bsk THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ACADEMIC CATALOG
2024-2025

BSK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
ACADEMIC CATALOG

This catalog contains the proposed program, regulations, requirements, and general information for BSK Theological Seminary as of the 2024-2025 academic year. It should be used only for informational purposes and does not constitute a contract. All information, including admissions requirements, tuition, degree requirements, course offerings, and Seminary policies, is subject to change without notice and is in no way binding upon the Seminary.

For more information, please contact the Seminary at its mailing address:

BSK Theological Seminary
PO Box 23079
Lexington, KY 40523
www.bsk.edu

General Inquiries: 859-788-2242 | info@bsk.edu
Admissions Inquiries: 859-788-3066 | admissions@bsk.edu

ACCREDITATION

BSK Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). The Master of Arts in Ministry Studies and Master of Divinity degree programs are approved by the Commission on Accrediting.

More information about the Commission is available at www.ats.edu. The Commission may be contacted by mail (Commission on Accrediting, Association of Theological Schools, 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275) or by phone (412-788-6505).

LICENSURE

BSK Theological Seminary is licensed by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). The Seminary has also been approved to participate in state authorization reciprocity agreements for distance education programs by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Seminary seeks to maintain an environment in which the dignity and worth of all members of the community are respected. For this reason, BSK Theological Seminary is committed to offering equal access to educational opportunities for all qualified students. BSK does not discriminate in matters of hiring, admissions, academics, or student affairs on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or age. Furthermore, the Seminary prohibits harassment or violence based on these protected statuses.

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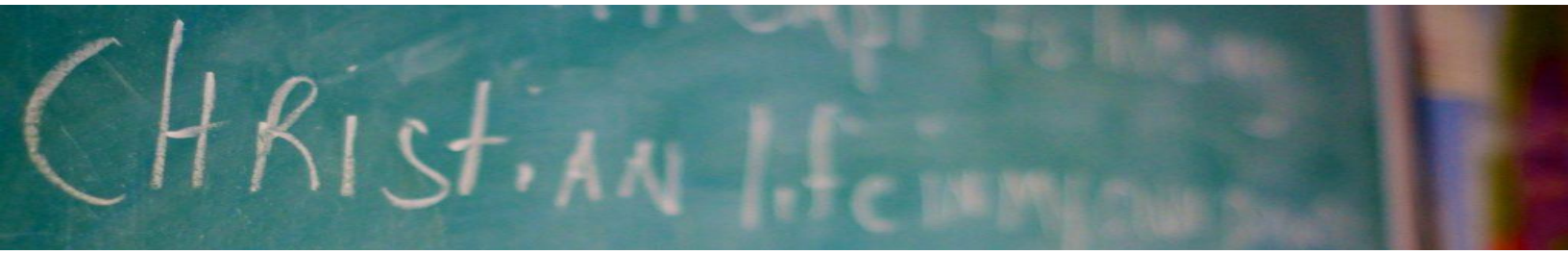


PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The journey of theological education is lifelong. Your seminary experience provides a season of intense preparation within the context of a community of fellow travelers. Wise faculty, caring staff, and supportive colleagues share this journey with you. Our alumni often share that the BSK community is one that continues to be present and valuable across time.

BSK is a diverse community, full of persons responding to God's call. Even though our traditions and beliefs will vary, we share respect and support for one another. BSK is a place where you belong and become.

As you consider the offerings within this catalog, I hope you will view them not as independent units, but rather part of a larger fabric of experience and formation. Faculty at BSK work to integrate learning across courses and disciplines, and where appropriate work with you to involve your ministry focus.

BSK is excited to offer excellent theological education using our "in place" approach, allowing you to study where you work and serve. I hope you will be intentional about forming deep relationships with fellow students and your professors across your journey.

Know that my door (and Zoom) is open and my prayers are with you as we journey together.

Peace,

David Cassady
President

BSK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
AN OVERVIEW

BSK Theological Seminary is a freestanding theological school that offers the Master of Divinity degree, with optional concentrations in Black Church Studies or Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy, as well as the Master of Arts in Ministry Studies. Graduate certificates are offered in the areas of Black Church Studies, Exploring Ministry, Pastoral Care, or Rural Ministry.

PURPOSE

The purpose of BSK Theological Seminary is to prepare men and women sensing God's leadership for life and ministry in faithful witness to Jesus Christ in the church and the world.

BSK COMMITMENTS

BSK serves the Church by helping in the formation of Christians for serving and building up the body of Christ. To this end...

- we provide advanced theological studies for those called of God to ministry (full-time or part-time, ordained or laity); and
- we resource churches for discerning and equipping in mission and ministry.

BSK is committed to theological education affirming the God-given gifts of each student and grounded in spiritual, moral, and intellectual formation in the Christian life. This includes…

- the nurture of personal faith within community by reading and receiving the word together, eating together, and praying together;
- the cultivation of virtuous lives rooted in Christian habits and practices;
- honest intellectual engagement in the face of difficult questions of faith, reflecting scholarly discipline, humility, and a tolerance for ambiguity and diversity in thought; and
- encouragement in the discernment of spiritual gifts and the nurture of pastoral imagination.

At BSK, we are committed to God's calling…

- to bear witness to Jesus Christ in relationship with persons from diverse cultures both in our communities and throughout the world;
- to seek the unity of the church for which Christ prayed and to embrace the work and witness of the larger Christian community in a spirit of cooperation, respect, and acceptance; and
- to pursue and practice together peace, justice, reconciliation, forgiveness, mercy, patience, and hope, the virtues of Jesus' beloved community.

At BSK, we draw upon the breadth and depth of the whole Christian tradition to undergird our common life and Christian formation. We especially value…

- the authority of Scripture, through which God's truth found in Jesus Christ is revealed to us and transforms us;
- the priesthood of all believers, who practice the Christian faith within the community of God's people as priests to one another;
- the freedom and responsibility of each congregation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discern the mind of Christ and to order its common life accordingly;
- the freedom and responsibility of each individual to follow his or her conscience under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in covenant with fellow believers to discern the mind of Christ;
- dissent both as freedom from coercion in all religious matters through the separation of church and

state and as a gift given and received within the covenant community; and

- partnership in mission and ministry with fellow believers.

BSK Distinctives

- We value Christian tradition highly, but we are skeptical of dogmatic and authoritarian claims to represent that tradition and God's truth.
- We seek answers sufficient for living out our faith, but where Christian perspectives differ on what it means to be faithful in interpreting Scripture and in living out the good news of God in Christ, we seek discernment through deliberation and respectful dialogue with diverse communities.
- We recognize that our understanding is ultimately partial and incomplete and that complete knowledge remains shrouded in mystery; therefore, we strive to practice humility and charity as we listen together for the leading of the Spirit.
- We advocate for and support women in all roles of ministry, a central BSK commitment from the founding of the Seminary.
- We affirm the presence and work of the Spirit in all persons called of God. BSK Theological Seminary is committed to the theological formation of those called of God, regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or age.
- We seek out and attend to the presence and work of the Spirit in all persons called of God by the inclusion of diverse voices in the classroom, Seminary gatherings and events, and in academic, student life, administrative, and governance deliberations.
- As faculty and students, our primary commitment is to exercise together scholarly gifts and vocation as stewards of the mysteries in service to God's church.

THE BSK TRADITION

ORIGINS

During the early to mid-1990s, a confluence of events led a number of Kentucky Baptists to seek new and inventive ways of training ministers that reflected the diversity of Baptist identity and worship in the Commonwealth and took into account shifting cultural realities. These events included:

- changes in the theological direction and leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention, Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist seminaries;
- the desire to fully support and empower women in all areas of ministry;
- the formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship; and
- the creation of new Baptist theological schools and houses of study in the South.

Dr. Greg C. Earwood was elected as Baptist Seminary of Kentucky's first president and began on September 1, 2001. In August 2002, the first classes were offered at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, which graciously hosted the Seminary during its first three years of operation.

In 2005, BSK moved to the campus of Lexington Theological Seminary where academic life was highly valued. The two seminaries engaged in the practice of "sharing space and sharing grace" for the next five years. In August 2010, the Seminary joined in a partnership with Georgetown College, where the main BSK campus was located until 2022. Today our main campus is housed in Central Baptist Church in Lexington, KY. Additional offices are present at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

During the global pandemic, BSK, like many schools, offered all courses online. In the process, the Seminary grew enrollment, and attracted students attending from across over 15 states. This dynamic, combined with expanding partnerships with the NBCA, Virginia CBF and Florida CBF, has led the school to become a national seminary.

The racial diversity of our student body dramatically shifted from 2020 forward, leading to classrooms reflecting a broad diversity across gender, race and generations. Partnerships with the National Baptist Convention of America, International, Inc., and HBCU Simmons College of Kentucky have broadened our community and propelled our work around racial justice.

Over $2,000,000 in grants from the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation and the Lilly Endowment allowed BSK to invest in new initiatives, including the Institute for Black Church Studies and the Siloam Project. The Institute provides guidance for BSK's Black Church Studies program and Cosby Scholars Program for American Descendants of Slavery. The Siloam Project empowers the idea that a student's context for ministry is an excellent setting for theological education to occur.

In 2024, the seminary name was changed to BSK Theological Seminary to reflect the many changes shaping the school, including our growing national footprint, our welcome to students from a variety of ecclesial backgrounds, and the diversity of our partnerships and initiatives.

BSK continues to engage students in spiritual formation, theological reflection, and practical training as we prepare together for life and ministry in the church and the world.

KEY MOMENTS IN SEMINARY HISTORY

1995: A Joint Venture Committee was created by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship to explore partnership opportunities with existing seminaries in Kentucky and elsewhere.

1996: The Joint Venture Committee became an autonomous group and secured incorporation from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, creating the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky and naming eleven Trustees.

1997: The Trustees of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky launched a series of meetings around the Commonwealth to ascertain needs and interests.

2001: Baptist Seminary of Kentucky elected longtime Kentucky pastor (Louisville, Murray, and Georgetown) Dr. Greg C. Earwood as the first president.

2002: Classes began at Calvary Baptist Church (Lexington) in August with 14 students. Dr. Dalen Jackson, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, became Baptist Seminary of Kentucky's first full-time faculty member.

2005: The Seminary held its first commencement ceremony with three graduates. Dr. E. Glenn Hinson delivered the address to the graduates.

2005: On August 1, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky relocated to the campus of Lexington Theological Seminary. While remaining separate institutions with distinctive identities, the two seminaries began "sharing space and sharing grace."

2007: On September 8, the Seminary celebrated its Encenia, a celebration of the founding of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky.

2008: On March 10, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky installed Dr. Dalen Jackson, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, as the school's first Academic Dean.

2009: On March 6, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky launched the E. Glenn Hinson Lecture Series. Dr. Hinson delivered the inaugural lecture.

2010: Baptist Seminary of Kentucky received Associate Membership in the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS).

2010: The Seminary relocated to the campus of Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky, during the summer.

2012: On August 25, the Seminary recognized the completion of its tenth year of classes with a Tenth Anniversary Celebration held on the campus of Georgetown College.

2013: The Seminary was granted Candidacy for Accredited Status by the Association of Theological School's Board of Commissioners and began a two-year period of institutional self-study.

2015: In June, the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools granted Baptist Seminary of Kentucky accreditation, approving the Master of Divinity degree program.

2016: The Seminary created a partnership with Simmons College of Kentucky (HBCU).

2016: Founding President Greg C. Earwood retired.

2017: David Cassady became second president of BSK.

2018: BSK began offering an M.Div. in Louisville at Simmons College. Received $300,000 grant from

Baugh Foundation to support work at Simmons site.

2020: BSK named the official seminary of the National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc. (NBCA).

2020: BSK received 10-year reaccreditation from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) following self-study process and was approved by ATS for comprehensive distance education.

2020: Launched a revised M.Div. Curriculum to now require 75 hours and infuse courses with Black church studies content.

2020: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia selected BSK as partner to provide distance education for Virginia students.

2021: Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation awarded BSK $750,000 to begin Institute for Black Church Studies.

2022: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida & the Caribbean Islands selected BSK as partner to provide distance education for their students.

2022: Lilly Endowment awarded $998,725 grant to BSK as part of their "Pathways for Tomorrow" initiative.

2022: BSK moved main offices to Central Baptist Church in Lexington, KY.

2023: President Cassady elected to ATS Board of Commissioners.

2023: Seminary established offices at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, KY. BSK's Flourish audio/video studio installed there.

2024: New degree program launched: Master of Arts in Ministry Studies. Dr. Laura Levens named program director.

2024: School name changed to BSK Theological Seminary to reflect our national and ecumenical footprint.

2024: Dr. Mark Medley named as BSK's second Academic Dean.

FACULTY

ELECTED FACULTY

Lewis Brogdon, Associate Professor of Preaching and Black Church Studies and Director, Institute for Black Church Studies (2019)
B.A., Bluefield College
M.Div., Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Ph.D., Regent University

David Cassady, President and Professor of Christian Education and Media Studies (2017)
B.A., Ouachita Baptist University
M.Div.C.E., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

John D. Inscore Essick, Associate Professor of Church History (2009) and Director, Rural Ministry Program (2018)
B.S., Appalachian State University
M.Div., Campbell University Divinity School
Ph.D., Baylor University

Laura R. Levens, Associate Professor of Christian Mission (2014) and Director, Master of Arts in Ministry Studies Degree Program (2023)
B.A., Baylor University
M.Div., Th.D., Duke University

Mark S. Medley, Academic Dean (2024) and Professor of Theology (2007)
B.S., University of North Carolina
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Jaye Peabody Smith, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling (2024)
B.A., Ramapo College of New Jersey
M.P.A., New York University
M.S., Mercer University
M.Div., D.Min., McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University

ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY

David Adams, Teaching Professor of Practical Theology (2003)
B.A., University of Kentucky
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Anthony Everett, Teaching Professor of Contextual Ministry (2022)
B.S., Paul Quinn College
M.Div., Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University
D.Min., United Theological Seminary

Ryan D. Shrauner, Teaching Professor of Spiritual Formation (2015)
B.A., Willamette University
M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary
S.T.M., General Theological Seminary
M.S.L.S., University of Kentucky

Erica Whitaker, Teaching Professor of Preaching and Black Church Studies (2022)
B.A., University of North Texas
M.Div., George W. Truett Theological Seminary

AFFILIATE FACULTY

Roy Fuller, Affiliate Professor of World Religions (2006)
B.A., Southwest Baptist University
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Amber C. Inscore Essick, Affiliate Professor of Christian Worship (2017)
A.A., B.S., Gardner-Webb University
M.Div., George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Christopher Caldwell, Adjunct Professor of Biblical Hermeneutics (2024)
B.A., Rhodes College
M.Div., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Ph.D., Baylor University

Anastasia Holman, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Care (2021)
B.S., California State University/Indiana State University
M.B.A., Indiana Wesleyan University
M.Div., Christian Theological Seminary

Joshua James, Adjunct Professor of Old Testament (2024)
B.S., Lancaster Bible College
M.Div., Westminster Theological Seminary
Ph.D., Fuller Theological Seminary

Candace Y. Smith, Adjunct Professor of Practical Theology and Womanist Theology (2023)
B.A., University of Louisville
M.Div., Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Ph.D., St. Thomas University (FL)

Molly Shoulta Tucker, Adjunct Professor of Communication for Church and World (2022)
B.A., Georgetown College
M.Div., Duke Divinity School

STAFF

David Adams, Director of Institutional Design (2020)
B.A., University of Kentucky
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

David Cassady, President (2017)
B.A., Ouachita Baptist University
M.Div.C.E., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Anthony Everett, Director of the Siloam Project (2022)
B.S., Paul Quinn College
M.Div., Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University
D.Min., United Theological Seminary

Ashley Morris, Assistant to the President (2021)

Ryan D. Shrauner, Director of Library Services (2014)
B.A., Willamette University
M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary
S.T.M., General Theological Seminary
M.S.L.S., University of Kentucky

Abby Sizemore, Director of Admissions (2017)
B.A., Georgetown College

Candace Y. Smith, Womanist Scholar for the Institute of Black Church Studies (2024)
B.A., University of Louisville
M.Div., Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Ph.D., St. Thomas University (FL)

Mark Thomas, Academic Coordinator & Registrar (2022)
B.A., Georgetown College
M.A., Ph.D., Rice University
M.Div., Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Erica Whitaker, Director of Development (2024)
B.A., University of North Texas
M.Div., George W. Truett Theological Seminary

EMERITUS FACULTY

Greg C. Earwood, President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Hebrew (2002)
B.A., Mississippi College
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

G. Wade Rowatt, Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care and Counseling (2009)
B.S., Southern Illinois University
M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Melody Chaney
Dr. Don Colliver *(Treasurer)*
Dr. Joan B. Fowler
Mr. Larry Gray *(Vice-Chair)*
Rev. Kelly Hale
Dr. Carol Harston *(Chair)*
Rev. M. David Haun
Ms. Linda M. Hopgood
Mr. Robert Jenkins
Rev. Ross Matthew Johnson, Jr. *(Secretary)*
Ms. Margaret Jolly
Mrs. Ann McMahan
Mr. Omer Middleton

GENERAL INFORMATION

BSK Offices

Mailing Address:

PO Box 23079
Lexington, KY 40523

Lexington Campus:

Central Baptist Church
110 Wilson Downing Road
Lexington, KY 40517

Louisville Offices:

Crescent Hill Baptist Church
2800 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206

BSK Parking

Lexington Campus:

Students, faculty, staff, and visitors may park in the main parking lot of Central Baptist Church for free.

Louisville Offices:

Students, faculty, staff, and visitors may park in available lots at Crescent Hill Baptist Church for free.

Communication

Students, faculty, and staff are assigned institutional email accounts for Seminary communications. This is the primary method for communicating information regarding community events, course registration, changes in Seminary policies, and other important matters. Students are encouraged to check their BSK email inbox often. Bills and final grades are accessible through Populi.

Housing

BSK Theological Seminary does not offer on-campus housing. All classes are currently offered online, primarily in a synchronous mode. Accordingly, most BSK students live in the communities in which they minister.

Library

BSK Theological Seminary is a co-owner of the Digital Theological Library (https://libguides.thedtl.org/home) which is our primary library. It is a growing, purpose-built, comprehensive collection of resources for theological education. We also maintain access to the Atla Religion and Atla Serials databases (please see the "Links" section under the "Library" tab in Populi). Through these arrangements, BSK students have access to collections of information resources to support curricular needs. Please contact the Director of Library Services (librarian@bsk.edu) if you have any questions about resources or access. Students are encouraged to know what libraries (theological, academic, as well as public) are in their area and how to access them.

Research Assistance

Planning ahead is always the best research strategy. Contact the BSK Director of Library Services (librarian@bsk.edu) with research needs and questions.

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) Information

BSK Theological Seminary has been approved to participate in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). None of BSK Theological Seminary's programs lead to licensure.
SARA Disclosure: https://bsk.edu/sara-disclosure/
SARA Student Complaint Form: https://bsk.edu/sara-student-complaint-form/

Textbooks

The Academic Coordinator will send a class-by-class textbook list to students via email prior to the beginning of each academic term. Students may also view textbooks through the course information page in Populi. The Seminary encourages students to acquire textbooks in whatever way they wish.

Most BSK textbooks are available in electronic format at no cost to students through the Digital Theological Library (DTL). For students that prefer to purchase textbooks, online retailers often provide the best price. Students are welcome to contact the Academic Coordinator for advice. Students may also want to check local used bookstores for textbooks.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Community life is a central part of the BSK experience. The Seminary's commitment to engaging students in the habits and practices of faithful Christian living is evident in the opportunities available throughout the school year for BSK students, faculty, and staff to share in each other's lives and to interact with the churches and individuals that comprise our larger community of faith.

Chapel and Community Prayer

BSK Chapel and Community Prayer is a time for faculty, students, staff, and friends of the Seminary to cultivate habits and practices of faithful Christian worship. Community Prayer is a 15 to 20-minute experience, while Chapel is a 40-minute worship experience, including preaching. Further information about these online services, including a schedule, is available at Chapel - BSK .

E. Glenn Hinson Lecture Series

Each year, typically in early March, BSK hosts the E. Glenn Hinson Lectures. The series, established in 2009 in honor of Dr. Hinson's 50th year of teaching, invites lecturers who share his passion for Christian scholarship in and for the life of the church and the world. Speakers have included:

2024: Dr. Leah Payne, Portland Seminary
2023: Dr. Amos Yong, Fuller Theological Seminary
2022: Dr. Ellen Davis, Duke Divinity School
2021: Dr. Doug Weaver, Baylor University
2020: Dr. Donyelle McCray, Yale Divinity School
2019: Dr. Beth Allison Barr, Baylor University
2018: Ruby Nell Sales, SpiritHouse Project Founder
2017: G. Sujin Pak, Duke Divinity School
2016: Neville Callam, General Secretary of Baptist World Alliance
2015: Molly T. Marshall, Central Baptist Theological Seminary
2014: Willie Jennings, Duke University
2013: Robin Jensen, Vanderbilt University
2012: Don Saliers, Emory University
2011: Stephanie Paulsell, Harvard Divinity School
2010: Wm. Loyd Allen, McAfee School of Theology
2009: E. Glenn Hinson, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Ministry Partners

BSK Theological Seminary is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Kentucky (CBF Kentucky), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia (CBF Virginia), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida and the Caribbean Islands (CBF Florida), and National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc. (NBCA). BSK also partners with Simmons College of Kentucky (HBCU) (Louisville, KY), Georgetown College (Georgetown, KY), and the Berry Center (New Castle, KY). Additionally, the Seminary works with and receives support from churches of multiple different denominations.

Placement

BSK maintains a list of churches with open staff positions that can be accessed from the Seminary website (http://bsk.edu/placement2). The Seminary encourages students to consult this list often.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The admissions office serves the Seminary by recruiting and enrolling students who are sensing God's leadership for life and ministry in faithful witness to Jesus Christ. Any person interested in becoming a student at BSK should consult the following section and is invited to contact Abby Sizemore, Director of Admissions, at abby.sizemore@bsk.edu or (859) 788-3066 for further guidance.

Admissions Process

An application is considered complete when all materials have been received by the Director of Admissions. When an application is complete, it will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee and any other pertinent personnel, such as the director of a specific program. Students will receive an official letter from the Director of Admissions, which will include an offer or denial of admission when a decision is made. Admitted students should complete and return the "Intent to Enroll" form (also included with official letter of admission) by the deadline provided.

Admissions Decisions

Admission will be based on a review by the admissions committee considering an applicant's total profile, including undergraduate GPA, ministerial experience, essays, and recommendations. Offers of admission are made on a rolling basis with monthly deadlines communicated to applicants by the Director of Admissions.

Non-discriminatory Policy

BSK Theological Seminary is committed to offering equal access to educational opportunities for all qualified students. BSK does not discriminate in matters of hiring, admissions, academic issues, or student affairs on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or age.

GENERAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students are accepted according to the following categories:

1. Master of Divinity
2. Master of Arts in Ministry Studies
3. Non-degree: Exploratory or Occasional (students complete the Master of Divinity application)
4. Non-degree: Provisional (no bachelor's degree/does not meet minimum academic requirements for admission into the M.Div. program) (students complete the Master of Divinity application)
5. Special: Transient (no application required, see below for requirements)
6. Auditor
7. Graduate Certificate (in Black Church Studies, Exploring Ministry I, Exploring Ministry II, Pastoral Care, or Rural Ministry)

Academic Requirements

Individuals applying for admission into the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree programs must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or proof of an equivalent degree;
2. Have earned a minimum overall grade point average of 2.5.

Application Materials

An application for admission (including reference forms) can be accessed on the Seminary's website at www.bsk.edu/apply. Required application materials vary by admission category.

NON-DEGREE AND SPECIAL ADMISSIONS

Individuals may take courses for credit under certain circumstances without being admitted into the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Ministry Studies degree programs. These categories include:

Non-degree: Exploratory or Occasional

This category includes students desiring to take courses for credit on an exploratory or occasional basis. Such students may be considering the possibility of pursuing the M.Div. degree full-time or they may simply wish to engage in occasional continuing education for credit. Exploratory and occasional students are subject to the same admission requirements and procedures as degree-seeking students.

This academic status will remain in effect indefinitely as long as the student remains in good academic standing. Students may request to be considered for a change of status from "Non-degree" to "Master of Divinity" any time within the first two years from their initial enrollment in Seminary classes. During this period, the initial application portfolio submitted by the student will still be considered valid for consideration by the admissions committee, although the committee may request additional or updated materials.

Students wishing to be considered for this change of status should request the form "Request for Change of Status: Non-degree to Master of Divinity" from the academic office and submit the completed form to that office. After two years have passed from initial enrollment, students with non-degree status will be required to submit a new application in order to be considered for admission into the M.Div. degree program.

Non-degree: Provisional

In accordance with the standards of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), students without an accredited baccalaureate degree or its equivalent may be admitted to a master's degree if the school documents through rigorous means that those students are prepared to do master's-level work. Individuals who have not completed a baccalaureate degree or whose undergraduate work does not meet the minimum academic requirements for admission into the M.Div. program at BSK may be admitted on a provisional basis as non-degree students if their application materials show promise that they possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities generally associated with persons who hold a baccalaureate degree.

Students admitted on a provisional basis who plan to take more than six (6) hours in their first term of enrollment at BSK must have the request approved by the academic dean.

In order to be eligible for admittance into the M.Div. degree program, provisional students must complete a minimum of twelve (12) hours of credit in approved courses while maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average. (The list of approved courses for non-degree students can be found under "Academic Information" in this catalog.) Provisional students may take no more than eighteen (18) hours at BSK without applying for degree-seeking status. All courses successfully completed during this provisional period will be applied toward degree requirements when a student is admitted to the M.Div. program.

After completing a minimum of twelve (12) hours of credit in approved courses while maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average, provisional students should submit the form "Request for Change of Status: Non-degree to Master of Divinity" to the academic office. If the student has maintained steady enrollment at BSK, the student's initial application portfolio will still be considered valid for consideration by the admissions committee, although the committee may request additional or updated materials. Students who do not enroll in classes at BSK for a period of one year or more will be required to submit a new application portfolio.

Note that provisional status is not an option for applicants to the M.A. degree program.

Non-degree: Graduate Certificate

Students wising to earn a nine-hour graduate certificate (Black Church Studies, Exploring Ministry I, Exploring Ministry II, Pastoral Care, or Rural Ministry) should apply for the particular certificate program they are interested in.

Special: Transient

Transient students include those applicants who desire to take courses for credit with the intention of transferring the credit toward the degree requirements of an academic program at another institution of higher learning. Such students do not need to fill out an admissions application. Transient students should contact the registrar's office to express their interest. The student will be required to submit a letter from the educational institution at which the student is pursuing a degree, affirming that he/she is in good academic standing and that the course(s) being taken will satisfy degree requirements at that institution.

Auditor

BSK Theological Seminary welcomes and encourages persons who are lifelong learners or professionals who desire continuing education to audit courses. Auditors are expected to attend class regularly, complete reading assignments, and participate in class discussions, but are not responsible for writing papers, taking examinations, or completing other projects assigned to the class. Auditors are not assigned a course grade. Students may audit courses on a space-available basis.

BSK POLICY FOR RE-ADMISSION

Inactive Degree and Certificate program students who wish to return to active student status at the seminary need to follow the re-admission process.

If it has been no longer than 3 years since the student has registered for courses, and if that student has not withdrawn or been administratively withdrawn from their academic program (e.g., the student is on a leave of absence), they do not have to reapply. Such students are required to notify the Registrar of their intent to register for courses.

If it has been between 3-7 years since the student has registered for courses, such students may be required to submit a formal statement seeking reinstatement to active status, which would then be reviewed by both the Admissions Office and the Academic Office. Such students are required to contact the Registrar to initiate the reinstatement process.

If it has been more than 7 years since the student has registered for courses, they must reapply for new admission to BSK, and their application will be considered by both the Admissions Office and the Academic Office. See pp. 16-18 above for information on the admission process.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION AND FEES

To take courses towards the Master of Arts in Ministry Studies or Master of Divinity degrees, tuition is **$325/credit hour.** In addition, there is a flat technology fee of **$75 each semester.**

To take courses as a part of the *Black Church Studies Certificate, Exploring Ministry Certificate I or II, Pastoral Care Certificate,* or *Rural Ministry Certificate*, tuition is **$225/credit hour.** In addition, there is a flat technology fee of **$75 each semester.**

To *audit* courses, the cost is **$125/credit hour.** In addition, there is a flat technology fee of **$25 each semester.**

CPE Administrative Fee

A **$150 administrative fee** is required for all students seeking academic credit for each CPE unit. This fee applies regardless of whether the CPE was/is completed prior to/during enrollment at BSK. BSK does not charge tuition for CPE credit. CPE tuition is paid directly to the institution supervising the program.

Graduation Fee

Students should plan ahead for the expenses of graduation. The **$100 graduation fee** includes the provision of caps, gowns, and hoods for graduates during commencement.

PAYMENT OF STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Tuition and other student charges are due in full on or before the specified due date on the invoice. Students can elect to set up a payment plan by contacting the Registrar & Academic Coordinator.

Students may set up recurring or one-time electronic payments through Populi. Students can also make payments through check or cash by mailing them (checks only) or bringing them (checks or cash) to the BSK Administrative Office.

Students must meet all financial obligations for past semesters before they are allowed to register for classes for an upcoming semester. All financial obligations must be met before the Seminary will confer degrees, award certificates, or release transcripts.

REFUNDS

Refunds of tuition and fees may be disbursed to students in good financial standing who drop a course or withdraw from the seminary by the designated drop date on the academic calendar. The following policies guide BSK's refund procedures:

- Students who drop a course on or before the designated "last day to drop" will receive a full tuition refund for that course.
- There will be no refunds issued for students who withdraw after the designated "last day to drop."

Refunds will be mailed within forty (40) days after a student submits the necessary academic paperwork. Students must complete and return all required drop/withdraw forms to the registrar by the "last day to drop" to be eligible to receive a refund. No student with an outstanding balance on her/his Seminary account will be issued a refund until the balance is settled in full.

FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

- Incoming students seeking financial aid must complete the Financial Aid Application on Populi *prior to initial enrollment*. Returning students seeking aid must complete the full application on Populi *prior to the beginning of each academic year* and complete a renewal form *prior to the spring semester*. The application or renewal form must be submitted by the specified due date, or the student will *not* be considered for financial aid that semester.
- Financial assistance is limited to those students seeking the Master of Arts in Ministry Studies or Master of Divinity degrees, including M.Div. students with a provisional status. Moreover, the tuition schedules for certificates and for auditing have built-in discounts. Therefore, students who are taking classes toward a certificate or auditing courses will not receive financial aid.
- Scholarship recipients must maintain enrollment in, at minimum, six (6) hours per semester.
- Financial aid is awarded for only thirty (30) hours in any given academic year. Full financial responsibility for any hours taken over thirty belongs to the student.
- Financial aid is available for no more than the total number of hours required for completion of the M.A. program (36) or the M.Div. program (75).
- Continuation of financial assistance presumes that recipients maintain good academic standing. If a student is on academic probation (below a 2.5 GPA) or is not making satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree, the Financial Aid Committee may consider those factors when deciding whether to renew a student's financial aid.
- Students are expected to pay tuition invoices when they are due. Communication with the seminary is essential if there is a problem in paying bills, in order to set up a payment plan.
- If a student sets up a payment plan and then does not follow through with it, the Financial Aid Committee will determine whether or not the student can continue classes.
- Students will not be allowed to begin their next term of study, have transcripts or other information released, or receive their diploma if they have an overdue invoice owed to the Seminary.
- Students who receive employer provided financial assistance must arrange a reimbursement plan directly with the employer. Tuition invoices will still be due on the specified date.
- If a student's financial status changes significantly during the academic year, the student must be in communication with the Seminary about their status and may re-apply for financial aid.
- Financial aid is not guaranteed for tutorials. Students seeking financial aid for tutorial courses outside of the regular fall/spring semester schedule must contact BSK's Registrar & Academic Coordinator at least 30 days prior to the proposed start date of the course. All financial aid decisions pertaining to tutorials must be approved by BSK's Financial Aid Committee.
- See the academic policies surrounding incomplete courses and Academic Probation on how they can impact financial aid eligibility for students.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Individuals, churches, and partner organizations have given generously to establish scholarships to be awarded to students enrolled full-time in BSK's M.A. or M.Div. degree programs. The Seminary awards scholarships in accordance with the criteria set by the donors of the funds and the policies set forth by the Seminary to govern financial aid:

Institutional Scholarships

- BSK Scholar's Award (up to two recipients; full tuition)
- BSK President's Award (up to two recipients; half tuition)

Partner Scholarships

Throughout the academic year, the Registrar & Academic Coordinator may contact students about partner scholarship opportunities via BSK e-mail. Students are responsible for completing all application materials and submitting them to the appropriate staff member by any mentioned deadlines.

OUTSIDE FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships may be available to students from sources external to the Seminary. Students will need to investigate and apply for these scholarships independently of BSK financial aid.

VETERANS' BENEFITS

Federal law requires accredited institutions of higher education to be eligible for and participate in the Federal Student Aid program under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1865 (HEA) in order to be eligible to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) educational benefits. BSK is not currently Title IV authorized and thus is not approved for VA educational benefits.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

BSK offers two master's level degree programs and five graduate certificates.

MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

The M.Div. is a seventy-five (75) semester hour professional graduate degree program designed to prepare a student for leadership related to the local church or a Christian agency/organization. Optional concentrations are available in Black Church Studies or Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy. The M.Div. is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

The Seminary has established four goals for the Master of Divinity program:

Informed Witness: Contextual and experiential knowledge of Christian scripture, history, theology, and practice relevant to ministerial vocations.

Imagining Witness: Theologically reflective ministerial identity, discernment, and vision.

Lived Witness: Cultivation and embodiment of habits, practices, and competencies for leading and directing persons in faithful Christian living.

Inquiring Witness: Development of reflective, self-aware critique of ministry understanding and practice, and habits of disciplined research supporting growth.

MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM

The Master of Divinity is a seventy-five (75) hour program with sixty (60) hours of required courses, nine (9) hours of restricted electives, and six (6) hours of free electives.

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
SPF 2501	Spiritual Formation	3
INT 2501	Introduction to Theological Education	3
CHH 2501	History of Christianity	3
PAC 2505	Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
WRL 2501	World Religions	3
CHS 2503	Leadership	3
CHS 2607	Administration	3
THE 2611	Invitation to Christian Theology	3
MIS 2603	Foundations in Christian Mission	3
CHH 26--	Denominational Heritage	3
OTS 2601	Introduction to Old Testament	3
NTS 2601	Introduction to New Testament	3
	3 courses from as many subject areas: 1. BIB/OTS/NTS 2. THE 3. MIS 4. CHH	9
ETH 2605	Liturgy and Social Ethics	3
BIB 2603	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
CHS 2611 PRC 2601 WOR 2601	2 of these courses: Communication for Church & World Preaching Worship	6
INT 2701	Scripture and Ministerial Imagination	3
THE 2703	Black & Womanist Theology	3
CTM 2701/ CPE 2615/ CPE 2617/ CPE 2619	Contextual Ministry/ Clinical Pastoral Education	3
BEN 2701	Benediction	3
	6 hours Free Electives	6
	Total Hours	**75**

Revised Spring 2021

MASTER OF DIVINITY
WITH CONCENTRATION IN BLACK CHURCH STUDIES

The M.Div. with a Concentration in Black Church Studies is a seventy-five (75) hour program with sixty-three (63) hours of required courses, six (6) hours of restricted electives, and six (6) hours of Black Church Studies electives.

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
SPF 2501	Spiritual Formation	3
INT 2501	Introduction to Theological Education	3
CHH 2501	History of Christianity	3
PAC 2505	Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
WRL 2501	World Religions	3
CHS 2503	Leadership	3
CHS 2607	Administration	3
THE 2611	Invitation to Christian Theology	3
MIS 2603	Foundations in Christian Mission	3
CHH 26--	Denominational Heritage	3
OTS 2601	Introduction to Old Testament	3
NTS 2601	Introduction to New Testament	3
	2 courses from as many subject areas: 1. BIB/OTS/NTS 2. THE 3. MIS 4. CHH	6
ETH 2605	Liturgy and Social Ethics	3
BIB 2603	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
CHS 2611 PRC 2601 WOR 2601	2 of these courses: Communication for Church & World Preaching Worship	6
INT 2701	Scripture and Ministerial Imagination	3
THE 2703	Black & Womanist Theology	3
INT 2503	Introduction to Black Church Studies	3
CTM	Contextual Ministry in Black Church Context **Taken within BSK's CTM course*	3
	6 hours in BCS Electives (With approval of IBCS Director)	6
	**All BCS Concentration students are required to complete three (3) BCS-related assignments in non-BCS courses (Preaching, Leadership, and World Religions, for example).*	
BEN 2701	Benediction	3
	Total Hours	**75**

MASTER OF DIVINITY
WITH CONCENTRATION IN PASTORAL CARE AND CHAPLAINCY

The M.Div. with a Concentration in Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy is a seventy-five (75) hour program with sixty-three (63) hours of required courses, six (6) hours of restricted electives, and six (6) hours of Pastoral Care electives.

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
SPF 2501	Spiritual Formation	3
INT 2501	Introduction to Theological Education	3
CHH 2501	History of Christianity	3
PAC 2505	Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
WRL 2501	World Religions	3
CHS 2503	Leadership	3
CHS 2607	Administration	3
THE 2611	Invitation to Christian Theology	3
MIS 2603	Foundations in Christian Mission	3
CHH 26--	Denominational Heritage	3
OTS 2601	Introduction to Old Testament	3
NTS 2601	Introduction to New Testament	3
	2 courses from as many subject areas: 1. BIB/OTS/NTS 2. THE 3. MIS 4. CHH	6
ETH 2605	Liturgy and Social Ethics	3
BIB 2603	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
CHS 2611 PRC 2601 WOR 2601	2 of these courses: Communication for Church & World Preaching Worship	6
INT 2701	Scripture and Ministerial Imagination	3
THE 2703	Black & Womanist Theology	3
CPE 2615/ CPE 2617/ CPE 2619	Clinical Pastoral Education	6
BEN 2701	Benediction	3
	6 hours in Pastoral Care Electives	6
	Total Hours	**75**

Revised Spring 2021

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY STUDIES DEGREE

The M.A. in Ministry Studies degree is designed for students to engage in theological reflection and study in a self-selected area of Christian ministry or theological studies. It provides students with opportunities to explore an area of expertise in order to build foundational knowledge and pursue innovative research.

Students are encouraged to have a specialization in mind when they apply for the program. In consultation with a faculty advisor, students will declare their specialization after twelve hours of course work. They may select from traditional fields of study or choose an area that is interdisciplinary.

M.A. students are advised to build their portfolio of specialization assignments from four separate elective courses prior to taking Capstone 1. Students will complete their project proposal by the end of the Capstone 1 course and will complete the project itself during Capstone 2.

The Master of Arts in Ministry Studies degree is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY STUDIES

The M.A. in Ministry Studies is a thirty-six (36) hour program. Nine (9) hours involve required courses, and twenty-seven (27) hours are electives that students can use to focus on their learning interests. An M.A. elective course can be either an M.Div. core course (classes offered at least once per academic year) or an M.Div. elective course (classes offered occasionally).

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
INT 2501	Introduction to Theological Education	3
	Select nine courses from across the curriculum.	27
CAP 2710	Master of Arts Capstone 1	3
CAP 2720	Master of Arts Capstone 2	3
	Total Hours	**36**

M.A. Degree Program Sequence

Stage 1: Hours 1-12	Stage 2: Hours 13-24	Stage 3: Hours 25-36
Intro to Theological Education (3)	Elective (3)	Capstone 1 (3)
Elective (3)	Elective (3)	Elective (3)
Elective (3)	Elective (3)	Elective (3)
Elective (3)	Elective (3)	Capstone 2 (3)
Declare your specialization.	*Build your portfolio.*	*Complete your project.*

CERTIFICATE IN BLACK CHURCH STUDIES

The certificate requires nine (9) hours of graduate credit that may be rolled into a graduate degree program.

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
INT 2503	Introduction to Black Church Studies	3
THE 2703	Black and Womanist Theology	3
	1 of the following courses:	
INT 2633	The Life and Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.	
PRC 2601	Introduction to Preaching	
CHH 2605	Baptist Heritage	3
CHH 2607	Pentecostal Heritage	
MIS 2607	Women in Mission	
THE 2725	The Theology of James H. Cone	
	Total Hours	**9**

CERTIFICATE IN EXPLORING MINISTRY LEVEL I

The certificate requires nine (9) hours of graduate credit that may be rolled into a graduate degree program.

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
SPF 2501	Spiritual Formation	3
	2 of the following courses:	
CHH 2501	History of Christianity	
CHS 2503	Leadership	6
INT 2503	Introduction to Black Church Studies	
PAC 2505	Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling	
WRL 2501	World Religions	
	Total Hours	**9**

CERTIFICATE IN EXPLORING MINISTRY LEVEL II

The certificate requires nine (9) hours of graduate credit that may be rolled into a graduate degree program. Upon completion of the Exploring Ministry Level I Certificate, with a GPA of at least 2.0, Exploring Ministry Certificate Students may take any 3 additional courses from the following (prerequisites may apply): Students with an M.Div. (or other advanced theological degree) may enter Level II upon admittance.

†DENOTES COURSE WITH A PREREQUISITE.

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
INT 2501	Introduction to Theological Education	3
INT 2503	Introduction to Black Church Studies	3
CHH 2501	History of Christianity	3
PAC 2505	Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
WRL 2501	World Religions	3
CHS 2503	Leadership	3

RMS 2503	Rural Places	3
CHS 2607	Administration	3
THE 2611	Invitation to Christian Theology	3
MIS 2603	Foundations in Christian Mission	3
CHH 26--	Denominational Heritage	3
OTS 2501	Introduction to the Old Testament	3
NTS 2501	Introduction to the New Testament	3
†RMS 2605	Year in the Life of a Rural Minister	3
ETH 2605	Liturgy and Social Ethics	3
†BIB 2603	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
CHS 2611	Communication for Church and World	3
PRC 2601	Preaching	3
WOR 2601	Worship	3
†CPE 2615/7/9	Clinical Pastoral Education	6
	Total Hours	**9**

CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL CARE

The certificate requires nine (9) hours of graduate credit that may be rolled into a graduate degree program.

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
PAC 2505	Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
	6 hours in Pastoral Care and Counseling Electives	6
	Total Hours	**9**

CERTIFICATE IN RURAL MINISTRY

The certificate requires nine (9) hours of graduate credit that may be rolled into a graduate degree program. In the additional, non-RMS course, a major assignment must be completed that shows engagement in an aspect of rural ministry within the context of the course's subject matter.

Course Prefix	Course Title	Hours
RMS 2503	Rural Places	3
RMS 2605	A Year in the Life of a Rural Minister	3
	Any additional course (to include major RM assignment) (with approval of RM Certificate Director)	3
	Total Hours	**9**

RELATION OF CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS TO MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE PROGRAM

Certificates in Black Church Studies, Pastoral Care, and Exploring Ministry I and II are available only to students who are not enrolled in a degree program at BSK. Credit hours earned toward a certificate may be applied toward appropriate degree requirements if a student enters a degree program after beginning a certificate program, but a certificate will not be awarded should the student enter a degree program. If the credit hours required for a certificate are earned and the student does not complete a degree, the student may petition the Dean to receive the earned certificate.

NON-DEGREE: PROVISIONAL CURRICULUM

Students applying for the Master of Divinity degree program who do not fully meet all admissions criteria may be admitted to BSK with "Non-degree: Provisional" status. Note that provisional status is not an option for applicants to the Master of Arts in Ministry Studies degree program.

Students with provisional status are limited to registering for no more than six (6) hours during their first term at BSK. Provisional students seeking to take more than six (6) hours in their initial term must have the request approved by the academic dean.

Provisional students must complete a minimum of twelve (12) hours of credit in approved courses (see below) and maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average in those courses in order to be considered for admission into the Master of Divinity program. Such students must enroll in Introduction to Theological Education, Spiritual Formation, and two (2) other 2500-level courses for a total of twelve (12) hours. Up to two (2) more 2500-level or 2600-level courses may be taken.

	Course Prefix	**Course Title**	**Hours**
REQUIRED	SPF 2501	Spiritual Formation	3
	INT 2501	Introduction to Theological Education	3
		Two (2) 2500-level courses	6
OPTIONAL		Two (2) 2500-level or 2600-level courses.	3-6
		Total Hours	**12-18**

After completing a minimum of twelve (12) hours of credit in approved courses while maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average, provisional students should submit the form "Request for Change of Status: Non-degree to Master of Divinity" to the academic office. If a student has maintained steady enrollment at BSK, that student's initial application portfolio will still be considered valid for consideration by the admissions committee, although the committee may request additional or updated materials. Students who do not enroll in classes at BSK for a period of one year or more will be required to submit a new application portfolio. Provisional students may take no more than eighteen (18) hours at BSK without applying for degree-seeking status.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic Honor

Mutual trust is a basic component of any community. BSK Theological Seminary expects its students, as members of an academic and Christian community, to take seriously their positions in the community. Students are expected to ensure the continuance of trust among themselves and between them and the faculty by accepting responsibility for their own work. The Seminary considers breaches of this trust and responsibility to be serious offenses. Offenses that constitute violation of academic honor include plagiarism, cheating, lying, and academic theft.

Academic Probation

A grade point average of 2.5 (B/C) is considered the minimum for satisfactory academic progress toward the degree of Master of Divinity. A student whose average falls below 2.5 for any semester will be placed on academic probation. Students whose average falls below 2.0 in any semester must submit to the Registrar by a specified date a statement indicating planned changes in circumstances or commitments expected to enhance academic success; the Academic Dean will review and sign off on the plan and may request an additional meeting with the student. The student placed on academic probation is required to reduce course load to no more than six (6) semester hours of courses per semester and will be reviewed regularly for improvement in progress toward the degree by the Registrar and Academic Dean. If the student's work does not meet the 2.5 minimum standards in the following semester, he/she may be asked to withdraw from the Seminary.

For students who are granted an Incomplete, the semester average will be calculated without taking the Incomplete course into consideration. However, should a student finish an Incomplete course and the semester GPA is below 2.5, they will be retroactively placed on academic probation. Being retroactively placed on academic probation will impact a student's opportunity to be awarded financial aid through the seminary for the upcoming semester.

Performance in the intervening semester may be taken into consideration by the financial aid committee for awards.

Academic Restriction

A student receiving a grade of W (Withdrawal) from 50% of their courses or greater within a single semester or receiving three (3) grades of W cumulatively during their time as a degree-seeking student at BSK will be placed on Academic Restriction the following semester. Academic Restriction limits a student's course load to no more than six (6) semester hours of courses.

If a student receives another grade of W while on Academic Restriction, they will be placed on a Leave of Absence for one semester before being allowed to enroll for additional courses. Students placed on a leave of absence after Academic Restriction must submit to the Registrar by a specified date a statement indicating planned changes in circumstances or commitments expected to enhance academic success; the Academic Dean will review and sign off on the plan and may request an additional meeting with the student. A student receiving a grade of W after serving Academic Restriction and a subsequent enforced Leave of Absence may be withdrawn from the degree program.

Academic Probation or Termination Appeal Process

Upon notice of probation or termination, a student may appeal that decision within fourteen (14) days by letter to the academic dean, detailing circumstances causing the unsatisfactory grades or attendance and the measures that have been or will be taken to alleviate the problem. The academic dean will have fourteen (14) days to review the appeal and notify the student of the school's decision regarding his/her probation or termination.

Advanced Standing

Students may be exempted from a required course or courses based on demonstrated competence in the subject area but without transcripts of graduate credit in that area of study. Exemptions may be based on extensive study

at the undergraduate level in a subject area or on other training or experiential learning. Course credit is not granted in such a case, and the exemption does not reduce the total number of hours required for the degree. Students requesting advanced standing should submit an "Exemption from Requirement" form to the Academic Coordinator. Additional information, such as a detailed course outline or syllabus, may be needed to make a determination. If advanced standing is granted, the student will be required to complete a number of credit hours equivalent to the number of hours exempted. In some cases, those hours may be required to be taken in a specific curricular area.

Advising

The purpose of academic advising is to provide information and counsel to students to aid them in making decisions about how they can most fully avail themselves of the opportunities and resources provided at and through BSK to prepare them for life and ministry in faithful witness to Jesus Christ in the church and the world.
Advisement may include helping students address or gain a better understanding of:

- their interests and abilities
- life/vocational/career goals
- Seminary policies/requirements
- available courses/educational experiences
- campus and community (including denominational) resources
- degree requirements and options
- financial aid possibilities and requirements
- academic progress measures (grades/GPA questions)
- study skills and/or resources
- personal concerns or problems
- internship or cooperative education opportunities
- study abroad opportunities
- academic petitions or special requests (advanced standing, course substitution, etc.)
- concerns related to professor/faculty/other students
- selecting courses for the next term
- dropping and/or adding course(s)
- identifying other campus offices that can provide assistance

Advising System

Upon enrolling at BSK Theological Seminary, each certificate or degree-seeking student and any non-degree student taking courses with the possible intention of pursuing a degree will be assigned a full-time faculty advisor who will generally remain a permanent advisor for the remainder of the student's program. Concentration students (Black Church Studies or Pastoral Care & Chaplaincy) that are assigned a faculty advisor other than the director of their concentration will also be assigned that director as a secondary advisor. M.A. in Ministry Studies students that are assigned a faculty advisor other than the director of the M.A. program will be assigned the M.A. director as a secondary advisor.

Students may request a change in advisors after completion of twelve (12) hours of study. Students should request permission of the professor prior to requesting he/she serve as advisor.

Attendance

Regular attendance in scheduled class sessions is important to the learning process and especially crucial to the interactive nature of courses at BSK Theological Seminary. Faculty and students are accountable to one another within a community of learning and should strive to be good stewards of both their own time and opportunities, and

those of others. Acceptance of reasons for the absence or tardiness is at the discretion of the faculty.

Auditing Courses

BSK Theological Seminary encourages and welcomes persons who wish to audit courses. Students who audit are expected to attend class regularly, complete reading assignments, and participate in class discussion. No papers or examinations will be required or graded.

Catalog in Effect

A candidate for a degree may choose to graduate under the requirements of the catalog at the time of enrollment or any subsequent catalog.

Change of Status

Students may request to be considered for a change of status from "Non-degree" to "Master of Divinity" any time within the first two years from their initial enrollment in Seminary classes. During this period, the initial application portfolio submitted by the student will still be considered valid for consideration by the admissions committee, although the committee may request additional or updated materials. Students wishing to be considered for this change of status should request the form "Request for Change of Status: Non-degree to Master of Divinity" from the Registrar and submit the completed form to that office. After two years have passed from initial enrollment, students with non-degree status will be required to submit a new application in order to be considered for admission into the Master of Divinity degree program.

Classroom Presence and Attention

Presence and attention are core principles in learning at BSK. Student participation in learning is greatly diminished by distraction. No doubt distractions inevitably occur, but students are expected to devote their primary attention to the live class session. When students are preparing to attend a live class session, BSK expects students to:

· Be punctual in joining class and returning from breaks;
· Dress appropriately;
· Plan ahead to minimize potential distractions;
· Make every effort to find a safe, still, and quiet environment, free from other distractions, for the duration of the class;
· Monitor background noise and mute when necessary;
· Ensure that the location of choice is neither too private (e.g., a medical appointment) or too public (e.g., a loud atmosphere, a place where people may overhear confidential discussions, or a place where classmates may be exposed to elements of a student's employment);
·Avoid trying "to listen in on" class sessions when primary attention is required elsewhere;
·Refrain from joining or participating in live class sessions while driving;
· Keep webcam video on and remain within view of the camera (except during breaks or an emergency); and
· Remember that turning a webcam video off during live class sessions negatively impacts group and individual presence in the class.

If there are occasions when students are unable to meet these expectations or disruptions are expected, students should immediately and clearly communicate with the instructor about the nature, extent, and duration of the disruption.

Student participation in a BSK classroom session via Zoom is expected to follow the same practice of attention, presence, and respectful behavior one would adopt when physically present in a classroom. BSK instructors reserve the right to determine that a student's immediate surroundings are negatively impacting the class and/or other students' learning environment. Instructors may (1) refuse a student's participation in a live class session if the student fails to observe the outlined behavior expectations and (2) ask that a student rejoin when they are able to comply.

Please note: BSK students are expected to comply with all state laws regarding the operation of a motor vehicle. Nothing in this policy creates a duty on the part of BSK to monitor students' compliance with state motor vehicle laws.

Clinical Pastoral Education

See "Required Supervised Ministry (Field Education) Credit." (pages 39-40)

Course Change Request – Drop/Add

To request a change in registration after the start of classes, the student should contact the registrar. Courses may be added by the end of the day on the Last Day to Add, as designated on the Academic Calendar. Courses dropped by the end of the day on the designated Last Day to Drop will not appear on the student's grade report or permanent record.

Course Load

For reporting purposes, the Seminary is required in some instances to define "full-time" student status. The minimum full-time course load for Master of Divinity degree students is nine (9) hours per semester.

Students who plan to take more than fifteen (15) hours in a semester must have the request approved by the academic dean. It is recommended that students who are serving in vocational ministry positions and/or working full-time restrict their course loads to no more than twelve (12) hours per semester to allow for the demands of graduate theological study.

Students admitted on a provisional basis who plan to take more than six (6) hours in their first term of enrollment at BSK must have the request approved by the academic dean.

In order to be eligible for financial aid, students must maintain enrollment in at least six (6) hours per semester. Furthermore, students who fall below six (6) hours per semester may lose eligibility for in-school deferment of previous higher education loans.

Course Substitution

Course substitutions for degree requirements will be considered in special cases. Students desiring consideration of a substitution should consult with a faculty member in the relevant academic area or with the Registrar.

Disabilities, Reasonable Accommodations for Students

The Seminary complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. No otherwise qualified individual shall be denied access to or participation in the services, programs, and activities of the Seminary solely on the basis of a disability. The Seminary shall provide accommodations for each eligible student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, has a record or history of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment.

Disabilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD)
- Learning Disabilities (aka Learning Disorders)
- Psychological Disorders (including Autism Spectrum Disorders)
- Visual Impairments
- Hearing Impairments
- Mobility Impairments
- Chronic Health Disorders

Examples of academic accommodations that might be warranted include, but are not limited to the following:
· Extended test time to complete quizzes, tests, and examinations
· Provision of readers for tests and exams as required
· Administration of test and examinations in a quiet room with minimal distractions
· Provision of a scribe for tests and exam as required
· Large Print (tests, articles)
· Provision of books in alternative format
· Provision of Sign Language interpreter/transliterator
· Priority seating
· Relocation of classes when necessary
· Provision of a note taker to supplement student notes

Students who wish to be considered for reasonable accommodations must submit to the Academic Dean's Office:
· A completed and signed Disability Accommodation Request Form
· Complete and current documentation, and if applicable historical records and other materials. (Documentation should be recent in most cases; however, the need for recent documentation depends on the circumstances of the student's disability.)
Information concerning a student's disability is treated in a confidential manner in accordance with applicable federal laws. Documentation presented will be reviewed by the Dean; further documentation may be required from the student to substantiate the claim of a disability or to assist the Seminary in determining appropriate accommodations.

The Dean determines which of the student's requested accommodations are supported as being necessary for purposes of the ADA and ADA Amendments Act and also determines if the accommodations found to be necessary are reasonable in the context of the student's academic program. The Dean then meets with the student to discuss the accommodations approved as being necessary and reasonable.

Approved accommodations are recorded in the Disability Accommodations Plan Agreement form which is signed and dated by the student and the Dean; the original agreement is maintained in the student's file in the Academic Office and the student receives a copy. The student's rights and responsibilities are reviewed. The student is also apprised that individual circumstances may warrant modification of the accommodations agreed upon and listed on the Disability Accommodations Plan Agreement form.

If a student disagrees with eligibility decisions made by the Dean, it is recommended that the student request a meeting to discuss questions and concerns. If, after the meeting with the Dean, a student disagrees with the eligibility decisions made, he or she has the right to file a grievance. (See "Student Grievance Procedures" in the BSK Student Handbook.)

To implement accommodations students are to submit a Disability Accommodation Implementation Form to each of the student's instructors. Student and instructor will meet to discuss implementation of accommodations for the class. Both student and instructor are to sign the implementation form. Accommodations begin from the date that the form is signed and executed. To implement accommodations for library and instructional technology needs, the student is to submit a Disability Accommodation Implementation Form to the BSK Librarian and/or Information Technology staff and follow the same procedure with course instructor to implement accommodations.

Students should contact the Seminary within two weeks of admission for an initial discussion and no later than two weeks prior to the first day of classes for each academic term for which accommodations are requested. The Dean's office shall prepare letters to appropriate faculty members concerning specific, reasonable, academic adjustments

for the student.

The Seminary prohibits discrimination or harassment based on disabilities.

English Language Use

BSK Theological Seminary affirms and celebrates the diversity of the spoken and written language of all students and their communities. At the same time, the Seminary also recognizes the privileging of conventions of "standard" Edited American English (EAE) in a range of contexts.

EAE is a privileged, written, social dialect that, as with all dialects, reflects the cultural (including racial and socio-economic) identity of the group most closely associated with its development. From the point of view of linguists, it is not an inherently preferable form of English; still, it currently functions as a standard in many contexts, including most American academic writing. The privileging of EAE in academic discourse means that white, middle- and upper-class persons in academic contexts often experience privilege both by sharing in its cultural identity and by ease of access to that standard dialect.

A diversity of spoken dialects exists across the BSK community, including varieties of African American Vernacular English and Appalachian and other Southern English dialects. These dialects reflect the rich cultures of diverse communities, and afford unlimited possibilities for effective and expressive communication. While use of these dialects may be considered unconventional in relation to the standard dialect, they do not represent improper or erroneous use of language, but the employment of fully-formed language conventions outside of the standard. At BSK we are committed to embracing the diversity of God's good creation, including this diversity embodied in various language traditions.

The Seminary will continue to assist students in attaining competence in Edited American English. At the same time, we will also promote practices to facilitate student appreciation and understanding of their own and other dialects and will encourage the development of students' ability to use varying dialects to their greatest effect.

Grading System and Quality Points

The method and manner of evaluation for course grades is left to the discretion of each professor as outlined in their course syllabus. A student may take an examination or submit an assigned project at a time other than the scheduled one only under extenuating circumstances and with permission from the professor.

Cumulative grade point averages are computed on a quality point system. The interpretation of the letter grade and the quality point value is as follows:

Quality Points Per Credit Hour:

A	Exceptional mastery of the course	4.0	100-93%
A/B	More than required mastery of course essentials	3.5	92-89%
B	Required mastery of course essentials	3.0	88-82%
B/C	Slightly more than course essentials	2.5	81-78%
C	Course essentials	2.0	77-70%
D	Minimal comprehension of course essentials	1.0	69-65%
F	Inadequate comprehension of course essentials	0	Below 65%
I	Incomplete		
IP	In Progress		
AU	Audit		
W	Withdrawal		

Graduation Requirements

In order to meet requirements for a Master of Divinity degree from BSK Theological Seminary, a student must complete each of the following requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of seventy-five (75) semester hours of academic credit in specified courses as listed in student degree program;
2. Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.50; and
3. Complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours at BSK Theological Seminary.
4. Have paid the graduation fee.

Students who have six (6) hours or less to complete, including incomplete grades, may participate in commencement exercises. Candidates for graduation must submit an application for a degree to the academic office during the fall semester preceding the spring semester in which the student intends to graduate/"walk." Degrees will be conferred and mailed at the time the hours are completed. All incompletes over the six (6) hours must be completed by the end of April preceding graduation to participate in commencement. Students participating in commencement with hours outstanding should maintain continuous enrollment until the hours are completed or request a leave of absence. See the Student Handbook regarding fees and other graduation requirements.

Human Subject Research Guidelines

Faculty, administrators, and students who do research with human subjects should be intentional to maintain the integrity of individuals and institutions involved in the research. "Research," for these purposes includes, but is not limited to, personal interviews, personal questionnaires, polls, surveys, and any related recordings. These guidelines apply to research done through traditional formats as well as through online or social media platforms.

All research is to:

1. respect the dignity and worth of each person and his or her institution
2. avoid the imposition of cultural values or theology of persons
3. do no harm to the participants or their institutions
4. avoid using position to secure unfair personal advantage over others
5. avoid representing research agendas as official positions of BSK
6. receive appropriate supervision of the process

Faculty, administrators, and students who propose to do research with human subjects with public implications (publication, class presentation, or other non-confidential forums) shall seek approval from the BSK Research Review Committee (RRC). A proposal (form available from the academic office) is to be submitted to the Academic Dean at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the research. The RRC shall be composed of the Dean, a professor in the field of studies, and the Director of Admissions.

The Human Subjects Research Proposal shall include:

1. a description of the participants and the purpose of the research
2. the duration and description of process of the research
3. a plan to protect the confidentiality of the participants
4. a plan to inform participants of any risks and seek written consent

Inclusive Language Policy

Out of respect for all persons created in the image of God the Seminary encourages the use of language avoiding narrowly subjective categories that may imply bias in regard to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, ability/disability, or any other exclusionary perspectives. All members of the BSK community—faculty, staff, and students—are called upon to adopt respectful and inclusive language in all academic work as well as in Seminary publications, official documents, and correspondence, including all Internet communication.

The Seminary recognizes the ongoing debate and conflicting views about gender-sensitive language for God. As a result, BSK currently adopts no formal policy statement concerning language for God. At the same time, the Seminary is committed to promoting exchange of ideas and sharing of faith relative to the use of language for the divine.

Incomplete Courses

A grade of "Incomplete" ("I") will be assigned if, due to exceptional circumstances and with the prior approval of the course instructor, a student is not able to complete the required coursework during the semester. The Seminary recognizes the pressures that students often face, and faculty members are committed to helping students succeed. The Seminary must ask, however, that students be diligent in communicating the need for additional time and in completing assignments in a timely manner when additional time is given. *Incompletes cannot be granted after the last day of classes for the semester*.

Students who believe they meet the necessary conditions to be assigned an incomplete should secure a "Request for Incomplete" form from the Academic Office (also available on Populi) and complete the form in consultation with the course instructor no later than the final week of the semester. The form should include a description of the specific assignments that will need to be completed. The instructor should sign the form and assign a provisional grade for the student on the basis of work currently completed. *The completed form must be submitted by the student to the Registrar no later than the last day of classes for the semester*.

The incomplete grade will revert to the provisional grade if assignments are not completed to remove the Incomplete within the prescribed time period. An instructor should assign a provisional grade of "F" if a student has not demonstrated learning appropriate for the assignment of a grade that indicates adequate completion of the course's learning objectives.

All work must then be completed within six months of the assignment of the "Incomplete" grade. At any time prior to the end of the six months, the instructor may submit a grade based on completion of the work. If no new grade is submitted, the "I" will be replaced with the provisional grade previously assigned by the instructor. Students who have two or more Incomplete courses may be unable to register for any additional courses until all outstanding Incomplete courses are finalized.

For students who are granted an Incomplete, the semester average will be calculated without taking the Incomplete course into consideration. However, should a student finish an Incomplete course and the semester GPA is below 2.5, they will be retroactively placed on academic probation. Being retroactively placed on academic probation may impact a student's opportunity to be awarded financial aid through the seminary for the upcoming semester, at the discretion of the Financial Aid Committee.

The Registrar will reach out to students with Incomplete courses to check on progress and offer further support if necessary. Students may reach out to the Registrar at any time to inquire about further resources, mentorship, etc. to aid in the students' success.

Late Withdrawal

Any student who withdraws from a course or courses after the withdrawal deadline will receive an F grade for the course(s) unless an instructor determines that the student has completed assignments sufficient to warrant a passing grade. However, if extenuating circumstances (such as personal illness or injury, serious personal or family problems, serious financial difficulties, or unanticipated work conflicts) are the reason for withdrawing from a course following the withdrawal deadline, a student may request a late withdrawal up to the last day of classes for that term. The request for the assignment of a W grade instead of an F grade should be made in writing to the Academic Dean and should provide details, with documentation where appropriate, of the extenuating circumstances. The Academic

Dean will review the request and notify the student of the school's decision regarding their grade.

Leave of Absence

A student may request a leave of absence from the M.Div. program for a period of one (1) semester or one (1) year, renewable up to the maximum of one (1) year for students admitted without a bachelor's degree, two (2) years for all other M.Div. students. To request a leave of absence, a student should complete a "Request for Leave of Absence" form and submit it to the Academic Office by the beginning of the first term the student will not be enrolled in classes.

Students on leave of absence will not be considered in residence or actively pursuing a course of study for purposes of reporting to loan officers or government agencies.

Students requesting a leave of absence during an academic term should follow existing procedures in regard to resolving their status in courses in progress, working with the course instructors to determine the possibility and/or appropriateness of withdrawing from a course or receiving an incomplete. If the withdrawal deadline has passed, the student may follow the late withdrawal process. See "Late Withdrawal."

Students who do not enroll for a fall or spring term and who do not request a leave of absence, as well as students who complete the requested leave of absence and do not enroll for classes in the next term, will be subject to administrative withdrawal from the M.Div. program. They will be required to reapply for admission and will be subject to the catalog and graduation requirements in place at the time of readmission.

Re-Admission

See "BSK Policy for Re-Admission" under "Admissions Information" (p. 19).

Registration

Prior to registering for a term, all students in a certificate or degree program are encouraged to meet with their advisor to determine the most appropriate courses for that term. There is a designated early registration period each semester. The two-week period in the Fall covers registration for the following Spring term. The period in the Spring covers Summer and Fall terms. Active students are expected to register during the early registration periods. Following each early registration period, if spaces remain available, registration may be reopened. Students may view the upcoming semester course schedule and course catalog to utilize in the decision-making process. Students may view the schedule through the BSK website or Populi and will register for courses through Populi. Should students have any questions regarding registration, please contact the BSK Registrar.

Repeating a Course

If a student receives a grade of "D" or "F", he or she may repeat the course once for credit but only at BSK Theological Seminary. A student may not take the course at another school and transfer the credit. Although all grades that a student earns appear on the student's record, the grade received the last time the course is taken is the only grade that is calculated into the grade point average.

Required Supervised Ministry (Field Education) Credit

A BSK education is more than acquisition of theological knowledge, as important as that is. A BSK education calls for the development of the whole person. Who you are is God's gift for ministry. You also have gifts to be used in ministry. The best place to identify, clarify, and develop your gifts is in the reflective practice of ministry. To that end, BSK requires that every graduating student have successfully completed a minimum of 3 hours credit in a Supervised Ministry experience. Two pathways are provided to complete this requirement: Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and Contextual Ministry (CTM). CPE is required for the Concentration in Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy.

Option 1 - Contextual Ministry (3 hours)
Contextual Ministry (CTM 2701) is designed to further develop and clarify the student's theological reflection, awareness and skills through engaging a ministry placement, meeting weekly with a mentor, and reflecting weekly with a facilitated peer reflection group. Placements can be in congregations, care institutions, or faith-based agencies. See the CTM Handbook for detailed information, which is available from the Director of Contextual Ministry, Dr. Anthony Everett.

Contextual Ministry can be engaged following completion of 24 hours credit, including all required 2500-level courses. It must be completed no later than the semester prior to the student's last semester of classes, when BEN 2701, "The Benediction" must be taken. The application to enroll in CTM is available through the Director of Admissions, Abby Sizemore.

Option 2 - Clinical Pastoral Education (6 hours)
Clinical Pastoral Education is intensive experience and reflection in spiritual care and counseling of persons. For BSK credit CPE must be taken in a center accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). These centers are in hospitals (CPE 2617), congregations (CPE 2615), and other settings (CPE 2619). These courses are available in a variety of time formats from summer to 2 semester experiences. BSK CPE Director Dr. Jaye Peabody Smith should be consulted early in the student's discernment process for more information concerning enrolling in CPE programs.

CPE for BSK students:
Registration for CPE begins with the submission of an application to one or more ACPE-accredited CPE centers. Students who are interested in or curious about CPE are encouraged to consult with the BSK CPE Coordinator. After the student is accepted by a center, the student can register for BSK credit. The student will be assessed an administrative fee of $150 by BSK but is not charged tuition for the hours earned. Most CPE centers charge a fee that the student will pay directly to the center.

Following the completion of the CPE unit, in order to receive academic credit, the student must ensure that the CPE center or ACPE provides to the CPE Coordinator written verification that the full unit was successfully completed, that credit for the unit has been registered with ACPE, and that a grade has been assigned by the Certified Educator for the student's work. The grade will be recorded on the student's BSK transcript on a pass/fail basis.

CPE completed prior to enrolling in the M.Div.:
BSK will consider academic credit for one unit of CPE completed prior to the student's acceptance into the Master of Divinity program at BSK. The student will be assessed an administrative fee of $150 to have the credit officially recorded on the student's record. In order to receive academic credit, the student is responsible for having the CPE center or ACPE write the Registrar with verification that a full unit was successfully completed, the unit has been registered with ACPE, and a grade has been assigned by the Certified Educator for the student's work. The Registrar will consult with the BSK CPE Coordinator in evaluating this credit.

<u>Transcript Request</u>
A BSK student, graduate, or former student is entitled to a BSK official transcript of academic record provided all financial obligations to the Seminary have been satisfied. Current BSK students may request a transcript through Populi or by contacting the Registrar. Official transcripts are not accessible to students or alumni with outstanding balances that are not on current payment plans. All current students and graduates are provided one free copy of an official transcript. Subsequent official transcript copies are $5 per copy.

Transfer between Degree Programs (Internal)

From M.Div. to M.A. Program

The process to transfer from the M.Div. program to the M.A. program is an application process.

The following criteria must be met for application to transfer:

1. The student's current grade point average (GPA) must be 2.5 or higher in current academic program.
2. The student must resolve all Incompletes in their current program of study before a transfer to a new program will be approved.
3. If the student is under provisional status, they must first satisfy all requirements of the provisional curriculum.
4. The student's financial account must be in good standing.

The following process must be followed for application to transfer:

1. The student must complete the transfer application. Contact the BSK Registrar for the application.
2. The student must meet with the M.A. Program Director, to discuss transfer from the M.Div. to M.A. program, especially the student's anticipated specialization agenda.
3. The student must meet with the current Financial Aid Committee Chairperson to discuss financial aid implications of a transfer from the M.Div. to M.A. program.
4. The application for transfer will be considered for approval by the M.A. Director and the Academic Office. If the application for transfer is approved, the student will be notified by the M.A. Director.

From M.A. to M.Div. Program

The process to transfer from the M.A. program to the M.Div. program is an application process.

1. The student's current grade point average (GPA) must be 2.5 or higher in current academic program.
2. The student must resolve all Incompletes in their current program of study before a transfer to a new program will be approved.
3. The student must complete the transfer application. Contact the BSK Registrar for the application.
4. The student must meet with the Financial Aid Committee Chairperson to discuss financial aid implications of a transfer from the M.A. to M.Div. program.
5. Upon receipt of the student's transfer application, the Academic Office will review the application and determine transfer of credit.
6. If the application for transfer is approved, the student will be notified by the Academic Office.

Transfer of Credit (External)

Transfer credits are considered on a case-by-case basis. Only courses with a grade of at least a "B" or its equivalent and eligible for graduate credit from an accredited graduate institution are transferable. Credits that have been earned as part of the award of another graduate degree program can be transferred to the BSK Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Ministry Studies programs if the course content is deemed appropriate. Grades earned for credits transferred are not included in the calculation of a student's grade point average. Thirty (30) hours (not including Clinical Pastoral Education) of credits for the Master of Divinity degree, and twenty-four (24) hours for the Master of Arts in Ministry Studies degree, must be earned at BSK Theological Seminary.

Transfer credit decisions are made with regard to the quality of the educational experience (including consideration of accreditation status and/or instructor credentials), the comparability of the nature, content, and level of a course to courses offered at BSK, and appropriateness to the BSK M.Div. or M.A. degree programs. Additional information, such as a detailed course outline or syllabus, may be needed to make a determination. Some credit may not transfer simply because the institutions and their educational goals and objectives are very different. The results of credit transfer evaluations may be appealed through the Seminary's Student Grievance Procedures (located in the BSK

Student Handbook). Those interested in transferring credit should submit a completed "Transfer Credit Evaluation" form (available on Populi) to the Academic Coordinator.

Tutorials

Tutorials are a type of study in which a student works independently under the necessary and sufficient guidance of a supervising instructor. Tutorials may be taken in any area of the curriculum, but normally are undertaken only in areas not offered, or not offered on a regular basis, in the regular curriculum. To be eligible to enroll for a tutorial, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 and must have completed at least twenty (20) semester hours toward the Seminary degree. A student wishing to engage in a tutorial should consult with a BSK full-time faculty member or a supervisor approved by the Academic Dean to plan the project. Students are encouraged to be active in the development of tutorial courses in areas of their special interest. Learning objectives for a tutorial course should be comparable in scope to learning objectives for a course of the same number of semester hours taught in a regular classroom setting.

A student who wishes to engage in a tutorial should first contact the Registrar to confirm eligibility. The professor and student should prepare a "Tutorial Application" form and syllabus to be submitted to the Registrar for approval. Upon approval, the student will be allowed to register for the tutorial in a regular academic term.

Tutorials have the same registration dates and tuition costs as other classes and must be completed by the end of the term in which they are registered. *Students may not request a tutorial less than two weeks before classes are scheduled to start for the semester*. Normally students may register for no more than eighteen (18) hours of tutorial work towards a degree. Exceptions to any of the above guidelines must be approved by the Academic Dean.

Students will only be permitted to take required courses in the BSK curriculum as tutorials when those students are in their final year of completing degree requirements and when those courses either are not offered in that academic year or are offered at times that conflict with one another. Tutorials are primarily for students to explore areas of interest for elective courses.

Verification of Enrollment

The Seminary Academic Office will provide verification of enrollment upon request. Verification of enrollment will be provided only after the "last day to drop." Any verification needed prior to that date will indicate registration only.

The student is responsible for reporting to an agency or organization any changes in enrollment (number of hours, etc.) subsequent to provision of the verification. Failure to provide notification of such changes may be construed as fraud.

Withdrawal from a Course

A student may withdraw from a course after the drop deadline and no later than the withdrawal deadline. The student must complete and submit a "Course Withdrawal Request" form no later than the withdrawal deadline (please see the Academic Calendar). A grade of "W" will be assigned, and it will appear on the student's grade report and on the permanent record if the student submits the request prior to the withdrawal deadline. Withdrawals are not used to compute grade point average.

Any student who withdraws after the withdrawal deadline or who fails to complete and submit the "Course Withdrawal Request" form will be assigned a letter grade of "F" for the course.

Withdrawal Limits

See "Academic Restriction."

Withdrawal after Withdrawal Deadline
See "Late Withdrawal."

Withdrawal from the M.Div. Program
A student wishing to withdraw from BSK should submit a "Request for Withdrawal from the Master of Divinity Program" form and settle any outstanding academic and/or financial obligations in order to facilitate readmission at a later date. A student wishing to be readmitted will need to follow the Re-Admission Policy.

Students requesting withdrawal during an academic term should follow existing procedures in regard to resolving their status in courses in progress, working with the course instructors to determine the possibility and/or appropriateness of withdrawing from a course. If the withdrawal deadline has passed, the student may follow the late withdrawal process.

Students who do not take classes during a fall or spring term and who do not request a leave of absence will be subject to administrative withdrawal from the M.Div. program. Prolonged non-attendance may also subject a student to administrative withdrawal from the M.Div. program.

Withdrawal from M.Div. Program Appeal Process
A student administratively withdrawn from the M.Div. program may appeal that action within fourteen (14) days by letter to the Academic Dean. The Academic Dean will review the appeal and notify the student of the Seminary's decision regarding her or his status.

CERTIFICATES OF MEMORIAM AND POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

The Seminary may seek to extend sympathy and compassion to families of deceased students through the awarding of posthumous degrees and certificates of memoriam.

A Posthumous Degree may be awarded to recognize and honor the academic achievement of students nearing the completion of their degrees or students who would have fulfilled the requirements of the degree.

A Certificate of Memoriam may be issued in recognition of a deceased student's progress toward a degree or a certificate and to honor the student's memory as a member of the Seminary community.

Eligibility Criteria for Posthumous Degrees

· At the time of death, the student was enrolled or on an approved leave of absence;
· The student was in good academic standing;
· The student was nearing completion of work required for the award of degree. For the Master of Divinity, "nearing completion" is defined as having been in the final semester of their degree program or within 9 hours of degree completion. For students in the Master of Arts, "nearing completion" is defined as having begun or completed their capstone coursework;
· The Dean may include in the request for a posthumous degree additional or other justification for another definition of "nearing completion" of the program of study.

Eligibility Criteria for Certificates of Memoriam

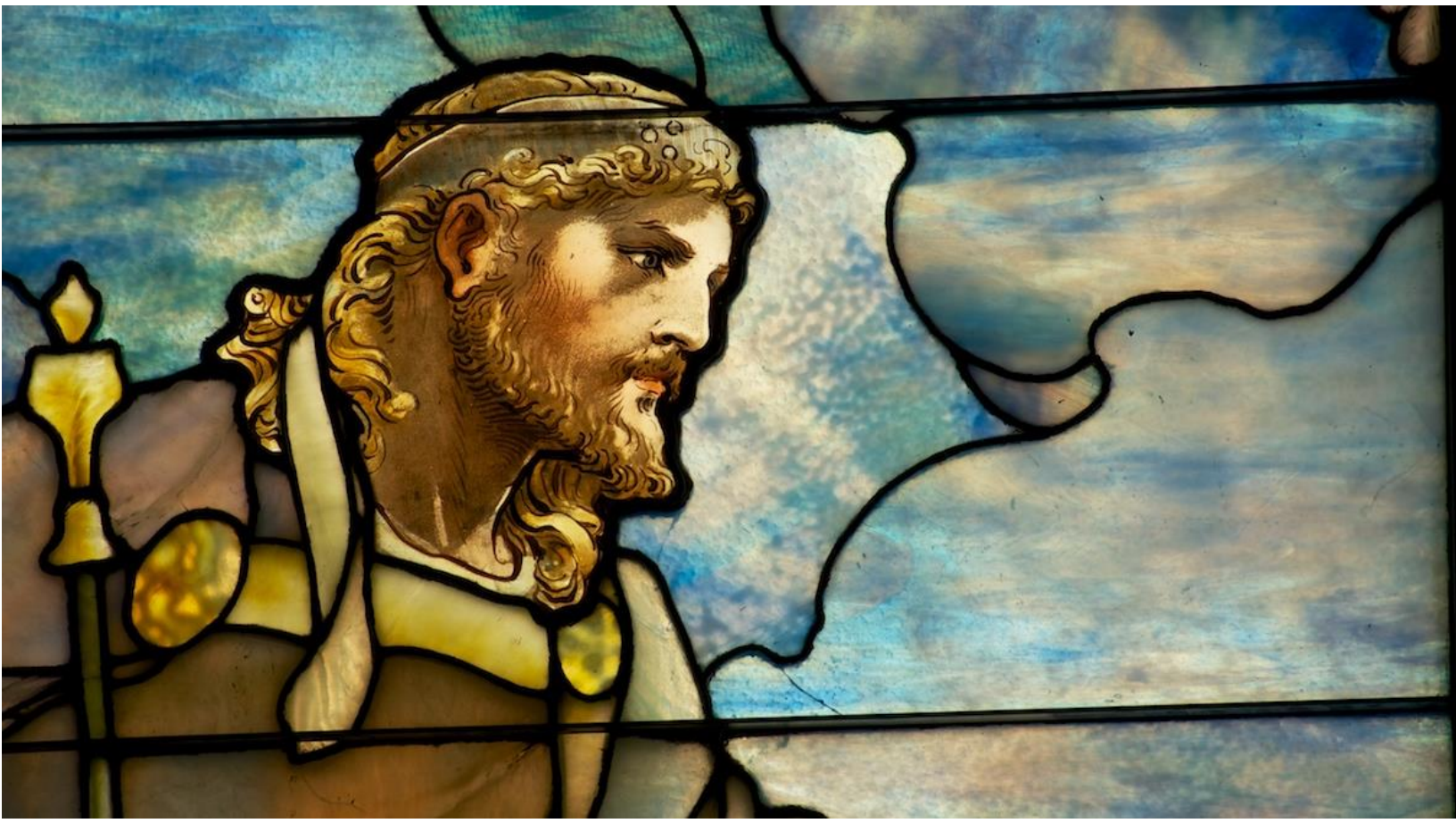
· At the time of death, any student who was enrolled or on an approved leave of absence but was not "nearing completion" may be awarded a Certificate of Memoriam.
· The memorial certificate is not included in the official count of degrees and shall not be considered a conferral of a degree by the Seminary.

Memorial certificates do not require approval by the Board of Trustees. The Registrar shall prepare a "Certificate of Memoriam" to be signed by the Dean, President, and Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Seminary has the authority to award posthumous degrees and certificates of memoriam according to the guidelines set forth below.

Award Process for Posthumous Degrees

*The Seminary understands that funeral arrangements, memorial services, or other related circumstances may require swift deliberation and action by the institution.
The Dean (or designee if the Dean is unavailable) shall lead the Seminary's consideration of requests for posthumous degrees. At a minimum, the process shall include the following:

1. A recommendation for a posthumous degree is made to the Dean on behalf of the deceased student.
2. The Dean shall consult with the Registrar to assess the recommendation and determine if the deceased student meets the eligibility criteria.
3. If the Dean determines that the student meets the eligibility criteria, the Dean shall seek faculty approval for the granting of the degree.
4. Once faculty approval has been granted, the Dean shall initiate a request for conferral of a posthumous degree by notifying the President in writing.
5. Where approval of posthumous degrees is concerned, the Dean's request for conferral of a posthumous degree shall include information about the academic progress and standing of the deceased student in support of the recommendation.
6. Upon approval by the President, the recommendation of the conferral of a posthumous degree shall be presented to the Board of Trustees.
7. All posthumous degree conferrals shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
8. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, the posthumous degree shall be considered conferred.
9. Upon conferral, the Registrar shall be responsible for documenting the posthumous degree. The Registrar shall prepare a transcript showing the student's completed course work and with special notation indicating posthumous conferral of the degree. The Registrar shall also prepare a diploma indicating the degree, with the graduation date noted as the nearest official graduation date following the student's death, and seek all necessary signatures. The diploma need not contain a notation of posthumous conferral. The Registrar shall maintain the student's records in compliance with all applicable state and federal guidelines pertaining to the accuracy of graduation data.
10. At the President's discretion and with the consent of the deceased student's family, the Seminary may recognize the student and the conferral of the posthumous degree (and/or certificate of memoriam) at commencement.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BEN 2701 The Benediction – Credit 3 hours
The Benediction is designed as an endpoint or blessing to Seminary studies. The primary objective is to integrate theological studies with ongoing preparation for Christian ministry in the student's final year. The course involves work in three areas: transitions, self-care, and ministry issues. *Prerequisites: (1) CTM 2701 or CPE 2615, 2617, or 2619, and (2) must have completed 60 hours.*

BIB 2603 Biblical Hermeneutics – Credit 3 hours
An exploration of biblical interpretation. The course will introduce the study of the history of interpretation and theories of interpretation, as well as surveying some contemporary modes of interpretation. *Prerequisite: NTS 2501 or OTS 2501.*

CAP 2710 Master of Arts Capstone 1 – Credit 3 hours
Capstone 1 is designed as the first of a two-course sequence for Master of Arts students in the last year of their degree program. The focus of this course is on the student's research and formation of a plan for a capstone project demonstrating their chosen specialization. The student will submit a Capstone project proposal in this course. *Prerequisite: Approval of Director of M.A. program.*

CAP 2720 Master of Arts Capstone 2 – Credit 3 hours
Capstone 2 is designed as the second of a two-course sequence for Master of Arts students in the last year of their

degree program. The focus of this course is on continued research and production of the student's capstone project demonstrating their chosen specialization. The student will submit their Capstone project in this course. *Prerequisite: CAP 2710.*

CHH 2501 History of Christianity – Credit 3 hours
This course highlights major developments in the history of Christianity from the end of the first century CE to the present. Students are challenged to think historically about Christianity's past and glean insights which can help ministers and congregations pursue their callings more effectively.

CHH 2605 Baptist Heritage – Credit 3 hours
The course is intended to acquaint the seminarian with the rich and varied history of Baptist-type Christians since the early 17th century. Current and future issues in Baptist life will be examined and discussed. *Fulfills Denominational Heritage requirement for M.Div. If not used for Denominational Heritage, counts as Black Church Studies elective or as CHH restricted elective.*

CHH 2607 Pentecostal Heritage – Credit 3 hours
A historical and theological survey of the 20th century Pentecostal movement. Special emphasis will be given to the importance of pre-Pentecostal movements, the Azusa Street Revival, the Charismatic & Neo-Charismatic movements, and the contributions of the Two Thirds world, African Americans, and women to the development and growth of global Pentecostalism. Considerable time will be given to discussing the theologies within global Pentecostalism. *Fulfills Denominational Heritage requirement for M.Div. If not used for Denominational Heritage, counts as Black Church Studies elective or as CHH restricted elective.*

CHH 2617 Women in Christian History – Credit 3 hours
A study of the role of women in Christian churches from the first century to the present day. In line with the area in which women played significant roles, spirituality will be explored in greater detail than other areas. Due to the expansiveness of the subject, special attention is focused on the early, medieval, and reformation periods. *Counts as CHH restricted elective.*

CHH 2715 Early Christian Practices – Credit 3 hours
Entails a study of early Christian practices or institutions – baptism and catechumenate, worship and Eucharist, discipline or penance, and ministry and organization. *Counts as CHH restricted elective.*

CHH 2717 The History of Christian Spirituality – Credit 3 hours
A study of the development of major traditions in Christian spirituality - Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant - with special attention to insights which have continuing relevance and exposure of participants to practices which may nurture their own spiritual growth. *Counts as CHH restricted elective.*

CHH 2719 Novels, Ministry, and Historical Imagination – Credit 3 hours
A study of novels that take up religious and/or theological themes. The course will provide opportunities for students to develop skills for thinking historically, imaginatively, and ministerially about both the world(s) of the novel(s) and the world(s) of the reader. Students will research and present on historical reference points in the novels in order to develop ministerial and historical imagination. *Prerequisite: CHH 2501. Counts as CHH restricted elective.*

CHS 2503 Leadership – Credit 3 hours
The course will encourage an understanding of traditional and current leadership theories with a focus on how such theories relate to the biblical witness and the work of a local congregation. The course will develop the ability to both consciously develop a preferred style of leadership and to lead an organization in planning and realizing its future. Guidance will be provided in acquiring visionary leadership in a Christian institutional setting.

CHS 2607 Administration – Credit 3 hours
A study of administrative structures useful for the effective functioning of a local congregation. The course will examine how to strategically organize local church programming. Competencies will be developed in leading local church committees and organizations in identifying and carrying out their mission.

CHS 2611 Communication for Church and World – Credit 3 hours
Churches and non-profit organizations face challenges and opportunities to communicate in ways that support their message and connect with persons and communities. With a growing collection of powerful tools for communication, this course guides students to develop intentional, theologically sound, ethical, and effective approaches to communications which in turn support the church's mission. This course will help students develop competency in quality communications strategy, planning, and execution. *Fulfills one of two Communication and Worship Studies requirements for M.Div.*

CPE 2615, 2617, 2619 Clinical Pastoral Education – Credit 6 hours
Clinical Pastoral Education is a clinical program of 400 hours of supervised spiritual care in an accredited clinical setting (CPE 2615 - Parish; CPE 2617 - Hospital; CPE 2619 - Other Institutions) with a certified educator of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). Students must have prior approval from BSK CPE Director Dr. Jaye Peabody Smith and acceptance by a center in order to enroll. A CPE application and a list of accredited CPE centers can be found at www.acpe.edu. *Prerequisite: PAC 2505.*

CPE 2715, 2717, and 2719 Advanced Clinical Pastoral Education – Credit 6 hours
Each advanced CPE course correlates to a 2600 level CPE course: CPE 2715 - Parish Advanced; CPE 2717 - Hospital Advanced; CPE 2719 - Other Institution Advanced. The corresponding 2600 level course is a *prerequisite* for the advanced course. Students must have prior approval from BSK CPE Director Dr. Jaye Peabody Smith and acceptance by a center in order to enroll. A CPE application and a list of accredited CPE centers can be found at www.acpe.edu. *Prerequisite: Corresponding 2600 level CPE course.*

CTM 2701 Contextual Ministry – Credit 3 hours
This course is designed to further develop and clarify the student's theological reflection, awareness and skills through involvement with ministry placement, regular meetings with a mentor, and intensive peer group meetings with a facilitator. [See "Required Supervised Ministry (Field Education) Credit" for more information.] *Prerequisite: Must have completed 24 hours.*

CUL 2603 Christianity and Culture – Credit 3 hours
The course will explore the historical interaction of Christianity and culture. The seminarian will gain an understanding of social, political, intellectual, and economic forces that impact all religions, in particular, Christianity. *Counts as THE restricted elective.*

CUL 2605 Contemporary Cultural Issues – Credit 3 hours
While the church has long felt the pressures of diverse cultures to become something other than what it is called to be, contemporary Christianity faces challenges that are unprecedented in their power to subtly transform its sense of purpose and mission. This class will consider several of these phenomena – environmental destruction, technological hope, and market globalization and consumerism – to see how Christians can respond positively and in a manner faithful to Christianity's rich heritage and teachings. *Counts as THE restricted elective.*

ETH 2605 Liturgy and Social Ethics – Credit 3 hours
An exploration of the interrelated roles of worship, sacrament, word, and ethics in the praxis of Christian faith in both church and society. Focused on theological methods and practical implications, the course will also attend to one or two selected moral issues (e.g., racism, immigration, climate change, human sexuality) which confront both church and society.

ETH 2609 Applied Professional Ethics – Credit 3 hours
With a focus on clinical context, this course attends to building the character and quality of minsters and counselors. The course addresses areas such as awareness of and commitment to fitting codes of conduct, building and maintaining healthy boundaries, use and misuse of power as a leader, legal requirements on ministers and counselors, and routines of personal development and care that sustain an ethical life. The course will prepare counselors for meeting most ethical licensing requirements. *Prerequisite: PAC 2505. Counts as Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy elective.*

INT 2501 Introduction to Theological Education – Credit 3 hours
This course orients new students to the seminary and graduate theological education as a community of learning. Students will be introduced to modes of theological thinking/reflection, engage in a close reading of theological texts, and gain skills in information literacy, citation, and research relevant to degree interests.

INT 2503 Introduction to Black Church Studies – Credit 3 hours
This course begins with an introduction and comprehensive structural approach to Black Church Studies. Questions include, what is Black Church Studies and its relation to Black Studies? What are the disciplines that inform Black Church Studies? The substance of the course provides a historical and theological study of African American Christianity exploring slave religion, the origins of black churches, the black church during Jim Crow and the freedom struggle, the post-Civil Rights black church, the black church and the academy, the emergence of Pentecostalism, and the importance of African American women to the black church.

INT 2633 The Life and Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr. – Credit 3 hours
This course will explore the theology of Martin Luther King, Jr., viewing King as a major Christian theologian, not just a Civil Rights leader. The first part of the course will provide a historical overview of slavery and segregation in America and their intersection with King's work in the Civil Rights Movement that helps students to understand the contours of King's thought as it evolves from the late 1950s to the late 1960s. The second part of the course will examine the influences on his thought such as the prophetic tradition in Scripture, the Protestant Liberal tradition, the African American Baptist tradition, and black nationalist thinking. We will also interrogate his legacy today and its implications for church and society. *Counts as Black Church Studies elective or as THE restricted elective.*

INT 2701 Scripture and Ministerial Imagination – Credit 3 hours
How may we read, depend on, interact with, follow Scripture for the vitality of the Church's faith? How do practices of biblical reading and interpretation shape us for a life of ministry and participation in God's mission? This course is designed to be an advanced seminar in the intersection between practical theology and critical-theological hermeneutics of Scripture. It aims to advance students' theologically reflective ministerial identity, and to sharpen their ministerial discernment and vision through rigorous immersion in the Biblical texts. *Prerequisite: BIB 2603 and either NTS 2501 or OTS 2501.*

MIS 2603 Foundations in Christian Mission – Credit 3 hours
This course investigates biblical and theological foundations of mission and evangelism, and examines practices throughout the history of the Christian church and today. Students will learn the history of mission practice, and recurring patterns, themes, and ethics in mission. The goal of this course is to help each student: (1) engage in mission

and evangelism with integrity and sensitivity, and (2) support discernment and practice of mission and evangelism in a variety of ministry and church settings.

MIS 2605 World Christianity and Justice – Credit 3 hours
This course is an elective seminar on World Christianity and the practice of justice as performed by Christian peoples around the world. This course emphasizes the practice of justice as students become more aware of Western contexts in Christianity, and learn about Christianity in the Majority World of Latin America, Africa, and Asia. In the process of dialogue and deep listening, students will learn other concepts and performances of Christian faith, including mission and justice, around the world. *Counts as MIS restricted elective.*

MIS 2607 Women in Mission – Credit 3 hours
This course retrieves the contributions of women throughout Christian history. It seeks to understand women's experience in mission and examine their agency in developing and sustaining Christian practices. The goals are: (a) to glean wisdom from the women we encounter in order to practice mission and social witness with ethical integrity and theological depth in our place and time, (b) to further develop lives of inquiry and scholarship in an interdisciplinary way, and (c) to imagine new ways to address current contexts and global situations in light of women's experience and witness. *Counts as Black Church Studies elective or as MIS restricted elective.*

MIS 2621 The Bible and Mission – Credit 3 hours
A study of the Old and New Testaments at the intersection of missiology and Scriptural hermeneutics. Through a study of interpretive skills and current literature, we will practice biblical interpretation for the development of a theology and practice of mission. *Counts as MIS restricted elective.*

MIS 2627 Contextual Missiology – Credit 3 hours
Through the use of biblical historical, cultural, and anthropological materials, the student will explore the relationship of the Gospel and culture, analyze the methods of mission utilized through Christian history, conduct an ethnographic study, develop skills to enable believers in a given context to freely and intentionally theologize, and formulate his/her own theology of mission. *Counts as MIS restricted elective.*

MIS 2633 Social Justice in the Free Church Tradition – Credit 3 hours
This course is an exploration into social justice writings out of the free church tradition. It will begin with Charles Marsh's The Beloved Community as a framework. Students and instructor will then read key sources together from various strands of the tradition and historical periods. Students interested in this course are encouraged to contact the professor before the course begins to give their input on social justice topics, readings, and resources for the course. *Counts as MIS restricted elective.*

NTS 2501 Introduction to the New Testament – Credit 3 hours
Introduction to the writings of the New Testament with attention to the literary character and history of the texts; the historical context of the life of Jesus and the rise of the church and Christian faith; and the role of the New Testament texts as a contemporary foundation for Christian faith.

NTS 2605 Introduction to Greek – Credit 3 hours
An introductory course in New Testament Greek, focusing on basic principles of word formation, grammar, and syntax. This course is designed to provide a foundation for learning to read and interpret the Greek New Testament. *Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

NTS 2606 Greek Reading – Credit 3 hours
This course is a reading course in New Testament Greek, focusing on the application of basic principles of word formation, grammar, and syntax to the translation of particular New Testament texts. The course will also introduce more advanced concepts of semantics, grammar, and syntax. *Prerequisite: NTS 2605. Counts as BIB restricted*

elective.

NTS 2611 Synoptic Gospels – Credit 3 hours
An investigation of the synoptic gospels, with attention to past and present methodologies employed in the understanding and interpretation of the synoptic tradition. The course will focus on the stories told by the gospel writers, on the synoptic traditions about the actions and teachings of Jesus, and on the synoptics' contribution to our understanding of the historical Jesus. *Prerequisite: NTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

NTS 2613 Interpreting Matthew – Credit 3 hours
An investigation of the Gospel of Matthew with emphasis on understanding the internal logic of the gospel and exploring its theological significance and relevance for contemporary Christian faith. *Prerequisite: NTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

NTS 2615 Reading Mark in the Church – Credit 3 hours
An investigation of the Gospel of Mark designed to give the student knowledge, understanding, and skills for interpreting and embodying the gospel faithfully in the life of the church and in the world. *Prerequisite: NTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

NTS 2643 Interpreting Hebrews – Credit 3 hours
An investigation of the epistle to the Hebrews with emphasis on understanding the argument of the sermon and exploring its relevance for contemporary Christian faith. *Prerequisite: NTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

NTS 2647 Interpreting Romans – Credit 3 hours
An investigation of Paul's letter to the Romans with emphasis on understanding Paul's argument and exploring the letter's relevance for contemporary Christian theology. *Prerequisite: NTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

NTS 2648 The Book of Revelation – Credit 3 hours
A critical interpretation of the New Testament book of Revelation based upon the nature of apocalyptic language and literature, the historical setting, its internal structure and literary/grammatical, syntactical considerations to the end that the seminarian may understand the book as a pastoral word of hope in the midst of desperate circumstances and be enabled to apply that message to contemporary situations. *Prerequisite: NTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

OTS 2501 Introduction to the Old Testament – Credit 3 hours
Introduction to the people, places, events, and themes of the Old Testament with attention to the literary character and history of the Old Testament writings; the historical context of ancient Israelite religion; and the role of the Old Testament as Christian scripture.

OTS 2605 Introduction to Hebrew – Credit 3 hours
An introduction to the basic grammar and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew. The student will be asked to learn frequently used words from the Hebrew Bible. The primary concepts of Hebrew grammar will be introduced during the course of the semester. The aim is to acquire basic skills for the reading of the Old Testament in Hebrew. *Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

OTS 2606 Hebrew Reading – Credit 3 hours
This course is designed to review the material covered in Introduction to Hebrew. Additionally, new principles related to grammar will be presented. Both review and new material will be taught in the reading of the Genesis text. *Prerequisite: OTS 2605. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

OTS 2671 Deuteronomy – Credit 3 hours
An investigation of Deuteronomy with emphases on understanding the literary features and theological dimensions of the book as well as exploring its significance and relevance for contemporary Christian faith. *Prerequisite: OTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

OTS 2673 Jeremiah – Credit 3 hours
This course will include an introduction to the prophet and his times, a survey of scholarly opinions about the book, an exegesis of the major passages in the book, and careful instruction on the critical methods of biblical study and how to apply them to the book of Jeremiah. *Prerequisite: OTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

OTS 2677 Ezekiel and Daniel – Credit 3 hours
An overview of the books of Ezekiel and Daniel, with focus on the nature of prophetic and apocalyptic literature and the exegesis of selected texts from each book. A student exegetical paper will be required. *Prerequisite: OTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

OTS 2679 The Psalms in the Life of the Church – Credit 3 hours
A study of the book of Psalms, with attention to their critical analysis as well as to their use in Christian devotion and worship. *Prerequisite: OTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

OTS 2681 Minor Prophets/Book of Twelve – Credit 3 hours
A study of the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament, both as individual works and as an edited collection. The course will emphasize the methods used in the study of the Old Testament Prophets, and it will require a written exegesis of a text of the student's choosing from one of the books. It will also deal with the use of prophetic passages in worship and church education. *Prerequisite: OTS 2501. Counts as BIB restricted elective.*

PAC 2505 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling – Credit 3 hours
This course is designed to equip persons for effective basic pastoral care and counseling in a church, hospital, or community context. Basic theories and practices of pastoral care and counseling will be evaluated in relation to developmental and crisis situations. Students will integrate Biblical, theological, cultural, and psychological understandings of the human condition as foundational for care and counseling practices.

PAC 2511 Introduction to Chaplain Ministries – Credit 3 hours
A study of the work of the chaplain in various public ministries including medical, military, prison, and business settings. The history of the vocation, required preparation, essential skills, and core knowledge areas will be explored. Highly recommended for those exploring a call to chaplain ministry. *Counts as Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy elective.*

PAC 2603 Psychology and Theology of Family: Theory and Techniques – Credit 3 hours
This course is designed to explore the biblical/theological bases, research findings, and clinical issues for marriage and family theory and techniques. Students will consider a variety of foundational areas for marriage and family, examine their own beliefs and practices in those areas, and reflect on multi-cultural approaches to use in assisting others. *Prerequisite: PAC 2505. Counts as Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy elective.*

PAC 2607 Pastoral Care with Children, Adolescents and Families – Credit 3 hours
This course will equip ministers to assess the developmental and crises needs of children and adolescents and their families. Students will learn to develop programs and to evaluate counseling approaches for adolescents and families. Students will be asked to integrate social, theological, biblical, and psychological understandings of children, adolescents, and families. *Prerequisite: PAC 2505. Counts as Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy elective.*

PAC 2611 Psychology of Religious Experience – Credit 3 hours
This course explores the psychology of religious experience, spiritual formation, and transformation. Biblical/theological foundations are studied together with research in the fields of psychology of religion and social psychology. Attention will be given to students' religious experiences as well as the ministry of guiding, sustaining, and interpreting the religious experiences of others. Students will be expected to participate in a variety of case studies and personal learning encounters in class. *Prerequisite: PAC 2505. Counts as Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy elective.*

PAC 2613 Pastoral Care: Death, Dying and Grief – Credit 3 hours
This course is designed to equip persons in church settings for effective care and counseling with grieving individuals at a level appropriate to their role and education. It explores the biblical, theological, psychological, and social understandings of death, dying, and grief across the life cycle span. Ministry application will focus on the life and work of the local congregation, the ministry of chaplains, and pastoral counseling. *Prerequisite: PAC 2505. Counts as Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy elective.*

PAC 2701 Advanced Spiritual Care and Counseling
A study of essential care and counseling strategies for chaplains and pastors such as crisis intervention, short-term counseling, multicultural care and counseling, addiction interventions, and effective use of religious resources. *Prerequisite: PAC 2505. Counts as Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy elective.*

PRC 2601 Preaching – Credit 3 hours
This course will introduce the student to some of the basic resources for the preparation and delivery of sermons. The student will be required to do fairly extensive reading of and about preaching itself, to reflect upon the calling and work of the preacher, to participate in classroom dialogue, and to prepare, preach, and critique sermons. *Fulfills one of two Communication and Worship Studies requirements for M.Div. If not used for Communication and Worship Studies, counts as Black Church Studies elective.*

PRC 2609 Preaching Practicum – Credit 3 hours
This course will be a laboratory where students will write and preach as many sermons as possible during the length of a semester. The goal is the significant improvement of the students' skills in research, preparation, and delivery of sermons. Special attention will be given to pastoral preaching in both predictable and crisis situations. *Prerequisite: PRC 2601.*

RMS 2503 Rural Places – Credit 3 hours
An interdisciplinary introduction to rural places, with special attention to agrarianism, economy, and land use. Students will consider rural places from biblical, historical, and theological perspectives.

RMS 2605 A Year in the Life of a Rural Minister – Credit 3 hours
Students will examine the daily, weekly, and seasonal rhythms of life and ministry in rural places and among rural people. The course will give special attention to pastoral leadership, pastoral care, community involvement, and place of residence. *Prerequisite: RMS 2503.*

RMS 2607 Special Topics in Rural Ministry – Credit 3 hours
Students will gather in a rural setting to examine a special topic or issue in rural ministry. Course will be completed in Henry County, Kentucky. Content of course may vary. Rural Ministry Program director permission required for enrollment. *Prerequisite: CTM 2701.*

RMS 2707 Rural Ministry Capstone – Credit 3 hours
An opportunity for Rural Ministry Program students to integrate and reflect on their learning and preparation for

rural ministry. Students will put together a Rural Ministry Portfolio, develop a Rural Ministry Sustainability Plan, and complete a project demonstrating an understanding of the joys, challenges, and complexities of ministry in a rural place. Restricted to Rural Ministry Concentration students. *Prerequisite: RMS 2605.*

SPF 2501 Spiritual Formation – Credit 3 hours
This course is designed as an intentional exploration of personal spiritual formation and its implications for ministry. Goals are to assist students in the development of personal spiritual disciplines, to formulate ways in which spiritual formation can shape and direct ministry, and to recognize the harmony of loving God with both mind and heart.

SPF 2603 Monasticism Old and New – Credit 3 hours
An introductory and experiential course designed to expose students to a variety of Christian monastic movements. Special attention will be given to the biblical, historical, and theological foundations for Christian monasticism. Students will reflect on the ways congregations and ministers can learn from the breadth and depth of the Christian monastic tradition. Students will also gain experience writing and living under a rule during the semester. *Counts as CHH restricted elective.*

THE 2605 The Doctrine of the Trinity – Credit 3 hours
This course offers an introduction to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, with particular attention to classical Trinitarian theology and the interconnection between the Trinity and other mysteries of the Christian faith. Students will develop a fresh contemporary theological understanding of the Trinity and its centrality in Christian faith, worship, and life. *Counts as THE restricted elective.*

THE 2611 Invitation to Christian Theology – Credit 3 hours
The Christian faith is something people practice. The Church prays, listens to Scripture, celebrates the sacraments, proclaims the Gospel, cares for the suffering, and liberates the oppressed. This is where the task of theology begins. As an invitation to the landscape of Christian theology, this course engages the central issues of Christian theology and teaching. With a Trinitarian focus and refusing to separate the "practical" from the "liturgical" and the "theological," it invites students to think theologically in ways that demonstrate the relevance of ancient teaching for our world today. The course also hopes to encourage students to live the love that Christian theology proclaims.

THE 2613 Novel Theology – Credit 3 hours
The course will explore a variety of novels that develop religious themes of personal transformation, relationship with God, moral choices, and the conflict between good and evil. The purpose of the course is to enable the student to develop skills in the theological analysis of fiction. This will prepare the student to encounter new texts and enable a broader conversation with voices in the society of literature. The student will also deepen their own theological reflection through interaction with the ideas and descriptions in these texts.

THE 2629 Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Disciple, Pastor, Resister, Martyr – Credit 3 hours
"Who is Jesus Christ for us today?" This question Dietrich Bonhoeffer posed in a letter in April 1944. In many ways this Christological question defines Bonhoeffer's life and thought. The aim of this course is to consider the life and thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in light of his own question. Bonhoeffer's involvement in the Confessing Church movement in the era of Nazi socialism in Germany, his (singular German) voice on the "Jewish question," and his participation and role in the German resistance will also be taken up. The course will also consider the significance of Bonhoeffer for North America in the 21st century. While attention will be given to all of his writings, the course will especially consider his Ethics and Letters and Papers from Prison. *Prerequisite: THE 2611. Counts as THE restricted elective.*

THE 2631 Water, Wafer, World: Sacraments in a Secular Age – Credit 3 hours
Leading with a discussion of the concept of sacrament, this course explores the biblical and theological

understandings of baptism and the Eucharist. Of particular focus will be the formational, bodily character of baptism and the Eucharist. The course will attend to how these practices create the world "as if"; and thus how these sacramental rites "write" upon the body itself so that Christians come to see themselves in God's story because it is inscribed upon their very selves. Moreover, attending to the social, political, economic, and moral dimensions—worldly dimensions—of these two ecumenical sacraments of the church will facilitate exploration of the ways these bodily practices matter for living in a secular age. *Counts as THE restricted elective.*

THE 2703 Black and Womanist Theology – Credit 3 hours
In this course, students will explore the origins and development of Black Theology. Considerable attention will be given to the emergence of Womanist Theology and the ways womanist theologians work to dismantle systems of oppression around issues of race, gender and sexuality, and class. Students will engage first and second generation black and womanist theologians such as James Cone, Delores Williams, J. Deotis Roberts, Katie Geneva Cannon, Dwight Hopkins, M. Shawn Copeland, Emile Townes, Brian Bantum, and Kelly Brown Douglas and their distinctive contributions to theological discourse.

THE 2707 Trauma, Theology, and Pastoral Practice – Credit 3 hours
Trauma causes heightened anxiety, intense distress, numbing pain, profound suffering, deep depression, cognitive dissonance, relational fracturing, and unspeakable loss and grief. Drawing on pastoral care and theological resources, this interdisciplinary course addresses personal, family, faith, social, and cultural trauma. Attention will be given to how persons, churches, and communities can mobilize resources of intelligence, faith, and imagination by responding to trauma in healing, sustaining, guiding, and restorative practices. *Prerequisite: THE 2611. Counts as THE restricted elective.*

THE 2725 The Theology of James H. Cone
This course engages the life and theology of James H. Cone, Jr., America's most important systematic theologian of the 20th century. A close reading of his major writings provides the occasion for students to consider the key theological sources and ideas of Cone's prophetic work as well as his powerful critique of white (American) Christianity. As the course discerns the evolution of Cone's Black theology of liberation, it will situate him in the Black church and Black theology, the historical and political context of the United States, and in the context of global Liberation Theologies. Also considered will be various criticisms of Cone's work, especially those offered by Womanist theologians. *Prerequisite: INT 2503 or THE 2611. Counts as Black Church Studies elective or as THE restricted elective.*

WOR 2601 Worship – Credit 3 hours
This course will introduce the student to some of the history, theology, and practices of Christian worship. The student will be required to read, reflect, and write on liturgical issues, past and present, prepare a series of public prayers suitable for Sunday worship, report on on-site observations of various congregations at worship, participate in classroom dialogue, formulate a sound personal theology of worship, and design a complete worship service. *Fulfills one of two Communication and Worship Studies requirements for M.Div.*

WOR 2605 Advanced Worship Seminar – Credit 3 hours
An advanced practicum focused on planning, preparing, and presiding in worship. Students will work with the instructor and BSK Chapel coordinator during the semester to plan chapel services. Course content may vary. *Prerequisite: WOR 2601 or permission from instructor.*

WRL 2501 World Religions – Credit 3 hours
A study of the emergence and tenets of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shintoism with emphasis given to basic concepts, major figures, and cultural and historical development.

WRL 2509 Muslim Christian Relations – Credit 3 hours
An exploration of the ways in which Christian and Muslim relationships have evolved through history. Through patterns of conflict and cooperation, both religions have formed theological frameworks with which Muslims and Christians continue to engage each other to the present. Attention will be given to ways in which scholars and adherents of each tradition are engaged in rethinking the relationship between the two faiths, and the reality that theological perceptions are colored by the particular contexts in which Muslims and Christians interact. *Counts as MIS restricted elective.*

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL 2024	
Fall 2024 Disability Accommodations Request Due	August 12
Orientation	August 15
First Day of Class	August 26
Last Day to Add	August 30
Labor Day	September 2
Last Day to Drop	September 13
Fall Intensive	October 2-6
Fall Break	October 7-11
Registration for Spring	November 4-15
Last Day to Withdraw	November 15
Reading Days/Thanksgiving Break	November 26-29
Last Day of Class	December 13

SPRING 2025	
Spring 2025 Disability Accommodations Request Due	January 7
MLK Holiday	January 20
First Day of Class	January 21
Last Day to Add	January 24
Last Day to Drop	February 10
Hinson Lectures	March 5
Spring Break	March 10-14
Spring Intensive	March 19-23
Registration for Summer and Fall	March 31-April 11
Last Day to Withdraw	April 4
Reading Days/Holy Week Break	April 15-18
Last Day of Class	May 9
COMMENCEMENT 2025	**May 17**

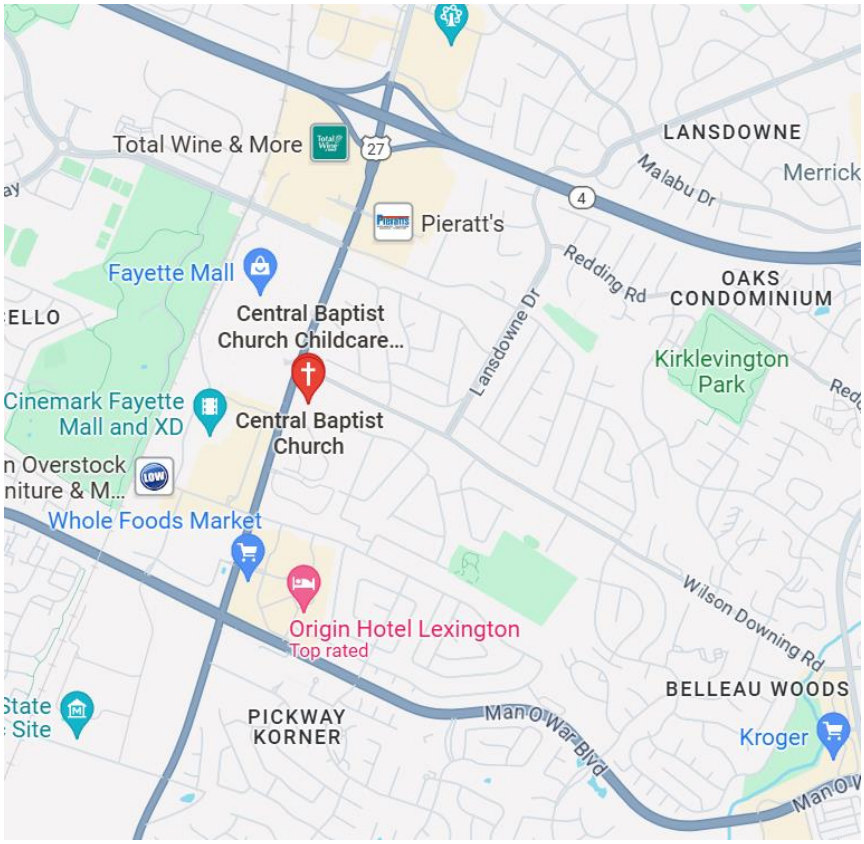
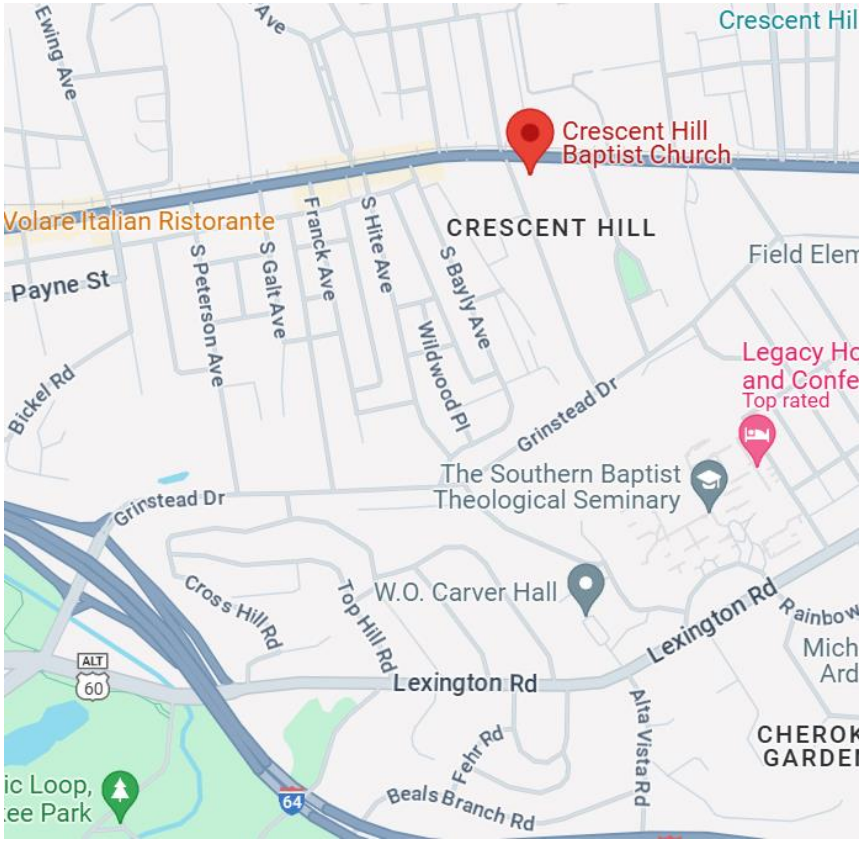
SUMMER TERM 2025	
(Class may follow shortened, intensive schedule)	
First/Last Day of Class	TBA

OUR LOCATIONS

Note:
The seminary's mailing address is:
BSK Theological Seminary
PO Box 23079
Lexington, KY 40523.

Please do not send USPS seminary mail to the street addresses listed below.

Lexington Campus:
BSK Theological Seminary's administrative and academic offices—as well as some faculty offices—are located at Central Baptist Church, 110 Wilson Downing Road, Lexington, KY, 40517.



Louisville Offices:
Some BSK faculty offices—as well as the offices for the Institute for Black Church Studies—are located at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, 2800 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY, 40206.