

Master of Arts in Bible and Ministry

Program Handbook

Program Information

Mission and Vision

The Masters of Arts in Bible and Ministry degree will train lay and vocational church and ministry leaders in the skills necessary for leading their local church or ministry. The degree emphasizes the integration of Bible and theology with ministry and pastoral practices.

Target Audience

The Masters of Arts in Bible and Ministry degree program targets lay and vocational church leaders around the world who have not had an opportunity to receive formal training in Bible, theology, and ministry. The program is also available to students who want to pursue further training in Bible and ministry to equip them for life-long Christian service.

Program Distinctives

This program is distinct from others in the following ways:

- A foundational commitment to New Testament church practice, including a plurality of leadership and the priesthood of all believers.
- A consistent focus on practical, ministry-oriented assignments in the local church context.
- A proud emphasis on building community and camaraderie among program faculty and students.

Conceptual Framework

Courses within this program adhere to the following instructional commitments:

- Highly integrative classes that combine multiple elements of theology, biblical knowledge, spiritual life, and ministry integration in each course.
- A distinctive emphasis on our ecclesial conviction of the priesthood of all believers led by a plurality of elders.
- Meaningful assignments that integrate learning into the life of the local church and/or ministry each student serves in.

Program Outcomes

Every graduate of this program will meet the following outcomes:

- **The Bible:** Graduates will be able to interpret Scripture accurately, grasping the content of Old and New Testaments, and apply Scripture responsibly in contemporary ministry contexts.
- **Theology:** Graduates will be conversant with the theology of the Bible in both its cognitive and practical aspects.
- **Spiritual Life:** Graduates will display a commitment to personal sanctification and growth in their own Christian life.
- **Ministry Integration:** Graduates will apply biblical principles and develop skills to serve effectively in various ministries through leadership, discipleship, teaching, and pastoral counseling.

Academic Policies and Procedures

Admissions Requirements

Candidates seeking to be admitted into the EU Global MA in Bible and Ministry program must complete the following:

1. Submit a completed EU Global MA Bible and Ministry application. The application is available at www.emmaus.edu/apply.
2. Must have completed an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better.
3. Arrange the submission of all transcripts from colleges and universities previously attended at the undergraduate level where at least 24 hours of credit was earned. If the applicant is completing their undergraduate degree at the time of submitting the application, the transcript must show completion of their junior year at a minimum (i.e., at least 90 credit hours completed).
4. If any graduate courses have been taken, arrange for official transcripts from all graduate institutions attended.
5. Arrange for a current church/ministry leader or spiritual mentor to complete the reference form: www.emmaus.edu/reference
6. Arrange for a current personal/educational reference to be completed at: www.emmaus.edu/reference
7. Affirm the following doctrinal statement:
 - a. The one God of the Bible eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - b. The eternal Son of God in the incarnation took a true human nature without ceasing in any way to be fully God.
 - c. Human beings are sinful from conception and, as such, unable to do anything in their own strength to improve that condition.
 - d. Christ died in our place, as a substitute for our sins, becoming sin on our behalf. He was buried, and he rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures.
 - e. Salvation for the individual is received by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
 - f. The Lord Jesus will return bodily from heaven to rule and reign over creation, in accordance with the Scriptures.
 - g. The Bible is the authoritative, inerrant, and infallible word of God and as such is our ultimate authority for faith and conduct.

Re-Enrollment for Students Previously Enrolled

EU Global MA Bible and Ministry students who have not taken a course within the last calendar year must reapply by completing the following:

1. Submit an application at emmaus.edu/apply.
2. Arrange for a current church/ministry leader or spiritual mentor to complete the reference form: www.emmaus.edu/reference
3. Arrange for a current personal reference to be completed at: www.emmaus.edu/reference

Educating and Equipping Learners to Impact the World for Christ

4. If the student has attended another university since leaving Emmaus, an official transcript of all courses taken must be sent to the Admissions Office.
5. Be cleared of all holds by any and all relevant Emmaus administrative departments including, but not limited to, Academics/Registrar, Student Life, Business Office, and Admissions.

Non-Degree Seeking Students

Students who do not intend to pursue an MA at Emmaus may apply as a non-degree-seeking student. Non-degree-seeking students are not eligible for federal, state, or institutional aid. These students must complete and submit an application for Admission (emmaus.edu/apply) and have both a current church/ministry leader as well as a personal reference complete the reference form (emmaus.edu/reference). If a student who has been previously admitted as a non-degree seeker wishes to continue enrollment as a degree-seeker they must complete the normal application procedure as described above.

Special Requirements for International Students

Qualified international students (i.e., non-citizens without a U.S. permanent resident visa) may apply for admission. The above application procedures and requirements apply to international students and they must also fulfill the following criteria:

English Proficiency Requirements

Applicants for whom English is not their native/birth language and/or were not born in the U.S. are required to demonstrate their proficiency in English by submitting satisfactory Test of English as a foreign Language (TOEFL) or Duolingo scores taken within two years of the date of application. This requirement applies even if the applicant is a U.S. citizen, has attended American or English-speaking schools and/or colleges/universities, and is a longtime resident of English-speaking countries. Waivers for the English proficiency requirement are rare and are given solely at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee reserves the right to require an official TOEFL or Duolingo score from any applicant whose correspondence and/or application materials do not demonstrate a robust command of the English language at the undergraduate-level.

English Proficiency Test Minimum Required Scores:

1. TOEFL- 86 (www.ets.org/toefl)
Code: 1215
2. Duolingo- 110 (www.englishtest.duolingo.com)

All test scores must be sent directly from the test provider to the Emmaus Admissions Office.

Test scores sent from applicants will not be accepted.

University Transcript Requirement for International Applicants

International students with university credits from an international school must have their transcript evaluated through WES (World Education Services), or an equivalent organization, to determine US equivalencies. Courses on transcripts without a WES evaluation will not be eligible for transfer.

Admission Decisions

Applications for Admission will be processed upon receipt of all required forms and transcripts. Applications are evaluated and final decisions are made by the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee will include at least one faculty member from the Bible and Ministry department. Emmaus University employs a rolling admissions process as required by the North

American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals (NACCAP).

Probationary Admissions

Probationary acceptance may be granted to students who received their bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution or have a low cumulative GPA. Probationary status will apply to the first 12 credit hours earned. The student must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above to have probationary status removed.

Denials and Ineligibility

Admissions decisions are entirely at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee reserves the right to deny any applicant who does not meet the academic, reference, and/or doctrinal qualifications. Doctrinal Ineligibility will be determined by surveying the applicant's understanding and/or reservations with any of the seven positions of the doctrinal statement. If the Admissions Committee determines that the applicant's understanding of any doctrine is in conflict with the doctrinal statement, the Admissions Committee will withdraw the applicant's application due to Doctrinal Ineligibility. Applicants who are currently incarcerated or have been dismissed from Emmaus University without resolution, are ineligible to apply.

Credits and Advanced Standing

Transfer Credit

Transfer credit may be given for courses from other institutions with demonstrated quality, comparability, appropriateness, and applicability to those of Emmaus. Courses with grades below B- are not transferable. Transfer credits do not affect GPA. Total credits received in the transfer cannot exceed 9 credits. Transfer decisions at Emmaus are not made solely on the source of accreditation of a sending program or institution.

Transfer Policy for Credits from Non-Accredited Institutions

Transfer requests from non-accredited institutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Entrance Terms for the MA

Students admitted to the MA will be able to start during Fall term A (August) or Spring term A (January). Students admitted in non-degree seeking status will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

EU Global Academic Policies

Workload Expectations

Students are expected to invest 15-18 hours per week in their course work.

Attendance

Students are expected to regularly participate in their online classes at Emmaus. Attendance in an online class is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom. This may include quizzes, discussion forums, written assignments, journal entry, or any required tasks for the course.

Students who do not attend class within the first two weeks (14 days) period will be dropped from the course. A student will confirm their intent to attend their online class by completing any of the following items: the course checklist, a forum post, an assignment or complete a quiz. After a student participates in the course and then desires to withdraw, they will follow the Class Withdrawal Policy.

Assessments Framework

The MA in Bible and Ministry is a praxis-oriented degree designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue ministry. As such students will be assessed using a combination of knowledge and practical assessments. Each course may have a different mix of: forum posts, group projects, exams, recorded video or audio, ministry project developments, papers, conversational assessment, and reflections to assess knowledge and practical skills.

Academic Integrity

Emmaus University expects students to complete all academic work with integrity. Students are responsible to complete all of their own work. Dishonesty in the completion of assignments, papers, presentations, examinations or any other academic work is contrary to biblical principles of Christian living and is unacceptable at Emmaus.

In the learning context of Emmaus University, cheating is defined as presenting work as your own when it was not produced by your own developing knowledge, skills, or abilities. Below are some examples of cheating:

1. The words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, examples, and/or organization of an assignment are borrowed from an outside source (a book, an article, another student's paper, tapes, etc.) without acknowledging the source.
2. A student submits work done by another student—in part or whole—in place of his or her own work.
3. A student submits work that was generated in part or whole by an artificial intelligence (AI) tool such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or many others.
4. A student submits assignments received from commercial firms or any other person or group.
5. A student knowingly aids another student in plagiarizing an assignment as defined above.
6. A student submits work in which the style, language or grammar has been altered by any one besides the writer without the writer's active involvement.

-
7. A student submits work that was done via unauthorized collaboration or outside of the conditions under which the assignment was designed to be completed.

Generative AI is a tool, but not a tool for learning. Students should always assume it is not permitted for use unless explicitly stated by their instructor in a manner that serves a specific learning goal.

Low-level AI tools such as spellcheck, Grammarly, Pro Writing Aid, Language Tool, etc. may be used at the discretion of the course instructor. If in doubt, students must ask the instructor if the tool being used—and the way it is being used—are appropriate for the given coursework.

Cheating, plagiarism, or other violations of academic integrity will result in academic penalty, which may include; failure of the assignment, exam, or paper, administrative withdrawal and failure of the course, and/or further disciplinary action brought by the Student Life Committee. The Vice President/Dean for Academic Affairs and the Vice President/Dean for Student Life will be notified.

Academic Advising & Student Support

The relationships between the student and the faculty/staff of Emmaus University are key to the success of students in EU Global. Students will always have three EU Global personnel available to them during each term they are enrolled:

Academic advisors are the student's first line of defense and serve EU Global students by providing relevant guidance regarding progress from one course to another along the path to program completion. Students can expect the following from their advisor: contact within 48 hours of enrollment, personalized academic planning throughout the program, help registering for courses in each term, and check-ins at least once each semester. Academic advisors are also available to students on an ongoing basis via email, and will always make time for appointments either in-person or virtually.

The **EU Global Student Services Advocate** serves EU Global students via proactive involvement in the students' educational experience in the online setting. This involvement includes connecting students to their advisor and instructors, helping students with the use of Populi, connecting students to support services, and aiding students in purchasing textbooks.

Course instructors serve EU Global students by teaching and shepherding them, along with their classmates, in the mastery and application of course content and skills. Students can expect consistent engagement from their instructors, as well as timely responses to email or phone communication.

Academic Assistance

A student will be placed on a minimum of 8 weeks of Academic Assistance if his or her cumulative GPA drops below 2.5 or if his or her GPA is below 2.0 in any given semester. Students must return their cumulative GPA to a 2.5 or higher to exit Academic Assistance.

Furthermore, after 2 consecutive terms of academic assistance, continued enrollment will be denied for at least one term, after which the student will be required to reapply; re-admission is not guaranteed.

To provide the student additional academic support, the following measures may be applied:

- Regular phone or video conferences with the student's Academic Advisor
- Training in successful academic habit provided by the EU Global Student Services Advocate

Educating and Equipping Learners to Impact the World for Christ

- Engagement with a tutor via the Academic Success Center
- Any other measures deemed appropriate may be applied to help the student as determined by relevant personnel

Students who do not comply with academic assistance requirements may be subject to administrative withdrawal.

Grades, Grade Points, Credits

The following system of grading is used in reporting the quality of student work:

Grade	Grade Point	Percentage
A	4.0	93-100
A-	3.7	90-92
B+	3.3	87-89
B	3.0	83-86
B-	2.7	80-82
C+	2.3	77-79
C	2.0	73-76
C-	1.7	70-72
D+	1.3	67-69
D	1.0	65-66
F	0.0	0-64

The Grade Point Average (GPA) is determined by dividing the total number of grade points by the total number of credit hours attempted.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to dispute a final grade they have received in a course should use the following process:

1. The parties involved (student and instructor) shall discuss the problem and attempt to reach an agreement.
2. If a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached through discussion, a written appeal must be filed with the VP/Dean for Academic Affairs within the first two weeks of the following term. The VP/Dean will discuss the issue with both parties and seek a resolution.
3. Should efforts toward conciliation be unsuccessful, the VP/Dean will call the Academic Committee to review the appeal. The decision of the Academic Committee will be deemed final.

Repeat of Courses

Students may elect to repeat a course in which they have earned a C or C-. Students must repeat a course in which they have previously received an unsatisfactory grade (D+, D, F) as many times as needed to successfully pass the course. Students may repeat a course one time in which they have previously earned a C or C-. When a course is repeated, the highest grade will be used to calculate the current and cumulative GPA. Each course attempt will remain on a student's transcript with the original grade, but will be marked with an R to indicate the course was repeated, and the lower grade will not be calculated in the student's GPA. Students will be charged the current tuition rate for each credit repeated course.

Student Leave of Absence

Students who register for EU Global courses are expected to engage in course activities as scheduled in the syllabus and complete all course assignments during the course term. Under unavoidable circumstances and for justifiable reasons, a student may be granted a Leave of Absence. A leave is only available if absolutely necessary, and if the student intends to complete the course(s) after the planned leave is complete. In some cases, the student may be counseled to withdraw from the course. Students seeking a leave of absence should notify their Academic Advisor.

Course Withdrawal Policy

If a student wishes to withdraw from a course, they should contact their Academic Advisor to be guided through the process, which includes filing a Withdrawal Form that can be obtained from the Registrar's office or accessed online through the Emmaus Navigator website.

In general, the following deadlines determine what happens should a student wish to withdraw:

- **Drop or Add – Weeks 1 and 2**
 - Students may add or drop a course without penalty and without a record on their transcript. Students adding a course after the first week must have permission from the Director of the EU Global Campus and the course instructor.
- **Withdraw Passing or Withdraw Failing – Weeks 3 and 4**
 - Students may withdraw from a class with a grade of WP (withdraw passing) or WF (withdraw failing) during Weeks 3 and 4. The instructor indicates whether the student is passing or failing at the time of withdrawal. This grade appears on the student's transcript to show that the credits were attempted but not earned. This grade does not affect the GPA. This type of withdrawal requires approval from the instructor, the advisor, and the Vice President/Dean for Academic Affairs.
- **Grade of F – Weeks 5 through 8**
 - Students dropping a class after the below time periods will receive a grade of "F". This "F" will appear on the transcript and will affect GPA.

Grade of Incomplete

Students may request a grade of Incomplete (I) if they are unable to complete course requirements on time due to circumstances beyond their control. If you wish to request an Incomplete the following procedure should be followed:

1. The student must initiate the request. Fill out the online Incomplete Grade Contract on Emmaus Navigator at Forms/Registrar's Office.

-
2. If the faculty member grants your request, he or she will approve the form, and a copy will be forwarded to you and the Registrar.
 3. You will have up to 4 weeks (2 weeks for 8-weeks course/ 4 weeks for 15- weeks course) from the last day of finals to complete your work.

Program Withdrawal

Any student wishing to withdraw from his or her program at Emmaus should begin the process by communicating with the EU Global Student Services Advocate. This communication must clearly state the student's intent to withdraw from the course. Once this communication is delivered, the EU Global Student Services Advocate will communicate the necessary steps for withdrawal from the program.

Administrative Withdrawal

Under most conditions, the responsibility for withdrawal from a class or from the university rests with the student. However, in certain situations, it may be in the best interest of the student and/or the university community to implement an administrative withdrawal from course(s), a program, or from the university. Students may be withdrawn at any time during the term with written notice, due to (but not limited to): 1) incarceration; 2) inability to comply with student visa regulations; 3) extenuating circumstances due to medical or mental health conditions; 4) behavioral/academic misconduct violations as defined in the Student Handbook; 5) a failed drug test, background check, and/or health requirement as mandated by individual programs; or 6) other situations as deemed appropriate by university administration.

If administratively withdrawn, students will receive a letter from the university indicating the rationale and any re-enrollment procedures. Any adjustments in tuition and fees due to an administrative withdrawal will be based on the university's published tuition refund policy. All circumstances leading to an administrative withdrawal will be documented and a record of action maintained in the student's academic record.

General Graduation Requirements

All students who are eligible for graduation are invited to attend the Baccalaureate Service and Commencement Exercises held at the close of the school year.

The following requirements must be met in order to graduate from a graduate program at Emmaus University:

- Grades of C- or higher in all required courses
- Completion of the minimum credit hours required by program
- Attendance and participation at least two times in BT 601 On Campus Colloquia (see course descriptions below)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5

Grievance and Petition Procedure

Purpose: The Student Concerns Procedure is designed to assist in resolving problems for students who may be having difficulty with a faculty member, a staff member, or another student.

It is the teaching and expectations of Emmaus University that students follow the principles of Matthew 18 for confronting an issue, but if the student concern cannot be resolved through informal discussion with the individuals involved, a student may choose to have the issue investigated and judged in a formal setting through the Student Concerns Procedure.

Confidentiality: Although the Student Concerns Procedure is confidential, identity cannot be withheld from the individual(s) involved. Other individuals may receive information as needed.

Timelines: The Student Concerns Procedure is designed to take place in no more than 60 working days. To find remedy under this formal process, a concern must be filed within 30 days of the incident. Concerns filed more than 30 days after the incident may not be accepted for adjudication.

Record Keeping: All records of the Student Concerns Procedure, including the concern form and all reports and findings, are the property of the College. A formal Student Concerns report that summarizes all formal concerns will be forwarded to the President, Cabinet, and division/department heads at the conclusion of each semester.

How to File a Formal Student Concern:

- Step 1: If the student has an issue with a faculty or staff member or another student, he/she should initially discuss the problem with the individual. Problems with policy, class grades, or course content should first be discussed with the instructor and the division/department chair.
- Step 2: If a suitable resolution is not achieved, the student can complete a formal Student Concern Form. Forms are available in the office of the VP/Dean for Academic Affairs.
- Step 3: The student returns the Student Concern Form to the office of the VP/Dean for Academic Affairs.
- Step 4: The VP/Dean for Academic Affairs will begin an investigation into the facts of the matter. Written notification of the concern will be provided to the involved individual(s) within 5 working days of receiving the concern.

-
- Step 5: The VP/Dean for Academic Affairs may either refer the case to the Student Life Committee or issue a decision. The VP/Dean for Academic Affairs will notify the student and the involved individual(s) of the findings. Notification of findings will be sent within 21 working days of the concern being filed. The student will receive the results of the investigation in writing. The student will review the findings and decide if they are satisfied with the results. If they are not satisfied with the results, they may proceed to Step 6.
 - Step 6: The student may appeal the ruling by notifying the President and VP/Dean for Academic Affairs in writing within 5 working days.
 - Step 7: The President will make the final decision on the appeal, and will notify the student and the involved individual(s) in writing within 10 working days.

Formal Complaints

It is the desire of Emmaus University to adhere to the accreditation standards of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). If issues arise causing a student to question the college's adherence to the standards of HLC or ABHE, the following procedure should be followed.

A student wishing to lodge a formal complaint must do so in writing to the following:

Academic Issues

Mr. Joel Carter
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Emmaus University
2570 Asbury Road
Dubuque, IA 52001
(563) 588-8000, ext. 1103

Financial or Operational Issues

Mr. Joseph R. Abdy
Vice President for Finance and Administration
Emmaus University
2570 Asbury Road
Dubuque, IA 52001
(563) 588-8000, ext. 1125

Student Life Issues

Mr. Israel C. Chavez
Vice President for Student Life
Emmaus University
2570 Asbury Road
Dubuque, IA 52001
(563) 588-8000, ext. 1122 (

Philosophical Issues

Dr. Philip Boom
President
Emmaus University

2570 Asbury Road
Dubuque, IA 52001
563) 588-8000, ext. 1101

It is the teaching and expectation of the college that members of the Emmaus community follow Matthew 18 principles for confronting an issue. However, in the event that you address the proper college authority and the issue remains unresolved, you may contact either accrediting association at the following addresses:

The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604
(800) 621-7440
www.hlcommission.org

Association for Biblical Higher Education
5850 T.G. Lee Boulevard, Suite 130
Orlando, FL 32822
(407) 207-0808
www.abhe.org

In an effort to assist Iowa's students and families in their pursuit of continued education, the 19 Iowa College Aid Commission has created the Student Dispute Resolution Form to document questions, concerns, and student complaints related to postsecondary educational institutions in the State. The online form is available at <https://iowacollegeaid.gov/StudentComplaintForm>

Curriculum Map

Courses

Biblical Studies (15 Credits)

- BT 501 Old Testament Foundations 1
- BT 502 Old Testament Foundations 2
- BT 503 New Testament Foundations
- BT 531 Hermeneutics
- BT 631 Romans Book Study

Prerequisite: BT 533 Expository Preaching

Theology (9 Credits)

- BT 521 Theology 1: God, Scripture, Angels
- BT 522 Theology 2: Man and Sin, Christ and Salvation
- BT 523 Theology 3: Holy Spirit, Church, Final Things

Biblical Ministry and Practice (12 credits)

- BT 532 Exegesis for Teaching and Preaching
Prerequisite: BT 531 Hermeneutics
- BT 533 Expository Preaching
Prerequisite: BT 532 Exegesis for Teaching and Preaching
- EM 551 Pastoral Counseling
- EM 552 Ministry Leadership and Shepherding

On Campus Colloquia (2 credits)

- BT 601 On Campus Colloquium (this 1-credit course must be completed twice to graduate)

Course Descriptions

BT 501 Old Testament Foundations 1

This is the first of two foundational courses on the Old Testament and focuses on the structure, content, and purpose of the Pentateuch and Historical Books (Genesis-Esther). The books will be studied with attention to their historical setting, key interpretive issues, and theological themes. The significance of the text for contemporary and ministerial application will be highlighted.

BT 502 Old Testament Foundations 2

This is the second of two foundational courses on the Old Testament and focuses on the structure, content, and purpose of the Poetic and Prophetic books (Job-Malachi). The books will be studied with attention to genre of writing, their historical setting, key interpretive issues, and theological themes. The significance of the text for contemporary and ministerial application will be highlighted.

BT 503 New Testament Foundations

An overview of the New Testament in its historical and literary context, including selected introductory and critical issues, as well as the distinct message and theological contribution of each book. Class time and assignments will focus on understanding, handling, and applying the New Testament text in particular ministry contexts.

BT 521 Theology 1: God, Scripture, Angels

This course undertakes a biblical examination of three areas of systematic theology: (1) Bibliology or the Doctrine of Scripture; (2) Theology Proper—the study of the doctrine of God; and (3) Angelology—the study of angels and demons. This course will weave in discussion of contemporary social and theological issues that are addressed by the theological topics under consideration with an emphasis on practical application in the ministry context.

BT 522 Theology 2: Man and Sin, Christ and Salvation

This course undertakes a biblical examination of four areas of systematic theology: (1) Anthropology—the study of humanity as God's creatures; (2) Hamartiology—the doctrine of sin; (3) Christology—the doctrine of the second person of the Trinity; and (4) Soteriology—the doctrine of salvation. This course will weave in discussion of contemporary social and theological issues that are addressed by the theological topics under consideration with an emphasis on practical application in the ministry context.

BT 523 Theology 3: Holy Spirit, Church, Final Things

This course undertakes a biblical examination of three areas of systematic theology: (1) Pneumatology—the study of the Holy Spirit; (2) Ecclesiology—the doctrine of the Church; and (3) Eschatology—the doctrine of the end times. This course will weave in discussion of contemporary social and theological issues that are addressed by the theological topics under consideration with an emphasis on practical application in the ministry context.

BT 531 Hermeneutics

This praxis-oriented course introduces the student to the basic issues and methodology involved in interpreting and applying any biblical text. It addresses broad questions such as the nature, goal, and validity of interpretation and application alongside the specifics of dealing with language, grammar, and contexts.

BT 532 Exegesis for Teaching and Preaching

Prerequisite: Hermeneutics

This course builds on Hermeneutics. In this course students will learn to move from interpretation to the communication of Scripture. The course maintains a focus on developing passages for a variety of teaching and preaching contexts.

BT 533 Expository Preaching

Prerequisite: Exegesis for Teaching and Preaching

An introduction to the basic elements of expository preaching, emphasizing the art and craft of preparing and delivering “Big Idea” expositional sermons derived from the biblical text with a commitment to accuracy, clarity, and relevance. Students will preach two sermons and receive feedback from their fellow students and their professor.

BT 601 On Campus Colloquia

Note that all food and housing for the colloquia will be provided for students at no extra cost.

Each May an on campus one week colloquium will be held as part of the master’s program. Students are required to participate in two colloquia during their masters’ program in order to graduate. Each colloquium will cover a relevant contemporary issue in ministry while also providing space and time for fellowship, prayer, and encouragement between students and faculty. There will be assigned reading to be done before each colloquium and a post-assignment to show engagement and application.

BT 631 Romans Book Study

Prerequisite: Expository Preaching

A study of the book of Romans emphasizing Paul’s use of argument, theology, and historicity. This praxis-oriented course will see the students develop a plan for communicating and applying the book in their own ministry context.

EM 551 Pastoral Counseling

This course will prepare students to do biblically-integrated pastoral counseling. The student will have a foundation in counseling skills and techniques. Subjects will include premarital, grief, marital, sickness, and crisis counseling. Ethics, referral training, and available resources will be addressed.

EM 552 Ministry Leadership and Shepherding

The course is designed to help the student understand and appreciate the roles of leaders in the local church as shepherds and disciple-makers preparing them to serve and lead. The foundation for church and ministry leadership and practice will be linked to scriptural principles emphasizing the role of leaders as shepherds and disciple makers. The principles reviewed will be connected to their practical outworking in the local church and ministry with a significant emphasis on the student’s immediate ministry context and needs.