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WELCOME TO GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY!

Dear student,

The LORD has placed a calling on your life. Whatever your age, your background, your story—He invites you to pursue it.

By opening this book, you have taken the next step toward transformation. That is what an education at Cornerstone University will do.

For over 80 years, CU has prepared and equipped individuals like you for your vocation, whether you are in school for the first time or studying for an advanced degree. We are committed to providing our students with well-rounded programs that cultivate knowledge, skill, and professionalism, all within a Christ-centered and student focused learning environment.

This book is not designed to be read cover-to-cover. Instead, think of it as a tool to help set you on the right course. Review this book with an inquisitive mind, exploring the options you have in front of you.

My prayer for you is that you follow the path the LORD has designed for you, and that Cornerstone may be a destination on that path toward your calling.

Sincerely,

Gerson Moreno-Riaño, Ph.D.
University President



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 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 66 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.

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVES

IDENTITY, MISSION AND VISION

WHO WE ARE:

Cornerstone University 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 based on eight 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 within the 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 lifelong learning and view it 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 service.
8. **Diverse community:** We value an academic community which includes men and women of diverse ethnic, socioeconomic 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, faculty members temper the challenge with grace and support. The core curriculum 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 the core curriculum, the various degrees include areas of specialization, equipping students for a wide range of ministry and human services 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 and an extended field education experience (i.e., Ministry Residency or Counseling Practicum and Counseling Internships I and II) combine to foster cognitive, affective and behavioral learning. Since ministry and other forms of human service are always engaged as whole persons, the preparation 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 and human services professionals to refine their gifts, confirm their calling and mature in character within the context of authentic service and/or practice.

Through Ministry Residency or Counseling Practicum and Internships I and II, and as part of the degree program requirements, students serve side by side with experienced ministry leaders and professional counselors within local church, parachurch and other vocational contexts. 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 vocational service.

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 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 located 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 board of trustees of Cornerstone University.

GRAND RAPIDS

Grand Rapids is an excellent locale for a seminary. A quiet, sprawling city with a greater metropolitan area population of more than 1,000,000, 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 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 West 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, Baker Book House and Kregel Publications. Grand Rapids Public Library’s main location includes extensive religious holdings, making 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 ArtPrize, the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Symphony, Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, professional and collegiate sports teams, professional-quality community theatre groups and many traveling artists, concert performances and events held at DeVos Performance Hall, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Van Andel Arena. The unique neighborhoods of Grand Rapids are all full of eclectic history, culture and experiences which will further enrich your experience as a graduate student.

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 four-part academic enterprise composed of the traditional undergraduate college (TUG) and Professional & 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 owns and operates WCSG, an adult contemporary Christian music radio station serving the Grand Rapids and West Michigan area.

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, assessment of student outcomes is not an externally imposed burden. Rather, assessment of student learning and the disclosure of educational effectiveness is a task of stewardship, a process for organizational learning and a matter of 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 vocational service of our students and vocational achievement of our graduates.



ACCREDITATION, AUTHORIZATION AND ACADEMIC STANDING

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is 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.
- M.A. in Christian formation.
- M.A. in Christian studies.
- M.A. in biblical exegesis.
- M.A. in theological studies.
- M.A. in biblical studies.
- M.A. in ministry leadership.
- M.A. in biblical studies (Urban Cohort).
- M.A. ministry leadership (Urban Cohort).
- Master of Theology.

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: ats.edu

We are also accredited by the Higher Learning Commission:

230 South LaSalle Street
Suite 7-500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Phone: 800.621.7440

Our programs are offered 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.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL 2022

Classes Begin*	August 31
Labor Day (no classes)	Sept. 5
Registration Begins	Oct. 19
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 23-25
Final Day of Classes*	Dec. 9
Final Exams	Dec. 12-15
Last day for withdrawal from 15-week courses without W/P or W/E**	Nov. 1
Last day for withdrawal from 15-week courses without W/E**	Nov. 22

SPRING 2023

J-Term	Jan. 3-13
Classes Begin*	Jan. 17
Spring Break	March 6-10
Registration Begins	March 16
Good Friday (no classes)	April 7
Final Day of Classes*	April 28
Final Exams	May 1-4
Commencement	May 6
Last day for withdrawal from 15-week courses without W/P or W/E**	March 27
Last day for withdrawal from 15-week courses without W/E**	April 17

SUMMER 2023

Online Classes Start	May 8
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**See course schedule for exceptions.*

***For seven-week courses, see the GRTS Catalog policy on withdrawals.*

The 2022-23 GRTS Academic Catalog is effective on the first day of class in the fall semester (August 31, 2022) and continues in effect until the first day of class for the subsequent academic year.

EMERITUS FACULTY



BYARD BENNETT, PH.D.

Professor of Systematic & Historical Theology

- B.A., Duke University
- M.Div., Duke Divinity School
- Ph.D., University of Toronto



GARY T. MEADORS

Professor of New Testament

- Th.B., Piedmont Bible College
- M.Div., Grace Theological Seminary
- Th.M., Grace Theological Seminary
- Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary



DAVID B. KENNEDY, TH.M.

Associate Professor of Old Testament

- B.A., University of Texas (Austin)
- Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary



DAVID TURNER, PH.D.

Professor of New Testament

- B.A., Cedarville University
- M.Div., Grace Theological Seminary
- Th.M., Grace Theological Seminary
- Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary
- M.Phil., Hebrew Union College
- Ph.D., Hebrew Union College



JOHN I. LAWLOR, PH.D.

Professor of Old Testament

- B.A., Cedarville University
- B.D., Grace Theological Seminary
- Th.M., Grace Theological Seminary
- M.Phil., Drew University
- Ph.D., Drew University

ROYCE A. EVANS, D.MIN.

*Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministries
Associate Dean of Urban Cohort Program
Executive Director of Ministry Residency*

- B.A., Cornerstone University
- M.A., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- D.Min., Western Theological Seminary

KENNETH J. REID, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Historical & Systematic Theology

- B.S., University of Georgia
- Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary
- Th.M., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

MICHAEL WITTMER, PH.D.

Professor of Systematic & Historical Theology

- B.A., Cedarville University
- M.Div., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- Th.M., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- Ph.D., Calvin Theological Seminary

SHALINI BENNETT, B.A.

Adjunct Professor of Christian Formation

- B.A., Duke University

JEFF LASH, M.A.

Adjunct Professor of Theological Research

- B.A., Union University
- M.A., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- M.A., Valdosta State University

BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN, D.MIN.

Adjunct Professor of Christian Ministries

- B.S., Miami University
- M.Div., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- Th.M., Calvin Theological Seminary
- D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary

DANIEL WATSON, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Old Testament

- B.A., Liberty University
- M.Phil., Hebrew Union College
- Th.M., Grace Theological Seminary
- Ph.D., Hebrew Union College

BRUCE HENNING, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of New Testament

- B.S., Michigan State University
- M.Div., Moody Theological Seminary
- Ph.D., Trinity College - Bristol/University of Aberdeen

CRAIG DILLMAN, D.MIN.

Pastor-In-Residence

- B.A., Olivet Nazarene University
- M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary
- D.Min., Nazarene Theological Seminary

TODD DYKSTRA, D.MIN.

Pastor-In-Residence

- B.S., The United States Air Force Academy
- M.Div., The Master's Seminary
- D.Min., The Master's Seminary

JEFF HALSTED, PH.D.

Pastor-In-Residence

- B.A., Cedarville University
- M.Div., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- Th.M., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- Ph.D., Calvin Theological Seminary

THOMAS WEBBER, D.MIN.

Pastor-In-Residence

- B.A., Cornerstone University
- M.Div., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- Th.M., Emory University
- D.Min., Faith International Seminary

DAVID DEKRAKER, M.DIV.

Adjunct Professor of Theology

- B.A., Trinity Christian College
- M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary
- M.A., Fuller Theological Seminary



PROGRAM FEATURES

ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

In recognition of the diversity of life circumstances, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary provides flexibility of course options to students. Students can complete course requirements online, on-site, or in a combination of experiences.

COURSE MODALITY

ON-SITE—A course delivered in a traditional classroom environment (i.e., face-to-face) at a regularly scheduled time. Course resources can be accessed online via Moodle.

LIVE—A course delivered online (Moodle) with regularly scheduled same-time engagement with the professor and other students via video conferencing technologies such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom or Google Meet.

ONLINE—A course delivered fully online via Moodle. Students interact and engage with course content, faculty and other students via recorded lectures, readings, assignments, discussion forums and other online activities anytime during the week before established due dates.

TRADITIONAL SEMESTERS

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is a semester-based school with the fall semester running from late August or early September to mid-December and the spring semester running from the third week of January to late April or early May. Residential courses are scheduled Monday to Friday with morning, afternoon and evening options. Residential courses are available during the traditional semesters as full-block courses. Full-block courses meet once per week. See the Seminary Resources webpage for the current and/or most recent course schedule.

EVENING COURSES

In response to the recommendations of working professionals desiring seminary education, GRTS 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 Seminary Resources webpage for the current and/or most recent semester course schedule.

J-TERM

An eight-day, bi-modal intensive (On-Site and Live) 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 a separate afternoon course. See the Seminary Resources webpage for the current and upcoming J-term course offerings.

SUMMER SEMESTER

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers additional graduate courses in various delivery methods (i.e., On-Site, Live, Online) during a summer semester which runs from early May through late August. See the Seminary Resources webpage for the current and upcoming 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.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The faculty employ a number of instructional methods to foster student learning. Together, the range and kinds of methods utilized attend to the diverse learning styles of students while seeking to facilitate competency in the various domains of Bloom's taxonomy (i.e., knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation). A sampling of the various kinds of instructional methods routinely in use at GRTS are outlined below.

- Lecture
- Assigned readings
- Research papers
- Critical review papers
- Exegetical papers
- Theological confession writing
- Written thesis
- Small group discussion
- Student presentations
- Expert panels
- Case conceptualization
- Case study
- Experiential learning
- Role play
- Reflective essays
- Journaling

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 8 credits of your degree toward serving alongside a mentor in a local 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.

THE URBAN COHORT PROGRAM

In an effort to serve the urban centers of West Michigan and beyond, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary initiated the Urban Cohort program in 2008. The program, a cohort-based educational model, is designed to provide advanced biblical, theological and ministry leadership education to urban ministry leaders. At GRTS, we believe that urban ministry leaders are community leaders, possessing the position and potential to foster significant redemptive influence. Our vision for the program is to further equip these leaders to facilitate needed changes within urban contexts and to do so from a theologically informed perspective. After serving for over two decades in urban ministry, Rev. Dr. Royce Evans joined GRTS in 2008 to provide leadership to the Urban Cohort program and currently serves as associate dean of the Urban Cohort program and executive director of Ministry Residency.

The program curriculum is built around a seven-course core (i.e., foundational courses in Bible and theology) and delivered in a one night per week format (On-Site or Live via videoconferencing technology) to a cohort of students (15-25 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 and achieve the Master of Arts in ministry leadership or the Master of Arts in biblical studies.

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 foster learning and growth for enhanced ministry impact, while enabling the urban ministry leader to move to the next level of credential in their educational journey.

For more information concerning the Urban Cohort program, please review the Urban Cohort program section of the GRTS website.



THE PIRSIG FELLOWSHIP

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is committed to the local and global church. Our mission, in part, is to contribute to the growth and vitality of local churches by preparing and equipping students to serve in ministry and leadership. With this commitment in view, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has established a fellowship program for Master of Divinity students that is uniquely focused on preparing them to serve in diverse ministry contexts. This fellowship was made possible through a generous gift from the late Julius and Barbara Pirsig who had a heart for assisting seminarians in preparing to serve the Lord. The Pirsig Fellowship features three primary emphases.

SCHOLARSHIP

One goal of the Pirsig Fellowship is to make the M.Div. degree more affordable and reduce student debt, providing students more freedom for future ministry opportunities after graduation. The program offers a generous 50% tuition scholarship to qualified students (see eligibility requirements below).

COMMUNITY

Pirsig fellows join a distinct cohort and participate in cohort activities offered by the seminary. The cohort structure allows for intentional community to form among students. Cohorts enter the program at the same time, take many classes together and have numerous shared experiences along the way.

ENHANCEMENTS

Pirsig fellows participate in extracurricular enhancements aimed at spiritual formation. These experiences include small group discipleship, retreats, workshops and more. The goal of the enhancements is to nurture students' personal discipleship to Christ, strengthen their ability to disciple others and gain skills and insights valuable for ministry and leadership.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Pirsig fellows are men and women from diverse contexts who feel a calling to serve the church locally or globally in a variety of ways. They are growing in their love for Jesus Christ, are committed to helping others know Him and His Word and are eager to give their gifts and talents in service to the kingdom. Pirsig fellows are chosen in accordance with the following requirements and criteria.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Pirsig fellows must exhibit the following characteristics:

- Completed bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum GPA of 3.0/4.0. (Students in the final year of their bachelor's degree are encouraged to apply.)
- Acceptance in the Master of Divinity program. (This fellowship is only available to new and transfer students.)
- Ministry calling and gifting. The following forms of ministry are preferred: pastoral ministry, discipleship/spiritual formation, chaplaincy, urban ministry and missions.
- Love for the church (global and local) and compassion for people.
- Growing in Christlike character.
- Demonstrated academic performance and commitment to completing the M.Div.

OTHER RELEVANT SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria are taken into consideration when awarding Pirsig Fellowships.

- **Diversity:** GRTS desires to be a diverse and reconciling community. Therefore, priority is given to building diversity into all cohorts. Candidates who believe they will contribute to that commitment are encouraged to apply.
- **Age:** The early years of one's career are pivotal for developing a long-term ministry. Therefore, priority is given to candidates 35 years old and younger. Recent college graduates are encouraged to apply.
- **Financial need:** GRTS recognizes the high financial cost of education, especially for those who cannot expect their income to increase through work in ministry. Therefore, priority is given to those with limited financial resources.

COMMITMENT DURING SEMINARY

Pirsig fellows affirm the following commitments:

- Maintain 3.0 cumulative GPA in seminary.
- Complete the M.Div. in five years or less.
- Participate in all fellowship enhancements.
- Meet annually with fellowship director.
- Encouraged to "give back" to the Pirsig Fellowship in the future (as the Lord leads).

ANCIENT WORLD OF THE BIBLE STUDY TOUR

In addition to the traditional classes offered at GRTS, the Ancient World of the Bible Study Tour provides a way for students to experience the land of the Bible firsthand. The Ancient World of the Bible Study Tour involves extensive travel within Israel, Palestine and Jordan along with 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 held each J-term as the credit offering BBL-601/BBL-604 Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible. The course (or the on-campus alternative BBL-506) is a program requirement for all Master of Divinity students who began their program since fall 2013 and for Master of Arts in biblical exegesis students but is open to students in any degree program. Thanks to generous donor support, a number of Study Tour Scholarship spots are available each year, allowing for participation at a subsidized rate (paid as a course fee), with priority given to M.Div., M.A. in biblical exegesis and Urban Cohort students, though any enrolled M.A. student is eligible to apply. Students' spouses, family and friends of GRTS are also welcome to participate as audit students. For further information about the study tour, see cornerstone.edu/israel-study-tour.

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 upon 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 counterproductive 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 Systematic Theology sequence (THE-540, THE-640, THE-641) and the two-course Theology for Counseling sequence (THE-550, THE-551).



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/ ministry/counseling) but most focused in the following areas.

- **MIN-500 Christian Spiritual Formation:** A required course that engages students in a biblical and historical overview of spiritual formation, a battery of personal assessments and a spiritual direction process. The course culminates in the development of a personal growth plan.
- **MIN-543 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 Pirsig Fellowship, this enhancement utilizes teaching and small group experiences to facilitate personal spiritual formation for future ministry 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 M.A. in Christian formation students in which progress in personal spiritual formation is assessed and further cultivated.
- **Mid-Point and Exit Assessments:** Personal spiritual formation is an important consideration in determining whether a student is making "sufficient progress" in "vocational readiness," 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 people 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.

CULTURAL EXEGESIS AND MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCY

Individuals, families, communities and organizations possess complex and varied narratives that are deeply embedded. Effectiveness in ministry requires the skills of cultural exegesis and multicultural sensitivity, which means that ministry leaders must be able to make meaning of the narratives of individuals and communities and to do so with knowledge, respect and honor. The curriculum at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary attends to these important areas. For the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian formation degree programs, students complete a number of case study assignments across the curriculum using the GRTS Ministerial Model. This model aids the ministry leader in making meaning of complex problems from a number of perspectives, including the perspective of culture and context. In addition, students complete assessments and process the results for self-awareness and vocational fit (MIN-500 Christian Spiritual Formation) and cultural intelligence (MIN-560 Global Impact) as a means to facilitate growth in these vital areas. For the Master of Arts in clinical mental health counseling degree program, competency in multicultural counseling is facilitated across the entirety of the core curriculum but most prominently in COU-525 Multicultural Counseling. In addition, the Intercultural Studies Lecture Series offers an opportunity for all GRTS students to engage with Christian leaders and scholars from diverse backgrounds.

CONTEXTUAL LEARNING

A common element of the various GRTS degree programs is the high value placed on fostering student growth and development within authentic vocational contexts: contextual learning. A large majority of students enrolled at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary are engaged in, or aspire to be engaged in, local church ministry, parachurch ministry or one of the many vocational expressions of the counseling profession. Therefore, it is vital that our students develop the applied skills necessary for effective vocational service in these contexts. For the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian formation and Master of Arts in Christian studies degree programs, Ministry Residency (8 credits over four semesters) provides applied learning within a ministry context under the mentorship and supervision of a qualified and experienced local church or parachurch ministry leader. For the Master of Arts in clinical mental health counseling degree program, students are mentored by a licensed professional counselor, develop primary counseling skills and form professional identity within a professional counseling setting via the practicum (3 credits) and two internships (6 credits).



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 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 Christian Studies

Master of Arts in Biblical Exegesis

SPECIALIZATION OPTIONS

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Old and New Testament

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies

Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (Urban Cohort)

Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership (Urban Cohort)

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 GPA 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.

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 admission requirements, admission into this specialization requires the following:

1. Achievement of a 3.70 cumulative GPA at a regionally accredited college or university at the point of admission to GRTS or achievement of a 3.70 cumulative GPA 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 statement (one to two pages) of educational plan and vocational intent.
4. 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

The Master of Divinity degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 94 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. Included are 68 hours of core curriculum, a ministry specialization (15-17 hours) 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 1/3 of the degree program requirements (31 credits).
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
6. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
7. Satisfactory completion of Ministry Residency requirements.

MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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

MASTER OF DIVINITY REQUIRED COURSES

Bible & Theology Core

LANGUAGE

_____	BBL-510	Greek I	3
_____	BBL-511	Greek II	3
_____	BBL-516	Hebrew	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: Hebrews to Revelation	3
_____	BBL-640	O.T. I: Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis	3
_____	BBL-641	O.T. II: Exegesis in the Pentateuch	3
_____	BBL-642	O.T. III: Exegesis in the 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-676	Apologetics and Moral Issues in Christian Ministry	3
_____	Historical Theology Electives (THE-515, THE-516, THE-517, THE-518 or THE-710)		3
_____	_____		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:

_____	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 Youth and Emerging Adulthood	3
___	MIN-641	Foundations for Ministry to Youth and Emerging 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

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

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-534	Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry	
___	MIN-554	Theology of Women in Ministry	
___	MIN-567	The Church's Relationship to a Post-Christian Culture	
___	COU-532	Counseling Women through the Life Cycle	
___	COU-612	Group Techniques	

TOTAL 17

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

___	MIN-567	The Church's Relationship to a Post-Christian Culture	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-521	Marriage & Family Counseling	3
___	COU-610	Counseling Techniques	3
___	COU-662	Human Growth & Development	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-525	Multicultural Counseling	3
___	COU-610	Counseling Techniques	3
___		Ministry Elective	3

TOTAL 15

ACADEMIC

___	BBL-782/THE-782	Thesis Research & Proposal	1
___	BBL-783, BBL-784, THE-784, THE-785 or THE-786	Independent Study	3
___	BBL-783, BBL-784, THE-784, THE-785 or THE-786	Independent Study	3
___	BBL-783, BBL-784, THE-784, THE-785 or THE-786	Independent Study	3
___	MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
___	MIN-586	Ministry Residency II	2
___	BBL-792/THE-792	Master's Thesis	3

TOTAL 17

TOTAL HOURS FOR M.DIV. 94

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

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 Christian formation. The program consists of 65 semester hours, which includes a Bible and theology core (32 hours) and a Christian formation specialization (33 hours). In addition to foundational courses, applicants choose a ministry specialization of 9 hours (i.e., student & family ministries, small group & discipleship ministries, interdisciplinary studies, intercultural ministries, formation & soul care ministries or campus & student development ministries) and 8 hours of Ministry Residency (contextual learning under the supervision of a seasoned ministry mentor). The 8 hours of 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 GPA 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.

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 GPA. Included are a Bible core (15 hours), theology core (17 hours) and educational ministries specialization (33 hours).
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 1/3 of the degree program requirements (21 credits).
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
6. Successful completion of the Ministry Residency requirement or M.A. thesis component.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
8. 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 and apply a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Exhibit the knowledge, skills and dispositions essential to ministerial and public leadership.
4. Demonstrate the knowledge, practices and dispositions essential to personal spiritual formation.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MAJOR

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



REQUIRED COURSES

Bible & Theology Core

BIBLE

_____	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
_____	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3
_____	Bible Electives:*		
_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3
TOTAL			15

*Students must complete at least one Old and one New Testament Bible elective.

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-676	Apologetics and Moral Issues in Christian Ministry	3
_____	Historical Theology Elective: THE-515, THE-516, THE-517, THE-518 or THE-710		3
TOTAL			17

TOTAL HOURS BIBLE & THEOLOGY 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
_____	<i>or</i>		
_____	MIN-584	Thesis Readings: Ministry <i>and</i>	3
_____	MIN-797	Master's Thesis <i>and</i>	3
_____	MIN Elective		2

TOTAL 24

Ministry Specialization

(Select one of the following)

STUDENT & FAMILY MINISTRIES

_____	MIN-553	Sociology of Youth and Emerging Adulthood	3
_____	MIN-641	Foundations for Ministry to Youth and Emerging Adults	3

One of the following:

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

TOTAL 9

SMALL GROUP & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

_____	MIN-630	Small Group Ministries	3
_____	MIN-643	Educational Min. for Adults	3

One of the following:

_____	MIN-534	Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry	3
_____	MIN-554	Theology of Women in Ministry	3
_____	MIN-567	The Church's Relationship to a Post-Christian Culture	3
_____	COU-532	Counseling Women through the Life Cycle	3
_____	COU-612	Group Techniques	3

TOTAL 9

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

_____	MIN-567	The Church's Relationship to a Post-Christian Culture	3
_____	MIN-660	Cultural Intelligence	3
_____	MIN-667	Urban and Local Development	3

TOTAL 9

FORMATION & SOUL CARE MINISTRIES

_____	COU-521	Marriage & Family Counseling	3
_____	COU-610	Counseling Techniques	3
_____	COU-662	Human Growth & Development	3

TOTAL 9

CAMPUS & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES

_____	MIN-553	Sociology of Youth and Emerging Adulthood	3
_____	MIN-518	Foundations of Student Development	3
_____	COU-520	Child & Adolescent Counseling	3

TOTAL 9

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3

TOTAL 9

TOTAL HOURS FOR M.A. IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION 65

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Christian studies is designed to develop basic competencies essential to the study of biblical and theological literature and provide foundational knowledge concerning ministry leadership, while allowing students the opportunity to customize a significant portion of the program. The program consists of 62 semester hours, which includes a Bible and theology core (26 hours), a ministry leadership emphasis (21 hours) and general electives (15 hours). Applicants for the Master of Arts in Christian studies should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate GPA 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.

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Completion of 62 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. The program includes a Bible and theology core (26 hours), a ministry leadership emphasis (21 hours) and electives (15 hours).
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 1/3 of the degree program requirements (20 credits).
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
6. Satisfactory completion of Ministry Residency requirements.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
8. Participation in commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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



REQUIRED COURSES

BIBLE

_____	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
_____	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3
_____		Bible Electives:*	3
_____			3

TOTAL **12**

**Students must complete at least one Old and one New Testament Bible elective.*

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, THE-518 or THE-710	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-685	Ministry Residency I	2
_____	MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2
_____	MIN-711	Program Completion Seminar	1
_____	MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
_____	MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2

TOTAL **21**

GENERAL ELECTIVES

_____			3
_____			3
_____			3
_____			3
_____			3

TOTAL **15**

TOTAL HOURS FOR M.A. IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES **62**

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

The Master of Arts in biblical exegesis is intended to develop the exegetical competency of students in the biblical texts of the Old Testament and New Testament via rigorous study in the history and culture of the ancient Near East, the Greco-Roman world, Greek and/or Hebrew language study and mastery of the genres of Scripture. The program is designed to serve current pastors seeking to enhance their exegetical skills along with individuals seeking mastery of original language exegesis for work in vocations such as religious publishing and biblical translation. Applicants for the Master of Arts in biblical exegesis degree program should possess a minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA from an accredited baccalaureate institution. 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. *Students interested in the M.A. in biblical exegesis program will choose an Old Testament, New Testament or a combination of Old Testament and New Testament track.*

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL EXEGESIS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in biblical exegesis degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 46 or 47 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. Included are 16 or 17 credits of basic core and an exegetical specialization (30 credits).
2. Transfer students must achieve a minimum of 23 semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/3 of the degree program requirements (15 credits).
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
6. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
7. Participation in commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL EXEGESIS STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in biblical exegesis program is designed to enable the student to:

1. Conduct interpretation of biblical texts informed by a sound understanding of Greek and/or Hebrew grammar.
2. Apply the comparative method regarding cognitive environment, utilize the material culture and consider the geographical and socio-historical contexts in understanding the meaning of texts.
3. Articulate theology that is rooted in the emphases of the biblical authors and identify the differences.
4. Critically assess their own social location within the global setting and judiciously employ a variety of reading strategies as they engage Scripture.



REQUIRED COURSES

BIBLE

_____	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
_____	BBL-601	Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible (Or BBL-506/3 credits)	2
_____	THE-501	Program Introduction	2
_____	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
_____	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
_____	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3

TOTAL HOURS BASIC CORE 16/17

Exegetical Specialization

(Select one of the following)

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

_____	BBL-516	Hebrew I	3
_____	BBL-517	Hebrew II	3
_____	BBL-640	OT I: Intro to Hebrew Exegesis	3
_____	BBL-641	OT II: Exegesis in the Pentateuch	3
	<i>or</i>		
_____	BBL-642	OT III: Exegesis in the Prophets	3
_____	BBL-510	Greek I	3
_____	BBL-511	Greek II	3
_____	BBL-672	NT I: Intro to Exegesis	3
_____	BBL-677	NT II: The Gospels	3
	<i>or</i>		
_____	BBL-672	NT III: Hebrews to Revelation	3
_____		Bible Electives:*	3
_____			3

TOTAL 30

**Students must select any two BBL courses.*

OLD TESTAMENT

_____	BBL-516	Hebrew I	3
_____	BBL-517	Hebrew II	3
_____	BBL-640	OT I: Intro to Exegesis	3
_____	BBL-641	OT II: Exegesis in the Pentateuch	3
	<i>or</i>		
_____	BBL-642	OT III: Exegesis in the Prophets	3

Bible Electives (Select any six BBL courses):

_____			3
_____			3
_____			3
_____			3
_____			3
_____			3

TOTAL 30

NEW TESTAMENT

_____	BBL-510	Greek I	3
_____	BBL-511	Greek II	3
_____	BBL-672	NT I: Intro to Exegesis	3
_____	BBL-677	NT II: The Gospels	3
	<i>or</i>		
_____	BBL-678	NT III: The General Epistles	3

Bible Electives (Select any six BBL courses):

_____			3
_____			3
_____			3
_____			3
_____			3
_____			3

TOTAL 30

TOTAL HOURS FOR M.A. IN BIBLICAL EXEGESIS 46/47

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Master of Arts in theological studies is intended to develop the historical and theological competency of students by examining significant theologians, movements and primary source documents in the history of the church, then mentoring students to integrate this Christian tradition into their own life and ministry. The program is designed to serve current pastors seeking to enhance their historical and theological expertise along with individuals seeking a theological foundation for work in vocations such as religious publishing or Christian education.

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in theological studies degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 48 semester hours with a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA. Included are 18 credits of basic core and 30 credits of a specialization.
2. Transfer students must achieve a minimum of 24 semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to 1/3 of the degree program requirements (16 credits), and the combination of transfer and advanced standing credits is limited to 50% (24 credits).
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Completion of all required assessments, including the MATS capstone project embedded within THE- 689.
6. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
7. Participation in commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Describe the historical development of the church's theology, particularly how it has been shaped by the intersection of Scripture, tradition and culture.
2. Critically assess the writings, systems, contributions and limitations of central theologians of the church throughout history.
3. Articulate one's own theology with clarity, concision and precision, explaining how it supplies a necessary foundation for fruitful life and ministry.



REQUIRED COURSES**BIBLE**

_____	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
_____	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3
_____	THE-501	Program Introduction	2
_____	THE-676	Apologetics and Moral Issues in Ministry	3
_____	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3
_____	MIN-711	Program Completion	1
English Bible Elective:			
_____	_____	_____	3

TOTAL HOURS BASIC CORE **18**

Theology Specialization

_____	THE-515	Historical Theology I: The Early Church	3
_____	THE-516	Historical Theology II: The Medieval Church	3
_____	THE-517	Historical Theology III: The Reformation Church	3
_____	THE-518	Historical Theology IV: The Modern Church	3
_____	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
_____	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
_____	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3

TOTAL HOURS THEOLOGY CORE **21**

THE-710 SEMINARS

Select two courses from the listing below

_____	Augustine		
_____	Barth		
_____	Calvin		
_____	Contemporary Issues in Theology & Ministry		
_____	_____		3
_____	_____		3

Capstone Course

_____	THE-689	Biblical, Theological and Historical Foundations of Justice	3
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TOTAL **30**

TOTAL HOURS FOR M.A. IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES **48**

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Master of Arts in biblical studies (MABS), available in residence or fully online, is designed for those interested in advanced biblical and theological studies to promote personal, spiritual and professional growth. The MABS is not intended to serve as a basis for doctoral study. The program consists of 36 semester hours (12 courses). Biblical interpretation and worldview are pillars of the curriculum, and these pillars are incorporated throughout the program of study. Applicants for the MABS degree must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA from an accredited undergraduate institution.

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in biblical studies degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 36 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. The program consists of a Bible core (21 hours), a theology core (9 hours) and general electives (6 hours).
2. A minimum of 24 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credits are limited to 1/3 of the degree program, and the combination of advanced standing and transfer credits is limited to a total of 12 hours.
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Six years from matriculation are allowed to complete the degree requirements.
6. Completion of all required assessments, including the program's capstone project embedded within BBL-689.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
8. Participation in commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in biblical studies degree is designed to enable students to:

1. Conduct disciplined biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible text.
2. State and apply a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking practices in relation to the context of ministry.



REQUIRED COURSES**BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

_____	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
_____	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3

TOTAL **6**

BIBLE ELECTIVES

Select four courses, include at least one OT and one NT Bible elective.

_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3

TOTAL **12**

TOTAL HOURS BIBLE CORE **18**

Theology Core

_____	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
_____	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
_____	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3

TOTAL **9**

GENERAL ELECTIVES

Select two of the following courses, or two additional Bible electives.

_____	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3
_____	MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
_____	MIN-534	Evangelism and Discipleship	3
_____	MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3
_____	MIN-560	Global Impact	3
_____	MIN-643	Educational Ministries For Adults	3
_____	THE-572	Christian Worldview	3

TOTAL **6**

Capstone Course

_____	BBL-689	Biblical, Theological and Historical Foundations of Justice	3
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TOTAL HOURS FOR M.A. IN BIBLICAL STUDIES **36**

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

The Master of Arts in ministry leadership (MAML), available in residence or fully online, is designed for those in various ministry leadership positions and service roles who desire advanced biblical, theological and ministry education to promote personal, spiritual and professional growth. The MAML is not intended to serve as a basis for doctoral study. The program consists of 36 semester hours (12 courses). Biblical interpretation and Christian worldview are pillars of the curriculum, and these pillars are incorporated throughout the program of study. Applicants for the MAML degree must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA from an accredited undergraduate institution.

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in ministry leadership degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 36 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. The program consists of a Bible and theology core (24 hours), a ministry leadership core (9 hours) and general electives (3 hours).
2. A minimum of 24 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credits are limited to 1/3 of the degree program, and the combination of advanced standing and transfer credits is limited to a total of 12 hours.
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Six years from matriculation are allowed to complete the degree requirements.
6. Completion of all required assessments.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
8. Participation in commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in ministry leadership degree is designed to enable students to:

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



REQUIRED COURSES**BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

_____	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
_____	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3

BIBLE ELECTIVES (Prerequisite: BBL-501)

_____	Old Testament Bible Elective	3
_____	New Testament Bible Elective	3

TOTAL **12**

THEOLOGY

_____	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
_____	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
_____	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3

TOTAL **9**

TOTAL HOURS BASIC CORE **21**

Specialization**MINISTRY LEADERSHIP**

_____	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3
_____	MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
_____	MIN-543	Evangelism and Discipleship	3
_____	MIN-560	Global Impact	3

TOTAL **12**

GENERAL ELECTIVES

_____ 3

TOTAL HOURS SPECIALIZATION **15**

**TOTAL HOURS FOR M.A. IN
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP** **36**

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (URBAN COHORT)

The Master of Arts in biblical studies (Urban Cohort), available in residence or fully online, is designed for those serving in various ministry leadership roles in urban contexts who desire to grow in their biblical and theological competencies. The program consists of 36 semester hours (12 courses), and it is cohort-based learning, which means that groups of students (15-20) journey through the program core (the initial seven courses) together. Biblical interpretation and worldview are pillars of the curriculum, and these pillars are incorporated throughout the program of study. In certain circumstances, individual students may gain admittance to the program independent of the cohort but must do so by vote of the GRTS Admissions Committee. Applicants for the MABS (Urban Cohort) degree must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA from an accredited undergraduate institution.

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (URBAN COHORT) DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in biblical studies (Urban Cohort) degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 36 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. The program consists of a Bible core (21 hours) and theology core (15 hours).
2. A minimum of 24 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credits are limited to 1/3 of the degree program, and the combination of advanced standing and transfer credits is limited to a total of 12 hours.
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Six years from matriculation are allowed to complete the degree requirements.
6. Completion of all required assessments, including the program's capstone project embedded within BBL-689.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
8. Participation in commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (URBAN COHORT) LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in biblical studies degree is designed to enable students to:

1. Conduct disciplined biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible text.
2. State and apply a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking practices in relation to the context of urban ministry.



REQUIRED COURSES

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

_____	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
_____	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3

TOTAL **6**

BIBLE ELECTIVES

Select four courses, include at least one OT and one NT Bible elective.

_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3
_____	_____	_____	3

TOTAL **12**

TOTAL HOURS BIBLE CORE **18**

Theology Core

_____	THE-502	Program Introduction	3
_____	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
_____	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
_____	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3
_____	THE-670	Christian Social Ethics	3

TOTAL HOURS THEOLOGY CORE **15**

Capstone Course

_____	BBL-689	Biblical, Theological and Historical Foundations of Justice	3
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TOTAL HOURS FOR M.A. IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (URBAN COHORT) **36**

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP (URBAN COHORT)

The Master of Arts in ministry leadership (Urban Cohort), available in residence or fully online, is designed for those serving in various ministry leadership roles in urban contexts who desire to grow in their biblical, theological and ministry competencies. The program consists of 36 semester hours (12 courses), and it is cohort-based learning, which means that groups of students (15-20) journey through the program core (the initial seven courses) together. Biblical interpretation and Christian worldview are pillars of the curriculum, and these pillars are incorporated throughout the program of study. In certain circumstances, individual students may gain admittance to the program independent of the cohort but must do so by vote of the GRTS Admissions Committee. Applicants for the MAML (Urban Cohort) degree must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA from an accredited undergraduate institution.

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP (URBAN COHORT) DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in ministry leadership (Urban Cohort) degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 36 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. The program consists of a Bible and theology core (24 hours) and specialization (12 hours).
2. A minimum of 24 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credits are limited to 1/3 of the degree program, and the combination of advanced standing and transfer credits is limited to a total of 12 hours.
4. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
5. Six years from matriculation are allowed to complete the degree requirements.
6. Completion of all required assessments.
7. The meeting of all financial obligations to the university.
8. Participation in commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP (URBAN COHORT) LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in ministry leadership degree is designed to enable students to:

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



REQUIRED COURSES**BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

_____	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
_____	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3

BIBLE ELECTIVES (Prerequisite: BBL-501)

Select one BBL course.

_____	_____	_____	3
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TOTAL **9**

THEOLOGY

_____	THE-502	Program Introduction	3
_____	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3
_____	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
_____	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3
_____	THE-670	Christian Social Ethics	3

TOTAL **15**

TOTAL HOURS BASIC CORE **24**

Specialization**MINISTRY LEADERSHIP**

Select three of the following courses

_____	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3
_____	MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
_____	MIN-534	Evangelism and Discipleship	3
_____	MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3
_____	MIN-560	Global Impact	3
_____	MIN-610	Organizational Assessment Planning and Change	3
_____	MIN-660	Cultural Intelligence: Multicultural Understanding	3
_____	THE-572	Christian Worldview	3

TOTAL **9**

GENERAL ELECTIVES

_____	_____	_____	3
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TOTAL HOURS SPECIALIZATION **12**

TOTAL HOURS FOR M.A. IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP (URBAN COHORT) **36**

TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED _____

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 areas of concentration: Old Testament or 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 GPA in the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree. *Students interested in the Master of Theology program choose between an Old Testament or New Testament concentration.*

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 GPA 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 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 both Hebrew and 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 GRTS 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 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 for approval by the end of the second week of the semester the student begins their thesis. 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 GPA** must be achieved in all Master of Theology course work. Any work below 3.0 GPA 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 GPA for each course and a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA for the program.
2. Completion of 20 semester hours in the major field of study, an enrichment (4 hours) and the thesis (6 hours).
3. The completion of the professional practicum, fulfilled under the supervision of the program adviser.
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 to the university.
8. Three years from matriculation are permitted to complete all degree requirements.

MASTER OF THEOLOGY 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.

Master of Theology Specializations

OLD TESTAMENT

_____	BBL-840	Advanced Language Study	4
_____	BBL-841	Advanced Study in the History and Culture of Israel and the Ancient Near East	4
_____	BBL-846	Advanced Study in Critical Issues and Methods in the Study of the OT	4
_____	BBL-848	Advanced OT Exegesis	4
_____	BBL-880	Enrichment	4
_____	BBL-884	Advanced Study in Old Testament Biblical Theology	4
_____	BBL-890	Thesis	6

TOTAL 30

NEW TESTAMENT

_____	BBL-870	Grammar and Translation	4
_____	BBL-872	N.T. Intro & Historical Background	4
_____	BBL-874	Exegesis of the Gospels & Acts	4
_____	BBL-876	Exegesis of the Pauline Epistles	4
_____	BBL-877	Exegesis of the General Epistles and Revelation	4
_____	BBL-880	Enrichment	4
_____	BBL-890	Thesis	6

TOTAL 30

TOTAL HOURS FOR TH.M. 30



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

INTERPRETIVE AIDS

ACADEMIC DIVISIONS

Represented by the first three letters within the course number.

- + BBL Exegetical/Biblical Theology
- + THE Systematic/Historical/Philosophical Theology
- + MIN Ministry Theology
- + IDS Interdisciplinary Studies

COURSE LEVEL

Represented by the first digit in the course number.

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

COURSE DEPARTMENT AND DISCIPLINE

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

SECTION NUMBERS

Appear on course schedules and convey the following meaning:

- + -01 Conveys a residential (On-Site) course offering (-01 may or may not be included)
- + -15 Conveys an online synchronous course offering (Live) (16 may be included).
- + -25 Conveys an online asynchronous course offering (Anytime).
- + -45 Conveys an Urban Cohort course offering (On-Site).
- + -55 Conveys an Urban Cohort online synchronous course offering (Live).

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.

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>BBL-501—Biblical Hermeneutics 3</p> <p>An introduction to the process of determining the original meaning and contemporary significance of biblical texts. The course includes lecture, discussion and individual research. The course must be completed within the first 15 credits of enrollment.</p> | <p>the Bible's vision of God's justice in the Old and New Testaments and discerning how this vision relates to Christian embodiment of justice in contemporary culture.</p> |
| <p>BBL-506—The Ancient World of the Bible 3</p> <p>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 alternative to BBL-601.</p> | <p>BBL-510—Greek I 3</p> <p>A study of the elements of Koine Greek.</p> |
| <p>BBL-508—Biblical Theology 3</p> <p>An integrated study of the central themes from the Old and New Testaments that comprise the grand narrative of Scripture. <i>Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics</i></p> | <p>BBL-511—Greek II 3</p> <p>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. <i>Prerequisite: BBL-510 Greek I</i></p> |
| <p>BBL-509—Biblical Theology of Justice 3</p> <p>This course will aid students in constructing and enacting a biblical theology of public justice by critically examining various hermeneutical approaches to Scripture, engaging</p> | <p>BBL-512—Greek Reading and Review 2</p> <p>A remedial course which reviews the basics of Greek grammar and improves translation skills. <i>Prerequisites: BBL-510 Greek I and BBL-511 Greek II or equivalent</i></p> |
| <p></p> | <p>BBL-516—Hebrew I 3</p> <p>An introduction to the basic grammar and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew.</p> |
| <p></p> | <p>BBL-517—Hebrew II 3</p> <p>A continuation of Hebrew I with emphasis on grammar, syntax and expansion of vocabulary by means of translating simple texts. <i>Prerequisite: BBL-516 Hebrew I</i></p> |



- BBL-519—American Christianity and Biblical Justice** 3
This course will explore the history of American Christianity from the perspective of a biblical theology of public justice, surveying the historical and cultural forces that have shaped the development of evangelical Christianity in America, its various conceptions of justice and how Scripture was interpreted to address a range of public issues.
- 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. *Prerequisite: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics*
- BBL-529—The 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. *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. *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. *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. *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. *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. *Prerequisite: BBL-501 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-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—Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible** 2
Through extensive travel and on-site study, this course provides 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 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 for Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in biblical exegesis students and may be audited for non-credit seeking students. In addition to tuition, each student will be charged a course fee to cover the travel and accommodation costs associated with the study tour. The fee is due upon approval of participation and must be paid directly to the Cornerstone University Accounting

Office. Scholarships are available; application determines eligibility.

BBL-604—Experiencing the Ancient

World of the Bible

3

Through extensive travel and on-site study, this course provides 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 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 open as an elective to all students in any program (degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking) and may be taken for credit or as an audit. In addition to tuition, each student will be charged a course fee to cover the travel and accommodation costs associated with the study tour. The fee is due upon approval of participation and must be paid directly to the Cornerstone University Accounting Office. Scholarships are available; application determines eligibility.

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. This course may be taken multiple semesters.

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.

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. *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-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. *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: Hebrews to Revelation** 3
An introduction to the study of Hebrews, the General Epistles and 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-688—Biblical, Theological and Historical Foundations of Justice** 3
This course will aid students in constructing and enacting a theology of public justice by integrating sound biblical exegesis, theology that is grounded in the historic Christian tradition and appropriating insights from contemporary justice movements. *Prerequisites: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics, THE-501/THE-502 Program Introduction Seminar and THE-540 Systematic Theology I*
- BBL-689—MABS Capstone Course** 3
This course will aid students in constructing and enacting a theology of public justice by integrating sound biblical exegesis, theology that is grounded in the historic Christian tradition and appropriating insights from contemporary justice movements. This course serves as a capstone for the Master of Arts in biblical studies. *Prerequisites: BBL-501, BBL-508, one BBL elective, THE-502, THE-540 and THE-640*
- 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. *Prerequisites: 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. *Prerequisites: 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. *Prerequisites: 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 adviser approval.
- BBL-784—Independent Study in New Testament** 1-3
Supervised independent study for advanced students in New Testament. Registration for this course requires adviser 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 thesis (50-75 pages) under the supervision of a faculty thesis adviser 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 adviser approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$100.00 for thesis review and binding. *Prerequisite: BBL-782 Thesis Reading and Proposal: M.Div.*

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 are 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-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

For this course, 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. They 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. They 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. They 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 adviser, 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 their own method.

BBL-890—Th.M. Thesis 6

The student will write a thesis (60-100 pages) 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 adviser and defended before a faculty committee. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$125.00 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 and BBL-508 Biblical Theology before taking the systematic theology sequence. Students who have completed upper-level systematic theology in college may, with the approval of the departmental chair, 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.

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 clinical mental health counseling students, within the first 15 credits of enrollment.

THE-502—Program Introduction Seminar (Urban Cohort) 3

This course serves as an introduction to graduate theological education at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary for students enrolled in the Urban Cohort program: Master of Arts in biblical studies (MABS) and Master of Arts in ministry leadership (MAML). It prepares students for the rigors of graduate research, reading and

writing. This course is generally required during the first semester of enrollment but mandatory 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 Medieval Church 3

The reformation and post-reformation church from Martin Luther to early 18th century.

- THE-518—Historical Theology IV: The Modern Church** 3
The modern church from the early 18th century 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 is 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 is laid for Theology for Counseling II.
- THE-551—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.
- 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 adviser and in accordance with seminary standards for form and style. Registration for this course requires adviser 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). *Prerequisite: 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-676—Apologetics and Moral Issues in Christian Ministry** 3
This course will help students preserve and steward their life and doctrine by evaluating the philosophical foundations of the Christian faith and various ethical problems encountered in pastoral care, spiritual direction and Christian counseling. *Prerequisites: THE-540 Systematic Theology I and THE-640 Systematic Theology II*
- THE-688—Biblical, Theological and Historical Foundations of Justice** 3
This course will aid students in constructing and enacting a theology of public justice by integrating sound biblical exegesis, theology that is grounded in the historic Christian tradition and appropriating insights from contemporary justice movements. *Prerequisites: BBL-501 Biblical Hermeneutics, THE-501/THE-502 Program Introduction Seminar and THE-540 Systematic Theology I*
- THE-688—MATS Capstone Course** 3
This course will aid students in constructing and enacting a theology of public justice by integrating sound biblical exegesis, theology that is grounded in the historic Christian tradition and appropriating insights from contemporary justice movements. This course serves as a capstone for the Master of Arts in theological studies. *Prerequisites: BBL-501, BBL-508, THE-501, two historical theology courses (THE-515, THE-516, THE-517, THE-518), THE-540, THE-640 and THE-641*
- 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*
- **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY**
This course examines various contemporary doctrinal and practical controversies from biblical, historical, philosophical, systematic and ministerial perspectives.
- **THE HISTORY AND THEOLOGY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**
A study of the biblical and theological roots for an evangelical approach to social justice, with particular attention to historical and contemporary social justice movements.

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 adviser 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 adviser 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 adviser 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 thesis (50-75 pages) under the supervision of a faculty thesis adviser 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 adviser approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$100.00 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.

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 \$175.00 for specialized course materials. The fee will be automatically charged to the student's account upon registration. This course 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 Academic 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 (1600s-1800s). 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 enduring 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.

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 Youth and Emerging Adulthood 3

This course provides an understanding of the development and characteristics of the three phases of adolescence: early (junior high), middle (senior high) and emerging adulthood (college age). Students will evaluate contemporary research on each phase and consider how to apply it toward effective church or campus ministries and counseling situations. Special attention will be given to exploring how faith is nurtured throughout each phase of adolescence.

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 21st century world. Students will consider the essence of missio Dei (the sending of God) and of missio 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 reputations in academic and ministry settings. The course is offered to students through a cooperative agreement, and the location rotates year to year between several venues in Grand Rapids.

MIN-567—The Church's Relationship to a Post-Christian Culture 3

This course explores the transition from Christendom to a post-Christian society and considers how the church should appropriately respond to live out her mission. Students will critically evaluate various proposals for understanding the gospel, the church and the culture and how these relate to one another. This course culminates

for the student in the development of a written philosophy of cultural engagement that might be applied to a church or parachurch setting.

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 adviser and in accordance with seminary standards for form and style. Registration for this course requires adviser 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—Foundations for Ministry to Youth and Emerging Adults 3

This course explores the ministry to emerging generations ranging from junior high through college age. Students will examine the context of adolescence in North America, consider the theological foundations for ministry and evaluate various contemporary proposals. This course culminates in the development of a written philosophy of ministry to youth and emerging adults.

MIN-643—Educational Ministries for Adults 3

The course engages students in readings, critical reflection, online 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 toward 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 toward 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 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 students 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 from their mentor and be relationally connected with their ministry context as they invest time and energy in establishing relationships and support. *Prerequisite: Approval from the Ministry Residency executive director*
- MIN-686—Ministry Residency II** 2
As the second course in the Ministry Residency sequence, Ministry Residency II continues to build on the student's residency experience. In addition, students will explore the importance of one's personal spiritual formation in ministry (e.g., discipline of confession, dealing with grief, ministry burnout, ministry leader self-care, the discipline of simplification, etc.). Students will engage their ministry mentor on the following topics: leading board/committee meetings, strategic planning and facilitating staff meetings. *Prerequisite: 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 9 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 Academic Office.
- MIN-781—Ministry Residency III** 2
As the third course in the Ministry Residency sequence, Ministry Residency III continues to build on your residency experience. In addition to further developing the competencies you began in Ministry Residency I and II, you will explore ministry areas including classroom teaching; pastoral duties (e.g., funerals, pre-marital counseling, weddings, etc.); implementing a ministry initiative; cross-cultural immersion/engagement; and focusing on specificity of ministerial call. *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
As the fourth course in the Ministry Residency sequence, Ministry Residency IV is designed to foster collaborative partnerships and to enhance the curriculum by the inclusion of ministry practitioners and contextual learning. It is intended to nurture learning, skill development, ministry practice, identity formation conducive to excellence in ministry, significantly improve the readiness for excellence in vocational ministry leadership and provide students with authentic ministry experiences. *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 adviser approval.
- MIN-793—Independent Study: Educational Ministries** 1-3
Supervised independent study for advanced students in educational ministries. Registration for this course requires adviser approval.
- MIN-794—Independent Study: Intercultural Ministries** 1-3
Supervised independent study for advanced students in intercultural ministries. Registration for this course requires adviser approval.
- MIN-795— Independent Study: Chaplaincy** 1-3
Supervised independent study for advanced students in the chaplaincy ministry. Registration for this course requires adviser approval.

MIN-797—Master’s Thesis**3**

The student will write a thesis (50-75 pages) under the supervision of a faculty thesis adviser 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 adviser approval. Each enrolled student will be charged an additional fee of \$100.00 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 online, with module courses offered on campus each summer. Courses from the TESOL program can be included within the Master of Arts in Christian studies, the Master of Divinity or the Master of Arts in ministry leadership degree program.



ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary will consider for admission students with bachelor's degrees and a minimum 2.5 GPA 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. Individuals may apply to begin a program during an academic term—fall, spring, J-term or summer.

Acceptance for admission will be considered upon receipt/confirmation of the following items.

ALL PROGRAMS:

1. Application for admission; free of charge online at cornerstone.edu/grts.
2. Official academic transcripts from each undergraduate and graduate school attended.
3. Actively participate in a church that aligns with the GRTS Statement of Faith.
4. Supplemental requirements may be noted on the admissions website fo specific programs.

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 2/3 percent of the particular degree program requirements may be fulfilled through transfer credit. See paragraph on Transfer of Credit in the Academic Policies section of the catalog.

READMISSION

Any former student who has not been enrolled for one semester or more must apply for readmission. Official academic transcripts of all studies that have been completed in the interval must be submitted. Any student who has not been enrolled for more than three 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 or ministry, without a specific degree objective. 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.

- Audit non-degree students must only submit an application for admission.

- Credit-seeking non-degree 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 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 GRTS 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 GPA 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. Those students admitted on a conditional admission basis must achieve a minimum 2.5 GPA. See the section Academic Probation, Suspension and Dismissal in the Academic Policies section of the catalog for more information.

REGISTRATION

Prior to each semester, there is a registration period during which it is each student's responsibility to select courses and to ensure that they are making satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their degree. Each student is assigned a faculty adviser and is encouraged to set up meetings as needed throughout their enrollment.

For new students, the GRTS admissions team assists students in selecting courses and processing registration for their first semester.

For continuing students, online course registration occurs each semester on the published dates (see Academic Calendar). The GRTS admissions team will register students enrolled in online/cohort-based programs each semester.

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 Cornerstone University Student Financial Services. Students will be permitted to attend classes when course registration and financial arrangements have been finalized.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary values the presence and contribution of students from around 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. Due to SEVP regulations, international students are not able to enroll in fully online programs.



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 three months 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. GRTS requires students to submit transcripts from outside the United States to Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) for a comparison to U.S. standards. A course-by-course evaluation will be required.
 - f. English Language Proficiency: GRTS accepts scores from TOEFL or IELTS. International students who are not lifetime residents of Australia, Canada (other than Quebec), Ireland, 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 ets.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.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 2021-22 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 U.S. (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. 15-25, 2021. 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, Aug. 31, 2021.

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 WEBSITES

- + U.S. Government Sites ice.gov
- + uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis
- + Association of International Educators nafsa.org
- + About the City of Grand Rapids experiencegr.com
- + Test of English as a Foreign Language toefl.org
- + International Students Incorporated internationalstudents.org
- + International English Language Testing System 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 vice president for student development is designated as the university's Title IX coordinator. The vice president for student development 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 616.222.1423.

AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING

Audio and video recordings as well as screen capture photographs will take place in the online learning environment. Prior to participation in online courses, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is required to obtain consent from registered students during the application process. Audio and video recordings may occur in the context of the online learning experience as well as through projects, video teleconferencing and similar educational contexts. All documentation of this kind will be stored in a FERPA compliant manner and used only for educational purposes. Students are additionally prohibited from downloading and distributing course recordings/intellectual property of faculty and other FERPA protected online content. For more information about FERPA protected content, visit studentprivacy.ed.gov.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All students should bring/use a laptop that is capable of running current versions of Microsoft Windows, Apple macOS or Google ChromeOS. Your computer should additionally be equipped with:

- + Speakers/headphones and microphone. (Note: Public access computers may not allow usage of speakers, headphone or microphones.)
- + A web camera capable of video web conferencing. (Note: Public access computers may not allow usage of web cameras.)
- + Microsoft Teams software. (Students have access to all MS Office software at no cost while they are a registered student. Visit my.cornerstone.edu and click on Office 365.)

Students must additionally have access to a high-speed internet connection of at least 3.5 MB/s.



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, email 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 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:

- + Heartland ECSI: Performs Perkins loan billing, servicing and NSLDS reporting functions.
- + National Student Loan Clearinghouse: Reports enrollment data to the NSLDS.
- + 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 GRTS Student Handbook.

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND LIFESTYLE

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary seeks applicants who demonstrate commitment to Christ and who affirm the foundational doctrines in the GRTS Confession for Students.

WE BELIEVE the Bible is God's inspired word, our infallible and final authority for faith and life.

WE BELIEVE in the triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who is holy, loving, good, wise and almighty. He created all things by His word out of nothing, and He provides for and rules over all things.

WE BELIEVE God created men and women in His image, and that the union of Adam and Eve as man and woman models God's design for marriage and perpetually stands as God's loving and righteous will for all sexual intimacy.

Tragically, our first parents forfeited their original righteousness when they rebelled against God's revealed will. As a result, every human is born in sin, totally depraved, alienated from God and destined to death.

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

WE BELIEVE the triune God has provided a great salvation for those who repent of their sins and trust Christ and His finished work. He calls, regenerates, unites to Christ, adopts, forgives, justifies, sanctifies and will ultimately glorify those who believe in Him.

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit who has come to build Christ's church, gift us for ministry and perfect our great salvation.

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

Students, by virtue of their enrollment, agree to live within the framework of the school's standards of conduct. While some may not have personal convictions concerning all of these standards, agreeing to them obligates the student to assume responsibility for honorable adherence to them while enrolled at the seminary. It should, of course, be understood that any behavior, either on campus or away, which indicates that a student has disregard for the spirit of the 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 church that aligns with the GRTS Statement of Faith.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION *(per semester)*

- \$590 — Graduate tuition *(per credit hour)*
- \$590 — Master of Theology tuition *(per credit hour)*
- \$515 — MABS and MAML *(per credit hour)*

SEMESTER FEES

- \$450 — Student Services Fee
- \$85 — Vehicle registration

OTHER POTENTIAL FEES

- \$190 — Commuter meal plan *(25 meals per semester)*
- \$25 — Application fee *(online free)*
- \$100 — Late payment fee *(initial charge)*
- \$25 — Late payment fee *(monthly after initial charge if financial obligations are not fulfilled)*
- \$10 — Replacement ID card fee
- \$55 — Payment plan fees *(per semester)*
- \$5 — Transcript fees
- \$100 — Practicum and internship late registration fee

COURSE FEES

- \$175 — Spiritual Formation (MIN-500-01/15/25) assessments fee
- \$3,740 — Israel Study Tour fee (BBL-601/4) *(\$3,840 after the initial deadline)*
- \$100 — M.A. thesis fee (BBL-792, THE-792, MIN-797)
- \$125 — TH.M. thesis fee (BBL-890)

INDIRECT COSTS

- \$240-450 — Books, per semester (12-15 credits)

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 GRTS 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 programs other than the MAML or MABS online cohort and enrolled in five or more credit hours per fall or spring semester are eligible to apply for institutional 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 Nov. 15 for the spring semester. FAFSA applications can be submitted online at 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 Gratitude Day 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 Student Financial Services for more information regarding these levels.

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

<u>Program</u>	<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Half-Time</u>
Master of Divinity	9	5
M.A. in Christian Formation	9	5
M.A. in Christian Studies	9	5
M.A. in Biblical Exegesis	9	5
Master of Theology	8	4
M.A. in Theological Studies	9	5
M.A. in Ministry Leadership	6	3
M.A. in Biblical Studies	6	3
M.A. in Nonprofit Leadership	6	3

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 5th or 20th of each month, August-December, depending on the payment plan chosen. Spring semester payment due dates are the 5th or 20th of each month, January-May, depending on the payment plan chosen.

There is a payment plan fee of \$55 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.



ORDER OF FINANCIAL AID AND PAYMENT APPLICATION

Unless specifically designated otherwise, all financial aid and payments posted to the student account will be applied first to tuition, followed by all mandatory and course fees, followed by room & board and then other charges. Financial aid will be applied first, followed by any payments made.

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:

FOR 15-WEEK COURSES:

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

FOR 7-WEEK COURSES:

One week or less	100% of tuition
Second week	70% of tuition
Third week	55% of tuition
Fourth week	40% of tuition
More than four 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 Student Financial Services 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:

FOR 15-WEEK COURSES:

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

FOR 7-WEEK COURSES:

One week or less	100% of tuition
Second week	70% of tuition
Third week	55% of tuition
Fourth week	40% of tuition
More than four 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% 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). Contact the Student Financial Services Office for a copy of the full policy.

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 SCHOLARSHIPS

Students who are enrolled in any GRTS programs (except for the M.A. in ministry leadership, M.A. in biblical studies and M.A. in clinical mental health counseling online programs) and enrolled in five or more credit hours are eligible to apply for scholarships by submitting the Seminary Scholarship Application. Scholarships, with the exception of the Pirsig Fellowship, which is offered all year round, are only offered during the fall and spring semesters.

- **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.
- **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 GPA. Priority is given to students who are members of churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.
- **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.
- **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 GPA, and financial need is considered.
- **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.
- **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 GPA.
- **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 GPA of 3.5 or above. Financial need is not required but will be considered in the selection process.
- **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 GPA and financial need. Eligibility for this scholarship is limited to two years.



- **Gunn Memorial Scholarship**
The Gunn Memorial Scholarship was created by a generous gift from Jim Gunn in honor of his grandparents Reverend Dr. John R. and Mrs. Nellie Gunn. Dr. Gunn was a well-regarded pastor, author and scholar who with his beloved wife, Nellie, served the Lord faithfully throughout their lifetime. Rev. Dr. Gunn pastored for several years until for health reasons at age 43 began writing a column for Ft. Wayne's The Journal Gazette that inspired readers for 36 years. Nellie shared John's love for writing authoring articles for the Atlanta Constitution Journal before moving to Ft. Wayne. The Gunn Scholarship is awarded to a full-time M.Div. student with a similar passion to share the gospel through the spoken and written word.
- **James Murray Grier Academic Scholarship**
The James Murray Grier Academic Scholarship assists students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement through a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7 in undergraduate study for new students and at the graduate level for returning students.
- **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 GPA of 3.5 or above. Financial need is not required but will be considered in the selection process.
- **Nienhuis Family Scholarship for Pastoral Ministry**
The Nienhuis Family 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 GPA toward a degree at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
- **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.
- **McKinney Family Scholarship**
The McKinney Family Scholarship is awarded to assist GRTS students in fulfilling their goal of a Christian education.
- **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 GPA in an undergraduate program and continuing students must possess a minimum 3.24 GPA.
- **Pirsig Fellowship**
The Pirsig Fellowship provides an opportunity for men and women who are called to ministry or leadership to earn a Master of Divinity degree with little or no educational debt. The fellowship features a 50% scholarship, a cohort structure for intentional community and an enhanced learning experience outside the classroom. The fellowship is awarded to entering students and continues throughout the duration of the program. Eligibility requirements and selection criteria include the following: completed bachelor's degree with a 3.0/4.0 GPA, acceptance in the Master of Divinity program, demonstrated ministry calling and gifting, love for the church, compassion for people, growth in Christlike character, academic performance and commitment to completing the M.Div. Priority is given to building diversity into all cohorts with candidates who are 35 years old or younger and demonstrate financial need. Pirsig fellows commit to maintaining a 3.0 GPA in seminary, completing the M.Div. in five years or less, participating in all fellowship enhancements, meeting with the fellowship director annually and "giving back" to the Pirsig Fellowship in the future, as the Lord leads.
- **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.
- **Samaritan's Scholarship**
The Samaritan Scholarship was created in honor of Brian Jackson's 35 years of service to Cornerstone University. It is awarded to students enrolled in GRTS based on merit and financial need. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need.
- **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.

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.

- **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.

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 may be awarded an unsubsidized loan, which accrues interest while in school, beginning with 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 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.

- **Eligible Courses**

A student is not eligible to receive federal financial aid for any courses that are not required for the degree program in which the student is not enrolled.

- **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.



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 GPA requirement. Cumulative GPAs are monitored at the end of each semester.

Master of Theology	3.0 GPA
All other programs	2.5 GPA

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 toward the 150% completion requirement.

<u>Cumulative Hours Attempted</u>	<u>Minimum % Completed</u>
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 course work. A repeated course will be counted toward 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 on the FAFSA 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

Cornerstone University cooperates with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in processing benefits for the training of honorably discharged and active service members. Veterans who wish to use the benefits should obtain the necessary forms and instructions from the nearest office of the Veterans Affairs or the Cornerstone University Student Financial Services Office. In order for a student to be eligible for financial aid for VA benefits, he/she must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student.

Non-degree seeking students are not eligible for financial aid or VA benefits. A student who applies for a degree program and is accepted to the PGS division will be considered as degree-seeking.

Verification of enrollment for VA benefits is processed when the student has submitted the Application of Education Benefits form or the Request for Change of Program or Place of Training form to the Student Financial Services Office. Cohort dates must be determined prior to processing. Initial certification will be processed upon attendance confirmation. It should be understood by veterans that under some benefits, such as chapters 30, 35, 1606 and 1607, the student will be reimbursed directly by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans should plan to pay their bills in accordance with the payment schedule provided by the Student Financial Services Office.

We, Cornerstone University, will permit any covered veteran (a student who is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits) to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date of which the individual provides to us a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to education assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a "certificate of eligibility" can also include a "statement of benefits" obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website-eBenefits or VAF 28-1905 form for Chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

We will not impose to a covered veteran any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries or other institutional facilities. We will not require that a covered individual borrow additional funds because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

If the Department of Veterans Affairs is paying the school directly, the Student Financial Services Office must have all required paperwork. If the Department of Veterans Affairs is reimbursing the student, bills should be paid in accordance with the university payment schedule.

The GPA of veterans will be monitored at the end of each payment period. Veterans who are placed on academic probation and fail to change this status within one additional semester will be reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs. This action may result in the termination of benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs. If benefits are terminated, a veteran may reapply to the university for re-certification of veteran's benefits after the probationary status has been removed. Certification of each class will be recorded in the Department of Veterans Affairs system as the veteran progresses through the program.

Eligibility for VA benefits is determined solely by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Cornerstone University is responsible only to verify student's enrollment.

For more information, refer to cornerstone.edu/veterans-benefits.



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. Plagiarism includes using another person's words or ideas and passing them off as your own. Self-plagiarism, "double dipping" and duplicate publication (using your own work in duplicate contexts without citation of the previous use) is also prohibited. 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 and enrollment at the seminary 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 course work, 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 PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL

Any student who does not achieve the minimum required cumulative GPA of 2.5 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 and may be required to take remedial courses or work with an assigned academic tutor. Probation is not designed to punish students but serves as an indication to students that they are not progressing at a satisfactory rate toward graduation.

Students who, after one semester of academic probation, fail to achieve the minimum required cumulative GPA of 2.5 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 GRTS 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 academic probation, suspension and dismissal should be put in writing to the attention of the GRTS Academic Appeals Committee within five days of the date of notification of probation, suspension or dismissal. The judgment will be rendered within 10 business days of receipt of the appeal. The response to the appeal will be in writing, and all judgments of the GRTS Academic Appeals Committee are final.

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 transcripts should be directed through the National Student Clearinghouse. Instructions are located on the Registrar's page of the CU website. Enter "transcript" in the search box on the main website.

ACADEMIC TUTORING

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 adviser. Professors can then make a referral to the associate dean for the student to receive tutoring. 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. Tutors are upper-level GRTS students who have excelled in course work, possess the appropriate disciplinary expertise and demonstrate the relational gifts essential to the task of tutoring.

Students who are struggling to meet graduate level writing competencies are encouraged to seek assistance from our centralized writing center, located in Miller Library on Cornerstone's main campus.

ADVANCED STANDING

Advanced standing credit is available to new students for certain undergraduate courses completed at regionally accredited institutions, institutions accredited by the Association of Biblical Higher Education and other institutions approved by Cornerstone University. In keeping with the professional accrediting standards of The Association of Theological Schools, GRTS limits the use of advanced standing credits to a maximum of 1/3 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 GPA 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. 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

On-Site and Live students are expected to attend/ participate in all class sessions scheduled for the particular course. Arriving late to class (i.e., within 15 minutes of published class start time) on three occasions will equal one absence. Arriving to class 15 minutes (or more) after the published class start time will be regarded as an absence. A maximum of one absence will be allowed without grade implications for work conflicts, sickness, general scheduling conflicts and all other reasons. For Anytime students, attendance is defined as logging into the course on a weekly basis and staying current with the requirements of the course.

Exceeding the allowable absences noted above carries grading implications according to the following:

- 1 Absence:** No grade reduction for course.
- 2 Absences:** One letter grade reduction for course.
- 3 Absences:** Two letter grade reduction for course.
- 4 Absences:** F course letter grade.

Students should communicate with the course professor in advance concerning anticipated scheduling conflicts. In certain instances, and with advanced approval of the course professor, students may be able to pivot from their chosen primary modality to an alternative modality to avoid missing a class session and incurring an absence. Such temporary adjustments to one's chosen primary modality must be coordinated in advance and approved by the course professor.

When the attendance policy embedded within a given course syllabus differs from this institutional attendance policy, the policy listed in the given syllabus is authoritative.

AUDIT POLICY

Course audits are available for those seeking to obtain course content without course credit toward a degree. Course audits are permitted under certain conditions and with specific expectations. 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. 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 late August and ends in mid-December.
- J-Term:** Occurs early to mid-January.
- Spring Semester:** Begins the third week of January and ends late April or early May.
- Summer Semester:** May, June, July and August.

See the Academic Calendar in the GRTS Academic Catalog for the 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 adviser 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 advisers are available to assist in answering questions and providing informed insight into the various scheduling options. Appointments with faculty advisers can be scheduled by emailing the adviser directly. 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 GRTS Admissions 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 Seminary Resources).

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 (APEs).

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 regard to course drops, courses will be treated as follows on the student's official record:

15-WEEK COURSES:

Before end of Drop/Add (1st five business days)	No record on transcript.
Before end of 9th week	W: No effect on GPA.
After end of 9th week	W/P or W/E
	W/P: No effect on GPA.
	W/E: Treated as F for GPA.
After end of 12th week	W/E: Treated as F for GPA (no W/P option).

7-WEEK COURSES:

Before end of Drop/Add (1st day of course)	No record on transcript.
Before end of 4th week	W: No effect on GPA.
After end of 4th week	W/P or W/E
	W/P: No effect on GPA.
	W/E: Treated as F for GPA.
After end of 6th week	W/E: Treated as F for GPA (no W/P option).

2-WEEK COURSES:

Before end of Drop/Add (1st day of course)	No record on transcript.
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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 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 Nov. 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 exercises, which occur each year during early May. Approval to participate in commencement 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 based on substantive rationale for early participation, limited to six credits or less of outstanding work and necessitates a verified plan to complete all of the outstanding course work within the next enrollment period. 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.

HEBREW AND GREEK COMPETENCY EXAMS

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, they must demonstrate language competency through 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 GRTS Admissions Office.

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 reserve 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, the professor and academic dean must grant permission. 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. 15 and from the summer semester no later than Nov. 15. Students should make every effort 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. Students carrying two or more incompletes into a subsequent semester will be limited to 6 credits of enrollment.

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 Center for Academic Success located in Miller Hall on the main campus. Disability accommodations for students from the traditional Cornerstone University undergraduate program, Professional & 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 academic support 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 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 academic support should be contacted immediately at 616.222.1596 or through email at student.success@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 grievance procedures is available at the Center for Student Success in Miller Hall, or online at cornerstone.edu/student-disability-services.

Please note: The process for determining eligibility for accommodations can take five to six weeks, so students should complete an application and submit appropriate documentation well in advance. To be deemed appropriate documentation, testing and assessment of disability must have been completed no more than three years prior to the application for accommodations at Cornerstone University.

MASTER'S THESIS

In preparation for doctoral studies, a select number of qualified students within the Master of Divinity (academic track only) or 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 and process this preference with their faculty adviser early in their degree program. The inclusion of a master's thesis in the degree program requires formal faculty adviser approval. Enrollment for a master's thesis consists of two main elements: Thesis Readings (BBL-584, THE-584, COU-584) and Thesis (BBL-792, THE-792, COU-792). Students are encouraged to enroll in Thesis Readings the semester prior to enrollment in Thesis. The required readings course is intended to provide the student an opportunity to expand their knowledge base in the specific area of study and to focus the thesis topic. Students are encouraged to work closely with their faculty adviser in identifying and developing an area of study for the thesis.

MID-POINT AND EXIT ASSESSMENTS

All degree seeking students 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 associate dean and engage the student along with the student's academic adviser, academic dean, associate dean and practicum/internship faculty adviser. The purpose is to review the student's academic performance, student learning portfolio and overall progress in vocational readiness. 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 toward vocational readiness;
2. Affirm with reservations progress toward vocational readiness; or
3. Does not affirm progress toward vocational readiness.

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 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 GPA 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 GPA 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 GPA of 3.60, magna cum laude must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.70 and summa cum laude must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.85. To be eligible for graduation honors, the student must complete a minimum of 36 hours in the Master of Arts in clinical mental health 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 GPA from the fall semester. The final transcript and diploma will record graduation honors on the basis of the entire academic record.

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 another master's degree from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary are eligible to fulfill up to 2/3 of the credits required into second degree through the credits achieved in the first degree. Courses must be evaluated for content alignment on an individual basis, and faculty and administration approvals are required.

SEMESTERS AND HOURS

The academic year is divided into three semesters (fall, spring and summer) with each consisting of 15 instructional weeks. Enrollment levels and pace of degree completion vary by degree program and by student. A three semester hour course generally consists of 120 hours of student "time on task" which averages out to eight hours per week for a 15-week course. The "time on task" calculation is an estimate of the time the average student is required to invest in the course across the learning exercises (i.e., class sessions, group work, viewing recorded lectures, readings, assignments and homework, online posts, paper writing, exams, etc.). The student seeking the maximum financial aid 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 matters of probation, suspension and dismissal, students should see the above policy on academic probation, suspension and dismissal. For all other cases, the letter of appeal must be submitted to the academic dean.

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 adviser 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**

The PRO-D assessment is integrated into this course for the purpose of developing self-awareness, emphasizing strengths and identifying ideal roles.

- **Mid-Point Assessment**

A formal analysis of the student's academic and non-academic development and an evaluation concerning progress in vocational readiness. This process involves the academic adviser, academic dean, associate dean, ministry mentor or practicum/internship site supervisor and the director of the Ministry Residency program or practicum/internship professor.

- **Ministry Residency**

Ministry mentors assess students each semester of enrollment in Ministry Residency (MIN-685, MIN-686, MIN-781 and MIN-782) in regard 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 associate dean and seeks feedback from the student, academic adviser, ministry mentor or practicum/internship site supervisor and the director of the Ministry Residency program or practicum/internship professor.

STUDENT AWARDS

- **Academic Dean's Award**

This award is given to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative GPA.

- **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 (bakerbooks.com) to encourage excellence in biblical and theological study by students preparing for vocational ministry.

- **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.

- **Educational Ministries Award**

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

- **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 and 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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **Urban Cohort Gatekeeper Award**
The Gatekeeper Award is given to a student from the Urban Cohort program distinguished in their service at the intersection of church, community and the academy. Recipients of this award demonstrate commitment to honor the call to ministry by cultivating character and competence through lifelong learning. Demonstrating proper communal commitments, Gatekeeper Award recipients are faithful partners of CU in inviting others into, and persisting within, this formational journey.
- **Urban Cohort Perseverance for Excellence Award**
The Urban Cohort Perseverance for Excellence Award is given to the student in the Urban Cohort program who has persevered in the educational journey despite significant challenges and/or disruptive life circumstance. Recipients are honored for enduring and overcoming challenges while in pursuit of learning excellence.
- **Urban Cohort Academic Award**
The Urban Cohort Academic Award recognizes an Urban Cohort graduating 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.
- **Zondervan Greek Award**
Given annually to the seminarian who demonstrates the greatest achievement in the study of beginning biblical Greek grammar. Receiving this award reflects the student's hard work in BBL-510 and BBL-511 (Greek I-II) and their receiving the highest grades in those classes. This award is sponsored by the academic division of Zondervan Publishing House (zondervanacademic.com) to encourage the study of Greek by students preparing for vocational ministry.
- **Zondervan Hebrew Award**
Given annually to the seminarian who demonstrates the greatest achievement in the study of first-year biblical Hebrew. This award is sponsored by the academic division of Zondervan Publishing House (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 (zondervanacademic.com) to encourage the study of theology by persons preparing for vocational ministry.

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, they are 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 15275-1110. ATS staffers can also be reached by calling 412.788.6505.



TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT FOR ONLINE COURSES

Students enrolled in a fully online degree program (MACMHC, MAML or MABS) or online courses within traditional residential program will need regular access to a computer with the following:

- A modern computing processor of 2 GHz or faster.
- 4 GB RAM or higher.
- A high-speed internet connection with a connection speed of at least 3.5 MB/s.
- Speakers/headphones and microphone. (Note: Public access computers may not allow usage of speakers, headphone or microphones.)
- A web camera capable of videoconferencing. (Note: Public access computers may not allow usage of web cameras.)

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

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

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

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary will accept a maximum of 2/3 of the selected degree program requirements through transfer credit or through a combination of transfer credit and advanced standing. 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 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. GPA does not transfer with the transfer credits.

WITHDRAWAL

A student who wishes to withdraw must complete a withdrawal form, available from the seminary office or by emailing seminary@cornerstone.edu. Failure to submit this form will result in the student receiving an F in the related course or courses.



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 Welch 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. Please contact the Accounting and Finance Office for hours of operation at 616.222.1445.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Cornerstone University Alumni Association is comprised of graduates from the associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degree programs. Non-degree alumni are individuals who have achieved 36+ semester hours in the traditional undergraduate program or Professional & Graduate Studies program or 12+ semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or within CU Professional & 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. More information is available at cornerstone.edu/alumni.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks required for courses at GRTS are available for purchase through the Slingshot bookstore in partnership with GRTS. Textbooks can be rented, purchased used or purchased new depending on the student's preference. Students who rent textbooks have the option to purchase the book at the end of the semester. New students are automatically enrolled to receive their textbooks via the rental format and must opt-out from textbook rental or switch to the purchase option if they desire this instead of renting them each semester.

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.

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 have the appropriate vehicle parking permit properly displayed on the vehicle's windshield. Vehicles are registered at the Accounting and Finance Office located in the Welch Administration Building.

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

CENTER FOR CAREER AND LIFE CALLING

The Center for Career and Life Calling provides several opportunities to assist students as they prepare for their future careers and vocation. Located in Miller Hall, the Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Opportunities for one-on-one consultations can be requested by calling 616.222.1433 or emailing career@cornerstone.edu.

An online job board called Handshake is available at cornerstone.joinhandshake.com/login. Handshake provides opportunities for students to find jobs and for employers to post job opportunities. GRTS students can access Handshake by requesting an alumni account and will be notified electronically upon the account being approved for use.

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 GRTS Admissions Office will assist international students in applying for a U.S. 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 (username and password) is arranged for all new students at the outset of the semester. A computer training session is included in 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 or technology.support@cornerstone.edu.

COUNSELING SERVICES

GRTS understands the importance of caring for its students in a holistic way and encourages students who are in need of additional support to pursue counseling services. The list of external counselors is available in the GRTS section of My Cornerstone at my.cornerstone.edu.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CHAPEL

The chapel experience is central to the life of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary community. The seminary provides an enriching chapel experience by fostering a time to engage in worship and the Word while strengthening our community. GRTS welcomes students, one chapel session per week for student, faculty, staff and public 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.

PIRSIG ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Students in the Pirsig Fellowship participate in the Pirsig Enhancement Program, which is a series of extracurricular activities seeking to provide enhanced opportunity for spiritual formation during the seminary experience. The focus of the program is to address each student's personal discipleship and their ability to disciple others through reading select books, engaging in small groups and attending an annual formation retreat.

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 eight to 12 weeks. Approximately 100 individuals from the community attend each series, representing a variety of Christian denominations and associations. More information is available on Cornerstone's website.



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.

Talking Points offerings include:

- **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 discussions and roundtable dialogues.
- **Blog**
The Talking Points blog is an 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 the conversation at cornerstone.edu/talking-points-blog.
- **Resources**
Talking Points conferences yield recordings and other resources that are an ongoing benefit to leaders. Go to cornerstone.edu/talking-points to find past resources.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Student Financial Services Office is committed to assisting students with accessing financial assistance under federal, state and institutional programs. More information is available at cornerstone.edu/grts-aid.

If further information is needed, contact the Student Financial Services Office, located in the Welcome Center. Appointments with a financial aid professional can be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on 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 Registered Nurse for minor injury or illnesses. For more information about CU Health Services and office hours, go to 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: library.cornerstone.edu

Email: library.reference@cornerstone.edu

REGISTRAR SERVICES

The Cornerstone University Registrar's Office is located in the Welch 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:

- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. during the academic year
- 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. during summer months

More information is available at cornerstone.edu/registrar.

SPOUSE BENEFIT

The spouse educational benefit is intended to provide spouses of GRTS 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 GRTS 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 online courses 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 GRTS 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 GRTS Admissions Office.

STUDENT APPEAL PROCESS: NON-ACADEMIC

Students desiring to appeal non-academic decisions made by the Director of Academic Operations may write a formal letter of appeal within five days of the decision, which will be submitted to the director 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 director 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 SSLT 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.

More information is available at cornerstone.edu/sslt.



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GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

LEARNING, SERVING, LEADING

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