

# ACADEMIC CATALOG

*2020-21*



**CALVIN**  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# Academic Catalog

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Calvin Theological Seminary

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Welcome to Calvin Theological Seminary!

We have been praying for you and looking forward to your joining our hospitable community of faith and learning. According to our "Vision Frame," our mission is to be "a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition that forms church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ." For 144 years, we have formed and prepared students to serve the church around the world as the church serves the mission of God.



As a learning community of faith we offer a number of opportunities and environments where your participation is desired and needed. We worship together. We pray together. We learn from one another.

The seminary community worships in a variety of ways: through student groups, community chapel services, and early morning prayer times. Whether you are a student in residence in Grand Rapids or a distance learning student, we encourage you to find a rhythm of worship and participation in the Calvin Seminary community.

Calvin Seminary receives students from over 20 countries, who bring cultural and ethnic diversity that energizes classroom discussion and enriches community life. Through a number of opportunities, we learn what God is doing around the world and experience first-hand different styles of prayer and worship. We have witnessed the formation of friendships that bridge cultural barriers that last a lifetime.

You will find study at Calvin Seminary rewarding and enriching, but also sometimes stressful and challenging. You may find it hard to balance responsibilities at home, school, church, and work. Please know that you have a Christian community here ready to support you and pray for you. Your fellow students, professors, staff members and, if you participate in the vocational formation program, the group members, leader and your vocational mentor are all here to encourage you and provide support for you.

Again, we are delighted to welcome you to Calvin Seminary and to walk alongside you in this new stage of your Christian journey. We pray that God will bless you here, and through you bless others!

In His Service with You,

Rev. Jul Medenblik  
President of Calvin Theological Seminary

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## Mission

*As a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition that forms church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ, Calvin Theological Seminary exists to serve the Christian Reformed Church in North America and wider constituencies by preparing individuals for biblically faithful and contextually effective ministry of the Word and by offering Reformed theological scholarship and counsel.*

Communicating the good news of the gospel in today's world requires that you're theologically prepared, practically equipped, and spiritually mature. We integrate a strong academic program with supervised ministry opportunities in our vocational formation programs. In other words: you learn, and you live what you learn.

When you do, you help us fulfill our mission - to prepare people to lead in ministry, to give them what they need to respond to the Holy Spirit's call throughout their lives, to bring nations to Christ, build His church, and extend God's kingdom.

Our professors use a rich variety of academic, professional, and personal gifts to train men and women for effective ministry. They invest themselves personally in helping you develop your God-given gifts in ways that promote spiritual maturity and integrate faith and life.

To prepare you for visionary leadership in the church and world, we offer courses of study in preaching, worship, leadership, educational ministry, youth ministry, missions and church growth, and pastoral care and counseling. In each of these areas, we teach from a scripturally Reformed position. We are committed to the Bible as God's Word and to the confessional standards of the Belgic Confession (1561), the Heidelberg Catechism (1563), and the Canons of Dort (1618-1619) as faithful interpretations of that Word. This perspective enables our students to interact with -- and effectively speak to -- a broader ecumenical Christian community and a post-modern world.

Calvin Theological Seminary has been equipping people to envision their participation in the kingdom of God since 1876. We will continue to do so for the glory of God.

## Teaching Faculty

Over ninety percent of full-time teaching faculty members possess earned doctorates from leading theological schools and universities. Faculty members have distinguished themselves by their writing and speaking, by their counsel to Reformed churches and in ecumenical arenas, by their commitment to the truth of the gospel, and by their devotion to serving students and forming them for life and ministry. Faculty members are frequent participants in international projects and have developed modern approaches to theological education. As ordained pastors and active church members, they know and value the life of local congregations.

Though recognizing that the future of theology and the strength of the church depend heavily on new leadership, the faculty's first commitment is to their students. Calvin fosters close, sustained contact between professor and student as the basic ingredient in theological education. The seminary stresses preparation in the great tasks of ministry: outstanding preaching, church education, pastoral care, evangelism, and administration.

The Calvin Seminary teaching faculty for 2020-2021 are:

Mariano Avila (*PhD, Westminster Theological Seminary; PhD, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Xochimilco*)  
Amanda J. Benckhuysen (*PhD, University of St. Michael's College - University of Toronto*)  
Lyle D. Bierma (*PhD, Duke University*)  
Gary Burge (*PhD, King's College - Aberdeen University*)  
Ronald J. Feenstra (*PhD, Yale University*)  
Danjuma G. Gibson (*PhD, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary*)  
Lee P. Hardy, adjunct (*PhD, Duquesne University*)  
Scott E. Hoezee (*MDiv, Calvin Theological Seminary*)  
Young Ahn Kang (*PhD, Free University of Amsterdam*)  
Robert J. Keeley (*PhD, University of Denver*)  
Karin Maag, adjunct (*PhD, University of Saint Andrews*)  
George Marsden, Distinguished Scholar (*PhD, Yale University*)  
Julius T. Medenblik (*MDiv, Calvin Theological Seminary*)  
John M. Rottman (*PhD, Emmanuel College of Victoria University*)  
David M. Rylaarsdam (*PhD, University of Notre Dame*)  
Sarah E. Schreiber (*PhD Candidate, University of Notre Dame*)  
Kathleen S. Smith, adjunct (*ThM, Calvin Theological Seminary*)  
Matthew J. Tuininga (*PhD, Emory University*)  
Mary L. VandenBerg (*PhD, Calvin Theological Seminary*)  
Geoff Vandermolen (*DMin, Acadia University*)  
Jeffrey A.D. Weima (*PhD, Wycliffe College - University of Toronto*)  
Cory Willson (*PhD, Free University of Amsterdam and Fuller Theological Seminary*)  
John D. Witvliet (*PhD, University of Notre Dame*)

Visit [www.calvinseminary.edu/academics/faculty](http://www.calvinseminary.edu/academics/faculty) to view the faculty directory.

## **A Calvin Seminary Education Can Fit Many Needs**

There are many reasons why a Calvin Seminary education could be right for you. Maybe it's our Reformed perspective. Perhaps you are seeking an education that provides a solid Biblical foundation and creatively engages the multitude of joys and challenges that accompany the decision to go into ministry. There's a possibility that you are looking to explore the impact of global Christianity or are looking for an experience that deepens your own spirituality as you learn to guide the spirituality of others. Maybe you long for a student-friendly environment or an easily accessible campus and location. In all these ways and more, Calvin Theological Seminary is a great fit for today's learners and today's world.

- Biblically Grounded
- Rooted in Reformed Theology
- Committed to Personal Spiritual Formation
- Academically Excellent
- Designed for the Practicing Pastor
- Interdisciplinary Courses and Instruction
- Relationship-based
- Cross-Cultural and Inclusive
- Responsive to Global Christianity
- Innovative Learning and Teaching
- Spiritually Alive



## Degrees and Programs

Whatever your call to ministry, we have what you need to be equipped!

- Certificate Programs (in English and in Spanish)
- Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership (MA)
- Master of Arts in Family Care (Maestría en Cuidado de la Familia) (MA), taught in Spanish
- Master of Arts (Bible and Theology) (MA)
- Master of Divinity (MDiv)
- Master of Theological Studies (MTS)
- Master of Theology (ThM)
- **Doctor of Ministry (DMin)**
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC)

We provide a range of degrees and programs to equip you to act on your call, no matter what form it takes. You can be prepared for ordained ministry in the church, train for specialized ministries, do advanced study, even prepare yourself for ordained leadership in the Christian Reformed Church after studying elsewhere.

Since timing is different for everyone, you can choose options for full-time or part-time study as a residential student or as a student in our Distance Learning program. Some students switch between residential and distance as their life circumstances change. Some residential students take a course in the distance format for scheduling flexibility. Students in our MA programs may choose to complete their program entirely online.

Internships spread over most of your academic program give you an integrated education in the real world.

Students who have completed relevant graduate-level studies at another accredited institution with a course grade of B or higher may apply for transfer credit. The previous work must be approximately parallel (80% or higher equivalence) to the content of a Calvin Seminary course. Up to one half of a student's program requirements may be met by way of transfer credit. Up to half of a completed program elsewhere may be accepted as transfer credit.

## Master of Divinity (MDiv)

The MDiv program is designed to prepare you for diverse ministry opportunities, from pastoral ministry to chaplaincy, missions, teaching, writing, non-profit leadership, or graduate programs oriented to research and scholarship. It combines foundational study in the biblical and Reformed theological texts, Church history and ancient languages with practical preparation and spiritual formation to make you an effective steward of the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. At Calvin Theological Seminary you'll find all of the elements you need to construct a solid foundation for your life and for your ministry. The MDiv curriculum provides the building blocks for every dimension of a biblical, authentic, contextual, and life-changing ministry, and is focused on the personal and spiritual formation of every student.

### Admission

The admission process reflects Calvin Seminary's goal to train capable stewards of the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. A strong liberal arts education provides an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shapes well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates. Therefore, it is recommended that a candidate's baccalaureate preparation consist of courses in the liberal arts, including English, philosophy, history, literature, social science, and natural science.

The Director of Admissions and the Registrar will examine the academic, professional, and ministry background of each applicant. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed which could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

To apply to the MDiv program you must have a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college with a grade-point average of 2.67 (B-) or higher. (Non-native English speakers need to submit a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80 total, with 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section.) You should also give evidence of academic and personal preparedness for theological education.

In some circumstances an applicant without a bachelor's degree, or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution, may be admitted into a degree program at CTS under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools. In such cases, the Registrar will determine the program the applicant must take in order to meet the requirements for graduation.

### Continuation Requirements

Continuation in the MDiv program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.67 will be placed on academic probation, and must have a minimum *term* GPA of 2.67 in each subsequent semester or risk dismissal from the program. A student must maintain a minimum *cumulative* GPA of 2.67 for two semesters for the probationary status to be removed. Ordinarily, a student cannot graduate while on academic probation. Any student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or lower is subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Funding sources such as the Veterans Administration, ecclesiastical bodies (e.g. local church or classis), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### MDiv Program Curriculum

Your preparation for ministry should include the same components that make for a good sermon. It should be biblical, authentic, contextual, and life-changing. The Master of Divinity curriculum is built on these four cornerstones—a foundation that connects the best of the Reformed tradition with the contemporary ministry practices essential for tomorrow's leaders.

Residential students live in West Michigan and complete their studies in three years (although some choose to stretch it out to four years or longer) at the Grand Rapids campus. They will be able to attend weekly

chapels, participate in club activities, and interact with peers on a daily basis.

Students in the distance learning Master of Divinity can complete their studies in 5 years. The distance program maintains the same high quality of education as our residential program. Taking approximately 3 courses per semester, distance learning students will complete much of their work online, traveling to the campus in Grand Rapids twice a year for five-day intensives. Formation for ministry is a strong emphasis as students experience the program in learning cohorts, engage in a wide range of internship opportunities, and receive support through formation groups.

Sample course sequences for the MDiv program are below. Residential students who would like to complete their program in 3 years should follow Chart A. Residential students wanting to spread the program over four years should follow Chart B. Distance Learning students should follow Chart C. The MDiv program can be adjusted for those students who have completed Greek language studies prior to coming to Calvin Seminary.

**CHART A – 3 YEAR PLAN (RESIDENTIAL)**

	Fall Semester		J-term	Spring Semester	Summer
<b>Year One</b>	Gateway Orientation Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1) [One week before the fall semester.]		Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)*	Formation Group (1) Greek Fundamentals II (3)* Church in Historical Context II (3)* Foundations for Pastoral Care (3) Preaching Theory and Methods (2) Introduction to Missional Ministry (2) Contextual Ministry Internship (1)	Elective (2)  Cross-cultural Internship (2)
	Formation Group (1) Greek Fundamentals I (3)* Theological Education as Formation for Min.(2) Bible Survey (3)* Church in Historical Context I (3)* Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)* Contextual Ministry Internship (1)				
<b>Year Two</b>	Formation Group (1) Biblical Hebrew I (3) New Testament Narratives (3) Systematic Theology I (3) Forming Worshiping Communities (2) Evangelism and Cross-Cultural Ministry (2) Contextual Ministry Internship (1)		Elective (2)	Formation Group (1) Biblical Hebrew II (3) New Testament Letters (3) Systematic Theology II (3) Discipleship and Teaching (2) Apologetics (2) Contextual Ministry Internship (1)	Elective (2)  Preaching Practicum I (1)
<b>Year Three</b>	Formation Group (1) OT Narrative Literature (3) Pastoral Disciplines for Counseling Ministry (3) Preaching Practicum II (2) CRC: History and Polity (3) [only required of students seeking CRC candidacy] Leadership in Ministry (3)		Elective (2)	Formation Group (1) Psalms and Wisdom Lit. or OT Prophetic Lit. (3) ( <i>offered in alternate years</i> ) Capstone: Integrative Seminar (2) Ethics and the Christian Life (3) Elective (2) Elective (2)	Opportunity for an additional internship, e.g. Clinical Pastoral Education, a summer internship, or a full-year internship.

\*Courses for which students can seek Advanced Standing by testing.

**CHART B – 4 YEAR PLAN (RESIDENTIAL)**

	Fall Semester		J-term	Spring Semester	Summer
<b>Year One</b>	Gateway Orientation Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1) [One week before the fall semester.]		Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)*	Formation Group (1) Greek Fundamentals II (3)* Foundations for Pastoral Care (3) Preaching Theory and Methods (2) Introduction to Missional Ministry (2) Contextual Ministry Internship (1)	Cross-cultural Internship (2)
	Formation Group (1) Greek Fundamentals (3)* Theological Education as Formation for Min.(2) Bible Survey (3)* Contextual Ministry Internship (1)				
<b>Year Two</b>	Formation Group (1) Biblical Hebrew I (3) New Testament Narratives (3) Forming Worshiping Communities (2) Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)* Contextual Ministry Internship (1)		Elective (2)	Formation Group (1) Biblical Hebrew II (3) New Testament Letters (3) Discipleship and Teaching (2) Elective (2) Contextual Ministry Internship (1)	
<b>Year Three</b>	Formation Group (1) OT Narrative Literature (3) Systematic Theology I (3) Church in Historical Context I (3)* Evangelism and Cross-Cultural Ministry (2)		Elective (2)	Formation Group (1) Psalms and Wisdom Lit. or OT Prophetic Lit. (3) ( <i>offered in alternate years</i> ) Church in Historical Context II (3)* Apologetics (2) Elective (2)	Preaching Practicum I (1)
<b>Year Four</b>	Pastoral Disciplines for Counseling Ministry (3) Preaching Practicum II (2) CRC: History and Polity (3) [only required if seeking CRC candidacy] Leadership in Ministry (3) Elective (2)			Capstone: Integrative Seminar (2) Systematic Theology II (3) Ethics and the Christian Life (3) Elective (2)	Opportunity for an additional internship, e.g. Clinical Pastoral Education, a summer internship, or a full-year internship.

\*Courses for which students can seek Advance Standing by testing.

## CHART C – 5 YEAR DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance-learning students should make every effort to stay on schedule with their courses. Taking courses from more than one year during a semester can lead to scheduling conflicts for on-campus intensives.

Year	Summer	Fall	J-Term	Spring
1	Gateway Orientation 716 Bible Survey (3)*	304 Church in Historical Context 1 (3)* 302 Greek Fundamentals 1 (3)* 311 Intro to Missional Ministry (2) 784 Formation Group (1)	705 Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)	305 Church in Historical Context 2 (3)* 410 Greek Fundamentals 2 (3) * 712 Theo Ed as Formation for Ministry (2) 785 Formation Group (1)
2	303 Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)*	301 Hebrew I (3) 306 Preaching Theory and Methods (2) 411 NT Narratives (3) 786 Formation Group (1)		321 Biblical Hebrew II (3) 412 NT Letters (3) 441 Evangelism and Cross-Cultural Ministry (2)
3	Elective (2)	402 OT Narrative Literature (3) 421 Systematic Theology 1 (3) 452 Forming Worshiping Communities (2) 754 Formation Group (1)		312 Foundations for Pastoral Care (3) 403 Psalms and Wisdom Literature —or 404 OT Prophetic Literature (3) (offered alternating years) Elective (2)
4	774 CRC History (1.5)** 773 CRC Polity (1.5)**	433 Preaching Practicum 1 (1) 440 Discipleship & Teaching (2) Elective (2) Elective (2) 755 Formation Group (1)		450 Apologetics (2) 451 Ethics and the Christian Life (3) 422 Systematic Theology 2 (3)
5	718 Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)*	431 Pastoral Disciplines for Counseling Ministry (3) 775 Leadership in Ministry (3) Elective (2) 756 Formation Group (1)		434 Preaching Practicum 2 (2) 771 Capstone: Integrative Seminar (2) Elective (2)

### Other Credits

760 Cross-Cultural Internship (2), Contextual Learning Internship (4)

### Notes

\*Courses for which students can seek Advanced Standing by testing.

\*\*Only required of students seeking CRC candidacy.

### Advanced Standing

MDiv students are eligible to receive up to 12 hours of credit in their program by way of Advanced Standing.

Student competence is demonstrated by way of a written exam and evaluated by faculty. If granted, Advanced Standing reduces the number of credit hours needed to complete the degree and can open doors to an additional internship or specialized coursework.

Study guides for the Advanced Standing tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of SemLink (Calvin Seminary's internal website). MDiv students may seek Advanced Standing for the following courses:

- Bible Survey (3)
- Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)
- Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)
- Church in Historical Context I or II (not both) (3)

### Advanced Standing in Greek and/or Hebrew

Students may receive 6 credits of Advanced Standing in Greek and/or Hebrew without taking a placement exam by meeting the following criteria:

- Transcript evidence of having taken at least 2 courses (at least 6 credit hours) at an accredited educational institution
- Having received an average of B or better in those courses
- Having taken the last course within the last 5 years

Students who do not meet these criteria may choose to take an exam administered by Calvin Seminary. The results of the exam determine whether Calvin Seminary will grant Advanced Standing transfer credit for one, two, or no courses in Greek or Hebrew. Students may take the test one time and will pay the usual cost for Advanced Standing exams.

MDiv students who receive Advanced Standing in Greek and/or Hebrew are also eligible for up to 12 credits of Advanced Standing in other courses for which tests are available.

### A Developmental Curriculum

At Calvin Theological Seminary, we are concerned with not only what we teach but also how we teach it. Our developmental pedagogy begins with basic literacy in all curricular areas, followed by increased in-depth analysis, and culminating in multi-disciplinary integration.

<b><i>Literacy Courses</i></b>	Literacy courses establish the basic vocabulary, concepts, and themes of theological education and ministry. They are the building blocks for seminary education and the foundation of the entire MDiv curriculum.
<b><i>Analysis Courses</i></b>	Analysis courses feature more in-depth examinations of themes in a given field of study. A number of analysis courses are electives which enable students to explore a focused amount of material. Electives encourage curiosity, imagination, and life-long learning.
<b><i>Integration Courses</i></b>	Integration courses feature intentionally interdisciplinary learning designed to help students draw upon their work from

	a variety of fields and experiences and apply it to specific ministry situations.
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### **Concentrations**

MDiv students may choose a concentration. Concentrations allow for more specialized study related to a student's ministry interests and calling. Concentrations also provide more thorough preparation for students who are considering doctoral study in a particular field.

Students are allowed to create their own concentrations, under the advisement of the Registrar at least a year prior to graduation.

To obtain a concentration, students must take six elective credits (generally 3 electives) in their area of concentration. All of those credits can be used for elective credit in their MDiv program. A student may have more than one concentration, as long as no credits count toward more than one concentration.

### **Candidacy for Ministry**

If you are preparing for ordained ministry, Calvin Seminary works with you to meet your church's requirements for ordination. In order to make sure that you meet all requirements, please consult with the Vocational Formation Office and with your denomination early in your MDiv program.

If you are preparing for ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church, you must meet the synodical requirements for candidacy, must have demonstrated academic, personal, and professional readiness for ministry, and ordinarily must have a cumulative GPA of 2.85 or higher.

### **MDiv Program Goals and Learning Outcomes**

In fulfilling its mission, Calvin Seminary seeks to develop well-formed graduates who:

- teach and preach the Bible,
- mature in their pastoral identity,
- discern and engage ministry contexts,
- and help to form communities of disciples.

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily related because every ministry situation involves a biblical MESSAGE which a PERSON communicates in a particular CONTEXT and for a specific GOAL. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary wants MDiv students to exhibit the following learning outcomes:

#### **1. MESSAGE**

- 1.1 Knowledgeable: students understand biblical languages and content, theological themes, the Reformed confessions, and the Christian tradition.
- 1.2 Theologically reflective: students integrate biblical, historical, theological, and pastoral reflection with all ministry practices.
- 1.3 Preaching and teaching: students explain and apply the biblical message clearly and engagingly.

#### **2. PERSON**

- 2.1 Spiritually mature: students exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, a commitment to the gospel of grace, and an eagerness to serve the mission of Christ's church.
- 2.2 Interpersonally intelligent: students demonstrate emotional health and relate to others with love and respect, even when expressing differences of belief or values.



### 3. CONTEXT

- 3.1 Discerning: students discern the ways in which theology and ministry practices are shaped by and respond to their historical and cultural contexts.
- 3.2 Engaging: students persuasively communicate the Gospel to people in a particular community, including religiously pluralistic, multicultural and cross-cultural settings.

### 4. GOAL

- 4.1 Discipling: students evangelize, respond to criticisms of Christianity, encourage moral formation, and provide pastoral care so that people at all stages of faith formation become more fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- 4.2 Worshiping: students worship and help others worship in ways that are God-glorifying and spiritually renewing.
- 4.3 Serving: students promote service ministries that humbly seek justice, compassion, and reconciliation.
- 4.4 Leading: students help a group embody in its corporate life the Christian practices that shape vital Christian life, community and witness.

#### **Future Employment Options**

Past graduates have applied their learning to a variety of ministry-based opportunities, including: pastor, chaplain, campus minister, missionary, church planter, and (with further study) professor.

## Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership

This 39 credit program is designed to prepare you for a variety of forms of ministry, with each student choosing one of five possible concentrations:

- Bible Instruction
- Education, Youth, & Family
- Missional Leadership
- Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Leadership
- Worship

The program includes a solid core of biblical, historical, and theological study, along with several courses in a concentration designed to prepare you for the Christian service and ministry to which God is calling you. The MA in Ministry Leadership curriculum focuses on your personal and spiritual formation as it provides the basis for a biblical, authentic, contextual, and life-changing ministry.

### Admission

The admission process reflects Calvin Seminary's goal to train capable stewards of the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. A strong liberal arts education provides an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shapes well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates. Therefore, it is recommended that a candidate's baccalaureate preparation consist of courses in the liberal arts, including English, philosophy, history, literature, social science, and natural science.

The Director of Admissions and the Registrar will examine the academic, professional, and ministry background of each applicant. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed which could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

To apply to the MAML program you must have a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college with a grade-point average of 2.67 (B-) or higher. Non-native English speakers need to submit a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80 total, with 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section. You should also give evidence of academic and personal preparedness for theological education.

In some circumstances an applicant without a bachelor's degree, or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution, may be admitted into a degree program at CTS under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools. In such cases, the Registrar will determine the program the applicant must take in order to meet the requirements for graduation.

### Continuation Requirements

Continuation in the MA in Ministry Leadership program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.67 will be placed on academic probation, and must have a minimum *term* GPA of 2.67 in each subsequent semester or risk dismissal from the program. A student must maintain a minimum *cumulative* GPA of 2.67 for two semesters for the probationary status to be removed. Ordinarily, a student cannot graduate while on academic probation. Any student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or lower is subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Funding sources such as the Veterans Administration, ecclesiastical bodies (e.g. local church or classis), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership Curriculum

The MA in Ministry Leadership curriculum is a combination of required courses, concentration courses, and electives.

#### Required Courses:

- Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)
  - Theological Education as Formation for Ministry (2)
  - Bible Survey (3)\*
  - Digital Bible Tools (1)
  - Great Books in Ministry (2)
  - Formation Groups, including one focused on race, gender, and culture (4)
  - Capstone course (1)
  - Contextual Ministry Internship (2)
  - Choose one of the following: Systematic Theology I (3), Systematic Theology II (3)
  - Choose one of the following: Church in Historical Context I (3), Church in Historical Context II (3)
  - Choose one of the following: Old Testament course (3), New Testament course (3)
  - Choose one of the following: Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)\*, Systematic Theology I (3), Systematic Theology II (3), Apologetics (2), Christian Engagement with World Religions (3), Ethics and the Christian Life (3), Church in Historical Context I (3), Church in Historical Context II (3), Bible Course (2-3), Leadership in Ministry (3)
  - Electives in any area (2-4)
- \*courses with possibility for Advanced Standing

#### Concentration Courses:

##### Bible Instruction

- Integrating Faith with Pedagogy (2)
- Principles and Methods for Effective Bible Teaching (2)
- Biblical and Theological Electives (4)

##### Education, Youth, and Family

- Discipleship and Teaching (2)
- Youth and Family Ministry (2)
- Electives in education and discipleship, or selected courses in worship or pastoral care (4)

##### Missional Leadership

- Introduction to Missional Ministry (2)
- Evangelism and Cross-Cultural Ministry (2)
- Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)
- Discipleship and Teaching (2)

##### Pastoral Care

- Foundations for Pastoral Care (3)
- Pastoral Disciplines for Counseling Ministry (3)
- Elective in pastoral Care (2) or CPE or Evangelism and Cross-Cultural Ministry (2)

##### Pastoral Leadership

- Preaching Theory and Methods (2)
- Foundations for Pastoral Care (3)
- Discipleship and Teaching (2)
- Forming Worshiping Communities (2)

##### Worship

- Forming Worshiping Communities (2)
- Worship electives (6)

Residential students can complete their degree in two years of full time study at the Grand Rapids campus. They will be able to attend weekly chapels, participate in club activities, and interact with peers on a daily basis.

The three-year distance learning MA maintains the same high quality of education as our residential program. Taking approximately 3 courses per semester, distance learning students complete much of their work online, traveling to the campus in Grand Rapids twice a year for five-day intensives. Formation for ministry is a strong emphasis as students experience the program in learning cohorts, and receive support through formation groups.

The MA program is also available purely online, without the requirement to attend intensive sessions.

### **Advanced Standing**

MA students are eligible to receive up to six credits of Advanced Standing.

Student competence is demonstrated by way of a written exam and evaluated by faculty. If granted, Advanced Standing reduces the number of credit hours needed to complete the degree and can open doors to an additional internship or specialized coursework.

Study guides for the Advanced Standing tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of SemLink (Calvin Seminary's internal website). MA students may seek Advanced Standing for the following courses:

- Bible Survey (3)
- Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)
- Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)
- Church in Historical Context I or II (not both) (3)

### **MA in Ministry Leadership Program Goals and Learning Outcomes**

In fulfilling its mission, Calvin Seminary seeks to develop well-formed graduates who:

- teach and preach the Bible,
- mature in their pastoral identity,
- discern and engage ministry contexts,
- and help to form communities of disciples.

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily related because every ministry situation involves a biblical MESSAGE which a PERSON communicates in a particular CONTEXT and for a specific GOAL. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary wants MA in Ministry Leadership students to exhibit the following learning outcomes:

#### **1. MESSAGE**

- 1.1 Students have a thorough knowledge of the Bible in English, and the necessary tools—including Reformed hermeneutics and Bible software—for interpreting and teaching the Bible in ministry.
- 1.2 Students have a basic knowledge of select historical and modern theological issues, the impact these issues have had on the practice of ministry, and how Reformed theology addresses those issues.
- 1.3 Students explain and apply the biblical message clearly and engagingly in their specialization.

#### **2. PERSON**

- 2.1 Students exhibit the fruit of Spirit, a commitment to the gospel of grace, and an eagerness to serve the mission of Christ's church, especially in their specialization.
  - 2.2 Students possess the requisite temperament and professional skills to serve as responsible members of a church staff.
  - 2.3 Students demonstrate emotional health and relate to others with love and respect, even when expressing differences of beliefs, values, or practices.
3. CONTEXT
- 3.1 Students demonstrate skills in discerning various cultural contexts.
  - 3.2 Students faithfully communicate the gospel of grace in word and deed in their specialization.
4. GOAL
- 4.1 Students, in their specialization, invite and disciple others to follow Christ faithfully in word and deed so that the community of faith is strengthened.
  - 4.2 Students promote in their specialization ministries of justice, compassion, and reconciliation which foster spiritual growth and demonstrate the life-transforming power of the gospel of grace.

## Master of Arts (Bible and Theology)

The Master of Arts (Bible and Theology) is for those who wish to deepen their understanding of Scripture and theology in order to contribute to their occupation and life experience. The degree program explores the Bible (in English), systematic theology, and church history in order to encourage your spiritual growth and to better equip you for your work in the world. The MA (Bible and Theology) will benefit a wide range of people: teachers, business leaders, professionals, church workers, and many others who seek to enrich their spiritual lives, their understanding of the Christian faith, and their leadership potential.

### Admission

The admission process reflects Calvin Seminary's goal to train capable stewards of the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. A strong liberal arts education provides an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shapes well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates. Therefore, it is recommended that a candidate's baccalaureate preparation consist of courses in the liberal arts, including English, philosophy, history, literature, social science, and natural science.

The Director of Admissions and the Registrar will examine the academic, professional, and ministry background of each applicant. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed which could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

To apply to the MA program you must have a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college with a grade-point average of 2.67 (B-) or higher. Non-native English speakers need to submit a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80 total, with 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section. You should also give evidence of academic and personal preparedness for theological education.

In some circumstances an applicant without a bachelor's degree, or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution, may be admitted into a degree program at CTS under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools. In such cases, the Registrar will determine the program the applicant must take in order to meet the requirements for graduation.

### Continuation Requirements

Continuation in the MA (Bible & Theology) program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.67 will be placed on academic probation, and must have a minimum *term* GPA of 2.67 in each subsequent semester or risk dismissal from the program. A student must maintain a minimum *cumulative* GPA of 2.67 for two semesters for the probationary status to be removed. Ordinarily, a student cannot graduate while on academic probation. Any student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or lower is subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Funding sources such as the Veterans Administration, ecclesiastical bodies (e.g. local church or classis), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### MA (Bible and Theology) Program

- Gateway Orientation
- Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)
- Bible Survey (3)\*
- Choose one: Systematic Theology I (3), Systematic Theology II (3)
- Digital Bible Tools (1)
- Choose one: Church in Historical Context I (3), Church in Historical Context II (3)
- Old Testament English Bible course (3)
- New Testament English Bible course (3)

- Theological Education as Formation for Ministry (2)
- Two of the following: Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions, The Church in Historical Context I, The Church in Historical Context II, Systematic Theology I, Systematic Theology II, Apologetics, Ethics, Christian Engagement with World Religions, an OT Elective, and a NT Elective.
- Electives in any area (10-11)
- Formation Groups (4)

\*courses with possibility for Advanced Standing

The degree must total 39 credits, and will include an oral comprehensive exam.

Residential students can complete their degree in two years of full time study at the Grand Rapids campus. They will be able to attend weekly chapels, participate in club activities and interact with peers on a daily basis.

The three-year distance learning MA maintains the same high quality of education as our residential program. Taking approximately 3 courses per semester, distance learning students complete much of their work online, traveling to the campus in Grand Rapids twice a year for five-day intensives. Formation for ministry is a strong emphasis as students experience the program in learning cohorts, and receive support through formation groups.

### **Advanced Standing**

MA students are eligible to receive up to six hours of credit in their program by way of Advanced Standing.

Student competence is demonstrated by way of a written exam and evaluated by faculty. If granted, Advanced Standing reduces the number of credit hours needed to complete the degree and can open doors to an additional internship or specialized coursework.

Study guides for the Advanced Standing tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of SemLink (Calvin Seminary's internal website). MA students may seek Advanced Standing for the following courses:

- Bible Survey (3)
- Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)
- Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)
- Church in Historical Context I or II (not both) (3)

A student whose undergraduate major was in Biblical Studies, Religion, or Theology may be able to complete the degree in one year of full-time study. See the Academic Program Adviser for more details.

### **MA (Bible and Theology) Program Goals and Learning Outcomes**

In fulfilling its mission, Calvin Seminary seeks to develop well-formed graduates who:

- teach and preach the Bible,
- mature in their personal identity,
- discern and engage ministry contexts,
- and help to form communities of disciples.

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily related because biblical and theological study involve a biblical MESSAGE which a PERSON communicates in a particular CONTEXT and for a specific

GOAL. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary wants MA (Bible and Theology) students to exhibit the following learning outcomes:

1. MESSAGE

- 1.1 Students have a thorough knowledge of the Bible in English, and the necessary tools—including Reformed hermeneutics and Bible software—for interpreting and teaching the Bible in ministry.
- 1.2 Students have a basic knowledge of select historical and modern theological issues, the impact these issues have had on the historic Christian faith, and how Reformed theology addresses those issues.

2. PERSON

- 2.1 Students exhibit the fruit of Spirit, a commitment to the gospel of grace, and an eagerness to serve the mission of Christ's church.
- 2.2 Students provide thoughtful and respectful analysis and interpretation of Biblical and theological positions when expressing differences of beliefs, values or practices.

3. CONTEXT

- 3.1 Students demonstrate skills in discerning various cultural contexts.
- 3.2 Students faithfully communicate their biblical and theological understanding in a variety of settings depending on their personal and occupational goals.

4. GOAL

- 4.1 Students invite and disciple others to faithfully follow Christ in word and deed so that the community of faith is strengthened.
- 4.2 Students recognize that, as disciples of Jesus Christ, the primary purpose of Biblical and theological studies is to serve the church so that the church might better equip God's people to advance the mission of God in the world.

**Future Employment Options**

Past graduates have applied their learning to a variety of opportunities, including: educational ministries, high school Bible teaching, and more.



## **Maestría en Cuidado de la Familia**

La Maestría en Cuidado de la Familia se basa en los programas de certificado en español ofrecidos por el Seminario Teológico Calvino: Certificado en Ministerio Latino y el Certificado en Cuidado de la Familia.

### **Admisión**

La admisión al programa de la Maestría en Cuidado de la Familia requiere que el/la solicitante posea un bachillerato universitario otorgado por una universidad acreditada.

### **Continuación en el programa**

La continuación en la Maestría en Cuidado de la Familia requiere que el/la estudiante mantenga un promedio general anual de 2.67 (GPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Los estudiantes que no logren obtener un promedio general anual de 2.67 estarán en condición académica probatoria y deberán alcanzar un promedio mínimo de 2.67 en cada semestre subsiguiente. En caso contrario, dichos estudiantes deberán abandonar el programa. Los estudiantes que estén en una condición probatoria deberán obtener un mínimo de 2.67 por dos semestres consecutivos para que dicha condición sea removida. Ordinariamente, los estudiantes no pueden graduarse mientras se encuentren en condición probatoria. Los estudiantes que hayan obtenido un promedio anual de 2.50 o menor deberán obligatoriamente abandonar el programa.

Cuando algún estudiante entre en condición probatoria o se le remueva dicha condición, el Seminario notificará a las fuentes que lo financian tales como la Administración de Veteranos, cuerpos eclesiásticos (por ejemplo, iglesia local o classis), o el programa de préstamo estudiantil.

### **Curriculum**

La Maestría en Cuidado de la Familia tiene los siguientes requisitos. Tome en cuenta que cada curso es de 3 créditos.

1. Un curso del Nuevo Testamento
2. Cuidado Pastoral de la Familia
3. Adoración y Predicación
4. Un Curso de Antiguo Testamento
5. Retiros de Enriquecimiento Matrimonial
6. Teología para el Ministerio
7. Educación Cristiana para Jóvenes
8. Administración Eclesiástica y Liderazgo
9. Transformación de la Comunidad
10. El Ciclo de Vida en la Familia
11. Fundamentos Teológicos del Cuidado de la Familia
12. La Familia como un Sistema en el Mundo Actual
13. Curso de Biblia (La Familia en la Historia de la Salvación)

(Los cursos del 1-9 se ofrecen como parte del Certificado en Ministerio Latino. Los cursos del 10-13 se ofrecen como parte del Certificado en Cuidado de la Familia). En ambos casos, se ofrecen a nivel de maestría para quienes están enrolados en la misma.

Entrenamiento práctico: Una unidad (100 horas) de Educación Pastoral y Clínica (CPE, por sus siglas en inglés).

TOTAL: 39 créditos, mas una unidad de CPE.

### **Maestría en el Cuidado de la Familia: Objetivos del Programa y Metas de Aprendizaje**

En cumplimiento de su misión, el Seminario Teológico Calvino busca desarrollar y formar graduados que:

- enseñen y prediquen la Biblia,
- maduren en su identidad pastoral,
- discernan y se relacionen en contextos ministeriales latinos,

- sean capaces de ofrecer acompañamiento y dirección a familias latinas en sus crisis y desafíos
- y ayuden a formar comunidades de discípulos.

Estos cinco objetivos generales se encuentran íntima y necesariamente relacionados pues cada situación ministerial envuelve un MENSAJE bíblico el cual la PERSONA comunica en un CONTEXTO particular y para una META en especial. Basado en esto, el Seminario Calvino espera que los estudiantes de la Maestría en Cuidado de la Familia logren las siguientes metas de aprendizaje:

## 1. MENSAJE

- 1.1. Los estudiantes tendrán un conocimiento general de la Biblia y las herramientas necesarias, incluyendo la hermenéutica Reformada y el software bíblico, para interpretar y enseñar la Biblia en el ministerio.
- 1.2. Los estudiantes tendrán un conocimiento básico acerca de algunos problemas teológicos modernos e históricos, el impacto que los mismos han tenido en la práctica ministerial y cómo la teología Reformada ha abarcado dichos problemas.
- 1.3. Los estudiantes podrán explicar y aplicar el mensaje bíblico clara y comprometidamente conforme a su especialización.

## 2. PERSONA

- 2.1. Los estudiantes exhibirán el fruto del Espíritu, un compromiso al evangelio de la gracia y un fuerte deseo de servir a la misión de la iglesia de Jesucristo, especialmente dentro de su especialización.
- 2.2. Los estudiantes poseerán el temperamento requerido y las habilidades profesionales para servir como miembros responsables en un equipo administrativo de una iglesia o de una organización religiosa sin fines de lucro.
- 2.3. Los estudiantes demostrarán una salud emocional y se relacionarán con los demás con amor y respeto, aun cuando expresen diferencias de creencias, valores y prácticas.

## 3. CONTEXTO

- 3.1 Los estudiantes demostrarán sus habilidades en discernir varios contextos culturales latinos.
- 3.2 Los estudiantes comunicarán fielmente el evangelio de la gracia en palabra y obra dentro de su especialización.

## 4. META

- 4.1. Los estudiantes, conforme a su especialización, podrán invitar y discipular a otros para que sigan a Cristo fielmente en palabra y en hecho, de manera que la comunidad de fe se fortalezca.
- 4.2. Los estudiantes podrán promover, conforme a su especialización, ministerios que enfaticen la justicia, compasión y reconciliación, aspectos que fomentarán familias saludables y demostrarán el poder transformador del evangelio de la gracia.

## Master of Arts in Family Care

The MA in Family Care is built upon the Certificate in Latino/a Ministry at Calvin Seminary.

### Admission

Admission to the MA in Family Care program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

### Continuation

Continuation in the MA in Ministry Leadership program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.67 will be placed on academic probation, and must have a minimum *term* GPA of 2.67 in each subsequent semester or risk dismissal from the program. A student must maintain a minimum *cumulative* GPA of 2.67 for two semesters for the probationary status to be removed. Ordinarily, a student cannot graduate while on academic probation. Any student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or lower is subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Funding sources such as the Veterans Administration, ecclesiastical bodies (e.g. local church or classis), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### Curriculum

The MA in Family Care includes the following requirements, of which the first 11 courses overlap with the Certificate in Latino/a Ministry. (each course is 3 credits):

- 231B Interpreting and Teaching the Old Testament (3)
- 232B Theology for Ministry (3)
- 233B Worship I (1.5)
- 236B Worship II (1.5)
- 248B Preaching I (1.5)
- 249B Preaching II (1.5)
- 237B Community Transformation (3)
- 239B Interpreting and Teaching the New Testament (3)
- 250B Pastoral Family Care (3)
- 256B Integral Care for Immigrants in Latino/a Churches (3)
- 220B Marriage Enrichment Retreats (3) - *can be shared between programs*
  
- 255B Bible Survey: Family in the History of Salvation (3)
- 254B Theological Foundations for Marriage and the Family (3)
- 252B The Vital Family Life Cycle (3)

### Either

- 258B The Family as a System (3) **OR** 259B The Family in Today's World (3)

**In addition**, students in the MA program will complete one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (100 hours).

TOTAL: 39 credits, plus one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

### MA in Family Care Program Goals and Learning Outcomes

In fulfilling its mission, Calvin Seminary seeks to develop well-formed graduates who:

- teach and preach the Bible,
- mature in their pastoral identity,
- discern and engage ministry contexts,
- Walk along with and guide latino families in their crisis and challenges.
- and help to form communities of disciples.

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily related because every ministry situation involves a biblical MESSAGE which a PERSON communicates in a particular CONTEXT and for a specific GOAL. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary wants MA in Family Care students to exhibit the following learning outcomes:

## 5. MESSAGE

- 5.1. Students have a thorough knowledge of the Bible, and the necessary tools—including Reformed hermeneutics and Bible software—for interpreting and teaching the Bible in ministry.
- 5.2. Students have a basic knowledge of select historical and modern theological issues, the impact these issues have had on the practice of ministry, and how Reformed theology addresses those issues.
- 5.3. Students explain and apply the biblical message clearly and engagingly in their specialization.

## 6. PERSON

- 6.1. Students exhibit the fruit of Spirit, a commitment to the gospel of grace, and an eagerness to serve the mission of Christ's church, especially in their specialization.
- 6.2. Students possess the requisite temperament and professional skills to serve as responsible members of a church staff or non profit organization.
- 6.3. Students demonstrate emotional health and relate to others with love and respect, even when expressing differences of beliefs, values, or practices.

## 7. CONTEXT

- 3.1 Students demonstrate skills in discerning various Latino cultural contexts.
- 3.2 Students faithfully communicate the gospel of grace in word and deed in their specialization.

## 8. GOAL

- 8.1. Students, in their specialization, invite and disciple others to follow Christ faithfully in word and deed so that the community of faith is strengthened.

In their specialization, students promote ministries of justice, compassion, and reconciliation which foster spiritual growth, healthy families, and demonstrate the life-transforming power of the gospel of grace.

## Master of Theological Studies (MTS)

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is a flexible academic program designed to prepare you for further academic study or other careers that can be enriched by a strong theological education. You may also be interested in this program if you desire to understand the Christian faith more deeply. The MTS includes courses in Old and New Testament, Greek, Hebrew, Christian theology, apologetics, and more. Possible vocations include teaching, theological research, and editing.

Residential students can complete their studies in two years at the Grand Rapids campus. They will be able to attend weekly chapels, participate in club activities and interact with peers on a daily basis.

The three-year distance learning MTS maintains the same high quality of education as our residential program. Taking approximately 3 courses per semester, distance learning students complete much of their work online, traveling to the campus in Grand Rapids twice a year for five-day intensives.

### Admission

The admission process reflects Calvin Seminary's goal to train capable stewards of the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. A strong liberal arts education provides an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shapes well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates. Therefore, it is recommended that a candidate's baccalaureate preparation consist of courses in the liberal arts, including English, philosophy, history, literature, social science, and natural science.

The Director of Admissions and the Registrar will examine the academic, professional, and ministry background of each applicant. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed which could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

To apply to the MTS program you must have a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college with a grade-point average of 2.67 (B-) or higher. (Non-native English speakers need to submit a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80 total, with 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section.) You should also give evidence of academic and personal preparedness for theological education.

In some circumstances an applicant without a bachelor's degree, or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution, may be admitted into a degree program at CTS under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools. In such cases, the Registrar will determine the program the applicant must take in order to meet the requirements for graduation.

### Continuation Requirements

Continuation in the MTS program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.67 will be placed on academic probation, and must have a minimum *term* GPA of 2.67 in each subsequent semester or risk dismissal from the program. A student must maintain a minimum *cumulative* GPA of 2.67 for two semesters for the probationary status to be removed. Ordinarily, a student cannot graduate while on academic probation. Any student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or lower is subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Funding sources such as the Veterans Administration, ecclesiastical bodies (e.g. local church or classis), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### Concentrations

The program includes core courses in Bible and theology. In addition, each student may choose an area of concentration. Concentrations allow for more specialized study related to a student's interests and

calling. Concentrations also provide more thorough preparation for students who are considering doctoral study in a particular field.

Students are allowed to create their own concentrations, under the advisement of the Program Director at least a year prior to graduation.

To obtain a concentration, students must take six elective credits (generally 3 electives) in their area of concentration. All of those credits can be used for elective credit in their MTS program. A student may have more than one concentration, as long as no credits count toward more than one concentration.

### **MTS Program Curriculum**

The MTS program is 65 credit hours and will include an oral comprehensive exam. The curriculum is spread across three components: Core Requirements, Additional Core Options, and Electives.

#### Core Requirements:

Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)  
\*Greek Fundamentals I (3)  
\*Greek Fundamentals II (3)  
Biblical Hebrew I (3) [or Latin]  
Biblical Hebrew II (3) [or Latin]  
Formation Groups (4)  
OT Narratives (3) *or* OT Prophets (3) *or* OT Psalms (3)  
NT Narratives (3) *or* NT Letters (3)  
Systematic Theology I (3) *or* Systematic Theology II (3)  
Church in Historical Context I (3) *or* Church in Historical Context II (3)

#### Additional Core Options:

Each student must take seven of the following courses, which will be chosen on the basis of the student's academic background and their future interests. The choice of courses needs to be approved by the MTS Program Director.

\*Bible Survey (3)  
\*Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)  
\*Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)  
Apologetics (2)  
Ethics and the Christian Life (3)  
ThM Research Methods (3)  
Major Paper (3)

*Courses not selected as part of the Core Requirements category above can be taken to fulfill the Additional Core Options: OT Narratives (3), OT Prophets (3), OT Psalms (3), NT Narratives (3), NT Letters (3), Systematic Theology I (3), Systematic Theology II (3), Church in Historical Context I (3), Church in Historical Context II (3)*

#### Electives:

15-16 credits

\*These courses are eligible for Advanced Standing by testing.

**Master of Theological Studies  
Sample Two Year Residential Program**

<b>Fall Year One</b>	<b>J-Term Year One</b>	<b>Spring Year One</b>
Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)  Greek Fundamentals I (3) Biblical Hebrew I (3) History or Theology Course (3) Elective (2-3) Formation Group (1)  13-14 credits	Elective (2-3)   2-3 credits	Greek Fundamentals II (3) Biblical Hebrew II (3) History or Theology Course (3) Core Option (2-3) Elective (2-3) Formation Group (1)  14-16 credits
<b>Fall Year Two</b>	<b>J-Term Year Two</b>	<b>Spring Year Two</b>
Bible Course (3) Core Option (2-3) Core Option (2-3) Core Option (2-3) Elective (2-3) Formation Group (1)  12-16 credits	Elective (2-3)   2-3 credits	Bible Course (3) Core Option (2-3) Core Option (2-3) Elective (2-3) Elective (2-3) Formation Group (1)  12-16 credits

**Master of Theological Studies  
Sample Three Year Program**

<b>Fall Year One</b>	<b>J-Term Year One</b>	<b>Spring Year One</b>
Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)* Greek Fundamentals I (3) History or Theology Course (3) Elective (2-3) Formation Group (1)  10-11 credits	Elective (2-3)  2-3 credits	Greek Fundamentals II (3) History or Theology Course (3) Core Option or Elective (2-3) Formation Group (1)  9-10 credits
<b>Fall Year Two</b>	<b>J-Term Year Two</b>	<b>Spring Year Two</b>
Biblical Hebrew I (3) NT Core Course (3) [or spring] Core Option (2-3) Elective (2-3)  10-12 credits	Elective (2-3)  2-3 credits	Biblical Hebrew II (3) Core Option or Elective (2-3) Core Option or Elective (2-3)  7-9 credits
<b>Fall Year Three</b>	<b>J-Term Year Three</b>	<b>Spring Year Three</b>
OT Core Course (3) [or spring] Core Option or Elective (2-3) Formation Group (1)  8-10 credits		Core Option or Elective (2-3) Core Option or Elective (2-3) Core Option or Elective (2-3) Formation Group (1)  7-10 credits

\*Distance students will take this course online-only during their first J-Term.



### **Advanced Standing**

MTS students are eligible to receive up to 9 hours of credit in their program by way of Advanced Standing.

Student competence is demonstrated by way of a written exam and evaluated by faculty. If granted, Advanced Standing reduces the number of credit hours needed to complete the degree and can open doors to specialized coursework.

Study guides for the Advanced Standing tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of SemLink (Calvin Seminary's internal website). MTS students may seek Advanced Standing for the following courses:

- Bible Survey (3)
- Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (3)
- Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)
- Church in Historical Context I or II (not both) (3)

### **Language Requirements**

The program requires biblical Greek and Hebrew. MTS students who intend to focus on theological rather than biblical studies may make the following program adjustments:

1. Two semesters (typically 8 credits) of college Latin instead of Biblical Hebrew I (301) and Biblical Hebrew II (321).
2. Two MA Old Testament courses replace 402 and 403/404.
3. Students must use one of their electives to take a New Testament course.

Any MTS student may take a semester of Latin in place of an elective, or two semesters of Latin in place of two electives. Latin may be taken prior to a student's matriculation at Calvin Seminary or during a student's course of study. Although Calvin Seminary does not currently offer Latin, MTS students are encouraged to take Latin at a local college or study it on their own. In order to receive credit for Latin, students will be required to pass a competency exam administered by CTS Faculty.

### **Advanced Standing in Greek and/or Hebrew**

Students may receive 6 credits of Advanced Standing in Greek and/or Hebrew without taking a placement exam by meeting the following criteria:

- Transcript evidence of having taken at least 2 courses (at least 6 credit hours) at an accredited educational institution
- Having received an average of B or better in those courses
- Having taken the last course within the last 5 years

Students who do not meet these criteria may choose to take an exam administered by Calvin Seminary. The results of the exam determine whether Calvin Seminary will grant Advanced Standing transfer credit for one, two, or no courses in Greek or Hebrew. Students may take the test one time and will pay the usual cost for Advanced Standing exams.

MTS students who receive Advanced Standing in Greek, Hebrew, and/or Latin will also be eligible for up to 9 credits of Advanced Standing in other courses for which tests are available (up to a maximum of 16 total credits of Advanced Standing).

### **MTS Program Goals and Learning Outcomes**

In fulfilling its mission, Calvin Seminary seeks to develop well-formed graduates who:

- teach and preach the Bible,
- mature in their personal identity,
- discern and engage ministry contexts,

- and help to form communities of disciples.

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily related because biblical and theological study involve a biblical MESSAGE which a PERSON communicates in a particular CONTEXT and for a specific GOAL. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary wants MTS students to exhibit the following learning outcomes:

1. MESSAGE

- 1.1 Students are equipped with the necessary tools for responsible Biblical interpretation including facility in the original Biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew, and Reformed hermeneutics.
- 1.2 Students have a basic knowledge of some of the most important historical and modern theological issues, the impact those issues have had on the historic Christian faith, and how Reformed theology addresses those issues.

2. PERSON

- 2.1 Students know how to practice various spiritual disciplines and have learned how theological education is itself spiritually formative.
- 2.2 Students exhibit the fruit of the Spirit by providing thoughtful, fair, and respectful analysis and interpretation of Biblical and theological positions with which they disagree, as well as recognizing the weaknesses of the positions with which they agree.

3. CONTEXT

- 3.1 Students are able to clearly articulate their biblical and theological knowledge in a variety of settings depending on their vocational goals.

4. GOAL

- 4.1 Students recognize that, as disciples of Jesus Christ, the primary purpose of theological study is to serve the church so that the church might better equip God's people to advance the mission of God in the world.

## Master of Theology (ThM)

The Master of Theology (ThM) program is designed as a post-MDiv/MTS degree to introduce students to study and academic research in a specialized area of biblical, theological, or ministry studies. It is designed to give pastors and others the opportunity to extend their education and training in a particular field and to serve as excellent preparation for doctoral work.

### Areas of Concentration

- Old Testament
- Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literature
- New Testament
- History of Christianity
- Systematic Theology
- Philosophical and Moral Theology
- Pastoral Care and Leadership
- Preaching
- Worship
- Missiology
- Educational Ministry

### Admission

Admission to the Master of Theology program requires a Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Bachelor of Divinity, or an equivalent degree with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (B). Non-native English speakers need to submit a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80 total, with 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section.

Students with a concentration in the Old Testament need to provide transcript evidence of having completed a minimum of two semesters in Hebrew and one in Greek. Students with a concentration in the New Testament need to provide transcript evidence of having completed a minimum of two semesters in Greek and one in Hebrew. All applicants with a concentration in an area other than biblical studies must have at least two courses in the biblical languages; either two courses in one of the languages or one course in each language.

### Continuation Requirements

In order to graduate, a student must have a minimum of a cumulative 3.0 GPA.

Funding sources such as the Veterans Administration, ecclesiastical bodies (e.g. local church or classis), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### ThM Program Curriculum

Research Methodology (801)	3 credits
Three electives in the department of specialization	9 credits
One elective in any department	3 credits
One of the following options:	6 credits
• ONE elective in any department (3 credits); and ONE research paper in the department of specialization (3 credits)	
OR	

- Thesis in the department of specialization (6 credits) with an oral exam based on the thesis

TOTAL credits

21 credits

Note: For students specializing in Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literature, two of the three electives in the area of specialization must be Ancient Near Eastern languages (Akkadian, Aramaic, Ugaritic). Students are encouraged to take four electives in the area of ANE Language and Literature when possible.

ThM students may select courses with numbers from 500-699, 800-899, and 403, 404, and 412 (other 400-level courses may be taken with special permission). All of these courses are 3 credits for ThM students. ThM students may also take independent study courses.

For more information on the ThM program, please see the ThM Program Handbook on the CTS website.

### **Future Options**

Past graduates have applied their learning to a variety of opportunities. Some have become pastors or church planters. Others have pursued doctoral work at Calvin Theological Seminary or elsewhere (Toronto School of Theology, Wheaton Graduate School, Princeton Theological Seminary, McMaster Divinity School, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and more).

## Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program strives for students to be formed in knowledge of appropriate theories, in their role as a ministry leader, and in the practice of ministry.

### Admission

To qualify for admission to the Doctor of Ministry degree program, an applicant must be the graduate of an accredited college and must possess a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited school or must possess the equivalents of such a degree. The applicant's previous record must show good academic performance, with a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

Applicant must submit scores if the **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** as part of the application process. In addition, an applicant whose first language is not English must submit one of the following:

- (1) **an IELTS (International English Language Testing System)** minimum total score of 6.5, including a minimum score of 6.5 on the writing section
- (2) TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores that meet one of the following standards:
  - a minimum total score of 90, including a minimum score of 23 on the writing section (internet-based test)
  - a minimum total score of 575, plus a minimum of 4 on the TWE (paper-based test)

Official test results of the GRE, TOEFL, TWE, and IELTS must be sent directly from the testing agency to Calvin Theological Seminary.

### DMin Program Course Work

- Complete 36 credits of coursework, including up to 12 credits of electives and Directed Doctoral Studies.
- **The Abbey:** Participation in “The Abbey” and the “Return to the Abbey”, both significant episodes of self-reflection and learning
- **Oral Exam:** An opportunity to showcase theological and personal learning by way of an oral comprehensive exam prior to launching your research project
- **Doctoral Dissertation:** This is the culmination of your theological learning, peer learning and personal reflection. Your dissertation will be a demonstration of theologically informed and contextual thinking in which you display research findings and ministry models that will address the challenges of ministry in your context and in the broader context of effective ministry today

### Transfer Credit

**The Doctor of Ministry program does not accept transfer credit.**

For full information on DMin program policies and requirements, please see the DMin Program Handbook. (<https://semlink.calvinseminary.edu/academics-and-registration/registrar/>)

## Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) equips scholars for teaching and research in colleges, theological seminaries, and universities, as well as for general church leadership. Degrees are offered in the history of Christianity, systematic theology, philosophical theology, and moral theology. The program will be expanded to include New Testament in 2020-21.

### Admission

To qualify for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy degree program, an applicant must be the graduate of an accredited college and must possess a Master of Theological Studies, Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Divinity, or Master of Theology degree from an accredited school or must possess the equivalents of such degrees. The applicant's previous record must show outstanding academic performance, with a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.3. The applicant must also present evidence by way of transcript or otherwise that he or she knows Hebrew, Greek, and a modern foreign language (preferably Dutch, French, German, or Spanish). Under certain circumstances a waiver of part of this language requirement is possible.

Applicants must submit scores of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) as part of the application process. They must also submit a twenty- to forty-page research paper that in their estimation exhibits their best ability to do theological research and analysis. The paper may be one submitted for academic credit in a previous degree program, or it may be the result of independent research. In addition, an applicant whose first language is not English must submit one of the following:

- (1) an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) minimum total score of 6.5, including a minimum score of 6.5 on the writing section
- (2) TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores that meet one of the following standards:
  - a minimum total score of 90, including a minimum score of 23 on the writing section (internet-based test)
  - a minimum total score of 575, plus a minimum of 4 on the TWE (paper-based test)

Official test results of the GRE, TOEFL, TWE, and IELTS must be sent directly from the testing agency to Calvin Theological Seminary.

### PhD Program Course Work

Courses focus on areas of current faculty interest and research. They are designed to introduce students to proper research methods and their application as well as to important theological issues and developments.

Students are required to complete a total of twelve PhD courses for credit. Full-time students take six courses per year (typically three per semester) for two years. Part-time students take either four courses per year for three years or three courses per year for four years. At least three courses must be taken in the student's discipline of specialization and at least two courses in each of the other three areas.

In addition to the twelve required PhD courses, students in the program must take seminar 903P, "Teaching Seminar," during the first two years in the program and are expected to take seminar 902P, "Dissertation Seminar," if they have completed the required PhD courses and their comprehensive examinations. Students ordinarily will take the dissertation seminar during more than one semester. These seminars are offered on a credit/no credit basis and do not count toward the twelve required courses in the program.

### Transfer Credit

The Doctor of Philosophy program does not accept transfer credit.

For full information on PhD program policies and requirements, please see the PhD Program Handbook (<http://www.calvinseminary.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/doctor-of-philosophy-ph-d/>).

Past graduates have applied their learning to a variety of opportunities, including pastor, researcher, theological librarian, professor, or school president.

## Certificate Programs

Calvin Theological Seminary offers the Certificate in Ministry Leadership, providing an opportunity for church staff, volunteer ministry staff, and other interested people to enhance their understanding, training, and ability to serve. These are not degree programs, but courses of study intended for ministry and personal enrichment. The courses in the Certificate Programs are graduate-level courses that are also offered as part of other degree programs at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Students may concentrate in one of the following areas:

- Education, Youth, and Family
- Missional Leadership
- Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Leadership
- Worship

### Admission

To participate in a Certificate Program you need to be a college graduate (with exceptions on a case-by-case basis). You need to submit a completed application form, any transcripts of post-high academic work, a pastoral recommendation form, and an application fee. Application material should be submitted to the Admissions Office.

The Director of Admissions and the Registrar will examine the academic, professional, and ministry background of each applicant.

Continuation in the Certificate program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.3 will be placed on academic probation, and must have a minimum *term* GPA of 2.3 in each subsequent semester or risk dismissal from the program. A student must maintain a minimum *cumulative* GPA of 2.3 for two semesters for the probationary status to be removed. Ordinarily, a student cannot graduate while on academic probation. Any student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.3 or lower is subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Funding sources such as the Veterans Administration, ecclesiastical bodies (e.g. local church or classis), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### Certificate Program Curriculum

All Certificate Programs share a common core of classes you will be required to complete:

- Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)
- Digital Bible Tools (1)
- Bible Survey (3)
- One of the following: Systematic Theology I or II or Church in Historical Context I or II (3)

In addition to the Core Curriculum, you will take a series of courses in an area of specialization to complete your Certificate Program:

#### Education, Youth, and Family

- Discipleship and Teaching (2)
- Youth and Family Ministry (2)
- Electives in education and discipleship, or selected courses in worship or pastoral care (4)

#### Missional Leadership



- Introduction to Missional Ministry (2)
- Evangelism and Cross-Cultural Ministry (2)
- Christian Engagement with World Religions (3)
- Discipleship and Teaching (2)

#### Pastoral Care

- Foundations for Pastoral Care (3)
- Pastoral Disciplines for Counseling Ministry (3)
- An elective in Pastoral Care, CPE, or Evangelism & Cross-Cultural Ministry (2)

#### Pastoral Leadership

- Preaching Theory and Methods (2)
- Foundations for Pastoral Care (3)
- Discipleship and Teaching (2)
- Forming Worshiping Communities (2)

#### Worship

- Forming Worshiping Communities (2)
- Worship electives (6)

### **Advanced Standing**

Certificate students are eligible to receive up to 3 hours of credit in their program by way of Advanced Standing.

Student competence is demonstrated by way of a written exam and evaluated by faculty. If granted, Advanced Standing reduces the number of credit hours needed to complete the degree and can open doors to an additional internship or specialized coursework.

Study guides for the Advanced Standing tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of SemLink (Calvin Seminary's internal website). Certificate students may seek Advanced Standing for the following courses:

- Bible Survey (3)
- Church in Historical Context I or II (not both) (3)

### **Transfer Possibilities**

During or upon completion of a Certificate Program, the completed course work can be transferred into a Master's program at Calvin Theological Seminary, assuming all other admission requirements are met.

## **Certificado en Ministerio Latino**

(27 créditos)

El Seminario Teológico Calvino ofrece un Certificado en Ministerio Latino para equipar a los/las pastores/as y líderes de iglesias en el área de Grand Rapids. Los cursos son impartidos en español por profesores que provienen de culturas latinoamericanas y están comprometidos con las iglesias latinas en los Estados Unidos. Por lo tanto, la enseñanza está contextualizada para permitirle a los líderes servir mejor a sus comunidades de fe.

Los estudiantes deben aprobar los siguientes cursos (3 créditos cada uno):

- Interpretando y Predicando el Antiguo Testamento
- Interpretando y Predicando Efesios
- Teología para el Ministerio
- Adoración y Predicación
- Educación Cristiana para Jóvenes
- Cuidado Familiar y Pastoral
- Retiros de Enriquecimiento Matrimonial
- Transformación de la Comunidad
- Liderazgo y Administración de la Iglesia

Los estudiantes también deberán tomar los siguientes talleres (sin crédito):

- Liderando Grupos Pequeños en el ámbito académico
- Introducción al Cuidado de la Familia
- Uso de Herramientas Tecnológicas
- Habilidades de Estudio e Investigación
- Violencia Doméstica
- Hermenéutica y Habilidades Exegéticas
- Manejo del Estrés para Líderes
- Teología Contextual
- Cuidado de Familias Inmigrantes en Crisis
- Cómo Conectarse a los Recursos de la Comunidad

## **Certificado en Cuidado de la Familia (27 créditos)**

El Seminario Teológico Calvino ofrece un Certificado en Cuidado de la Familia para equipar a los/las pastores/as y líderes de iglesias en el área de Grand Rapids. Los cursos son impartidos en español por profesores que provienen de culturas latinoamericanas y están comprometidos con las iglesias latinas en los Estados Unidos. Por lo tanto, la enseñanza está contextualizada para permitirles a los líderes servir mejor a sus comunidades de fe.

Los estudiantes deben aprobar los siguientes cursos con crédito (3 créditos cada uno):

- Cuidado Pastoral de la Familia
- Fundamentos de Psicología
- El Ciclo de Vida en la Familia
- La Familia como Sistema en el Mundo Actual
- Fundamentos Teológicos para el Cuidado de la Familia
- Curso de Biblia (La Familia en la Historia de la Salvación)
- Retiros de Enriquecimiento Matrimonial

Los estudiantes también deberán tomar los siguientes talleres (1 crédito cada uno):

- Espiritualidad, Demencia y Depresión

- Violencia Doméstica
- Escucha activa
- Cuidado de Familias Inmigrantes en Crisis
- Manejo del Estrés para Líderes
- Trabajando con Personas con Adicciones

## **Certificate in Latino/a Ministry**

(27 credit hours)

Calvin Seminary offers a Certificate in Latino/a Ministry to equip Spanish-speaking pastors and church leaders in the Grand Rapids area. The courses are taught in Spanish by professors who come from Spanish-speaking cultures and are committed to the Hispanic churches in the US. Thus, the teaching is contextualized to enable leaders to serve their faith communities better.

Students take the following nine courses (3 credit hours each):

- Interpreting and Preaching the Old Testament
- Interpreting and Preaching Ephesians
- Theology for Ministry
- Worship and Preaching
- Christian Education for Young People
- Pastoral Family Care
- Marriage Enrichment Retreats
- Community Transformation
- Leadership and Church Administration

Students also take the following non-credit workshops:

- Leading Small Groups at Seminary
- Introduction to Family Care
- Use of Technology Tools
- Study and Research Skills
- Domestic Violence
- Hermeneutics and Exegetical Skills
- Stress Management for Leaders
- Contextual Theology
- Care of Immigrant Families in Crisis
- How to Connect to Community Resources

## **Certificate in Family Care (27 credit hours)**

Calvin Seminary offers a Certificate in Family Care to equip Spanish-speaking pastors and church leaders in the Grand Rapids area. The courses are taught in Spanish by professors who come from Spanish speaking cultures and are committed to the Hispanic churches in the US. Thus, the teaching is contextualized to enable leaders to serve their faith communities better.

Students take the following courses (3 credit hours each):

- Pastoral Family Care
- Foundations of Psychology
- The Family Life Cycle
- Families in the World Today
- Theological Foundations for Family Care
- Bible Survey (Family in the History of Salvation)
- Marriage Enrichment Program/Retreats

Students also complete the following six workshops (1 credit hour each):

- Spirituality, Dementia and Depression
- Domestic Violence
- Active Listening
- Care of Immigrant Families in Crisis
- Stress Management for Pastors and Leaders

- Mentoring People with Addictions

## **Certificate in Bible Instruction**

(15 credit hours)

The Certificate in Bible Instruction is designed to equip elementary and secondary teachers with a strong knowledge base in biblical studies in order to teach the Bible with competence and accuracy.

Students take the following courses:

- Bible Survey (3)
- Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)
- Integrating Faith with Pedagogy (2)
- Principles and Methods for Effective Bible Teaching (2)
- Bible Elective (2-3)
- Other electives (4-5 credits)

## **Admission**

To participate in a Certificate Program you need to be a college graduate (with exceptions on a case-by-case basis). You need to submit a completed application form, any transcripts of post-high academic work, a pastoral recommendation form, and an application fee. Application material should be submitted to the Admissions Office.

The Director of Admissions and the Registrar will examine the academic, professional, and ministry background of each applicant.

Continuation in the Certificate program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.3 will be placed on academic probation, and must have a minimum *term* GPA of 2.3 in each subsequent semester or risk dismissal from the program. A student must maintain a minimum *cumulative* GPA of 2.3 for two semesters for the probationary status to be removed. Ordinarily, a student cannot graduate while on academic probation. Any student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.3 or lower is subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Funding sources such as the Veterans Administration, ecclesiastical bodies (e.g. local church or classis), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

## **Advanced Standing**

CBI students are eligible to receive Advanced Standing in Bible Survey by way of a written exam. A Study Guide is available on the Advanced Standing webpage on SemLink.

## **Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy**

The Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC) is designed for students who aspire to be Ministers of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church and who are studying or have studied at a seminary other than Calvin Theological Seminary. All students intending to seek candidacy in the CRCNA are required to meet the overall standards for candidacy that have been officially established by the synod of the CRCNA for those who follow the regular course of study at Calvin Theological Seminary.

This program gives students an orientation to the theology, history, and ministry of the Christian Reformed Church, and walks with students on the ministry formation journey to ministerial candidacy in the Christian Reformed Church.

The 10 credit program is offered in-residence each fall as well as in a 24-month online mentor-focused format. Those interested in the EPMC program should contact Rev. David Koll, Director of Candidacy for the CRCNA ([dkoll@crcna.org](mailto:dkoll@crcna.org)) for more information. Whether choosing the resident or the non-resident option, students must follow the application procedures described on the webpage.

Calvin Theological Seminary offers this program on behalf of synod and the Candidacy Committee, a synodical standing committee that processes all candidacy recommendations to synod. This ecclesiastical program applies to students who are following the route to ministry outlined in Article 6 of the Church Order of the Christian Reformed Church.

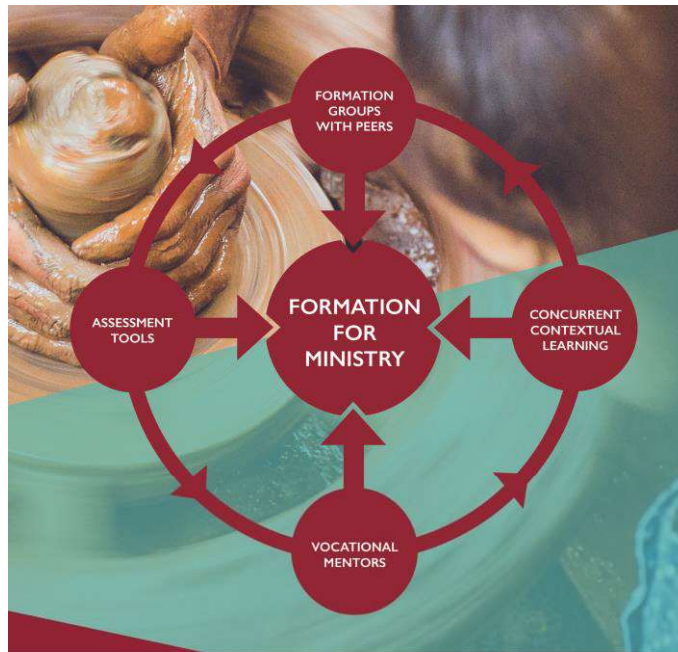
It is important for prospective EPMC students to acquaint themselves with program requirements and apply to the EPMC program as early as possible in their MDiv program, preferably after their first year.

For the EPMC program checklist and application, see <http://www.calvinseminary.edu/admissions/apply/epmc-application-instructions/>.

## Formation for Ministry

The Vocational Formation Office exists within Calvin Theological Seminary to shape the character, the heart, and the leadership of emerging leaders for the Kingdom of God. Partnering with fine academic learning, we use a variety of tools for this formative work, including: strength-based and psychological assessments, formation groups, concurrent contextual learning, theological and personal reflection/evaluation, vocational mentors and ongoing peer to peer learning.

We have tried to capture our formation process in this simple, yet we think helpful, image:



Over the course of their studies at CTS, students in the Master of Arts, Master of Divinity, and Master of Theological Studies degree programs will participate in this essential formation process. Participation will be primarily in the tools that are part of the formation circle in the diagram, with the ultimate goal of each student's character, heart and leadership being better formed in preparation for ministry:

- a. Formation Requirements: Each degree program has its own formation requirements.

MDiv - 6 semesters (6 credits)

MA- 4 semesters (4 credits)

MTS – 4 semesters (4 credits)

- b. Assessments: Students will participate in assessments, including:

### Birkman Assessment

The Birkman assessment will be a key part of the formation in the first semester. This assessment tool is a strengths based tool that should be of great encouragement to the student.

### Psychological assessment

During the first week of each MA and MDiv student's seminary experience, students undergo a series of psychological tests. This testing is then scored by clinical psychologists. The data from this scoring is then used in formative conversations between students and the psychologist over the course of two scheduled meetings. Then, sometime around the January Term of the first year of a student's program, a written psychological assessment is returned the Seminary. This report is another tool designed to raise the self-awareness of the student, albeit around some potentially problematic areas.

This report will be processed by the student with their Vocational Mentor, in conjunction with the Vocational Formation Office.

#### Vocational Assessment

Designed for MA and MDiv students, this assessment is about skills, passions and interests. It will be a half day time of encouragement and direction.

NOTE: MTS students will not do the Psychological Assessment or Vocational Assessment.

- c. Students in the MA and MDiv degree programs will all serve concurrently in a contextual learning environment for either 4 semesters (MDiv) or 2 semesters (MA).
- d. Students will be paired with a seasoned and trained vocational mentor who will live in a posture of being "for" the student as they study and are formed in preparation for ministry.
- e. Students will be engaged in peer learning contexts that we call Formation Groups.
- f. Formation Groups will be led by experts in particular areas or coursework which the students in the group are studying.
- g. Students (MA and MDiv) will participate in a for-credit skills course about Race, Gender and Cultural Awareness.
- h. MDiv students will all participate in a 200 hour Cross Cultural Internship designed to push and test their theological assumptions and cultural awareness. Many students love this experience and find it very formative.
- i. Some students may choose to engage in a Clinical Pastoral Education environment where an awareness of self and context is a skill that is deeply developed and cultivated for ministry.
- j. Students in the professional MA program will also be placed in a ministry context that suits their area of concentration. (Please note that those in the MA: Pastoral Care will be required by their degree to complete a full unit of CPE)

Chris Wright, Geoff Vandermolen, Samantha DeJong McCarron, and David Beelen make up the Vocational Formation team. Please feel free to contact them as needed, or as questions arise.



## Academic Calendar 2020-2021

<b>DMin OPENING 2020</b>	
May 15-September 30	Opening courses
<b>SUMMER 2020</b>	
June 8-August 7	Distance learning online summer courses
August 24-28	International Student Orientation
August 31-September 4	Gateway to Seminary; ThM and PhD Orientation
<b>FALL SEMESTER 2020</b>	
September 7	Labor Day (no classes)
September 8	Faculty retreat (no classes)
September 9	First day of classes
September 9	Convocation
Varies*	Last day to change registration status or drop with a full refund
October 12-16	Canadian Thanksgiving & reading week
Varies*	Last day to drop a course
November 23-27	US Thanksgiving break
December 15	Last day of classes
December 16	Reading day
December 17-21	Course examinations
<b>DMin WINTER 2021</b>	
Oct 1 – Feb 28	Winter courses (see website for on campus schedule)
January 18	No courses: Martin Luther King Jr Day
<b>JANUARY TERM 2021</b>	
January 6-27	3 weeks of classes – exact schedule varies by course
January 18	No courses: Martin Luther King Jr Day
Varies*	Last day to drop a course or change registration status
January 28-30	Worship Symposium
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2021</b>	
February 1	First day of classes
Varies*	Last day to change registration status or drop with a full refund
March 1-5	Distance learning intensives & residential reading week
March 8-12	Distance learning reading week
March 16-19	Oral comprehensive exams
Varies*	Last day to drop a course
March 29	<i>Dies Natalis</i> celebration (no classes)
April 2	Good Friday (no classes)
April 5-9	Spring Break
May 4-7	Case study panels
May 10	Last day of classes
May 11-14	Reading days
May 17-21	Course examinations
May 17-19	PhD dissertation defenses (mornings)
May 22	Commencement
<b>MAY TERM 2021</b>	
May 24-June 4	2 weeks of classes (classes do not meet on Memorial Day)

\*Drop/Refund dates vary due to course length. See the Financial Services webpage for exact dates.

## Academic Calendar 2021-2022

<b>SUMMER 2021</b>	
June 7-August 6	Distance learning online summer courses (9 weeks)
TBD	New Student Orientation
<b>DMin SUMMER 2021</b>	
May 15 – November 30	Summer DMin courses (see website for on campus schedule)
<b>FALL SEMESTER 2021</b>	
September 6	Labor Day (no classes)
September 7	Faculty retreat (no classes)
September 8	Convocation & First day of class
Varies*	Last day to change registration status or drop with a full refund
October 11-15	Canadian Thanksgiving & residential reading week
October 13-18	Distance learning intensives (DL reading break Oct 11-12, 19-22)
Varies*	Last day to drop a course
November 22-26	US Thanksgiving break
December 14	Last day of classes
December 15	Reading day
December 16-20	Course examinations
<b>JANUARY TERM 2022</b>	
January 6-27	3 weeks of classes – exact schedule varies by course
January 17	No classes: Martin Luther King Jr Day
Varies*	Last day to drop a course or change registration status
January 28-30	Worship Symposium
<b>DMin WINTER 2022</b>	
January 2-May 31	Winter DMin courses (see website for on campus schedule)
January 17	No classes: Martin Luther King Jr Day
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2022</b>	
February 1	First day of classes
Varies*	Last day to change registration status or drop with a full refund
March 1-5	Distance learning intensives & residential reading week
March 8-12	Distance learning reading week
March 16-19	Oral comprehensive exams
Varies*	Last day to drop a course
March 29	<i>Dies Natalis</i> celebration (no classes)
April 5-9	Spring Break
April 15	<i>Good Friday</i>
May 4-7	Case study panels
May 10	Last day of class
May 11-14	Reading days
May 17-21	Course examinations
May 17-19	PhD dissertation defenses (mornings)
May 22	Commencement
<b>MAY TERM 2022</b>	
May 24-June 4	2 weeks of classes (classes do not meet on Memorial Day)

\*Drop/Refund dates vary due to course length. See the Financial Services webpage for information.\*

## International Student Services

At Calvin Theological Seminary we rejoice in the diversity of our student body and are grateful for our international students. The presence of international students on our campus enriches our communal life. We value the opportunity to get to know one another, to work together, and to support each other in our studies. We pray that your time here will prepare you well for your future service for our Lord Jesus Christ.

We offer some resources that may be of benefit to you, including our International Friends program, Conversation Groups, an English Conversation Partners program, and our Rhetoric Center program to help with proofreading papers. We have put together a webpage with information on these programs as well as other important information for international students. This website can be found at:

<https://semlink.calvinseminary.edu/student-life/international-students/>

As an international student, you must be enrolled full-time in a program at Calvin Theological Seminary and have a valid non-immigrant visa status: an F-1 or J-1 status.

According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), “an F-1 student is a nonimmigrant who is pursuing a ‘full course of study’ to achieve a specific educational or professional objective, at an academic institution in the United States that has been designated by the DHS to offer courses of study to such students, and has been enrolled in SEVIS (the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System).

According to the Department of State regulations [22 CFR 62.1(b)], “The purpose of the Program is to provide foreign nationals with opportunities to participate in educational and cultural programs in the United States and return home to share their experiences, and to encourage Americans to participate in educational and cultural programs in other countries.”

If there is something that is unclear, do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have about what’s written – or not written – on the website! We are ready and willing to help you in any way that we can. Our doors are open to welcome and to serve you.

Contact  
Sarah Chun  
Dean of International Student and Scholar Services  
[sc038@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:sc038@calvinseminary.edu)

## Housing Information

*Virtual tours are available online!*

Calvin Theological Seminary has 103 apartments available to its students. The types of apartments are as follows (prices for 2020-2021):

### On-Campus Housing: Knollcrest East

- 18 large two-bedroom apartments located in the Sigma and Omega buildings: \$740 per month (the two garden level units are \$705.00 per month).
- 12 three-bedroom apartments located in the Bavinck, Kuyper, and Berkhof buildings: \$755 per month.
- 12 small two-bedroom apartments located in the Bavinck, Kuyper, and Berkhof buildings: \$680 per month.

All buildings listed above include a basement with a fully equipped laundry facility (free of charge), storage, and playroom space. Each apartment includes wireless internet, a stove, a refrigerator, and an air-conditioning unit.

There are two playground areas on site, as well as patrolled campus security. An \$85.00 utility charge is built into the monthly rental fee.

### Off-Campus Housing: Englewood Apartments

Eight buildings located on Englewood Ave SE, three miles from campus, have four two-bedroom apartments per building. Two apartments are garden level and two are upper units. Each apartment includes a hard wired internet connection, a stove, a refrigerator, a dishwasher, and an air-conditioning unit. Sixteen of these units have carports. There is a common, fully equipped laundry facility (free of charge) on the grounds of the apartment complex.

- Two Bedroom with Carport - \$640-650 per month
- Two Bedroom without Carport - \$620-630 per month

A utility charge is built into the monthly rental fee.

### Off-Campus Housing: Boerema Townhouses

Twenty-nine one-bedroom townhouses and one two bedroom townhouse on Batchawana St SE are three miles from campus and adjacent to the Englewood Apartments. Each unit includes a hard wired internet connection, a stove, a refrigerator, and an air conditioner. Each unit has a full basement and hook-up capability for a washer and dryer. Residents also have access to the Englewood Apartments' laundry facility if needed.

- One Bedroom Townhouse - \$635 per month.
- Two Bedroom Townhouse - \$700 per month.

A \$120.00 utility charge is built into the monthly fee.

### Single Students Sharing an Apartment

Price ranges from \$255 – \$370 per month.

### Housing Application

The housing application deadline is April 1.

Applications are to be filled out online via Calvin Seminary's website. You may fill out a housing application once you have applied for admission and have been assigned a User ID and Password by our IT Office. Applicants cannot be assigned to an apartment until the student enrolls.

### Contact

Housing Administrator  
Calvin Theological Seminary  
[semhousing@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:semhousing@calvinseminary.edu)

## **Education Costs**

The Office of Financial Aid establishes cost of attendance budgets that are used to determine eligibility for financial aid. These budgets include estimates for tuition, rent, books and other expenses.

### **Tuition for academic year 2020-2021**

- Certificate, Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theological Studies students are billed \$514.00 per hour.
- Master of Theology students are billed \$815.00 per hour.
- Doctor of Philosophy students are billed a flat rate of \$17,770 during years one and two, and a flat rate of \$8,885 for years three and four. The annual continuation fee is \$385.

### **Books**

Students must purchase their own books. Students should come with enough funds to purchase books and any other items necessary for beginning study, even if the student is expecting financial aid. Any scholarship or loan money that is remaining in the student's account after tuition has been paid may be used for the cost of books and other expenses. The book allowance is based on full-time enrollment, but expenses may vary depending on the course and degree program. The book allowance for an academic year is \$850.

### **Rent**

The budget for rent is based on the cost of living in Calvin Theological Seminary owned housing. This may be located on campus or at our apartments a short distance from campus. For detailed housing costs, please see the housing information in this document.

### **Other Expenses**

Other expenses include allowances for transportation, clothing, recreation, medical insurance, utilities, and other miscellaneous living expenses. These expenses vary greatly based on the individual student. The estimates are considered reasonable, but modest, and are determined after surveying segments of our student body.

## Fees for 2020-21

The list below shows most of the fees at Calvin Theological Seminary (excluding late fees). It is updated every year.

Description	Fee for 2020-21
Auditor: MA, MDiv, MTS, or ThM student  <i>PhD students exempted during their fulltime enrollment</i>	\$104 per credit hour
Advanced Standing Test Fee	\$125
Continuation Fee: PhD	\$385 per year after year 4
Graduation Fee	\$125
Student in non-credit online resource	\$125 per course for 1 year of access
Visitor: Visiting Scholar	\$51 per credit hour
Visitor: Community member	\$51 per credit hour
Visitor: Spouse of a full-time student	\$0

## Refund Schedule

A specific refund schedule for each term is posted on the Financial Services webpage. The general schedule for a semester is as follows:

1.5 weeks completed	100% refund
3 weeks completed	75% refund
6 weeks completed	50% refund

After the last drop date, there is no refund (outside of the Family Emergency refund policy listed in the Student Handbook).

## Financial Aid

The seminary's goal is to assist you in securing the resources necessary to fund your education. Last year, nearly \$1.5 million in scholarship money was awarded to Calvin Theological Seminary students. In addition to those funds, we have several low interest loan options available.

For financial aid process and resources, view our financial aid page online.  
<http://semlink.calvinseminary.edu/financial-resources/financial-aid/>.

## Scholarships

Through the generosity of donors, Calvin Theological Seminary is able to award many merit and need-based scholarships. With some exceptions, scholarship awards are deposited to the student's seminary account at the beginning of each semester during the academic year in two equal portions. Scholarship awards can be applied to tuition and all related educational expenses. Unless otherwise specified, receipt of a scholarship is dependent upon full-time enrollment status. All potential applicants are urged to complete the Application for Financial Aid available online through our website, *by March 1* each year.

Any discrepancy between the scholarship descriptions printed on our website and the official protocol governing a scholarship will be decided in favor of the official protocol kept on file in the Development Office.

## Authorization to Offer Degrees

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110; [ats.edu](http://ats.edu)) has approved Calvin Theological Seminary to offer MA, MDiv, MTS, ThM, and PhD programs, and has also granted approval for comprehensive distance education.

The State of Michigan's Dept. of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (Corporations Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau - Schools and Licensing) has approved Calvin Theological Seminary to operate a private post-secondary educational institution in Michigan and offer certificate, masters, and doctoral degrees (<http://www.michigan.gov/lara/>).

The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) has approved Calvin Theological Seminary to offer its degrees via distance education to residents of every state that is a member (<http://nc-sara.org/>).



## Course Descriptions

### Course Numbering Explanation

3xx Literacy level core courses for MA, MDiv, MTS.  
(Advanced Standing is possible for some of these courses)

4xx Analysis level core courses (including Skill Development courses)

5xx - 6xx\* Exploration/Elective level courses\*

7xx Interdisciplinary courses

8xx\*\* ThM electives\*\*

9xx PhD courses

\* Most of these electives may be taken by ThM students for 3 credits; different assignments are given to students in different degree programs. When registering, ThM students must choose the “T” option.

\*\* ThM level courses may be taken by MDiv and MTS students for 2 credits; different assignments are given to students in different degree programs. When registering, MDiv and MTS students must choose the number without the “T.”

Number	Name	Description
<b>301</b>	Biblical Hebrew I	This course begins preparing students to use biblical Hebrew in ministry by means of instruction in vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and elementary exegesis beginning with the basics of the Hebrew alphabet and pronunciation to the initial introduction to the Qal verb stem.
<b>302</b>	Greek Fundamentals I	Introduces students to fundamental elements of New Testament Greek grammar and basic function of the parts of a Greek sentence, and provides understanding of Greek morphology and its significance for exegesis.
<b>303</b>	Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions	Introduces Reformed theology through a study of confessions, from the Reformation era (Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dort) and the more recent past (Contemporary Testimony, Belhar Confession), and through the basic elements of the Reformed worldview grounded in this confessional theology.

<b>304</b>	The Church in Historical Context I	Surveys the story of God's people from 100 – 1247 A.D., conversing with ancient and medieval brothers and sisters in Christ by reading and responding to their testimonies, theology and practices.
<b>305</b>	The Church in Historical Context II	Introduces the history of Christianity from the late Middle Ages to the present, with special attention to developments in North America. Focuses on how the church's institutions, thought, and practice were shaped by and responded to their contexts in each of the eras and places under study.
<b>306</b>	Preaching Theory and Methods	Introduces the practice of preaching through lectures, discussions, readings and preparatory exercises; and provides a grammar for talking about sermons and an elementary approach to sermon construction. Topics include theology of preaching, technique in telling stories, writing for the ear, pastoral issues in the pulpit, use and presentation of scripture in the sermon, and how and where to find illustrations.
<b>311</b>	Introduction to Missional Ministry	Introduces aspects of pastoral ministry for a missional congregation.
<b>312</b>	Foundations for Pastoral Care	The foundations course in pastoral care presents the basic pastoral theology and theory of pastoral practice that undergirds good pastoral care. Pastoral care is bringing someone into an awareness of the presence of God in the midst of that person's circumstances, offering a vision of the future that is hopeful. Students will also learn how they use themselves as tools for ministry as the Holy Spirit guides them towards effective pastoral care.
<b>321</b>	Biblical Hebrew II	This course continues preparing students to use biblical Hebrew in ministry by resuming the instruction in vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and exegesis that began in 301. In this course, students will learn the remaining Hebrew verb stems and continue to sharpen their exegetical skills.
<b>402</b>	Old Testament Narrative Literature	Introduces students to Genesis through Kings, Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther as Christian Scripture, by means of a close reading methodology and theological analysis applied to books and selected passages in Hebrew.
<b>403</b>	The Psalms and Wisdom Literature	Provides basic knowledge of Hebrew poetry and literary genres of the Psalms and other books of the Writings, a close reading methodology of selected passages in Hebrew, and emphasis on the psalms of prayer, lament, thanksgiving in prayer, song, preaching and pastoral care.
<b>404</b>	Old Testament Prophetic Literature	Introduces the institution and nature of prophecy and an exegetical and biblical theological examination of selected prophetic passages, emphasizing the message of the prophets for the church.
<b>410</b>	Greek Fundamentals II	Introduces Greek grammar, vocabulary, and syntax (building on 301) and the reading of the Greek New Testament, with emphasis on the use of Bible software as well as the exegetical application of the genitive case, adverbial participles, and conditional sentences.
<b>411</b>	New Testament Narratives	Studies the Gospels and Acts and the unique problems of having four different gospels; develops a Reformed methodology for analyzing the various approaches to the gospels; and studies specific passages in Greek.

<b>412</b>	New Testament Letters	Reviews the basic principles of interpreting the biblical text from a Reformed perspective, with attention given to Greek grammar, historical context, social setting, epistolary structure and theological themes of the New Testament letters and their message for the church today.
<b>421</b>	Systematic Theology I	Analyzes themes in the doctrines of God, humanity, and Christ, focusing on their biblical foundations and the church's wrestling with these themes.
<b>422</b>	Systematic Theology II	Examines the work of the Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and the return of Christ and reign of God through studying Scripture, historical documents and contemporary thought.
<b>431</b>	Pastoral Disciplines for Counseling Ministry	Introduces effective personal and marital counseling within the limits of pastoral ministry and explores theologies and theories of transformation that underlie these pastoral skills. Students learn beginning counseling skills and complete a practicum/case study on a field experience packet filled out prior to the class.
<b>433</b>	Preaching Practicum I	Students will revise, preach, and then revise again (based on peer feedback) a sermon previously written for a second-year Bible course. The emphasis will be on helping students continually improve their preaching skills in terms of delivery and also sermon construction as they prepare for internships and future ministry contexts.
<b>434</b>	Preaching Practicum II	This course builds on the approach to preaching taught in 306 as students write and then also present two sermons in class for peer evaluation and evaluation by the instructor. Students will preach on Epistle texts from the New Testament and will also compose a sermon that will incorporate a portion of the Reformed Confessions. Feedback will focus on sermon delivery and construction as well as on matters of exegesis and pastoral care.
<b>435</b>	Preaching the Word	In this course, EPMC students will become familiar with the "Four Page" approach to homiletics. The importance of preaching anchored in the biblical text, sensitive to the needs of people, and guided by the confessions of the church will be stressed. One of the sermons required will be a doctrinally focused sermon using one of the Lord's Days of the Heidelberg Catechism.
<b>440</b>	Discipleship and Teaching	Equips students for leadership in the teaching ministry of the church by providing biblical and theological foundations, examining methods for assessing ministry contexts, developing a teaching-learning strategy appropriate to the context, and providing opportunities to enhance instructional skills.
<b>441</b>	Evangelism & Cross-Cultural Ministry	Introduces models of personal and congregational evangelism, models of contextual ministry, and skills necessary for cross-cultural ministry; and teaches how to write and communicate faith stories for evangelistic purposes, present the gospel individually and corporately, conduct evangelistic Bible studies, and lead a congregation to the best model(s) of outreach for its context and to church planting.
<b>450</b>	Apologetics	Presents a Reformed approach to the rational defense and presentation of the Christian faith and engages crucial issues in apologetics: the existence of God, the credibility of Scripture's witness to Jesus Christ, the problem of evil, challenges based on the natural and social sciences, and religious pluralism.
<b>451</b>	Ethics and the Christian Life	Studies Christian personal and social morality vital for being an obedient church leader and developing faithful communities of disciples.

<b>462</b>	Forming Worshipping Communities	Introduces principles and practices of vital and faithful worship leadership, explores biblical and historical perspectives on worship practices highlighting those of the Reformed tradition, and gives students practice at several basic worship planning and leading skills.
<b>462</b>	Ephesians	Considers the significance of this letter to contemporary challenges for ministries of the church: civil religion; Christian life as a continuous act of worship; ethnic and cultural diversity; unity and reconciliation; the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit for servant-leadership in marriage, family, church, and work; and spiritual warfare. Based on the English text, no Greek required.
<b>463</b>	Shalom: Its Meaning and Significance	Provides the vision and understanding of God's plan for creation to inspire lifestyles and ministries that conform to God's good will for the cosmos, society, the Church, and for each person. Learning and theological reflection is done regarding sites where significant models of community transformation, social justice and care for creation are being developed in the US, Canada, and other countries.
<b>465</b>	New Testament Letters and their message to the church today	A review of the basic principles of interpreting the Biblical text (i.e., hermeneutics) from a Reformed perspective as they apply to the New Testament letters. Special attention is given to the Greek grammar, historical context, social setting, epistolary structure, and theological themes of the New Testament letters as well as their message for the church today.
<b>470</b>	Applied Music Skills for Worship Leaders	Provides one-on-one instruction in applied musical and artistic skills for worship leadership, including various approaches to equipping others in a congregational setting, and discussions of the pastoral, liturgical, and theological parameters for how particular skills best contribute to the worship life of congregations. Areas may include instrumental instruction; conducting; composition and arranging; or art and media design; students are encouraged to practice their skills in an internship, chapel, or local congregational context.
<b>471</b>	Written Expression	Introduces English writing skills needed for preparing academic papers and engaging in other forms of nonfiction writing. Topics addressed include selecting a topic, engaging sources appropriately, developing a thesis and an outline, following good English style, crafting paragraphs and transitions, and avoiding plagiarism.
<b>472</b>	Choosing Music for Worship	Resources students in developing and improving skills in choosing appropriate music for worship services.
<b>473</b>	Public Reading of Scripture	Assists students in developing and improving skills in effective public reading of Scripture passages and in the care of a one's voice over a long ministry.
<b>475</b>	Proclaiming Texts Using the Arts	Introduces the various ways art proclaims the Word through image, architecture, and visual elements of worship. We will explore a biblical approach to the visual as integral in multi-sensory proclamation, examine historical developments, and discover how art in worship speaks theologically today.
<b>477</b>	Planning Intergenerational Worship	Most churches today wrestle with the issue of Intergenerational Worship. Is it possible? What methodology should be used? Which values should guide us? What are the risks of different approaches? Many are experimenting with very diverse approaches. In this course we'll explore the issues involved, different perspectives on "intergenerational", and participate collaboratively in efforts to design worship that will reach all generations. Our work will be built on the assumption that all



		generations are equally valuable, and all generations have their own unique needs in the formation of their faith.
<b>488</b>	Issues in Pastoral Care and Leadership	This course will develop students' skills in navigating difficult pastoral care or leadership issues in the church today. Topics will vary each time that the course is offered.
<b>490</b>	Hebrew Review	Offers opportunity to secure and build upon gains made in 301 in order to provide a solid foundation for using Hebrew in exegesis.
<b>491</b>	Greek Review	This course is primarily aimed at those students who have taken Greek at another institution or who learned Greek at Calvin Seminary but are rusty because of a period of non-use of the language. Students will be introduced to the terminology and emphases of Calvin Seminary to prepare them to meet the Greek demands and requirements of the Biblical courses. We will concentrate on the uses of the genitive, adverbial participles, conditional sentences, and tenses and moods as well as teaching you how to construct a clausal outline.
<b>492</b>	Hebrew Review II	This course reviews key material learned in OT 401 (Hebrew Usage and Tools), including a review of the verbal system, basic syntax, and analysis of clauses.
<b>493</b>	Issues in Mission	This course will develop students' skills in navigating difficult missions issues in the church today. Topics will vary each time that the course is offered.
<b>494</b>	Personal Financial Stewardship in the Pastoral Vocation	In a paradigm of personal boundaries and self-care, this course invites students to reflect upon personal financial stewardship and its impact on ministry and the pastoral vocation. Through the use of scriptural, theology, and general principles of financial management, students are invited to reflect upon their personal financial profile and how it necessarily informs one's future ministry choices and vocational path. Crucial to this course then is also a critical critique of the pros and cons of full-time pastoral ministry over against a bi-vocational pastoral career path, or even a non-church based religious vocational option.
<b>496</b>	Greek Review II	This course is geared primarily for Calvin Seminary students who have just taken the Greek courses but need or desire more training in the significance of grammatical distinctions and the reading of the Greek New Testament text. Others who want more experience in Greek grammar and reading may also join this class.
<b>501</b>	The Art of Hebrew Narrative	Develops greater proficiency in comprehending biblical Hebrew and appreciating its literary artistry and its application in Old Testament exegesis through a careful reading of the Joseph narrative.
<b>502</b>	Exegesis of the Pentateuch	Exercises exegetical and theological understanding of Exodus or Leviticus (in alternate years) in its larger canonical context, and its abiding address to the Church. Basic exegetical skills and knowledge of the Hebrew language and computer assisted exegetical skills are assumed.

<b>506</b>	Psalms	Studies selected passages from the Psalms in the Hebrew text. Exegetical studies include syntactical, form critical, prosodic, hermeneutical and biblical theological issues. Considers the history of psalmic interpretation, the literary genres and their function in the Psalter as a collection and as a basis for liturgy and biblical theology. Offer M.T.S. and Th.M. students an opportunity to apply their knowledge of the original languages and their understanding of biblical hermeneutics in resolving key exegetical issues. Offers MDiv Students an opportunity to apply their knowledge of the original languages and understanding of biblical hermeneutics to the challenging task of communicating the message of the Psalter in an effective way in sermons.
<b>507</b>	Isaiah	An exegetical study of selected passages from the Prophecy of Isaiah in the Hebrew text, including syntactical, form critical, prosodic, hermeneutical, and biblical-theological issues. The course will offer MDiv students an opportunity to apply their knowledge of the original languages and understanding of biblical hermeneutics to the challenging task of communicating the message of Isaiah in an effective way.
<b>508</b>	Judaism in the Time of Jesus	A survey of Jewish history and literature in the Second Temple period as background for understanding the New Testament. Texts include selections from the Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha as well as the Dead Sea Scrolls.
<b>509</b>	Exegesis of the Narrative Literature of the Old Testament	A close reading of selected texts from the narrative literature of the OT (Genesis-Kings; Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther) in the context of its abiding address to the Church and its task in the world.
<b>510</b>	Job	In this course, we will study the book of Job in its historical context and for what it has to say to the church today about human suffering, the character of God, and living well in a fallen world.
<b>511</b>	Taste and See: A Study Tour of Biblical Lands	Come, experience the world of the Bible through explorations of the culture, geography, and history of Israel and Palestine (or surrounding lands). See for yourself the diverse array of landscapes that make up the land from Dan to Beersheva. Taste the spring waters of Mt. Hermon. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and his disciples. Hear the cacophony of sounds and languages that comprise the cultural mosaic of the Old City of Jerusalem. Meet people who live in the land and gain insight into the region's current religious and political tensions. In this course, you will visit archaeological and sacred sites of biblical, historical, and religious significance that are sure to illuminate your reading of Scripture.
<b>515</b>	Old Testament Exegetical Elective	This course will explore an Old Testament topic. Topics will vary each time the course is offered.
<b>517</b>	Reading the Old Testament in Church and Mission	This course reflects on the continuing relevance of the Old Testament for the testimony and mission of the Church. It will reflect on questions such as: "How can the God of the OT be the Father of Jesus Christ?"; "What about the violence committed in the conquest of the land?" "How can a religion of rules lead to love?"; "Can the OT be used to testify to the love of God in Jesus Christ?" "Why should I read the book of Joshua and Judges?"
<b>519</b>	Jeremiah and the Church	Introduces Jeremiah, the complex prophet of the New Covenant, and explores how his lengthy revelation finds its focus in Christ and continues to resonate within the church and world. This course can meet an MA O.T. requirement or serve as an exegetical elective for MDiv and MTS students.

<b>521</b>	I Corinthians	Studies the historical context, social setting and epistolary structure of 1 Corinthians, emphasizing the major themes and issues of this letter and its message for the church today.
<b>522</b>	Parables	Introduces the principles and exegetical methods for interpreting the parables of Jesus and applying their meaning, significance, and relevance to contemporary preaching and teaching.
<b>523</b>	Birth and Death Narratives	Studies the passion narratives in the four gospels for use in effective preaching and liturgy during the Lenten season, and requires an exegetical sermon or lesson plan of one of the gospel's birth narratives to prepare for the Advent season.
<b>524</b>	Apocalypse	Studies the exegesis of the book of Revelation, including a critical analysis of the main types of interpretation.
<b>525</b>	The Sermon on the Mount	Studies the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and its implications for Christian living today.
<b>526</b>	Ephesians	Considers the significance of this letter to contemporary challenges for ministries of the church: civil religion; Christian life as a continuous act of worship; ethnic and cultural diversity; unity and reconciliation; the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit for servant-leadership in marriage, family, church, and work; and spiritual warfare. Based on the Greek text.
<b>527</b>	Seeds and models of Shalom	Provides the vision and understanding of God's plan for creation to inspire lifestyles and ministries that conform to God's good will for the cosmos, society, the Church, and for each person. Learning and theological reflection is done in sites where significant models of community transformation, social justice and care for creation are being developed in the US, México, and other Latin American countries.
<b>528</b>	The Didache of Jesus	An Exegetical-theological and contextual study on the sermons/discourses of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels and its significance for faithful discipleship and holistic missions today.
<b>529</b>	Seeds of Justice, Harvest of Shalom	This course is an exploration on the intimate connection between justice and peace in biblical theology. Thus, we will study the comprehensiveness and centrality of the biblical teachings on Justice and shalom. These themes provides the necessary vision and understanding of God's plan for creation and humanity to inspire a life style and ministry that conform to God's good will for the cosmos, society, the Church and the individual person. In our visit to the "Association for a More Just Society" in Honduras we will learn how that is being done in concrete and significant ways.
<b>530</b>	New Testament Elective	This course will explore a topic in the New Testament. Topics will vary each time the course is offered.
<b>531</b>	Studies in the Gospel of John	A study of the Gospel of John to discover its unique witness to the story of Jesus. Students will research the unique structure, literary features, symbolism, language, background, theology, and purpose of this gospel. Included will be a study of the Greek text and an opportunity to investigate preaching possibilities. The missional importance of the gospel as well as its apologetic nature in the defense of Christianity will also be emphasized.

<b>533</b>	The Kingdom of God	Integrates biblical, historical and contemporary understandings of this central theme in Scripture and in Christian and Reformed theology, with special attention to relevance of the Kingdom of God and its justice for several ministry settings and Christian movements.
<b>534</b>	Biblical Study Tour to Turkey and Greece	Travel to biblical and other archaeological sites in Turkey and Greece connected with Paul's Missionary journeys, and the Seven Churches of Revelation 2-3, in order to understand better the relevant biblical texts in their historical and social context.
<b>537</b>	The Seven Letters of Revelation	A detailed study of Rev. 2-3, as well as the relationship of these key chapters to the Book of Revelation as a whole, with the goal of equipping participants to preach and/or teach a series on the "Seven Letters to the Seven Churches."
<b>540</b>	General Elective	
<b>541</b>	Calvin the Pastor	Examines John Calvin's life, piety, reform, and pastoral ministry in the context of the Reformation in Geneva.
<b>542</b>	The Anabaptists: Then and Now	Explores the beliefs and practices of sixteenth-century Anabaptists and their modern-day descendants (Mennonites, Amish, and Hutterites), to test assumptions about how Christians should live in contemporary society.
<b>544</b>	The Apologetical Theology of C.S. Lewis	Studies some works of C.S. Lewis in which he communicates and defends Christianity.
<b>546</b>	Minister in Literature	An exploration of the portraits given in English literature of ministers and Their vocation, character, role, performance of duties, effectiveness, fears, and peculiar temptations and sins, including power and pride, doubt, sloth, infidelity, and professionalism. Classic and contemporary texts will be used.
<b>550</b>	History of Christianity Elective	This course will explore a topic in the History of Christianity. Topics will vary each time the course is offered.
<b>551</b>	Systematic Theology Elective	This course will explore a topic in Systematic Theology. Topics will vary each time the course is offered.
<b>561</b>	Theology of the Holy Spirit	Studies a biblical, historical and systematic examination of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, with special attention to contemporary developments in Pentecostal and mainline spirituality and theology, and the relation between Christology and pneumatology.
<b>562</b>	Doctrine and Practice of Infant Baptism	Studies the biblical basis, historical development, systematic formulation, major criticisms, and liturgical shape of the doctrine of infant baptism, with special focus on the Reformed tradition.
<b>563</b>	Imaginative Reading for Creative Preaching	Reads and discusses selected fiction, biography, memoirs, journalism, culture criticism, essays, drama, poetry, and children's literature in order to deepen the preacher's understanding of human character, divine grace, and the surprises that emerge when they intersect, with special attention to the homiletic impact of the readings.



<b>564</b>	Intersections of Theology and Science	Examines the theological topics of creation and humanity with an emphasis on how they intersect with modern scientific concerns and considers implications of these intersections for ministry.
<b>565</b>	Seven Deadly Sins	A theological analysis of pride, envy, anger, sloth, avarice, gluttony, and lust, with discussion of their origin, coherence, social and psychological dimensions, and spiritual antidotes.
<b>566</b>	Reformed World and Life View	A study of the biblical and theological foundations, philosophical articulations, and specific implications of the Reformed world and life view developed in the neo-Calvinist tradition of Abraham Kuyper.
<b>581</b>	Philosophy of Religion	Develops a Reformed philosophical perspective on the nature and functions of religion in human life; considers major religions, secular worldviews, and Christianity, arguing that all humans live by faith in something ultimate; and provides a comprehensive framework for Christian scholarship and ministry.
<b>582</b>	Philosophy for Understanding Theology	Surveys the history of philosophy from Plato to postmodernism, reviews the historical interaction of philosophy with Christian faith and theology--both positive and negative, and emphasizes the importance of good philosophy for sound theology.
<b>583</b>	Biblical Anthropology and the Body-Soul Debate	Considers contemporary Christian challenges to the traditional body-soul distinction in light of Scripture, theology, philosophy, and science; and argues for "dualistic holism." A key issue is whether Scripture teaches that persons exist without bodies between death and resurrection.
<b>587</b>	Phil or Moral Theology Elective	Study of selected philosophical or moral issues.
<b>598</b>	Independent Study (First Degree)	Students who wish to engage in concentrated study on a subject of interest that is not currently offered may ask a professor to supervise the study. The professor, in consultation with the student, will make the final determination of requirements. The course may include reading, research, writing a paper, and sitting in a course. Students must complete the appropriate registration form and submit it to the academic office. Research courses may be 1, 2 or 3 credits.
<b>599</b>	Major Research Paper (First Degree)	First degree students who wish to write a major research paper on a subject of interest may ask a professor to supervise a paper. Papers may be either 2 or 3 credits. A two-credit paper will ordinarily be 25-35 pages and a three-credit paper will ordinarily be 40-50 pages.
<b>601</b>	Doctrine of Christ and Services of the Christian Year	Engaging Christian Worship which effectively nurtures faith must be built on a clear understanding of the doctrine of Jesus Christ and should faithfully represent the full range of his ministry. The services of the Christian year – from Advent to Eastertide – provide an excellent pattern of nurture for the worshiping congregation. We'll explore the worship calendar which observes the Christian Year and thereby faithfully leads worshipers through the entire ministry of Christ on an annual basis. We'll function collegially and will aim to collaboratively plan services which faithfully accomplish this.
<b>602</b>	What Preachers Can Learn from Writers	Explores what various writers are saying about their craft and its implication for preaching and looks at the creative features of sermon making through a combination of reading, writing, and practice preaching.

<b>607</b>	Forms of the Sermon	This course will explore the various forms that a sermon can take (including narrative, deductive, inductive, "Bible study," evangelistic, and confessional). Students will review some of the history of preaching and consider what forms sermons have taken across the centuries. Major contemporary models of preaching will also be explored. Other topics to be covered will include a consideration of how the literary form of a given biblical text may influence the form of a sermon, how and why a congregation may benefit from being exposed to a variety of sermon types over time even as different sources for preaching will also be considered, including ways to preach the Common Lectionary. Sample sermons will be read/viewed and evaluated. Students will be required to design and write sermons in varying forms so as to recognize the challenges and benefits of these different sermon types.
<b>610</b>	Preaching Elective	
<b>621</b>	Special Worship Occasions	Studies the biblical, theological, and pastoral dimensions of celebrations of baptism, marriage, funerals, and other occasional services such as ordinations, dedications, and commissionings.
<b>623</b>	Music and the Arts in Worship	Surveys prominent theological motifs and how they have been reflected in artistic expressions of Christian worship throughout church history, including a study of prayer, texts, sermons, hymnody, architectural forms, and implications for congregational worship today.
<b>624</b>	Advanced Skills in Worship Leadership	Studies resources, skills, and strategies for planning and leading public worship services, with attention to congregational prayer, training lay worship leaders, and celebrations of the sacraments.
<b>625</b>	Planning and Leading Congregational Worship	A study of the resources, skills, and strategies for planning and leading public worship services. Particular attention will be given to the structure of Reformed Worship, the reading of Scripture, issues of music and song, prayers, training lay worship leaders, and the celebration of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
<b>630</b>	Worship and Formation for Ministry	This course is built around the Calvin Symposium on Worship. Students will engage Symposium learning as reflective practitioners - setting goals for formation, doing pre-Symposium research on speakers, reflecting in an integrated way on one's learning, and prioritizing resolutions for ministry.
<b>641</b>	Contemporary Youth Culture and Intergenerational Ministry	Examines cultural institutions affecting youth, analyzes current understandings of family, media, school, and peer relationships among adolescents, and teaches how to plan and conduct intergenerational learning, serving, and high adventure activities that promote responsible interaction and spiritual growth.
<b>642</b>	Faith Formation for all Ages	Explores the spiritual, moral, emotional, and social needs and development of children and adults, teaches the creative design of faith formation programs and intergenerational education, and develops skills needed to teach a wide variety of programs.
<b>647</b>	Curriculum Design and the Teaching Learning Process	Explores curriculum theory and design, and the teaching-learning process that enables students to assess and develop curriculum and select appropriate teaching strategies.

<b>648</b>	Youth and Family Ministry	Introduces pastoral care for young people and families from a systems perspective, develops skills in theological diagnostic method, and examines issues such as depression and suicide, sexuality identity and function, use and abuse of alcohol and illegal substances, and dysfunctional families.
<b>651</b>	Ministry to and with Prisoners	This course will attempt to expose students to the special challenges of ministry to those who are or have been incarcerated. The course will include a trip to Angola State Penitentiary in Louisiana, spending time with prisoners, in the prison seminary, and classroom time under the instruction of prison teachers.
<b>660</b>	Leadership Elective	This course will explore a topic in Leadership. Topics will vary each time the course is offered.
<b>672</b>	Elective in Missiology	This course surveys contemporary issues and opportunities in global mission, informed by the dramatic expansion of Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America even as it wanes in Europe and North America. Topics could include short-term missions, immigration and international students, persecution and peace-making, Pentecostalism and the prosperity gospel, Scripture-use across cultures, cross-cultural partnerships and reciprocity, Business-as-Mission, unreached and unengaged peoples, and missionary member-care.
<b>682</b>	Human Sexuality	Explores the wonders of human sexuality from biological, theological, and pastoral perspective, and considers issues of human sexuality that underlie much of pastoral care and counseling in a manner that seeks to overcome nearly 2000 years of Platonic dualism, a heresy that has harmed the Church for centuries.
<b>683</b>	Human Suffering and Pastoral Care	Engages the spiritual struggle to embrace the realities of human suffering and the loving nature of God through a variety of theological perspectives from classical and popular texts.
<b>684</b>	Pastoral Care As Dying and Rising with Christ	Introduces the classical understanding of pastoral care, guides students in engaging in pastoral care as soul care and nurturing of disciples, addresses care of people in crisis situations, and presents creative ways to encourage individual and communal practice of spiritual disciplines.
<b>685</b>	Advanced Pastoral Skills	This course concentrates on the teaching and learning of pastoral care and counseling skills as these relate to the individual, marital, and family counseling that those in ministry may be called upon soon after graduation.
<b>705</b>	Biblical Interpretation for Ministry	An introduction to basic principles for interpreting the Bible in the Reformed tradition. This course initiates the student in the fundamental task of a doing a responsible and relevant interpretation of the biblical text. Thus, the course aims to familiarize us with the indispensable abilities to hear attentively the Word of God and obey it.
<b>712</b>	Theological Education as Formation for Ministry	Introduces all parts of seminary life as interrelated and formative for ministry, and examines the process of spiritual formation by illustrating habits developed through theological education and how they are critical for ministry.
<b>715</b>	Digital Bible Tools for Teaching and Preaching	This course introduces students to using digital tools for studying Scripture: exploring the text in its original languages, finding resources for deeper enrichment, and establishing a lifelong process for preparing to teach and preach.

<b>716</b>	Bible Survey	Prepares leaders in the church to be faithful and effective stewards of the Word by acquainting them with the basic content and principal theme of each book of the Bible; the historical, geographical, and cultural backgrounds to the Bible; its introductory hermeneutical principles; and its continuing relevance.
<b>718</b>	Christian Engagement with World Religions	Introduces the global engagement of the Christian faith with major world religions, worldviews, and forms of spirituality, framed by a biblical-Reformed theology and philosophy of religion that examines religious experience, tradition and practice in the light of general and scriptural revelation, and a commitment to the universal common humanity of God's image bearers.
<b>719</b>	Great Books in Ministry	Students will read, analyze, and discuss 500 pages of key sources in their concentration. This course will include guided discussions across concentrations.
<b>771</b>	Capstone (MDiv): Integrative Seminar	Prepares students for ordination exams and equips them to integrate wisdom, practices and insights from each area of the seminary curriculum through case studies from ministry settings.
<b>773</b>	Christian Reformed Church Polity	Prepares students for effective leadership and ministry in the CRC by introducing principles and structures of CRC polity and exploring case studies in church governance and administration, with reference to Church Order and the synodical Regulations
<b>774</b>	Christian Reformed Church History	An Intro to the basic outline of CRC History and some key ethical and theological positions of the CRC. The course focuses on the key elements of CRC identity in North America, including the struggle for liberty, Christian education, and tensions about Americanization-that are essential knowledge for effective ministry in the CRC.
<b>775</b>	Leadership in Ministry	This course is focused on helping students read and navigate the ministry contexts which they will find on their internship and in ministry.
<b>800</b>	ThM General Elective	Topics will vary each time the course is offered.
<b>801</b>	Research Methodology	Develops research paper writing skills, and introduces basic research and biblical methodologies. Students learn to analyze scholarly articles, write a 15-20 page research paper, meet with professors in the area of their specialization (biblical, theological, ministry) to finish the first draft, and then rewrite the paper.
<b>809</b>	Seminar in OT Biblical Theology	Studies selected exegetical, biblical-theological, hermeneutical or linguistic issues arising out of scholarly studies of the Old and New Testaments such as issues. Specific topics announced by the Biblical Department.
<b>810</b>	Seminar in the History of Interpretation of the OT	Studies selected exegetical, biblical-theological, hermeneutical or linguistic issues arising out of scholarly studies of the Old and New Testaments such as issues. Specific topics announced by the Biblical Department.
<b>811</b>	The Book of Samuel	Studies selected passages from the book of Samuel in the context of the theology of Samuel and the canon. Students write an exegetical research paper demonstrating understanding of advanced exegetical skill in syntactical, methodological, and theological matters. Basic knowledge of the Hebrew language and computer-assisted exegetical skills are required.



<b>812</b>	Basic Akkadian	Introduces the morphology, phonology, grammar, and syntax of the Akkadian language, and principal Akkadian language resources, emphasizing elementary reading skills in contracts and omen texts, sections of the laws of Hammurabi, hymns and prayers, and royal inscriptions and correspondence.
<b>813</b>	Comparative Semitic Grammar	Equips students with fundamental tools and skills to undertake fruitful research in Semitic languages by introducing them to general Semitic phonology, morphology, and syntax in the light of historical and comparative linguistics.
<b>814</b>	Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Law	Examines Sumerian, Assyrian, Babylonian, and Hittite legal materials, in translation, with a view toward how specific laws of these cultures compare with analogous biblical laws from sociological and theological perspectives.
<b>815</b>	Biblical Aramaic	Introduces the basic elements of biblical Aramaic, including elementary grammar and vocabulary, and the translation of the Aramaic passages of the Old Testament.
<b>816</b>	The Ugaritic Language	Introduces the study of Ugaritic, including noun formation, verbal system, syntax, and the reading of Ugaritic texts in transliteration.
<b>817</b>	Old Testament Elective	This course will explore an Old Testament topic. Topics will vary each time the course is offered.
<b>826</b>	Readings in Biblical Theology and Habit of Desert	This course introduces students to the biblical theology of the desert with a focus on its theological function and purpose in the Pentateuch. The goal is to develop an awareness of the desert as the fundamental geography of the people of God of the Old and New Testaments.
<b>827</b>	Readings in the Biblical Theology of Presence	This course examines the biblical theological theme of divine presence as developed in Genesis through Kings, with forays into other OT literature and also the NT. Readings include Samuel Terrien's, The Elusive Presence.
<b>828</b>	Matthew	Explores the richness of the message, literary art, and relevance and significance of the historical context of the Gospel of Matthew in order to challenge faith and praxis and transform faithful disciples of Jesus in today's societies.
<b>829</b>	Mark	Reads the Gospel of Mark as if for the first time, discovering how Mark developed controversy dialogues, parables, miracle stories, discipleship teaching, an eschatological discourse, and a passion narrative into a gospel proclamation. Interpretation of the miracle stories is highlighted.
<b>830</b>	Luke-Acts	Studies the structure, purpose, background material, and theology of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Each class period concentrates on a section of the book and a particular passage within that context, providing students with a valuable approach to exegesis, interpretation, and application.
<b>831</b>	I and II Thessalonians	Studies the historical context, social setting, and epistolary structure of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and emphasizes the major themes and issues of these letters and their message for the church today.
<b>832</b>	Preaching the Parables	Examines the communication of Jesus' parables in sermon form, including a study of representative sermons and the homiletical principles involved.

<b>833</b>	Colossians	An exegetical-theological study that explores the message and significance of the Lordship of Jesus in the historical context of the Colossians. The letter provides a vision and power to face and overcome legalistic challenges then and now.
<b>834</b>	The Teachings of Jesus	This course concentrates in the teaching of Jesus with regards to key central themes in the Synoptics (particularly Matthew's Gospel): Ethos, mission, ekklesia and eschaton. The course is a major exercise guiding students to move from exegesis to biblical theology. Thus, we will explore from an exegetical and theological perspective Jesus' teaching on ethics, missiology, ecclesiology and eschatology and how they are interrelated and inform each other to form a community of disciples. In this way students will be able to understand and articulate their significance and relevance for the life of the Church today.
<b>845</b>	The Reformed Missiology of J.H. Bavinck	An exploration of the missiology of J.H. Bavinck (1895-1964), taking account of the context of his missionary experience in Indonesia. Among the themes to be considered are general revelation and the world's religions, the relation between universal religious consciousness and Christian faith, and the worldview clash between the Christian understanding of God, humanity, and the world and that of the classic Asian religious traditions.
<b>846</b>	Puritanism and Orthodoxy	Examines post-Reformation theological developments, emphasizing English Puritanism and the scholastic systems of Calvinism and Lutheranism in the late sixteenth and seventeenth Century.
<b>847</b>	The Life and Thought of Augustine	Studies the thought of Augustine as related to his life and work, emphasizing the place of Augustine in the development of Christian doctrine.
<b>848</b>	The Divine Decrees in 16th and 17th Century Reformed Thought	An examination of the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Reformed doctrine of the divine decree of predestination and providence as developed in the thought of such writers as John Calvin, Theodore Beza, Peter Martyr Vermigli, Zacharias Ursinus, Amandus Polanus, John Owen, and Francis Turretin.
<b>849</b>	The Reformed Dogmatics of Herman Bavinck I	1st of a sequence covering the Reformed theology in Herman Bavinck's Reformed Dogmatics. Topics: metaphysical foundations of theology including the relation of Christian truth to universal human experience, doctrines of God, creation, humanity, and Christ
<b>850</b>	The Reformed Dogmatics of Herman Bavinck II	2nd of a sequence covering the Reformed theology in Herman Bavinck's Reformed Dogmatics. Topics: metaphysical foundations of theology including the relation of Christian truth to universal human experience, doctrines of God, creation, humanity, and Christ.
<b>851</b>	Theology of John Calvin	An introduction to the thought of John Calvin and his influence on the Reformed tradition. The primary emphasis is on the reading and analysis of designated topics in Calvin's Institutes with selections from his other writings.
<b>852</b>	Medieval Theology	A study of major themes in Christian doctrine and philosophy as developed by the great medieval doctors from the twelfth to the fourteenth century, with special attention to thinkers such as Anselm, Bonaventure, Aquinas, Siger of Brabant, Scotus, and Occam.
<b>853</b>	Learning Preaching Through Preaching History	After identifying biblical essentials for sermon development, the course will analyze how those essential have shaped sermons in a variety of styles from scripture to the present.

<b>854</b>	Jonathan Edwards and C.S. Lewis	This course will be a comparison of two leading British apologists and theologians who lived two centuries apart. The course will consider the biographical backgrounds of each and their differing historical and ecclesiastical settings and the intellectual, cultural, and theological challenges that each of them faced. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the views of each, evaluating their strengths and weaknesses, and reflecting on the usefulness of their outlooks in differing cultural settings today. The course will be based on readings and discussions of both primary and secondary sources.
<b>855</b>	Readings in Bavinck's Reformed Dogmatics 1	Volumes 1 and 2 of Herman Bavinck's Reformed Dogmatics serve as the basis for a series of assignments in reading and analysis. Students will practice discerning the main thesis of a chapter, determining how Bavinck constructs his argument for the main and subordinate themes, and reflect on how the chapter fits in the larger context and structure of Bavinck's thought.
<b>865</b>	Violence and the Love of God	Examines violence in certain Biblical texts and Christian doctrines and considers criticisms from marginalized groups (feminists, womanists, and minorities), helping students learn to listen fairly and evaluate these criticisms from the standpoint of Reformed theology.
<b>866</b>	Recent Developments in Roman Catholic Theology	Studies the documents of the Second Vatican Council, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and several recent papal encyclicals and Catholic ecumenical statements.
<b>867</b>	Theology of Jonathan Edwards	Introduces the life, thought, and significance of America's greatest theologian, with special attention to Edwards's formative role in shaping a distinctive American theology and spirituality.
<b>868</b>	Theology of Dutch Neo-Calvinism	Examines key themes in the theology and ethics of Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck, and considers their nineteenth-century background and influence on subsequent twentieth-century Reformed theology in the Netherlands and North America.
<b>869</b>	The Heidelberg Catechism	Studies the history and theology of the Heidelberg Catechism in order to develop an appreciation of the relevance of the document for Christian life and ministry today.
<b>870</b>	The Thought of Aquinas	Considers Thomas Aquinas' theology, philosophy and ethics as presented in sections of Summa Theologica; including topics of revelation and reason, God's nature and relation to creation, human nature, knowledge, law and the virtues, sin, salvation, and final blessedness.
<b>871</b>	The Biblical Theology of Presence	Studies the divine presence in the Primary History (Genesis-Kings), and its relationship to wisdom literature and the theology of the covenant.
<b>872</b>	Theology of Worship and the Sacraments	Studies Reformed theological writings on corporate worship and the sacraments and examines how their enduring themes are reflected in worship practices today.
<b>873</b>	Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions	Introduction to the Apostle's, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds with attention to the purpose and structure of creeds in history. An examination of the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort, and the Contemporary Testimony and the Belhar Confession.

<b>874</b>	History of Christian Worship	Studies Christian worship practices in each major period in church history.
<b>875</b>	Theological Biographies	Studies important theologians in the Christian tradition through the best available biographies and selective primary readings.
<b>880</b>	Readings in Church and Society	This course is a close study of selected classical texts in the history of Christian social ethics for the apostolic era to the present.
<b>885</b>	The Impact of Philosophy Since Kant on Theology	Traces how important philosophies beginning with Kant and Hegel have shaped modern and postmodern biblical scholarship, theologians, and theological movements; and considers romanticism, idealism, scientific naturalism, historicism, phenomenology, and existentialism, as well as analytic, linguistic, and hermeneutical philosophy.
<b>887</b>	Modern Panentheism	Traces modern panentheism (everything exists within God) from Neoplatonism, through Hegel, Schelling, and 19th century idealism, to Troeltsch, Teilhard, Whitehead, Tillich, Pannenberg, Moltmann, liberation theology, and current theological cosmology. Compares pantheistic concepts of God's nature and relation to creation with classical Christian views.
<b>888</b>	Warranted Christian Belief	Warranted Christian Belief is a seminar course on Reformed epistemology as developed by Alvin Plantinga in his book by that name.
<b>889</b>	Readings in Christian Social Ethics	Studies selected classical texts in the history of Christian social ethics from the apostolic era to the present.
<b>897</b>	Independent Study (ThM)	Students who wish to engage in concentrated study on a subject of interest that is not currently offered may ask a professor to supervise the study. The professor, in consultation with the student, will make the final determination of requirements. The course may include reading, research, writing a paper, and sitting in a course. Students must complete the appropriate registration form and submit it to the academic office. Research courses may be 1, 2 or 3 credits.
<b>898</b>	Thesis (ThM)	A ThM student has the option of writing a six-hour thesis on a topic within the student's area of concentration. The student is responsible to find a supervisor appropriate for the topic. The supervisor will identify a second reader. The thesis will ordinarily be approximately 100 pages in length, not including the bibliography. The student defends the thesis before the supervisor and the second reader.
<b>899</b>	Major Paper (ThM)	A ThM student has the option of writing a three-hour major paper within the student's area of concentration. The student is responsible to find a supervisor appropriate for the topic. The major paper will ordinarily be 40-50 pages in length, not including the bibliography.
<b>901</b>	Research Methodology	Examines theory and methods in theology intended to provide a foundation for graduate and post-graduate research.
<b>902</b>	Dissertation Seminar	A seminar for students preparing and writing dissertation proposals and chapters. Participants read and respond to drafts of dissertation proposals and chapters written by members of the seminar.
<b>903</b>	Teaching Seminar	A seminar designed to help prepare students to teach at a college or seminary level.



<b>930</b>	Documents and Issues in Reformed and Post-Reformation Thought	Examines select documents from the Reformation and post-Reformation eras, emphasizing the techniques of research and analysis.
<b>931</b>	Scripture and Interpretation in the 16th and 17th Centuries	Examines the doctrine and interpretation of Scripture in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, emphasizing the development of the Reformed tradition of exegesis and hermeneutics.
<b>932</b>	Reformed Symbolics: Confessions and Catechisms	Studies the confessions and catechisms of the Reformed churches of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, emphasizing the international character and theological development of Reformed symbolics.
<b>933</b>	Patristic Theology: Apologetics and Anti-Gnosticism	Studies the theology of the second and early third centuries with attention to the problems of Christianity and classical culture, Gnosticism, and early trinitarianism.
<b>934</b>	The Theology of John Calvin	Investigates the theology of John Calvin by examining his primary texts, including the Institutes, commentaries, sermons, correspondence, and polemical literature, and analyzes past and present interpretations of Calvin's theology.
<b>936</b>	Reformed Doctrine of God in 16th-17th Century	Examines the doctrine of God in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, emphasizes the exegetical, dogmatic, and philosophical development of Reformed theology.
<b>937</b>	Arminius and Arminianism	Examines the work of Jacob Arminius in the context of late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century Protestantism, including his theology, controversies, and the development of Reformed and Remonstrant theology to the Synod of Dort.
<b>938</b>	Patristic Theology: Trinitarian Debate and Council of Constantinople	Studies the history of the trinitarian and christological debate from the beginnings of the Nicene struggle to its resolution at the Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381), with special attention to the councils of the fourth century.
<b>939</b>	Life and Thought of Augustine	Studies the thought of Augustine as related to his life and work, with emphasis on his place in the development of Christian doctrine.
<b>940</b>	Theology of Revelation	Studies biblical and historical sources and contemporary theological reflection on the Christian doctrine of revelation, focusing on the need for divine revelation, the nature of revelation, and the validation and reception of revelation.
<b>941</b>	Nature of Theology and Doctrine	Studies basic issues in theological prolegomena, including the sources, nature, and object of theology, the use of Scripture in theology, and the nature of doctrine.

<b>942</b>	Theology of the Incarnation	Examines the doctrine of the incarnation historically and systematically, with special attention to patristic, medieval, and modern developments.
<b>943</b>	Theology of the Atonement	Examines the doctrine of the atonement historically and systematically, with special attention to various theories of atonement and criticism of those theories.
<b>944</b>	The Theology of Karl Barth	Studies Karl Barth's theology through a survey of the development of his thought and a careful study of selections from his Church Dogmatics
<b>945</b>	Theology of the Trinity	Studies biblical sources, confessional statements, and classic and contemporary theological formulations of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.
<b>946</b>	20th-Century Dutch Reformed Theology	Examines key figures and issues in twentieth-century Dutch Reformed theology including A. Kuyper, H. Bavinck, O. Noordmans, G. Vander Leeuw, K. Schilder, A. A. Van Ruler, G. C. Berkouwer, H. M. Kuitert, and H. Berkhof; including the relation between revelation and experience; the debates about theocracy, common grace, and regeneration; the pluriformity and apostolicity of the church; and the debate about the ongoing significance and value of Karl Barth's theology.
<b>947</b>	Theology of the Holy Spirit	Examines the doctrine of the Holy Spirit biblically, historically, and systematically, with special attention to contemporary developments in Pentecostal and mainline spirituality and theology, and the relation between Christology and pneumatology.
<b>948</b>	The Theology of Edwards	Studies the philosophical, doctrinal, moral, and spiritual theology of 'America's theologian,' Jonathan Edwards, through extensive reading of his major treatises.
<b>949</b>	Issues in Theological Anthropology	This seminar explores various issues in theological anthropology, emphasizing the exegetical, historical, and systematic development of some aspect of Christian anthropology (e.g., sin, image of God, etc).
<b>951</b>	Philosophical Issues in Christian Theology	Studies the philosophical treatments of the doctrine of God, including the nature, attributes, and knowability of God.
<b>952</b>	Philosophical Foundations of Modern Theology	Studies the major philosophers who influenced the foundations of modern theology--Kant, Hegel, and Schleiermacher.
<b>953</b>	Christian Moral Tradition	This seminar explores major thinkers of the Christian moral tradition, such as Augustine, Aquinas, Kant, Mill, Bonhoeffer, and MacIntyre, taking a critical approach to some of the most formative perspectives on love, virtue, natural law, utilitarianism, and deontology.
<b>954</b>	Social Teaching of the Christian Churches	Analyzes Ernst Troeltsch's The Social Teaching of the Christian Churches and collateral readings, and a few important twentieth-century theologians (Karl Barth, Reinhold and H. Richard Niebuhr, John Paul II).
<b>955</b>	Post-Enlightenment Critique of Religion	Assesses two important phases in the post-enlightenment critique of religious belief: the naturalistic explanation of religious belief ventured by Feuerbach, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud (1840-1960); and the global rejection of such notions as truth and moral objectivity by which any religion or system of belief might recommend itself as authoritative(since 1960).

<b>956</b>	Christian Social Ethics	
<b>992</b>	The Theology of Vocation	In the Reformed tradition, the idea of vocation plays a central role in understanding and assessing the shape a Christian life is to take. This course will be devoted to understanding this idea. It will begin with a review of the basic western attitudes towards work, as expressed in the works of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Bruno, Marx, and Freud. Against this background, the course will then focus on the development of the protestant theology of vocation. The third part will be devoted to various recent critiques of the Reformed idea of vocation.
<b>993</b>	Doctoral Seminar: History of Christianity	Studies selected advanced topics in historical theology.
<b>994</b>	Doctoral Seminar: Systematic Theology	Studies selected advanced topics in systematic theology.
<b>995</b>	Doctoral Seminar: Philosophical Theology	Studies selected advanced topics in philosophical theology.
<b>996</b>	Doctoral Seminar: Moral Theology	Studies selected advanced topics in moral theology.

## Department Directory

Calvin Theological Seminary  
3233 Burton Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Phone: 1-800-388-6034  
Fax: 616-957-6536

### Administrative Departments

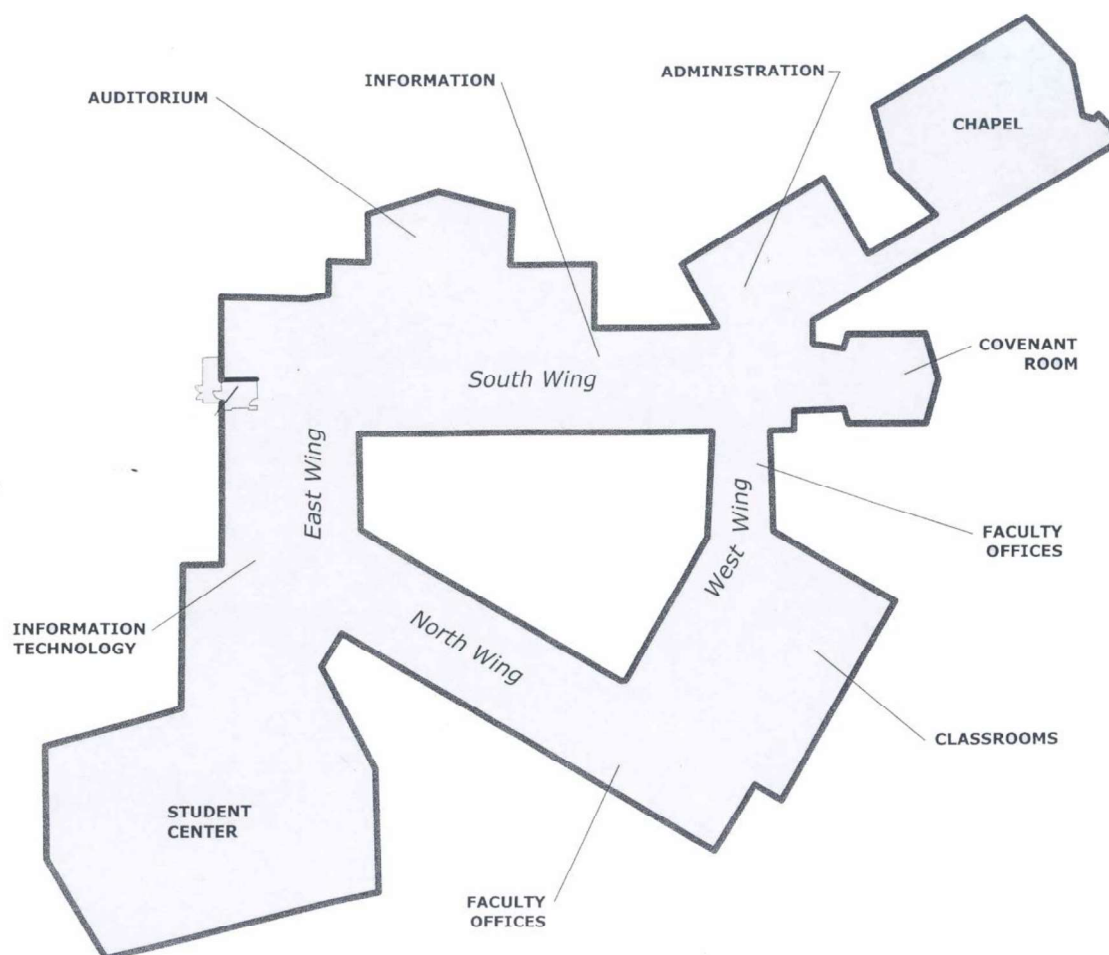
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Calvin Theological Journal	Karin Maag	kmaag@calvin.edu	616-526-6089
Continuing Education	Kenzie Szczepanski	continuing.education@calvinseminary.edu	616-957-6173
Development Office	Bob Knorr	rknorr@calvinseminary.edu	616-957-6039
Dig (was Facing Your Future)	Aaron Einfeld	aaron@calvinseminary.edu	616-957-6076
Human Resources	Karen De Young	semhr@calvinseminary.edu	616-957-6097
Vocational Formation	Geoff Vandermolen	vocationalformation@calvinseminary.edu	616-957-6045
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Webmaster	Becky Impellizzeri	webmaster@calvinseminary.edu	616-957-6078

## Centers and Institutes

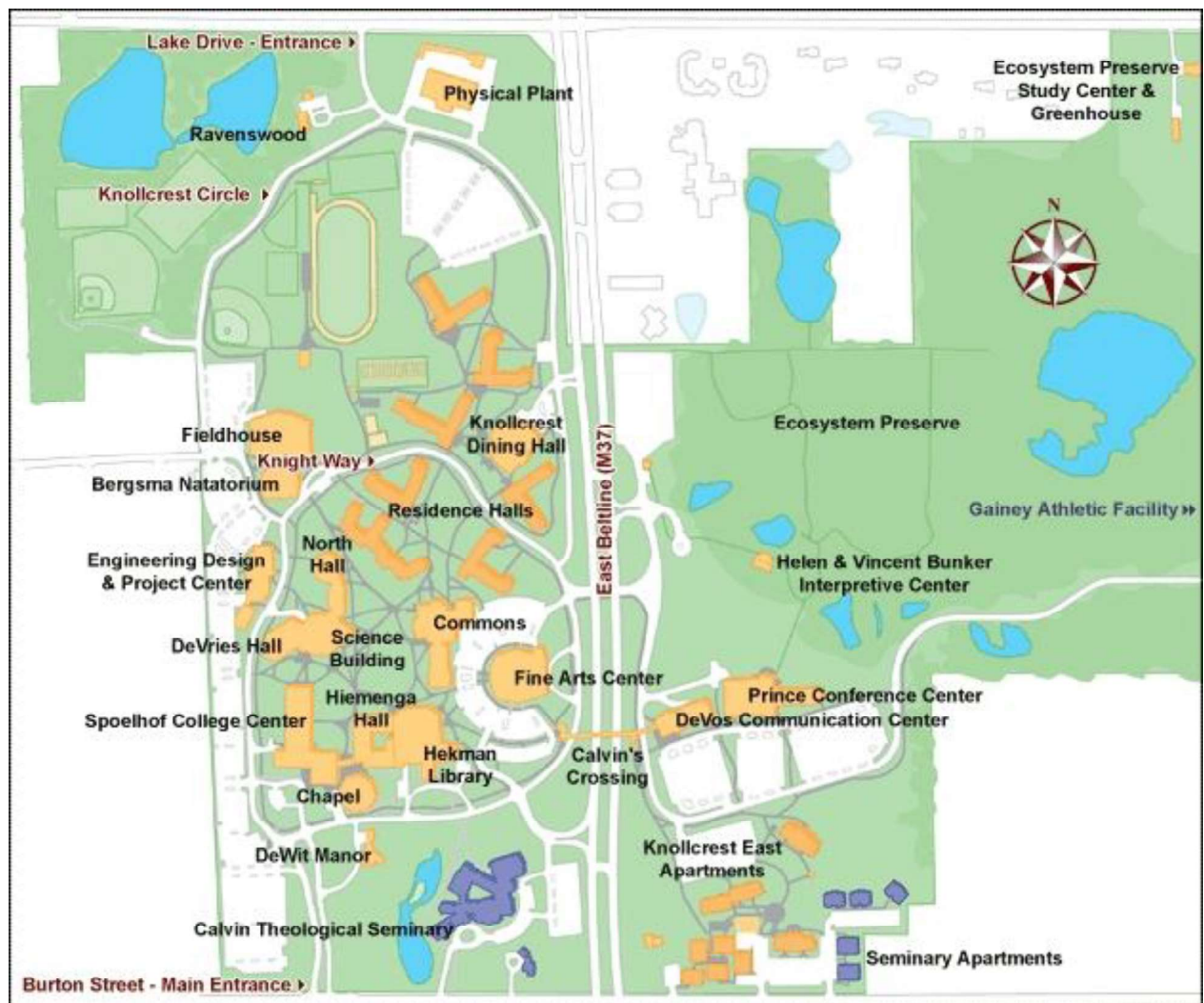
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Center for Excellence in Preaching	Scott Hoezee	hoezee@calvinseminary.edu	616-957-6085
Heritage Hall			616-526-6313
Institute for Global Church Planting & Renewal	Cory Willson	cbw000@calvinseminary.edu	616-957-6012
Meeter Center	Paul Fields	pfields@calvin.edu	616-526-7041
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Timothy Leadership Training Institute	Jennifer Owens	jowens@tlti.org	616-647-5554

## Maps

### Calvin Seminary Building Map



## Campus Map





## Grand Rapids Area Map

