

# THE COURTS REDFORD COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

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## Mission Statement

The Courts Redford College of Theology and Ministry endeavors from a Christian perspective to teach students the Bible, our Christian heritage, and spiritual formation, and to prepare students for professional church vocations.

## Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

### Mission of the Program

The mission of the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program is to prepare men and women who are called to the ministry to apply theological studies to kingdom initiatives that build up the Church and contribute to the welfare of the community.

### Vision of the Program

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry is a *practical theology* degree. In contrast to undergraduate programs, in which the curriculum is divided along the lines of theoretical and practical studies, the graduate program in Redford College is thoroughly integrated, combining theological studies and ministerial studies in every course. The intent and purpose of this integration of theory and practice is to train and equip students to apply theological knowledge to practical ministry initiatives in fruitful and innovative ways.

## Admission Requirements and Academic Regulations

Students may be admitted to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program according to the following classification categories:

1. **Fully Admitted** – The student meets all admission standards, has completed all prerequisites, and has been admitted to the program of study.
2. **Conditionally Admitted**
  - a. **Contingent Admission** – Students who have not completed the academic program prerequisites are conditionally admitted to graduate study. All students admitted to the 4+1 track will be contingently admitted. Students admitted to the 4+2 track who have completed less than thirty hours of coursework in the relevant areas (see Prerequisites, below) will be contingently admitted. Students contingently admitted to the program will have their status changed to “Fully Admitted” if/when their prerequisites are completed. Students may take no more than twelve semester hours of graduate courses without satisfying program prerequisites.
  - b. **Academic Probationary Admission** – Students whose grade point average is less than 2.75 overall or 3.00 in their undergraduate majors, or whose bachelor’s degrees are from institutions lacking regional accreditation are conditionally admitted to the program. At the end of their first semester, or the completion of nine hours of graduate work (whichever comes later), students probationally admitted to the program will have their status changed to “Fully Admitted” if the grade point average for their graduate coursework is 3.00 or higher. Students who fail to meet this benchmark may be dismissed

from the program. The final decision either to dismiss a student from the program or to extend the student's probational period will be made by the Graduate Program Director, in consultation with both the Dean and the student's advisor.

- 3. Non-Degree-Seeking Admitted** – The student meets all admission standards, has completed all prerequisites, and desires to take some courses in the program for credit, but does not intend to pursue the degree. Students admitted to non-degree-seeking status may at a later time petition the Graduate Admissions Committee, in writing, to have their admissions status changed to a degree-seeking status (either Fully Admitted or Conditionally Admitted). Such petitions are not automatically granted, but will be decided by the Graduate Admissions Committee. (Note: Students who wish to take courses for personal enrichment, but not for credit, may audit courses in the program without meeting admission standards or completing the prerequisites.)

The following is required of students seeking full admission to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program:

1. Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university;
2. Minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.75, overall, and 3.00 within major (on a 4.00 scale).

In addition, applicants to the program must submit the following materials:

3. Completed "Application for Graduate Admission" to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Program;
4. Official transcripts from all colleges, universities, or seminaries attended;
5. Graduate Admission Essay;
6. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the character and academic ability of the applicant: one from a college professor, one from a pastor or mentor, and one from a fellow member of the applicant's church.

As noted above, admission to the 4+1 track is a contingent admission. Those applying to the 4+1 program while undergraduates at SBU must submit the same materials listed above (items 3. – 6.) However, in the case of incoming freshmen who are applying concurrently to the SBU undergraduate program and to the 4+1 track of the graduate program in Christian Ministry, a letter of recommendation from a high school teacher may be submitted in place of a letter from a college professor, and high school transcripts may be submitted in place of college or university transcripts.

### International Students

International students must meet the admission requirements for the M.A. program. Official records not in English must be accompanied by an official translated record. All records should show the individual subjects studied and the grades received in each subject.

### Prerequisites

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program requires that students have prior knowledge in certain areas of study before fully pursuing the M.A. The purpose of these prerequisites is twofold: (1) to promote a greater likelihood of student success in completing the program; (2) to facilitate instructors of graduate courses in designing course content (establishing reasonable expectations concerning the background knowledge of students enrolling in the courses). To satisfy each prerequisite, students must have completed the course or an approved equivalent from a regionally accredited institution, having earned a grade of C or better.

#### The prerequisites for the M.A. in Christian Ministry are as follows:

- *Either* (i) a major in biblical studies, theology, philosophy, ministry, intercultural studies, Christian studies, or religious studies, *or* (ii) 30 hours of undergraduate coursework in these areas.
- The coursework completed in the aforementioned areas must include the following courses or some transfer equivalency:
  - BIB 1013 Old Testament History
  - BIB 1023 New Testament History
  - BIB 2093 Methods of Biblical Interpretation
  - CHR 3013 Introduction to Ministry
  - PHI 2013 Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview
  - SPF 2012 Introduction to Spiritual Formation
  - THE 3113 Christian Doctrine
  - THE 3463 History of Christianity I *or* THE 3673 History of Christianity II

Students accepted to the 4+2 track with a status of "contingently admitted" due to deficiencies in their prerequisite coursework may complete these courses at SBU at the current graduate tuition and fee rate.

### Transfer Credit

Nine graduate semester hours completed at another regionally accredited institution may be transferred and applied to the degree. These credits must be comparable to courses offered in the M.A. program in Christian Ministry at SBU and must be approved by the Graduate Admissions Committee.

### Academic Probation

Graduate students must earn a grade of C or higher to receive credit for a graduate course towards the completion of the degree. Graduate students whose overall GPA falls below 3.00 will be placed on a status of academic probation. Students placed on academic probation must raise their overall GPA to a minimum of 3.00 by the end of the following semester—or, in the case of a student who is taking less than nine hours per semester, at the completion of nine additional credit hours—in order to be returned to non-probational status. Students who fail to meet this benchmark may be dismissed from the program. The final decision either to dismiss a student from the program or to extend the student’s probational period will be made by the Graduate Program Director, in consultation with both the Dean and the student’s advisor.

## Degree Requirements

Students are eligible to graduate after fulfilling the requirements described below. Students who enroll in another college or university without prior permission of the Graduate Program Director are considered to have withdrawn from Southwest Baptist University. Students wishing to transfer work from another institution and not withdraw from Southwest Baptist University must obtain prior approval from the Graduate Program Director as well as the Dean of the Redford College of Theology and Ministry.

### Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

To receive the M.A. degree, a student must:

1. Meet all graduate admission standards, including completion of a baccalaureate degree, and completion of admission application and file.
2. Complete a plan of graduate study consisting of at least 42 semester hours.
3. Maintain a graduate level GPA of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale with no grade below a C (2.00). Students receiving two grades of “F” are automatically dismissed from the graduate program. Students may reapply for admission after a mandatory one-year suspension.
4. Complete all degree requirements within five years of being fully admitted to the program.
5. Participate in commencement exercises unless absence is approved by the Provost.

## Program of Study

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry is a non-thesis, 42-hour degree, culminating in a Ministry Project Capstone. The program is designed for students who have (or are seeking) a bachelor’s degree in Christian ministry, biblical studies, intercultural studies, Christian studies, religious studies, theology, or philosophy, and who desire advanced study in ministry in order to serve the Church more purposefully.

Students must complete **four CORE courses** (12 hours), **nine electives** (27 hours), and the **Ministry Project Capstone** (3 hours). The program of study will be designed by the student and faculty advisor, informed by the student’s ministry goals and the courses offered. A typical full-time student will enroll in nine to twelve credit hours per fall and spring semester (with a reduced course load for the final semester, in which the Ministry Project Capstone takes place), three credit hours per summer term, and three credit hours per Winterfest term. No more than twelve credit hours of graduate coursework will be allowed in a single semester.

There are two tracks for pursuing the M.A. degree in Christian Ministry: a “**4+1**” track and a “**4+2**” track.

**The 4+2 track** is for students who have already graduated with a bachelor’s degree. On this track, the degree is designed to be completed in two years. The following is a typical program of study for those on the 4+2 track:

*First year graduate*

Fall: 9 hours

Winterfest: 3 hours

Spring: 9 hours

Summer: 3 hours

*Second year graduate*

Fall: 9 hours

Winterfest: 3 hours

Spring: 6 hours (including Ministry Project Capstone)

**The 4+1 track** is for incoming or current SBU undergraduate students who anticipate getting both their bachelor's and master's degrees at SBU in a span of five years total. Students may concurrently enroll in up to twelve hours of specially designated upper-level Redford courses that will count for both their undergraduate and graduate requirements (see Concurrent Enrollment Courses, below). The following is a typical program of study for those on the 4+1 track:

*Second semester junior undergraduate (at least 80 hours completed)*

Spring: 3 hours (concurrent enrollment)

*Senior undergraduate*

Fall: 3 - 6 hours (concurrent enrollment)

Spring: 3 - 6 hours (concurrent enrollment)

*First year graduate*

Summer: 3 hours

Fall: 9 - 12 hours

Winterfest: 3 hours

Spring: 9 - 12 hours

Summer: 3 hours (Ministry Project Capstone)

### Concurrent Enrollment Courses

SBU undergraduates who have been admitted to the program (4+1 track) and have completed 80 hours of coursework and all course prerequisites are eligible to enroll concurrently in the following courses. Students who successfully complete these courses will receive both undergraduate credit (appearing on the student's transcript as a 3000 or 4000 level course credit) and graduate credit (appearing on the student's transcript as a 5000 level course credit). Students may earn up to twelve hours of graduate credit through concurrent enrollment. Graduate students currently enrolled in the M.A. program are also eligible to take the following courses for graduate credit.

The list of approved concurrent enrollment courses for the M.A. program is as follows:

BIB 3033 / MIN 5033	Old Testament Hymnic and Wisdom Literature
BIB 3053 / MIN 5053	Early Pauline Epistles
CED 3013 / MIN 5093	Youth Ministry in the Church
CED 4053 / MIN 5063	Youth Discipleship and Evangelism
ICS 4023 / MIN 5023	Indigenous Christian Community
ICS 4313 / MIN 5183	World Religions
PHI 4043 / MIN 5003	Ethics
PHI 4243 / MIN 5013	The Problem of Evil
PHI 4253 / MIN 5083	The Problem of Hell
THE 4043 / MIN 5043	Christ and Salvation

### CORE Courses

Students are required to take four CORE courses, one from each of the following categories: *Leadership*, *Theology*, *Community*, and *Service*. For each category, students will choose between two courses that are eligible to fulfill the requirement.

<i>Leadership:</i>	Leadership and the Old Testament <i>or</i> Preaching and Teaching the Bible
<i>Theology:</i>	Christian Theological Traditions <i>or</i> Contemporary Christian Theologies
<i>Community:</i>	Kingdom and Society <i>or</i> Church and Community
<i>Service:</i>	Theology and Practice of the Local Church <i>or</i> Disciple-Making in Context

### Electives

Students are required to take at least nine elective courses. The M.A. in Christian Ministry is designed to be a flexible program, allowing students to select courses that emphasize areas of study that are conducive to attaining the student's own vocational and ministry goals. Towards this end, each student will work closely with a faculty advisor in designing an appropriate

schedule. The following is the list of courses from which students will choose to fulfill the electives requirement of the M.A. program:

MIN 5003	Ethics	MIN 5143	Kingdom and Society
MIN 5013	The Problem of Evil	MIN 5153	Church and Community
MIN 5023	Indigenous Christian Community	MIN 5163	Theology and Practice of the Local Church
MIN 5033	Old Testament Hymnic and Wisdom Literature	MIN 5173	Disciple-Making in Context
MIN 5043	Christ and Salvation	MIN 5183	World Religions
MIN 5053	Early Pauline Epistles	MIN 5203	The Teaching Ministry of Jesus
MIN 5063	Youth Discipleship and Evangelism	MIN 5213	Equipping to Serve
MIN 5073	The Ministry of Worship	MIN 5223	A Practical Theology for Youth Ministry
MIN 5083	The Problem of Hell	MIN 5233	Issues in Global Christian Theologies
MIN 5093	Youth Ministry in the Church	MIN 5303	Apologetics
MIN 5103	Leadership and the Old Testament	MIN 5403	Knowledge and Mystery
MIN 5113	Preaching and Teaching the Bible	MIN 5433	Contemporary Christian Theologies
MIN 5123	Christian Theological Traditions	MIN 5453	The Ministry of Leadership
MIN 5133	Christian Theological Ethics		

No single course can be counted toward both the CORE and electives requirements. However, students who take one of the CORE classes in a certain category may then take the other class in the “pairing” as an elective: for example, a student who takes MIN 5103 (Leadership and the Old Testament) for the *Leadership* category of the CORE may then take MIN 5113 (Preaching and Teaching the Bible) as an elective.

### Ministry Project Capstone

The ministry capstone course (MIN 5983) and project serves as both an application and a substantive assessment of what the student has learned from the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program. It is comprised of an in-class component and an off-site component. The former is a team-taught course involving regular meetings throughout the semester in a classroom setting. The latter is a student-designed project, developed in consultation with the student’s advisor, the Graduate Program Director, and an on-site supervisor at a church or parachurch organization where the ministry will take place, and guided and evaluated by the student’s Capstone Committee.

Initially, the project proposal will be developed by the student and presented to his/her advisor at the time of the portfolio review. The portfolio review must take place within two weeks of the beginning of MIN 5983. The portfolio consists of all major assessments, including midterm and final papers, along with any exams that the student was allowed by his/her professors to keep. The student will discuss the portfolio with the advisor, addressing in particular the issue of how the proposed ministry capstone project will build upon the body of knowledge and work that the students has completed up to that point. The proposed ministry project must involve a minimum of 200 hours of field work, and the proposal must include a timetable for completion of the project.

Once the advisor is satisfied that the project is viable and well-conceived, the student will consult with the Graduate Program Director, who will either approve the project, or, if the project is judged to be deficient in some way, send the student back to the advisor for further consultation. In the event of the latter, the Director’s reservations must be expressed in writing, and copies sent to both the student and the advisor. The process will then repeat until approval of the proposal is granted by the Graduate Program Director.

Once the project has been approved, the student will begin the project in accordance with the agreed upon timetable. Guidance for the project throughout, and evaluation of the project at its completion, will come from the student’s Capstone Committee. The Capstone Committee is comprised of the student’s advisor, the Graduate Program Director, and one of the faculty members co-teaching MIN 5983 during the semester in which the student’s project takes place. (In certain cases, two of these roles could be fulfilled by the same individual, in which case the student’s Capstone Committee will be comprised of only two members.)

Immediate oversight for the project will come from a designated individual at the church / parachurch organization with which the student is working. Students must make arrangements with the organization for this oversight to take place, and details of the arrangement must be included in the proposal and thus approved by the student’s advisor and the Graduate Program Director. This on-site supervisor is not a part of the Capstone Committee, but will advise the Committee on the student’s

progress and quality of work. The supervisor will be asked to give a monthly report to the members of the Capstone Committee, who will consult with the student in the case of any concerns. Further guidance will be provided by the classroom meetings of MIN 5983, in which ideas, insights, challenges, concerns, etc. associated with the students' developing ministry projects will be shared, discussed, and addressed.

At the completion of the project, the student will write up an evaluation / self-assessment of the project, and will then meet with the members of the Capstone Committee for a final review. Following the review, the members of the Committee will meet to decide on a grade for the ministry project / capstone course, which the Director will then report to the student.

The following is required for successful completion of the requirements of the Ministry Project Capstone:

1. Assemble a portfolio of all assignments for the M.A. program.
2. Create and implement a Master's Ministry Project in a (typically local) church or parachurch organization.
3. Evaluate and present the Master's Ministry Project.

## **Program Summary – M.A. in Christian Ministry (42 credit hours)**

### **CORE Requirements (12 hours)**

MIN 5103	Leadership and the Old Testament <i>or</i>	
MIN 5113	Preaching and Teaching the Bible.....	3 hours
MIN 5123	Christian Theological Traditions <i>or</i>	
MIN 5433	Contemporary Christian Theologies .....	3 hours
MIN 5143	Kingdom and Society <i>or</i>	
MIN 5153	Church and Community .....	3 hours
MIN 5163	Theology and Practice of the Local Church <i>or</i>	
MIN 5173	Disciple-Making in Context.....	3 hours

### **Electives (27 hours)**

### **Ministry Project Capstone (3 hours)**

MIN 5983	Ministry Project Capstone.....	3 hours
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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **MINISTRY**

#### **MIN 5003. Ethics – 3 hours**

Critical analysis of prominent historical and contemporary views in philosophical ethics, with special attention given to Christian approaches.

#### **MIN 5013. The Problem of Evil – 3 hours**

An exploration of the logical and evidential forms of the problem of evil and the different types of responses that have been developed to address each, with special attention given to the problem of horrendous evils.

#### **MIN 5023. Indigenous Christian Community – 3 hours**

A study of principles concerning an indigenous, culturally contextualized, biblical Christian community in terms of its worship, discipling, leadership call and roles, pastoral care, social structures, world-view formation, and cell multiplication.

#### **MIN 5033. Old Testament Hymnic and Wisdom Literature – 3 hours**

Historical and exegetical study of the hymnic and wisdom literature in the Old Testament: Job, Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.

#### **MIN 5043. Christ and Salvation – 3 hours**

A survey of Christian understandings of Christ and salvation in their biblical, historical and contemporary expressions, including the person of Christ, atonement, justification and other dimensions of salvation.

#### **MIN 5053. Early Pauline Epistles – 3 hours**

Historical and exegetical study of Paul's epistles to the Thessalonians, Corinthians and Galatians.

#### **MIN 5063. Youth Discipleship and Evangelism – 3 hours**

A study of (1) the challenges of youth and their culture (including suicide, pregnancy, parental problems, drugs) and (2) evangelism strategies, events and programs designed to reach unchurched youth.

#### **MIN 5073. The Ministry of Worship – 3 hours**

An introduction to the principles and practice of Christian worship, including the Biblical foundations of worship, the historical heritage and models for worship, contemporary options in worship, and praxis in worship.

#### **MIN 5083. The Problem of Hell – 3 hours**

A philosophical investigation of the question of why a perfectly good, loving, and powerful God would consign some persons to hell. Includes critical evaluation of the four standard views—traditionalism, universalism, annihilationism, and the choice model—as well as possible alternatives.

#### **MIN 5093. Youth Ministry in the Church – 3 hours**

A study of the objectives, organization, and methodologies for youth, ages 12-17, and the directing of a youth ministry in the church. Research will be conducted in worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, missions, and evangelism. Students will evaluate and analyze a current youth ministry in the church.

#### **MIN 5103. Leadership and the Old Testament – 3 hours**

The study of Old Testament texts and persons with the goal of formulating a biblical theology of leadership and designing a practical plan for personal growth in leadership.

#### **MIN 5113. Preaching and Teaching the Bible – 3 hours**

An historical, biblical, and clinical study of preaching with the goal to communicate the meaning and significance of the Bible accurately, clearly, and persuasively to the contemporary audience.

#### **MIN 5123. Christian Theological Traditions – 3 hours**

This course surveys some major traditions in the history of Christian theology, beginning with their common roots in the patristic era, and including the traditions of both East and West, up to the modern era (seventeenth century).

#### **MIN 5133. Christian Theological Ethics – 3 hours**

This course surveys the shape of Christian ethics, including its biblical and theological basis, options for ethical decision making, moral agency and norms of justice, and specific ethical issues such as economic and ecological justice, sexuality, violence and peacemaking.

#### **MIN 5143. Kingdom and Society – 3 hours**

Kingdom and Society is designed to introduce students to the methods Jesus used to establish the kingdom of God. We will study the gospels in relation to how Jesus' kingdom building work via the parables, miracles, and itinerant ministry should give guidance today in seeking justice for the marginalized of our society.

#### **MIN 5153. Church and Community – 3 hours**

A study of Paul's letters to determine how the apostle encouraged mutual dependence (fellowship) to forge the bonds of Christian unity and inspire community service. In particular, we will examine the theological, social, political, and historical contexts of his letters in order to understand the source of Paul's authority, his methods of ministry, and his understanding of the church's mission.

#### **MIN 5163. Theology and Practice of the Local Church – 3 hours**

This course explores the biblical and theological basis for the local church as well as church's mission and ministry in the contemporary setting. The goal is to prepare students for ministry in a local church in a way that will contribute to the transformation of the surrounding community.

#### **MIN 5173. Disciple-Making in Context – 3 hours**

A study of the theology and practice of individual and corporate disciple-making in the context of both the local church and community. The purpose is to move students toward the development and application of a disciple-making process contextualized for a specific community.

#### **MIN 5183. World Religions – 3 hours**

Exploration of the thought and practice of the major world religions outside the Judeo-Christian tradition—including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Islam—as well as animism. Consideration also is given to the issues of religious pluralism, theology of religions, and the appropriate response to each religion.

#### **MIN 5203. The Teaching Ministry of Jesus – 3 hours**

This course focuses on the teaching ministry of Jesus. Subjects include biblical instances of Jesus' teaching, methodologies, subjects, students, and the church.

#### **MIN 5213. Equipping to Serve – 3 hours**

This course will focus on equipping church members to serve the Kingdom of God.

**MIN 5223. A Practical Theology for Youth Ministry – 3 hours**

This course will build a theology for the importance and implementation of a theology for youth ministry. The first half will focus on theology and the second will focus on how to teach and implement how the church, families, and youth can be theological.

**MIN 5233. Issues in Global Christian Theologies – 3 hours**

A study of key issues related to the development of Christian theology in global perspective. Particular interest will be placed on non-Western theologies from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Application will focus on preparing students for theological engagement in the developing global Christian movement.

**MIN 5303. Apologetics – 3 hours**

A philosophical exploration of the methods of apologetics, the rational evidence that can be presented on behalf of the Christian faith, and the arguments by which Christian theism may be defended against opposing views and critiques. Special emphasis is given to the relevance and application of apologetics to spiritual formation, practical theology, and ministry.

**MIN 5403. Knowledge and Mystery – 3 hours**

A philosophical exploration of the nature and limits of theological knowledge, with special emphasis on the application of philosophical insight to spiritual formation, practical theology, and ministry.

**MIN 5433. Contemporary Christian Theologies – 3 hours**

This course surveys the shape Christian theology has taken in the West, in response to modern and postmodern challenges, beginning with the Enlightenment and continuing to the present day.

**MIN 5453. The Ministry of Leadership – 3 hours**

An introduction to the unique nature and functions of the vocational minister as a servant leader.

**MIN 5983. Ministry Project Capstone – 3 hours**

A capstone course and ministry project that serves as a substantive assessment of what the student has learned in the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program.