

# CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Academic Catalog

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3233 Burton Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
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Calvin Theological Seminary

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## Welcome to Calvin Theological Seminary!

When you are part of Calvin Seminary, you are joining a community that is focused and centered on a particular mission of discipleship. Our mission is to be “a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition that forms church leaders—disciples—who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ.” For 149 years, we have formed and prepared disciples 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 and with one another.



Calvin Seminary receives students from usually 25 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 join together as a community at Calvin Seminary and to walk alongside you in this 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

## 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 serves 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.

Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary has faithfully prepared leaders who nurture disciples and serve the church. Today, graduates of Calvin Seminary can expect to be ready for effective ministry in a rapidly changing, multicultural world. Our vision presents what we aim to do at Calvin Seminary, and how we plan to accomplish our goals through the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are many reasons why a Calvin Seminary education could be right for you. Maybe it's the 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.

## Contact Information

Calvin Theological Seminary  
3233 Burton Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: 1-800-388-6034

A full Faculty and Staff Directory can be found at: <https://www.calvinseminary.edu/about/directory>

Calvin Theological Seminary does not discriminate in admissions, employment, and educational programs on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability status, sex, age, income, or any other considerations made unlawful by relevant law.

Calvin Theological Seminary is a religious institution formed by and guided by the Christian Reformed Church of North America that exists to serve the church by forming Christian leaders for biblically faithful and contextually effective ministry of the Word of God. As such, it reserves the right to make admissions decisions on the basis of religious criteria that align with the CRCNA beliefs and the Seminary's Student Code of Conduct.

## Teaching Faculty

Many of our 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, and by their devotion to serving students and forming them for life and ministry. 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 through a thorough knowledge of the Bible, theology, preaching, pastoral care, and missional ministry.

The Calvin Seminary teaching faculty for 2025-2026 are:

Bernard Ayoola, adjunct (*PhD, Calvin Theological Seminary*)  
David Beldman, (*PhD, University of Bristol, Trinity College*)  
Wilson de Angelo Cunha (*PhD, Leiden University*)  
Daniel Daley (*PhD, Trinity College, Dublin*)  
Gayle Doornbos, adjunct (*PhD, University of St. Michael's, Toronto*)  
Ronald J. Feenstra (*PhD, Yale University*)  
Michael W. Goheen (*PhD, Utrecht University*)  
Scott E. Hoezee (*MDiv, Calvin Theological Seminary*)  
Lisa Hoozeboom, adjunct (*PhD, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary*)  
Mary Hulst, adjunct (*PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*)  
Young Ahn Kang (*PhD, Free University of Amsterdam*)  
Karin Maag, adjunct (*PhD, University of Saint Andrews*)  
Julius T. Medenblik (*MDiv, Calvin Theological Seminary*)  
Mark Mulder, adjunct (*PhD, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*)  
Mark Ryan (*DMin, Covenant Theological Seminary*)  
David M. Rylaarsdam (*PhD, University of Notre Dame*)  
Jeff Sajdak, (*DMin, Bethel University*)  
Yudha Thianto (*PhD, Calvin Theological Seminary*)  
Gabriela Tijerina-Pike (*PhD, University of Aberdeen, The School of Divinity*)  
Matthew J. Tuininga (*PhD, Emory University*)  
Jeffrey A.D. Weima (*PhD, Wycliffe College - University of Toronto*)  
Cory Willson (*PhD, Free University of Amsterdam and Fuller Theological Seminary*)

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

## Degrees and Programs

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, continue for more advanced study, or prepare yourself for ordained leadership in the Christian Reformed Church after studying elsewhere.

- Certificate Programs
- Master of Arts in Bible and Theology (MABT)
- Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MACL)
- Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MACMHC)
- Maestría de Artes en Formación de Liderazgo (Master of Arts in Leadership Formation: MALF)
- Master of Arts in Missional Theology (MAMT)
- 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)

Other than the PhD (see [PhD Handbook](#)) and DMin (see [DMin Handbook](#)), there are no defined time frame requirements for completion of a program, although students are encouraged to continue active progress to continue momentum in their program and learning.

## Master of Divinity (MDiv)

The MDiv program is Calvin Seminary's most comprehensive degree, preparing students for the widest range of ministry opportunities: pastor, chaplain, campus minister, K-12 Bible teacher, non-profit ministry leader, missionary, church planter, and (with further education) professor. MDiv students take a full breadth of courses, including Bible, theology, pastoral care, preaching, and worship courses, etc. To enhance learning, students participate in a formation group and integrate ministry experience alongside coursework.

### MDiv Learning Outcomes

Calvin Seminary seeks to form graduates who will discern, together with those they serve, answers to the following questions:

- What is our ministry **CONTEXT**?
- How does the **GOSPEL** engage our context?
- What is God **CALLING** us to in this context?
- What is the **PERSON** and role of a servant leader in this context?

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily connected because every ministry situation occurs in a particular **CONTEXT** where the **GOSPEL** of God's redemptive activity is communicated, where God is **CALLING** people to participate in his mission, and where God is forming the **PERSON** and role of a servant leader. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary desires that each MDiv graduate demonstrate the following eight learning outcomes.

#### 1. **CONTEXT**

- 1.1 Discerning:  
Demonstrates awareness of how contextual factors influence ministry.

#### 2. **GOSPEL**

- 2.1 Biblically wise:  
Knows, interprets and applies the story of Scripture faithfully.
- 2.2 Theologically reflective:  
Understands and integrates Scripture, history, and theology with ministry practices.

#### 3. **CALLING**

- 3.1 Responsive disciples:  
Responds to God's call to be ambassadors of reconciliation, healing, and transformation.
- 3.2 Making disciples:  
Witnesses and teaches Christian practices in order to form disciples.
- 3.3 Worshiping and proclaiming:  
Proclaims the gospel and helps people worship in ways that are God-glorifying and that form disciples.

#### 4. **PERSON**

- 4.1 Being discipled:  
Exhibits growing conformity to Christ, self-awareness, and interpersonal intelligence.
- 4.2 Leading:  
Equips God's people to answer God's call to works of 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 background will provide an excellent foundation for graduate-level theological education and shape well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates.

Each applicant's academic, professional, and ministry background will be reviewed as part of the admissions process. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed. The learning plan could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

In some circumstances, an applicant without a bachelor's degree or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution will be admitted into a degree program at Calvin Seminary 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.

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 attain a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80, with a score of at least 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section.

## **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 before the probationary status can 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 classes), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

## **Transfer Credit**

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. Calvin Seminary may accept up to two-thirds of a student's completed program elsewhere, but no more than half of a student's program at Calvin Seminary. Credit hours that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

## **MDiv Program Curriculum**

The MDiv program seeks to form graduates who demonstrate the learning outcomes named above. This formation is done through coursework, concurrent internships, and formation group conversations. The degree is 87 credits and includes an oral comprehension exam.

Given the variety of vocational futures of MDiv students, the MDiv curriculum has two ways to learn Greek and Hebrew. The desired outcome or competency of both language tracks is faithful biblical exegesis, which includes analysis of biblical languages. Track one: Students can take two courses (six credits total) for each language, learning and memorizing the grammar, vocabulary, and structure. This option is recommended for those pursuing a degree after the MDiv. Track two: Students take one course (3 credits) for each language, learning to use a Bible tool for grammatical analysis. This option may be chosen by students who will do regular exegesis in ministry. Variation: Students may decide to mix track one and track two, doing six credits of one language, and three credits of the other.

In its approach to helping students reach competency in preaching, the MDiv curriculum recognizes not



only that students have a variety of vocational aspirations, but also that they enter the program with a variety of preaching skills and experiences. All MDiv students will start by taking a three-credit course: Gospel Preaching and Communication. From there, students will proceed through electives based on need and their vocational plans.

### **In-Person and Hybrid Modalities**

In-person students can complete their studies in three years (some choose to stretch it out to four years or longer). As part of their residential life and learning opportunities, students will have regular opportunities for communal worship, club activities, student government, and other forms of interaction with peers and faculty.

Students in the distance hybrid Master of Divinity program can complete their studies in four years. The distance program maintains the same high quality of education as our residential program. 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 on the following pages.

## Chart A – Residential - Track One Languages

The language courses are offered in the residential format in alternate years. Therefore, the language they take in year one may be Biblical Hebrew.

<b>Year 1</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (13)	J-Term (2)	Spring (13)
	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Person (2) Greek Fundamentals I (3) Mission of God in OT (3) Gospel Preaching and Communication (3) Formation Group (1) In-Context Learning (1)	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Context (2) Greek Fundamentals II (3) Mission of God in NT(3) TEFFM (2) Elective (2) In-Context Learning (1)
<b>Year 2</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (13)	J-Term (2)	Spring (11)
	Cross-Cultural Internship (2)	Hebrew Fundamental I (3) Foundations for Pastoral and Spiritual Care (3) The Gospel in a Multi...World (2) Systematic Theology I (3) Formation Group (1) In-Context Learning (1)	Elective (2)	Hebrew Fundamentals II (3) Evangelism and Discipleship (2) Forming Worshiping Communities (2) Systematic Theology II (3) In Context Learning (1)
<b>Year 3</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (13)	J-Term (3)	Spring (11)
	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Gospel (2) Interpreting the NT (3) Story of Christianity I (3) Leadership in Ministry (2) Elective (2) Formation Group (1)	Elective (3)*	Cornerstone: Calling (2) Interpreting the OT (3) Story of Christianity II (3) Ethics (3)

### Chart B – Residential- Track 2 Languages

The language courses are offered in the residential format in alternate years. Therefore, they may take another core course instead in their first year.

<b>Year 1</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (13)	J-Term (2)	Spring (13)
	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Person (2) Greek Tools for Exegesis (3) Mission of God in OT (3) Gospel Preaching and Communication (3) Formation Group (1) In-Context Learning (1)	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Context (2) Hebrew Tools for Exegesis (3) Mission of God in NT(3) TEFFM (2) Elective (2) In-Context Learning (1)
<b>Year 2</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (13)	J-Term (2)	Spring (13)
	Cross-Cultural Internship (2)	Interpreting the NT (3) Foundations for Pastoral and Spiritual Care (3) The Gospel in a Multi...World (2) Systematic Theology I (3) Formation Group (1) In-Context Learning (1)	Elective (2)	Interpreting the OT (3) Evangelism and Discipleship (2) Forming Worshiping Communities (2) Systematic Theology II (3) Elective (2) In Context Learning (1)
<b>Year 3</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (12)	J-Term (3)	Spring (10)
	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Gospel (2) Story of Christianity I (3) Leadership in Ministry (2) Elective (2) Elective (2) Formation Group (1)	Elective (3)*	Cornerstone: Calling (2) Story of Christianity II (3) Ethics (3) Elective (2)

### Chart C – Distance Learning - Track 1 Languages

The language courses are offered in the hybrid format in alternate years. Therefore, students may instead take the Gospel Preaching and Communication course in their first year.

<b>Year 1</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (9)	J-Term (2)	Spring (8)
	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Person (2) Greek Fundamentals I (3) Mission of God in the OT(3) Formation Group (1)	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Context (2) Greek Fundamentals II (3) Mission of God in NT (3)
<b>Year 2</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (9)	J-Term (2)	Spring (8)
	Elective (2)	Biblical Hebrew I (3) Gospel Preaching and Communication (3) The Gospel in a Multi-Faith... (2) Formation Group (1)	Elective (2)	Biblical Hebrew II (3) Systematic Theology II (3) TEFFM (2)
<b>Year 3</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (10)	J-Term (2)	Spring (8)
	Cross-Cultural Internship (2)	Foundations for Pastoral and Spiritual Care (3) Systematic Theology I (3) Interpretation of the NT (3) Formation Group (1)	Elective (2)	Systematic Theology II (3) Interpretation of the OT (3) Evangelism and Discipleship (2)
<b>Year 4</b>	Summer (2)	Fall (9)	J-Term (2)	Spring (8)
	Elective (2)	Forming Worshiping Communities (2) Story of Christianity I (3) Cornerstone: Gospel (2) Leadership (2)	Elective (3)*	Cornerstone: Calling (2) Story of Christianity II (3) Ethics (3)

### Chart D – Distance Learning - Track 2 Languages

The language courses are offered in the hybrid format in alternate years. Therefore, students may instead take the Gospel Preaching and Communication course in their first year.

<b>Year 1</b>	Summer (2-4)	Fall (9)	J-Term (2)	Spring (8)
	Elective/s (2-4)	Cornerstone: Person (2) Greek Tools for Exegesis (3) Mission of God in the OT(3) Formation Group (1)	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Context (2) Hebrew Tools for Exegesis (3) Mission of God in NT (3)
<b>Year 2</b>	Summer (2-4)	Fall (9)	J-Term (2)	Spring (7)
	Elective/s (2-4)	Systematic Theology I (3) Gospel Preaching and Communication (3) The Gospel in a Multi-Faith... (2) Formation Group (1)	Elective (2)	Systematic Theology II (3) Elective (2) TEFFM (2)
<b>Year 3</b>	Summer (2-4)	Fall (10)	J-Term (2)	Spring (8)
	Cross-Cultural Internship (2)	Foundations for Pastoral and Spiritual Care (3) Story of Christianity I (3) Interpretation of the NT (3) Formation Group (1)	Elective (2)	Story of Christianity II (3) Interpretation of the OT (3) Evangelism and Discipleship (2)
<b>Year 4</b>		Fall (8)	J-Term (2)	Spring (8)
	Elective (2)	Worship (2) Cornerstone: Gospel (2) Leadership (2) Elective (2)	Elective (2)	Cornerstone: Calling (2) Ethics (3) Elective (3)*

### **Advanced Standing and Advanced Substitutes**

MDiv students are eligible to receive up to 11 credit hours of Advanced Standing or Advanced Substitutes. In order to receive Advanced Standing or Substitutes, a student must demonstrate competence by way of a written or oral exam and is evaluated by faculty.

Complete information and study guides for the Advanced Standing tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of Populi Links (Calvin Seminary's internal website). MDiv students may seek Advanced Standing for the following courses:

- Story of Christianity I or II (not both) (3)
- Systematic Theology I or II (not both) (3)
- Mission of God in the OT or Mission of God in the NT (not both) (3)
- Theological Education as Formation for Ministry (2)

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

Students may receive up to six 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 two courses (at least six 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 five 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 11 credits of Advanced Standing in other courses for which tests are available.

### **Concentrations**

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

Under the direction of their advisor, students are allowed to create their own concentrations. To obtain a concentration, students must take eight elective credits (generally four electives) in their area of concentration. A concentration in preaching will be awarded to students, regardless of credits, who complete the preaching competency pathway. All of those courses 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 will work with you to meet your denomination's or 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 denominational representative 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. Candidates must also take CRC History (2 credits), CRC Polity (2 credits), and Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (2 credits) as electives.

## Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MACMHC)

The MACMHC is a professional and theologically grounded degree consisting of coursework in religious and theological foundations, clinical counseling, and clinical practice. MACMHC is a 60-credit master's degree that is designed to satisfy the regulatory educational requirements in the state of Michigan for the Licensed Professional (LPC) designation. The MACMHC is also designed to prepare students to sit for the National Counselor Examination (NCE), which is a requirement for licensure in many states. This program typically takes three years to complete. The program includes 100-hours of a Clinical Counseling Practicum and 600 hours of a Clinical Counseling Internship.

### MACMHC Learning Outcomes

Calvin Seminary seeks to form graduates who will discern, together with those they serve, answers to the following questions:

- What is our Ministry CONTEXT?
- How does the GOSPEL engage our context?
- What is God CALLING us to in this context?
- What is the PERSON and role of a servant leader in this context?

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily connected because every ministry situation occurs in a particular CONTEXT where the GOSPEL of God's redemptive activity is communicated, where God is CALLING people to participate in his mission, and where God is forming the PERSON and role of a servant leader. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary desires that each MACMHC graduate demonstrates these five learning outcomes.

#### 1. CONTEXT

##### 1.1 Discerning:

Demonstrates awareness of how contextual factors affect mental health.

#### 2. GOSPEL

##### 2.1 Theologically reflective:

Integrates faith and theology with peer-reviewed mental health scholarship.

#### 3. CALLING

##### 3.1 Responsive disciples:

Articulates how mental health counseling is an extension of Christian mission, affirms the humanity of every person, and responds diligently to human suffering.

##### 3.2 Making disciples:

Demonstrates competence in the knowledge and skills necessary to become a clinical mental health counselor in a variety of cultural contexts.

#### 4. PERSON

##### 4.1 Being discipled:

Embodies a vocational identity that is informed by one's theological tradition and outlines a personal professional plan that is integrated with one's faith.

### Admissions

The admission process reflects Calvin Seminary's goal to train capable stewards of the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. A strong liberal arts background will provide an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shape well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates. Each applicant's academic, professional, and ministry background will be reviewed as part of the

admissions process. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed. The learning plan could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

In some circumstances, an applicant without a bachelor's degree or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution will be admitted into a degree program at Calvin Seminary 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.

To apply to the MACMHC 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 attain a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80, with a score of at least 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section.

### **Continuation Requirements**

Continuation in the MACMHC 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 before the probationary status can 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 classes), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### **Transfer Credit**

Because the MACMHC is very specialized, only certain types of courses may be considered for transfer credit. Contact the Interim Program Director for further information. Credit hours that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

### **Program Requirements (60 credits total):**

- Theology and Religion (9 credits):
  - Seminar on Faith and Theological Formation and Counseling Vocational Identity (3)
  - Psychodynamic Psychology: History, Theory, and Practice in Counseling (3)
  - Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy (3)
  - Interpersonal Communication in Mental Health Counseling (3)
- Clinical Counseling Coursework (42 credits)
  - Faith and Mental Health: Ethical Integrations (3)
  - Professional Orientation, Laws, and Ethics in Counseling (3)
  - Human Development and Lifespan Psychology (3)
  - Foundations in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (3)
  - Trauma and Crisis Counseling (3)
  - Counseling Theory and Methods I (3)
  - Counseling Theory and Methods II (3)
  - Research Design and Program Evaluation (3)
  - Diagnosis and Psychopathology (3)
  - Counseling Techniques, Strategies, and the Helping Relationship (3)
  - Group Dynamics, Techniques, and Counseling (3)
  - Clinical Assessment, Measurement, and Testing in Counseling (3)
  - Career Development and Counseling (3)
  - Social and Cultural Diversity in Counseling, Psychology, and Therapy (3)
- Clinical Practice (7 credits)
  - 100-hour Clinical Counseling Practicum (1)



- 300-hour Clinical Counseling Internship I (3)
- 300-hour Clinical Counseling Internship II (3)
- Counseling Psychology and Mental Health Capstone (2)

### **In-Person and Distance Modalities**

Students can take courses in one of two ways: the first is in-person. This will be at the Grand Rapids, Michigan, campus. The second is synchronous online; if a student chooses this option, the student must be present via video conferencing during the scheduled course meeting time.

### **Attendance Policy**

The attendance policy for the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is at the program level, is non-negotiable, and applies to every class.

Punctual attendance is required. Absences will not be excused. More than two absences (i.e. missing class sessions) will result in a reduction of your final grade by a full letter. For any absence, it is the student's responsibility to retrieve class notes and other pertinent information from fellow classmates. More than three absences will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

For students taking a course in the 12-week model, each week constitutes a class session. For students taking a course in the monthly model, each weekend represents three class sessions (i.e., Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon). Arriving to class more than 30 minutes late will be counted as an absence. Late arrivals under 30 minutes will be penalized at the discretion of the professor. Once a student registers for the residential section or the synchronous online section, you must remain in that section for the entire semester. Alternating between sections throughout the semester is not allowed.

Students that register for a synchronous online section must be situated in a stationary and quiet space that is conducive to academic learning for the entire duration of the class. Online students that are mobile (i.e. cell phone, car, walking, etc.) will not be allowed into class and will be recorded as absent. Online students are required to be visible for the entire duration of class. The computer video must remain on for the entire class session. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their internet connection is adequate. Students that lack sufficient video conferencing technology for online learning will not be allowed to register for an online section of a course.

## Master of Theological Studies (MTS)

The MTS is a flexible academic program designed to prepare students for further academic study or other careers that would be enriched by a strong theological education. Students may also be interested in this program if they desire to understand the Christian faith more deeply. The MTS program includes courses in Old and New Testament, Greek, Hebrew, theology, ethics, and more. Possible vocations include teaching, theological research, and editing.

### Learning Outcomes

Calvin Seminary seeks to form graduates who will discern, together with those they serve, answers to the following questions:

- What is our Ministry CONTEXT?
- How does the GOSPEL engage our context?
- What is God CALLING us to in this context?
- What is the PERSON and role of a servant leader in this context?

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily connected because every ministry situation occurs in a particular CONTEXT where the GOSPEL of God's redemptive activity is communicated, where God is CALLING people to participate in his mission, and where God is forming the PERSON and role of a servant leader. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary desires that each MTS graduate demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

#### 1. CONTEXT

##### 1.1 Discerning:

Demonstrates awareness of how contextual factors influence the interpretation or expression of theology.

#### 2. GOSPEL

##### 2.1 Biblically wise:

Knows, interprets, and applies the story of Scripture faithfully.

##### 2.2 Theologically reflective:

Understands and integrates Scripture, history, and theology.

#### 3. CALLING

##### 3.1 Making disciples:

Witnesses and teaches through theological practices in order to equip God's people for service in the world.

#### 4. PERSON

##### 4.1 Being discipled:

Exhibits growing conformity to Christ, rooted in spiritual disciplines and bearing fruit in relating to every person as a fellow image bearer of God.

### 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 background will provide an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shape well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates.

Each applicant's academic, professional, and ministry background will be reviewed as part of the

admissions process. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed. The learning plan could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

In some circumstances, an applicant without a bachelor's degree or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution will be admitted into a degree program at Calvin Seminary 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.

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 attain a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80, with a score of at least 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section.

### **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 before the probationary status can 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 classes), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### **Transfer Credit**

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. Calvin Seminary may accept up to two-thirds of a student's completed program elsewhere, but no more than half of a student's program at Calvin Seminary. Students in the MA in Bible Theology program (MABT) or the Master of Theological Studies program (MTS) may receive up to a year of advanced standing if their undergraduate degree included a significant amount of study in the area of Biblical and/or theological studies. Credit hours that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

### **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, with advice from the Program Director. To obtain a concentration, students must take eight elective credits (generally 4 electives) in their area of concentration. All of those 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.

### **Advanced Standing and Advanced Substitutes**

MTS students are eligible to receive up to 11 credit hours of Advanced Standing/Substitutes. Student competence is demonstrated by way of a written or oral exam and is evaluated by faculty. If granted, Advanced Standing/Substitutes can open doors for an additional internship or specialized coursework.

Complete information and study guides for the Advanced Standing/Substitute tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of Populi Links (Calvin Seminary's internal website). MTS students may

seek Advanced Standing for the following courses:

- Story of Christianity I or II (not both) (3)
- Systematic Theology I or II (not both) (3)
- Mission of God in the OT or Mission of God in the NT (not both) (3)
- Theological Education as Formation (2)

In addition, students in the MTS program may receive up to a year of advanced standing if their undergraduate degree included a significant amount of study in the area of Biblical and/or theological studies.

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

Students may receive up to six 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 two courses (at least six 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 five 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 and/or Hebrew are also eligible for up to 11 credits of Advanced Standing in other courses for which tests are available.

### **Language Requirements**

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

- Two semesters (typically eight credits) of college Latin instead of Biblical Hebrew I and Biblical Hebrew II.
- Two Old Testament core courses.
- 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 Calvin Seminary Faculty.

### **In-Person and Distance modalities**

In-person 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 MTS maintains the same high quality of education as our residential program. MTS students may choose to take the courses in a hybrid format, which includes attendance at the five-day intensive each semester at the Grand Rapids campus, or they may choose to do their program entirely online.

## MTS Program Curriculum

The MTS program is 55 credit hours and includes an oral comprehensive exam. The curriculum includes Core Requirements, Additional Core Options, and Electives.

### Core Program Requirements (30 credits)

- Theological Education as Formation I: MABT and MTS (1)
- Theological Education as Formation II: MABT and MTS (1)
- Biblical Hebrew I and Biblical Hebrew II (6)
- Greek Fundamentals I and Greek Fundamentals II (6)
- Mission of God in the Old Testament (3)
- Mission of God in the New Testament (3)
- *Choose one of the following:* (3)
  - Interpreting the Old Testament
  - Interpreting the New Testament
- *Choose one of the following:* (3)
  - Systematic Theology I
  - Systematic Theology II
- *Choose one of the following:* (3)
  - The Story of Christianity I
  - The Story of Christianity II
- Capstone (1)

Choose 6 credits of the following:

- One of the core Interpreting the Bible courses (3)
- One of the core Systematic Theology courses (3)
- One of The Story of Christianity courses (3)
- Ethics and the Christian Life (3)
- The Gospel in a Multicultural and Multifaith World (2)
- ThM Research Methodology [residential students only] (3)
- Independent Study (1-3)

Electives: 19 credits

There is no one program plan that applies to all MTS students. Advisers will guide students in course choices.

## Master of Arts in Missional Theology (MAMT)

The MAMT is offered at Calvin Seminary's Phoenix campus. The program develops skills for missional ministry, including exegeting ministry contexts, a kerygmatic and missional reading of Scripture, and forming disciples through worship and proclamation. For more details about the pedagogy of this unique residential program, see [missionaltraining.org/](https://missionaltraining.org/).

### Learning Outcomes

Calvin Seminary seeks to form graduates who will discern, together with those they serve, answers to the following questions:

- What is our Ministry CONTEXT?
- How does the GOSPEL engage our context?
- What is God CALLING us to in this context?
- What is the PERSON and role of a servant leader in this context?

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily connected because every ministry situation occurs in a particular CONTEXT where the GOSPEL of God's redemptive activity is communicated, where God is CALLING people to participate in his mission, and where God is forming the PERSON and role of a servant leader. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary desires that each MAMT graduate demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

#### 1. CONTEXT:

##### 1.1 Cultural Context:

Discerns the religious nature of our culture and particularly the local urban context in order to faithfully contextualize the gospel.

##### 1.2 Church History:

Comprehends the history of the church in terms of successive encounters of the gospel with different cultures and times in order to equip us for our own missionary encounter today.

#### 2. GOSPEL

##### 2.1 Gospel:

Understands and articulates the nature of the gospel and its importance for pastoral ministry, theological education, and cultural life.

##### 2.2 Hermeneutics:

Able to read each segment of the canon theologically with academic rigor to hear God's address for today.

##### 2.3 Theology:

Articulates the central themes of our faith thematically, coherently, and contextually in order to read Scripture better, through the lens of a missional hermeneutic.

#### 3. CALLING

##### 3.1 Core Dynamic:

Perceives the core dynamic of gospel, biblical story, mission, and missionary encounter with culture and its importance for theological education, church, and cultural life.

#### 4. PERSON

##### 4.1 Spiritual Formation:

Cultivates spiritual practices to nourish new life in Christ.

##### 4.2 Ministry/Leadership Development:

Develops a theological and missional vision of ministry through theological reflection on ministry and supervised practice.

#### **Program Requirements**

The program is 48 credits and includes the following courses:

- 3100MTC—Prolegomena: Gospel, Story, Mission
- 3101MTC—Prolegomena: Missionary Encounter with Western Culture
- 3102MTC—Interpreting Scripture: Biblical Authority and Hermeneutics
- 3103MTC—Understanding Our Missional Context: Exegeting the City
- 3104MTC—Reading the Old Testament: Pentateuch and Historical Books
- 3105MTC—Reading the Old Testament: Poetry and Wisdom
- 3200MTC—Reading the Old Testament: Prophets
- 3201MTC—Reading the New Testament: Gospels and Acts
- 3202MTC—Doctrine: Prolegomena, God and Creation
- 3203MTC—Understanding Our Missional Context: Spirits of Our Age
- 3204MTC—Church History: Ancient Church
- 3205MTC—Leading a Missional Congregation: Formation
- 3300MTC—Reading the New Testament: General Epistles
- 3301MTC—Reading the New Testament: Paul
- 3302MTC—Doctrine: Sin and Salvation (Israel, Eschatology, Christology)
- 3303MTC—Leading a Missional Congregation: Leadership and Cultural Issues
- 3304MTC—Church History: Medieval and Reformation
- 3305MTC—Leading a Missional Congregation: Evangelism, Neighborhood, and Public Square
- 3400MTC—Understanding Our Missional Context: Missiology and World Religions
- 3401MTC—Understanding our Missional Context: Missiology and Global Church
- 3402MTC—Doctrine: Salvation (Spirit, Church, Benefits of Christ, Consummation)
- 3403MTC—Leading a Missional Congregation: Leadership and Spiritual Life
- 3404MTC—Church History: Post-Reformation to Present
- 3405MTC—Leading a Missional Congregation: Preaching, Teaching, and Worship

#### **Admission**

For admission details, contact administrators at Calvin Seminary's Phoenix campus using [this website](#).

## Master of Arts in Bible and Theology (MABT)

The MABT program enriches students' spiritual lives, their understanding of the Christian faith, and their leadership potential. In this degree program, students will take courses in biblical studies, systematic theology, and church history—all while being encouraged in their spiritual growth and being equipped for their work in the world. Students and alumni of this program serve in a wide range of roles as teachers, business leaders, professionals, church workers, and more.

### Learning Outcomes

Calvin Seminary seeks to form graduates who will discern, together with those they serve, answers to the following questions:

- What is our Ministry CONTEXT?
- How does the GOSPEL engage our context?
- What is God CALLING us to in this context?
- What is the PERSON and role of a servant leader in this context?

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily connected because every ministry situation occurs in a particular CONTEXT where the GOSPEL of God's redemptive activity is communicated, where God is CALLING people to participate in his mission, and where God is forming the PERSON and role of a servant leader. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary desires that each MABT graduate demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

#### 1. CONTEXT

##### 1.1 Discerning:

Demonstrates awareness of how contextual factors influence the interpretation or expression of theology.

#### 2. GOSPEL

##### 2.1 Biblically wise:

Knows, interprets, and applies the story of Scripture faithfully.

##### 2.2 Theologically reflective:

Understands and integrates Scripture, history, and theology.

#### 3. CALLING

##### 3.1 Making disciples:

Witnesses and teaches through theological practices in order to equip God's people for service in the world.

#### 4. PERSON

##### 4.1 Being discipled:

Exhibits growing conformity to Christ, rooted in spiritual disciplines and bearing fruit in relating to every person as a fellow image bearer of God.

### 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 background will provide an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shape well rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates.

Each applicant's academic, professional, and ministry background will be reviewed as part of the



admissions process. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed. The learning plan could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

In some circumstances, an applicant without a bachelor's degree or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution will be admitted into a degree program at Calvin Seminary 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.

Applicants to the MABT 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 attain a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80, with a score of at least 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section.

### **Continuation Requirements**

Continuation in the MABT 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 before the probationary status can 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 classes), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### **Transfer Credit**

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. Calvin Seminary may accept up to two-thirds of a student's completed program elsewhere, but no more than half of a student's program at Calvin Seminary. Students in the MA in Bible Theology program (MABT) or the Master of Theological Studies program (MTS) may receive up to a year of advanced standing if their undergraduate degree included a significant amount of study in the area of Biblical and/or theological studies. Credit hours that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

### **MA in Bible and Theology Program**

The degree must total 39 credits and includes an oral comprehensive exam.

- Hebrew Tools for Exegesis
- Mission of God in the Old Testament
- Greek Tools for Exegesis
- Mission of God in the New Testament
- Theological Education as Formation I and II: MABT and MTS
- Capstone
- Interpreting the Old Testament OR Interpreting the New Testament
- Story of Christianity I OR Story of Christianity II
- Systematic Theology I OR Systematic Theology II
- Electives in any area (15 credits)

**In-Person and Distance modalities**

In-person 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 MABT maintains the same high quality of education as our residential program. MABT students may choose to take the courses in a hybrid format, which includes attendance at the five-day intensive each semester at the Grand Rapids campus, or they may choose to do their program entirely online.

**Advanced Standing and Advanced Substitutes**

MABT students are eligible to receive up to 11 credit hours of Advanced Standing/Substitutes. Student competence is demonstrated by way of a written or oral exam and is evaluated by faculty. If granted, Advanced Standing/Substitutes can open doors for an additional internship or specialized coursework.

Complete information and study guides for the Advanced Standing tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of Populi Links (Calvin Seminary's internal website). MABT students may seek Advanced Standing/Substitutes for the following courses:

- Story of Christianity I or II (not both) (3)
- Systematic Theology I or II (not both) (3)
- Mission of God in the OT or Mission of God in the NT (not both) (3)
- Theological Education as Formation (2)

In addition, students in the MABT program may receive up to a year of advanced standing if their undergraduate degree included a significant amount of study in the area of Biblical and/or theological studies.

**Future Employment Options**

Former graduates have applied their learning in a variety of ways, including educational ministries, high school Bible teaching, and more.

## Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MACL)

Through the MACL program, students will be empowered to learn, grow, and enrich their ministry—all within a theologically rich community of students, professors, and mentors.

### MACL Learning Outcomes

Calvin Seminary seeks to form graduates who will discern, together with those they serve, answers to the following questions:

- What is our Ministry CONTEXT?
- How does the GOSPEL engage our context?
- What is God CALLING us to in this context?
- What is the PERSON and role of a servant leader in this context?

These four program goals are intimately and necessarily connected because every ministry situation occurs in a particular CONTEXT where the GOSPEL of God's redemptive activity is communicated, where God is CALLING people to participate in his mission, and where God is forming the PERSON and role of a servant leader. Accordingly, Calvin Seminary desires that each MACL graduate demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

#### 1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 Discerning:  
Demonstrates awareness of how contextual factors influence their ministry specialization.

#### 2. GOSPEL

- 2.1 Biblically wise:  
Knows, interprets and applies the story of Scripture faithfully in their vocational specialization.
- 2.2 Theologically reflective:  
Understands and integrates Scripture, history, and theology with the ministry practices of their specialization.

#### 3. CALLING

- 3.1 Responsive disciples:  
Responds to God's call to use their particular ministry training to be ambassadors of reconciliation, healing, and transformation.
- 3.2 Making disciples:  
Witnesses and teaches Christian practices in order to form disciples.

#### 4. PERSON

- 4.1 Being discipled:  
Exhibits growing conformity to Christ, self-awareness, and interpersonal intelligence.
- 4.2 Leading:  
Equips God's people to answer God's call to be faithful disciples in all areas of life.

## Program Requirements

The degree is 39 credits and includes an oral comprehensive exam.

- Cornerstone: Person (2)
- Cornerstone: Context (2)
- Cornerstone: Gospel (2)
- Cornerstone: Calling (2)
- Biblical Interpretations for Ministry (1)
- Mission of God in the Old Testament (3)
- Mission of God in the New Testament (3)
- Choose one of the following: Systematic Theology I (3); Systematic Theology II (3); The Gospel in a Multicultural and Multifaith World (2); Reformed Confessions (2)
- Choose one of the following: The Story of Christianity I or II (3)
- Formation Groups (2)
- Contextual Ministry Internship (2)
- Electives in any area (6-7)
- Concentration electives (8)

## Concentrations

Students in the MACL program will choose or develop a concentration in an area of interest to them. To obtain a concentration, students will need a minimum of eight elective credits in their chosen area (ordinarily four elective courses). Here is a *sample* list of concentrations that a student could choose:

- Advanced Urban Ministry
- Bible Instruction
- Organizational Management and Administration
- Discipleship and Faith Formation
- Missional Ministry
- Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Ministry
- Worship

## 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 background will provide an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shape well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates.

Each applicant's academic, professional, and ministry background will be reviewed as part of the admissions process. If an applicant needs further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed. The learning plan could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

In some circumstances, an applicant without a bachelor's degree or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution will be admitted into a degree program at Calvin Seminary 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.

To apply to the MACL 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 attain a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80, with a score of at least 23 in the writing section, OR a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in the writing section.

## Continuation Requirements

Continuation in the MACL 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 before the probationary status can 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 classes), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is placed on probation or terminated.

### **Transfer Credit**

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. Calvin Seminary may accept up to two-thirds of a student's completed program elsewhere, but no more than half of a student's program at Calvin Seminary. Credit hours that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

### **Advanced Standing and Advanced Substitutes**

MACL students are eligible to receive up to 11 credit hours of Advanced Standing or Advanced Substitutes. Student competence is demonstrated by way of a written or oral exam and is evaluated by faculty.

Complete information and study guides for the Advanced Standing/Substitute tests are available on the Advanced Standing webpage of Populi Links (Calvin Seminary's internal website). MACL students may seek Advanced Standing for the following courses:

- Story of Christianity I or II (not both) (3)
- Systematic Theology I or II (not both) (3)
- Mission of God in the OT or Mission of God in the NT (not both) (3)
- Theological Education as Formation for Ministry (2)

### **In-Person and Distance modalities**

In-person students can complete their degree in two years of full-time study at the Grand Rapids campus. As part of their residential life and learning opportunities, students will have regular opportunities for communal worship, club activities, student government, and other forms of interaction with peers and faculty.

The three-year distance learning MACL maintains the same high quality of education as our residential program. MACL students may choose to take the courses in a hybrid format, which includes attendance at the five-day intensive each semester at the Grand Rapids campus, or they may choose to do their program entirely online.

## **Maestría de Artes en Formación de Liderazgo**

### **Master of Arts in Leadership Formation (MALF)**

The MALF program provides sound biblical and theological education for leadership formation targeting Spanish-speaking pastors, church leaders, missionaries, and lay persons to advance the kingdom of God through the emerging Latino church leadership in North America, Latin America, and the rest of the world.

This is a degree program taught by godly Reformed Christians and Bible-centered PhD level professors. Each course of the program is designed to enable students to have a firm foundation of leadership formation based on an integrated understanding of biblical truths and principles from the Reformed tradition. With this, students are equipped to engage others, exemplifying Christian love and communion in their own unique dynamic cultural contexts within the global challenges of the twenty-first century. The program shall help students develop the skills of analysis and communication that propel them to lead in the formation of Christian identity and communities, as well as give them transferable skills and a degree title to advance in their ecclesiastical and secular vocations and callings.

#### **MALF Learning Outcomes**

Calvin Seminary seeks to form graduates who will:

- Be theologically and philosophically equipped to analyze cultural contexts to promote biblical orthopraxy and Reformed orthodoxy, transforming their churches, communities, and cultures for Christ.
- Demonstrate skills in biblical and theological research and communication to propagate spiritual formation in themselves, their families, churches, and communities.
- Demonstrate integrative and applied problem-solving skills in biblical and theological studies, skills that are transferable to other employment venues, assisting bi-vocational church leaders as well as lay graduates to find substantial employment.
- Understand how global challenges of the twenty-first century interplay with their local cultures, permitting creative and purposeful missional engagement especially with upcoming generations.

#### **Admissions**

The admission process reflects Calvin Seminary's goal to train capable stewards of the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. A strong liberal arts background will provide an excellent foundation for graduate level theological education and shape well-rounded, intellectually and culturally astute graduates.

Each applicant's academic, professional, and ministry background will be reviewed as part of the admissions process. If an applicant would benefit from further study in a particular area, a learning plan will be developed. The learning plan could include specific seminary electives or additional courses from another academic institution.

In some circumstances, an applicant without a bachelor's degree or with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution will be considered to be admitted into a degree program at Calvin Seminary 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 MALF 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 before the probationary status can 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 classes), and the guaranteed student loan program will be promptly notified when a student receiving funds is

placed on probation or terminated.

### **Transfer Credit**

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. Calvin Seminary may accept up to two-thirds of a student's completed program elsewhere, but no more than half of a student's program at Calvin Seminary. Credit hours that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

### **Program Requirements**

Core: 24 credits

- Formation of Knowledge (3)
- Formation of Understanding (3)
- Worldview Formation (3)
- Identity Formation (3)
- Community Formation (3)
- Leadership Formation (3)
- Formation of Ideas (3)
- Character Formation (3)

Electives: 12 credits

- Analytical Skills (3) [Elective]
- Vices of Formation (3) [Elective]
- Belief Formation (3) [Elective]
- Requirements of Formation (3) [Elective]

### **Certificates**

The MALF program will include 3 stackable certificates of 12 credits each.

1. Certificate in Biblical Worldview Formation (12 credits)
  - Formation of Knowledge (3)
  - Formation of Understanding (3)
  - Analytical Skills (3)
  - Worldview Formation (3)
2. Certificate in Identity and Community Formation (12 credits)
  - Vices of Formation (3)
  - Identity Formation (3)
  - Community Formation (3)
  - Leadership Formation (3)
3. Certificate in Character Formation (12 credits)
  - Formation of Ideas (3)
  - Belief Formation (3)
  - Requirements of Formation (3)
  - Character Formation (3)

### **Modality and Format**

- Modality: Online
- Format: Term: eight-week period classes
  - Six weeks devoted to
    - synchronous interaction (i.e., Monday 5:00 – 6:30 PM (ET))
    - asynchronous lecture and interaction (i.e., forums)
  - Two weeks devoted to research and practice

## Master of Theology (ThM)

The ThM program is designed as a post-MDiv/MTS degree and introduces students to academic research and study 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 it serves as excellent preparation for doctoral work.

### Areas of Concentration

- History of Christianity
- Missiology
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Pastoral Care
- Philosophical and Moral Theology
- Systematic Theology
- Worship

### 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 attain a minimum internet based TOEFL score of 80, 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 language study and one in Greek language study and must take a Hebrew proficiency test as part of the application process. Students with a concentration in the New Testament need to provide transcript evidence of having completed a minimum of two semesters in Greek language study and one in Hebrew language study and must take a Greek proficiency test as part of the application process. 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.

### Transfer Credit

A maximum of three credit hours of ThM level course work at an accredited school may be transferred in as an elective upon approval of the ThM program director or co-director. Credit hours that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

### Continuation Requirements

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

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

### ThM Program Curriculum

The ThM program is 24 credits.

- Research Methodology (3 credits)
- Three electives in the department of specialization (9 credits)
  - Two electives in any department (6 credits)
  - One of the following options (6 credits):
    - ONE elective in any department (3 credits); and ONE Major 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: 24 credits

With permission, ThM students may select courses designed for students in other degree programs. All of these courses are three credits for ThM students. ThM students may also take up to two independent study courses (three for synchronous online students).

For more information on the ThM program, please see the [ThM Program Handbook](#).

### **Future Options**

Former graduates have applied their learning in a variety of ways. Some have become pastors or church planters. Some have become teachers or work for a non-profit agency. Others have pursued doctoral work at Calvin Theological Seminary or elsewhere. Here is a partial list of schools where ThM graduates were accepted into a PhD program:

- Toronto School of Theology
- Wheaton Graduate School
- Princeton Theological Seminary
- McMaster Divinity School
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Duke Divinity School

## Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

The DMin program is designed for current ministry leaders. Through the program, students will be more fully formed in their role as ministry leaders, grow in the knowledge of appropriate theories, and develop in the practice of ministry.

### Learning Outcomes of the Doctor of Ministry Program

The Doctor of Ministry 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. The following are the program's learning goals for each of these areas of formation.

- **Knowing:**
  - Reading a wide range of literature related to the focus of their studies, with the ability to engage critically with that literature.
  - Using methodological tools that will allow for the gathering of data as needed to determine the practicality and effectiveness of the particular focus in their ministry context.
  - Analyzing the data collected, reporting accurate results, and drawing informed conclusions about the effectiveness of the area of study on their ministry.
- **Being:**
  - Self-aware of how the student's own experiences and contexts have shaped the student, and of how he or she influences their context of ministry.
  - Theologically, biblically, contextually, and authentically articulate about one's beliefs, in concert with current and classical Christian thought.
  - Aware of the wider context of ministry in order to prepare people to understand, negotiate, and modify prevailing systems through their practices of ministry with sensitivity, faithfulness, and intellectual acumen.
- **Doing:**
  - Systems analysis within the broader contextual settings and the multiple levels of interaction involved in relating to people.
  - Research effectively by developing and directing effective interventions into the practice of ministry and gathering desired data from it.
  - Work that is a gift to the larger church by reporting out the results and conclusions of ministry interventions in a way that can be replicated or built upon by other ministry sites.

### Admission

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

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 TOEFL and IELTS must be sent directly from the testing agency to Calvin Theological Seminary.

### **DMin Program Course Work**

The coursework phase: students complete all foundational and track courses. Foundational courses are taken in a hybrid format. Electives may be taken in the purely online format with the approval of the Directors. Arrangements for independent courses must be made in conjunction with the professor.

- Mid-program: students develop the Project Proposal, complete the Human Subjects Review, and all evaluations and review processes that are necessary to the continuation of the work into the Candidacy phase.
- Candidacy: students develop, document, and defend the approved project in order to be awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree.

### **Transfer Credit**

DMin students who would like to enroll and complete a course at another seminary should be aware of the following requirements:

- A proposal for transfer must be completed and approved by the program directors before enrollment occurs.
- The course being considered must be offered by an academic institution with an ATS accredited Doctor of Ministry Program.
- A minimum course grade of 3.5 or higher must be achieved.
- A maximum of three credits may be transferred by a single student for the entirety of their doctoral studies at Calvin Seminary.
- The course being considered must be one that is not offered by Calvin Seminary.
- All costs associated with this transfer course and its transfer to our program must be covered by the student.
- Credit hours that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

For full information on DMin program policies and requirements, please see the [DMin Program Handbook](#).

## Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The PhD equips scholars for teaching and research in colleges, theological seminaries, and universities, as well as for general church leadership. Concentrations are offered in the history of Christianity, New Testament, systematic theology, philosophical theology, and moral theology.

### PhD Program Learning Outcomes

The PhD program serves the mission of Calvin Seminary by emphasizing the following learning outcomes:

#### 1. GOSPEL

- 1.1 Students have general competence in several areas of theology and/or biblical studies and expertise in specific topics in one area.
- 1.2 Students can engage in sound scholarship that exhibits independent inquiry, academic research, critical analysis, and scholarly writing.

#### 2. PERSON

- 2.1 Students exhibit the fruit of the Holy Spirit by providing thoughtful, fair, and respectful analyses and interpretations that recognize the strengths of positions with which they disagree and the weaknesses of positions with which they agree.

#### 3. CONTEXT

- 3.1 Students can articulate ways in which theological positions, including their own, grow out of and address various contexts.

#### 4. CALLING

- 4.1 Students are equipped for teaching, research, and formation in colleges, theological seminaries, and universities.
- 4.2 Students engage in theology that advances biblical and theological understanding for the academy and the church.

### Admission

To qualify for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy degree program, an applicant must be a graduate of an accredited college and must possess a Master of Theological Studies, Master of Divinity, or Master of Theology degree from an accredited school or must possess the equivalent of such a degree. 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 of knowing 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 (and TOEFL or IELTS, if required) 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 in biblical or theological content areas. 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 in biblical or theological content areas, students in the program must take the seminar, "Teaching and Student Formation," for credit during the first two years in the program, and are expected to take the "Dissertation Seminar," if they have completed the required PhD courses and their comprehensive examinations. Students must take the dissertation seminar for at least two years if their dissertation is not yet finished. 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](#).

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

## Certificate in Christian Leadership (CCL)

Calvin Theological Seminary offers the Certificate in Christian Leadership (CCL), providing an opportunity for church staff, volunteer ministry staff, and other interested people to enhance their understanding, training, and ability to serve. Although a certificate is not a degree program, the courses in a certificate are graduate-level courses that are also offered as part of degree programs at Calvin Theological Seminary. The CCL consists of 15-17 credits.

Many different concentrations are possible:

- Biblical Instruction
- Pastoral Care
- Urban Ministry
- Worship
- Discipleship
- Nonprofit Administration
- Pastoral Ministry
- Or something that you create with the Registrar or a faculty member

### Certificate Program Curriculum

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

- Cornerstone: Person (2)
- Biblical Interpretation for Ministry (1)

Choose 2 of the following (4-6 credits):

- The Mission of God in the Old Testament (3)
- The Mission of God in the New Testament (3)
- Systematic Theology I (3)
- Systematic Theology II (3)
- The Gospel in a Multicultural and Multifaith World (2)
- Reformed Confessions (2)

In addition to the core curriculum, you will take a series of courses in an area of specialization to complete your Certificate Program. Students may choose from the following sample of concentrations or they may create their own, with input from their adviser.

Advanced Urban Ministry: *choose 8 credits of the following:*

- Any course(s) relevant to the practices of one's intended vocation in urban ministry. E.g., courses related to discipleship, evangelism, leadership, mission, multi-religious engagement, pastoral care, preaching, teaching, worship.
- An independent study (1-3 credits)
- Ministry-based elective [VFO] (1-4 credits)

Organizational Management and Administration: *choose 8 credits of the following:*

- Any course(s) relevant to the practices of one's intended vocation, e.g., courses related to leadership in ministry, management of nonprofits and churches, nonprofit finances, organizational administration, nonprofit boards, and community leadership.
- An independent study (1-3 credits)
- Ministry-based elective [VFO] (1-4 credits)

Discipleship and Faith Formation: choose 8 credits of the following:

- Any course(s) relevant to the practices of one's intended vocation in discipleship and faith formation. E.g., courses related to discipleship, teaching, evangelism, mission, multi-religious engagement, pastoral care, worship.
- An independent study (1-3 credits)
- Ministry-based elective [VFO] (1-4 credits)

Missional Ministry:

- The Gospel in a Multicultural and Multifaith World (2)
- Choose 6 credits of the following:
  - Any course(s) relevant to the practices of one's intended vocation in missional leadership. E.g., courses related to evangelism and discipleship, church planting, church renewal, vocational discipleship (faith and work), missional ministry, multi-religious engagement, leadership.
  - An independent study (1-3 credits)
  - Ministry-based elective [VFO] (1-4 credits)

Pastoral Care:

- Pastoral Care (3)
- Choose 5 credits of the following:
  - CPE
  - Any course(s) relevant to pastoral care
  - An independent study (1-3 credits)
  - Ministry-based elective [VFO] (1-4 credits)

Pastoral Ministry: choose 8 credits of following:

- Any course(s) relevant to the practices of one's intended vocation in pastoral ministry. E.g., courses related to discipleship, evangelism, leadership, mission, multi-religious engagement, pastoral care, preaching, teaching, worship.
- An independent study (1-3 credits)
- Ministry-based elective [VFO] (1-4 credits)

Worship:

- Worship (2)
- Choose 6 credits of the following:
  - Worship electives
  - An independent study
  - Ministry-based elective [VFO]

**Admission**

To participate in a Certificate Program, you need to be a college graduate (with exceptions made 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. The admissions team 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.

**Advanced Standing and Advanced Substitute**

Certificate students are eligible to receive up to three 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. For full details, see the Advanced Standing webpage of Populi Links (Calvin Seminary's internal website). On that page, there are also study guides for the Advanced Standing tests.

CCL students may seek Advanced Standing for one of the following courses:

- Systematic Theology I
- Systematic Theology II
- Story of Christianity I
- Story of Christianity II

**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, if all admission requirements are met.



## **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.

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 nine-credit program is offered in a 24-month online mentor-focused format. Those interested in the EPMC program should contact Rev. Susan LaClear, Director of Candidacy for the CRCNA ([slaclear@crcna.org](mailto:slaclear@crcna.org)) for more information.

Calvin Theological Seminary offers this program on behalf of the synod of the Christian Reformed Church and the Candidacy Committee, a 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.

Here is the [EPMC program checklist and application](#).

## Competency Based Theological Education (CBTE)—Empower

Calvin Seminary currently offers the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (39 credits) and the Certificate in Christian Leadership (18 credits) in a Competency Based Theological Education format called Empower.

### Competency-Based Design

The MA and the Certificate program design is centered on guiding a student toward competence in specific, robust, holistic program competencies. These competencies are multidimensional in that they each encapsulate a combination of content, character, and craft. Importantly, students must demonstrate sufficient competence in these various dimensions.

### Contextual Formation

At its core, the Empower learning journey is one of discipleship. In this way, holistic, integrated learning should happen in the student's ministry context as much as possible. Rather than leave one's ministry context in order to "go to seminary," Empower helps students to cultivate and maximize their learning in-context. By participating in Empower, students add structure, accountability, team support, and new perspective to their learning.

### Customized training

Learning experiences are individualized to meet the diverse needs of diverse students where multiple learning paths can lead to develop the same competencies.

### Supervised Practice

Empower students are supervised by a team of mentors that commits to challenging and supporting the student throughout their learning journey. This team is intentionally diverse in order to provide the student with multidimensional support, perspective, and feedback. The team consists of a faculty mentor, vocational mentor, and a personal mentor. The mentor team is committed to the student's long-term formation. One of the main roles of the mentor team is to evaluate progress toward achieving proficiency in program competencies. Mentor teams help students to identify and process in-context learning experiences. The teams help students design and adapt learning experiences, monitor their progress, and provide valuable feedback and evaluation. Through a master assessment process, the mentor team determines when a student has demonstrated sufficient competence in a program competency.

The Empower track for the Certificate in Christian Leadership is nested within the Master of Arts track. The Certificate consists of Competencies 1, 2, 5, and 7, totaling 18 credits. Upon earning a Certificate, students may wish to continue developing the remaining four competencies in order to earn a full Master of Arts.

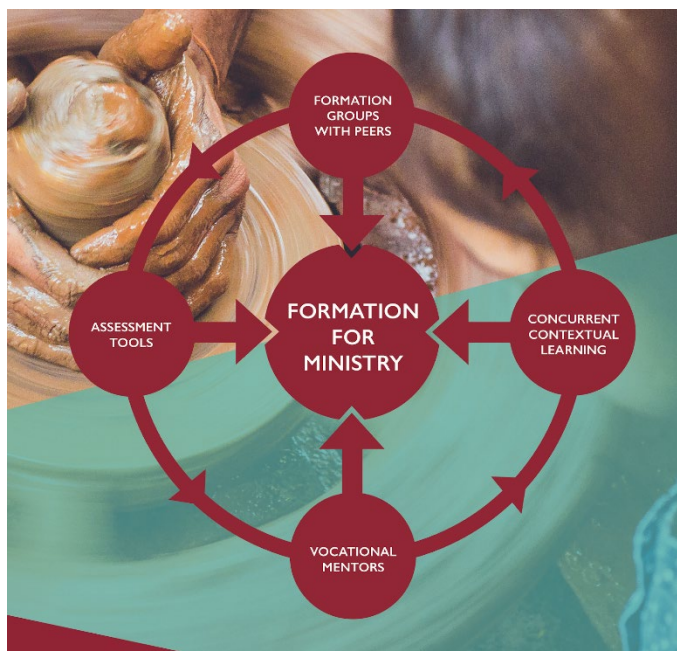
- Competency 1: Discerning Context (3 credits)
  - Demonstrates awareness of how contextual factors influence ministry.
- Competency 2: Biblically Wise (6 credits)
  - Knows, interprets and applies the story of Scripture faithfully.
- Competency 3: Theologically Reflective (6 credits)
  - Understands and integrates Scripture, history, and theology with ministry practices.
- Competency 4: Responsive Disciples (6 credits)
  - Responds to God's call to be ambassadors of reconciliation, healing, and transformation.
- Competency 5: Making Disciples: Witnessing (3 credits)
  - Embody a winsome witness and articulate gospel presentations that respond to specific socio-cultural contexts and offer good news holistically.
- Competency 6: Making Disciples: Training (3 credits)
  - Develop and carry out a plan for discipling others into a holistic path of formation.
- Competency 7: Being Discipled (6 credits)

- Exhibits growing conformity to Christ, self-awareness, and interpersonal intelligence.
- Competency 8: Leading (6 credits)
  - Equips God's people to answer God's call to works of ministry.

CBTE at Calvin Seminary is designed to make theological education more flexible, collaborative, affordable, and practical. These values shape the student experience. High standards are maintained through a robust process of feedback and assessment, as students develop holistically.

## Formation for Ministry

The Vocational Formation Office (VFO) at Calvin Theological Seminary oversees an intentional and structured curricular vocational formation plan embedded in the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MACL) and Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree programs. The combination of exceptional academic learning and deliberate formation is vital for ministry preparation. In this curricular formation process, the VFO uses several tools, including strength-based and psychological assessments, formation groups, concurrent contextual learning opportunities, vocational mentorship, and an ongoing active reflection pedagogy for self-assessment and growth.



For students in the MACL and MDiv degree programs, the goal of participation in the formation process is to adequately form each student's character, heart, and leadership for ministry. There are several components to this process.

### A. Formation Groups

- Students engage in peer-to-peer learning contexts called Formation Groups. Seasoned Ministry Leaders lead these groups in their regular gatherings. Each degree program has specific formation group requirements.
  - MDiv: 3 academic years (3 credits)
  - MACL: 2 academic years (2 credits)

### B. Assessments

- To raise students' self-awareness of strengths and areas for development, students participate in two assessments.
  - The Birkman Assessment: The Birkman Assessment is a positive behavioral and occupational assessment tool. Students will gain knowledge of their personality strengths, vocational interests, and understanding of themselves and others. This assessment is a forty-minute online questionnaire followed by a scheduled debrief conversation focusing on specific results. The Birkman Assessment is discussed in formation groups and classes as well.

- Psychological Assessment: MACL and MDiv students will complete a battery of standardized and time-tested psychological tools early in their seminary education, typically in the first September of their studies. Students have the opportunity to meet with a clinical psychologist for 1-2 interviews. The testing data and the interview are combined to produce a comprehensive psychological assessment. This assessment is shared with the seminary and reviewed by a licensed clinician to confirm any requirements. Students will then review their report with their contextual mentor and learn of any recommendations or requirements arising from the report. If counseling is required, students may request financial assistance from the seminary.
- C. Concurrent In-Context Learning (ICL)
- Residential students in the MACL and MDiv degree programs will serve in a contextual learning environment concurrent with their coursework for the first four semesters (MDiv) or the first two semesters (MACL). ICL placements for residential students ordinarily take place starting in the fall semesters. Students beginning in the spring semester should contact the VFO to determine the best path forward. Distance students will propose and design their ICL (including timing) in consultation with the Director of the VFO.
- D. Vocational Mentors
- The presence of a mentor aids in the formation that comes through ICL work. As such, students engaged in all ICL work must have a Vocational Mentor for the entirety of their ICL. The VFO will work to equip and onboard mentors for all ICL work.
- E. Cross-Cultural In-Context Learning (ICL CC)
- Diverse cultural/theological/interpersonal settings aid student formation as well. Therefore, MDiv students will participate in a 200-hour Cross Cultural In-Context Learning assignment. Students can complete this internship concurrently during a school year or in the summer between academic semesters.
- F. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
- Many students have found that participation in Clinical Pastoral Education is incredibly worthwhile. The VFO will partner with any ACPE-accredited CPE site chosen by a student. Entry into most CPE programs is often competitive, requiring interviews and applications initiated by the student. Students can use CPE to meet various curricular demands, including Cross-Cultural ICL.
    - PLEASE NOTE: Those in the MACL with a concentration in the Pastoral Care program **must** complete an entire unit (400-440 hours) of CPE to complete their degree. In some instances, MDiv students may need to complete a unit of CPE as part of their formation process.

## Academic Calendar 2025-2026

<b>DMin SUMMER 2025</b>	
April 1-July 31	Summer DMin courses
June 2-6	Residential week
<b>SUMMER 2025</b>	
June 2 - August 1, 2025	Distance learning online summer courses (9 weeks)
<b>FALL SEMESTER 2025</b>	
September 1	Labor Day (no classes)
September 2	First day of class
September 3	Convocation (regular class schedule)
September 2-11	Drop course with full refund
September 12-22	Drop course with 75% refund
September 23-October 14	Drop course with 50% refund
October 6-10	Distance learning intensives
October 7-13 (Tuesday-Monday)	Residential reading week
October 13	No class: Canadian Thanksgiving
October 13-17	Distance learning reading week
October 15+	Drop course with failing grade and no refund
November 24-28	U.S. Thanksgiving break
December 8	Last day of classes
December 9-11	Reading days
December 12-13, 15-16	Course examinations
<b>DMin WINTER 2025</b>	
Oct 1, 2025-Feb 28, 2026	Winter DMin courses
January 5-9	Residential week
<b>JANUARY TERM 2026</b>	
January 5-22	3 weeks of classes – exact schedule varies by course
January 19	No class: Martin Luther King Jr Day
January 5-9/10-11/12-16	Drop course with full refund/75% refund/50% refund
<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2026</b>	
January 26	First day of classes
January 26-February 4	Drop course with full refund
February 5-16	Drop course with 75% refund
February 17-March 10	Drop course with 50% refund
February ?-?	CICW Symposium on Worship
Feb 23-27	Distance learning intensives; residential reading week
March 2-6	Distance learning reading week
March 10-13	Oral comp exams
March 11+	Drop course with failing grade and no refund
April 3	Seminary closed: Good Friday
April 6-10	Spring Break
May 1	Last day of class
May 4-8	Reading days
May 11-15	Course examinations
May 11-15	PhD dissertation defenses (mornings)
May 16	Commencement

\*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 Friends Around the World program, Conversation Groups, 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. These resources can be found at [Populi Links](#).

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. Additional information about maintaining status can be found [here](#).

According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), “an F-1 student is a non-immigrant 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

Calvin Theological Seminary has housing available to its students. Rent amounts are on the housing website. Rents are set on a year-by-year basis. The types of apartments are as follows:

### On-Campus Housing: Knollcrest East

- 18 large two-bedroom apartments located in the Sigma and Omega buildings
- 12 three-bedroom apartments located in the Bavinck, Kuyper, and Berkhof buildings
- 12 small two-bedroom apartments located in the Bavinck, Kuyper, and Berkhof buildings

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. A utility charge is built into the monthly rental fee.

### Off-Campus Housing: Englewood Apartments (FALL 2025 ONLY)

Eight buildings located on Englewood Ave., 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. A utility charge is built into the monthly rental fee.

- Two-bedroom with carport
- Two-bedroom without carport

### 3300 Burton

CTS's new apartment building will be completed late Fall 2025 and will replace the Englewood Apartments off-campus. The new building is conveniently located across the street from CTS and will include the following:

- 7 one-bedroom apartments
- 19 two-bedroom apartments
- 20 three-bedroom apartments

Each apartment will include a refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, and a washer and dryer. The building will have ample storage, a community room, and an outdoor area with playground, gas grills, and a firepit. Campus Safety will also regularly patrol the apartment complex.

### Single Students Sharing an Apartment

Prices vary based on the type of apartment that is shared.

### 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

[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 2024-2025

- Certificate, Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theological Studies students are billed \$631 per credit hour.
- Master of Theology students are billed \$889 per credit hour.
- Doctor of Philosophy students are billed a flat rate of \$21,800 during years one and two, and a flat rate of \$10,910 for years three and four. The annual continuation fee is \$455.
- Doctor of Ministry tuition is monthly, and set by cohort for the duration of the program. See the [Tuition Rates and Fees page on Populi/Links](#).

### 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.

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

Description	Fee for 2024-2025
Auditor: Certificate/Masters students. Community members ( <i>PhD students may audit courses at no charge.</i> )	\$125 per credit hour
Advanced Standing Test Fee	\$150
Continuation Fee: PhD	\$455 per year after year 4
Graduation Fee	\$150
Student in non-credit online resource	\$148 per course for one year of access
Visitor: Visiting Scholar	\$0 (One course per semester is free)
Visitor: Spouse of a full-time student	\$0

## Refund Schedule

A specific refund schedule for each term is posted on the [Academic Calendar](#). The general schedule for a semester is as follows:

- up to 10% of course completed: 100% refund
- 10-20% of course completed: 75% refund
- 20-40% of course completed: 50% refund
- 40%+of course completed: no 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 \$1.7 million in scholarship money was awarded to Calvin Theological Seminary students. In addition to those funds, we participate in the U.S.A. Federal loan program. There are no federal grants available at the graduate level.

For the financial aid process and resources, please go to Populi Links.

## 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. Unless otherwise specified, receipt of a scholarship is dependent upon full-time enrollment status. All new student applicants are urged to complete the admissions application by March 1 in order to be included in the first round of scholarship awarding. Returning students should complete the Application for Financial Aid by March 1 each year. This application can be found in Populi links.

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, DMin, and PhD programs, and has also granted approval for comprehensive distance education.

The State of Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (Corporations Securities and 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

2xxx	Maestría de Artes En Formación de Liderazgo (MA in Leadership Formation) courses
3xxx	Master of Arts in Missional Theology (MAMT)
4xxx	CBTE competencies—see page 41 above
5xxx	First Degree courses (MDiv, MA, MTS)
6xxx	Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MACMHC)
7xxx	ThM courses
8xxx	DMin courses
9xxx	PhD courses

\* Most first degree 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, MA and MTS students for 2 credits; different assignments are given to students in different degree programs. When registering, MDiv, MA, and MTS students must choose the number without the “T.”

Course #	Name	Credits	Description
2122O	Preaching Ephesians	3.00	
2123O	Narrative Preaching	3.00	
2124O	Worship Service	3.00	
2125O	Preaching the Psalms	3.00	

22100	Formation of Knowledge	3.00	Study of the relevance of acknowledging the sources for the formation of knowledge and truth, and the concept of Revelation in spiritual life as well as divine authority for defining good and evil in every context.
22130	Formation of Understanding	3.00	Study of the processes for understanding systems of thought and the applications of knowledge for the benefit of human life according to the Gospel.
22140	Worldview Formation	3.00	Study of the way worldviews form through interplay of culture, society, and principles. This study also considers historic and individual changes of worldviews due to biblical values.
22150	Identity Formation	3.00	Study on the biblical concept of human biology, human psychology, human spirituality, human redemption, human development, and human affectional needs.
22160	Community Formation	3.00	Study of the role of internal and external influences, the influence of the biblical covenants, and the influence of the perception of truth and reality in the formation of communities.
22300	Leadership Formation	3.00	Study of the legacy, limits, and role of leadership in the composition of godly individuals and spiritual communities.
22310	Formation of Ideas	3.00	Study of the context and the character of the leadership behind the development of ideas that helped the Church to develop doctrines, legacies, and character in critical and changing times. (Historical Theology)
22340	Character Formation	3.00	Practical study of ways to apply the principles of character formation for the benefit of the community.
22350	Analytical Skills	3.00	Study of the rationale and analytical processes that the Church followed to develop creeds, confessions, and catechisms based on rigorous exegesis and hermeneutics founded on the person of Jesus Christ.
22360	Vices of Formation	3.00	Study of the constraints shaping Christian identity, community, and mission in intertwined contexts and sinful ideologies.
22370	Belief Formation	3.00	Study of the intricacies of ruptures with anti-Christian systems, and the shaping and retention of Christian beliefs in multi-faith or multi-religious contexts.
22380	Requirements of Formation	3.00	Study of the necessary conditions and processes in which the intellectual skills promote human development in responsible and accountable ways.
275B	Clinical Pastoral Education	1.00	CPE for MAFC students

3100MTC	Prolegomena: Gospel, Story, Mission	2.00	An introduction to the core dynamic that will shape the theological curriculum. We examine the gospel, the biblical narrative, and mission as central to the theological curriculum.
3101MTC	Prolegomena: Missionary Encounter with Western Culture	2.00	An introduction to the core dynamic that will shape the theological curriculum. We examine a missionary encounter with Western culture as central to the theological curriculum.
3102MTC	Interpreting Scripture: Biblical Authority and Hermeneutics	2.00	An introduction to the authority of Scripture and to biblical hermeneutics. We will introduce a doctrine of Scripture and a biblical hermeneutics of listening as the foundation for reading Scripture.
3103MTC	Understanding Our Missional Context: Exegeting the City	2.00	A study of our missional context attending to an anthropological and ethnographic analysis of Phoenix as an urban missional setting to enable leaders to exegete and understand the city in which they minister.
3104MTC	Reading the Old Testament: Pentateuch and Historical Books	2.00	An introduction to the Pentateuch and historical books of the Old Testament. We will pay special attention to a kerygmatic and missional reading with implications for the 21st century that equips leaders for their ministry.
3105MTC	Reading the Old Testament: Poetry and Wisdom	2.00	An introduction to the poetic and wisdom literature of the Old Testament. We will pay special attention to a kerygmatic and missional reading with implications for the 21st century that equips leaders for their ministry.
3200MTC	Reading the Old Testament: Prophets	2.00	An introduction to the prophetic literature of the Old Testament. We will pay special attention to a kerygmatic and missional reading with implications for the 21st century that equips leaders for their ministry.
3201MTC	Reading the New Testament: Gospels and Acts	2.00	An introduction to the gospels and Acts. We will pay special attention to a kerygmatic and missional reading with implications for the 21st century that equips leaders for their ministry.
3202MTC	Doctrine: Prolegomena, God, and Creation	2.00	An introduction to systematic theology as a scriptural, contextual, and missional discipline, to the doctrine of God, and to the doctrine of creation and humanity.
3203MTC	Understanding Our Missional Context: Spirits of Our Age	2.00	A study of our missional context attending to various idolatrous spirits of our age.
3204MTC	Church History: Ancient Church	2.00	An introduction to the history of the early church. We will pay special attention to the encounter of the gospel with the Hellenistic culture in the first decades of the church.
3205MTC	Leading a Missional Congregation: Formation	2.00	An introduction to formation or discipleship in a missional congregation. We will discuss formation in the local congregation in the areas of discipleship, pastoral care, and training families.

3300MTC	Reading the New Testament: General Epistles	2.00	An introduction to the general epistles of the New Testament. We will pay special attention to a kerygmatic and missional reading with implications for the 21st century that equips leaders for their ministry.
3301MTC	Reading the New Testament: Paul	2.00	An introduction to the Pauline literature of the New Testament. We will pay special attention to a kerygmatic and missional reading with implications for the 21st century that equips leaders for their ministry.
3302MTC	Doctrine: Sin and Salvation (Israel, Eschatology, Christology)	2.00	An introduction to the doctrines of sin and salvation with focus on Israel, eschatology, and Christology in biblical, contextual, and missional perspective.
3303MTC	Leading a Missional Congregation: Leadership and Cultural Issues	2.00	An introduction to leading a missional congregation in the context of idolatrous cultural spirits.
3304MTC	Church History: Medieval and Reformation	2.00	An introduction to the history of the medieval and reformation church. We will pay special attention to the encounter of the gospel with the various cultural contexts of Christendom Europe in these periods.
3305MTC	Leading a Missional Congregation: Evangelism, Neighborhood, and Public Square	2.00	An introduction to leadership in a missional congregation. We will discuss the areas of evangelism, outreach and involvement in the neighborhood, and engagement of the public square.
3400MTC	Understanding Our Missional Context: Missiology and World Religions	2.00	An introduction to the missiology, religious pluralism, and the study of world religions.
3401MTC	Understanding Our Missional Context: Missiology and Global Church	2.00	An introduction to missiology, the global church and its theology.
3402MTC	Doctrine: Salvation (Spirit, Church, Benefits of Christ, Consummation)	2.00	An introduction to the doctrine of salvation with focus on Spirit, church, benefits of Christ and consummation in biblical, contextual, and missional perspective.
3403MTC	Leading a Missional Congregation: Leadership and Spiritual Life	2.00	An introduction to leadership in a missional congregation. We will discuss the areas of leadership and the spiritual and personal life of a pastor.

3404MTC	Church History: Post-Reformation to Present	2.00	An introduction to contemporary church history from the post-Reformation era to the present. We pay special attention to the encounter of the gospel with the various cultural contexts of the churches in these periods.
3405MTC	Leading a Missional Congregation: Preaching, Teaching and Worship	2.00	An introduction to leadership in a missional congregation. We will discuss the areas of preaching, teaching and worship.
4110CB	Discerning Context	3.00	Demonstrates awareness of how contextual factors influence ministry.
4120CB	Biblically Wise	6.00	Knows, interprets and applies the story of Scripture faithfully.
4130CB	Theologically Reflective	6.00	Understands and integrates Scripture, history, and theology with ministry practices.
4140CB	Responsive Disciples	6.00	Responds to God's call to be ambassadors of reconciliation, healing, and transformation
4150CB	Making Disciples: Witnessing	3.00	Embody a winsome witness and articulate gospel presentations that respond to specific socio-cultural contexts and offer good news holistically.
4160CB	Making Disciples: Training	3.00	Develop and carry out a plan for discipling others into a holistic path of formation.
4170CB	Being Discipled	6.00	Exhibits growing conformity to Christ, self-awareness, and interpersonal intelligence.
4180CB	Leading	6.00	Equips God's people to answer God's call to works of ministry.
5115O	Biblical Interpretation for Ministry	1.00	This course introduces the basic principles of interpreting the Bible, namely, Reformed hermeneutics, thereby equipping students in the fundamental task of explaining the meaning of the original biblical text (exegesis) so that it can function as the authoritative foundation for the application of that text for the church today.
5125X	Taste and See: A Study Tour of Biblical Lands	2.00	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.
5201	Hebrew Tools for Exegesis	3.00	This course introduces biblical Hebrew and equips students with the basic knowledge and skills necessary for exegetical study of the Old Testament.
5203	Hebrew Fundamentals I	3.00	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.
5204	Hebrew Fundamentals II	3.00	This course continues preparing students to use biblical Hebrew in ministry by resuming the instruction in vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and exegesis that began in Hebrew Fundamentals I. In this course, students will learn the remaining Hebrew verb stems and continue to sharpen their exegetical skills.
5205O	Hebrew Review	1.00	Offers opportunity to secure and build upon gains made in Hebrew Fundamentals I in order to provide a solid foundation for using Hebrew in exegesis.
5206O	Hebrew Review II	1.00	This course reviews key material learned in Hebrew Fundamentals II, including a review of the verbal system, basic syntax, and analysis of clauses.
5220	Mission of God in the Old Testament	3.00	This course introduces students to the theology and message of the Old Testament. Emphasis falls upon the Old Testament as a witness to the Missio Dei, Israel's covenantal vocation, as well as on fundamental theological themes like covenant, divine presence, kingdom, and eschatology. The course will also introduce students to the Old Testament's literary shape and general historical setting. Finally, the Mission of God in the Old Testament encourages students to articulate the OT's importance for ministry and theological thinking in the context of the Church.

5235	Interpreting the Old Testament	3.00	Interpreting the Old Testament: Creation Theology in the Old Testament. This course introduces students to creation texts in the Old Testament in various canonical sections (Torah, Prophets, Writings). The course will explore the meaning of creation in the Old Testament, highlighting the existential function of creation for Israel's faith. We will also explore creation texts in the broader context of the Ancient Near East. Moreover, the course will help students identify the relationship between creation theology and the good news of the Old Testament. Finally, the course will emphasize developing interpretive skills consisting in a close reading of several creation texts from the perspective of rhetorical criticism.
5281	The Art of Hebrew Narrative	2.00	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.
5282	Judaism in the Time of Jesus	2.00	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.
5283X	Biblical Study Tour to Turkey and Greece	2.00	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 better understand the relevant biblical texts in their historical and social context.
5295	Psalms	2.00	Provides basic knowledge of Hebrew poetry and genres of the Psalms, a close reading of selected psalms, and emphasis on the psalms of prayer, lament, thanksgiving in prayer, song, preaching and pastoral care.
5301	Greek Tools for Exegesis	3.00	This course introduces biblical Greek and equips students with the basic knowledge and skills necessary for exegetical study of the New Testament.
5303	Greek Fundamentals I	3.00	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.
5304	Greek Fundamentals II	3.00	Introduces Greek grammar, vocabulary, and syntax (building on Greek Fundamentals I) 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.

53050	Greek Review	1.00	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.
53060	Greek Review II	1.00	This course is geared primarily for 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.
5320	Mission of God in the New Testament	3.00	We will survey the grand story of the missio Dei in the New Testament. We will explore the mission of God to redeem and restore God's fallen world, including themes such as the image of God, covenant, blessing, suffering, community, and shalom. We will make connections to contemporary ministry issues such as creation stewardship, self-identity, gender relations, anti-racism, immigration, economic justice, etc.
5335	Interpreting the New Testament	3.00	This course will explore the interpretation of the New Testament through two angles: first, through a survey of the basic principles of interpreting a biblical text; and second, through a survey of some of the major debates in recent years regarding the analysis of New Testament texts in their ancient Jewish, Greek, and Roman contexts. Special attention will be given to grammatical, literary, and social contexts, as well as theological themes such as the kingdom of God, Christology, eschatology, and other similar themes.
5345	I and II Thessalonians	2.00	
5346	Luke-Acts: A Journey into Divine Reality	2.00	
5360	Hebrews	2.00	The book of Hebrews often takes a back seat to the Gospels and the letters of Paul. However, there are a number of important issues, particularly regarding Christology, that are addressed in Hebrews either uniquely, or more thoroughly, than they are anywhere else in the New Testament. This course will present a detailed analysis of the whole book of Hebrews, and introduce students to many important introductory and interpretive issues, while particularly focusing on the important ideas described in Hebrews that are not as accessible in other New Testament texts (including Jesus' relationship to Melchizedek and

			ongoing priesthood, the Levitical context of atonement, Jesus' session at the right hand of the Father, and other related topics).
5361	The Seven Letters of Revelation	2.00	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."
5362X	Seeds of Justice, Harvest of Shalom	2.00	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 provide the necessary vision and understanding of God's plan for creation and humanity to inspire a lifestyle and ministry that conform to God's good will for the cosmos, society, the Church and the individual person. (Travel course)
5368	I Corinthians	2.00	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.
5369	Women in the New Testament	2.00	This course will explore the roles of women in the New Testament in order to better understand how they served Jesus-following communities, and how they fit into the dynamics of the earliest Christian communities. Rather than theological, this class will primarily be biographical in nature. Each week we will explore texts in the New Testament where women are named or described, in order to discuss and describe their roles through their actual lives. Ultimately, the goal is to understand Jesus' relationship to women, and to be understand Jesus through the eyes of the women that loved him and served him.
5395	Revelation	2.00	

5421	Systematic Theology I	3.00	Drawing from Scripture, the Christian tradition, and contemporary thought, this course offers an engaging integrative exploration of Christian teaching about God, creation, humanity, and Christ, showing how these key teachings strengthen our trust in the triune God and undergird faithful discipleship and ministry in today's world. The course raises fundamental theological questions and considers how our answers to these questions connect to the proclamation of the gospel, Christian worship, life together in Christian community, and Christian witness in the context of secular Western thought and non-Christian religions. This course aims to renew participants' sense of wonder at who God is, deep awareness of our need as bearers of God's image who have fallen into sin, and gratitude for God's gracious action in creation, providence, and redemption.
5422	Systematic Theology II	3.00	Drawing from Scripture, Christian tradition, and contemporary reflection, this course will introduce students to the Holy Spirit, especially the work of the Holy Spirit in applying the benefits of Christ both to individual lives, and to the Christian community. The course will consider connections between course topics and ministry in the contemporary world. Our engagement with these topics intends to renew in us a sense of gratitude and wonder at the grace of God while strengthening our knowledge and love of God, and our passion for God's mission in the world today.
5443	Death, Care for the Dying, and Christian Funerals	2.00	This course will consider Christian death through some of the following questions: Where does death fit into the life of the Christian? How can we journey alongside the dying in meaningful ways? How do we understand medical technology and intervention in terminal disease, including the hospice movement? How can pastors guide people toward funerals that reflect their primary identity in Christ and point the world to the value of this identity?
5451	The Reformation Through the Lens of Exile	2.00	This course will focus on understanding the Reformation through the lens of exile, beginning with John Calvin's personal experience and theological insights, and ending with the English Puritans' attempts to set up a purified religious community on the east coast of North America in the first decades of the 17th century. Along the way, we will consider the conflicts that emerged between those who left their home countries for reasons of faith and those who remained behind, analyze the challenges faced by religious refugees, and investigate how the experience of religious exile profoundly shaped the theologies and practices of Protestant communities in the Reformation era.

5453	Christian Theology in Reformed Confessions (required for ordination in the Christian Reformed Church)	2.00	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.
5461	The Story of Christianity I	3.00	This course brings together missiology, discipleship, worship, theology, and history in an engagement with the story of the Christian church from first-century to the late Middle Ages from a global perspective. Students will encounter monks, martyrs, leaders, and lay people and learn how their practices and teachings continue to shape Christian witness today.
5462	The Story of Christianity II	3.00	The Story of Christianity II introduces students to the global history of Christianity from 1300 to the present. It explores how Christians have been shaped by various contexts and struggled to follow Christ amid a variety of major challenges. Key themes include reformation, conflict, colonialism, missions, racism, secularization, and globalization.
5481	Calvin the Pastor	2.00	Examines John Calvin's life, piety, reform, and pastoral ministry in the context of the Reformation in Geneva.
5506	Philosophy for Understanding Theology	2.00	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.
5518	Ethics and the Christian Life	3.00	Ethics and the Christian Life trains students in a Christ-centered understanding of the moral life, which it presents as the practice of following Christ in obedience, love, service and suffering, as individuals and as the church, witnessing to the gospel in every area of life. It prepares students to practice, teach, and apply this Christ-centered ethic in various contexts of ministry.
5527	The Uneasy Legacy of Protestant Political Theology	2.00	
5528	Political Theology	2.00	What are the political implications of the gospel? How should Christians engage politics? Should the church or pastors be involved in politics? If so, how? What does a just society look like, and how should Christians seek to bring it about? This course explores how Christian theologians and philosophers, such as Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Locke, Smith,

			Kuyper, Bonhoeffer, King, Gutierrez, and others, have sought to answer these questions, and how we might apply their best insights to our own contexts.
5573	Theological Education as Formation I: MABT and MTS	1.00	The process of spiritual formation is intentionally engaged so that habits developed through theological education will form students holistically for ministry. [Year 1, Fall term.]
5574	Theological Education as Formation II: MABT and MTS	1.00	The process of spiritual formation is intentionally engaged so that habits developed through theological education will form students holistically for ministry. [Year 1, Spring term.]
5576	Theological Education as Formation for Ministry (MDiv)	2.00	The process of spiritual formation is intentionally engaged so that habits developed through theological education will form students holistically for ministry.
5579	Capstone - MABT/MTS students	1.00	This one-credit course prepares students for their oral comprehensive examination. In preparation for the exam, each student will demonstrate: an awareness of how contextual factors influence the interpretation or expression of theology; their knowledge of Scripture as well as its faithful interpretation and application; their ability to integrate Scripture, history, and theology; practical wisdom for witnessing as well as for teaching to equip God's people for service; Christlikeness and wisdom in relating to every person as a fellow image bearer of God.
5581	Intersections of Theology and Science	2.00	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.
5583	Christian Reformed Church Polity (required for ordination in the Christian Reformed Church)	2.00	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.
5584	Christian Reformed Church History (required for ordination in the Christian Reformed Church)	2.00	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.

5590	Music and the Arts in Worship	2.00	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.
5610	Foundations for Pastoral and Spiritual Care	3.00	This course is designed to prepare students to engage in complex biblical and theological reflection to provide effective pastoral and spiritual care that is socially, culturally, and contextually appropriate and relevant. Pastoral and spiritual caregivers' journey with people and communities to help them live more faithfully in a fallen and broken world. Whether through personal or relational challenges, setbacks, tragedies, sickness, or other painful experiences, there are moments in human experience where the way people make sense of the world and understand life is challenged, compromised, or outright shattered. It is in those moments—at the edges of meaning—where we find opportunities for pastoral and spiritual care that assist in healing, faith development, and spiritual growth. The person of the caregiver, the presence of the caregiver, the capacity for critical empathic listening, and the relationship between the caregiver and the care seeker and/or community are essential components to effective pastoral and spiritual care. Special attention is given to each of these crucial elements during the semester. This course establishes a foundation for students to become effective caregivers.
5617	Human Suffering and Pastoral Care	2.00	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.
5618	Spiritual Care in Death and Dying	2.00	This course examines the roles of loss, grief, tragedy, and trauma in relation to death and dying, as well as a variety of religious and spiritual care responses. Students will engage in an in-depth study of caring for individuals and communities that are faced with the inevitable human experience of death and dying. This course will establish a foundation for ministry leaders to enhance their capacity for both attention to—and remaining present—while the individual or community of care seekers are in the midst of experiencing illness, prolonged stages of dying, and death (both expected and unexpected). The course will attend to theological, spiritual, cultural, emotional, and psychological dynamics. Special attention will be given to how the narrative construction can facilitate healing, or can be counter-productive to the process of grief work.
5620	Worship Planning	0.50	An intensive practice-based study of worship planning, coordination, and leading through regular participation in hands-on planning and review of chapels and other seminary worship events, weekly discussions, readings, and retreats.



5621X	Applied Music Skills for Worship Leaders	1.00	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.
5622	Forming Worshipping Communities	2.00	A pastorally and prophetically oriented exploration of Trinitarian, covenantal public worship practices and their connection with ministries of public witness, evangelism, discipleship, pastoral care, and congregational leadership. Students practice skills for leading contextually fitting public worship services and for equipping worshipers and worship leaders to participate more actively and deeply.
5623	Worship in the Early Modern Era	2.00	
5624	Worship and Formation for Ministry	2.00	This course is built around the Calvin Symposium on Worship. Students will engage in the 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.
5627	Planning and Leading Congregational Worship	2.00	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.
5628	Doctrine of Christ and Services of the Christian Year	2.00	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 worshipping 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.
5632	Leadership in Ministry	2.00	This course combines theory and praxis for the sake of the church by helping students explore and engage Scripture, understand themselves, reflect on knowing others and the contexts in which they have served or will serve.

5640	Missional Spiritual Formation	1.00	The focus of this course will be on the nature of Christian spiritual formation and its significance for Christian mission, with particular attention to context. Students will gain a deeper understanding of spiritual formation in Christ and a fuller awareness of the relationship between spiritual formation and mission. The readings and experiences are designed to explore Christian spiritual formation and mission in different contexts, with the goal of preparing students to encourage people from a variety of contexts to grow in Christlikeness.
5641	The Gospel in a Multicultural and Multifaith World	2.00	This course introduces a foundational theology and essential practices that guide Christian engagement with people of other cultures and religious communities. The complex and interwoven nature of culture and religion is explored from a biblical-Reformed theological perspective. Students are taught to honor the goodness of creation and the dignity of the image of God across people groups, cultures, and religions. Special attention is given to religious experience, tradition, and ritual practices through the lenses of general revelation and Scripture. Students engage in Christian practices of receptive humility and reflective commitment which honor the universal common humanity of God's image bearers while upholding the unique and universal salvific significance of Jesus.
5643	Evangelism and Discipleship Skills	2.00	This course focuses on the practical skills needed to share the good news of Jesus and to make disciples who reflect in word, deed and lifestyle the gospel of the kingdom. It examines the biblical teachings about the nature, beauty, power and glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ as well as the diverse ways in which this message is received "good news" to those who receive it. The course equips students to minister effectively in diverse cultural, ethnic and socio-economic settings. Throughout the course students engage in discipleship practices that involve their head, heart, and hands. This holistic approach to formation corresponds to the cosmic breadth of the gospel which addresses our relationships to God, self, others, and the created world. Emphasis will be placed on discerning God's presence amidst the joys and sorrows, beauty and injustices of the social contexts in which they live and serve. They learn how to first be a guest and learner rather than to take on the role of host or savior of the community. As they grow in self-awareness, cultural humility and intelligence students will learn how to submit to the sanctifying work of the Spirit who works in them and through them to bring the good news of God's shalom in Jesus.

5645	Contemporary Issues and Opportunities in Global Mission	2.00	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.
5646	Mission in the 21st Century: New Horizons for an Enduring Mission	2.00	
5651	Gospel Preaching and Communication	3.00	An introductory preaching course that will teach students the basic components of sermon composition, using Paul Scott Wilson's <i>The Four Pages of the Sermon</i> as a grammar and template to learn sermon construction. The course seeks to instruct students on the art of proclaiming the Gospel in every sermon.
5652	Gospel Communication: Oratory and Delivery	1.00	
5653	Preaching in Pictures: Illustrations, Images, and Vividness	1.00	
5654	The Form of the Sermon: Structure, Flow, and Clarity	1.00	In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of sermon forms that will give them further options for faithful proclamation in a variety of contexts. Through readings, lectures, and course assignments, students will explore the relationship of form and content in preaching and will examine how sermon form relates to Scriptural forms. Students will gain skills for developing their own voice through sermon form and for engaging listeners through gospel-shaped messages.
5655	Communication in Ministry: Digital Media, Leading Meetings, Bible Studies, etc.	1.00	

5656	Imaginative Reading for Creative Preaching	2.00	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.
5657	Effective Storytelling for Preaching	1.00	In this elective course the student will study the function of narratives and the telling of stories as part of preaching vibrant sermons. Why does story work well in helping make sermons more indelible? What can the preacher learn from the dictum commonly taught in creative writing courses of "Show, Don't Tell"? Through readings and through the writing of sermons the student will both reflect on this aspect of Homiletics and put it into practice.
5661	Formational Reading of Scripture	2.00	
5662	Integrating Faith with Pedagogy	2.00	This course examines how a Christian perspective influences not only the content of the curriculum, but also the way in which we teach. The course considers general pedagogical principles as well as specific examples of good pedagogy. A lesson plan project which exemplifies the ideas we worked on will be a major part of the work of the course.
5663	Principles and Methods for Effective Biblical Teaching	2.00	This course examines teaching methods for Bible classes in Christian Schools K-12. In it, we will look at theoretical and biblical ways of conceiving biblical education as well as methods and curriculum.
5668	Youth and Family Ministry	2.00	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. This course is offered by Calvin University and is not necessarily offered every year.
5669	Faith Formation for all Ages	2.00	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.

5671	Issues in Pastoral Care and Leadership	2.00	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.
5674X	Ministry to and with Prisoners	2.00	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. [Travel course]
5675	Human Sexuality	2.00	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.
5676	Integrating Faith with Pedagogy	2.00	This course examines how a Christian perspective influences not only the content of the curriculum, but also the way in which we teach. The course considers general pedagogical principles as well as specific examples of good pedagogy. A lesson plan project which exemplifies the ideas we worked on will be a major part of the work of the course.
5677	Principles and Methods for Effective Biblical Teaching	2.00	This course examines teaching methods for Bible classes in Christian schools K-12. In it we will look at theoretical and Biblical ways of conceiving biblical education as well as methods and curriculum.
5678	Pop Christian Culture and the Formation of the Christian Imagination	2.00	This course explores the visions of the Christian life in popular Christian literature, with a particular focus on how these visions shape and form the Christian imagination. With curiosity and generosity, students will critically engage with best-selling Christian books, such as <i>Jesus Calling</i> , <i>Sacred Heart</i> , <i>Crazy Love</i> , <i>What Happens Next</i> , <i>Mess and Moxie</i> , <i>Free Forgiving What You Can't Forget</i> , <i>Practicing the Way</i> , and others. Students will seek to discern how these books shape the Christian imagination about God and the Christian life, critically evaluate the visions they present through a theological lens, and understand why they resonate within the contemporary ecclesial landscape.
5689	Race and Ethnicity in Mainstream Movies	2.00	

5710	Cornerstone: Person	2.00	What is the PERSON and role of a servant leader in this context? This course invites students to investigate, construct, and discover more clearly who it is that Jesus has redeemed them to be in their lives with Jesus, their community, and broader societal structures and contexts. Students will learn postures and practices that will enable them to be confidently curious about these matters both in their studies and over the span of their lives, reflective of their development as a person and in their specific calling. Learning will include comprehension and practice of personal and communal reflective investigation, the normalizing of peer-to-peer mentoring, and the ability to draw on interdisciplinary learning and pedagogy. Driven by the key question and overarching learning outcomes.
5712	Cornerstone: Context	2.00	This course introduces students to the practice of discerning and interpreting CONTEXT for Christian praxis that includes a variety of ministries and vocational callings. Students will first be invited to reflect on a biblical and theological basis for discerning context. Students will then be exposed to a cursory overview of qualitative examination and practical theological method as a way of comprehending the impact that context has on persons, churches, and the larger community. The practice of discerning context will include the critical engagement of culture, social location, race and ethnicity, nationality, history and heritage, the role of family and communities of origin, and the role of religious traditions and the commensurate biblical and theological interpretations. Special attention will also be given to how the neglect of contextual awareness works to undermine ministry effectiveness and can further lead to the spiritual and emotional harm of individuals and communities. By the end of this course, students must demonstrate a foundational understanding of contextual analysis, and the basic methodology tools that are necessary for developing a life-long investigatory posture of curiosity and humility as they endeavor to serve the global church and the Kingdom of God in all its vastness, complexity, mystery, and multiplicity.
5714	Cornerstone: Gospel	2.00	The GOSPEL is the message of how God, out of his love, sent his Son, Jesus, for us and our salvation. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection he has atoned for human sin and conquered death and the devil. By so doing, God has offered the restoration of the relationship between humans and God, other humans, and creation. This course will intentionally integrate Scripture and theology (historical, philosophical, moral, and systematic) for the purpose of understanding the Gospel as it has been received in various times and places, and connecting the Gospel to Christian discipleship and vocation in the world we inhabit.
5716	Cornerstone: Calling	2.00	

5741X	Formation Group 1	1.00	Formation Groups are intended to normalize peer learning in the curricular formation process at Calvin Seminary. This peer learning formation process will be stimulated by guided reflection questions, shared written material among students, and the presence of a seasoned ministry leader who will act as a “Guide.” This course will also encourage students to engage in an Action/Reflection process for learning and formation.
5742X	Formation Group 2	1.00	Formation Groups are intended to normalize peer learning in the curricular formation process at Calvin Seminary. This peer learning formation process will be stimulated by guided reflection questions, shared written material among students, and the presence of a seasoned ministry leader who will act as a “Guide.” This course will also encourage students to engage in an Action/Reflection process for learning and formation.
5743X	Formation Group 3	1.00	Formation Groups are intended to normalize peer learning in the curricular formation process at Calvin Seminary. This peer learning formation process will be stimulated by guided reflection questions, shared written material among students, and the presence of a seasoned ministry leader who will act as a “Guide.” This course will also encourage students to engage in an Action/Reflection process for learning and formation.
5751H	In-Context Learning 1	1.00	This course requires you to engage in your in-context ministry assignment for a total of 400 hours. You will design a proposal giving you primary direction as to what and how your 400 hours unfolds. Expectations and requirements from the VFO are clearly outlined in the proposal direction.
5752H	In-Context Learning 2	1.00	This course requires you to engage in your in-context ministry assignment for a total of 400 hours. You will design a proposal giving you primary direction as to what and how your 400 hours unfolds. Expectations and requirements from the VFO are clearly outlined in the proposal direction.
5753H	In-Context Learning 3	1.00	This course requires you to engage in your in-context ministry assignment for a total of 400 hours. You will design a proposal giving you primary direction as to what and how your 400 hours unfolds. Expectations and requirements from the VFO are clearly outlined in the proposal direction.

5754H	In-Context Learning 4	1.00	This course requires you to engage in your in-context ministry assignment for a total of 400 hours. You will design a proposal giving you primary direction as to what and how your 400 hours unfolds. Expectations and requirements from the VFO are clearly outlined in the proposal direction.
5761X	Clinical Pastoral Education (In-Context Learning)	4.00	Use when CPE is in replacement of the In-Context internship.
5762X	Clinical Pastoral Education (elective)	2.00	Use when CPE is an elective.
5763X	Clinical Pastoral Education (Cross-Cultural Internship)	2.00	
5764X	Clinical Pastoral Education (MA In Context Learning)	0.00	
5771X	Formation Group Equivalency	1.00	
5772X	Formation Group Equivalent	1.00	
5773X	Formation Group Equivalent	1.00	
5781X	Cross-Cultural Internship	2.00	This course requires you to engage in your Cross-Cultural in-context ministry for a total of 200 hours. You will design a proposal giving you primary direction as to what and how your 200 hours unfolds. Expectations and requirements from the VFO are clearly outlined in the proposal instructions.
5791X	Ministry Based Elective	2.00	
5791X1	Ministry Based Elective	1.00	
5990X	Independent Study: _____	2.00	



5990X1	Independent Study: _____	1.00	
5990X3	Independent Study: _____	3.00	
5992X	Major Paper: _____	3.00	Major paper for first degree students.
6101	Faith and Mental Health: Ethical Integrations	3.00	This course introduces students to the field of clinical counseling, mental health, and the integration of faith. Special attention will be given to various paradigms of integration, professional ethics, and how faith and psychology can intersect with Christian praxis in a manner that discourages stigma and shame and promotes wellness and wholeness. Students will survey various images of mental and emotional ailment, along with concomitant paradigms of healing, maintenance, and recovery. Students will have the opportunity to imagine ways how their role as a clinical counselor and mental health provider can promote healing and recovery within individuals, the church, and the community at large.
6102	Professional Orientation, Laws, and Ethics in Counseling	3.00	This course introduces students to the history and current field of clinical mental health counseling within the broader mental health field, and orients students to the ethical principles and standards, and the salient legal issues that are foundational to the practice of counseling. Through a combination of peer-reviewed research, case studies, articles, other forms of scholarship and educational media, coupled with the consideration of a Christian worldview, students will explore hypothetical situations that involve clients, regulatory entities, institutions and organizations, the community, and professional behavior, all of which will require students to engage with the application of the professional code of ethics in counseling. The course will provide students with a historical overview of the clinical mental health counseling profession, and challenge students to crystalize the counselor's professional identity, roles, functions, and relationships with other human services providers. Ultimately, students will acquire the requisite knowledge to arrive at professional ethical decisions about client care and develop a professional orientation that is conducive to the ongoing advancement of the clinical mental health counseling field.
6103	Human Development and Lifespan Psychology	3.00	An overview of human growth including physical, emotional, cognitive, intellectual, social, personality and spiritual changes as they occur across the lifespan from birth to life's completion. Special attention is given to culturally diverse ways of perceiving these developments as they inform views of health and well-being in the practice of counseling.
6104	Foundations in Clinical Mental Health Counseling	3.00	This course provides students with an introduction and historical overview of the clinical mental health counseling profession. Professional identity, roles, functions, relationships with other human services providers, credentialing and licensing processes are explored. Principles of prevention, intervention, consultation, education and advocacy are emphasized.

			Consideration is given to the role of a Christian worldview within the practice of professional counseling.
6209	Trauma and Crisis Counseling	3.00	This course will equip students with the fundamental knowledge and theories of trauma and crises, how it intersects with human experience, and various modes of intervention and care. Students will be introduced to the effects of natural disasters, physical and emotional violence, human atrocities, and other trauma-causing events that undermine and impede mental and emotional well-being in individuals and groups, as well as principles of professional, communal, and indigenous interventions and responses. This course will emphasize the use of appropriate clinical diagnosis when encountering trauma and crisis, as well as culturally and developmentally appropriate responses in the face of trauma-inducing events. Students will have the opportunity to apply trauma and crisis intervention theory and models to a variety of concrete human experiences such as sexual assault, suicide, war, veterans, domestic violence, disaster relief, divorce, terminal illness, and a variety of other experiences of pain and loss. Students will also learn how faith and spirituality can be used as tools for coping with trauma and facilitating the recovery process.
6210	Counseling Theory and Methods I	3.00	Students will examine the development of person-oriented theories and approaches to clinical counseling and will be enabled to develop skills and practice counseling methods based upon interpersonal, cognitive, behavioral, and psychodynamic approaches. Course competencies and learning outcomes will include: (1) understanding the nature of the person of the counselor on the therapeutic process, (2) understanding the overarching themes and foundational concepts to a variety of clinical counseling theories including behavioral, cognitive, existential, and psychodynamic approaches, (3) understanding and presenting the basic elements of case conceptualization, (4) practicing counseling skills and theoretical techniques via in-class assignments including role-play and other volunteer clients in the community, (5) understanding and applying aspects of clinical counseling theory to a range of mental health conditions and client populations and, (6) practice developing a personal theoretical orientation with special attention to personal, cultural, and social awareness.
6211	Counseling Theory and Methods II	3.00	Counseling Methods and Theories II will build upon the counseling principles and foundations that were explored in the first course. In addition to a deeper analysis of psychoanalytical, humanistic and cognitive behavioral theories, further exploration and practice into Gestalt therapy, motivational interviewing, DBT, systems theory and other new and post-modern approaches to therapy. The course will include theoretical grounding, overview of techniques and case conceptualization, and classroom practice. By the end of the course, students will be able to conceptualize cases from different modalities and provide an appropriate treatment plan grounded within each modality.

6212	Research Design and Program Evaluation	3.00	This course will provide hands-on, participatory research and program evaluation activities. Students will conduct program evaluation projects that encourage the learning of fundamental skills in counseling research, but also provide additional practice and theory building in statistics and basic research methods. Specific concepts will include the importance of research in counseling, basic perspectives in social science research, the fundamentals of measurement in social sciences, sampling techniques, research design, application of statistical methods in real world situations, data analysis, ethical issues in research, and the critical evaluation of research methods and results.
6213	Diagnosis and Psychopathology	3.00	This course is a graduate level overview of psychopathology. The course will introduce students to the DSM-V, its history and current usage. The course will review most of the commonly occurring psychological disorders, including etiological theories, prevalence and epidemiology, common comorbidities, associated features, and treatment approaches. The course will also address how to conduct a comprehensive assessment and evaluation session(s) and how to generate information that is used to make an accurate diagnosis. Effects of culture, gender, and race on assessment and diagnosis will also be discussed.
6214	Counseling Techniques, Strategies, and the Helping Relationship	3.00	In this course, students will study, explore, and practice some of the foundational and advanced counseling techniques used by professional counselors in the mental health field. Students are exposed to a variety of counseling techniques that are designed to increase the student's competency, skill, and insight in the helping relationship. Students will learn the relationship between the particular techniques selected by the counselor/therapist, and the problems presented by clients. Students will have an opportunity to develop a framework that incorporates, among other things, a wholistic understanding of the client in the pursuit of their desired counseling goals and outcomes, prevention methods and practices, and the client's pursuit of psychological and emotional stability, wholeness, healing, and recovery.
6230	Group Dynamics, Techniques, and Counseling	3.00	This course introduces students to a theoretical and experiential understanding of group counseling and clinical development. Special attention will be given to learning principles of group dynamics, developmental stage theories, group member roles, treatment-interfering behaviors, leadership styles in groups, theories of group counseling, types of groups, and professional preparation standards for group leaders. It will also examine therapist and group member bias and faith integration. Students should expect to participate as a member in group-related activities for the purposes of cultivating knowledge, self-awareness and building mindfulness within the group dynamic. It will also enhance cross cultural, racial, and ethnic empathy. As a clinical professional in training, this course will prepare you to assess, develop, and run a group from beginning to end.
6231	Clinical Assessment, Measurement, and Testing in Counseling	3.00	

6234	Career Development and Counseling	3.00	This course provides students with an overview of the major career development theories and decision-making models. Special emphasis is on the critical examination of vocation and career development theories and their application to the counseling process.
6235	Social and Cultural Diversity in Counseling, Psychology, and Therapy	3.00	This course will introduce students to a plethora of multicultural and pluralistic themes in the field of professional clinical mental health counseling. Students will be exposed to theories, models, and competencies of multicultural counseling, and gain a better understanding of how culture and heritage, power and privilege, worldviews and social location, and faith and spirituality impact individuals and groups in the field of clinical counseling. Students will learn strategies for overcoming barriers, biases, prejudices, and injustices that can undermine the work of professional counseling.
6401	Seminary on Faith and Theological Formation and Counseling Vocational Identity	3.00	This course will lead students through a formation process that helps them develop their vocational identity as counselors through a focused engagement of Scripture and theology in dialogue with the vocation of counseling psychology. Drawing on Reformed theological ideas such as the mission of God, creation and the biblical drama, and the ongoing work of the Triune God's active presence in the world, students will have craft a vocational statement that locates their work as counselors as agents of God's shalom in a good and yet broken and sinful world that is the object of his love and redemption. They will explore postures of receptive humility and reflective commitment that comport with the teachings and ministry of Jesus and his disciples throughout church history. They will establish lifelong practices for journeying on the path of integrating the historic Christian tradition with the ongoing science of psychology in the particular cultural contexts and communities in which they live and serve and carry out their being-humanness as counselors.
6410	Psychodynamic Psychology: History, Theory, and Practice in Counseling	3.00	This elective course addresses psychodynamic psychology in terms of its history, theory, and practice. Throughout the semester, students will gain an understanding of the development of psychodynamic thought, from its inception to the modern day, with particular emphasis on clinical application and technique (in terms of psychotherapy [e.g., psychoanalysis, object relations, brief dynamic therapy]; and assessment [e.g., Rorschach, Thematic Apperception Test, Myers-Briggs]). Students are encouraged to think critically about psychodynamic theory, particularly from a Christian worldview. The major psychodynamic figures will also be considered (e.g., Freud, Jung, Adler, Horney, Klein), in terms of their importance and relevance to modern discussions and clinical practice.
6411	Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy	3.00	This course is designed to meet the educational requirements for the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy (SIP) certification. The SIP program is a multi-disciplinary, inter-spiritual, multi-racial community of persons gathered for education, connection, and formation in the work of spiritually integrated psychotherapy. It serves licensed and pre-licensed mental health professionals (i.e., counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists,

			<p>addiction specialists, life coaches, and more), as well as graduate students in any of those disciplines, who seek to explore the ways spirituality, religion, and the search for meaning influence their own lives and the lives of their clients. Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate an:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciation for spiritual and religious diversity and ability to work across spiritual and religious difference</li> <li>• Ability to work with clients holistically from a bio-psycho-social-spiritual perspective</li> <li>• Ability to integrate spirituality into psychotherapy in ethically appropriate manner</li> <li>• Ability to conduct spiritual assessment</li> <li>• Ability to help clients leverage healthy spiritual resources</li> <li>• Ability to use a variety of spiritual interventions</li> <li>• Ability to help clients engage spiritual struggles</li> <li>• Ability to address harmful spirituality and religion in the context of psychotherapy</li> <li>• Ability to articulate how their personal spirituality is a resource in understanding clients, themselves, and therapeutic process</li> <li>• Ability to be aware of and make therapeutic use of spiritual countertransference</li> </ul>
6412	Interpersonal Communication in Mental Health Counseling	3.00	<p>This elective course provokes thought and discussion about the interpersonal communication opportunities and problems faced by Christians as they seek to live the life of faith in contemporary society. Course material focuses on the theories and the practice of interpersonal communication. Topics include identity construction, perception, emotion, verbal and non-verbal interaction, listening, relationships, culture, conflict, and new technologies. This course will be especially helpful to those in the field of mental health counseling with a specifically Christian perspective.</p>
6901X	Clinical Counseling Practicum	1.00	<p>Students will complete 100 hours of supervised counseling practice. The focus will be on the development and application of clinical skills. Emphasis will be placed on the major perspectives of counseling including how a Christian worldview impacts practice. Faculty approval is required prior to registration.</p>
6902X	Clinical Counseling Internship I	3.00	<p>Students will complete 300 hours of supervised internship experience. The focus will be on understanding principles, ethics, and practices of mental health counseling in the context of actual counseling practice, training, and case presentation.</p>
6903X	Clinical Counseling Internship II	3.00	<p>A continuation of Internship I, the focus is on principles, ethics and processes of mental health counseling related to clinical practice. The course will include 300 hours of supervised internship experience. Faculty approval is required prior to registration.</p>
6908	Counseling, Psychology, and Mental Health Capstone	3.00	

7101	ThM Research Methodology	3.00	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.
7291	ThM Old Testament Elective	3.00	This course will explore an Old Testament topic. Topics will vary each time the course is offered.
7311	I and II Thessalonians	3.00	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.
7313	Colossians	3.00	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.
7314	Matthew's Gospel	3.00	
7330	Paul the Letter Writer	3.00	
7344	Luke-Acts (NT)	3.00	Because Luke wrote two books, an advanced study of Luke-Acts offers the advanced student an interesting opportunity to analyze not only the life of Jesus, but also the way that this same author describes the birth and early life of the Church in the aftermath of Jesus' ministry. C.K. Barrett once argued that Luke viewed his two-part project as a "New Testament." Whether this is an overstatement or not, it is clear that Luke's two-volume project offers interpreters a chance to view Jesus and the birth of the Church through a singular vision. This course will analyze Luke-Acts as a single, two-volume literary and narrative work, and will explore recent scholarship concerned with interpretive issues, including the structure and grammar of the books, their possible sources, and discussions regarding their historical veracity and consistency.
7346	Luke-Acts: A Journey into Divine Reality	3.00	
7360	Hebrews	3.00	The book of Hebrews often takes a back seat to the Gospels and the letters of Paul. However, there are a number of important issues, particularly regarding Christology, that are addressed in Hebrews either uniquely, or more thoroughly, than they are anywhere else in

			the New Testament. This course will present a detailed analysis of the whole book of Hebrews, and introduce students to many important introductory and interpretive issues, while particularly focusing on the important ideas described in Hebrews that are not as accessible in other New Testament texts (including Jesus' relationship to Melchizedek and ongoing priesthood, the Levitical context of atonement, Jesus' session at the right hand of the Father, and other related topics).
7369	Women in the New Testament	3.00	This course will explore the roles of women in the New Testament in order to better understand how they served Jesus-following communities, and how they fit into the dynamics of the earliest Christian communities. Rather than theological, this class will primarily be biographical in nature. Each week we will explore texts in the New Testament where women are named or described, in order to discuss and describe their roles through their actual lives. Ultimately, the goal is to understand Jesus' relationship to women, and to be understand Jesus through the eyes of the women that loved him and served him.
7395	Revelation	3.00	
7435	Faith Formation in the Early Church	3.00	This seminar will explore how the Holy Spirit used early Christian leaders to form people's faith and life. Looking at the ministry of martyrs, monks, and bishops in the first few centuries (100-600 A.D.), we will examine worship practices, leadership strategies, pedagogical habits, spiritual disciplines, and theology. Through their work with early Christians and each other, students will not only gain a basic understanding of faith formation practices but also grow in faith, hope, and love.
7438	Life and Thought of Augustine (HC)	3.00	Studies the thought of Augustine as related to his life and work, with emphasis on his place in the development of Christian doctrine.
7439	The Scottish Reformation (HC)	3.00	The history of the Reformation in Scotland during its first hundred years offers a fascinating insight into the challenges faced by church leaders and laypeople in implementing and shaping the course of the movement from a minority group to the official confession of the realm. This course explores the origins of Scottish Presbyterianism from the Reformation Parliament of 1560 to the death of Samuel Rutherford in 1661. Topics covered include ecclesiology, changes in worship, the training of pastors, Reformed doctrine, and issues of church and state.
7443	Early Modern Calvinism in the Global South	3.00	
7448	ThM Systematics elective	3.00	

7451	The Reformation Through the Lens of Exile	3.00	This course will focus on understanding the Reformation through the lens of exile, beginning with John Calvin's personal experience and theological insights, and ending with the English Puritans' attempts to set up a purified religious community on the east coast of North America in the first decades of the 17th century. Along the way, we will consider the conflicts that emerged between those who left their home countries for reasons of faith and those who remained behind, analyze the challenges faced by religious refugees, and investigate how the experience of religious exile profoundly shaped the theologies and practices of Protestant communities in the Reformation era.
7455	Puritanism and Orthodoxy	3.00	Examines post-Reformation theological developments, emphasizing English Puritanism and the scholastic systems of Calvinism and Lutheranism in the late sixteenth and seventeenth century.
7459	Theology of John Calvin	3.00	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.
7461	The Reformed Dogmatics of Herman Bavinck	3.00	Topics may include: metaphysical foundations of theology including the relation of Christian truth to universal human experience, doctrines of God, creation, humanity, Christ, and more. The course may be broad survey, or focus on one area, depending on the time offered.
7491	Seminar in the History of Christianity: The English Puritans and Nadere Reformatie	3.00	
7493	John Calvin as Pastor and Reformer (HC)	3.00	
7505	Warranted Christian Belief	3.00	Warranted Christian Belief is a seminar course on Reformed epistemology as developed by Alvin Plantinga in his book by that name.
7511	Philosophical Issues in Christian Theology (PT)	3.00	Studies the philosophical treatments of the doctrine of God, including the nature, attributes, and knowability of God.
7528	Political Theology	3.00	What are the political implications of the gospel? How should Christians engage politics? Should the church or pastors be involved in politics? If so, how? What does a just society look



			like, and how should Christians seek to bring it about? This course explores how Christian theologians and philosophers, such as Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Locke, Smith, Kuyper, Bonhoeffer, King, Gutierrez, and others, have sought to answer these questions, and how we might apply their best insights to our own contexts.
7543	Theology of the Atonement	3.00	Examines the doctrine of the atonement historically and systematically, with special attention to various theories of atonement and criticism of those theories.
7592	ThM Philosophical Theology elective	3.00	
7593	Christianity and Racism	3.00	
7595	Independent Study: _____	3.00	
7621	History of Christian Worship	3.00	Studies Christian worship practices in each major period in church history.
7622	Theology of Worship and the Sacraments	3.00	Studies Reformed theological writings on corporate worship and the sacraments and examines how their enduring themes are reflected in worship practices today.
7653	Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck on Theology as Science and Liturgy: A Philosophical Appraisal	3.00	
7700	Written Expression	1.00	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.
771B	Capstone (M.Div.): Integrative Seminar	2.00	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.
7744	Gospel of Liberty: Salvation, Morality, and Politics in Early American Evangelicalism	3.00	

7764	Clinical Pastoral Education	6.00	
7794X	Major Paper: _____	3.00	
7796X	Thesis: _____	6.00	
8000H	DMin Orientation	0.00	
8010	The Abbey	2.00	<p>Since the third century Christians have constructed and utilized Abbeys. The Abbey played a powerful role in the life of all those who inhabited it, and also those who lived in the vicinity of the Abbey. For those living in the Abbey, life was communal, filled with constant and consistent spiritual learning, and was a place of productivity for self and always also for others. In fact, often through the labor of those living in the Abbey there would be an abundance (of food, skill, resources) to share with those in need and living nearby. Those seeking refuge from persecution, those in need of education, and those who were simply hungry and thirsty could find help from the Abbey. In short, those living in the Abbey were focused on their life with God, while also having a deep and ongoing concern for the lives and context all around them.</p> <p>We want to use this notion of an Abbey to describe a portion of your Doctoral studies. Within the Calvin Seminary Doctor of Ministry program the Abbey is designed to occur at the onset of your Doctoral studies as a place for you to draw near to God and listen well to the Holy Spirit. It is also intended to be a place where you begin to give expression to your scholarly questions. Using a combination of personal reflection, formal writing, and communal conversation, the goal of this course is that students clarify and deepen their spiritual and scholarly focus as this new Doctoral adventure begins.</p>

8011	Ethnography	3.00	<p>This seminar considers how ethnography might be employed as a pastoral discipline. Students will be introduced to the process of applying systematic ethnographic methods in a congregational setting. Ethnography typically involves the observation and study of people in their natural settings. Here we focus on churches and their contexts (neighborhoods, districts, towns, cities).</p> <p>Ethnography's potency resides in its ability to undermine assumptions and give voice to those who have been previously muted (diverse kingdom and listening well). It allows for reinterpretation and restructuring in a way that nurtures the creation of better maps and better stories. Along the way, though, ethnography may yield more complicated and less linear explanations of congregational culture(s) (life and ministry are complex).</p> <p>The course will also introduce students to the scholarship of engagement through a central, culminating project that will engage the students in the study of a local congregation. These original ethnographic studies of congregations will give particular attention to two aspects: (1) the nature of a church as a social institution and (2) the vision of society that is implicit in the practices of the congregation. Throughout the course we will be building a theoretical and analytical "toolbox" for considering the church as a social institution embedded within a wider societal context (excellent research). The "toolbox" will, hopefully, allow students to attend to the actual life of the church and, in turn, process those patterns and habits through a theological lens that allows for strengthened congregations (serve local churches and leaders).</p>
8012	Interpreting Culture and Ministry Context	3.00	<p>This course introduces students to the process of exegeting culture and social contexts, and the correlating impact it has on individuals, churches, and the surrounding communities, all for the purpose of creating effective and appropriate and efficacious ministry. Attention will also be paid to the relationship between those exegetical findings of culture/context and the personal development and role of the individual leader within that context. Through an interdisciplinary approach that engages dynamic leadership, practical theology, and qualitative research design, students will cultivate skills that give rise to ministry and leader development models that are informed by appropriate intersectional analysis, the diversity of voices and influences found in one's ministry setting and context, and relevant biblical and practical theological reflection. Ultimately, effective pastoral leaders will learn the life-long craft of listening to and evaluating their environment and the work of the Holy Spirit within them for the sake of advancing the Kingdom. Because this course is a seminar and inductive in nature, doctoral students are required to come with significant data from their own ministry context to contribute to this curated conversation.</p>

8013	The Mission of the Church	3.00	Within the overall curriculum design of the DMin program, the vision for this course on the Mission of God is to expose students to the depth and breadth of the gospel and of God's mission in the world--a mission that extends beyond Sunday mornings, ordained ministry, and the four walls of the church. Many of you play a pastoral role within the local church and work in another vocational context in the public square. For those primarily serving within church contexts, it is important that we keep our vision of the church and pastoral leadership firmly anchored in the broader vision of God's mission that animated Christ's own identity and mission. This identity and mission were imparted to the disciples and the church and compels us to reflect on God's purposes for all facets of human life in society. For those whose vocational context includes the public square (education, business, non-profits, civil service), the mission of God is just as important in guiding your imagination, actions, and work. This vision not only helps you grasp the meaning and purpose your work has in God's economy, but it can also spark an imagination of how God intends for you and others to participate in his mission in and through your daily work. We will go about exploring this biblical vision of the mission of God and its vocational ramifications through the following learning goals.
8015	Transformational Leadership	3.00	Mission isn't the activity of leaders, churches, and people. Mission is fundamentally an attribute of God. All who are part of God's Kingdom will grow to reflect this mission. And, those who are called to lead in this mission, must understand the transformational component of what it means to lead in God's Kingdom. Leaders, churches, organizations - and everything they engage - will be changed. With this underlying assumption, students in Transformational Leadership will read, learn, discuss and write about what it means to lead well as agents of this transformation. Engaging VUCA, liminal spaces, increased self-awareness and more, students will develop applied case studies through conversation and reading that are focused on developing our personal and contextual awareness of what it means to be engaged in God's transformational work in our world.
8250	Spiritual Abuse and Trauma in Ministry: Leadership for Justice and Healing	3.00	This course is designed to equip ministry leaders with the knowledge and tools to recognize, address, and prevent spiritual abuse within their communities. Focusing on healing and restorative practices, the course provides a framework for creating safe, just spaces while fostering leadership that promotes justice, accountability, and emotional recovery for those impacted by spiritual trauma. (This elective will count toward the concentration in Spiritual Formation and Missional Leadership or Urban Ministry and Prophetic Method.)
8251	DMin elective	3.00	
8252	Thick Skin, Tender Hearts: Spiritually Healthy Preachers and Teachers	3.00	

8360	Leaders in a Time of Hope Against Hope	3.00	<p>Leadership today is in crisis. We live in a time of extreme challenges but also a time of opportunities (kairos). Traditional models of ecclesial leadership are not responding to the challenges. Possibilities for change seem remote and the lack of healthy and inspiring models is appalling.</p> <p>How to maintain hope for a church accommodated to the spirit of our days, and captive to the propaganda, commercial and political ideologies, that control the media world and through it our own lives? What to do when credibility before society is eroding rapidly and young people are abandoning our congregations and looking for reasons to live their faith outside of traditional church settings?</p> <p>A fresh and creative leadership is urgently needed, A new prophetic imagination and praxis is indispensable to respond to our present dilemma. It is costly but possible to rise and be faithful to God in our duties toward God, neighbor, and creation.</p> <p>In this course we will explore and discuss, from a biblical perspective, controversial topics like immigration, women's ministries, creation care and radical love to our neighbors (the "others") and find ways to respond to them. The course aims to provide inspiration, hope, and light for our days when the horizons are closed. (This elective will count toward the concentration in Spiritual Formation and Missional Leadership or Urban Ministry and Prophetic Method.)</p>
8361	DMin elective	3.00	
8610X	Directed Study: _____	3.00	Independent study for DMin
8910	Mid-Phase Assessment	3.00	<p>This course is for DMin students who have completed (or will complete while taking 8910) twenty-four (24) credits worth of courses in the Calvin Seminary Doctor of Ministry Program. Normally speaking, these 24 credit hours are comprised of four Foundational courses and four Elective Credits for a total of 24 credits.</p> <p>This course is designed to assess the students' ability to move from course based doctoral studies to research and writing associated with their DMin dissertation project. As such, this course has three components (each of which is explained more fully in the syllabus): An Oral Exam, A Thesis Proposal, An Internal Review Proposal (IRB)</p>
8929	Dissertation Research and Writing	7.00	
9101	Research Methodology	3.00	Examines theory and methods in theology intended to provide a foundation for graduate and post-graduate research.

9102	Dissertation Seminar	1.00	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.
9103	Teaching and Student Formation	3.00	A seminar to prepare students to teach theology and engage in student formation at a college or seminary level.
9213	The Book of Isaiah and Its Reception in Early Judaism (OT)	3.00	
9215	Tragedy or Success? The Garden of Eden Narrative in Historical and Biblical Theology (OT)	3.00	
9216	Creation Theology in the Old Testament (OT)	3.00	
9293	PhD OT Seminar	3.00	
9330	Paul the Letter Writer (NT)	3.00	
9334	The New Testament and Jewish Tradition (NT)	3.00	This course seeks to study the New Testament alongside several important Second Temple texts, including: the Septuagint, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Apocrypha, and the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha. While it is certainly the case that Jesus had conflicts with many Jewish leaders during his ministry, and his teaching was in many ways an innovative refinement of his Jewish heritage, this course will study the ways that the New Testament writers were still products of their Jewish milieu, even as they represented a development in their tradition based upon the advent of Christ. This course will explore important critical issues such as intertextuality, avoiding linguistic fallacies, and making effective use of critical editions of primary sources. This course will explore the history behind the texts, such as the Second Temple Jewish diaspora, and the development of the Qumran community. This course will help students to identify and analyze thematic and theological trajectories within Second Temple Judaism that will amplify and enrich their reading of the New Testament.
9341	1 Corinthians	3.00	

9342	Gospels	3.00	
9344	Luke-Acts (NT)	3.00	Because Luke wrote two books, an advanced study of Luke-Acts offers the advanced student an interesting opportunity to analyze not only the life of Jesus, but also the way that this same author describes the birth and early life of the Church in the aftermath of Jesus' ministry. C.K. Barrett once argued that Luke viewed his two-part project as a "New Testament." Whether this is an overstatement or not, it is clear that Luke's two-volume project offers interpreters a chance to view Jesus and the birth of the Church through a singular vision. This course will analyze Luke-Acts as a single, two-volume literary and narrative work, and will explore recent scholarship concerned with interpretive issues, including the structure and grammar of the books, their possible sources, and discussions regarding their historical veracity and consistency.
9345	1 and 2 Thessalonians	3.00	
9351	Jesus and the Gospels in Modern Study	3.00	
9352	New Testament Criticism	3.00	
9393	Seminar on the Gospels	3.00	
9394	PhD NT Seminar	3.00	
9430	Documents and Issues in Reformed and Post-Reformation Thought	3.00	Examines select documents from the Reformation and post-Reformation eras, emphasizing the techniques of research and analysis.
9431	Scripture and Interpretation in the 16th and 17th Centuries	3.00	Examines the doctrine and interpretation of Scripture in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, emphasizing the development of the Reformed tradition of exegesis and hermeneutics.
9432	Reformed Symbolics: Confessions and Catechisms in the Global Church	3.00	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.
9434	The Theology of John Calvin	3.00	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.

9435	Faith Formation in the Early Church	3.00	This seminar will explore how the Holy Spirit used early Christian leaders to form people's faith and life. Looking at the ministry of martyrs, monks, and bishops in the first few centuries (100-600 A.D.), we will examine worship practices, leadership strategies, pedagogical habits, spiritual disciplines, and theology. Through their work with early Christians and each other, students will not only gain a basic understanding of faith formation practices but also grow in faith, hope, and love.
9436	Reformed Doctrine of God in 16th-17th Century	3.00	Examines the doctrine of God in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, emphasizes the exegetical, dogmatic, and philosophical development of Reformed theology.
9437	Arminius and Arminianism	3.00	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.
9438	Life and Thought of Augustine (HC)	3.00	Studies the thought of Augustine as related to his life and work, with emphasis on his place in the development of Christian doctrine.
9439	The Scottish Reformation (HC)	3.00	The history of the Reformation in Scotland during its first hundred years offers a fascinating insight into the challenges faced by church leaders and laypeople in implementing and shaping the course of the movement from a minority group to the official confession of the realm. This course explores the origins of Scottish Presbyterianism from the Reformation Parliament of 1560 to the death of Samuel Rutherford in 1661. Topics covered include ecclesiology, changes in worship, the training of pastors, Reformed doctrine, and issues of church and state.
9441	Puritans and Colonialism	3.00	
9443	Early Modern Calvinism in the Global South (HC)	3.00	
9490	Gospel of Liberty: Salvation, Morality, and Politics in Early American Evangelism	3.00	



9491	PhD History of Christianity Seminar	3.00	Studies selected advanced topics in historical theology.
9493	John Calvin as Pastor and Reformer (HC)	3.00	
9511	Philosophical Issues in Christian Theology (ST)	3.00	Studies the philosophical treatments of the doctrine of God, including the nature, attributes, and knowability of God.
9520	Sacraments and Sacramentality in Ecumenical Perspectives	3.00	
9523	Warranted Christian Belief (ST)	3.00	This course provides an in-depth study of Christian philosophical epistemology by reading and discussing Warranted Christian Belief written by Alvin Plantinga, one of the foremost analytic philosophers in the world.
9540	Theology of Revelation	3.00	A study of biblical, historical, and contemporary sources on the Christian doctrines of revelation and the knowledge of God, with a focus on the need for divine revelation, the nature of revelation, and the validation and reception of revelation. This course examines basic questions about revelation: (1) Why do we need divine revelation? (2) How does God reveal himself to us? What forms does revelation take? (3) How is revelation validated for believers?
9542	Theology of the Incarnation	3.00	Examines the doctrine of the incarnation historically and systematically, with special attention to patristic, medieval, and modern developments.
9543	Theology of the Atonement (ST)	3.00	Examines the doctrine of the atonement historically and systematically, with special attention to various theories of atonement and criticism of those theories.
9544	The Theology of Karl Barth	3.00	Studies Karl Barth's theology through a survey of the development of his thought and a careful study of selections from his Church Dogmatics.
9545	Theology of the Trinity	3.00	Studies biblical sources, confessional statements, and classic and contemporary theological formulations of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.

9549	Issues in Theological Anthropology	3.00	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).
9550	Topics in Karl Barth and Herman Bavinck	3.00	
9551	Nature of Theology and Doctrine	3.00	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.
9552	Twentieth-Century Dutch Reformed Theology	3.00	
9553	Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck on Theology as Science and Liturgy: A Philosophical Appraisal	3.00	
9595	PhD Systematic Theology Seminar	3.00	Studies selected advanced topics in systematic theology.
9611	Philosophical Issues in Christian Theology (PT)	3.00	Studies the philosophical treatments of the doctrine of God, including the nature, attributes, and knowability of God.
9612	Philosophical Foundations of Modern Theology	3.00	Studies the major philosophers who influenced the foundations of modern theology--Kant, Hegel, and Schleiermacher.
9613	Post-Enlightenment Critique of Religion	3.00	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).
9623	Warranted Christian Belief (PT)	3.00	This course provides an in-depth study of Christian philosophical epistemology by reading and discussing Warranted Christian Belief written by Alvin Plantinga, one of the foremost analytic philosophers in the world.

9640	Theology of Revelation	3.00	A study of biblical, historical, and contemporary sources on the Christian doctrines of revelation and the knowledge of God, with a focus on the need for divine revelation, the nature of revelation, and the validation and reception of revelation. This course examines basic questions about revelation: (1) Why do we need divine revelation? (2) How does God reveal himself to us? What forms does revelation take? (3) How is revelation validated for believers?
9653	Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck on Theology as Science and Liturgy: A Philosophical Appraisal	3.00	
9696	one-time seminar in Philosophical Theology	3.00	Studies selected advanced topics in philosophical theology.
9717	Christian Political Theology	3.00	
9721	Social Teaching of the Christian Churches	3.00	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).
9722	Christian Social Ethics	3.00	
9732	The Theology of Vocation	3.00	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.
9734	Puritans and Colonialism	3.00	
9743	Christian Moral Tradition (MT)	3.00	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.

9744	Gospel of Liberty: Salvation, Morality, and Politics in Early American Evangelicalism	3.00	
9797	one-time seminar in Moral Theology	3.00	Studies selected advanced topics in moral theology.
9905	PhD Independent Study	3.00	
9995	Dissertation	3.00	