



# Academic Catalog

2022-2024

Taking the Whole Word to the Whole World

*Preparing Leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*



**2022 - 2024**

# VISION INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## **Academic Catalog** **August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2024**

### **Notice of Non-discriminatory Policy as to Students**

*Vision International University* admits students of any race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin in the administration of any of its policies or programs.

### **Terms of Catalog Use**

This catalog is effective for the 2022-2024 academic years. The information in this catalog accurately represents Vision International University at the time of publication. However, VIU reserves the right to make changes in policies, procedures, faculty, curriculum, and costs.

As a prospective student, you are encouraged to review this catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement.

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**This Catalog is updated at least once per year and posted to the institution's website.**

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Student:

VIU is a unique educational experience. It is unique in its programs, focus of ministry, and vision for the future. As you review this Catalog you will find that our programs are practical in nature, strong academically, local-church oriented, and able to equip people for full-time service for Christ. The ministry focus is discipleship for equipping the saints of God for effective Christian service both nationally, but especially internationally. Our academic focus is to assist men and women of God in bringing the transforming power of Jesus Christ to the communities and cities of our nation and world.

Our vision for the future is unique in that we are called to prepare leaders for God's great end-time harvest. There is a fresh wind of God's Spirit blowing on our world and it requires innovative ministries with innovative delivery systems to bring the Gospel to the nations. We must never forget our primary focus - "teach all nations and make disciples." We invite you to be a part of our *vision*, trusting that we might have a small part in the fulfillment of your vision for the Kingdom of God.

Sincerely,

Stan E. DeKoven, Ph.D., D.Litt.  
President



**Dr. Stan DeKoven, *President***

## OUR HISTORY

In 1974, Vision began both in Tasmania, Australia and San Diego, California. Dr. Ken Chant founded Vision Bible College in Launceston, Tasmania. Simultaneously, Dr. Joseph Bohac and Dr. Stan DeKoven began Logos Institute, a local church training program in practical ministry and counseling.

By 1977, Dr. Chant moved his school to Sydney, Australia, joining Dr. Allan Langstaff. While Dr. DeKoven pursued his graduate studies, Logos Institute continued as a counseling ministry.

In 1980 Dr. Chant moved to St. Paul, Minnesota and established his program there. Dr. DeKoven returned to San Diego after earning his doctorate and continued to expand the Logos program. Simultaneously, Dr. Randy Gurley, now Chairman of Vision's Board of Regents, began his Bible College teaching ministry, which eventually merged with Vision.

Dr. Chant, in response to a strong leading from the Lord, brought his outstanding Bible College to San Diego, California, where Vision Bible College was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1985.

By 1987, Dr. DeKoven and Dr. Chant had established a full-time, short-term campus and eventually merged their hearts and visions. The network of affiliated resource centers, the desire of Dr. DeKoven's heart, began to be established and has grown as is described hereafter.

### Greater Growth

A pivotal year for Vision was 1990 when Dr. Chant, in obedience to the Lord, returned to his native Australia. Prior to his leaving, Vision Bible College, under Dr. DeKoven's direction, had expanded to its present College status. A headquarters site was obtained in the beautiful community of Ramona, California, where the present headquarters continues to be based, along with a counseling and education center. Religious Exemption to grant degrees by the Bureau of Private Post-Secondary Education (BPPVE) in the State of California was awarded.

Throughout the 1990s, staff and faculty were added to the institution, mostly volunteers, who contributed to curriculum development and student support. The institution expanded rapidly internationally, as the mission of the institution was, and has remained, to provide education and training to religious leadership where such opportunities are either financially problematic or unavailable. In this sense, Vision International University was much more a movement than an institution.

The institution continued to grow into the 2000s as international expansion continued and new partners, faculty, and staff were added. By the year 2000, Vision programs were implemented in 116 nations. However, the administrative structure, organizational structure, and communication channels were still very informal. The need for new leadership, staff, and technology was apparent.

In 2004, a stronger distinction began to be drawn between international operations and programs in the United States. Following the accreditation of Vision International College Australia, a new model for Vision International University was adopted. Delivery of education at local sites was converted Direct Distance Education students, though they may convene for mutual support at a local center. VIU now offers its program either by direct distance correspondence, seminar based or online.

Also in 2004, Vision International University began working toward State Approval by the California Bureau of Private Post-Secondary Education (now Bureau of Private Post-Secondary Education, 2010). Working with educational consultants, the institution made many significant improvements, policy changes, and curricular adaptations in the application process, which was a much needed small-scale self-study that allowed the institution to rethink its methods and further improve its

As restructuring continued, it was apparent that new distinctions needed to be made in programs that were offered. In 2005, the corporation restructured, organizing several different institutions that would coordinate efforts through, the Vision International Education Network, Inc. VIEN is a separate and autonomous corporation distinct from VIU.

Vision International University was established as the sole program of Vision International Education Services, Inc. Major technological advances were achieved in 2006 including the automation of several operational processes, record keeping, and web-based marketing and delivery of curriculum. The year 2006 also marked the addition of new faculty, revised

curriculum, the addition of the Institute for Theological Studies courses, and the organization of new administrative decision-making committees.

In 2015, the state of California past legislation to require national or regional accreditation approved by USDE by 2020. The Board of Regents and administration assessed that this requirement could not be met given present fiscal requirements. Thus, VIU reverted to its previous religious exempt status under Californias law.

In 2022, Vision International University achieved accreditation with the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC) in the United Kingdom. ASIC is recognised by UKVI in UK, is a member of the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) in USA and is listed in their International Directory, is a member of the BQF (British Quality Foundation), and are institutional members of EDEN (European Distance and E-Learning Network).





## **THE MISSION**

The mission of Vision International University is to effectively educate and train, by means of distance education, men and women called to Christian service.

The academic model shall be biblically based Christian higher education (undergraduate through graduate), for preparing Christian pastors, missionaries, church leaders, educators and other professionals for leadership in various fields of Christian service. This mission is to be accomplished through a Christ-centered distance education curriculum, of academic excellence, intellectual inquiry, spiritual and moral integrity, and practical experience.

## **COLLEGES OF THE UNIVERSITY**

At present there are three Colleges under Vision International University, with a Dean for each School. Each School offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs delivered through distance learning technology. These programs have been planned with the utmost care to provide for an outstanding educational experience.

### **The Colleges of Vision International University:**

- College of Biblical Studies and Theology
- College of Counseling
- College of Leadership

## **COLLEGE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES & THEOLOGY**

The Word of God and the knowledge of God are central to all Vision programs. Hebrews 4:12 states that the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit. Further, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 indicates that the Word provides all we need for godly life and service. The College of Biblical Studies and Theology, developed primarily by our international founder from Australia Dr. Ken Chant, a prolific author, equips the minister of God for effective life-long service.

### **Goal:**

Our goal is to train men and women to be effective professionals serving in ministry, with a special emphasis on church planting and cross-cultural ministries.

### **Degree Programs:**

Students seeking a degree in Theology can enroll in a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Ministry, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Divinity, or Doctor of Ministry.

## **COLLEGE OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELING**

### **Christian Counseling Ministry:**

The Christian Counseling program of study, through the Counselor Training Program is both biblically sound and professionally oriented with a multi-cultural emphasis. Vision offers a variety of courses designed for educating and training ministers, Christian workers, school teachers, nurses, counselors, mental health workers, probation officers, and paraprofessionals in the many counseling and educational techniques.

### **Goal:**

The focus of the Counselor Training Programs of VIU, jointly developed by the late Dr. Joseph J. Bohac, pastor and counselor for nearly 40 years, and Dr. Stan DeKoven, founder and President of Vision and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, has been developed to assist, train and empower men and women to minister to “wounded people.” The Bible is our primary ministry text, which is integrated with the best of scientific knowledge in human behavior.

### **Degree Programs:**

Students matriculating toward a major in Counseling can earn degrees from the Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry program (emphasis in Counseling) and the Master of Arts in Counseling, or Doctor of Ministry.

## **COLLEGE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

### **Christian Leadership:**

There is a desperate need for quality, qualified leaders who can develop, implement and manage ministry services in the church and marketplace. Vision offers a highly flexible, dynamic leadership and management program for the mature adult. The Vision Christian Leadership program, developed by Dr. Malcolm Webber, Dr. Stan DeKoven and Dr. Joshua Reichard, is a dynamic training program with strong academics with real world application.

### **Goal:**

The focus of the Leadership programs is to prepare future leaders and empower existing leaders through a systematic distance education program and, in some cases, short-term residency.

### **Degree Programs:**

Students matriculating toward a major in Christian Leadership can earn degrees from the Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry (emphasis in Christian Leadership), through the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (M.A.), or a Doctor of Ministry.



Dr. Malcom Webber (left) and Translator

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### Organizational Leadership

<i>Stan DeKoven, Ph.D.</i>	President
<i>Scott Rische, D.Min.</i>	Academic Dean
<i>Joshua Reichard, Ph.D.</i>	Lead Academic Adviser
<i>Delores Horsman, D.Min.</i>	Assistant Director Christian Counseling
<i>Johanes Horn, Ph.D. D.Th.</i>	Academic Adviser, Biblical Studies and Theology
<i>Malcolm Webber, Ph.D.</i>	Academic Adviser, Leadership
<i>Richard Walters, Ph.D.</i>	Academic Adviser, Christian Counseling
<i>Maureen Kelley, M.A.</i>	Director of Student Services
<i>Rebecca DeKoven, B.A.</i>	Director of Admissions
<i>Johnny Carter, Ph.D.</i>	Director of Development
<i>Alex Colon, B.A.</i>	Director of Financial Services
<i>David Richardson, M.Litt.</i>	Director, Information Systems and Online Learning

## BOARD OF REGENTS

This voluntary Board provides input regarding the overall direction for VIU on an annual basis.

<i>Dr. Ken Chant</i>	Emeritus, Educator and Pastor, Sydney, Australia
<i>Dr. Stan DeKoven</i>	Ex-Officio
<i>Mr. A. C. Kimari</i>	President, Dominion Financial Services, El Cajon, CA
<i>Rev. George Runyan</i>	Director, City Church Ministries, San Diego, CA
<i>Dr. Gerald Hom</i>	Physician, San Francisco, CA
<i>Dr. Richard West</i>	Pastor, Liberty Christian Center, Fairfield, CA
<i>Dr. Manon Gurley</i>	Pastor, The Tabernacle Church, Laurel, MD

# THE FOUNDATION OF VISION

## **Purpose: Philosophy and Objectives**

In this day of disappearing moral absolutes, it is imperative that all Christians be reminded that the Bible, as the revelation of God's truth, must determine not only our doctrinal beliefs, but also our lifestyle. In a changing world, the Christian has an unchanging standard, the Word of God. The Vision "Standards of Conduct" are based upon the teachings and principles of Scripture, seeking to develop personal holiness and discipline exemplified in a lifestyle glorifying to God.

VIU is a Bible-based, Christ-centered institution dedicated to the teaching and training of Christians for the work of the ministry with several expected outcomes from the experience. VIU has two major methods for students to take classes and work toward obtaining a degree. Students may attend a local church seminar-based program for which VIU provides the curriculum, support, and degrees. Or, students may attend VIU via distance learning offered either through the traditional correspondence course format or Internet-online learning. For those students who attend VIU through correspondence, VIU provides the curriculum and an assigned faculty Adviser. The role of the mentor is to grade the student's work and answer questions the student might have regarding his or her program. The Director of Student Services also serves in the role of advising and counseling the correspondence student. Further, VIU has highly qualified online faculty members and a Director of Online Learning to assist the student studying within a virtual environment

## **Location**

Vision International University headquarters is housed in an administrative building in Ramona, California. The site is within a short driving distance of the rich cultural opportunities of San Diego. All courses and instruction originate from this location.

## **Library**

The current headquarters-based library houses several volumes of graduate theses and dissertations from past students and copies of the textbooks and materials used in each of the VIU courses. Numerous libraries and universities are within easy driving distance. VIU students can also access an abundance of theological materials on the Vision International University website at [www.vision.edu](http://www.vision.edu).

In addition, VIU has a program called Friends of the Library. Vision requires that all students become affiliated with a university or substantial academic library in their area through direct contact or Internet. A letter is provided to the student along with the student ID card to be taken to the librarian, which will allow them access to the university or public library. All costs for obtaining a library card and necessary privileges are the responsibility of the student, except when providing copies of validation of the legitimacy of the request from the College.

## **Additional Resources**

Since the University offers a distance learning program, the University requests that the student verify that he or she has access to any needed local College libraries, computers, software programs, online databases, networks and database retrieval mentors and specialists. The information enables the Admissions Committee to evaluate an applicant's potential for success in a self-directed, independent field research program.

The University maintains an Internet Web site. From this site, many different academic reference and research materials, as well as library resources, can be accessed.

Interlibrary loan(s) policy and arrangements are posted on the VIU Web site (<http://vision.edu/library>).

The following are some of the online libraries available for students:

- <http://www.questia.com>
- <http://www.netlibrary.com>
- <http://www.ipl.org>
- <http://www.e-sword.net>
- <http://vlib.org/>

VIU also makes available an online library with links to other free theology research sites at <http://vision.edu/library>. These resources support the general education curriculum. In order to support Bible, theology, and ministry courses, VIU recommends that students purchase the Scholar's Library from Logos Research (<http://www.logos.com/scholars>).

Books can be purchased through Vision's online bookstore;

- <http://www.booksbyvision.org>

# THE VISION OF VISION

## OUR MODEL FOR MINISTRY TRAINING

In the Old Testament, the training for ministry was Spirit-led and was birthed in the school of the prophets. In the New Testament, the best model for ministry training is seen in the church in the cities of Antioch and Ephesus, as seen in Acts 11:19-26, 13:1-4, 14:26-28, 15:30-35 and 19:1-20. Here we see the church in the city, alive with the power of God, with Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Dr. Luke, other prophets, and teachers, raising up men and women for fruitful ministry. They did so under the authority of the elders, and were accountable to those who sent them out. This remains our model for education. Vision International University is more than an academic institution. It is an educational ministry with spirit and power and a focus on the restoration and transformation of lives, cities, and nations by the power of God.

## OUR HEART: MINISTRY IN THE MARKETPLACE

The metropolitan areas of the country and world, with their growing populations, have developed structures and systems that require political, economic, and moral decision-making. These decisions have definite effects on the lives and future of all people. Vision gives future church leaders the opportunity to understand the dynamics of urban culture and to relate that understanding to a biblical theology under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The city provides the Church with one of its greatest opportunities for ministry, and Vision has come into existence to educate and train students and church leaders in the understanding of the urban church and urban pastoral skills, in preparation for effective marketplace ministry.

### Distinctives

1. Offering a Bible-based program with an emphasis on dynamic leadership.
2. A learning environment integrated with the local church.
3. Providing quality educational opportunities at or below competitive costs.
4. Intern opportunities to use new knowledge and skills while learning.
5. Special emphases for inner city and counseling ministries.
6. Individual programs of study can be designed for ministers.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

The inter-denominational, non-sectarian Vision International University offers theological education to students from a wide variety of faith backgrounds. Vision International University is rooted in Pentecostal-Charismatic traditions without specific denominational affiliation. Vision now cooperates with many Christian denominations and ministerial fellowships to provide a primarily biblical education to both students preparing for ministry and those who seek a stronger theological foundation for the ministerial context in which they find themselves. Vision welcomes students from any denominational background.

The curriculum of Vision attempts to maintain a non-dogmatic perspective, allowing students to study a wide variety of theological issues to formulate their own beliefs in an academic context. Vision maintains a strong emphasis on church planting, community service, and Christian character development.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of faith, but rather a guide to the doctrinal boundaries within which Vision functions. Those who share our spiritual identity will be generally familiar with the following terms, and will be able to fill in what is lacking.

### **We affirm the following:**

- That the Bible is the Word of God, given and preserved for all generations. We believe it is accurate in all that it ultimately affirms, and is the authoritative standard by which we determine beliefs and conduct.
- That God exists as three persons: The Father, Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who offers saving grace to all, and the Holy Spirit who empowers men and women for service, and sanctifies them for God's purpose.
- That nothing can replace the importance of the local church, which is the body of Christ on earth, in the program of God.
- That entrance into the church is through the "new birth", which is brought about by genuine repentance of sin, confession of faith in Christ as Savior, and surrender to him as Lord.
- That membership in the church is signified by joyful participation in its worship, fellowship, sacraments, witness, and by acceptance of its discipline.
- That the presence and use of the charismata is essential in the local church and in Christian ministry.
- That the victorious Christian life is built upon a proper understanding and exercise of the spiritual authority conveyed to the believer by the gift of righteousness.
- In the resurrection of the dead at Christ's return, in the certainty of God's judgment, and in the inescapable result of that judgment as foretold in the scriptures for the just and the unjust.

### **Our Role:**

Our role at Vision is to bring theological education and ministerial training to people who are unable or unwilling to attend a centralized higher education institution.

But more profoundly, while we admire and endorse the efforts of traditional Bible Schools and Seminaries, we are deeply committed to the concept of training people within the walls of their own local church, and to the provision of excellent teaching material and study options for Christians everywhere. We treat the entire local church environment as part of our educational activity: its worship, its witness, its fellowship, its teaching; its ministry – are all reckoned to be part of the training process of equipping men and women to serve Christ.

- Our function is simply to add a theological and academic resource that few churches can viably provide, while leaving the practical training in ministry to the local pastor.
- Underlying the way in which we present our materials, and the kinds of assessment we employ, there is an educational philosophy based upon the following principles –
  - Christian education must stand upon a strong theological foundation (cp. the injunctions and warnings about "sound doctrine" in 1 Timothy 1:10; 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:3; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jeremiah 6:16; 1 Corinthians 3:10-13; etc.).
  - Students must be brought to know God, not just to learn about him, and the curriculum must be consciously structured to achieve that excellent end.

The goal must be not just to impart knowledge, but rather to teach principles of sound interpretation, showing people how to do their own research, and how to apply truth to life. A final goal is the ultimate activation of men and women into effective Christian service, in any environment to which he or she may be called to minister.



## **AFFILIATION**

Vision is an independent educational ministry of Vision International Education Services, Inc., a not for profit Religious Corporation. Vision is thoroughly biblical in its philosophy of education; a conservative charismatic institution of biblical higher education. Vision is a **ministry for the local church**, in cooperation with it, and has no direct affiliation with any other ecclesiastical organization.

Some independent and denominational Christian fellowships recognize Vision International University's educational program for licensure and ordination for Christian ministry.

## **DENOMINATIONAL IDENTIFICATION/MENTORSHIP**

Vision International University believes in the mission of the local church, and anticipates that the student's training for ministry will occur in the context of the church. The student should choose a mentor from within the local church or denominational leadership who can help oversee that ministry training. If the student cannot find a suitable mentor, he or she may contact the school and ask to have a College mentor assigned.

The student-chosen mentor must meet the educational and professional standards of Vision. In the continuing effort to keep Vision tuition as low as possible, this adjunct mentor position is a non-paid position. Therefore, if a student chooses his/her own mentor, (rather than using one of the College mentors), the student should inform the prospective mentor that there will be no monetary remuneration from Vision.

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

Vision International University is a member of or is in vital affiliation with the following associations or ministries:

**ACCESS** (network of distance education faculty in Christian Schools)

P.O. Box 10253

Chicago, IL 60610

(864) 379 – 6669

<http://www.accessed.org>

Academic Council for Educational Accountability (Founding Member)

ACEA

P.O. Box 1680

Ramona, CA 92065

[www.acea-school.org](http://www.acea-school.org)

Phone Number: 1-877-610-5974

## **ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS**

The institution maintains an active articulation agreement with Vision International College Australia, which is duly accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority in New South Wales, Australia. The articulation agreement was enacted in 2004 and continues to be active to the present.

- **City Vision University Transfer Opportunity**  
City Vision University is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), a US Department of Education (USDE) and Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) approved accreditor. City Vision will accept Vision International credit toward City Vision's Associate's degrees (max transfer is 45 credits) and Bachelor's degrees (max transfer 90 credits). Students with a Vision International University Bachelor's Degree can enter directly into City Vision Master's programs and may transfer up to 9 graduate credits from Vision International. City Vision

provides a 33% scholarship to students outside the US. The discount for Vision International students inside the US is 15%.

- **Omega Graduate School Transfer Opportunity**  
Omega Graduate School is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, a US Department of Education (USDE) and Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) approved accreditor. Omega Graduate School can accept VIU students with a bachelor's degree into their master's degree programs (Master of Letters in Organizational Leadership or Family Life Education) with up to six transfer credits or VIU students with a master's degree provisionally into their Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program. Omega Graduate School offers all VIU transfer students an automatic 30% tuition discount.

Although the articulation agreement establishes the aforementioned baseline for credit transfer, transfer of credit remains at the discretion of the receiving institution.

## **FACULTY**

The most important asset of any school is its faculty. These are the persons who most influence the students through practical example as well as through instruction. It is the faculty who best model the purpose and philosophy of Vision International University.

### **Academic Integrity and Spiritual Fervor**

Balance is a key word in describing the persons who make up the faculty of Vision. First, there is a balance between age and youth, between enthusiasm and experience. There is also a balance in academic ability and spiritual fervor, between the quality of scholarship and a warm heart, intellectual competence and in practical wisdom.

Vision has brought together a fine group of faculty and personnel who strive for excellence in their respective areas of instruction and are well able to take on the awesome responsibility of educating and training men and women for God's service. Most members appointed to the faculty of Vision have a terminal degree in their field of instruction along with years of practical and professional experience related to their teaching field. All faculty members are also expected to be of high moral character and personal integrity, and firmly committed to the Vision International University Mission Statement.

The Vision International University faculty is diverse in theological and philosophical persuasion, and support and practice debate, discussion, and the promotion of academic freedom.

### **Core Content Specialist Faculty (Curriculum Developers and Online Instructors):**

Core Content Specialist Faculty are either full or part-time faculty members of the University who focus on cooperative curriculum development for distance education. These faculty members mentor specific online and correspondence courses.

### **Biblical Studies and Theology**

- Akinrinola Bankole, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Demography
- Jonathan Barber, Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary
- Ernie Campe, Ph.D., Trinity Theological Seminary
- Harld Eberle, D.Min., Vision International University
- Col. Albert Franke, M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary
- Mathias Forseon, D.Min., M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary
- Johanes Horn, LL.M. in Constitutional and Criminal Law and Procedure, M.A., Biblical Studies, University of Port Elizabeth, LL.D. in Constitutional Law, University of South Africa, Ph.D., Political Science, University of South Africa, D.Th., University of Western Cape
- Scott Rische, D.Min., Bakke Graduate University, M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary

- Eugene Smith, D.Min., Vision International University

### **Christian Counseling**

- Stan E. DeKoven, Ph.D., Professional School of Psychological Studies, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Webster Univ., M.A., Psychology, San Diego State Univ., B.A.; Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Certified School Psychologist
- Richard Jenks, Psy.D., Southern California University of Professional Studies
- Sara M. Reichard, Ed.S., Liberty University, M.Litt., Oxford Graduate School, Family Life Education, St. Francis School of Nursing, Registered Nurse
- Richard Walters, Ph.D., University of Georgia, Counseling Psychology, M.A., Western Carolina University, M.S., Emporia State University.

### **Christian Leadership**

- Brian van Deventer, M.A., Imperial University College of London, Management, D.Min., VIU
- Malcolm Webber, Ph.D., Regent University, Organizational Leadership
- Timothy Hamon, Ph.D., Regent University, Organizational Leadership
- Stan E. DeKoven, Ph.D., Professional School of Psychological Studies, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Webster Univ., M.A., Psychology, San Diego State Univ., B.A.; Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Certified School Psychologist, D.Litt., Omega Graduate School
- Joshua D. Reichard, Ph.D., University of the Western Cape, D.Phil., Oxford Graduate School, Social Research, Ed.S., Liberty University
- Gail Stathis, D.Min., Vision International University
- Danielle Womack, J.D., McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific

### **Christian Education**

- Steve W. Deckard, Ed.D., University of Sarasota, M.A., Biology, University of Indiana
- Joshua D. Reichard, Ph.D., University of Western Cape, Ed.S., Liberty University, D.Phil., Oxford Graduate School, Social Research, Christian Education, M.Litt., Organizational Leadership, Oxford Graduate School
- Paul Shotsberger, Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Curriculum and Instruction, M.S., Mathematics Education
- Calvin Sweeney, Ph.D. in Education and Leadership, University of Toledo

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### Protection of Privacy

In accordance with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended, VIU will not release personally identifiable information about students, apart from public information, to third parties without the student's consent. Public information includes: name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, degrees and honors received, and the most recent and previous educational institutions attended.

In addition, students have the right to review records pertaining to themselves in their capacity as students; students have the right to seek correction of their student records through a request to amend the records; and, students may request in writing that any or all personally identifiable information from their records not be regarded as public information.

### Rehabilitation Act of 1973-Section 504

VIU is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and does not discriminate against qualified handicapped persons in any of its policies, procedures, or practices in the admission, access and treatment in the school programs and activities. The site where the online learning center is hosted complies with compact privacy policy and the e-commerce is secure.

### Records Retention Policy:

Custodian of Academic Records: Maureen Kelley, M.A.  
Director of Student Services

Office where records will be kept: Administrative Headquarters  
Ramona, CA 92065  
Phone: 760.789.4700

Students' records are filed in individual folders and stored in fireproof steel cabinets in both paper and electronic media. These include:

1. Written records and transcripts used in the Admissions decision. Student Profile: Name, gender, address, and an identification number;
2. Copies of all contracts of indebtedness and documents relating to financial aid. Date of first enrollment and date of graduation (or withdrawal, if applicable);
3. Admission-related documents including the number of transfer credits;
4. All course numbers and course titles in which each student is (was) enrolled and his or her grades and academic progress;
5. Student Transcript;
6. Copies of necessary student work product;
7. Credits awarded for master's degree thesis, if applicable;
8. Enrollment status (full-time, part-time, or leave, on probation/suspension, or dismissal);
9. Financial records;
10. Type of degree and date granted;

11. Any other documents deemed important or required by the regulatory agencies.

Records are secured and accessible only by the Academic Dean, the Admissions Director, and the Director of Student Services. Student records will be retained for a period of 50 years. Records are converted to Electronic Document Imaging format and stored on CD-ROM/DVD-ROM for no more than 10 years.

### **Life Experience Credit/Recognition of Prior Learning (undergraduate students only)**

Men and women who have significant work experience may receive Life Experience Credits for those years of service to God. To qualify, a student must be at least 28 years of age and provide documentation through a complete Life Experience Portfolio. Based on the information given by the student, VIU can award up to 30 credit hours for undergraduate or up to 25% of the credit requirements for related life experiences. Life Experience credit may be earned from such sources as military service, work, seminars, projects completed, etc., if applicable to a degree program.

### **Fees for Life-Experience Credit**

There is a charge per each Life-Experience credit for administrative costs (see Financial Information). There is no charge for credits transferred from other seminaries, colleges, or universities. There is a non-refundable fee for Life Experience evaluation to cover the administrative cost of translating Life Experience to academic credit. (This is not to be confused the with application fee, nor with tuition fees).

**Regardless of the amount of credits transferred or allowed for life experience, 25% of any program must be completed directly through VIU for graduation.**

### **Expected Outcomes for the Graduates**

- That a graduate of VIU should be able to communicate the Word of God to others.
- That a graduate of VIU should be able to expound the Word of God in a systematic fashion, with his/her training in the analytical inductive methods and in the literal grammatical method of interpretation.
- That a graduate of VIU should demonstrate genuine concern for missionary work around the world, with a special concern for the urban centers as a missionary, volunteer, sponsor, or prayer partner.
- That a graduate of VIU should demonstrate Christian maturity with his/her commitment to Christ and His Church.
- That a graduate of VIU should be able to continue a daily regular study of the Word of God as an autonomous learner, which is characteristic of servants of God.
- That a graduate of VIU should be able to present a well-defined, biblically based, intellectually and rationally sound apologetic of their faith against other beliefs.
- That a graduate of VIU should know how to acquire knowledge.
- That a graduate of VIU should know how to apply knowledge that has been acquired and exhibit wisdom and walk in it.
- That a graduate of VIU should have an awareness of personal values.
- That a graduate of VIU should have a high level of mastery in the skills of communication.
- That a graduate of VIU should be able to cooperate and collaborate with others in studying, analyzing, formulating, and implementing solutions to problems.

- That a graduate of VIU should have awareness, concern, and a sense of responsibility regarding contemporary events, issues, and problems.
- That a graduate of VIU should have a love, loyalty, and responsibility to and for the local church as God's primary method for societal transformation and its development.
- That a graduate of VIU will know the voice of the Lord for his/her generation and articulate God's plan with anointed power and conviction.
- That a graduate of VIU will demonstrate a sound Bible-based world-view.

## **ACCREDITATION**

Vision International is Accredited By the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC). ASIC is recognised by UKVI in UK, is a member of the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) in USA and is listed in their International Directory, is a member of the BQF (British Quality Foundation), and are institutional members of EDEN (European Distance and E-Learning Network).

## **AUTHORIZATION**

Vision International University has Exempt Status pursuant to the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (Act). Vision is exempt from regulation under the Act, pursuant to CEC section 94874(e)(1), "An institution owned, controlled, and operated and maintained by a religious organization lawfully operating as a nonprofit religious corporation..."

Since 1990, Vision International University has maintained authorization to grant degrees by religious exemption in the State of California. In 2005, Vision International University submitted its application for State Approval by the California Bureau for Private Post-Secondary Education (BPPE) to be recognized as a degree-granting institution. In June 2006, Vision International University received a temporary approval to operate from the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE).

Vision International University received full institutional approval from BPPE on April 4, 2007. The academic programs and policies are designed to fit the needs of students and are reviewed frequently and updated as necessary to remain current with emerging practices as well as State and Federal policies and procedures.

Vision International University is not accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting agency. Various secularly accredited Universities and seminaries throughout the USA may accept transfer students, credits, and degrees from educational institutions such as Vision. A degree program that is unaccredited or a degree from an unaccredited institution is not recognized for some employment positions, including, but not limited to, positions with the State of California.

## **NOTICE CONCERNING TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDITS AND CREDENTIALS EARNED AT OUR INSTITUTION**

The transferability of credits you earn at Vision International University is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree(s) you earn at this institution is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If credits that you earn at this institution are not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all of your coursework at that institution. For this reason you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending Vision International University to determine if your degree or credits will transfer.

## **FIELD-BASED PROGRAM**

VIU offers a program of field-based, off-campus studies. Each program is of high quality, which integrates a variety of research opportunities. It will benefit those who are at a distance, or are not able to move a family in order to pursue their studies on a traditional residence basis.

The non-traditional, off-campus programs of Vision do not compromise the traditional goals of Christian education.

Vision adheres to generally accepted educational guidelines. Having developed our program along these guidelines, we progress toward a long-term goal of full academic recognition and respect.

Distance learning students are required to remain accountable to the leadership of their local church or church of the locality. During their course of study, they are required to complete a series of “hands on” assignments in cooperation with an approved mentor; this is typically a pastor or para-church ministry leader in the student’s selected program emphasis. The student will meet with his or her course mentor regularly for review and evaluation before assignments reach the faculty of the College.

Students may collaborate in small groups in two ways: (1) Students are provided with three communication tools in the Online Learning Environment, including Live Chat, Threaded Discussion Boards, and an integrated direct messaging system. (2) Students are encouraged to find a nearby Resource Center sponsored by a local church, where they may interact, discuss, and collaborate with fellow students in their geographical vicinity. Vision International Resource Centers make it possible for students to fulfill their aspirations of completing their education and/or receiving academic credit without leaving their community, family, job, or local church. Students may also be mentored by their own leadership in their local church, who has a keen pastoral interest in their spiritual and educational development. Students are also provided ample opportunity to communicate with their fellow students in cohort/small group situations via e-mail.

Vision seeks to permit students the opportunity to establish their own pathway to learning. While the assignments for each course are structured around a prescribed series of competencies (learning objectives), the student has the flexibility to apply the assignments to fit into their individual call to ministry. This is a model we firmly believe in.

Using this format of learning, distance learning students around the world are not only studying by correspondence; they are studying in direct cooperation with local accountability partners, ensuring that their studies can be applied directly to their own call to ministry, within their own denomination or church fellowship.

### **Vocational Placement**

The College maintains that it is the responsibility of the local church or specific religious denomination of the student to assist in occupational - vocational placement. The College does not guarantee occupational - vocational placement. Alumni resources are available online, including job postings for openings in partner churches that are looking for a Vision International University graduate to fill a position. Because all degree programs are religious in nature and do not lead to employment, Vision International University makes no claims concerning student.

### **Housing**

VIU offers only a distance-learning, non-residential program, thus we do not offer, nor are we responsible for accommodations during a student visit. If the student is coming to our center from another area, we will do all that we can to help, although we cannot accept responsibility.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS**

While matriculated as a full-time or part-time student at Vision International University (VIU), students shall have the following rights:

1. To cancel their enrollment and receive a full refund of the tuition and fees paid (less non-refundable application fee), if notice of cancellation is given prior to the deadline stated in the school catalog.
2. To receive quality instruction provided by the faculty meeting the educational and experiential requirements mandated by the state regulatory agency and as described in the College's publications, within a climate that is conducive to thinking and learning, that is distinguished by courtesy, respect, and consideration for the dignity of students and their rights as persons.
3. To withdraw at any time and receive a refund for the part of the course not taken in compliance with the applicable state laws and regulations concerning tuition and fees refund.
4. To obtain factual information concerning VIU's educational programs.
5. To receive advising from the VIU's faculty or other qualified personnel regarding students' academic, financial or placement concerns.
6. To inspect students' educational records during the designated hours and, if errors are detected, demand correction thereof.
7. A right to due process in any proceeding involving the possibility of substantial sanctions on their rights as students. This includes the right to be heard, a right of notification of charges brought against them, and the right to ask for a hearing by impartial persons if not satisfied with disciplinary action taken. Grievance policies and processes are described below in this document.
8. To be given reasonable notice of course requirements, criteria, and methods of evaluation, and that these evaluations be given without prejudice or favoritism.
9. To be free from illegal discrimination and from harassment, including sexual harassment. (The College prohibits prejudicial treatment or discrimination due to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, or disability.)
10. Subject to the rules and regulations of the College, the State of California, and of the United States, students have a right to confidentiality of their personally identifiable information and records, and to the confidentiality of other information including student's personal history, evaluation documents, and disability information.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend all the classes for the subject(s) in which they are enrolled. Attendance in distance education constitutes successful completion of assignments in allotted time frames, consistent communication with professors and classmates, and good standing with the finance department. Unexcused absence from more than 30% of the classes for a subject will result in forfeiture of all credits for that subject. An exception to the 70% rule may be made if the absences are due to acceptable reasons, and if the student is able to satisfy the requirements for that subject (e.g., by completing additional assignments and/or field work). Granting or refusing this privilege will be at the faculty mentor's discretion.

The College or Director, Student Services Dean will counsel students failing to maintain satisfactory attendance, and an attempt will be made to solve the problem. Continued unsatisfactory attendance will be sufficient grounds for dismissal. Re-admission may be permitted if the student can show the Dean that the problem has been overcome. For external study students, unless the mentor has assigned a specific residency requirement, no specific attendance requirements exist. However, personal discipline in daily study is essential.



## **WORSHIP**

Each student is expected to be active in a worshipping community. It is through church life that issues of character change are to be faced and practical learning is to occur. Each student should maintain a journal of his or her church experience and Christian service.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Various assignments will be given to students, depending on the course in which the student is enrolled. Assignments may take the form of essays, questions to be answered, multiple-choice tests, field work, local church activities, etc. These will be delineated by the course syllabi and faculty mentor relationship.

Some assignments may be mandatory. Failure to complete satisfactorily any of those assignments may forfeit all credits for that particular subject. Other assignments may be optional, or may affect only a stated percentage of the grade. A response will be mailed or e-mailed to the student upon receipt of all assignments within **3-5** business days.

## **PERSONAL OR FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES**

If a student comes into personal or financial difficulty, or if a problem develops concerning policies, procedures or other aspects of the College, the student should consult with his/her faculty mentor immediately. Problems should not be allowed to grow until they become insurmountable. The faculty mentor should be consulted, especially if the student is contemplating leaving the College. The College staff is ready and anxious to do everything possible to insure that students succeed in their preparation for the ministry.

## **DISMISSAL**

The student may be recommended for dismissal in the event of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, remaining in severe financial delinquency in violation of the Enrollment Agreement, or failing to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress. In the event of a recommended dismissal, the student should follow the Student Rights for purposes of appeal.

## **DIFFERENCES**

Students are not expected to agree with everything that will be taught within the various courses. Students are, however, expected to treat the views of the faculty members and fellow students with respect. If a disagreement arises about something that is being taught, the student should listen as openly as possible, giving due attention to anything that the Holy Spirit may be saying.

The student should not expect the Holy Spirit to speak to everyone in the same way, or lead everyone in the same direction. The Holy Spirit has a multifaceted plan to suit the extraordinary diversity that exists in the Church. There is much that one can learn from others.

In assignments, the student will be free to express his or her own views, but at other times will be required to show an understanding of alternate view points and be able to express that differing opinion, even if it conflicts with the student's personal beliefs. It is important for the student to follow the instructions at all times in the preparation of assignments.

## **VISITING**

All students are welcome to visit our Headquarters offices, with proper notice. We would be honored to meet and dialogue with you as you travel on your educational journey.

## **QUESTIONS**

Students are encouraged to ask questions. Common courtesy dictates that a student should put his or her questions in writing to submit to the faculty mentor. Usually, the faculty mentor's response will need to be accepted (even if the response is in conflict with the student's stand). Though continuing dialogue is a part of the educational program, the student is

encouraged to utilize the faculty mentor as a senior mentor assisting the student to develop fuller understanding, knowledge and wisdom.

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

The *VIU Student Handbook* outlines the special and unique relationship between the student, local mentor, and College administration. It is valuable reading because it offers guidance on how to succeed in distance learning, and other tips, policies, and suggestions that smooth and strengthen participation in the program. This handbook is made available upon receipt of the application for admission to the College.

## **AGREEMENT WITH THE STUDENT POLICY AND STATEMENT OF BELIEFS**

Each student will be required to sign a statement of agreement on the application form indicating that they have read the section of the catalog entitled "Student Code of Conduct," the statement of beliefs, and that the student is in full agreement.

## **TRANSCRIPTS**

Transcripts are issued at a charge of \$10.00. Official transcripts are only issued directly to other institutions upon request. Transcripts will not be issued for a student who has failed to meet all of his financial obligations. It normally takes 4-6 weeks to process a transcript. All requests must be made in writing.

## **STUDENT PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

Students are expected to complete all course work, as specified by the faculty mentor, in a timely manner.

### **COURSE PAPERS**

Unless specified otherwise, all course papers must be typewritten and in conformity to the standards in *Research Writing Made Easy*. It is available from Vision Publishing, PO BOX 1680, Ramona, CA 92065.

### **SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

The student is expected to complete courses within an allotted time from of eight weeks. If the student does not complete work in the allotted time, a grade of "I" is automatically issued until coursework is completed. Satisfactory Academic Progress is measured in terms of completed coursework and calculated by means of a Grade Point Average. The student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress by earning a GPA outside the range of Academic Probation (see below) or after having earned the designation of Academic Probation, improved to a GPA outside of the stated probationary range. Further, students are contacted bi-weekly via email by their instructors (whether or not assignments have been submitted) and regularly by telephone and postal mail by the Director of Student Services.

### **ACADEMIC PROBATION**

After completion of the first 12 credit hours of the bachelor's degree program the student must have a 2.00 cumulative GPA. Any student who falls below the cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 will be placed on academic probation. When a student begins to perform at the minimum or higher grade-point average, he/she will be taken off of academic probation. Graduate students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.0.

## THE GRADING SYSTEM

It is important to all VIU faculty members that academic grades are applied with fairness and consistency. Several methods are used to achieve that goal. It begins with careful effort to provide clear instructions about the nature of each task so that students have no confusion about the expectations. Of course, if something does not seem clear, students need only to contact the instructor of that course. Assignments such as essays and other written reports are graded by use of the College's Official Scoring Rubric (see the *Student Handbook* or *Curriculum Development Handbook*). This reduces the subjective element to a minimum. Objective examinations are scored automatically by the Vision Online Learning System, which ensures fair, equal, and accurate grading for all students. Papers are graded and filed within 5 to 7 days of receipt, and the grade is promptly sent to the student.

Students may appeal a grade. The procedure, described under "Student Rights and Grievances" elsewhere in the catalog, is designed to treat all students with respect and fairness under all circumstances. The grading system is based upon a 4.0 scale. The scale, shown in the table on the next page is the same for all courses, undergraduate and graduate.

### INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

Students enrolled in online courses should expect a response from their instruction in 5-7 business days. Students enrolled via correspondence study should expect a response by mail in 14 business days.

The Grading Scale		
<i>Letter Grades</i>	<i>Per Credit Hour</i>	<i>Grading Scale</i>
<b>A</b> Superior	4 grade points	94.5-100 = A
<b>B</b> Good	3 grade points	91.5-94.4 = A-
<b>C</b> Average	2 grade points	88.5-91.4 = B+
<b>D</b> Poor	1 grade point	85.5-88.4 = B
<b>F</b> Failure	0 grade points	82.5-85.4 = B-
<b>I</b> Incomplete	0 grade points	79.5-82.4 = C+
<b>V</b> Audit	0 grade points	76.5-79.4 = C
<b>WP</b> Withdrawn passing	0 grade points	73.5-76.4 = C-
<b>WF</b> Withdrawn failing	0 grade points	70.5-73.4 = D
		Below 70.5 = F

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for graduation with an A.A., B.A. or B.Min., the student must successfully fulfill all of the following requirements:

- Complete each undergraduate course requirement, including courses transferred in as part of the degree program;
- Maintain an overall GPA of “C” (2.0) or better;
- Earn a minimum of one quarter of the hours in the program at Vision International University;
- Pay all University accounts in full;
- Apply for graduation in the Registrar’s Office at least 90 days prior to the date desired to graduate; and
- Receive approval from the faculty and administration.

To qualify for graduation with M.A., M.T.S, or D.Min., the student must successfully fulfill all of the following requirements:

- Complete all graduate course requirements
- Maintain an overall GPA of “B” (3.0) or better;
- Pay all University accounts in full;
- Apply for graduation in the Registrar’s office at least 90 days prior to the date desired to graduate; and
- Receive approval from the faculty and administration.

### **Attendance/Drop Out/Leave of Absence**

For correspondence courses there is not an attendance policy. For the seminars, students are required to attend all sessions, unless prior approval is granted by the Academic Dean. See the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Drop Out**

Students who do not intend to complete their degree program are required to complete a withdrawal form and submit it to the Academic Dean.

### **Leave of Absence**

Students who are not able to maintain minimum normal progress toward a degree (two courses a year undergraduate, one course a year graduate), are required to request a leave of absence from the Dean. A leave of absence is normally valid for one year, however it may be extended for a second year at the discretion of the Dean.

## **Termination**

The University has the right to terminate a student's enrollment on the following grounds:

- Failing grades in more than 25% of assignments
- Financial delinquency
- Conduct that is inconsistent with the philosophy and goals of the University. Every effort will be made to resolve the problem before termination of a student's enrollment takes effect.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Estimated Fees: Bachelor Program

Application Fee	\$50.00*
Registration fee	\$75.00*
Tuition per credit (most courses 3 credits)	\$125.00
Recognition of Prior Learning per credit	\$50.00
Books & Materials (average per 3 credit course)	\$50.00-\$100.00
Graduation fee	\$125.00

### Estimated Fees: Graduate Programs

Application Fee	\$50.00*
Registration Fee	\$75.00*
Tuition per credit (most courses 3 credits)	\$175.00
Books & Materials (average per 3 credit course)	\$75.00-\$200.00
Graduation Fee - Masters	\$150.00
Graduation Fee – Doctoral	\$200.00

### Additional Fees

Change of Grade	\$10.00*
Transcript Request	\$10.00*
Recognition of Prior Learning Evaluation Fee	\$50.00*
Doctoral Thesis Evaluation Fee	\$300.00*
Thesis Binding Fee	\$200.00*
Change of Program	\$50.00*
Degree Reprint	\$45.00*
Continuous Enrollment Fee	\$75.00 per month**

\* *Non-Refundable*

\*\* *Monthly fee charged if student has not completed classes by six months after projected graduation date.*

**All fees and tuition subject to change**

**Enrollment Agreement**

Students are required to enter into an Enrollment Agreement with VIU upon entrance into the first class. The agreement is a contract signed by the student and a school official that gives information on costs, rights to cancel, and the refund policy.

**Student Loans**

Vision International University does not participate in Federal or State Student Loan Programs or Financial Aid. Students are responsible to repay the full amount of any private loans plus interest. Refunds are not applied to private loans but are returned directly to the student. A student enrolled in an unaccredited institution is not eligible for federal financial aid programs.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **The Joseph J. Bohac Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship is in memory of our beloved former Academic Vice-President, a pastor for over 40 years. Each year up to ten students will receive a scholarship on tuition for a degree program, undergraduate or graduate, in Counseling or Education.

### **The Karen S. DeKoven Memorial Scholarship**

Each year, in honor of the co-founder of Vision, up to ten worthy students will receive a tuition scholarship toward their Bachelor's or Master's degree. Each student will be chosen for his or her academic and ministerial capability and will embody the courage, loyalty, and positive Christian character embodied in the wonderful life of Karen DeKoven. This scholarship will be granted each September by decision of the scholarship committee and the recipient's name will be added to the College's memorial plaque created in honor of Karen.

### **The Dr. G. Randolph Gurley Memorial Scholarship**

Dedicated to the memory of our late Executive Vice President of Vision International University and Chairman of the Board of Regents. Dr. Gurley was ordained as an Apostle to the Hispanic Church in 1992, and a Bishop in 2004. As such, he served as a spiritual father to many churches. He was an anointed cross-cultural and inner-city minister who brought truth, healing and deliverance to many people. Dr. Gurley ministered in many foreign nations as well as planting churches and schools. He ministered in Africa, the former Soviet Union, India, Central America, the Caribbean, etc. Dr. Gurley spoke at pastoral and leadership conferences, taught seminars, and conducted missionary evangelistic crusades internationally. He continued the work that God ordained his forefathers, like Dr. Phineas Gurley who was Abraham Lincoln's pastor, and Rev. Randolph Gurley, co-founder of Liberia who named the country and its' Capital City of Monrovia. Dr. Gurley was the author of four books, My Brother's Keeper, a study in world evangelism, Light not White, a study of the origin of the races, The Ninth Man, a novel, and The House of Obed Edom, co-authored with his wife Manon Gurley. Dr. Gurley made his headquarters in Laurel, Maryland with his lovely wife Dr. Manon Gurley, where they pastored the Tabernacle Church. Each year, five men and women are selected for tuition scholarships in Leadership, Christian Education and or Theology, with preference given to Hispanic or African/African American leaders.

## **TUITION PAYMENT PLANS**

Full tuition is payable upon enrollment unless other arrangements are approved by the Business Office in advance. No student will be considered officially enrolled until satisfactory arrangements have been made. The College recognizes that in some instances a definite need for installment payments of tuition exists and, therefore, allows students to pay the tuition in installments, after making a required down payment. When time payments are desired, students are asked to discuss payment arrangements with the Business Office. In order to qualify for an installment payment agreement and begin a degree program, the student must make the required minimum down payment and agree to make monthly tuition payments. Tuition payments must be received each calendar month until tuition is paid in full or be subject to a late charge. Neither a diploma nor a transcript will be issued until the student's obligation has been paid in full. All students must conform to their payment agreements.

Convenient financing of your education is available through Vision Managed Account (VMA), or through MasterCard®, Visa®, Discover®, American Express®, or Diner's Club®. Just complete the financial information form that will accompany your program.

### **REFUND POLICY**

Registration fees are not refundable. The tuition refund policy for all distance education courses is based on the start date of each course. The start date for a single course is determined by the date of the shipment of documents or for online students the date the class is opened and made available to them. Five days are added for delivery time for correspondence students only.



## **STUDENT'S RIGHT TO CANCEL**

You have the right to cancel your agreement for a program of instruction, without any penalty or obligations, through attendance at the receipt of your first course or the seventh calendar day after enrollment, whichever is later. After the end of the cancellation period, you also have the right to stop school at any time; and you have the right to receive a pro rata refund if you have completed 60 percent or less of the scheduled days in the current payment period in your program through the last day of attendance.

Cancellation may occur when the student provides a written notice of cancellation at the following address: Vision International University, PO BOX 1680, Ramona, CA 92065. This can be done by mail or by hand delivery.

The written notice of cancellation, if sent by mail, is effective when deposited in the mail properly addressed with proper postage.

The written notice of cancellation need not take any particular form and, however expressed, it is effective if it shows that the student no longer wishes to be bound by the Enrollment Agreement.

If the Enrollment Agreement is cancelled the school will refund the student any money he/she paid, less a registration or administration fee not to exceed \$250.00, and less any deduction for equipment not returned in good condition, within 45 days after the notice of cancellation is received.

Further, Vision International University offers a distance education program where the instruction is not offered in real time. Vision International University shall transmit the first course and any materials to any student within seven days after this enrollment agreement is signed and the first payment is completed.

The student shall have the right to cancel the agreement and receive a full refund pursuant to items 1-5 above before the first course and materials are received. Cancellation is effective on the date written notice of cancellation is sent. The institution shall make the refund. If the institution sent the first course and materials before an effective cancellation notice was received, the institution shall make a refund within 45 days after the student's return of the materials.

Vision International University shall transmit all of the lessons and other materials to the student if the student: (A) has fully paid for the educational program; and (B) after having received the first lesson and initial materials, requests in writing that all of the material be sent.

If the institution transmits the balance of the material as the student requests, the institution shall remain obligated to provide the other educational services it agreed to provide, such as responses to student inquiries, student and faculty interaction, and evaluation and comment on lessons submitted by the student, but shall not be obligated to pay any refund after all of the lessons and material are transmitted.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM**

You may withdraw from the school at any time after the cancellation period (described above) and receive a pro rata refund if you have completed 60 percent or less of the scheduled days in the current payment period in your program through the last day of attendance. The refund will be less a registration or administration fee not to exceed \$250.00, and less any deduction for equipment not returned in good condition, within 45 days of withdrawal. If the student has completed more than 60% of the period of attendance for which the student was charged, the tuition is considered earned and the student will receive no refund.

For the purpose of determining a refund under this section, a student shall be deemed to have withdrawn from a program of instruction when any of the following occurs:

1. The student notifies the institution of the student's withdrawal or as of the date of the student's withdrawal, whichever is later.

2. The institution terminates the student's enrollment for failure to maintain satisfactory progress; failure to abide by the rules and regulations of the institution; absences in excess of maximum set forth by the institution; and/or failure to meet financial obligations to the School.
3. The student has failed to attend class or complete coursework for 60 days.
4. The student fails to return from a leave of absence.

For the purpose of determining the amount of the refund, the date of the student's withdrawal shall be deemed the last date of recorded attendance. The amount owed equals the daily charge for the program (total institutional charge, minus non-refundable fees, divided by the number of days in the program), multiplied by the number of days scheduled to attend, prior to withdrawal. For the purpose of determining when the refund must be paid, the student shall be deemed to have withdrawn at the end of 60 days. If the student has completed more than 60% of the period of attendance for which the student was charged, the tuition is considered earned and the student will receive no refund.

For programs beyond the current "payment period," if you withdraw prior to the next payment period, all charges collected for the next period will be refunded. If any portion of the tuition was paid from the proceeds of a loan or third party, the refund shall be sent to the lender, third party or, if appropriate, to the state or federal agency that guaranteed or reinsured the loan. Any amount of the refund in excess of the unpaid balance of the loan shall be first used to repay any student financial aid programs from which the student received benefits, in proportion to the amount of the benefits received, and any remaining amount shall be paid to the student.

If the student has received federal student financial aid funds, the student is entitled to a refund of moneys not paid from federal student financial aid program funds.

The non-refundable application fee of \$50.00 is paid prior to enrollment and is not calculated in the above tuition refund schedule.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Recipients of scholarships who cancel their enrollment agreement will be refunded paid tuition; scholarship funds will not be refunded.

#### **COURSE MATERIALS**

Course materials will be mailed to the student every 8 weeks. If the student does not complete a course within the 8 week allotted time, they will receive an interim grade of I (Incomplete). The student will still be allowed to finish the work for each course, however the grade of "I" will stand until the finished work is submitted for grading. Once graded, the student's final grade will be recorded.

It is ultimately the student's responsibility to obtain course materials so that they may finish the work. Once the student has received the syllabus or class is made available to student online, they are considered enrolled in the course and have received complete course instruction enabling the student to finish the required work for grading.

#### **CANCELLATION POLICY: CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

The student shall have the right to cancel until midnight of the 10th business day after the first course was mailed by the institution, as verified by a certificate of mailing, without penalty or obligation and receive 100% of the amount paid for institutional charges, less the administrative fee, not to exceed two hundred-fifty dollars (\$250.00) if notice of cancellation is made through attendance at the first class session or the seventh class day after enrollment, whichever is later.

## **ONLINE COURSE REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY**

Individual online courses paid in full will be refunded according to the College Refund policy minus a USD \$25.00 administrative fee. Online courses that are paid in monthly installments will be cancelled the month that the cancellation request is received. The initial payment and payments from months previous to the cancellation request will not be refunded. Cancellation can be completed automatically by the student and refunds are given electronically.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS & GRIEVANCES**

### **Scope and Purpose**

#### Introduction

Students have the right to appeal decisions that affect them. Vision International University seeks to establish policies and implement practices that minimize the need for any person to report any type of grievance. However, recognizing that it is not possible to establish or administrate policies and procedures that serve all students in ways they perceive as equitable, these policies and processes are established.

#### Objectives

1. The student shall be treated respectfully throughout all grievance processes.
2. The matter shall be resolved as quickly as possible, at the most accessible administrative level, with minimal disruption to educational progress, and without negative consequences for any party.
3. The filing of a grievance should not, by itself, delay fulfillment of a VIU student's academic goals or bias VIU against that student.
4. The processes shall lead to an outcome that is fair to all parties.
5. The outcome shall be within the mission of the Institution and without dilution of its educational standards, and not diminish the student's educational experience.

### **Processes for Resolution**

#### General Guidelines

1. Recognizing that the root of many grievances is lack of information, upon considering filing a grievance the student is urged to immediately review relevant requirements and expectations by consulting the catalog and the course syllabus.
2. When voice communication with a faculty member or VIU employee is available, it should be used first. Voice communication may be used within the process of Informal or Formal Resolution but only written communication shall be considered binding.
3. Time is of the essence. All complaints must be filed within 30 calendar days after the incident being grieved occurred. A response to the complaint must be filed within 15 working days. Time lines may be adjusted if there are compelling reasons for delay.

#### Informal Resolution

1. The student initiates written communication with the faculty member or VIU employee. This is to include:
  - a. A clear description of the perceived irregularity or injustice.
  - b. The basis by which that judgment is made.

- c. A proposed resolution.
2. The VIU party responds.
  3. If the student is not satisfied with the response, the student may request review of the pertinent communication by the VIU party's immediate administrative overseer, with ruling by that person.
  4. A grievance involving a faculty member's judgment in assigning a grade based on academic performance issue may be resolved only through the informal resolution procedures.

Formal Resolution

1. Formal resolution is not implemented without evidence that the informal resolution process has been implemented.
2. If a student is not satisfied with the outcome of Informal Resolution, the student may, on matters other than academic performance, file a written complaint to the Institution's grievance officer. This complaint should be as succinct as possible and in this form:
  - a. A cover letter identifying the complainant, the VIU party, the incident, the rule (policy or established practice) claimed to be violated, and a brief statement of the redress sought.
  - b. Copies of the relevant prior correspondence.
3. The grievance officer shall review the submitted evidence
4. If the grievance officer communicates orally with the VIU party they shall both take notes and exchange those notes within 24 hours of the conversation. Should there be discrepancies between these notes, such shall be resolved within the subsequent 24 hours.
5. The grievance officer shall consult with other institutional personnel as may contribute to fulfillment of the objectives stated above.
6. The grievance officer replies to the complainant with a ruling.

Appeal to the Grievance Review Panel

Should the ruling from Formal Grievance not satisfy the complainant, an appeal may be submitted to the Grievance Review Panel consisting of three or more persons appointed by the President and to include the grievance officer, a faculty member, and an administrator. They shall respond to the complainant in writing within 15 working days, and that ruling shall be considered final.

**ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES**

Vision International University admits students of any race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin in the administration of any of its policies or programs.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Students must possess the following educational background:

**Associate Program**

Students must:

- Possess a high school or equivalent diploma.

- Provide transcripts of all high school and/or undergraduate work with a grade point average of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent from an accredited college or university.
- Submit an Application for Admission

### **Bachelor Program**

Students must:

- Possess a high school or equivalent diploma.
- Provide transcripts of all high school and/or undergraduate work with a grade point average of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent from an accredited college or university.
- Submit an Application for Admission

### **Master's Programs (M.A., M.T.S.)**

Students must:

- Possess a bachelor's degree (or its foreign equivalent) from an accredited college or university.
- Provide transcripts of all high school and/or undergraduate work with a grade point average of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent from an accredited college or university.
- Provide transcripts of any graduate courses, showing a grade of B or higher (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or its equivalent from an accredited institution. (See "Transfer of Credits.")
- Submit an Application for Admission.
- Provide a professional resume.

### **Doctoral Program (D.Min.)**

Students must:

- Possess a master's degree (or its foreign equivalent) from an accredited college or university.
- Provide transcripts of all high school, undergraduate and graduate work with a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent from an accredited college or university.
- Submit an Application for Admission.
- Provide a professional resume.

### **Recognized Schools and Universities**

For purposes of admission and transfer to VIU, a "recognized college or university" includes schools approved by a U.S. state, or accredited by an accrediting body that is approved either by CHEA or the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions outside the United States must meet comparable standards.

## **International Applicants**

Instruction is offered in English only. Students with English as a second language are required to score a minimum of 500 undergraduate and 530 graduate on the TOEFL or an equivalent English-as-a-second-language test before they will be allowed to take VIU courses, which are all taught in English. Student International visas to the United States are not provided by Vision International University.

English proficiency for purposes of admission into the Bachelor's degree program will be determined by previous transcript evidence documenting a completed course in college-level English. If the student does not possess transcript evidence of a college-level English course, he/she will be required to complete the course GE 103: English Composition, to meet the General Education requirements of the program. Graduate students who do not possess transcript evidence of a college-level English course will likewise be required to complete the GE 103 course.

## **ONLINE ADMISSION PROCESS: PART ONE**

We recommend that all students apply online. Please visit [www.vision.edu/admissions](http://www.vision.edu/admissions) to complete the following items:

- Application for Admission
- Non-refundable application fee (\$50.00) by credit card
- Students may take up to 12 credit hours (four courses) via Vision Online prior to formal admission into a full degree program. After 12 credit hours have been earned in individual courses, the student must follow the formal admission process and enter a degree program course of study.

## **BY MAIL ADMISSION PROCESS: PART ONE**

Call us at 760-789-4700 and ask to have admissions documents mailed to your address.

Complete and return by mail the following items:

- Application for Admission
- Non-refundable application fee (\$50.00) by check, money order, or credit card.

## **ADMISSION PROCESS: PART TWO**

1. Request transcripts from former educational institutions to be mailed directly to VIU at PO BOX 1680, Ramona, CA 92065.
2. The admissions department will process your application and admission material and determination will be made regarding your admission.
3. A Program Planning Guide, and Enrollment Agreement will be sent.
4. You will sign and return the Enrollment Agreement with down payment.
5. The College will forward a complete program, syllabus, a copy of the book *Research Writing Made Easy*, Friends of the Library program, and any tests required for the first course upon receipt of tuition down payment. If paid in full, you may request that the entire program be sent.

## TRANSFER STUDENTS

A student desiring to transfer from another college or university may apply for admission by submitting the forms provided. Official transcripts from all universities or institutions of learning attended following graduation from high school must be submitted ***directly from that school to Vision***. Such transcripts must indicate courses entered, in progress, or completed. Results of aptitude and other special tests taken and evidence of standing should also be indicated on the transcript. Vision welcomes transfer students with the desire to develop in their vocation.

Vision considers the acceptance of College credits from all accredited or approved schools. Undergraduate students transferring to Vision must petition the Dean within the first three months of acceptance for consideration of transfer of credits from other institutions. Courses that will be considered must (a) be equivalent to the Vision courses in academic level and quality, (b) have not already been applied to a degree received, and (c) have been taken for a grade and not on a pass/fail basis, and (d) be from a regionally accredited or state-approved program.

Vision International University does not award credit on the basis of examination or for experiential learning. A student must complete a minimum of 25% of the required credits for a Baccalaureate Degree directly with Vision International University. No more than six credits of transfer credit may be used towards fulfilling the requirements for a Master's Degree.

## **ACADEMICS**

Since its founding in 1974, Vision International University, committed to empowering Christians for effective ministry, has sought to provide distance education and local church training of the highest caliber.

Long recognized as a pioneer in Christian distance education, Vision International University insists that all its graduates possess, in addition to specialized knowledge in major or ministerial fields, a high level of cultural literacy and leadership skills.

### **Professional and Academic Tracks**

Vision International University provides two transitional Bachelor's Degree programs designed for students who have completed at least three years (90 credit hours) of undergraduate education, liberal arts college, or university. The programs are divided into two tracks: the Professional Track and the Academic Track.

#### **The Professional Track**

The Professional Track offers the Bachelor of Ministry (B.Min.) degree program for students transitioning to ministry and/or further professional theological education, leading to the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.).

The Professional Track best suits students who prepare to enter full-time ministerial service following graduation, are currently engaged in full-time ministerial service, or students who simply desire further theological education for personal enrichment and service to the church and community.

#### **The Academic Track**

The Academic Track offers the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program for students anticipating further academic study in a field other than theology/ministry. The "arts" nomenclature designates the degree as a Liberal Arts degree with a required minimum of General Education transcript credits, designed to enable students to acquire knowledge across the primary academic disciplines and to develop skills for critical and creative thinking. Students who complete the Academic Track will typically enter a Master of Arts (M.A.).

#### **Transition between tracks**

Students who have completed the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and desire to shift to a professional track must possess or complete a minimum of 15 credit hours in undergraduate theology/biblical studies before admission into a Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) degree program or the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.).

Students who have completed the Bachelor of Ministry (B.Min.) degree and desire to shift to the Academic Track must possess or complete a minimum of 30 credit hours in undergraduate General Education before admission into a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program.



# **ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN MINISTRY PROGRAM**

The Associate of Arts (A.A.) in Ministry is a two-year undergraduate degree program designed for practical and theological preparation for Christian ministry. The program is designed to assist the student in transitioning into a third year transition program and a Bachelor's degree program.

## **Program Goals:**

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

- To prepare students for ministry service in their home or local church.
- To develop a sense of biblical and theological literacy in students.
- To enable students to effectively study, teach, preach, counsel, and lead.
- To prepare students for the task and responsibility of ministry.

## **Year One Courses (Certificate): 30 Credits**

Upon completion of Year One (Certificate) of the Associate of Arts Program, the student will be able to:

- Communicate effectively
- Demonstrate biblical literacy
- Practice leadership in church and family
- Demonstrate spiritual formation and growth

## **Required courses:**

**GE 103** English Composition

**BI 100** Hermeneutics: Introduction to Bible Study

**BI 102** New Testament Survey

**RS 101** Dynamic Christian Foundations

**RS 109** Spiritual Formation: Journey to Wholeness

**RS 102** Christian Life

**RS 219** Christian Character Development

**BI 201** The Gospel of John

**CC 101** Marriage and Family Life: A Christian Perspective

**GE 112** Introduction to Church Management

**Year Two Courses (Associate Degree): 30 Credits**

**BI 101** Old Testament Survey

**BI 103** The Pentateuch

**BI 202** The Book of Acts

**BI 203** Pauline Epistles: Romans

**RS 209** Faith Dynamics

**ED 101** Dynamics of Teaching the Word

**RS 105** Theology of Worship

**CC 201** Introduction to Psychology: Christian Counseling Perspectives

**GE 220** Financial Integrity and Biblical Stewardship

**RS 212** Speech and Communication: Homiletics

**Year Three Courses (Transitional Year): 30 Credit Hours**

Upon completion of Year Three (Transitional Year) of the Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies or Bachelor of Ministry, the student will be able to:

- Apply concepts of pastoral ministry
- Articulate a coherent biblical theology
- Lead churches and ministries

**Required courses:**

**BI 223** Ephesians

**BI 323** Prophets & Prophets in the New Testament and Today

**RS 200** History of Civilization I: Church History Perspectives

**RS 217** Introduction to Charismatic Theology

**GE 201** Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective

**CC 301** Studies in Biblical Inner Healing

**RS 304** Introduction to Christian Leadership

**RS 301** Pastoral Ministry

**RS 305** Introduction to World Missions

**RS 314** Principles and Philosophy of Church Growth

**Electives – Years 1-3 (not all offered online)**

**Year One Elective Courses (Certificate): 30 Credits**

**BI 109** The Book of Matthew

**PC 100** Practicum: Servanthood in the Church

**RS 103** Introduction to Communication: Evangelism

**RS 106** Principles and Power of Prayer

**RS 110** Spiritual Warfare

**RS 111** Kingdom Living

**RS 121** Fruit of the Spirit

**RS 122** New Creation Living

**Year Two Elective Courses (Associate Degree): 30 Credits**

**BI 205** Interpreting Signs and Symbols

**BI 220** Corinthians

**CC 218** Dynamic Christian Parenting

**PC 200** Practicum: Stewards in God's House

**RS 201** Authority of the Believer

**RS 203** Soteriology

**RS 205** Healing Covenant

**RS 210** The Blood Covenant

**RS 248** Angelology

**RS 249** Demonology

**RS 250** Faith Dynamics II

**Year Three Elective Courses (Transitional Year): 30 Credit Hours**

**CC 303** Assessment in Christian Counseling

**CC 304** Developing a Christian Counseling Ministry

**CC 305** Human Sexuality: A Christian Perspective

**PC 300** Practicum: Practical Ministry in the Local Church

**RS 307** Finding God's Will

**RS 349** Royal Priesthood

**RS 350** Dynamics of Revival

## BACHELOR PROGRAMS

Vision International University offers the Bachelor of Ministry (B.Min.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Christian Studies programs for qualifying students. The variation between the two programs represent the professional and academic tracks offered by Vision International University.

The program requires a prerequisite of at least 90 credit hours in Bible, theology, ministry studies, and general education from a recognized college or university.

To complete the Bachelor's program, a student must:

1. Complete (or have previously completed) a minimum of 90 undergraduate credit hours in biblical studies/theology or equivalent.
2. Complete (or have previously completed) a minimum of 30 undergraduate credit hours in general education studies at Vision International University or another recognized institution (for the Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies).
3. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours, 30 of which must be from Vision International University. Fifteen of the required 30 credit hours must be from the required Program Core and the additional 15 credit hours must be from a prescribed Program Emphasis.

For purposes of admission and transfer to Vision International University, a “recognized college or university” includes schools approved by a U.S. State, or accredited by an accrediting body that is approved either by CHEA or the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions outside the United States must meet comparable standards through an approved transcript evaluation service.

### **Bachelor of Ministry (B.Min.) Degree Program**

The *Bachelor of Ministry (B.Min.)* degree program is designed to prepare men and women to serve in Christian Ministry. It includes systematic study, wide reading and practical ministry education. The *Bachelor of Ministry* degree is a pre-professional degree, designed to transition the student into graduate-level theological education. The *Bachelor of Ministry* program consists of 120 credit hours, 30 of which must be from Vision International University. The student must complete the five core courses and select the remainder from the ministry specialization courses listed below. As a pre-professional degree, the program does not require a minimum number of General Education credits, differentiating it from the *Bachelor of Arts* degree.

#### **Program Goals:**

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

- Lead congregations in creative, biblically–informed transformational endeavors;
- Respond appropriately to societal trends that impact church ministry;
- Critically and sympathetically engage new models with the historic resources of the Christian tradition
- Demonstrate biblical literacy and theological reflection
- Serve in a variety of ministry service roles
- Demonstrate a range of general and specialist ministry skills
- Minister to people with a wide range of needs, selecting appropriate approaches
- Demonstrate practical skills in Christian teaching, preaching, leadership, pastoral, counseling, and cross-cultural situations

## **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Christian Studies Degree Program**

The *Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)* degree program is designed to prepare men and women for further academic study in a specialized field. The program differs from the *Bachelor of Ministry (B.Min.)* degree in that it is neither vocational nor pre-professional; rather, it is an academic degree designed to be a transitional program by which students may pursue further academic study at the graduate level. The degree is transitional, designed for students who have completed at least three years (90 credit hours) of undergraduate education in theology, ministry, or the humanities, via another accredited college or university. The *Bachelor of Arts* degree program consists of 120 credit hours, 30 of which must be from Vision International University. The student must complete the five core courses and select the remainder from either the ministry specialization or General Education courses listed below. The student must possess a minimum of thirty credit hours in General Education to earn the *Bachelor of Arts* degree.

### Program Goals:

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of the Bible, Christian doctrines and ministry principles
- Apply concepts and principles drawn from a systematic and coherent body of knowledge in a wide range of day-to-day ministry situations, demonstrating appropriate communication and problem-solving skills
- Demonstrate the academic skills and abilities necessary to undertake research, and to comprehend and evaluate new information, concepts and evidence from a range of sources
- Demonstrate the ability to review, consolidate, extend and use the knowledge, comprehension, and academic skills developed in the program
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal and teamwork skills, appropriate to academic scholarship and/or further study
- Demonstrate the skills required to answer questions and address problems related to Christian life and doctrine and to many spiritual, personal and relational issues relevant to life and ministry in church and para church settings
- Continue the process of effective lifelong learning

### General Education goals:

The General Education requirements of the program are designed to provide the student with a diverse educational experience in the Christian Liberal Arts, producing not only an effective Christian scholar, but a world citizen. The outcomes of General Education courses are the acquisition of knowledge across the primary academic disciplines and the development of skills for critical and creative thinking. Upon completion of the required courses, the student will be able to:

- Think independently and critically in solving problems
- Communicate effectively in writing and speaking
- Identify scientific influences which affect their role as a world citizen
- Identify historical, cultural and social influences which affect their role as a world citizen
- Demonstrate an active concern for the problems of humanity through service and concern for others
- Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences
- Participate as a world citizen and demonstrate the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future

Required Courses for both the Bachelor of Ministry and Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies degree programs:

Program Core (Required 15 credit hours):

- BI 400 Advanced Hermeneutics
- RS 442 Church Growth and Development
- BI 405 Authenticity & Authority of the Bible
- RS 444 Advanced Christian Worldview Studies
- RS 435 Christian Theology

Ministry Specialization Courses: (not all available online)

Emphasis in Theology (15 hours):

- RS 419 Systematic Theology
- RS 436 Ecclesiology
- RS 437 Christology
- RS 438 Eschatology
- RS 439 Pneumatology: Pentecostal/Charismatic Perspectives

Emphasis in Christian Counseling (15 hours):

- CC 402 Crisis Counseling: A Christian Perspective
- CC 404 Counseling the Dysfunctional Family from a Christian Perspective
- OL 440 Conflict Management and Resolution in the Church
- CC 406 Counseling and Family Violence from a Christian Worldview
- CC 415 Human Development: A Christian Perspective

Emphasis in Christian Education (15 hours):

- ED 401 Christian Education: Principles and Practice
- ED 432 Classroom Management for Christian Schools
- CC 415 Human Development: A Christian Perspective
- OL 440 Conflict Management and Resolution in the Church
- OL 460 Ethics in Christian Leadership

Emphasis in Christian Leadership (15 hours):

- CC 415 Human Development: A Christian Perspective
- OL 440 Conflict Management and Resolution in the Church
- OL 460 Ethics in Christian Leadership
- RS 440 The Challenge of Leadership in Church and Community
- RS 441 Strategic Church Administration

Emphasis in Chaplaincy (15 hours):

- CC 405 Addiction Counseling from a Christian Perspective
- CC 406 Counseling and Family Violence from a Christian Worldview
- RS 447 Discipling the Ex-Offender
- RS 448 Ministry in Correctional Institutions
- RS 449 Ministry in Juvenile Correctional Settings

Emphasis in Women's Ministry (15 hours):

- RS 403 Women's Roles in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Christian Perspective
- RS405 History of Women in Ministry
- RS 407 Women of Excellence in Home and Ministry
- RS 445 Women's Effective Ministries
- RS 446 Biblical Profiles of Women

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES (A.A./B.A./B.Min.)

### THEOLOGY/RELIGIOUS STUDIES

#### **BI 100: Hermeneutics: Introduction to Bible Study**

A study of the basic principles of hermeneutics and methods of Bible study. The course is designed to give the new student a solid foundation for the coming four years of intensive Bible study. The course presents the Bible as literature as well as the inspired Word of God with emphasis on the importance of textual and historical context in interpreting biblical passages.

#### **BI 101: Old Testament Survey**

This course provides an overview of the Old Testament, with a brief introduction to each of the 39 books, and a concise summary of their contents, enabling the learner to correctly relate the parts of the Old Testament to each other, and to the New Testament. The module allows the learners to enrich their knowledge of the Bible and their ability to read each part intelligently, with an understanding of the context in which each book occurs and of how doctrine evolved gradually over the centuries. Armed with this knowledge, students are able to develop their ability to relate the Bible and its contents to daily life and to Christian witness.

#### **BI 102: New Testament Survey**

This course provides an overview of the New Testament, with a brief introduction to each of the 27 books of the Protestant canon, and a concise summary of their contents, enabling the learner to correctly relate the parts of the New Testament to each other, and to the Old Testament. The module allows the learners to enrich their knowledge of the Bible and their ability to read each part intelligently, with an understanding of the context in which each book occurs and of how doctrine evolved gradually over the centuries. Armed with this knowledge students are able to develop their ability to relate the Bible and its contents to daily life and to Christian witness.

#### **BI 103: The Pentateuch**

The foundation for the revelation of God and his dealings with man throughout the Old and New Testaments are found in the Pentateuch or Five Books of Moses. In these books we see the unity and authority of the Bible which always points forward to the Savior.

#### **BI 109: The Book of Matthew**

This course is based upon the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew, a former despised tax collector, penned the gospel that bears his name. He addressed the deteriorating state of the church and set out to bring correction to disillusioned, wayward and overconfident believers. Matthew left his readers a true meaning of: righteousness of the gospel, the standard of discipleship, the reason for the Lord's delay in returning. This message is applicable for the church in every generation in all lands.

#### **BI 201: The Gospel of John**

The fourth Gospel is studied in light of its historical context and its stated evangelistic purpose to discover its testimony of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and to his saving work. The course will also explain and demonstrate some basic interpretative principles and methods of Bible study.

#### **BI 202: The Book of Acts**

A detailed study of the origin and development of the apostolic church and of the ministry of the ascended Christ as carried on through the church by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **BI 203: Pauline Epistles: Romans**

An intensive study of the book of Romans and Galatians (for personal devotional purposes) in the light of the principles of sound exposition and analysis.

#### **BI 205: Interpreting Signs and Symbols**

The majority of the symbols and types, and the principles of interpretation, are presented in this course with a view towards present meaning.

#### **BI 220: Corinthians**

An analysis and exposition of each book stressing the historical background and doctrinal matters with special emphasis on the Holy Spirit as treated by Paul in I and II Corinthians.



**BI223: Ephesians**

An analysis and exposition of this dynamic letter of Paul the apostle to the church in Ephesus, expand the horizons of his readers, so that they might understand better the dimensions of God's eternal purpose and grace and come to appreciate the high goals God has for the church.

**BI 323: Prophets & Prophecy in the New Testament and Today**

The ministry of the prophet and the gift and function of prophecy is explained from a historical and modern context. The place and environment of prophetic ministry, prophetic presbytery, and the office of the prophet is explained.

**BI 400: Advanced Hermeneutics**

This course is an advanced study in hermeneutics and interpretation theory from pre-modern times to the present, with a focus on the interpretation and method of reading biblical texts. The course is designed to prepare the student for advanced interpretation of scripture and will investigate biblical interpretation in light of current theological, philosophical, ecclesiological, historical and social challenges. The student will be exposed to current scholarship on a variety of hermeneutical topics. The student will learn to be humble and open-minded when approaching the text, even those that seem familiar. A scholarly approach will be presented. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**BI 405: Authenticity & Authority of the Bible**

This course explores the manuscript and archaeological evidence supporting and detracting from the reliability of the text of the Bible as an original ancient manuscript. The origins of the biblical texts, the establishment of the canon, and issues of higher criticism will be explored. The course also introduces the student to unique perspectives concerning the authority of the Bible and its application in church and community life. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**RS 101: Dynamic Christian Foundations**

This foundational course explores detail the fundamental foundations of Christian belief. Orthodox Christian truths will be taught in detail and are a prerequisite for a dynamic Christian life.

**RS 102: Christian Life**

Paul stated that whenever possible we are to live our lives at peace, especially within the household of faith. In our day, we need to learn the pattern for gracious living.

**RS 103: Introduction to Communication: Evangelism**

The core of this course is practical training in the philosophy and methods of soul winning, visitation, discipleship follow-up and evangelistic outreach including signs and wonders.

**RS 105: Theology of Worship**

Thanksgiving, praise, and worship are vital for the New Testament Christian. Worship is dynamically illustrated and taught in this course. Emphasis on Who we worship and why is maintained throughout.

**RS 106: Principles and Power of Prayer**

This course shows the vital contribution of prayer in developing the whole person mentally, physically, and spiritually. A study is made of both Old Testament and New Testament prayer life, with special emphasis on the prayer life of Jesus and the early church. This approach helps the student to realize how prayer becomes a resident creative force in Christian living.

**RS 109: Spiritual Formation: Journey to Wholeness**

This course examines the biblical perspectives on God's plans and purposes for man and how God through his love and grace helps man to develop a believer's personality through stages of spiritual development.

**RS 110: Spiritual Warfare**

As a child of God we must understand that our Heavenly Father is GOOD. His chief motivation in our life is to make us the best person we can possibly be. On the other hand, Satan is totally evil. Jesus gives us Satan's job description in John 10:10. This course is about the battle of Good against evil.

**RS 111: Kingdom Living**

This course deals with the concepts of living by the laws and principles of the Kingdom of God.

**RS 121: Fruit of the Spirit**

This course is a study on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. How much fruit do you want in your life? Is your love for God reflected in your love for others? Has your love for God led to self-control? This course defines and discusses the fruit of the Spirit and urges you to permit the Holy Spirit to transform your character to become progressively more like Christ. The Holy Spirit is the creator of the Church and the fruit of the spirit is the 'glue' that holds it together.

**RS 122: New Creation Living**

This course is intended to help the student to know and understand who they are in Christ. The Scriptures say that believers are created in the image of Christ.

**RS 200: History of Civilization I: Church History Perspectives**

A study of church history during the Apostolic Age, the ante-Nicene period, and the post-Nicene period. Topics include the rise of orthodoxy, the many transformations that took place after the conversion of Constantine, the rise of the papacy, the many forms of medieval religious life, and the emergence of new forms of both lay and clerical piety. The developmental history of Western Civilization, in relation to the History of the Church, is noted in particular.

**RS 201: Authority of the Believer**

This course is designed to equip the student to understand and operate under the authority given to us by Christ. The student will learn from scripture the nature of Christ's provision for us and our authority under His Lordship to function as Kings and priests.

**RS 203: Soteriology**

The Doctrine of Salvation is clearly delineated and expanded in this course. Questions regarding the process of salvation, its importance, etc. will be covered.

**RS 205: Healing Covenant**

The healing ministry of the church has essentially been given over to health care professionals. This course will explore issues such as historical, Biblical foundations, emotional, spiritual, and physical aspects of healing. The goal of this course is to recover this vital ministry in the church.

**RS 209: Faith Dynamics**

Living a life of victory, power, and sufficiency requires faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This course discusses in detail the dynamics of faith and their relationship to the believer.

**RS 210: The Blood Covenant**

The covenant of God to his people has always been sealed with blood. The course of this covenant between God and his people is demonstrated throughout the Word of God.

**RS 212: Speech and Communication: Homiletics**

This course is on the fundamental methods of sermon preparation. It emphasizes both structure and delivery. Attention is given to the determination of audience type, the proper use of voice, and other principles of public speaking.

**RS 217: Introduction to Charismatic Theology**

This course explores the fundamental foundation of Christian belief in the area of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Orthodox Christian truths will be taught in detail and are prerequisite for a dynamic Christian.

**RS 219: Christian Character Development**

This course examines the biblical perspectives on Christian Character and how God through his love and grace helps man to develop a right Christian character and personality through clearly established Biblical processes.

**RS 248: Angelology**

A thorough study of the role and function of angels in relation to the church of Jesus Christ and the believer is detailed in this course.

**RS 249: Demonology**

A thorough study of the role and function of angels and demons in relation to the church of Jesus Christ and believers is detailed in this course.

**RS 250: Faith Dynamics II: Mountain Movers**

Living a life of victory, power and sufficiency requires faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This course discusses in detail the dynamics of mountain moving faith and their relationship to the believer.

**RS 301: Pastoral Ministry**

This is a study of the practical side of a minister's life and duties. It will include instruction in the proper manner of services, and a discussion of many of the problems a pastor faces.

**RS 304: Introduction to Christian Leadership**

A detailed study of the basic principle of leadership as it applies to the local church. This will include the Dynamics of Leadership, Qualifications of Leadership, Counseling and Ethics, Church Administration and Government, etc.

**RS 305: Introduction to World Missions**

A study of the theology of missions, history of missions from Pentecost to the present, and culture and the missionary, with special emphasis on the unreached people groups of the world.

**RS 307: Finding God's Will**

Finding one's place in the body of Christ as well as direction for one's life and ministry is essential for effective Christian service. There are many theories of Divine guidance and each are explained within a solid Biblical perspective.

**RS 314: Principles and Philosophy of Church Growth**

The Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20) is the continuing mandate of the church. Though methods of evangelism and church planting have changed, the mandate remains the same. How to "grow the church" is the focus of this course.

**RS 349: Royal Priesthood**

This course presents studies on the priesthood of the believer. It is intended to help the believer to "come boldly to the throne." The course examines the functions, responsibilities and blessings of being a priest in the Body of Christ.

**RS 350: Dynamics of Revival**

This is not so much a course on the techniques of planning a revival meeting, as it is a course in the true dynamic of true revival that comes from the Lord.

**RS 403: Women's Roles in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church: A Christian Perspective**

This course will explore the interdisciplinary study of the changing identity and roles of women in the family, church, society, and ministry from history, psychology, philosophy, sociology, and theology. The course explores other ministries available that are relevant in today's Christian community.

**RS 405: History of Women in Ministry**

An in-depth study of daughters of the church from the New Testament times to the present. This course endeavors to survey history and insight regarding women's significant ministries in variety of ways throughout the history of the church.

**RS 407: Women of Excellence in Home and Ministry**

A course intended to help women in Christian Leadership with a ministerial career. It addresses the issues and special concerns with helpful teaching guides, the process of prioritizing ministry and family life in modern society and church.

**RS 419: Systematic Theology**

The course will introduce students to the study of theology using the method known as systematic theology. While, by and large, the faculty of Vision International University reject the validity of a rational attempt to systematize biblical reflection or to dogmatize the experience of the scriptures, this course will serve as general exposure to systematic methodology from a Renewal Theology perspective. This course will not be a survey of the content of systematic theology but rather will introduce the students to the major issues in the forefront of the discipline in the Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions. The course utilizes the reflective approach rather than a dogmatic approach. The course will establish foundational principles and definitions that will guide theological discussion. The student will engage the primary text to inform and elicit theological thinking. The student will engage theology proper, the doctrine of God, from a Renewal perspective, and probe the nature of God, basic Christian doctrine, Renewal distinctives, and theological anthropology. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**RS 435: Christian Theology**

In the church we use words that are often not clearly understood by the new Christian or by the unchurched. In this course the student will study the meaning of each theological word and will be able to apply these words to their own life. An introduction to the basic teachings of

the Christian faith, this course includes discussions of the nature and task of theology and of the Christian understanding of God, revelation, creation, spirituality, sin, and redemption. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **RS 436: Ecclesiology**

An examination of the New Testament church with particular concern given to its origin, distinctive nature, mission, government, offices, ordinances, and destiny. The course will explore the nature and development of the Christian church and its interaction with contemporary society. The emphasis of the course will be practical ministry and church structure. Biblical exposition and church tradition will be jointly examined. Critical thinking about the church, clergy, parishioners, and society will be stressed. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **RS 437: Christology**

This course examines and analyzes the development of the doctrine of Christ from a biblical-expositional perspective. The course provides a detailed and contemporary theological study of the person of Christ. Special attention will be given to the Christological controversies of the early Christian centuries, and the resolutions of the councils that dealt with those controversies. The student will develop a personal Christology rooted in scripture and tradition. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **RS 438: Eschatology**

A review of the classical concepts of Christian Eschatology and of various contemporary approaches to the same material. Issues concerning the Return of Christ and the Apocalypse will be explored from a hermeneutical perspective. An interpretive study of the biblical passages concerning the final things according to scripture and Christian tradition. Consideration will be given to various views of the return of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, and the eternal state. Students will be presented with the array of diversity, from the futurist to the preterist views. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **RS 439: Pneumatology: Pentecostal/Charismatic Perspectives**

This course provides a simple presentation regarding Holy Spirit Baptism from a classical Pentecostal/Charismatic perspective. It establishes that every Christian experiences Holy Spirit Baptism, the new birth and the baptism in the Spirit are distinct, and that the miraculous gifts of the Spirit are still available and should be occurring in the worship of today's church. The course affirms that while glossolalia is the general biblical pattern for Holy Spirit baptism, it is not defensible dogma to assume that it is the only pattern that God uses. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **RS 440: The Challenge of Leadership in Church and Community**

The focus of this course is the development of developing a sound biblical perspective in the challenge leaders face. Principles of both secular and spiritual leadership will be explained in depth. Leaders from government, business, education, and religion are analyzed for their positive strengths, leadership qualities, and ability to overcome adversity. The course is case study driven and provides real-world examples of leadership principles for the student to apply to her/his immediate context. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **RS 441: Strategic Church Administration**

When spiritual leaders are asked about their least desirable ministerial activities, administration is usually at the bottom of the list. A main reason cited for this antipathy for administration is that few leaders feel adequately equipped for this onerous task. Strategic planning, staffing, and management are explored in ways that those serving in ministry can understand and appropriate. Practical application will be emphasized. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **RS 442: Church Growth and Development**

A study of church growth and development with special emphasis on church health. Attention will be given to the skills of observation of the historical and contemporary roles of the church and society. Students will describe the socialization and dynamics of the church to culture, and develop skills for effective ministry. Common errors in church leadership and development will be explored. Leadership in the church and administration of church affairs are explored in detail. Methods of administration and forms of leadership style and responsibility are delineated 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **RS 444: Advanced Christian Worldview Studies**

In almost every field, apologists recognize that "proof" will convince people only when they are already disposed to believe. The deepest human need is emotional, not rational; human hearts must be stirred before our intellects will respond. Thus the "proofs" of God in the end are valuable mostly as adjuncts to the witness of scripture. For that reason, many people, whose faith is already simple, untroubled, and firm, find no use for these proofs. But others are not so fortunate, and for them the proofs are an encouragement to faith, and a stiller of doubts. This course contrasts the Biblical concept of apologetics with various alternative positions, both theistic and non-theistic. This course will insist upon an intellectually humble and reasonable approach to apologetics, opposing the bombastic certainty espoused by some approaches to apologetics. This course will propose an apologetic that accounts for the inadequacies of arguing faith-dependent issues in rationalistic or empirical terms. This course is designed to refine the student's Christian worldview to engage a humbled perspective of

science, religion, culture, and human existence. This course also considers major problem areas such as authority, miracles, evil and evolution and sets forth a basis for Christian apologetic which is theologically and historically sound. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

#### **RS445: Women's Effective Ministries**

Advanced course of various concepts on how to develop a woman's effective ministry in your church or community. It develops techniques on how to start, build, implement, maintain and expand ministry that will meet the needs of today's women.

#### **RS 447: Discipling the Ex-Offender**

This course examines the causes of recidivism and answers the question – Why do they go back? The course discusses topics including: Preparation of inmates through pre-release programs, the first 30 days, and long-term aftercare requirements. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

#### **RS 448: Ministry in Correctional Institutions**

An intensive survey designed to provide a basis for study of, and sharpening of skills for ministry in the jail and prison setting. An overview of the types of facilities in which ministry takes place, types of ministry being carried out, and opportunities for ministry within the facility and post-facility setting. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

#### **RS 449: Ministry in Juvenile Correctional Settings**

This course is an in-depth study of correctional ministry to juveniles as it relates to understanding troubled youth, influences which lead to juvenile delinquency, skills and qualifications of those who minister, and working within the limitations of the Juvenile Justice System. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

## **CHRISTIAN COUNSELING**

#### **CC 101: Marriage and Family Life: A Christian Perspective**

This course provides a careful examination of the modern problems inherent in marital and family relationships; offers suggestions for treatment on an individual and church-wide basis; and provides numerous counseling resources.

#### **CC 201: Introduction to Psychology: Christian Counseling Perspectives**

This course proposes to help the student discover the basic concepts of Christian counseling and increase skill and competence in counseling situations.

#### **CC 218: Dynamic Christian Parenting**

A careful examination of the modern problems inherent in marital and family relationships, with special emphasis on parenting and its importance in church life.

#### **CC 301: Studies in Biblical Inner Healing**

This course contains the biblical bases for the concept of inner healing and healing of the memories. The student will be able to deal with issues in his or her own past that may be preventing them from being a "real person."

#### **CC 303: Assessment in Christian Counseling**

This course is the examination of emotional problems, their antecedents and consequences with a special emphasis on the destructiveness of sin. The course will look at different methods of assessing psychological problems.

#### **CC 304: Developing a Christian Counseling Ministry**

This course is intended to help the Christian develop a counseling ministry. It presents the various laws and ethical requirements related to counseling and studies the many forms needed to conduct a successful counseling ministry.

#### **CC 305: Human Sexuality from a Biblical Perspective**

This is an introductory course dealing with the subject of human sexuality. The student will learn about what the Bible teaches about acceptable sex in the life of the Christian. Sexual deviations will also be considered.

**CC 402: Crisis Counseling: A Christian Perspective**

The world we live in, because of the influence of sin, is filled with problems. When crises happen, whether by "accident" or design, they cause severe disruption to our lives. It is an inherent quality of ministry to be able to effectively minister to those in crisis times. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**CC 404: Counseling the Dysfunctional Family from a Christian Perspective**

This course deals with the subject of dysfunctional families, especially as related to the psychological and spiritual dynamics of generational patterns. Attention is given to the need for understanding the theological and psychological patterns of reconciliation. Particular attention is given to showing the importance of relationship between the Father Image and its influence on generational patterns in the family. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**CC 406: Counseling and Family Violence from a Christian Perspective**

Counseling and Family Violence from a Christian perspective is one of the required courses for students pursuing a degree in counseling with an emphasis in family counseling, domestic violence counseling, substance abuse and addiction counseling and/or pastoral counseling. Counseling and Family Violence focuses on the etiology, context, methodology and effects of domestic violence within the family. This course is designed to acquaint students, pastors, chaplains, educators and church workers with the psychological, sociological and theological aspects of family violence and abuse in its many forms. The underlying purposes of the course are to: (1) provide students an understanding of the biopsychosocial antecedents to family abuse and violence; (2) to provide students an understanding of the cycle of violence and the behavioral patterns associated with each phase of the cycle; (3) to educate students in the various forms of abuse that can escalate to violence; (4) to provide students an understanding of the nature of both expressive and instrumental violence; (5) to teach students how to conduct an assessment and psychosocial evaluation of a domestic violence perpetrator (batterer) and victim (battered spouse); (6) to train students in effective therapeutic intervention techniques, and; (7) to increase students critical thinking, writing skills and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**CC 415: Human Development: A Christian Perspective**

This course is an introduction to human development from a Christian perspective, and the perspective of physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. This course offers a broad overview of perspectives, principles, theories, and research findings associated with the field of human life-span development. The aim of the course is to provide a foundation of knowledge that will help the student become a more effective counselor, educator, and leader. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

## PRACTICUM

**PC 100: Practicum: Servanthood in the Church**

The focus of this course is to provide a rewarding learning experience for the Bible College student at a beginning level. The focus of this practical ministry experience is servanthood.

**PC 200: Practicum: Stewards in God's House**

The focus of this course is to provide a rewarding learning experience for the Bible College student at an intermediate level. The focus of this practical ministry experience is stewards in God's house.

**PC 300: Practicum: Practical Ministry for Church and Community**

The focus of this course is to provide a rewarding learning experience for the Bible College student at an advanced level. The focus of this practical ministry experience is practical leadership ministry.

## GENERAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**GE 103: English Composition**

A study of the principles of composition with emphasis on language, the mechanics of writing, the types of discourse, and research and documentation. The course develops students' ability to write unified, well-developed and coherent expository essays that employ standard English usage and mechanics, and exposes the students to literary works that sharpen their critical-thinking and analytical skills necessary in college writing. The course also includes a study of rhetoric and short-essay composition, and readings and responsive

writing assignments. This is predominantly a skills course to develop the student's writing competency as a foundation for all future studies.

### **GE 112: Introduction to Church Management**

This course introduces the subject of management, identifies leadership positions, and stresses the importance of the role of leadership and management skills in Christian Ministry. Biblical principles of leading like a servant and shepherd and qualifications for leaders are also discussed. Major tasks of leaders are reviewed, with emphasis on decision-making and handling conflicts. Guidelines for training leaders and followers are given, and principles of success and reasons for failure examined. Emphasis is placed on the context of Management in Community Service, preparing the student to support Community Leadership.

### **GE 201: Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective**

Students will examine cultural anthropology from a Christian perspective, with particular emphasis on environmental analysis for missions. The students will gain a deeper understanding of different approaches to cultural anthropology and the applications of cultural theory for understanding cultural and religious diversity in the modern world. The importance of applied cultural anthropology to address the challenges of cross-cultural living and ministry will be emphasized.

### **GE 220: Financial Integrity and Biblical Stewardship**

This course is designed to prepare students to maintain integrity in Christian Ministry when dealing with finances and issues of stewardship. The course includes spiritual and financial blockades to financial integrity, proper use and distribution of personal and ministry funds, budgeting, ethical fundraising, financial responsibility and accountability, and matters of finance pertaining to the local church.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **ED 101: Dynamics of Teaching the Word**

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the principles of teaching in a structured environment. Emphasis is placed upon the principles of organization and presentation methodology including, Stating Objectives, Lesson Planning, Evaluation, Curriculum Selection and Development, Teaching Illiterate Students, and Teacher Training.

### **ED 401: Christian Education: Principles and Practice**

A study will be made of theological concepts that form the philosophical perspectives and principles of Christian education. Organization and administration of church educational programs so as to integrate them within the total ministry of the local church is a primary focus of this course. This course includes a study of the major religious and secular developments in history and education along with a comparison of those developments with biblical principles. The goal is to develop an understanding of the church role in education and to develop a personal philosophy of Christian education. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **ED 432: Classroom Management for Christian Schools**

This course emphasizes practical, classroom-tested techniques and strategies. Well-organized and managed classrooms set the stage for student learning and achievement. Students will explore a range of models and strategies that will serve as a foundation for developing a personal approach to classroom management. Classroom management will be defined by exploring theory and research in the field. In addition, rationale will be examined in considering it as a system, as instruction, and as discipline. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

## **CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

### **OL 440: Conflict Management and Resolution: A Christian Perspective**

This course examines causes of dysfunctional anger and conflict, and provides biblically consistent principles and methods for management and prevention. The course provides for both acquisition of knowledge and development of interpersonal skills. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **OL 460: Ethics in Christian Leadership**

Leadership Ethics highlights the importance of fidelity, integrity, and value-based decision making. Contemporary ethical issues in church, community, and ministry leadership are examined from a biblical perspective. This course explores the sources, methods, disputes and insights of Christian ethics. Central themes and issues include freedom, conscience and the passions, the relation of God and morality, love and justice, virtue and law, and the question whether there is a distinctive Christian ethics. Because Christian ethics is a form of reflection which arises out of moral conflict, the course utilizes specific moral problems as a way of exploring these themes. Ultimately, these

explorations will provide the student with a theoretical basis for understanding the nature of moral thinking itself and the form which it takes within a Christian context. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*



**DIVISION OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

## MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

### Graduate Programs

Master of Theological Studies..... 36 credit hours

Master of Arts..... 36 credit hours

.. In Christian Leadership

...In Christian Counseling

## MASTER'S DEGREES

### Purpose

The Master's degrees provide for an extensive, advanced education in a specialized area of Christian ministry. Each is a 36 credit-hour program which integrates theological education and professional courses. The program is especially suited for students desiring to continue on toward doctoral preparation.

All of the College's Master's programs are viewed as complete programs. However, transfer of credit may be allowed (up to 6 credits) if course offerings are substantially equivalent to the program of Vision, are from an accredited institution, and received a grade of 2.5 or better on a scale of 4.0. There are no modifications of the basic program listed here without specific permission of the College.

### Goals

- To provide advanced knowledge and understanding of the Bible and the relationship between scripture and the applied discipline.
- To provide knowledge and skills in effective, professional ministry in the area of specialization.
- To provide academic and professional training equal to programs required for advanced Christian service.

## **MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (M.T.S.)**

The twelve courses listed comprise the degree Master of Theological Studies. Substitutions are subject to the approval of the Academic Dean. Substitution may be made if some of the courses listed below have already been taken. Graduate transcripts of courses must be furnished.

The curriculum, produced by some of the world's top biblical scholars and theologians in cooperation with *The Institute of Theological Studies (ITS)*, serves persons who wish to explore disciplines within Christian theology.

### **Prerequisite**

The Master of Theological studies requires a prerequisite 15 credit hours in Biblical Studies or Theology.

Students seeking admission into the Master of Theological Studies degree program that do not possess a bachelor's degree in Bible, theology, social or behavioral science, or the humanities, must complete the Bachelor's core courses as a prerequisite to admission.

### **Objectives of the Program**

The M.T.S. is especially suited for persons interested in some aspect of teaching and research or engagement in socio-religious issues. The program is designed to equip men and women for further study, research, or teaching.

### **Goals**

The M.T.S. degree program has as its goals that students undertake a rigorous course of academic study that will provide an opportunity to explore foundational issues in Christian theology.

### **Program of Study**

The program focuses on historical, systematic, and biblical theology. Professional ministry issues are not a focus of this program. Nevertheless, the program is designed to provide a theological foundation for ministerial service. The program consists of 12 courses, 3 semester credit hours each, for a total of 36 credit hours. There is no required thesis or research project.

#### Leadership Studies

**CE 503** Advanced Christian Leadership & Administration for the Church

#### Church History

**CH 505** Survey of Church History

**CH 510** History of the Charismatic Movements

#### Ministry Studies

**MT 504** Evangelism and the Local Church

#### New Testament

**NT 502** The Pastoral Epistles

**NT 504** NT Survey: The Gospels/Life of Christ

**NT 508** The Epistles and Revelation

Old Testament

**OT 505** The Book of Psalms

**OT 509** The Christian & Old Testament Theology

Philosophical & Systematic Theology

**PT 504** Christian Worldview

**ST 503** Contemporary Theology I

World Missions

**WM 501** Introduction to World Missions

**EMPHASIS IN PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING**

Pastoral Care

**CE 502** Christian Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Management

**CO 500** Psychology and Theology

**CO 530** Counseling Strategies and Practices: A Biblical Integration

**CO 540** Crisis Counseling:: A Christian Perspective

**CO 560** Assessment and Diagnosis: A Christian Perspective

**CO 620** Addictions Counseling in the Church

**CO 680** Pastoral Care of the Elderly

Ministry Studies

**MT 504** Evangelism and the Local Church

New Testament

**NT 502** The Pastoral Epistles

**NT 504** The Gospels/Life of Christ

Old Testament

**OT 509** The Christian & Old Testament Theology

Philosophical & Systematic Theology

**PT 504** Christian Worldview

## EMPHASIS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Christian Education

- CE 501** Church Administration and Leadership
- CE 502** Christian Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Management
- CE 503** Advanced Leadership and Administration for the Church
- ED 500** Philosophy of Christian Education
- ED 550** Teaching Methodology in Christian Education
- ED 600** Primary Christian Education
- ED 650** Curriculum Development in Christian Education

### Pastoral Care

- CO 510** Human Development from a Christian Perspective

### Ministry Studies

- MT 504** Evangelism and the Local Church

### New Testament

- NT 504** The Gospels/Life of Christ

### Old Testament

- OT 509** The Christian & Old Testament Theology

### Philosophical & Systematic Theology

- PT 504** Christian Worldview

## MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

The twelve courses listed comprise the Master's degree in Christian Counseling. Changes or substitutions are subject to the approval of the Academic Dean. Substitutions may be made if some of the above courses have already been taken. Students desiring state licensure or certification should check with their state authorities before entering the program to ascertain if it is acceptable in their state. Graduates of the degree program may not be eligible to sit for applicable licensure exam in California or other states.

### Program Goals

- To prepare students for the specialized ministry of individual, marriage and family, and issue focused group counseling within the church, para-church ministries, church-related agencies, and other religious settings, and to provide the educational foundation for further study in Christian Counseling.

- To enable students to help people realize personhood wholeness in every area of human life -- spirit, mind, and body.
- To equip students to recruit and train knowledgeable lay persons as peer counselors and para-counselors to provide supportive counseling services to and within the local congregation and community.
- To assist students in the formulation of an integrative counseling approach, incorporating proven counseling techniques with a sound biblical and theological understanding of the ministry of counseling.
- To offer a program curricula for those students who desire to learn more about applying professional methods and modalities within a Christian counseling framework.

#### What You'll Be Able To Do When You Earn Your MA in Christian Counseling

- Develop a personal philosophy of counseling, which integrates the latest theories, trends, and techniques of professional counseling with sound biblical principles, in a Christian Counseling modality.
- Effectively work with people in the local church and Christian Counseling ministry setting.
- Promote an awareness of the integrative compatibility between the behavioral sciences and the ministry of the Holy Spirit as they relate to the counseling process.
- Develop the therapeutic, preventive, educative, and facilitative skills of Christian Counseling.
- Demonstrate an understanding of methods of assessing and evaluating individual psychological functions, such as intelligence and personality and the dysfunctions thereof evidenced in psychological distress and personality disorders.
- Strengthen competency in data collection, analysis, assessment and evaluation in Christian Counseling.
- Promote an understanding of human nature and development based on a Christian theological perspective.
- Develop research capabilities designed to foster and expand knowledge about the current practice of Counseling within a Christian context.

#### **Prerequisite:**

The Master of Arts requires a prerequisite of 30 credit hours of undergraduate general education courses.

**CE 502** Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Management

**CO 500** Psychology and Theology

**CO 510** Human Development From a Christian Perspective

**CO 515** Human Sexuality: A Christian Perspective

**CO 530** Counseling Theories and Strategies: A Biblical Integration

**CO 540** Crisis Counseling : A Christian Perspective

**CO 550** Marriage and Family Counseling: A Christian Perspective

**CO 560** Assessment and Diagnosis: A Christian Perspective

**CO 610** Group Dynamics in the Church

**CO 620** Addictions Counseling: A Christian Perspective

**CO 630** Cross-Cultural Christian Counseling

**CO 640** Christian Ethics and Law

## **MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

The Master of Arts in Leadership degree program consists of 36 credit hours. Each course is 3 credit hours. It is recommended that the degree program begins with the student selecting a resident mentorship in the locality of the student. The student will then complete LE501 and LE502. At the same time, he or she will begin LE 511, the Leadership Practicum, which will continue throughout the entire degree program. After completing LE 501 and 502, the student will continue with the additional courses, completing one at a time, taking approximately 3 months for each course. The student will take approximately 18-24 months to finish the entire degree program.

### **Our Objectives for the Degree Program**

- To empower students for transformational leadership within their ministry context.
- To provide students with advanced competences in organizational theory, management, and leadership skills in practice and in research.
- To enable students to integrate personal, biblical ethics, integrity, moral values and practice with sound management theory in leadership vocations including business, community, and faith-based service.
- To expose students to business laws that influence leadership, management, and financial practices.
- To develop students who are competent in the techniques and practices necessary for business vocations, community organizations and other non-profit organizational management.
- To enable students to demonstrate that ethics, integrity, and morality are in harmonious synergy with sound Leadership and Management theory and practice.

### **What You'll Be Able To Do When You Earn Your MA in Christian Leadership Degree**

- Apply Christian leadership concepts in order to creatively solve organizational problems and promote healthy organizational development.
- Facilitate the use of change-agent skills in the areas of program design, implementation, and evaluation.
- Work with the design and development of strategies that promote personal development and enhance the functioning of organizations.
- Develop an understanding of leadership from a structural, human resource, theological, and symbolic framework.
- Investigate current research on leadership.
- Review leadership models currently in organizations and investigate new models.
- Analyze and critique leadership behaviors.
- Practice leadership techniques and report on leadership experience. To prepare students for advanced studies in Christian leadership and/or professional ministry.

### **Prerequisite:**

The Master of Arts requires a prerequisite of 30 credit hours of undergraduate general education courses.

### **Required Courses:**

- LE 501** Introduction to Leadership and Leaders in the Church
- LE 502** Ministry Leadership Foundations
- LE 503** Dynamics of Effective Christian Leaders and Followers
- LE 504** Spirituality and Leadership
- LE 505** Contemporary Issues in Christian Leadership
- LE 506** Leader Development for the Church and Beyond

- CE 501** Church Administration and Leadership
- CE 502** Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Management
- CE 503** Advanced Leadership and Administration for the Church
- CO 510** Human Development from a Christian Perspective
- PT 504** Christian Worldview
- LE 511** Christian Leadership Practicum



# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## GRADUATE COURSES

### THEOLOGY/RELIGIOUS STUDIES

#### **CH 505: Survey of Church History**

Church history is the heart of His story, God's kingdom work on earth. This course explores the development of the Christian church from Pentecost to the present day. It covers key people and events that God used throughout history to bolster His church and also those negative influences that infected her. The goal of the course is to use lessons from church history to advance the kingdom of God in life and ministry. (This course serves as a synthesized combination of ITS courses CH506 The History of the Church to the Reformation and CH507 The History of the Church Since the Reformation.) 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

#### **CH 510: History of the Charismatic Movements**

Charismatic theology is more than just a theology of spiritual gifts; worship, Bibliology, sanctification, and ecclesiology are also central. Learners will complete an historical and theological study of the origins and developments of Classical Pentecostalism, Charismatic Renewalism, and Restoration Movements, with emphasis given to theological backgrounds and trends. Lectures also analyze other related movements, including the "Jesus Only" Movement, the Vineyard Movement, and the Toronto Revival Movement. Throughout the course, the pros and cons of the various charismatic movements are presented so that students can make informed decisions on what a "victorious Christian life" entails. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

#### **MT 504: Evangelism in the Local Church**

Christ's final charge was the Great Commission: to "make disciples of all nations." We fulfill that charge when we take the Gospel to the nations and to our own nation through our own local church. In this course, Dr. Green instructs us on how to do evangelism within a local church setting. Building on the biblical mandate for evangelism, he discusses personal and group methods for evangelism in a variety of settings, how to equip laity to witness, the use of apologetics, follow-up methods, and current issues in evangelism. Throughout the course, Dr. Green focuses on practical application and workable solutions for evangelism in local church and parachurch ministries. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

#### **NT 502: The Pastoral Epistles**

Perhaps the greatest need in the Christian community today is Biblical leadership. Throughout the world, churches struggle with numerous issues because they lack relevant and effective leadership. A good leader possesses godly character, sound doctrine, and Biblical priorities. Yet today, there are differing views on several issues related to leadership, such as: What are the responsibilities and priorities of ministerial leaders and their work? Who is qualified for pastoral leadership? Can women serve as pastors? What should pastors expect in ministry?

This course identifies Biblical answers to crucial leadership questions from three of Paul's letters, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, which primarily address issues of pastoral leadership and ministry. In his twenty lectures, Dr. John Stott walks his listeners through an exegetical analysis of Paul's words to Timothy and Titus. He shares valuable insight from the historical background and an investigation of the Greek New Testament. Dr. Stott covers such topics as how a congregation should appoint leaders, the role of women in the ministry, the primary function of a minister's work, and how to deal with false teachers while remaining true to "sound doctrine." 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

#### **NT 504: NT Survey: The Gospels/Life of Christ**

The most compelling and important story in history is the story of Christ. In this course, learners complete a chronological and synthetic study of the Gospels' accounts of Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The course focuses on the time, place, circumstances, and people involved in the events of our Lord's ministry. From the Incarnation to the Ascension, students will grasp a fuller understanding of Christ's words and works, especially in light of Old Testament prophecy and cultural context. The goal of the course is that Christ will impact learners' lives as He did those first generation followers, leading them to worship and serve Him as they minister to others. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

#### **NT 508: The Epistles and Revelation**

Correct theology is inseparable from correct living. The New Testament epistles reinforce this concept as they demonstrate both the why and how of Kingdom living. This course surveys the New Testament epistles and the Book of Revelation, examining both the introductory issues and the basic content each book. Students will wrestle with significant and challenging passages by exploring the major issues and then interacting with specific passages through inductive Bible study. The goal of the course is to gain an increased commitment to and capacity for applying these portions of God's Word to the world and Christian living today. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**OT 505: The Book of Psalms**

How important are songs in the life of Israel and the Church! In this course learners study the Book of Psalms, giving attention to the various forms of the Psalms and their function within the historical experience of Israel. The course begins by focusing on the formulation and interpretation of the psalms. Students then examine in detail the various types of psalms: lament, royal, pilgrimage, wisdom, messianic, and psalms of descriptive praise. Dr. Waltke gives sermonic treatment of selected psalms with application for today's Church. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**OT 509: The Christian & Old Testament Theology**

The Old Testament may be the central problem of theology. The problem is this: How do the people of God today relate to the people and teaching of the Old Testament, and how do they apply that teaching to life and ministry? While wrestling with this issue we must ask other important questions, such as, "How does the Old Testament relate to the New?" or "What is the main purpose of the Old Testament?" Stated practically, "What principles of the Old Testament should I be actively obeying?"

This course considers such important questions by examining the foundational theology of the Old Testament as applied to the New Testament and the Church. The course identifies the focal point for the Old and New Testaments, and includes discussions on continuity and discontinuity between the Testaments, saving faith, the people of God, law, worship, atonement, the Kingdom of God, the Messiah, the inclusion of the Gentiles, and the New Covenant. Throughout the course, Dr. Kaiser shows how Old Testament theology is vital to contemporary Christian living. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**PT 504: Christian Worldview**

How do you view reality? What is the source of your knowledge? Do you live what you believe? Such are the questions that a worldview answers. This course examines the nature and function of belief structures, and the value of developing and living a distinctly Christian life. The course develops a Christian worldview from a redemptive history model of Biblical theology, which is then clarified using the philosophical categories of metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology. Learners will gain an understanding of modern and postmodern thought and how to critique them biblically, and are encouraged to develop and apply a Christian worldview to life and ministry. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**ST 503: Contemporary Theology I**

For good or for bad, philosophy has played a pivotal role in the development of theology and culture. In this course, learners examine the major trends in contemporary theological thought in light of their philosophical contexts. The course begins with a review of the major developments in Western thought prior to Hegel, and then explores the theologies of Hegel, Kierkegaard, Barth, Bultmann, and Tillich. The course culminates in the "Death of God" theologies of Paul Van Buren and Thomas Altizer. The course enables learners to evaluate contemporary, non-evangelical theologies and to recognize their impact on everyday life. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**WM 501: Introduction to World Missions**

God has one unified, global purpose for all He does. This course introduces the exciting biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic dimensions of His plan. It addresses key issues: the basis of and necessity for world missions, and the status of and plan for world missions. Students are introduced to the basics they need to pursue missionary training or to help lead their local church in its global ministry. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/ADMINISTRATION

### **CE 501: Church Administration and Leadership for the Church**

A course designed to develop leadership potential in students and to give them a familiarity with the various elements of the administrative process, including: goal setting and achieving, organization, delegation, human relations, group dynamics, supervision, and the training of other leaders. Though the principles are universal, the focus of the course is the local church. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CE 502: Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Management**

An examination of the process of interpersonal communication and conflict management in human relationships within Christian organizations, with attention given to communication models, self-concept, nonverbal messages, stress and other strategies that will assist the Christian leader in developing interpersonal communication skills and the productive use of conflict. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: CE501 or CO 500*

### **CE 503: Advanced Leadership and Administration for the Church**

A church leader wears many hats. In this course learners discover how to maximize productivity in the various functions of church leadership. The course examines the biblical foundation and practical functions of administrative leadership in churches and Christian organizations, and focuses on developing successful, biblical attitudes and skills among team leaders. Students will analyze basic leadership principles from secular and evangelical sources, analyzing them through a biblical/theological grid. (This advanced course is built on ITS course CE 501 Church Leadership and Administration. However, CE 501 is not a prerequisite for this course.) 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: CE502*

### **ED 500: Philosophy of Christian Education**

This course includes a study of the major religious and secular developments in history and education along with a comparison of those developments with biblical principles. The goal is to develop an understanding of the church's role in education and to develop a personal philosophy of Christian education. The course also teaches introductory concepts related to education in the local church and Christian school contexts. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **ED 550: Teaching Methodology in Christian Education**

This course is designed as an introduction to basic methods for teaching from a dynamic biblical viewpoint. The purpose of the course is to assist the theology students in understanding the essential elements of effective instruction and learning. Students will be introduced to different genres of writing in the Bible, as well as appropriate methods of interpreting each genre. For any given biblical passage to be taught, students will be encouraged to consider the big idea that needs to be conveyed to students, how to bridge the gap between the world of the Bible and the student's world, and problems that might be encountered at the planning and presentation levels for the lesson. Students will be challenged to think about how their own teaching can be improved in terms of fostering active learning, motivating learning, communicating clearly, personalizing biblical truth, and building a constructive classroom atmosphere. Students will be guided through the process of choosing a lesson topic and theme, leading students to discover the thematic and structural unity of the biblical passage through the method of inductive Bible study, and evaluating the results of instruction and learning. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: ED650*

### **ED 600: Primary Christian Education**

This course reviews development of infants and children in several dimensions; cognitive, emotional, social, and religious. Parental, family, church, and institutional-agency ministry reviewed with the purpose of encouraging students to develop a starting theology of ministry to persons in this age group and to practice skills fundamental to such ministry. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: ED500*

### **ED 650: Curriculum Development in Christian Education**

This course includes a study of the principles and aims of curriculum development, with an emphasis on selection and creative use of curriculum materials and resources to fulfill the educational task of the church. Students will be presented with various views on the means of knowing God and differing views of Scripture, as well as how each of these views influences development and choice of curriculum. Students will be introduced to the inductive Bible study method, as well as a method of lesson planning known as the HBLT approach. Students will be led through a consideration of how both of these methods can be adapted to teach different age students, including adults, youth, children, and pre-schoolers. Students will be presented with Maslow's and Herzberg's research on individual needs, along with an instrument for assessing learners needs in a classroom setting. Bloom's Taxonomy will be used to motivate a consideration of the aims of a Bible lesson and the methods available to creative Bible teachers. Students will be exposed to common practices of truly great teachers, factors that motivate learning, and a method for evaluating the teaching-learning process. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to see the learner as an individual who, depending on age and experience, is motivated in different ways to achieve unique ends. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

## CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

### **CO 500: Psychology and Theology**

This study is intended to help pastors and other Christian leaders develop proficiency in enabling people to solve their problems while understanding and balancing the tensions between psychology and theology. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CO 510: Human Development From a Christian Perspective**

It is the purpose of this course to focus on the anatomical, physiological, intellectual, sociological and spiritual development of the human organism from conception until death. The major theorists in the area of human development will be researched and the various major theories of human development will be critically compared. Specifically, this course views human growth and development as a psychological, biological, and spiritual process that demands an integrated analysis. The course addresses the development and wellness of individuals and families throughout the life cycle. The aspects of development including biological, social, cognitive, emotional, and moral will be covered. The course will examine how the abilities, needs, problems, and concerns of humans change throughout life, and how people are shaped by their experiences throughout their development from a Christian perspective. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CO 515: Human Sexuality: A Christian Perspective**

In an atmosphere designed to de-mythologize sexuality, this course examines different sexual styles, behaviors, cultural values, and over-reaction to sexual stimuli. Resources from Biblical theology and the behavioral sciences are utilized as each student is asked to develop a stance about sexuality of modern times for an effective spiritual ministry. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CO 530: Counseling Theories and Strategies: A Biblical Integration**

This course will introduce students to counseling psychology concepts and interventions related to lifespan development, prevention of mental health problems, social justice, and optimal human functioning in both the church and society. An emphasis will be placed on psychopathology, in order to provide strategic counseling for specific issues in the congregation and family. The course provides preparation in the core counseling skills essential for the practical counseling and effective treatment outcomes. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CO 540: Crisis Counseling: A Christian Perspective**

Crisis Counseling is one of the required courses for students pursuing degrees in counseling with an emphasis in family counseling, domestic violence counseling, pastoral counseling and substance abuse and addiction counseling. Crisis counseling focuses on the etiology, context, process and effects of victimization. This course is designed to acquaint students, as well as pastors, chaplains, educators, and church workers understand the theoretical basis for, and acquire the practical skills necessary to carry out effective therapeutic interventions in a diversity of crisis situations. Emphasis is given those types of crises typically encountered by the Christian Counselor including: 1) Grief and Bereavement, 2) Emotional Traumatization, 3) Sexual Molestation and Incest, Domestic Violence and The Abuse of Children and Elders. The underlying purposes of the course are to: 1) provide students an understanding of the nature, effects and consequences of crises, to perpetrator, the victim and witnesses as well as society in general, 2) educate students in the types of trauma inducing crises 3) teach students the signs and symptoms of unresolved trauma, resulting in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and manifesting itself in numerous associated personality disorders, thereby enabling students to identify victims of trauma, traumatized witnesses and their abusers, 4) teach students how to conduct an assessment and psychosocial evaluation of a traumatized individual, 5) teach students how and when to use direct and indirect counseling techniques, 6) how to develop appropriate social service networks and guide clients to hotlines, victim support groups and other support services that can assist them in regaining control of their lives, 7) train students in effective therapeutic intervention techniques including stress-reduction, and 7) increase students critical thinking, writing skills and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CO 550: Marriage and Family Counseling: A Christian Perspective**

This course is designed to expand on the basic concepts and procedures for marriage and family counseling from a pastoral perspective. The purpose of the course is to assist theology students in their development of a ministry to family systems. The course provides a comprehensive understanding of various approaches to marital and family therapy. Within the context of systems theory, emphasis will be placed on understanding various methods of conceptualizing family dynamics and intervention strategies. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CO 560: Assessment and Diagnosis: A Christian Perspective**

This course provides an understanding of individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation in counseling. There will be an emphasis on assessment strategies and psychometrics. The phenomenology of emotional disorders and their diagnosis will be explored in detail. The course will also explore the means of assessment and diagnosis that are consistent with effective counseling techniques from a Christian perspective. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CO 610: Group Dynamics: A Christian Perspective**

Group Dynamics: A Christian Perspective, is one of the required courses for students pursuing a degree in counseling. This course explores the history of the development and growth of groups (an outgrowth of social psychology), the varied kinds of groups, and the process and structure of individual and group behavior as it relates to group dynamics, Christian maturity and ministry. The course will acquaint students, pastors, chaplains, educators, church workers and group facilitators with the theory and research relating to small and large groups; the benefits and detriments of homogeneous groups vs. gender-specific, or problem-specific groups; and the benefits and detriments of democratically governed groups vs., facilitator directed groups. Students will gain insight into a number of different types of groups, including: problem solving groups, decision making groups, recovery groups, support groups, process groups and Christian Growth Groups. Students will learn how to develop, organize and govern groups to optimize the effectiveness of group dynamics for behavioral change and cognitive restructuring. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CO 620: Addiction Counseling: A Christian Perspective**

The course is one of the required courses for students pursuing degrees in Christian counseling. It is designed to acquaint these students, as well as pastors, chaplains, educators, church workers with the etiology, cultural context, prevailing patterns and outcomes of alcohol and drug abuse, the phenomenon of addiction as an illness of body, mind and spirit, and the resources, treatment approaches, models and methods for helping alcoholics and addicts in their recovery. Particular focus is given to the medical aspects of illnesses and recovery in addiction. The underlying purposes of the course are to: 1) provide students an understanding of the nature and consequences of substance abuse, to the individual abuser as well as society, 2) educate students in the drugs of abuse 3) teach students the signs and symptoms of substance abuse, thereby enabling them to identify substance abusers, 4) teach students how to conduct an assessment and psychosocial evaluation of a substance abuser, 5) teach students how to select the most appropriate treatment approach, setting and modality, 6) train students in effective therapeutic intervention techniques, and 7) increase students critical thinking, writing skills and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: CO610*

### **CO 630: Cross-Cultural Christian Counseling**

This course provides an overview of the theories of multicultural counseling and development from a culture-centered perspective. Issues related to social and cultural diversity will be examined as well as guidelines for developing multicultural counseling competencies and sensitivity in Christian counseling service. The impact of diversity, within and between group differences, is examined. Various psychosocial developmental factors of diverse cultural and ethnic groups, and the influence of these variables on the counseling relationship will be explored. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: CO620*

### **CO 640: Christian Ethics and Law**

This course provides an introduction to professional ethics with special application for the Christian Counselor. The course includes an analysis of professional ethics, training and practice standards, educational requirements, and mental health law. Attention will be given to contemporary professional and psycho-social issues that effect the training and practice of Christian counselors. The course also provides students with the knowledge of legal and ethical guidelines for the practice of community and religious counseling. Students will learn to use these guidelines to make sound decisions about professional practice. The course examines ethical and legal standards related to professional practice and the impact of personal values on the counseling process. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: CO630*

### **CO 680: Pastoral Care of the Elderly**

This course provides an overview of issues, problems, and challenges that older individuals face so that those involved in pastoral care are able to recognize and respond to the needs of the aging population. Physical, cognitive, emotional, and psychological changes in the over 65 age group will be reviewed to assist the pastoral care giver in understanding issues of dependence, security, affiliation, loss, and mental health in light of elderly persons' spiritual needs. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

## **CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

### **LE 501: Introduction to Leadership and Leaders in the Church**

This is a study of the nature of leadership. It will introduce a practical definition of what leadership is, briefly consider the recent history of leadership research, reflect on changing paradigms in Christian leadership today, and study the differences between leadership and management. Particular focus is given to the nature of transformational leadership. The underlying purposes of the course are to: (1) provide students with an understanding of the nature of leadership and leaders, (2) lead the students in personal evaluations of their own roles as leaders and managers, (3) guide the students in making personal plans for their improvement as leaders, (4) give students a clear conceptual framework within which to understand the differences between leadership and management, along with the practical implications of those differences, and (5) increase students' critical thinking, writing skills, and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **LE 502: Ministry Leadership Foundations**

This course is one of the required courses for students pursuing degrees in leadership. It is designed to acquaint these students, as well as pastors, chaplains, educators, and church workers with a model of healthy Christian leadership as well as a clear understanding of both servant and abusive leadership. Particular focus is given to the centrality of Christ in Christian leadership. The underlying purposes of the course are to: (1) provide students with an understanding of a healthy Christian leader and servant leadership, (2) lead the students in personal evaluations of their own lives and ministries, (3) guide the students in making personal plans for leadership improvement, (4) provide students with an understanding of the characteristics of abusive leaders, (5) lead the students in personal evaluations of their own strengths and weaknesses as leaders, (6) guide the students in making personal plans for avoiding being abusive leaders, and (7) increase students' critical thinking, writing skills and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **LE 503: Dynamics of Effective Christian Leaders and Followers**

This course is one of the required courses for students pursuing degrees in leadership. It is designed to acquaint these students, as well as pastors, chaplains, educators, and church workers with basic models of effective leadership and followership from a biblical perspective. Particular focus is given to the practices of effective leaders and effective followers. The underlying purposes of the course are to: (1) provide students with an understanding of the practices of effective leaders, (2) lead the students in personal evaluations of their own leadership practices, (3) guide the students in making personal plans for leadership improvement, (4) provide students with an understanding of the characteristics of healthy followers, (5) lead the students in personal evaluations of their own strengths and weaknesses as followers, (6) guide the students in making personal plans for followership improvement, (7) provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the causes and prevention of leadership derailment, and (8) increase students critical thinking, writing skills, and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: LE502*

### **LE 504: Spirituality and Leadership**

This course is the most important one in the leadership degree program. It is designed to acquaint students, as well as pastors, chaplains, educators, and church workers with a clear biblical understanding of the core role of true spirituality in Christian leadership. Particular focus is given to union with Christ as the heart of healthy Christian leadership. The underlying purposes of the course are to: (1) provide students with an understanding of true spirituality in Christian leadership, (2) lead the students in personal evaluations of their own spiritual lives and motives for ministry, (3) guide the students in making personal plans for improvement in their spiritual lives, and (4) increase students critical thinking, writing skills, and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: LE503*

### **LE 505: Contemporary Issues in Christian Leadership**

This course is one of the required courses for students pursuing degrees in leadership. It is designed to acquaint these students, as well as pastors, chaplains, educators, and church workers with an understanding of several key contemporary issues in leadership: teams, change, organizational improvisation, multiculturalism, and women in leadership. The underlying purposes of the course are to: (1) provide students with an understanding of these contemporary issues, (2) lead the students in personal evaluations of their own leadership practices, (3) guide the students in making personal plans for leadership improvement, and (4) increase students' critical thinking, writing skills and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: LE504*

### **LE 506: Leader Development in the Church & Beyond**

This course is one of the required courses for students pursuing degrees in leadership. It is designed to acquaint these students, as well as pastors, chaplains, educators, and church workers with a biblical and practical model of effective leader development. Particular focus is given to the 18 principles of how leaders are built. The underlying purposes of the course are to: (1) provide students with an understanding of how leaders are built, (2) lead the students in personal evaluations of their own leadership development, (3) guide the students in making personal plans for building other leaders, (4) guide the students in making personal plans for their improvement as leaders, and (5) increase students' critical thinking, writing skills, and report preparation. 3 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: LE505*

### **LE 511: Christian Leadership Practicum**

This course is one of the required courses for students pursuing degrees in leadership. This course consists of a collage of practical learning experiences, dealing with the student's spiritual and character development in the context of relationships with others, on an ongoing basis throughout the degree program. It is designed to implement much of the content of the other courses in the lives of these students, pastors, chaplains, educators, and church workers. Particular focus is given to create a context for life change in all the demands of healthy leadership. The underlying purposes of the course are to: (1) lead the students in the development of their own spiritual lives, (2) lead the students in the development of their own relational lives in both areas of church and family life, (3) lead the students in the development of their own lives and ministries in the area of calling, and (4) increase students' capacity to take theoretical information and use it in a practical way to facilitate life change for themselves and others. 6 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (D.Min.)

### Purpose

The purpose of this degree program is to equip the student for a higher level of competence in the practice of ministry than that achieved in the foundational work normally resulting in an M.Div. degree. The Doctor of Ministry degree program is designed to serve the need of ministers for an experience of continuing education which renews the personal life of **faith**, further develops professional **competence**, and stimulates continued **growth** in biblical and theological foundations for ministry.

### Program Goals:

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

- Serve the need of ministers for an experience of continuing education.
- Renews the personal life of **faith**
- Develop professional **competence**
- Stimulates continued **growth** in biblical and theological foundations for ministry

### Prerequisite

The Doctor of Ministry requires a prerequisite 15 graduate credit hours in Biblical Studies or Theology.

### Nature of the Program

The program of studies leading to the Doctor of Ministry degree is a 45-credit (consisting of 35 credit hours in coursework and 10 credit hours for the doctoral project) program of study beyond the Master's designed for men and women who are engaged in pastoral and related ministries. The candidates are challenged to develop their ministerial skills and to refine and articulate a biblical theology of ministry while in a setting of ministry.

### Core Courses

The student will complete the following seven courses, each of which constitute five semester credit hours. A 20-page paper is to be written on each topic. The choice is the student's, unless the committee determines a weakness in the students' prior academic background. Upon completion of the core topics the student will be advanced to candidacy. Completion of each core topic earns 5 credit hours. Course descriptions are provided to the student in a separate document as requested. The student has the option to choose seven core courses **OR** choose one emphasis.

**Doctor of Ministry Core Courses (5 credit hours each)**

**DM 800:** Leadership in Pastoral Care

**DM 801:** Church Growth and Leadership

**DM 802:** Cross Cultural Perspectives in Pastoral Leadership

**DM 803:** Counseling, Family Life, and Pastoral Leadership

**DM 804:** The Media, Leadership and the Church

**DM 805:** Spiritual Development of the Pastor, Church and Community

**DM 806:** Ethics and the Church in Today's Culture – A Pastoral Perspective

**DM 807:** Conflict Management and Resolution in Church Life

**DM 809:** Women in Ministry: The Controversy of Ordination of Women

**DM 810:** Leadership Principles Applied to Pastoral Ministry and Church Extension

**DM 811:** Missions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**DM 812:** The New Apostolic Reformation: Paradigms and Procedures

**DM 813:** Psychology and Theology: Conflicting or Complementary

**DM 814:** Contemporary Theology and Evangelical Belief

**DM 816:** Renewal Ministry from a Historical Church Perspective

**DM 817:** Revival and Church Planting – Principles of Translation

**DM 818:** Preaching: Its place and Importance in Contemporary Worship

**DM 819:** Contemporary Worship: The Strengths and Weaknesses

plus:

**DM 899:** Doctoral Project (10 credit hours)



**Doctor of Ministry Emphasis Courses (5 credit hours each)**

**Human Behavior**

**CC 840:** Clinical Applications of Counseling in the Church

**CC 850:** Psychopathology, Sin and Demonic Influence

**CC860:** Psychotherapy, Pastoral Counseling and Inner Healing

**CC 870:** Psychology and Theology: A Personal Integration

**CC 880:** Personality Theory, Therapy: A Christian Worldview

**DM 803:** Counseling, Family Life, and Pastoral Leadership

**DM 807:** Conflict Management and Resolution in Church Life

plus:

**DM 899:** Doctoral Project (10 credit hours)

**Education and Leadership**

**ED 810:** Conflict Resolution in Educational Leadership

**ED 820:** Human Behavior and Management in Christian Education

**ED 830:** Psychology of Learning in Christian Education

**ED 840:** Philosophy of Christian Educational Leadership

**ED 850:** Educational Leadership for Private School and Church

**DM 801:** Church Growth and Leadership

**DM 810:** Leadership Principles Applied to Pastoral Ministry and Church Extension

plus:

**DM 899:** Doctoral Project (10 credit hours)

The doctoral student must submit a bibliography of the books used for the core papers.

## **Doctoral Project Proposal**

The student is then to write a proposal for the Doctorate, describing the project according to the prescribed format. The completed proposal is to be approved by the Doctoral Committee of the College. The process and format for a Doctoral Proposal is described in *Research Writing Made Easy*. These resources will be provided by the Student Services Department.

## **Doctoral Project**

Upon approval of the proposal the student may begin writing his or her Doctoral Project according to the specific format. The Doctoral Project is the finishing work for the doctoral degree, and is what provides the right to be called "Doctor." It earns 10 credits towards the degree program. The guidelines for the writing of the Project are found in the book *Research Writing Made Easy*. Through the combination of foundational coursework, diligent study, and the guidance of a doctoral project coordinator, students successfully complete projects that are both personally gratifying and that contribute to the advancement of God's kingdom.

The Doctor of Ministry degree requires 45 credits: 35 for core courses and 10 for the Doctoral Project.

### **CC 840: Clinical Applications of Counseling in the Church**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of clinical applications of counseling in the Church. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CC 850: Psychopathology, Sin and Demonic Influence**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of psychopathology, sin and demonic influence. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CC 860: Psychotherapy, Pastoral Counseling and Inner Healing**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of psychotherapy, pastoral counseling and inner healing. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CC 870: Psychology and Theology: A Personal Integration**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of psychology and theology. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **CC 880: Personality Theory, Therapy: A Christian Worldview**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding personality theory and therapy. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **DM 800: Leadership in Pastoral Care**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of leadership in pastoral care. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **DM 801: Church Growth and Leadership**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of church growth and leadership. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **DM 802: Cross Cultural Perspectives in Pastoral Leadership**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of cross cultural perspectives in pastoral leadership. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

### **DM 803: Counseling, Family Life and Pastoral Leadership**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of counseling, family life and pastoral leadership. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 804: The Media, Leadership, and the Church**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of the media, leadership and the church. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 805: Spiritual Development of the Pastor, Church and Community**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of spiritual development of the pastor, church and community. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 806: Ethics and the Church in Today's Culture – Pastoral Perspective**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of ethics and the church in today's culture. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 807: Conflict Management and Resolution in Church Life**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of conflict management and resolution in church life. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 809: Women in Ministry: The Controversy Over the Ordination of Women**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of the controversy over ordination of women. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 810: Leadership Principles Applied to Pastoral Ministry and Church Extension**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on leadership principles applied to pastoral ministry and church extension. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 811: Missions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of missions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 812: The New Apostolic Reformation: Paradigms and Procedures**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of the new apostolic reformation. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 813: Psychology or Theology: Conflicting or Contemporary?**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of psychology and theology. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 814: Contemporary Theology and Evangelical Belief**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of contemporary theology and evangelical belief. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 816: Renewal Ministry from a Historical Church Perspective**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of renewal ministry from a historical church perspective. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 817: Revival and Church Planting**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of revival and church planting. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 818: Preaching: Its Place and Importance in Contemporary Worship**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of preaching. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 819: Contemporary Worship: Strengths and Weaknesses**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding the dynamics of contemporary worship. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**DM 899: Doctoral Project (10 credits)**

Registration in this course entitles the student to the services related to the doctoral project. The student will prepare, and submit for approval, a proposal for a project. This proposal will follow the style and format outlined in *Research Writing Made Easy*. Upon completion and approval of a proposal the student may proceed to the writing and completing the project. 10 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**ED 810: Conflict Resolution in Christian Educational Leadership**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding conflict resolution in educational leadership. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**ED 820: Human Behavior and Management in Christian Education**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding human behavior and management in education. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**ED 830: Psychology of Learning in Christian Education**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding psychology of learning in education. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**ED 840: Philosophy of Christian Educational Leadership**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding philosophy of educational leadership. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

**ED 850: Educational Leadership for Private School and Church**

This is an independent study project, with a focus on understanding educational leadership for private school and church. 5 Credit Hours. *Prerequisite: None*

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