This course is designed to help students learn the concepts and skills necessary to counsel women of all ages effectively. Counseling philosophy, theory and ethical standards are studied. The content includes a developmental framework exploring the various dimensions of a woman involving her cognitive, emotional, physical and spiritual health. Students will learn to be equipped to intervene with issues related to life adjustment and crisis situations.

**COU-584 Thesis Readings: Counseling 3**

The course is a guided readings and research course and serves as the foundation for writing a literature based master's thesis in the discipline of counseling. Under the guidance of a thesis advisor, the student will identify and justify a topic for study within the discipline, read approximately 2,000 pages related to the topic, and outline and draft a thesis proposal. The proposal must conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) format and must be approved by the thesis advisor to complete the course and before the student can proceed into COU-792. Registration for the course requires advisor approval and submission of the "special enrollments" form.

**COU-601 Testing Procedures 3**

An introduction to group and individual psychometric instruments. Commonly used personality tests are reviewed with suggested applications for counseling purposes. Principles of test assessment are highlighted. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$75 for specialized course materials. The fee will be automatically charged to the student's account upon registration.

**COU-610 Counseling Techniques 3**

An exploration of various methods useful during the counseling process. Included is an introduction to and evaluation of counseling approaches, techniques of rapport-building, problem assessment and diagnosis, and treatment plans.

**COU-611 Career Development 3**

This course seeks to prepare the counselor to facilitate client focused employment searches, career development, and professional and life coaching. Emphasis is given to understanding of and ministry to the unemployed and underemployed, and their families. Occupational and educational informative resources are included. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$10 for specialized course materials. The fee will be automatically charged to the student's account upon registration.

**COU-612 Group Counseling Techniques 3**

This course will focus on techniques of group counseling. A variety of group types and styles will be reviewed. Applications of the material are designed for use in a variety of group counseling settings. Group leadership skills will also be emphasized.

**COU-642 Sociology of Trauma 3**

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the sociological aspects associated with the context of traumatic events from a local and global perspective. Extensive consideration is given to the elements that contribute to natural and human generated disasters from a systemic theoretical construct. Various aspects of society, the existing infrastructure in an environment and culture will be studied including barriers, challenges, resources, corruption, oppression, poverty, disease, depravity and other factors that impact a community's ability to prevent and respond to traumatic events. This course is offered in an 8-week online format.

**COU-643 Trauma Informed Advocacy and Crisis Intervention 3**

This course is designed to prepare students to become aware of diverse critical incidents that are considered to be potentially traumatic, with specific attention given to how to respond and intervene in crisis situations. These circumstances can include situations with homicidal or suicidal clients, school shootings, natural disasters (such as earthquakes or fires), terrorism, war, sex/drug trafficking, and other dangerous instances. The ethical guidelines and professional protocol will be emphasized for the purpose of preparing students for effective immediate response to the psychological impact of life threatening situations from a professional counseling perspective. This course is offered in an 8-week online format.

**COU-644 Trauma Counseling and Recovery 3**

This course provides an opportunity to explore the current research about traumatology from a Christian worldview, which includes the most effective counseling theories and techniques for counseling children and adults that are recovering from traumatic events. These include instances of physical, sexual abuse, domestic violence as well as natural disasters that could cause a client to experience the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder or complex trauma. There will be an emphasis on helping clients increase their capacity for emotional/cognitive restoration, coping skills, resiliency and ability to optimize functioning. There will also be considerable attention given to issues associated with vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue, which can promote healthy stress management for the Counselor and clients that are served. This course is offered in an 8-week online format.

**COU-651 Clinical Diagnostic Assessment of Addictions 3**

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 3**

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 3**

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.

**COU-660 Abnormal Psychology 3**

This course provides an introduction to the study of human psychopathology from a Christian Worldview. A broad array of theoretical perspectives about abnormal behavior as they relate to the definition, etiology, and treatment of mental disorders will be emphasized. Diagnostic classification, behavioral, and biological features of the major syndromes of psychopathology will be an integral part of the curriculum. This course is administered through an online format.

**COU-662 Human Growth and Development 3**

This course is designed to introduce students to a meaningful exploration of human development throughout the lifespan from a Christian Worldview. Core themes from the discipline of developmental psychology will be emphasized with consideration to a multicultural context. Special attention will be devoted to studying broad theoretical perspectives about the various aspects of optimal human development as well as factors that impede or diminish a person's ability to thrive and flourish. This course is administered through an online format.

**COU-670 Diagnostic and Clinical Assessment of Mental Disorders 3**

This course provides an in depth study of the complex nature of the diagnostic process from a clinical and practical perspective with the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM-5). Special attention will be devoted to cultivating the clinical skills necessary for counselors to formulate a multi-axial diagnosis for clients that meet the criteria for mental disorders. Students will have an opportunity to develop a diagnostic framework from a Christian Worldview that will be foundational to learning the professional skills necessary for the treatment planning process. This course is administered through an online format.

**COU-700 Research Methods 3**

This course is a presentation of the basic research designs used by counselors. This course emphasizes the use of current studies and journals with particular emphasis upon critiquing journal articles.

**COU-780 Field Ministry: Counseling 3-6**

This supervised field education in counseling is intended to develop the student's competencies through ministry involvement in a local church or parachurch setting. The field ministry is coordinated under the direction of the Counseling Program Director. The student may fulfill this requirement during a given semester, over the summer months or through a combination of semesters. Registration for this course requires approval of the advisor and counseling program director.

**COU-782 Practicum: Counseling 3**

A supervised field ministry experience for students pursuing counseling careers. This course provides, on a limited basis, some of the activities that licensed professional counselors would be expected to perform. Opportunities in individual and group counseling, along with supportive ministries are included. Prerequisites: COU-500, COU-501, COU-502, COU-510, and COU-610. Registration for this course requires advisor approval and the submission of the GRTS special enrollments form with attached proof of student liability insurance and signed code of professional ethics.

**COU-784 Internship I: Counseling 3**

An extended supervised “field ministry” experience that allows the counseling student opportunities to practice all activities that a licensed professional counselor performs. Prerequisites: COU-500, COU-501, COU-502, COU-510, COU-610, COU-782. Registration for this course requires advisor approval and the submission of the GRTS special enrollments form with attached proof of student liability insurance and signed code of professional ethics.

**COU-785 Internship II: Counseling 3**

An extended supervised “field ministry” experience that allows the counseling student opportunities to practice all activities that a licensed professional counselor performs. Prerequisites: COU-500, COU-501, COU-502, COU-510, COU-610, COU-782, prior completion or simultaneous enrollment in COU-784. Registration for this course requires advisor approval and the submission of the GRTS special enrollments form with attached proof of student liability insurance and signed code of professional ethics.

**COU-789 Advanced Topics: Counseling 3**

A formal class which addresses the interests of students and faculty. Courses may include current issues in counseling and other subjects which call for special analysis.

**COU-791 Independent Study: Counseling 1-3**

Supervised independent study for advanced students in counseling. Registration for this course requires advisor approval.

**COU-792 Master’s Thesis: Counseling 6**

Under the supervision of a thesis advisor, the student will write a 60-80 page literature-based thesis on an approved topic significant to the discipline and practice of counseling. The thesis should conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) format and must be approved by the thesis advisor and second reader for course completion. Registration for this course requires advisor approval and submission of the “special enrollments” form. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$90.00 for thesis review and binding. Prerequisite: COU-584 Thesis Readings: Counseling

# ONLINE COURSES

A wide range of courses are available to students through online delivery. These courses are generally applicable to the various degree programs at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. While the availability of specific courses varies, online courses are generally offered both Fall and Spring semesters, with some online courses available during the summer semester. In compliance with the accrediting standards of The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), students are limited to eight courses completed online within their respective degree program. All of the online courses are created and offered by faculty of the seminary and delivered through the Moodle learning environment.

Course #	Course Title	Cr.	Instruction
<b>BIBLE</b>			
BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	Greer/Greer
BBL-502	O.T. Biblical Theology	3	Hilber/Lynch
BBL-503	N.T. Biblical Theology	3	Meadors
BBL-505	Old Testament Historical Backgrounds	3	Greer
BBL-507	New Testament Historical Backgrounds	3	Gombis
BBL-520	Genesis	3	Widder
BBL-523	The Book of Psalms	3	Lawlor
BBL-526	Pentateuch	3	Lawlor
BBL-550	Gospel of Matthew	3	Turner
BBL-554	Romans	3	Gombis
BBL-555	Galatians	3	Gombis
BBL-557	Hebrews	3	Gombis
BBL-627	Ephesians	3	Gombis
BBL-630	Wisdom Literature	3	Lawlor
<b>MINISTRY &amp; COUNSELING</b>			
MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3	Osborn
MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3	VerBerkmoes
MIN-518	Foundations of Student Development	3	Longjohn
MIN-534	Evangelism and Discipleship Ministries	3	Osborn
MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3	Osborn
MIN-560	Global Impact	3	McKeague
MIN-643	Educational Ministries for Adults	3	VerBerkmoes
COU-525	Multicultural Counseling	3	Mueller-Bell
COU-642	Sociology of Trauma	3	Mueller-Bell
COU-643	Trauma Informed Advocacy & Crisis Intervention	3	Carlson
COU-644	Trauma Counseling & Recovery	3	DeYoung
COU-651	Clinical Diagnostic Assessment of Addictions	3	Kuiper
COU-652	Sociology of Addictions	3	Haveman
COU-653	Addictions Counseling: Treatment and Intervention	3	Mueller-Bell
<b>THEOLOGY</b>			
THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	Wittmer
THE-550	Theology for Counseling I	3	Wittmer
THE-551	Theology for Counseling II	3	Wittmer
THE-572	Christian Worldview	3	Wittmer
THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3	Marko
THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3	Wittmer

# ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

## ADMISSIONS STAFF



**Graham McKeague, M. Theol., M.A.**  
*Director of Admissions*  
M.Theol., University of St. Andrews;  
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Grand Rapids Theological Seminary;  
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**Jo Anna Kelly, B.A.**  
*Data Coordinator*  
B.A., Grand Valley State University  
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## CAMPUS VISIT

Selecting a school for graduate theological education is an important decision. You should consider academic quality, range of degree programs, theological orientation, location, job and housing markets and local church options. A great way to gather information for your decision is to visit the campus. The campus visit is designed to maximize your contact with faculty, administrative staff and current students. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers a number of Preview Events each fall and spring semester designed to give you a look at what God is doing at GRTS. If your schedule does not allow you to attend a Preview Event, we would be happy to schedule an individual visit for you.

Contact the Admissions office at 800.697.1133 to schedule an individual visit or register for a Preview Event.

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers accommodations free of charge to prospective students and their families during scheduled campus visits.

Come and see for yourself why Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is an excellent choice for your graduate theological education. To arrange your campus visit, request additional literature or ask a question, please contact:

**Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (GRTS)**  
**1001 E Beltline Ave NE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49525-5897**  
**800.697.1133 | seminary@cornerstone.edu**

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 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**

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary admits qualified persons without regard to denomination or association, race, national or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability.

The seminary 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.



The application due dates for the upcoming semesters are as follows:

- Fall 2015 semester: August 28, 2015
- Spring 2016 semester: January 11, 2016
- Fall 2016 semester: August 29, 2016

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 free of charge online at [www.cornerstone.edu/grts-apply](http://www.cornerstone.edu/grts-apply)
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 (page 54), by checking the appropriate box in the Autobiographical Information section of the application form.

### **Transfer Students**

Students who wish to transfer to Grand Rapids Theological Seminary should submit transcripts of all credits previously earned, along with their application for admission. 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” on page 45 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. 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**

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary permits the enrollment of students seeking advanced education in Bible, theology, counseling 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**

GRTS 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 Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 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 Seminary 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 GRTS 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” on page 44 for more information.

## **REGISTRATION**

The registration process provides seminary 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 Seminary 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 Accounting and Finance Office, partially paying according to the 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

At the beginning of each fall and spring semester, the Admissions Office hosts New Student Orientation for all first-time students. This orientation provides students the opportunity to meet staff, faculty, and students, and to gain information about campus technology resources, student identification cards, and more. Each student will also be able to meet with his or her faculty advisor individually. Every student should attend orientation in order to make the start of his or her seminary experience as smooth as possible. Please contact the Admissions Office for details. The Admissions Office will work with students beginning in the J-term or summer sessions to complete the orientation process. There will also be an orientation tailored for students starting in online classes.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 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 September.

### **Application Process**

1. Pre-Application – Complete the pre-application form and submit it to the GRTS Admissions Office. After GRTS 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 and all supporting documents including:
  - a. Ministry Reference
  - b. Personal Reference
  - c. Seminary Scholarship Application – all international students will be considered for the Timothy Scholarship, which would cover a portion of your costs.
- d. 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.
- e. Transcripts – Official transcripts must be sent directly from your undergraduate institution to GRTS. Transcript equivalency will be determined by GRTS.
- f. English Language Proficiency: GRTS accepts scores from TOEFL or IELTS. 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). The Grand Rapids Theological Seminary TOEFL institution code is 1253.
 

International students can choose to submit IELTS (International English Language Testing System) scores instead of a TOEFL score. GRTS requires a minimum score of Band 7 for admission. Information about the IELTS test may be obtained from IELTS International, 825 Colorado Blvd., Suite 112, Los Angeles, CA 90041, or [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org).
3. Registration – After you have been accepted to GRTS, 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 2015-2016 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.
6. Travel – If you are planning to begin class in the fall, you should plan to arrive in Grand Rapids, Mich., between Aug. 26 – Sept. 2, 2015. This will give you time to get acquainted with the school and the city. It will also allow you to get settled before the beginning of classes. You should plan to attend New Student Orientation on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2014.

### **Employment**

International students are allowed to apply for on-campus jobs when available. Students will not be able to work more than a total of 20 hours per week (even if employed in more than one job) and will only be allowed to work if they will not displace a U.S. citizen according to U.S. ICE regulations. The Admissions Office will assist in applying for a U.S. Social Security number which will be needed to begin working. International students are not permitted to work off-campus without authorization.

### **Recommended Web sites**

#### US Government Sites

[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

[uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis)

#### Association of International Educators

[www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org)

#### About the City of Grand Rapids

[www.grnow.com](http://www.grnow.com)

#### Test of English as a Foreign Language

[www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)

#### International Students Incorporated

[www.internationalstudents.org](http://www.internationalstudents.org)

#### International English Language Testing System

[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

## **STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Cornerstone University does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, age or disability in any of its policies and programs. The Director of Human Resources is designated as the university's Title IX coordinator. The Director of Human Resources may be contacted with any inquiries pertaining to the university's policy prohibiting discrimination or Title IX requirements at 1001 E. Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or by phone at 616-222-1447.

## **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/>. 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 <https://www.cornerstone.edu/campus-safety>.

### **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
- Synergis – recruits students for PGS programs, posts aid to PGS student accounts, monitors and issues checks for Title IV credit balances and collects student accounts
- Advanced Education Services – provides payment options for students in traditional programs
- National Enterprise Systems – collects delinquent Perkins loans, institutional loans and student accounts
- RMA – 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

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary seeks applicants who demonstrate commitment to Christ who can affirm the foundational doctrinal statement of Cornerstone University as expressed in the Cornerstone Confession. The Confession expresses our commitment to the key teachings of Scripture as interpreted through the ecumenical creeds of the early church, the chief insights of the Reformation and evangelical Christianity.

**We believe** in one sovereign, omnipotent, and fully omniscient God who eternally exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who in love and for his glory created all things out of nothing and pronounced them good.

**We believe** that God has revealed himself in the sixty-six canonical books of Scripture, which are verbally inspired, truth without error, and serve as our final authority in faith and life. They lead us to Jesus Christ, who shows us the Father, and rightly interpreted, they enable us to understand God's revelation in humanity, nature, and history.

**We believe** that God directly created Adam and Eve, the historical parents of the human race, distinct from the rest of creation in their bearing of God's image and their stewardship over creation. Their union as man and woman models God's design for marriage and perpetually stands as God's loving and righteous will for all sexual intimacy.

**We believe** that our first parents forfeited their original righteousness when they succumbed to Satan's temptation and rebelled against God's revealed will. As a result, every human is born in sin, leaving us totally depraved, alienated from God, and destined to spiritual and physical death. As such, our sinful ways have corrupted God's creation, resulting in discord to society and nature.

**We believe** that God's plan to redeem fallen humanity and renew creation flows through his promises to the Jewish people. God's promises to Abraham and David are fulfilled in Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant.

**We believe** that the Son of God, while fully divine, became fully human through the virgin birth to save the world from sin. Living a sinless life in perfect obedience to His Father, Jesus proclaimed God's reign in word and deed. In his mercy he atoned for our sins by dying in our place. Having satisfied the just wrath of God on our behalf, he rose bodily and triumphantly over sin, death, and Satan. He then ascended to heaven, sent his Spirit to lead and empower his church, and is seated at the Father's right hand where he reigns and intercedes for His people.

**We believe** that the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost to establish the church; that he uses the Word of God to give new life to those who repent of their sin and believe in Christ; and that all who by faith alone receive Christ's finished work are by God's grace united with Christ, justified by his shed blood, adopted into the family of God, forgiven of all their sin, indwelt and gifted by the Spirit, and added to the church.

**We believe** that the one, holy, and universal church is the body and bride of Christ. The church gathers in local assemblies to worship God and celebrate the gospel through the preaching of the Word, baptism, the Lord's Supper, prayer, and fellowship. It disperses to proclaim the gospel to a sinful world which must hear the good news of Jesus Christ in order to be saved. The church makes disciples of Jesus who, through persevering faith, embody the kingdom values of righteousness, peace, and joy. By loving God, serving others, and caring for creation, they anticipate the redemption of all things at Christ's return.

**We believe** that our Lord Jesus Christ will personally and gloriously return to deliver this world from Satan's rule and bring his reign to its ultimate fruition. Jesus will raise the dead to stand with the living before his judgment throne where he will determine the final state of humanity. The lost will experience everlasting conscious separation from God as the just punishment for their sin, and the redeemed will be welcomed into the unhindered joy of everlasting fellowship with him.

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 school's standards would be sufficient reason to ask him/her to withdraw from the school.

Students of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 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 (per semester)

Graduate Tuition (per credit hour) . . . . .	\$520
Master of Theology tuition (per credit hour) . . . . .	\$535

## Semester Fees

Registration Fees (library, registration, student activities, etc.)	
1 - 4 credit hours . . . . .	\$110
5 or more credit hours . . . . .	\$215
Technology fee (per credit hour) . . . . .	\$13
Vehicle Registration . . . . .	\$75

## Other Potential Fees

Commuter meal plan (25 meals per semester) . . . . .	\$165
Application fee (online free) . . . . .	\$25
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
Payment Plan fees (per semester) . . . . .	\$50
Transcript fee . . . . .	\$5

## Course Fees

Spiritual Formation Assessment fee (MIN-500) . . . . .	\$150
Career Development fee (COU-611) . . . . .	\$10
Testing Procedures (COU-601) . . . . .	\$75
Israel Study Tour fee for M.Div. (BBL-601-01) . . . . .	\$1,000
Israel Study Tour fee for M.A. and Non-degree (BBL-601-02) . . . . .	\$3,500
M.A. Thesis fee (BBL-792, THE-792, MIN-797, COU-792) . . . . .	\$90
Th.M. Thesis fee (BBL-890) . . . . .	\$115

## Indirect costs

Books, per semester (12-15 credits) . . . . .	\$240 - 450
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## FINANCIAL AID

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary provides financial aid to students who can benefit from further education but cannot do so without assistance. GRTS also seeks to recognize students with exceptional abilities in the areas of academics, leadership and ministry enactment. 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 Seminary 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 five or more credit hours per fall or spring semester are eligible to apply for institutional and federal grants, scholarships and loans. Students seeking consideration for grants, scholarships and loans must file the Seminary Scholarship Application and 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 15 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.

*Conditions for the receipt of an institutional endowed or restricted scholarship include attendance at the Legacy Dinner and the writing of thank-you notes to the donor or donor representatives. Further details will be provided to scholarship recipients.*

**Enrollment Status**

A student’s enrollment status is used for determining federal 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>
GRTS	9	5
Th.M.	8	4

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

Payment Plan: 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. There is a payment plan fee of \$50 per semester. Students who do not pay as arranged on the payment plan may be excluded from using the payment plan in succeeding terms.

Late payment fees may be added to accounts not paid as arranged. Accounts are expected to be paid in full before taking examinations, obtaining transcripts, receiving diplomas or registering for a succeeding term.

**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).

**Institutional Aid**

Institutional financial aid is reduced by the percent of the tuition and fees originally covered by the institutional aid. The student may retain an amount equal to the percent of the actual tuition and fees charged based on the withdrawal date. The remaining amount must be returned to the institutional programs.

**INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS**

**Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Grant**

The seminary provides a limited amount of financial assistance to qualified new and returning students through the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Grant. This grant is awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need and enrollment status. In-residence study and at least half-time enrollment (five hours per semester) are required.

Priority consideration will be given to students who file the Seminary Scholarship Application and FAFSA between Jan. 1 and March 31. Late applications for financial aid will be accepted until the first week of the fall semester for new students. Grand Rapids

Theological Seminary Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until the funds have been exhausted. The Seminary Scholarship Application and FAFSA information are available at [www.cornerstone.edu/grts](http://www.cornerstone.edu/grts).

## INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Students who are enrolled in five or more credit hours are eligible to apply for scholarships by submitting the FAFSA and the Seminary Scholarship Application.

### ***Paul A. Beals Missions Scholarship***

The Paul A. Beals Missions Scholarship will be awarded to new and continuing students who demonstrate commitment to cross-cultural ministry as evidenced in their degree program selection and concentration. New students must have achieved a 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. in an undergraduate program and continuing students must possess a minimum 3.24 G.P.A.

### ***Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Scholarship***

The Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Endowed Scholarship was created in honor of Carl B. Hoch, Jr., to benefit a Grand Rapids Theological Seminary student who demonstrates an outstanding ability in Greek and New Testament studies. The Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Scholarship is renewable.

### ***Joe Crawford Scholarship***

The Joe Crawford Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate excellent promise for church-related ministry or church-related missions. The candidate will have completed a minimum of 20 hours of course work at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above. Financial need is not required, but will be considered in the selection process.

### ***Clarence and Pauline Doane Scholarship***

The Clarence and Pauline Doane Scholarship is awarded to degree-seeking students who have demonstrated excellent promise for missions or pastoral ministry. Returning students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. Priority is given to students who are members of churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

### ***David Eifert Scholarship***

The David Eifert Scholarship is made available in memory of David Eifert who died while enrolled at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. The scholarship is awarded to candidates who show promise for ministry and demonstrate academic achievement. Recommendation for this scholarship is presented by the Ministry Division faculty.

### ***Esther Gilbertson Scholarship***

The Esther Gilbertson Scholarship is awarded to continuing students who are preparing for vocational ministry and maintain a 3.0 or higher G.P.A.

### ***James Murray Grier Academic Scholarship***

The James Murray Grier Academic Scholarship assists students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement through a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of

3.7 in undergraduate study for new students and at the graduate level for returning students.

### ***Gerald O. and Henrietta A. Jennex Scholarship***

The Gerald O. and Henrietta A. Jennex Scholarship will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate, through gifts and commitment, great promise for professional pastoral ministry. Awards will be granted to returning students who demonstrate a pattern of ministry involvement, a minimum 2.8 G.P.A. and financial need. Eligibility for this scholarship is limited to two years.

### ***David and Coila Kennedy Scholarship***

The David and Coila Kennedy Scholarship is provided for seminary students who are seeking a Master of Divinity degree and preparing for ministry. Returning students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. and financial need is considered.

### ***Kern Scholarship***

The Kern Scholarship provides substantial tuition scholarships for a select group of qualified Master of Divinity students who aspire to senior pastoral ministry in the United States. The scholarship is awarded to entering students and continues throughout the duration of the program. Eligibility requirements include the following: citizen of the United States, 3.25 cumulative grade point average (in college and seminary), 27 years of age or younger at the point of initial enrollment, call and commitment to full-time senior pastoral ministry in the United States (reaffirmed annually), commitment to complete the degree in 4 years (monitored annually), commitment to no new educational debt while enrolled at GRTS (reaffirmed annually and monitored), and participation in events and opportunities offered by the Kern Scholars Program (while at GRTS) and the Kern Pastors Network (upon graduation). To qualify for the scholarship, entering student candidates must complete the Kern Scholars Application process by the deadline and demonstrate eight specific qualities (i.e., Leadership, Effective Communication, Agent of Change, Maturing in Character, Creative, Relational Competency, Culturally Engaged, and Persistent). For further details students should contact the GRTS Admissions office.

### ***Macy Mission Scholarship***

The Macy Mission Scholarship is provided for students who are members of a missionary family or plan to pursue full time mission work, who are making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree and demonstrate financial need.

### ***Master of Divinity Scholarship***

The Master of Divinity Scholarship is awarded to students enrolled in the Master of Divinity program who demonstrate financial need.

### ***Woodrow McCaleb Leadership Scholarship***

The Woodrow McCaleb Leadership Scholarship is awarded to new and returning students who demonstrate strong ministry leadership qualities and

excellent promise for church-related ministry or church-related missions. Financial need is not required, but will be considered in the selection process.

#### **McKinney Family Scholarship**

The McKinney Family Scholarship is awarded to assist GRTS students in fulfilling their goal of a Christian education. Recipients will be selected through the scholarship application process.

#### **Kenneth and Lorraine Nienhuis Scholarship for Pastoral Ministry**

The Kenneth and Lorraine Nienhuis Scholarship for Pastoral Ministry is provided for students who have demonstrated excellent promise for pastoral ministry. Applicants must have completed 32 semester hours with a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. toward a degree at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

#### **Pirsig Master of Divinity Scholarship**

The Pirsig Master of Divinity Scholarship is awarded to assist pastors and missionaries in completing their theological education. Students must be in their second year of enrollment (or later) in the Master of Divinity program at GRTS, and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative G.P.A.

#### **George Samuelson Scholarship**

The George Samuelson Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate excellent promise for church-related ministry or church-related missions. The candidate must complete a minimum of 20 semester hours of course work at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above. Financial need is not required, but will be considered in the selection process. Recommendations for this scholarship are made by the Ministry Division faculty.

#### **Sugden Seminary Scholarship**

The Sugden Seminary Scholarship is given to returning students who demonstrate excellent promise for professional pastoral ministry through commitment to God's word and unique skill in biblical communication. Financial need is not required but will be considered in the selection process. Recommendations are made by the Ministry Division faculty.

#### **Dallas Thompson Scholarship**

The Dallas Thompson Scholarship is awarded to unmarried students who are making satisfactory progress toward a degree at GRTS and demonstrate financial need.

#### **Timothy Scholarship**

The Timothy Scholarship is primarily designated for the education of European pastors. It is also extended to international students in general when funds are available. Candidates must be planning for church-related ministry and demonstrate the necessary gifts for ministry. Financial need is considered.

#### **Wielhouwer Scholarship**

The Wielhouwer Scholarship is awarded to students who maintain active involvement in ministry while

attending seminary. Special consideration will be given to students seeking pastoral or chaplaincy vocational ministry.

#### **President's Student Scholarship Fund**

The President's Student Scholarship Fund assists students who have a commitment to enter foreign missions or demonstrate a unique financial need after one year of enrollment (minimum 24 semester hours completed) or have a need for financial assistance toward a cross-cultural mission opportunity. Applicants may also be required to submit an essay and/or meet with a GRTS administrator.

#### **Urban Cohort Scholarship**

Based on the gifts of several generous donors and foundations, the Urban Cohort Scholarship provides tuition assistance on a limited basis to students enrolled in the Urban Cohort Program.

## **LOANS**

#### **Federal Direct Loan Program**

Eligibility for the Federal Direct 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 Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. 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). Students must meet all eligibility requirements at the time the loan is disbursed. There are annual and lifetime limits on the amount that can be borrowed.

#### **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 maintain a minimum cumulative grade point requirement. Cumulative G.P.A.'s are monitored at the end of each semester.

<b>Master of Theology</b>	<b>3.0 GPA</b>
<b>All other programs</b>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>

### **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:

<b>CUMULATIVE HRS. ATTEMPTED</b>	<b>MINIMUM % COMPLETED</b>
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.

### **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**

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

### **Veterans Benefits**

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 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.

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary are 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 GRTS 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 GRTS for credit or used to fulfill GRTS 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 GRTS Academic Catalog under the heading "Student Appeal Process."

## ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

The academic records of Cornerstone University students and alumni, including the students and alumni of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, are maintained at the CU Registrar's Office. Requests for official or unofficial copies of student academic transcripts should be directed to the CU Registrar's Office. Such requests can be made in person or by using the form available on Cornerstone's website. Enter "transcript request" in the search box to find the form. A small processing fee is required for each copy.

## ACADEMIC TUTORING AND WRITING SUPPORT

Academic tutoring is available on a limited basis to students in need of academic assistance. Students struggling with the academic demands of the courses at GRTS should first communicate with their professors and academic advisor. Professors can then make a referral to the Associate Dean for the student to receive tutoring and/or attend the Writing Workshops offered each semester. The student will receive a letter from the Associate Dean advising them to contact the appropriate tutor to schedule sessions. Students on probationary status due to academic performance will be assigned an academic tutor and encouraged to take full advantage of this valuable resource. Typically, tutors will be area professionals with research and writing skills and/or upper level GRTS students who have excelled in coursework, possess the appropriate disciplinary expertise, and demonstrate the relational gifts essential to the task of tutoring.

The writing requirements in seminary programs are especially demanding compared to most undergraduate programs. For this reason, GRTS offers writing sessions each semester to help students develop competency in this area. All GRTS students are invited to participate in the writing sessions. The schedule for the writing sessions can be found on CU Portal.

## ADVANCED STANDING

Advanced standing credit is available to new students for certain undergraduate courses completed within 10 years prior to graduation at GRTS. These courses must be completed at regionally accredited institutions, institutions accredited by the Association of Biblical Higher Education, and other institutions approved by Cornerstone University. In keeping with accrediting standards (The Association of Theological Schools), GRTS limits advanced standing credits to 1/4th of

the graduate degree program. 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 or by assessment of a relevant sample of student work. New students have one calendar year from their original matriculation date at GRTS 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 GRTS, advanced standing is assessed and administered by two means. First, the granting of advanced standing credit is determined by way of examination. The GRTS 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, the granting of advanced standing credit is also determined by assessment of sample student work from the relevant undergraduate course. In these cases, students are responsible to provide the GRTS professor with a copy of the undergraduate course syllabus and all course related assignments, submitting an electronic copy of documents wherever these are available. In turn, the professor will review the sample student work to assess student knowledge and competency in the given content area based on parity in content and methods with the seminary course for which advanced standing is sought. 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 the completion of the advanced standing assessment, is charged for each assessment administered. All advanced standing assessments will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

## ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. For full-block courses, courses meeting one time per week, a maximum of one absence will be allowed without grade implication for work conflicts, sickness, scheduling conflicts and all other reasons. For split-block courses, courses meeting twice per week, two absences will be allowed without grade implication. Exceeding the allowable absences noted

above carries grading implications according to the chart below. Students should communicate with the course professor concerning anticipated absences (planned or unplanned) in advance of the session in which the student will be absent. Three tardies will equal one absence. After 15 minutes, it is regarded as an absence. Individual professors may implement an alternative attendance policy within their courses. When the attendance policy embedded within a given course syllabus differs from the institutional attendance policy, the policy listed within the given syllabus is authoritative.

### **Full-Block (meet once per week)**

- 1 absence – no grade reduction for course
- 2 absences – 1 letter grade reduction for course
- 3 absences – 2 letter grade reduction for course
- 4 absences – “F” course letter grade

### **Split-block (meet twice per week)**

- 1-2 absences – no grade reduction for course
- 3-4 absences – 1 letter grade reduction for course
- 5-6 absences – 2 letter grade reduction for course
- 7 absences – “F” course letter grade

## AUDIT POLICY

Course audits are available for those seeking to obtain course content without course credit towards a degree. Course audits are permitted under certain conditions and with specific expectation. Certain courses may require professor approval prior to enrollment. The extent of participation in the given course by an auditing student should be arranged in advance with the course professor. In the event that a course reaches capacity, an auditing student may be removed from the course to accommodate a credit-seeking student. GRTS reserves the right to limit audit students’ course participation or remove an audit student from a course. Students may not audit online courses. The cost to audit a 3-credit course is \$99 (\$33 per credit hour). A course may be changed from audit to credit or credit to audit during the drop/add period only (first week of semester). Courses taken for audit cannot be taken for credit at a later date. Those seeking to audit a course should submit a non-degree seeking application through the GRTS Admissions Office.

## CALENDAR

The academic year corresponds with the following schedule:

**Fall Semester** – Begins in early September & ends in mid- December.

**J-Term** – Occurs during the second and third weeks of January.

**Spring Semester** – Begins the fourth week of January and ends the first week of May

**Summer Semester** – May, June, July and August

See “Academic Calendar” in Academic Catalog for complete academic schedule.

## CHANGE OF DEGREE PROGRAM

Students seeking to change degree programs (e.g., M.Div. to the M.A. or vice versa) or concentration must secure prior approval from their academic advisor and the academic dean. The Change of Degree form is available at the GRTS office.

## CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Students are officially classified in accordance with the semester hours of credit they have earned as follows:

### M.A.

Juniors: 1-32 semester hours  
Seniors: 33 or more semester hours

### M.Div.

Juniors: 1-32 semester hours  
Middlers: 33-62 semester hours  
Seniors: 63 or more semester hours

## COURSE SCHEDULING

All GRTS students are responsible for the development of their own course schedules and should monitor the progressive fulfillment of program requirements. Faculty advisors are available to assist in answering questions and providing informed insight into the various scheduling options. Appointments with faculty advisors can be scheduled through the seminary office. Course schedules for Summer and Fall semesters will be available in February, since registration for these enrollment periods occurs in early March. Course schedules for Spring semester will be available in September, since registration for this enrollment period occurs in late October. Course planners are available at the seminary office to aid students in program planning. GRTS course schedules are distributed to GRTS students in advance of registration and are available on the university website (see Registrar's Office). Degree audits are also available through the Registrar's Office to aid students in program management.

## 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 duplicate course and by the academic dean. Waivers are processed electronically by faculty as Academic Policy Exceptions (APE's).

## DISTANCE EDUCATION

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary limits the use of online/distance education courses to a maximum of eight courses per degree (excludes Ministry Residency I-IV, Counseling Practicum, and Counseling Internships I and Counseling Internship II). For purposes of distinguishing resident courses from online/distance education courses, resident courses require at least 51 percent of the instructor driven learning (20.5 hours for a 3 credit course) to occur in situations where both faculty and students are in person on the main school's campus or approved extension.

## 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)

## FINAL EXAMS

The Cornerstone University Registrar develops, publishes, and distributes semester exam schedules several months in advance of the exam dates. Students are obligated to attend the exam sessions as published. No exceptions will be made to the published dates, times, and locations. This is a University wide policy that is strictly enforced.

## GRADES AND HONOR POINTS

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

## GRADUATION

All senior level students are required to file an Application for Graduation by November 1 (for December, May and August graduations). Eligibility for graduation necessitates the completion of all degree specific requirements as outlined in the GRTS Academic Catalog. In fulfillment of degree program requirements, graduates are expected to participate in the commencement exercise, which occurs each year during early 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 period, 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.

## GRADUATION & SPRING BANQUET AWARDS

### ***The President's Award***

This award is given annually to the outstanding graduating seminarian in the M.Div. and M.A. degree programs. Selection is made by the president and seminary faculty based on the student's total seminary experience.

### ***Academic Dean's Award***

This award is given to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average.

### ***Leon J. Wood Award***

This award is given in honor of Leon J. Wood to a graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding ability in Old Testament studies.

### ***Carl B. Hoch Jr. Award***

This award is given in honor of Carl B. Hoch Jr. to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding ability in Greek and New Testament studies.

### ***Baker Book House Award***

This award is given annually to the graduate who is distinguished in biblical or theological study. This award is sponsored by Baker Book House ([www.bakerbooks.com](http://www.bakerbooks.com)) to encourage excellence in biblical and theological study by students preparing for vocational ministry.

### ***Zondervan Greek Award***

This award is given annually to the seminarian demonstrating the greatest achievement in the study of biblical Greek. Receiving this award reflects not only mastery of Greek but student initiative in electing additional Greek courses for advancement in language. This award is sponsored by the

academic division of Zondervan Publishing House ([www.zondervanacademic.com](http://www.zondervanacademic.com)) to encourage the study of Greek by students preparing for vocational ministry.

### ***Zondervan Hebrew Award***

This award is given annually to the seminarian demonstrating the greatest achievement in the study of biblical Hebrew. Receiving this award reflects not only mastery of Hebrew but student initiative in electing additional Hebrew courses for advancement in language. This award is sponsored by the academic division of Zondervan Publishing House ([www.zondervanacademic.com](http://www.zondervanacademic.com)) to encourage the study of Hebrew by students preparing for vocational ministry.

### ***Zondervan Theology Award***

Given annually to the seminarian who demonstrates the greatest achievement in the study of historical and/or systematic theology. This award is sponsored by the academic division of Zondervan Publishing House ([www.zondervanacademic.com](http://www.zondervanacademic.com)) to encourage the study of theology by persons preparing for vocational ministry.

### ***Urban Cohort Academic Award***

The Urban Cohort Academic Award recognizes an urban cohort student for outstanding academic performance.

### ***Urban Cohort Community Award***

The Urban Cohort Community Award is given to a graduating student who has been distinguished in their contributions to facilitate relationships and community within the urban cohort program.

### ***Nickolai Wiens Pastoral Award***

This award is given in honor of Nickolai Wiens to a graduate, selected by the seminary faculty, who shows great prospect for effective pastoral ministry demonstrated by spiritual maturity, ability to work with people, and showing passion for the work of the church.

### ***Strauss Expository Preaching Award***

This award is given in memory of Elsie Strauss to the senior seminarian chosen for excellence in expository preaching.

### ***William Clarence Haas Award***

This award is given in honor of William Clarence Haas, founder of Baptist Mid-Missions, to a graduating seminarian who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency and promise for missionary service.

### ***Owen John Lydecker Memorial Award***

This award is given in memory of Owen John Lydecker, to a distinguished graduate, as selected by the Seminary faculty. The recipient will demonstrate academic proficiency and show excellent potential for local church ministry.

### **Educational Ministries Award**

This award is given to a graduating seminarian who has demonstrated outstanding ability in Christian Education.

### **Counseling Award**

This award is given annually to graduates of the Master of Arts in Counseling degree who demonstrate outstanding ability in the theory and practice of counseling.

### **Counseling Ministries Award**

This award is given annually to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding ability in counseling ministries.

### **Intercultural Counseling Service Award**

This annual award is given to a student at GRTS who exemplifies the characteristics of Christ-Centered Intercultural Counseling Service. The recipient of this award exudes compassion, empathy and is passionate about honoring the diversity of God's Kingdom and protecting the dignity of all people being served. This student promotes equity, social justice and is committed to ensuring that counseling services are accessible to all people equally, while upholding the highest ethical and professional standards in the field of counseling.

## **GREEK & HEBREW COMPETENCY EXAM**

For entering students who have completed a minimum of one year of Greek and/or Hebrew language studies at the undergraduate level and desire to proceed into BBL-672 or BBL-640, language competency must be demonstrated by the satisfactory completion of the Greek and/or Hebrew Competency Exam. Students who successfully complete the particular competency exam will be given permission to proceed into BBL-672 and/or BBL-640, and granted advanced standing credit. Cornerstone University graduates who successfully complete the entire undergraduate Greek and/or Hebrew language sequence (B or better in each course), and immediately proceed into GRTS, are exempt from the Competency Exam Requirement but must complete and submit the Advanced Standing Application.

The Greek and/or Hebrew Competency Exam is also required for entering GRTS students seeking transfer credits and authorization to proceed into the first course of the Old Testament and/or New Testament sequence (i.e., BBL-672 and/or BBL-640) in any of the following instances: when the source of the transfer credits is a non-ATS school; the graduate courses are not comparable to BBL-510/BBL-511 and/or BBL-516/BBL-517; the grades achieved are below the required B grade; or the graduate language courses were not completed within the previous two years. In such cases, the student is required to complete the appropriate

GRTS Competency Exam before the transfer credits will be processed and authorization granted to proceed into the first course of the sequence.

Unsatisfactory completion of the GRTS Competency Exam requires completion of BBL-510/BBL-511 and/or BBL-516/BBL-517 at GRTS, and results in the denial of the Greek and/or Hebrew language advanced standing or transfer credit. Greek and Hebrew competency exams are administered during New Student Orientation in the fall and spring. Those students interested and required to sit for one of these exams must complete and submit the Greek and Hebrew Competency Exam/Advanced Standing Application, which can be secured through the Admissions or Academic offices of GRTS.

## **HEBREW AND GREEK LANGUAGE COMPETENCY**

Students enrolled in Greek language studies with the intent of proceeding into the subsequent exegetical sequence (i.e., BBL-672, BBL-677, and BBL-678) must achieve a grade of "C" or better in BBL-511 Greek II in order to advance into BBL-672 New Testament Studies I. Similarly, Students enrolled in Hebrew language studies with the intent of proceeding into the subsequent exegetical sequence (i.e., BBL-640, BBL-641, and BBL-642) must achieve a grade of "C" or better in BBL-517 Hebrew II in order to advance into BBL-640 Old Testament Studies I. The Bible faculty reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy via the Academic Policy Exception process based upon student competency demonstrated through the administration of the respective Greek or Hebrew competency exam.

## **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE**

As a commitment to honor God's image in all people, GRTS 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 seminary'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 seminary's inclusive language policy but all faculty, staff and students agree to exercise care and attentiveness to this priority.

## **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. Students who are granted an incomplete are ineligible for Dean's List consideration for the semester in which they receive the incomplete. Grade changes from the fall semester must be turned into the Registrar's Office no later than March 15. Grade changes 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 complete the required course work resulting in the change of an "F" to another grade is one calendar year from the receipt of the initial incomplete.

## **LEARNING DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION**

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and 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, nor 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 Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 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.

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 <https://www.cornerstone.edu/disability-grievance-policy>.

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. In most cases, testing and assessment of disability must have been completed no more than 5 years prior to application for accommodations at Cornerstone University. Documentation older than 5 years will in most cases need to be updated, with each situation evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## **MASTER OF ARTS THESIS**

In preparation for doctoral studies, select students within the Master of Arts programs may wish to complete a master's thesis as the capstone of their educational experience at GRTS. Students interested in exploring this option should communicate this preference to the faculty advisor early in the degree program. The inclusion of a thesis in the degree program requires formal faculty advisor approval using the Master of Arts: Thesis Topic Approval Form. The form should be completed and submitted to the faculty advisor prior to enrollment for Thesis Readings, along with a copy of the student's undergraduate and current graduate academic transcripts. The Thesis Topic Approval Form must be submitted, and include faculty advisor approval, at the time of registration for Thesis Readings.

Enrollment for the Master of Arts thesis consists of two elements: Thesis Readings (BBL-584, THE-584, MIN-584, COU-584) and Thesis (BBL-792, THE-792, MIN-792, COU-792). Students are encouraged to enroll in Thesis Readings the semester prior to enrollment for

the thesis, while enrolling for the Thesis during their last semester. The required readings course is intended to provide the student an opportunity to expand his/her knowledge base in the specific area of study and to focus the thesis topic. Thesis Readings and Thesis will require the completion and submission of the Special Enrollments Form during the registration process. Students are encouraged to work closely with their faculty advisor in identifying and developing an area of study for the thesis. Students are also encouraged to consult the Master of Arts Thesis Readings syllabus and Master of Arts Thesis syllabus for processing and procedure details.

## MID-POINT AND EXIT ASSESSMENTS

Students enrolled in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degree programs must participate in the mid-point and exit assessment processes. The mid-point process is conducted near the middle of the academic program and the exit assessment is typically conducted in the final semester of a student's program. The processes are initiated by the Academic Office and engage the student along with the student's academic advisor, academic dean, dean of students, ministry residency mentor or practicum supervisor, and the director of Ministry Residencies or Counseling Practicum professor in a review of the student's academic performance, student learning portfolio and overall progress in readiness for ministry. Specifically, the team considers the student's progress in disciplinary knowledge and skill (academic performance), faith commitment and personal maturity (Christian character), and progress made in attaining the student learning outcomes associated with the particular degree (learning, development, and vocational readiness where applicable). At the conclusion of the review process, one of three judgments is rendered by the review team and presented to the student in written form. The range of judgments includes the following: 1) Affirm progress in readiness for ministry, 2) Affirm progress in readiness for ministry with reservations, 3) Do not affirm readiness for ministry. The assessment team engages the student in developing and implementing a growth plan when the second or third judgments are reached in the mid-point process. Consult the GRTS Student Handbook for a more detailed description of the policies, process, judgments and the implications of the judgments.

## RETAKE 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.

## SCHOLASTIC HONORS

Students who attain a grade point average of 3.50 or more and carry a minimum of 9 semester hours are recognized each semester through a published Dean's list. Three graduation honors are recognized at commencement. Those graduating *cum laude* must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.60; *magna cum laude*, 3.70; and *summa cum laude*, 3.85. To be eligible for graduation honors, the student must complete a minimum of 36 hours in the Master of Arts in Counseling, 31 hours in the other Master of Arts degrees, 47 hours in the Master of Divinity degree, or 24 hours in the Master of Theology degree at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

For purposes of awarding honor cords and recognition at commencement, the determination of those eligible for honors will be made on the basis of the cumulative grade point average from the fall semester. The final transcript and diploma will record graduation honors on the basis of the entire academic record.

## SCHOLASTIC PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL

Any student who does not achieve the minimum required cumulative grade point average of 2.50 after attempting 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 six credits per semester, will not be allowed to enroll in distance education or 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 Grand Rapids Theological Seminary 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 GRTS 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.

## **SECOND DEGREES**

Students who have completed a first master's degree at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or another accredited graduate school or seminary, and are seeking a second master's degree from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary are eligible to utilize a maximum of 50 percent of the credits from the first degree towards the completion of the second degree and must complete at least 50 percent of the requirements for the second degree through new courses.

## **SEMESTERS AND HOURS**

The academic year is divided into three semesters (fall, spring and summer). The typical full-time course load is 12 credit hours during both fall and spring semesters and six credit hours in summer semester. A credit hour represents one class period of 50 minutes per week for one semester and generally requires about 40 hours of student investment in and out of class. A student seeking the maximum financial aid package and/or veteran's benefits must carry a minimum of 11 credit hours during fall and spring semesters.

## **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 Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. 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.

## **STUDENT ASSESSMENTS**

In an effort to aid students in cognitive, affective, and behavioral growth and development, a series of student assessments beyond traditional classroom grading, are integrated as requirements within the various GRTS degree programs. A brief description of some of these assessments is outlined below:

### ***Entrance Assessment***

A brief introductory meeting with the faculty advisor which allows an assessment about the alignment of the selected degree program with the student's aspirations, capabilities and vocational goals.

### ***MIN-500 Christian Spiritual Formation***

A battery of assessments (Myers-Briggs, DiSC, ECI and MCMI-III) is incorporated into this course. The results of these assessments serve as the basis for the development of a personal growth plan as assigned within the course.

### ***MIN-510 Organizational Leadership***

Students complete the Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI). Results of this assessment aid students in gaining a greater sense of their leadership style and lay a foundation for personal and professional growth.

### ***Mid-point Assessment***

A formal analysis of the student's academic and non-academic development, and an evaluation concerning progress in ministry readiness. This process involves the academic advisor, academic dean, dean of student services, ministry mentor, and director of the Ministry Residency program.

### ***Ministry Residency***

Ministry mentors assess students each semester of enrollment in Ministry Residency (MIN-685, MIN-686, MIN-781, and MIN-782) in regards to the student's contributions, needs and developmental progress as they function within an authentic ministry setting.

### ***MIN-711 Program Completion Seminar***

A reflective essay is embedded as a requirement within this course, allowing the student to consider the extent and direction of growth and development while enrolled at GRTS.

### **Exit Assessment**

This is an opportunity for students nearing graduation to provide substantive feedback about their GRTS experience. The exit assessment is coordinated by the academic dean and dean of student services and takes the form of personal interviews and/or opinion surveys.

## **STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE: STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION**

As a member in good standing with The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), Grand Rapids Theological Seminary affirms the value of accrediting standards. These standards foster attention to good practices within graduate theological education, providing a structure and guide for institutional integrity, accountability, self-assessment and improvement. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to honoring these standards in the process and product of its endeavors in theological education. If a student identifies a violation of the accrediting standards of The Association of Theological Schools, it is encouraged to bring this matter to the attention of the GRTS Academic Dean. If compliance with the accrediting standard is not achieved in a reasonable and credible manner, the student can bring this grievance to the attention of the accrediting agency. Specifically, the grievance should be made in writing and a copy should be sent to the academic dean. The grievance should be mailed to the following address: The Association of Theological Schools, 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1103. ATS staffers can also be reached by calling 412.788.6505.

## **TEN YEAR RULE**

In keeping with the policies of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS, A.3.2.2), Grand Rapids Theological Seminary limits the use of credits towards the completion of a degree to those credits completed within 10 years prior to degree completion. This includes transfer credits, advanced standing credits and credits earned while enrolled at GRTS.

## **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 students 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.

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary will accept a maximum of 50 percent of the selected degree program requirements through transfer credit, or through a combination of transfer credit and advanced standing, completed within 10 years prior to graduation at GRTS. Transfer of credits will be limited to 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.

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary does not guarantee the State of Michigan, or any other authority, will recognize transfer courses from other institutions for purposes of state licensure in counseling.

## **WITHDRAWAL**

A student who wishes to withdraw must complete a withdrawal form, available from the seminary 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 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).

### ***Institutional Aid***

Institutional financial aid is reduced by the percent of the tuition and fees originally covered by the institutional aid. The student may retain an amount equal to the percent of the actual tuition and fees charged based on the withdrawal date. The remaining amount must be returned to the institutional programs.

# STUDENT LIFE

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers a range of services to students, spouses of students and alumni. These academic and non-academic services are intended to foster personal spiritual transformation, leadership development and aid students in achieving their intended educational and vocational goals.

## ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE OFFICE

The Cornerstone University Accounting and Finance Office is located in the Administration Building and accepts payments for all student accounts. This office provides check-cashing services and parking tags to students with a valid identification card. The hours of operation are posted at the Accounting and Finance Office.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Cornerstone University Alumni Association is comprised of graduates from the associate, baccalaureate, master and doctoral degree programs. Non-degree alumni are individuals who have achieved 36+ semester hours in the undergraduate program or 12+ semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or within the Professional and Graduate Studies. The CU Alumni Association exists to serve alumni in their roles as influencers for Christ by developing connections, facilitating celebrations and encouraging contributions. The Association will support and partner with alumni through opportunities to expand relationships, grow as lifelong learners and engage with the mission of the university by serving with their individual giftedness.

## CAMPUS SAFETY

The primary mission of the Cornerstone University Department of Campus Safety is to proactively ensure the personal safety and welfare of our students, faculty, and staff, protect the assets of our campus citizens and University, and provide a variety of services to the campus community as well.

The Department of Campus Safety is a 24/7/365 dispatch and patrol operation based in the front of Faber Hall. For general or emergency contact, dial 0 (zero) from any campus phone or 616.949.5300 from any other phone. Internal and external Code Blue emergency phones are located throughout the campus.

Services include vehicle battery boosts, vehicle lockouts, airing up low tires, and tow truck contact

assists. Campus Safety also provides routine foot and vehicle patrols of the campus, responds to calls, and investigates incidents. Campus Safety personnel are First Aid/CPR/AED trained and equipped to respond to campus medical incidents in conjunction with the appropriate local 9-1-1 organizations.

All students are required to carry their student ID card when on campus and present it when requested by an officer. All student vehicles must be registered for each academic semester and the appropriate vehicle parking permit properly displayed on the vehicle's windshield. Vehicles are registered at the Accounting and Finance Office located in the Administration Building.

Detailed information regarding Campus Safety, campus rules and regulations, and other pertinent safety information is available through the Cornerstone University website and CU Portal.

## CARL B. HOCH, JR. BOOKROOM

Textbooks required for courses at GRTS are available for purchase through the Hoch Bookroom, which is located on the second floor of the Leon J. Wood Seminary Building. Student costs are kept very competitive with an impressive 15-20% discount from the retail price on textbooks. Purchases at the Hoch Bookroom can be made using cash, check, major credit card, or a book advance through Student Financial Services. The hours of operation, contact information, and course syllabi, are available online at: [www.cornerstone.edu/grts-hoch-bookroom](http://www.cornerstone.edu/grts-hoch-bookroom).

## CENTER FOR CAREER AND LIFE CALLING

Career and Life Calling provides several opportunities to assist students as they prepare for their future careers and vocation. Located in the Administration Building, the Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Opportunities for after hours appointments can be requested by calling 616.222.1433 or e-mailing [career@cornerstone.edu](mailto:career@cornerstone.edu).

Ministry related employment opportunities are posted on GRTS's MinistryConnect website at: <http://ministryconnect.cornerstone.edu/>. MinistryConnect is a free online resource of GRTS to the Christian community, which allows employers to post positions they are seeking to fill and to search for ministry leadership candidates. It also allows candidates to post a profile and search for available ministry leadership positions.

An online job board and other helpful employment resources can also be found on the CU Portal under "Student Services," then "Career and Life Calling."

Additional information is located on the Center's website at: [www.cornerstone.edu/career-life-calling](http://www.cornerstone.edu/career-life-calling).

### **International Students**

International students are encouraged to apply for on-campus jobs and are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week on-campus. The seminary admissions office will assist international students in applying for a US Social Security number, which will be needed to begin working. Off-campus employment is allowed on an extremely limited basis in the event of financial distress; more information is available through the GRTS Admissions Office.

## **COMPUTER ACCESS**

The primary computer laboratory for GRTS students is located on the second floor of the Wood Seminary Building. Additional computer laboratories are available to seminary students in Bolthouse Hall and Miller Library. Hours of access will be posted at each location. Individual student access (user name and password) is arranged for all new students at the outset of the semester. A computer training session is included in the new student orientation. Difficulties with individual access, file management and printing within the Wood Seminary Building computer lab should be directed to Technology Support at 616.222.1510.

## **COUNSELING SERVICES**

Cornerstone University offers on-campus counseling at The Well located in Miller Hall. The Well exists to provide a place where students can have safe, confidential conversations with counselors who are equipped to provide encouragement and help when life gets stressful, confusing or messy. Referrals to off-campus professionals, hours of operation, and contact information are available online at: [www.cornerstone.edu/counseling](http://www.cornerstone.edu/counseling).

## **ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Chapel**

The chapel experience is central to the life of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary community. The seminary provides one chapel session per week for faculty and student participation. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary chapel provides opportunity to worship God as a graduate theological community, model Biblical preaching and interact with mission and parachurch representatives.

### **Kern Pastoral Enhancement Program**

Students in the Kern Scholars Program (see p. 18) participate in the Kern Pastoral Enhancement Program, which is a series of extra-curricular activities seeking to provide enhanced opportunity for pastoral formation during the seminary experience. The focus of the program is to address each student's personal discipleship and their ability

to disciple others. The program has two primary enhancements: the Formation Enhancement and the Economic Wisdom Enhancement. In the Formation Enhancement, students read select books on spiritual formation, engage in small group discussion lead by an experienced pastor or counselor, and attend annual formation retreats. The reading and small group experiences engage students in honest self-reflection on how they respond to the difficulties and disappointments of life and ministry. They are encouraged to find their deepest security and significance in Christ so they can respond to difficult people and circumstances with patience and genuine love. Students look at how they process difficulties in life to identify the "idols" that draw them away from full devotion and dependence on Christ. During the spiritual retreats, they look at the spiritual wounds and lies that have shaped how they relate to others (including God) and the biblical truth that can free them to love God and others more fully. In the Economic Wisdom Enhancement, students engage in readings, workshops, and conferences on how to integrate faith, work, and economics through a Christian worldview. Students look at how to help followers of Christ see their daily work life as a place of discipleship and mission (not just a pay check), and they wrestle with the tensions, challenges, and opportunities of addressing poverty both locally and globally in a way that responds compassionately and honors and empowers the dignity of every human being created in the image of God.

### **Thursday Evening Bible Class (TEBC)**

Annually, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers the community a Fall Bible teaching series through the Thursday Evening Bible Class. These biblical lectures are delivered by faculty of the seminary and typically run from 8-12 weeks. Approximately 100 individuals from the community attend each series, representing a variety of Christian denominations and associations.

### **Talking Points: Conversations about Theology, Culture, and Vocation**

At Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, we are committed to serving pastors, counselors, and ministry leaders by providing ongoing opportunities for growth and development. Our goal is to equip these key leaders to bring Scripture to bear on the issues we face in our culture. We do this through three lenses: theology, culture, and vocation.

**Theology** - God's Word speaks to the core issues we face in culture. We want conversations to be theologically informed and faithful to Scripture.

**Culture** - Pastors, counselors, and ministry leaders serve in cultural contexts that are always changing. We want our conversations to

be culturally engaged and relevant to the real issues and questions we face.

**Vocation** - We are all called to serve in our unique vocations, through which we love God and serve our neighbor. We want our conversations to be vocationally relevant—to lead to genuine life change and ministry impact.

We invite you to explore the various channels of the Talking Points conversation.

#### **Conference**

Talking Points conferences feature GRTS faculty and other regional and national figures addressing topics relevant to theology, culture, and vocation. They range in size and format, typically including lectures or presentations, panel discussion, and roundtable dialogue.

#### **Blog**

The Talking Points blog is our online venue through which to engage topics relevant to theology, culture, and vocation. The blog is also a window into the heart and soul of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Join our faculty, staff, and students in the conversation.

#### **Newsletter**

The Talking Points newsletter is a quarterly publication that highlights key contributions to the conversation and other news and events happening at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

#### **Retreats**

Talking Points retreats provide much needed opportunities for pastors, counselors, and ministry leaders to get away and engage the conversation. These retreats occur annually.

#### **Intercultural Studies Lecture Series**

Each fall and spring semester, GRTS offers an evening event featuring a guest lecturer who addresses intercultural issues from a biblical and theological perspective. The purpose of this series is to provide a forum where students, faculty and friends of GRTS can engage in an open dialogue about the connections between Christian worldview and issues of diversity. The guest lecturers combine recent scholarship and personal ministry experience to help people become more informed and aware of a variety of intercultural issues. Each of these evening events involves a lecture followed by Q & A, and concludes with a dessert buffet to provide a time of fellowship.

## **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

The Student Financial Services Office is committed to assisting students in receiving the maximum amount of financial assistance they qualify for under federal, state and institutional programs. The university catalog has additional financial aid information. Please refer to the “Financial Aid” section for details on applying for aid and on specific aid programs.

If further information is needed, contact the Student Financial Services Office, located in the Ketcham Building. Appointments with a financial aid professional can be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 616.222.1424.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

Health Services is located in Miller Hall and all GRTS students are able to utilize these services. Students have access to visits with a Nurse Practitioner for minor injury or illnesses. For more information about CU Health Services and office hours, go to: [www.cornerstone.edu/campus-health-services](http://www.cornerstone.edu/campus-health-services).

## **MILLER LIBRARY**

Miller Library’s purpose is to provide high-quality academic resources, community-focused service, and an environment that fosters intellectual and spiritual growth. To accomplish this, the library staff provides:

- Scholarly resources including books, ebooks, streaming videos, DVDs, CDs, musical scores, and periodicals.
- An easy-to-use discovery tool, Summon, to search all of the library’s print and electronic resources.
- On campus and off campus access to research databases such as ABI-Inform, ATLA, JSTOR, Proquest, and many others.
- Wireless internet access, computers, printers, copiers, and scanners for use in the library.
- Individual study areas and rooms for group collaboration.
- Specific locations set aside for special collections such as the University Archives, Curriculum Materials Center, and Junior Library.
- Free access to other collections through partner libraries, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and Kuyper College, Michigan libraries through MeLCat, and U.S. libraries through ILLiad.
- Outstanding research assistance and service to all students, faculty, and staff.

Phone: 616-222-1458

Web: <http://library.cornerstone.edu/home>

Email: [library.reference@cornerstone.edu](mailto:library.reference@cornerstone.edu)

## MINISTRY REFERRAL

The seminary offers an online referral system called MinistryConnect, a system that allows students, alumni and ministries to make connections for potential ministry residency opportunities. In addition, this service will serve the community by offering alumni and friends of the seminary the opportunity to connect with ministries seeking ministry leaders, and vice versa. MinistryConnect allows us to support our GRTS students, recent graduates and alumni as they seek ministry roles locally, nationally and globally. MinistryConnect strengthens our ability to encourage connection of the right people with the right ministries. Students and alumni can access MinistryConnect at <http://ministryconnect.cornerstone.edu/>.

## OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

The greater Grand Rapids area offers a wide range of housing options for the seminary student. Housing costs are quite reasonable compared to national averages. A guide to many of the apartment complexes in the area is available on the GRTS website.

## REGISTRAR SERVICES

The Cornerstone University Registrar's Office is located in the Administration Building and offers various services related to the maintenance of student academic records. The Registrar's Office staff is available to assist students in registering for courses, acquiring or mailing official academic transcripts, acquiring an individualized degree audit, evaluating and processing advanced standing and/or transfer credit from other institutions, and posting grades. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. during the academic year and 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. during summer months.

## SPOUSE BENEFIT

The spouse educational benefit is intended to provide spouses of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary students with opportunities to participate in the theological educational experience in order to promote a shared pilgrimage of growth and learning. The spouse of a Grand Rapids Theological Seminary student, regardless of prior academic record, is entitled to one free audit class for every 12 semester hours accumulated and/or enrolled by the degree-seeking student. The benefit is limited to one free audit course per semester and a maximum of four free audit courses per individual. This audit opportunity provides for class attendance only; course work will not be submitted or graded and there will be no official academic record. The benefit does not extend to courses available by extension and is not financially applicable to courses taken

for credit. These courses may be taken during or immediately following any semester in which the degree-seeking student is enrolled. Each participating spouse is required to process a Spouse Benefit Form with the Seminary Academic Office in advance of each semester of audit enrollment. In addition, each participating spouse is required to submit a non-degree application to the Seminary Admissions Office.

## STUDENT APPEAL PROCESS NON-ACADEMIC

Students desiring to appeal non-academic decisions made by the Associate Dean may write a formal letter of appeal, which will be submitted to the Dean and the Appeals Committee. The letter should identify and explain the nature of the concern, request a review of the judgment and/or action and provide a rationale for the appeal. The Dean and Appeals Committee will review the appeal and render a judgment. The judgment will be rendered in writing within 10 business days of receipt of the appeal. All judgments of the Appeals Committee are final.

## STUDENT SENATE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Student Senate Leadership Team (SSLT) is a representative group of GRTS students selected annually by the Associate Dean to serve the needs of the entire student body. SSLT members serve the student community by coordinating resources, services and events. The central aims of the Student Senate Leadership Team are:

1. To assist students with academic and non-academic concerns as they enter and progress through study at GRTS.
2. To promote student involvement and perspective in the community of learners and scholars at GRTS.
3. To foster a sense of community appropriate to a graduate theological education context.
4. To coordinate fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities among and between students and faculty at GRTS.

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School

# INDEX

Academic Calendar . . . . .	7, 66	Course Waiver . . . . .	67
Academic Dean’s Award . . . . .	68	Curricular Priorities . . . . .	20
Academic Program Features . . . . .	15	Dallas Thompson Scholarship . . . . .	63
Academic Integrity . . . . .	65	David and Coila Kennedy Scholarship . . . . .	62
Academic Programs . . . . .	22	David Eifert Scholarship . . . . .	62
Academic Policies . . . . .	65	Distance Education . . . . .	15, 67
Academic Tutoring . . . . .	65	Drop/Add . . . . .	67
Accounting and Finance Office . . . . .	75	Educational Effectiveness . . . . .	5
Accreditation and Academic Standing . . . . .	5	Educational Ministries Award . . . . .	69
Adjunct Faculty . . . . .	80	Emeritus Faculty . . . . .	80
Admission and Registration Procedures . . . . .	55	Enrichment Opportunities . . . . .	76
Admissions Requirements . . . . .	55	Enrollment Options . . . . .	15
Admissions Staff . . . . .	55	Esther Gilbertson Scholarship . . . . .	62
Admissions Status . . . . .	56	Evening Courses . . . . .	15
Advanced Standing . . . . .	65	Exegetical/Biblical Theology Course Descriptions . . . . .	35
Alumni Association . . . . .	75	Faculty . . . . .	8
Application Process . . . . .	55	Federal Direct Loan Program . . . . .	63
Attendance . . . . .	66	Federal Student Loan Deferment . . . . .	64
Audit Policy . . . . .	66	Fees . . . . .	60
Baker Book House Award . . . . .	68	Financial Aid . . . . .	60
Board of Trustees . . . . .	79	Final Exams . . . . .	67
Campus Safety . . . . .	75	Financial Information . . . . .	60
Campus Visit . . . . .	55	Financial Services . . . . .	77
Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Award . . . . .	68	Full Admission . . . . .	56
Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Bookroom . . . . .	75	Geographical Setting . . . . .	3
Carl B. Hoch, Jr. Scholarship . . . . .	62	George Samuelson Scholarship . . . . .	63
Center for Career and Life Calling . . . . .	75	Gerald O. and Henrietta A. Jennex Scholarship . . . . .	62
Change of Degree Program . . . . .	67	Grades and Honor Points . . . . .	67
Chapel . . . . .	76	Graduation . . . . .	68
Clarence and Pauline Doane Scholarship . . . . .	62	Graduation and Spring Banquet Awards . . . . .	68
Classification of Students . . . . .	67	Grants . . . . .	61
Computer Access . . . . .	76	Greek and Hebrew Competency Exam . . . . .	69
Conditional Admission . . . . .	56	Guest Students . . . . .	56
Consumer Information . . . . .	58	Health Services . . . . .	77
Core Values . . . . .	2	Hebrew and Greek Language Competency . . . . .	69
Cornerstone Confession . . . . .	4	Hesse Memorial Archaeological Laboratory . . . . .	19
Cornerstone University . . . . .	4	Historical/Systematic/Philosophical/ Moral Theology Course Descriptions . . . . .	41
Cornerstone University Faculty . . . . .	81	History of the Seminary . . . . .	3
Counseling Award . . . . .	69	Honorary Trustees . . . . .	80
Counseling Course Descriptions . . . . .	50	Inclusive Language . . . . .	69
Counseling Services . . . . .	76	Incompletes . . . . .	70
Counseling Ministries Award . . . . .	69	Institutional Distinctives . . . . .	2
Course Descriptions . . . . .	34		
Course Scheduling . . . . .	67		

Intercultural Counseling Service Award . . . . .	69	Retake Policy . . . . .	71
Intercultural Studies Lecture Series . . . . .	77	Satisfactory Academic Progress . . . . .	64
International Students . . . . .	57	Scholarships . . . . .	62
Israel Study Tour . . . . .	19	Scholastic Honors . . . . .	71
James Murray Grier Academic Scholarship . . . . .	62	Scholastic Probation, Suspension, & Dismissal . . . . .	71
Joe Crawford Scholarship . . . . .	62	Second Degrees . . . . .	72
J-Term . . . . .	15	Selective Service Registration . . . . .	63
Kenneth & Lorraine Nienhuis Scholarship . . . . .	63	Semesters and Hours . . . . .	72
Kern Pastoral Enhancement Program . . . . .	76	Spouse Benefit . . . . .	78
Kern Scholars Program . . . . .	18	Statement of Educational Purpose . . . . .	63
Kern Scholarship . . . . .	62	Statement of Non-Discrimination . . . . .	58
Learning Disabilities Accommodation . . . . .	70	Statement of Faith and Lifestyle . . . . .	59
Leon J. Wood Award . . . . .	68	Statement of Refund and Default . . . . .	63
Library (Miller Library) . . . . .	77	Strauss Expository Preaching Award . . . . .	68
Loans . . . . .	63	Student Appeal Process . . . . .	72, 78
Macy Mission Scholarship . . . . .	62	Student Assessments . . . . .	72
Master of Arts Degrees . . . . .	25, 27, 29	Student Grievance Procedure: Standards of Accreditation . . . . .	73
Master of Arts Thesis . . . . .	70	Student Life . . . . .	75
Master of Divinity Degree . . . . .	23	Student Senate . . . . .	78
Master of Divinity Scholarship . . . . .	62	Sugden Seminary Scholarship . . . . .	63
Master of Theology Course Descriptions . . . . .	39	Summer School . . . . .	15
Master of Theology Degree . . . . .	31	Table of Contents . . . . .	1
McKinney Family Scholarship . . . . .	63	Talking Points . . . . .	76
Mid-Point and Exit Assessments . . . . .	71	Ten Year Rule . . . . .	73
Ministry Referral . . . . .	78	Thursday Evening Bible Class . . . . .	76
Ministry Residency . . . . .	16	Timothy Scholarship . . . . .	63
Ministry Theology Course Descriptions . . . . .	44	Traditional Semesters . . . . .	15
Mission and Purpose . . . . .	2	Transcripts . . . . .	65
Modules - Master of Theology . . . . .	15	Transfer of Credit . . . . .	73
Motto - GRTS . . . . .	2	Transfer Students . . . . .	56
New Student Orientation . . . . .	57	Urban Cohort Academic Award . . . . .	68
Nickolai Wiens Pastoral Award . . . . .	68	Urban Cohort Community Award . . . . .	68
Non-Degree Enrollment . . . . .	56	Urban Cohort Program . . . . .	18
Off-Campus Housing . . . . .	78	Urban Cohort Scholarship . . . . .	63
Online Courses . . . . .	54	Verification Process . . . . .	64
Owen John Lydecker Memorial Award . . . . .	68	Veterans Benefits . . . . .	64
Paul A. Beals Missions Scholarship . . . . .	62	Welcome from Academic Dean . . . . .	6
Payment of Bills . . . . .	61	Wielhouwer Scholarship . . . . .	63
Personnel Directory . . . . .	79	William Clarence Haas Award . . . . .	68
Pirsig Master of Divinity Scholarship . . . . .	63	Withdrawal . . . . .	61, 73, 74
President's Award . . . . .	68	Woodrow McCaleb Leadership Scholarship . . . . .	62
President's Student Scholarship Fund . . . . .	63	Zondervan Greek Award . . . . .	68
Readmission . . . . .	56	Zondervan Hebrew Award . . . . .	68
Refund Policy . . . . .	61, 74	Zondervan Theology Award . . . . .	68
Registrar Services . . . . .	78		
Registration . . . . .	56		

# MASTER OF DIVINITY

## PROGRAM CHECKLIST 2015-2016



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Specialization \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

### BIBLE & THEOLOGY CORE

#### Language

___ BBL-510	Greek I	3
___ BBL-511	Greek II	3
___ BBL-516	Hebrew I	3
___ BBL-517	Hebrew II	3

**Total 12**

#### Bible

___ BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
___ BBL-601	Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible	2
	<i>or</i>	
(BBL-506	The Ancient World of the Bible	3)
___ BBL-672	N.T. I: Intro to Exegesis	3
___ BBL-677	N.T. II: The Gospels	3
___ BBL-678	N.T. III: The General Epistles	3
___ BBL-640	O.T. I: Hebrew Poetry	3
___ BBL-641	O.T. II: Pentateuch	3
___ BBL-642	O.T. III: Prophets & Writings	3

**Total 23**

#### History and Theology

___ THE-501	Program Introduction Seminar	2
___ THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
___ THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
___ THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3
___ THE-673	Moral Issues in Christian Life and Ministry	3
	Historical Theology Electives:	
___ _____		3
___ _____		3

**Total 20**

**Total Hours Bible & Theology Core 55**

### MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CORE

___ MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3
___ MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
___ MIN-560	Global Impact	3
___ MIN-711	Program Completion Seminar	1

*One of the following:* 3

___ MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3
___ MIN-545	Teaching and Learning for Christian Formation	3

**Total Hours Ministry Leadership Core 13**

#### General Electives

___ _____		3
___ _____		3
___ _____		3
___ _____		2

**Total 9-11**

Note: General Elective credits range from 9-11 credits depending upon specialization

### MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

(Select one of the following)

#### Pastoral Ministries

___ MIN-530	Pastoral Competencies	3
___ MIN-636	Homiletics I	3
___ MIN-637	Homiletics II	3
___ MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
___ MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2
___ MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
___ MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2

**Total 17**

**Student & Family Ministries**

__ MIN-553	Sociology of Adolescence	3
__ MIN-641	Theology of Youth Ministry	3
__ MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
__ MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2
__ MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
__ MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2

*One of the following:*

__ COU-520	Child & Adolescent Counseling	3
__ COU-521	Marriage & Family Counseling	3

**Total 17****Small Group & Discipleship Ministries**

__ MIN-630	Small Group Ministries	3
__ MIN-643	Educational Min. for Adults	3
__ MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
__ MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2
__ MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
__ MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2

*One of the following:* 3

__ MIN-543	Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry	
__ MIN-554	Theology of Women in Ministry	
__ MIN-567	The Missional Church	
__ COU-532	Counseling Women through the Life Cycle	
__ COU-612	Group Techniques	

**Total 17****Intercultural Ministries**

__ MIN-567	Missional Church: Church and Culture - Past and Present	3
__ MIN-660	Cultural Intelligence: Multicultural Understanding	3
__ MIN-667	Urban and Local Development: Exegeting our Communities	3
__ MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
__ MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2
__ MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
__ MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2

**Total 17****Formation & Soul Care Ministries**

__ COU-500	Counseling Philosophy	3
__ COU-510	Consulting	3
__ COU-521	Marriage & Family Counseling	3
__ MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
__ MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2
__ MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
__ MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2

**Total 17****Chaplaincy Ministries**

__ MIN-525	Introduction to Chaplaincy	3
__ MIN-636	Homiletics I	3
__ COU-500	Counseling Philosophy	3
__ COU-510	Consulting	3
__	Ministry Elective	3

**Total 15****Academic**

__ BBL-782/THE-782	Thesis Research & Proposal	1
__ BBL-789/THE-788	Advanced Topics	3
__ BBL-789/THE-788	Advanced Topics	3
__ BBL-789/THE-788	Advanced Topics	3
__ MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
__ MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2
__ BBL-792/THE-792	Master's Thesis	3

**Total 17****Total Hours for M.Div. 94****Total Hours Completed —**

# M.A. IN COUNSELING

## PROGRAM CHECKLIST 2015-2016



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Specialization \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

### BASIC CORE

#### *Bible & Theology*

___ BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
___ BBL-502	O.T. Biblical Theology	3
___ BBL-503	N.T. Biblical Theology	3
___	English Bible Elective:	3
___	_____	3
___ THE-550	Theology for Counseling I	3
___ THE-551	Theology for Counseling II	3
___ MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3
<b>Total Hours Basic Core</b>		<b>21</b>

### COUNSELING CORE

#### *Counseling*

___ COU-500	Counseling Philosophy	3
___ COU-501	Counseling Theories	3
___ COU-502	Counseling Ethics and Issues	3
___ COU-510	Consulting	3
___ COU-525	Multicultural Counseling	3
___ COU-601	Testing Procedures	3
___ COU-610	Counseling Techniques	3
___ COU-611	Career Development	3
___ COU-612	Group Techniques	3
___ COU-700	Research Methodology	3
___ COU-782	Practicum: Counseling	3
___ COU-784	Internship: Counseling I	3
___ COU-785	Internship: Counseling II	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>39</b>

Select one of the following specializations:

#### *Addictions Counseling*

___ COU-651	Clinical Diagnostic Assessment of Addictions	3
___ COU-652	Sociology of Addictions	3
___ COU-653	Addictions Counseling: Treatment & Intervention	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

#### *Trauma Counseling*

___ COU-642	Sociology of Trauma	3
___ COU-643	Trauma Informed Advocacy & Crisis Intervention	3
___ COU-644	Trauma Counseling & Recovery	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

<b>Multi-State Licensure</b>	
<i>Three of the following:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-660	Abnormal Psychology 3
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-662	Human Growth and Development 3
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-670	Diagnostic and Clinical Assessment of Mental Disorders 3
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-653	Addictions Counseling: Treatment & Intervention 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Student &amp; Family Ministries</b>	
<i>Select three of the following:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> MIN-553	Sociology of Adolescence 3
<input type="checkbox"/> MIN-641	Theology of Youth Ministry 3
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-520	Child & Adolescent Counseling 3
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-521	Marriage & Family Counseling 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Small Group &amp; Discipleship Ministries</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> MIN-630	Small Group Ministries 3
<input type="checkbox"/> MIN-643	Educational Min. for Adults 3
<i>One of the following:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> MIN-543	Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry 3
<input type="checkbox"/> MIN-554	Theology of Women in Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> MIN-567	The Missional Church
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-532	Counseling Women through the Life Cycle 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Interdisciplinary Studies</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-521	Marriage and Family Counseling 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Elective: _____ 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Elective: _____ 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Thesis Track</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-584	Thesis Readings: Counseling 3
<input type="checkbox"/> COU-792	MA Thesis: Counseling 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Hours for M.A. Counseling</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Total Hours Completed</b>	<b>—</b>



# M.A. IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## PROGRAM CHECKLIST 2015-2016



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
___	Bible Electives:	
___	_____	3
___	_____	3

**Total 15**

#### *Theology*

___ THE-501	Program Introduction Seminar	2
___ THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
___ THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
___ THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3
___ THE-673	Moral Issues in Christian Life & Ministry	3
___ THE-710	Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church	3

or one Historical Theology Elective:  
THE-515, THE-516, THE-517, or THE-518

**Total 17**

**Total Hours Basic Core 32**

### MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CORE

___ MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3
___ MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
___ MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3
___ MIN-545	Teaching and Learning for Christian Formation	3
___ MIN-560	Global Impact	3
___ MIN-711	Program Completion Seminar	1

*Select one of the following:*

___ MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
___ MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2
___ MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
___ MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2
or		
___ MIN-584	Thesis Readings: Ministry and	3
___ MIN-797	Master's Thesis and	3
___ MIN Elective		2

**Total 24**

### MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

(Select one of the following)

#### *Student & Family Ministries*

___ MIN-553	Sociology of Adolescence	3
___ MIN-641	Theology of Youth Ministry	3

*One of the following:*

___ COU-520	Child & Adolescent Counseling	3
___ COU-521	Marriage & Family Counseling	3

**Total 9**

<b><i>Small Group &amp; Discipleship Ministries</i></b>	
___ MIN-630	Small Group Ministries 3
___ MIN-643	Educational Min. for Adults 3
<i>One of the following:</i> 3	
___ MIN-543	Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry
___ MIN-554	Theology of Women in Ministry
___ MIN-567	The Missional Church
___ COU-532	Counseling Women through the Life Cycle
___ COU-612	Group Techniques
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Intercultural Ministries</i></b>	
___ MIN-567	Missional Church 3
___ MIN-660	Cultural Intelligence 3
___ MIN-667	Urban and Local Development 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Formation &amp; Soul Care Ministries</i></b>	
___ COU-500	Counseling Philosophy 3
___ COU-510	Consulting 3
___ COU-521	Marriage & Family Counseling 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Campus &amp; Student Development Ministries</i></b>	
___ MIN-533	Sociology of Adolescents 3
___ MIN-518	Foundations of Student Development 3
___ COU-520	Child & Adolescent Counseling 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Interdisciplinary Studies</i></b>	
___ _____	3
___ _____	3
___ _____	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Total Hours for M.A. Christian Formation</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Total Hours Completed</b>	<b>—</b>

# M.A. IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

## PROGRAM CHECKLIST 2015-2016



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
- Bible Electives: \_\_\_\_\_ 3

**Total 12**

#### *Theology*

- \_\_\_ THE-501 Program Introduction Seminar 2
- \_\_\_ THE-540 Systematic Theology I 3
- \_\_\_ THE-640 Systematic Theology II 3
- \_\_\_ THE-641 Systematic Theology III 3
- \_\_\_ Historical Theology Elective: THE-515, THE-516, THE-517, or THE-518 3

**Total 14**

**Total Hours Basic Core 26**

### SPECIALIZATION

#### *Ministry Leadership*

- \_\_\_ MIN-500 Christian Spiritual Formation 3
- \_\_\_ MIN-510 Organizational Leadership 3
- \_\_\_ MIN-543 Christian Formation in the Church 3
- \_\_\_ MIN-560 Global Impact 3
- \_\_\_ MIN-711 Program Completion Seminar 1

**Total 13**

#### *General Electives*

- \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 3

**Total 21**

**Total Hours 34**

**Total Hours for M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies 60**

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

# MASTER OF THEOLOGY

## PROGRAM CHECKLIST 2015-2016



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Specialization \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

### SPECIALIZATIONS

#### *Old Testament*

<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-840	Advanced Language Study	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-841	Advanced Study in the History and Culture of Israel and the Ancient Near East	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-844	Biblical Theology	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-846	Advanced Study in Critical Issues and Methods in the Study of the OT	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-848	Advanced OT Exegesis	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-880	Enrichment	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-890	Thesis	6

**Total 30**

#### *New Testament*

<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-870	Grammar and Translation	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-872	N.T. Intro & Historical Background	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-874	Exegesis of the Gospels & Acts	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-876	Exegesis of the Pauline Epistles	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-877	Exegesis of the General Epistles & Revelation	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-880	Enrichment	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	BBL-890	Thesis	6

**Total 30**

**Total Hours for Th.M. 30**

**Total Hours Completed —**



# APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION



Grand Rapids Theological Seminary seeks applicants who demonstrate commitment to Jesus Christ and evidence of the new birth, possess gifts for ministry, have earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university and affirm the student doctrinal statement located in the admissions section of the academic catalog. If you are applying as a guest student, as a non-degree seeking student or for readmission within three semesters, please contact the admissions office for information concerning an abbreviated version of this application.

## I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

LAST NAME	FIRST	M	SFX	MAIDEN (if applicable)
HOME ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	COUNTY (if in MI)
MAILING ADDRESS (if different)	CITY	STATE	ZIP	
DAYTIME PHONE	EVENING PHONE	SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		
MONTH/DAY OF BIRTH	CITY OF BIRTH	STATE OF BIRTH	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
E-MAIL	ALT. E-MAIL			

### Optional demographic information for statistical purposes only:

<b>Gender:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<b>Birth Yr.:</b> 19____	<b>Marital Status:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Remarried
<b>Ethnic Background:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Race and ethnicity unknown		<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic of any race		<input type="checkbox"/> Separated	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed
<b>For non-Hispanics only:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native		<input type="checkbox"/> Asian		<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		<input type="checkbox"/> White		<input type="checkbox"/> Two or more races		

## II. EMPLOYER (Please attach additional page if necessary.)

EMPLOYER NAME	JOB TITLE	LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT		
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE

## III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Please attach additional page if necessary.)

1. How long have you been a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name, address and denominational affiliation of church currently attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## IV. EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Start Term:  Fall (Sept.) 20\_\_\_\_  Spring (Jan) 20\_\_\_\_  Summer 20\_\_\_\_

Admit Status:  First time in seminary  Transfer  Re-Admit  Other\_\_\_\_\_

What program do you wish to pursue?

- Master of Divinity
  - Academic
  - Chaplaincy Ministries
  - Formation & Soul Care Ministries
  - Intercultural Ministries
  - Pastoral Ministries
  - Small Group & Discipleship Ministries
  - Student and Family Ministries
- M.A. Christian Formation
  - Small Group & Discipleship Ministries
  - Interdisciplinary Studies
  - Student & Family Ministries
  - Intercultural Ministries
  - Campus & Student Development Ministries
  - Formation & Soul Care Ministries

- M.A. Counseling
  - Addictions (for CAADC certification)
  - Small Group & Discipleship Ministries
  - Interdisciplinary Studies
  - Trauma Counseling
  - Multi-State Licensure
  - Student & Family Ministries
  - Thesis Track (for Ph.D. prep)
- M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies
- Master of Theology (Th.M.)  
(Open only to those who have completed a Master of Divinity degree or a Master of Arts degree in a relevant theological discipline.)

What status best describes your present enrollment intentions?

- 12+ hours     9 - 11 hours     6 - 8 hours     3 - 5 hours

Do you intend to use financial aid?     Yes     No

How did you become interested in GRTS?

- admissions representative     faculty/staff recommendation     location     Web site  
 alumni recommendation     family/friend recommendation     mailing     other \_\_\_\_\_  
 campus visit     GRTS ad     seminary/grad fair

Please list the names of other seminaries or graduate schools to which you are applying. (optional)

Name of School	Address	Degree Program

Is GRTS your first choice among these schools?     Yes     No

If not, how would GRTS rank among your choices?     second     third     fourth

Check applicable boxes below:

- Will you need assistance in securing either of the following?     Housing     Employment  
 Will you be using either of the following during your seminary experience?     Veteran's benefits     Federal Stafford Student Loan

## V. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

List the college from which you received your baccalaureate degree and any schools at which you have done undergraduate or graduate studies.

Name of School	Address	Dates Attended	Degree Received	GPA

If you are transferring from another seminary, please explain why \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## VI. FAMILY INFORMATION

### A. Applicant (Complete only if married)

Have any other family members attended Grand Rapids Theological Seminary? Please list names and years. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME

Is your spouse a Christian?     Yes     No

CHILDREN'S NAMES AND AGES

## B. Applicant's Spouse

Please indicate your level of commitment to your spouse's graduate education in preparation for ministry:

- Support     Support with reservations     Do not support

If you do not support, or have reservations, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## VII. AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Instructions: Please type all responses and attach to application form. Limit your total response in this section to two typed single-spaced pages.

1. Comment on your conversion, current commitment to Christ and the significant factors which have aided in your growth in Christ.
2. Vocational Goal (address if applicable)
  - a. What form of Christian ministry do you anticipate entering after the completion of your seminary studies?
  - b. How do you expect this degree program to prepare you for this particular ministry?
3. Describe your previous ministry experience.
4. Comment on the encouragement you have received from family members, church leaders and significant friends concerning your giftedness for Christian ministry and the pursuit of a graduate theological degree.
5. Describe yourself with regards to strengths and weaknesses, particularly as they may affect your readiness for graduate theological education.
6. Have you ever been convicted of a felony?  Yes  No  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## VIII. REFERENCE INFORMATION

Please give the name and current address of a ministry leader (not a relative) that you will be contacting for a ministry reference on your behalf:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please give the name and current address of another person (not a relative) that you will be contacting for a personal reference on your behalf:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## IX. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

What is your visa status? (if you are not a U.S. citizen) \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your native language? \_\_\_\_\_

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 with one year of the admission application date. The minimum required TOEFL scores are 577 written, 233 computer or 90 internet based. Official scores must be sent directly to GRTS; our TOEFL institution code is 1253. Please provide (unofficial) scores below if you have already completed the test. IELTS scores may also be submitted for tests taken within the last year. GRTS requires a minimum score of Band 7 for admission.

TOEFL scores \_\_\_\_\_ Date of test \_\_\_\_\_

IELTS scores \_\_\_\_\_ Date of test \_\_\_\_\_



## X. CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE (to be completed by applicant)

Have you read, and are you in agreement with the Statement of Faith and Lifestyle Statement as found in the admissions section of the academic catalog?  Yes  No

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 school's standards would be sufficient reason to ask him/her to withdraw from the school.

Students of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 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.

Each student, by virtue of enrollment, agrees to comply with the policies, procedures, and regulations set forth in the Student Handbook and the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary Academic Catalog. The fulfillment of these expectations will to help create an edifying community life consistent with biblical values, thus helping implement the mission of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

I understand that GRTS reserves the right to perform a criminal background check on students of the university. By signing below I am authorizing the university to perform a criminal background check.

I understand that accounts not paid in accordance with school policies may be submitted to a collection agency. In addition, I understand that I am responsible for all collection costs if my account is submitted to a collection agency.

I certify that all my answers on this application are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsifying any part of this application may result in cancellation of admission and/or registration.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## XI. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please be sure you have included the following before sending:

- APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION with attached autobiographical section completed and signed.
- \$25.00 NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION PROCESSING FEE made payable to Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. (Fee waived for online applications.)
- OFFICIAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS from your bachelor's degree institution and any other institutions you attended post-bachelor's degree. (Please contact each institution to request the transcripts.)
- MINISTRY REFERENCE FORM - When you request this form from a ministry leader, please sign it as indicated and ensure the person completing the form also signs it.
- PERSONAL REFERENCE FORM - When you request this form, please sign it as indicated and ensure that the person completing the form also signs it.
- SPOUSE'S SIGNATURE in section 6B (and comments, if necessary).

Please forward the completed application for admission with the \$25.00 application processing fee payable to Grand Rapids Theological Seminary to:

**Grand Rapids Theological Seminary**  
**Admissions Office**  
**1001 E. Beltline Ave NE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49525**



**Grand Rapids**  
**THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
*Cornerstone University*

You will be notified in writing concerning the status of your application and admission.

1001 E BELTLINE AVE NE | GRAND RAPIDS MI 49525-5897  
616.222.1422 | toll free 800.697.1133 | fax 616.254.1623  
www.cornerstone.edu/grts | seminary@cornerstone.edu

# PERSONAL REFERENCE

\_\_\_\_\_ has applied for admission to Cornerstone University and has given your name as a reference. Serious consideration is given to this recommendation, and therefore we request that you complete the form carefully and candidly, and return it directly to **Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, Admissions Office, 1001 E. Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.**

## APPLICANT

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students enrolled at Cornerstone University have access to their admission records, including letters of recommendation. However, students may waive their right to see letters of recommendation whereupon such letters will be held in confidence. If the applicant has not signed a waiver, it is assumed that this letter is submitted with the recommender's understanding that the applicant, once registered at Cornerstone University, may request to see the letter. The alternative selected below by the applicant will not affect consideration of the application for admission.

- As applicant, I retain my right of access to this recommendation.  
 As applicant, I waive my right of access to this recommendation.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCE

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity (i.e., friend, pastor)?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you describe your present relationship with the applicant? (circle one check mark)

✓	✓	✓	✓
I do not know him/her well	We casually know each other	We have regular personal interaction	We have a close relationship

3. Does the applicant have healthy interpersonal interactions and relationships?  
If no, please explain

Yes  No

4. Do you believe the applicant is motivated, ready, and appropriately mature for graduate education?  
If no, please explain

Yes  No

5. From your perspective, is the applicant financially stable and living within his/her means?  
If no, please explain

Yes  No

6. Do you place full confidence in the applicant's integrity based on his/her history?  
If no, please explain

Yes  No

7. Do you have concerns regarding how the applicant relates with people of varied cultural, economic, education, racial, and religious backgrounds?  
If yes, please explain

Yes  No

8. How would you describe the applicant in the following areas? (circle one check mark)

✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Does not work well with a team							Strong teamwork abilities
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emotionally unstable							Emotionally stable
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Poor conflict resolution skills							Strong conflict resolution skills
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Irresponsible							Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gives up easily							Demonstrates Perseverance

9. Comment on the applicant's strengths and areas that need growth.

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10. Do you personally recommend this applicant to pursue graduate theological education?

- I recommend the applicant without reservation
- I have some reservations, but still recommend the applicant for admission.

Please explain

---

- I have substantial concerns about the applicant and do not recommend him/her to Cornerstone.

Please explain

---

Please provide comments and/or concerns not covered by the previous questions

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Printed Name

---

Signature

Date

---

Organization

Position/Title

---

Address

---

E-mail

Phone

---

Are you a CU/GRTS alumnus/a?  Yes  No



1001 E BELTLINE AVE NE | GRAND RAPIDS MI 49525-5897  
 616.222.1422 | toll free 800.697.1133 | fax 616.254.1623  
 www.cornerstone.edu/grts | seminary@cornerstone.edu

# MINISTRY REFERENCE



\_\_\_\_\_ has applied for admission to Cornerstone University and has given your name as a reference. Serious consideration is given to this recommendation, and therefore we request that you complete the form carefully and candidly, and return it directly to **Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, Admissions Office, 1001 E. Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.**

## APPLICANT

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students enrolled at Cornerstone University have access to their admission records, including letters of recommendation. However, students may waive their right to see letters of recommendation whereupon such letters will be held in confidence. If the applicant has not signed a waiver, it is assumed that this letter is submitted with the recommender's understanding that the applicant, once registered at Cornerstone University, may request to see the letter. The alternative selected below by the applicant will not affect consideration of the application for admission.

- As applicant, I retain my right of access to this recommendation.       As applicant, I waive my right of access to this recommendation.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCE

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity (i.e., friend, pastor)?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you describe your present relationship with the applicant? (circle one check mark)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I do not know him/her well		We casually know each other		We have regular personal interaction	We have a close relationship

3. Do you believe the applicant is spiritually mature and called to ministry?     Yes     No  
If no, please explain

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In what capacity have you observed the applicant involved in ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What areas of ministry are you encouraging the applicant to pursue?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Does the applicant maintain healthy interactions with those of the same gender and of the opposite gender?     Yes     No  
If no, please explain

\_\_\_\_\_

7. From your perspective, is the applicant financially stable and living within his/her means?     Yes     No  
If no, please explain

\_\_\_\_\_

8. How would you describe the applicant in the following areas? (circle one check mark)

✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flourishes with guidance						Prefers to take initiative
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emotionally unstable						Emotionally stable
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Unproductive						Productive
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Self-serving spirit						Servant
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Not teachable						Teachable
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rigid, not adaptable						Adapts to change well
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gives up easily						Demonstrates Perseverance

9. Do you place full confidence in the applicant's integrity based on his/her history?  Yes  No

If no, please explain

---

10. Do you personally recommend this applicant to pursue graduate theological education?

- I recommend the applicant without reservation
- I have some reservations, but still recommend the applicant for admission.

Please explain

---

- I have substantial concerns about the applicant and do not recommend him/her to Cornerstone.

Please explain

---

Please provide comments and/or concerns not covered by the previous questions

---



---

Printed Name

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Signature

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Date

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Are you a CU/GRTS alumnus/a?  Yes  No



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# SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to assist you in securing the maximum amount of financial aid available. This application, along with the FAFSA, will be used to determine your eligibility. You must be enrolled at least half time (5 credit hours) in your degree program to receive aid. If you are an international student, do not complete the FAFSA. The priority due date for application submission is March 31 for the fall semester and November 1 for the spring semester.

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Student ID# (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_ or last 4 digits of SSN \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of children \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. citizen?  Yes  No If not, what is your visa status? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

I am a:  new GRTS student  current GRTS student  re-admitting GRTS student

Enrollment status:  Full-time (9 credits +/- per semester)  Part-time (1-8 credits/per semester)

Degree Program (circle one) / Specialization (write in):

M. Divinity \_\_\_\_\_

M.A. Counseling \_\_\_\_\_

M.A. Educational Min./Christian Formation \_\_\_\_\_

M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies \_\_\_\_\_

TH.M \_\_\_\_\_

Expected completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative G.P.A. (current GRTS student only) \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit hours  
completed to date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Various scholarships have specific criteria for qualification. Check all items that pertain to you.

- I am planning to serve in cross-cultural ministry.
  - I am the child of a missionary.
  - I am planning to serve in pastoral ministry.
  - I am a member of a GARB (General Association of Regular Baptist) church.
  - I am an employee of RBC Ministries.
  - I serve through SEND International.

Submit a 1-2 page typed essay answering the following questions:

1. List your current ministry involvement. Please be as specific as possible.
2. Describe your career/ministry objectives upon completion of your degree program (pastorate, teaching, missionary, counseling, etc.). Please be as specific as possible.
3. Explain the difference receiving a scholarship would have on your life.

### IV. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This information is gathered for institutional research and will not affect scholarship awarding.

Estimate your current non-educational debt load (credit cards, car payments, other). If you are a homeowner do not include your mortgage payment.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None              | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$30,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> less than \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$40,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000-\$10,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$50,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000+         |

Estimate your current educational debt load. (Include all student loans from undergrad and graduate school. Please use individual amount, not combined with spouse or other family member).

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None              | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$30,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> less than \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$40,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000-\$10,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$50,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000+         |

What do you anticipate your annual starting salary to be upon graduation from GRTS?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000-\$60,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$40,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-\$70,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$50,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000+         |

Do you feel that financial concerns will significantly influence your choice regarding employment after graduation from GRTS?

- Yes    No

### V. SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION

I hereby acknowledge that the information contained on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby authorize Grand Rapids Theological Seminary/Cornerstone University to release appropriate profile information to scholarship donors and the media and to include it in campus publications. This information may include my name, hometown and state, degree program, major, academic status, the award (scholarship) received and the dollar amount of the award.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed application by March 31 for the fall semester or Nov. 1 for the spring semester to:  
Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, Admissions Office  
1001 E Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525-5897  
Phone 616.222.1424 | Fax 616.254.1623



**Grand Rapids**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Cornerstone University*

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