

Geneva Casebolt College of Arts and Sciences

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Mission Statement

The Geneva Casebolt College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is comprised of diverse disciplines focused on the appreciation, discovery, and understanding of the traditional liberal arts and sciences as they intersect and enhance our human experiences within the context of our Biblical worldview and Baptist heritage.

Vision Statement

The vision for CAS is to equip and prepare students for people-oriented and service-minded careers and vocations with the encouragement to embody Christ-like character in such vocations. This endeavor will be highlighted by the following:

- Providing theoretical and practical experiences necessary for each field of study;
- Challenging students to strive for academic excellence;
- Integrating the Christian faith into each academic discipline and co-curricular experience;
- Encouraging positive and healthy mental, physical, social, and spiritual well-being; and
- Fostering critical thinking, discernment, communication, and creativity in students so they may make positive contributions to society and advance the kingdom of God.

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Division Head: David Quackenbos

Office: Jim Mellers Center

Mission of the Program

The mission of the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program is to provide essential ministry training that is Biblical, contextual, and relational in order to prepare men and women who are called to local church ministry.

Vision of the Program

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry is a two year, 36-hour program of distance-friendly advanced ministry training with competitive tuition for the sake of the local church. Coursework includes three key elements: core courses, concentration courses, and a practicum. Six core courses emphasize the comprehension and communication of Biblical and theological truths, adaptability in light of the variety of potential ministry contexts, and the relational and personal skills needed to minister to broken people. Concentrations allow students to gain advanced experience in a sub-field of ministry, whether Biblical languages, Biblical and theological studies, business administration, missions, pastoral ministry, family ministry, or general studies. Finally, the practicum requires students to put their classroom learning into practice in local church ministry.

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. **Conditional 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 conditionally admitted. Students conditionally 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 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 Director, in consultation with both the Dean and the student’s advisor.
3. **Auditor** – The student desires to take courses in the program without receiving university credit and does not intend to pursue the degree. Auditors are not required to meet admissions requirements. This status will permit the student to attend class but does not allow the student to take tests or have assignments graded by the instructor. Regular class attendance is expected. Auditors should consult with the instructor regarding restrictions and expectations. Tuition for auditing a class is one-half the rate charged for regular enrollment. Students admitted to auditor status may at a later time petition the Graduate Director, 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 Director. Since audited courses do not count for credit, the student will need to take all required courses for credit including those previously audited.

Application Process

The following is required of students seeking admission to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program as a traditional or 4+1 student:

1. Completed “Application for Graduate Admission” to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Program;
2. Transcripts
 - a. Official transcripts from all colleges, universities, or seminaries attended;
 - b. At least 60 hours of undergraduate coursework completed;
 - c. A minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 overall (on a 4.00 scale).
3. One letter of recommendation from a college professor or local church pastor that speaks to the character and academic ability of the applicant.

4+1 Early Acceptance Program (EAP)

Up to fifteen students each year may apply to the 4+1 EAP (Early Acceptance Program). Eligible students will have completed no more than 59 hours of undergraduate credit. If accepted, the EAP student will guarantee a place in the MACM upon graduation (contingent upon standard 2. above) and will have

access to unique preparation and interactions with Redford faculty while an undergraduate student at SBU.

Applicants to the Early Acceptance Program must submit the following materials:

1. Completed “Application for Graduate Admission” to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Program;
2. Transcripts
 - a. Official transcripts from all high schools, colleges, universities, or seminaries attended;
 - b. Evidence of completing at least the sophomore year of high school;
 - c. A minimum high school grade point average of 2.75 overall (on a 4.00 scale).
3. One letter of recommendation from a college professor (or high school teacher) or local church pastor that speaks to the character and academic ability of the applicant.

International Students

International students must meet the admission requirements for the M.A. program.

As part of the admissions process, an international credential evaluation is required, which reports prior university study. SBU accepts evaluations from World Education Services (WES), found at www.wes.org or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) found at www.ece.org. An official international credential evaluation should come directly to Southwest Baptist University electronically or through the mail in a sealed envelope. Transfer credit will be applied according to information reported on the official evaluation. International students who transfer work to SBU from foreign institutions are responsible for any evaluation fees associated with the transfer of credits. A letter of acceptance will be issued only when an applicant is found eligible for admission.

Prerequisites

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program requires that students have prior knowledge in Biblical studies and spiritual formation. The purpose of these prerequisites is twofold: (1) to provide a Biblical and spiritual foundation for practical ministry courses; (2) to aid 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.

- BIB 1013 OT History
- BIB 1023 NT History
- SPF 2032 Spiritual Formation for Ministry or SPF 2012 Introduction to Spiritual Formation
- BIB 2093 Methods of Bible Interpretation

Traditional graduate students (i.e., non-4+1) with a status of “conditionally 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 “concentration” courses offered in the M.A. program in Christian Ministry at SBU and must be approved by the Graduate Director.

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 Division Head, 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 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 Director as well as the Dean of the Geneva Casebolt College of Arts and Sciences.

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 36 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 four years of being fully admitted to the program (or within five years with special permission from the graduate director).
5. Participate in commencement exercises unless absence is approved by the Provost.

Distance-Learning

In order to accommodate working students, adult learners, and geographically distant students, the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry is designed as a distance-learning friendly degree. The following experiences require in-person attendance:

- Graduation
- Two in-person courses, 1 week in January and 1 week in June (MIN 5273 and MIN 5612)

The purpose of the two in-person courses is to facilitate connections between the student, faculty members, and fellow students. Both courses will operate in a 4-week format that requires the completion of reading and assignments outside of the "on-campus" week.

With the exception of MIN 5273 and MIN 5612, students may take all other courses in a hybrid seated format on the Bolivar campus or via live distance learning through Zoom. In consultation with professors, students may attend any hybrid class period in-person or via Zoom. This gives students the flexibility to choose between convenience and connection for each class period.

International students may request special permission to complete the in-person courses via distance means by contacting the Graduate Director when scheduling courses.

Program of Study

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry is a non-thesis, 36-hour degree, culminating in an Advanced Ministry Practicum. The program is designed for students who desire advanced study in ministry training in order to serve the Church more purposefully.

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

The **traditional 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 traditional track:

- *First year graduate*
 - Fall - 9 hours: “concentration” courses
 - Spring - 9 hours: MIN 5363, MIN 5513, and 3 hours of “concentration” courses
 - Summer - 3 hours: MIN 5273
- *Second year graduate*
 - Fall - 9 hours: MIN 5113, MIN 5163, MIN 5173
 - Winterfest - 2 hours: MIN 5612
 - Spring - 4 hours: MIN 5714

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 “concentration” 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:

- *Junior undergraduate (at least 60 hours completed)*
 - Fall - 3 hours: “concentration” course
 - Spring - 3 hours: “concentration” course
- *Senior undergraduate*
 - Fall - 3 hours: “concentration” course
 - Spring - 3 hours: “concentration” course
- *First year graduate*
 - Summer - 3 hours: MIN 5273
 - Fall - 9 hours: MIN 5113, MIN 5163, MIN 5173
 - Winterfest - 2 hours: MIN 5612
 - Spring - 10 hours: MIN 5363, MIN 5513, MIN 5714

Concurrent Enrollment Courses

SBU undergraduates who have been admitted to the program (4+1 track/Early Acceptance Program) and have completed 60 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 toward their “concentration” through concurrent enrollment. Graduate students

currently enrolled in the M.A. program will also take four of the following courses for graduate credit toward their “concentration” (see below).

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

- BIB 3033 / MIN 5033 Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom Literature
- BIB 3043 / MIN 5343 Pentateuch
- BIB 3053 / MIN 5053 Early Pauline Epistles
- BIB 3063 / MIN 5263 Later Pauline Epistles
- BIB 3083 / MIN 5283 Hebrews and General Epistles
- BIB 4023 / MIN 5623 Life and Teachings of Christ
- BIB 4043 / MIN 5243 Old Testament Prophetic Books
- BIB 4053 / MIN 5553 Old Testament Historical Books
- CED 3013 / MIN 5093 Youth Ministry in the Church
- CED 3023 / MIN 5323 Church Administration
- CED 3043 / MIN 5543 Children’s Ministry
- CED 4003 / MIN 5503 Adult Ministry in the Church
- CED 4053 / MIN 5063 Youth Discipleship and Evangelism
- CHR 3013 / MIN 5313 Introduction to Ministry
- CHR 4003 / MIN 5603 Expository Preaching
- GRE 3013 / MIN 5383 Intermediate Greek
- GRE 3023 / MIN 5393 Advanced Greek
- HEB 3013 / MIN 5483 Intermediate Hebrew
- HEB 3023 / MIN 5493 Advanced Hebrew
- ICS 3023 / MIN 5523 Cross-Cultural Life and Service
- ICS 3033 / MIN 5333 Introduction to Missions
- ICS 4023 / MIN 5023 Indigenous Christian Community
- ICS 4123 / MIN 5253 Urban Ministries
- ICS 4313 / MIN 5183 World Religions
- THE 4003 / MIN 5703 Theological Method
- THE 4033 / MIN 5533 God and Humanity
- THE 4043 / MIN 5043 Christ and Salvation
- THE 4053 / MIN 5353 Church and Last Things
- THE/BIB 4073 / MIN 5373 New Testament Theology

CORE Courses

Students are required to take six CORE courses to complete the 18-hour Christian Ministry Core:

- MIN 5273 Conflict and Crisis in Ministry
- MIN 5173 Disciple-Making in Context
- MIN 5363 Leadership in the Local Church
- MIN 5513 Local Church Counseling
- MIN 5113 Preaching and Teaching the Bible
- MIN 5163 Theology and Practice of the Local Church

Concentrations

Students are required to take four courses to complete a 12-hour “concentration.” Traditional students will complete these in the first year of full-time study while 4+1 should completed these during undergraduate work. Students will pursue one of the following concentrations:

- Biblical Languages Concentration
 - GRE and HEB courses (9 hours)
 - CED, CHR, or ICS course (3 hours)
- Biblical and Theological Studies Concentration
 - BIB and THE courses (9 hours)
 - CED, CHR, or ICS course (3 hours)
- Missions Concentration
 - ICS courses (9 hours)
 - BIB or THE course (3 hours)
- Pastoral Ministry Concentration
 - CHR and CED courses (9 hours)
 - BIB or THE course (3 hours)
- Family Ministry Concentration
 - CED courses (9 hours)
 - BIB or THE course (3 hours)
- General Studies Concentration
 - BIB or THE courses (6 hours)
 - CED, CHR, or ICS courses (6 hours)
- Business Administration Concentration
 - Twelve hours chosen from the following (12 hours)
 - ACC 5113 Managerial Accounting – *ACC 5010 Accounting Proficiency will be required for students to complete prior to enrollment in this course
 - MKT 5023 Marketing Management
 - LDR 5063 Leadership Development
 - BUS 5043 Ethics and Critical Thinking in Business Administration
 - MGT 5043 Organizational Behavior and Servant Leadership

Advanced Ministry Practicum

After completing at least 12 credit hours, fully enrolled students may take the following courses to complete the requirements for their Advanced Ministry Practicum:

- MIN 5612 Preparation for Advanced Ministry Practicum
- MIN 5714 Advanced Ministry Practicum

The purpose of the practicum is to engage in one local church or parachurch ministry for at least 100 hours in which the student can apply a particular insight, theory, or practice. In addition to the assessment of a field supervisor, student grades will be based on a 5,000-6,000 word assessment paper.

Program Summary – M.A. in Christian Ministry (36 credit hours)

- Christian Ministry Core Requirements (18 hours)
- Concentration (12 hours)
- Advanced Ministry Practicum (6 hours)

Course Descriptions

Concentration Courses (Concurrent Enrollment Eligible)

MIN 5023 Indigenous Christian Community – 3 hours (Spring, even years)

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 (Spring, even years)

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 (Fall, odd years)

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

MIN 5063 Youth Discipleship and Evangelism – 3 hours (Spring, even years)

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 5093 Youth Ministry in the Church – 3 hours (Spring, odd years)

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 5183 World Religions – 3 hours (Spring)

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 5243 Old Testament Prophetic Books – 3 hours (Fall, odd years)

Study of selected Prophetic Books of the Old Testament with attention given to exposition of their content, discernment of their theological significance, and discussion of scholarly issues.

MIN 5253 Urban Ministries – 3 Hours (Fall)

An introduction to the diversity of ministries which meet human needs, make disciples, and develop churches in urban areas.

MIN 5263 Later Pauline Epistles – 3 hours (Fall, even years)

Historical and exegetical study of Romans, Paul's prison and pastoral epistles.

MIN 5283 Hebrews and General Epistles – 3 hours (Spring, even years)

Historical and exegetical study of Hebrews and the general epistles.

MIN 5313 Introduction to Ministry – 3 hours (Fall, odd years)

Study of the work of the vocational ministers of the local church with special attention given to the ministry of all believers.

MIN 5323 Church Administration – 3 hours (Fall, odd years)

A functional study including duties of church officers and committees, constitutions, by-laws, and parliamentary procedure.

MIN 5333 Introduction to Missions – 3 hours (Spring)

This introductory course in missions seeks to develop in the student an understanding of missions as practiced in an international context. Emphasis will be given to helping students understand their own future ministry and how it can relate to global missions.

MIN 5343 Pentateuch – 3 hours (Spring, odd years)

Study of the first five books of the Bible with special attention given to introductory problems related to the Pentateuch.

MIN 5353 Church and Last Things – 3 hours

A survey of Christian understandings of the church and last things in their biblical, historical and contemporary expressions, including the nature and mission of the church, the ordinances/sacraments, death, resurrection and eternal life.

MIN 5373 New Testament Theology – 3 hours

An introduction to the discipline of biblical theology as it is undertaken in relation to the New Testament. Included is a discussion of methods, attendant methodological and hermeneutical problems, and possible results in a survey of the theology of the New Testament. Can also be taken for biblical studies credit.

MIN 5503 Adult Ministry in the Church – 3 hours (Fall, odd years)

A study of the development tasks of adulthood and ministries with adults in the church.

MIN 5523 Cross-Cultural Life and Service - 3 hours (Spring)

Life-style development provides an important foundation for cross-cultural service. This includes spiritual formation, life skills, and ministry competencies. This course is required for Intercultural Studies major and recommended for other students interested in cross-cultural life and service.

MIN 5533 God and Humanity – 3 hours

A survey of Christian understanding of God and humanity in their biblical, historical and contemporary expressions, including revelation, scripture, Trinity, creation, providence, humanity in God's image, human nature and sin.

MIN 5543 Children's Ministry – 3 hours (Fall, even years)

A study of ministries involving children from birth through sixth grade to include but not limited to Bible study methods, vacation Bible school, children's worship, child care facilities in the church, and child care during church events.

MIN 5553 Old Testament Historical Books – 3 hours (Fall, even years)

Study of the Historical Books of the Old Testament with attention given to exposition of their content, discernment of their theological significance, and discussion of scholarly issues.

MIN 5603 Expository Preaching – 3 hours (Spring, odd years)

A study is made of the expository method of preaching. Sermons by recognized expository preachers are considered. Each student develops expository sermons and presents one sermon for video-taping and review.

MIN 5623 Life and Teachings of Christ – 3 hours (Spring, odd years)

Study of life and teaching of Christ as presented in the four gospels.

MIN 5703 Theological Method – 3 hours

An introduction to issues in the method of a constructive Christian theology, including but not limited to issues in religious epistemology, religious language and theological hermeneutics.

Christian Ministry Core and Practicum Courses

MIN 5113 Preaching and Teaching the Bible – 3 hours (Fall)

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 5163 Theology and Practice of the Local Church – 3 hours (Fall)

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 (Fall)

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 5273 Conflict and Crisis in Ministry – 3 hours (Summer)

This course aims to discuss common sources of interpersonal conflict in ministry and various types of ministry crises in order to approach them Biblically and wisely. Students will also develop patterns to equip them to deal with intra-personal conflict.

MIN 5383 GRE 3013 Intermediate Greek – 3 hours (Fall, even years)

Review of grammar principles. Stress on translation and interpretive significance of grammatical constructions in the Greek New Testament. Prerequisite: GRE 2024.

MIN 5393 Advanced Greek – 3 hours (Spring, odd years)

Extensive reading in the Greek New Testament with emphasis upon syntax and careful, accurate exegesis. Prerequisite: GRE 3013.

MIN 5483 Intermediate Hebrew – 3 hours (Fall, odd years)

Focus is upon identifying the Masoretic pointing, parsing verbs, translating Old Testament narrative texts, and making syntactical judgments in exegesis. Prerequisite: HEB 2024.

MIN 5493 Advanced Hebrew – 3 hours (Spring, even years)

Focus is upon textual criticism, lexical study, translating Old Testament poetic and prophetic texts, and making syntactical judgments in exegesis. Prerequisite: HEB 3013.

MIN 5363 Leadership in the Local Church – 3 hours (Spring)

This course aims to discuss the nature of leadership in various church contexts, including rural church ministry, bi-vocational ministry, multi-staff churches, church plants, and global churches. Students should learn to anticipate the unique challenges of these contexts.

MIN 5513 Local Church Counseling – 3 hours (Spring)

This course will equip students with the basic skills of non-professional counseling, including setting expectations, conducting counseling sessions, issuing homework, and referring to professional counselors.

MIN 5612 Preparation for Advanced Ministry Practicum – 2 hours (January)

This course will allow the student to write an advanced ministry practicum proposal. Prerequisite: completion of at least 12 credit-hours.

MIN 5714 Advanced Ministry Practicum – 4 hours (Spring)

The practicum's purpose is to apply the insights of the MACM in a local church or para-church setting. Students will engage in one local church or parachurch ministry for at least 100 hours in order to apply a particular insight, theory, or practice. In addition to the assessment of a field supervisor, student grades will be based on a 5,000-6,000 word assessment paper. Prerequisite: MIN 5613.