

SUMMIT
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

COURSE CURRICULUM GUIDE

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CORE CURRICULUM PROGRAM

Main Objectives

With regard to curriculum development, our major objectives are to employ a course schedule that provides the most proficient and productive academic experience that may be afforded in the time allotted to our students and teachers. This includes a consistent and coherent schedule that progressively exposes the student to exegetical, theological and practical methodology consistent with biblical revelation and higher learning, as well as being conducive to church leadership and Christian discipleship.

Curriculum Design

Our curriculum is also designed to be biblically consistent, theologically accurate, internally coherent, and externally compatible.

Our curriculum is biblically consistent in that it is biblically informed and exegetically derived. Our courses are presented from the perspective of the complete reliability of the Holy Scriptures. It is presupposed in our course preparation and lectures that the Holy Scriptures are the ultimate arbiter of truth. We hold to its inspiration, authority, infallibility, inerrancy, and perspicuity.

Our curriculum is theologically accurate in that it is consistent with our statement of faith which is exegetically derived from the Holy Scriptures. Our doctrine is consistent with historically orthodox Christian theology, and our classes reflect this reality. Our teachers acquiesce to this theology in their teaching and in their example.

Our curriculum is internally coherent in that each course is designed to complement the other courses. We strive to develop a pattern of theological progression whereby the student is walked through a maturation process from the first day of class to the day of graduation. In this sense, each course is a building block designed with the entire construction in mind.

Our Curriculum is externally compatible in two particular ways. We are academically compatible with other Christian institutions of higher learning and we are spiritually and practically compatible with local assemblies of Christian worship. Our goal is to develop students who are well balanced; that is, students who may proceed from our school to other levels of higher learning, as well as students who are prepared academically to provide a particular service to the local church.

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OVERVIEW OF COURSES

Core Curriculum
Summit follows a 16-week academic calendar (September-December; January-April).
A typical 3-unit course includes:

- Three 60-minute classroom sessions per week or two 90-minute classroom sessions per week
- Approximately 3-5 hours of homework time per week
- It is estimated that students will complete approximately 90 hours of work per 3-unit course per academic semester

Summit's curriculum is uniquely designed in that students take the same course schedule over their two-year period of enrollment. Courses are intended to build upon one another and provide the most strategic learning experience.

Elective Courses
Summit's electives are crafted to both build off what is being learned in the core curriculum as well as to provide students with the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in a more specific area of ministry or theological study. Different course subjects are offered each term and students are permitted to register for the elective of their choice. This also provides opportunity for the two classes to integrate with each other. Four broad categories are noted for the elective courses.

Course Categories
All of Summit's courses fall under one of four areas of specialization. The categories are as follows:

1. **Biblical Studies**
2. **Theology**
3. **Vocational Ministry**
4. **General Education**

BIB131 Old Testament Survey (3 units; core curriculum)
The Old Testament was the Bible of Jesus and the apostles and is no less foundational for Jesus' disciples today. As such, it is the responsibility of the modern student of the Bible to both value and acquaint themselves with the Old Testament books. With these guiding principles in place, this course will explore the history, composition, and structure of the Old Testament books and canon, seeing them as a cohesive body of writing which prepares for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Time will also be taken to emphasize the validity of the books as God's inspired word and their continued relevance for the church today.

BIB132 New Testament Survey (3 units; core curriculum)
An overview of the twenty-seven letters found in the New Testament that were authored by various writers and leaders of the early church. Students will learn the historical background, major themes, and messages of each of these letters in correlation with what was taking place during the founding of the Christian church (as described in the Book of Acts). Emphasis will be made on the application of the biblical truths found within each letter.

BIB133 Champions of the Faith (3 units, elective)
The core of this course centralizes on the message of 1 Corinthians 15:10, "By the grace of God I am what I am." Students will examine the various ways that God took ordinary men and women in the Scriptures—despite their weaknesses, flaws, and fears—and shaped their lives to be champions of the faith in the times in which they were living. The strengths and weaknesses of the Biblical characters will be evaluated to see how God "used it all" to conform and empower the individuals to triumph over their generational giants with the testimony of Christ. It will be discovered that, when all was said and done, each character shared one foundational testimony: "It was grace that began the work. It was grace that finished the work. Praise to the glory of His grace." Students will be encouraged to evaluate this message in the light of their personal generational giants and to discover how God can equip them to be champions of the faith today.

BIB134 Psalms (3 units, elective)
This course introduces the book of Psalms by examining the basic structure and themes of the Psalms within their literary, historical, and social context. Exploration is made of the theological significance of the book of Psalms, with special emphasis given to practical application of the Psalms to Christian life and worship.

BIB135 The Journey of Grace: An Inductive Study of 1 Peter (3 units, elective)
The Christian walk is a journey of the most exciting kind. It begins with a new birth experience orchestrated by God's own thoughts and actions toward us. Now, believers are called to walk out their faith with a living hope on this journey toward an imperishable and unfading inheritance. Along the journey, believers discover what their heavenly citizenship provides as they grow in their understanding of their inheritance as sons and daughters of heaven's King. In this course, students will examine the journey of grace as described in 1 Peter. Students will observe the different seasons of the spiritual journey as well as the different lessons of faith taught through the Scripture.

BIB136 Narrative Themes of the Bible (3 units, elective)
Because the Bible tells one story about one God, it is no surprise that the same themes appear throughout the 66 books of the Canon. One of the most potent ways in which these themes manifest is narrative—whether history, parable, or poetry, the Bible repeatedly uses story to convey propositional truth about God, His ways, and His relationship with humanity. This course endeavors to explore the appearance and function of the Bible's major theological themes in various Old and New Testament narratives. In so doing, students will discover how these ancient narratives still bear relevance and authority in our lives today.

BIB233 Bible Study Methods (3 units, core curriculum)
Learning to understand the Bible on its own inspired terms is an essential skill for the student of God's Word. The focus of this course is on aiding students in doing so by equipping them with the right tools for study. Using an inductive model of Bible study, students will learn how to critically read the text of scripture, engage its historical-grammatical context, and draw conclusions that are naturally read out of the biblical text. Time will also be taken to review various issues and challenges arising in the realm of hermeneutics, preparing students to engage other perspectives in an informed manner.

BIB235 Introduction to Biblical Preaching (3 units, elective)
The knowledge and skill acquired in other courses are meant to coalesce in this preaching class and help students become Spirit-filled preachers of God's Word. This course will be the vehicle for refinement, where the student becomes the kind of speaker that God desires, one based on that individual's giftings. Elements of spiritual preparation, humility, sermon-writing, sermon delivery, as well as the spiritual aspects of biblical preaching will be of central concern to the students. The course will accentuate a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading as well as the importance of textual examination—with particular emphasis on sound exegesis of scripture. Course content will focus on the preacher's obligation for care, compassion, and truth-telling to the audience.

BIB236 Romans (3 units, elective)
Romans was written by our favorite redeemed Pharisee, Paul the Apostle. This course will dive deep into the theology of Paul who has arguably had the greatest impact on Christian theology after Christ. In this course, we will consider the historical background and cultural context of Paul the Apostle and the letter to the Romans. We shall also consider its main theological themes, while exegeting the passages within the letter. Finally, we will compare Romans to the other letters of Paul and the book of Acts (Acts chronicles the journey and development of Paul). The hope is that the student would attain greater understanding, truer worship, and practical application as a result of this excursus into Romans. Romans has had a profound impact upon the Church's greatest minds, and it continues to be the quintessential Pauline contribution to the theology of the Christian community. Understanding Romans is crucial to the Christian life.

THE131 Spiritual Formation (3 units, core curriculum)
Spiritual Formation can be understood as the Christian's journey toward spiritual maturity in which God works in the Christian and the Christian cooperates with God.[1] This understanding demonstrates the necessary harmony between the believer depending on God's transformative grace and the consistent practice of spiritual disciplines. Primacy must be given to grace in order for spiritual disciplines to be approached as joyful opportunities to engage with God in a relational and non-legalistic manner. Thus, the aim of this course is to enable students to understand and implement various spiritual disciplines in light of their new covenant adoption by God, so they may pursue maturity as a matter of both duty and joy.

THE132 Theology of Health & Wellness (3 units, core curriculum)
The Western mind often underappreciates the biblical perspective that a person's whole being is sacred. The Apostle Paul's teaching on the fundamental nature of bodily resurrection shows us that our external body is as essential to being human as our internal components of soul and spirit. As such, we must understand how to care for and minister to the whole person. This course will provide students with a basic yet biblical understanding of how to help themselves and communities effectively pursue: 1) Physical Wellness through basic nutrition, exercise, and the use of sports as a ministry tool; 2) Emotional Wellness through examining the purpose and effects—positive and negative—of relationships, as well as the need for honest introspection guided by Scripture and the Spirit; 3) Mental Wellness through learning a Gospel-centered approach to depression, suicide prevention, and various challenges and treatments associated with mental illness.

THE133 Redemptive History (3 units, core curriculum)
The story of Scripture is driven with a redemptive thrust. The whole canon tells one coherent story about God glorifying Himself through His redemptive acts and judgments. This course explores how both the Old and New Testaments progressively display God's covenantal nature, the establishment of His Kingdom, and its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through understanding Scripture's metanarrative, the Church understands how Jesus makes all the power of all God's New Covenant promises available to her.

THE134 Introduction to Apologetics (3 units, elective)
Introduction to Apologetics is a biblically-based apologetics course meant to prepare the believer to effectively address current issues in a world increasingly hostile to the Gospel. Through course readings, videos, and other source materials, the student will learn what apologetics is, how to develop a Christian ethic that addresses difficult moral issues, and how to apply biblical truth in pragmatic ways. Students will demonstrate success in this area by writing a final paper developing a Christian ethic for such controversial issues covered during the semester like LGBTQ+ movements, racial unity, women in leadership, AI & Christianity, as well as socialism & geopolitics.

THE135 The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit (3 units, core curriculum)
The Holy Spirit was essential to the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus and His apostles. As such, His presence and power should be seen as essential to believers today. This course provides a biblical study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, emphasizing His role throughout Scripture and in the life of the believer. Students will examine key doctrines related to the Holy Spirit from a Pentecostal perspective. Special attention will be given to cultivating a biblical understanding of the Holy Spirit that fosters intimacy with God, Christlike character, and Spirit-empowered service. The course is designed to equip students to recognize the Holy Spirit's active work in everyday Christian living and to faithfully partner with Him in life and ministry.

[1] Jake Dunlow, "Perceptions of Spiritual Formation among Nontraditional Seminary Students," *Journal of Discipleship and Family Ministry: Family-Based Youth Ministry 20 Years Later* 4, no. 2 (2014): 75.

THE231 Christian Theology I (3 units, core curriculum)
This is an exploration of the Church's fundamental doctrines by way of engagement with the various categories of Systematic Theology. The approach to this course is distinctly doxological, in that it operates on the premise that the Christian must be captivated in both heart and mind by God, the object and ground of their study. Theology is not merely a pursuit for the intellect, but a source of inspiration for worship and affection. With this guiding principle in place, time will be taken to examine the authority of Scripture (Bibliology), the nature of God (Theology Proper), the nature of humanity (Anthropology), and the nature of sin (Hamartiology).

THE232 Christian Theology II (3 units, core curriculum)
This is an exploration of the Church's fundamental doctrines by way of engagement with the various categories of Systematic Theology. The approach to this course is distinctly doxological, in that it operates on the premise that the Christian must be captivated in both heart and mind by God, the object and ground of their study. Theology is not merely a pursuit for the intellect, but a source of inspiration for worship and affection. With this guiding principle in place, time will be taken to examine the Lord Jesus Christ (Christology), the nature of salvation (Soteriology), the person and nature of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology), the Last Things (Eschatology), and the Church (Ecclesiology).

MIN131 Discipleship Essentials I (3 units, core curriculum)
Students will use a biblical approach to acquiring skills in ministry engagement. This course will survey the Book of Acts, discuss cross-cultural servanthood, and analyze the best methods of disciple making. Integral to our semester will be learning the role of the Holy Spirit in ministry, how to live in a perpetual state of personal revival, and how to acquire a biblical value system for ministry. We will answer the question of what a collective vision and mission of corporate ministry looks like. Using the first century church as a foundation and model, the course will give students a systematic and practical approach to achieve optimum effectiveness in ministry today within their home, church, and community.

MIN133 Ministering to Children (3 units, elective)
This course is an introduction to the educational and spiritual responsibilities of teaching children ages 5-12 years old. Students will learn how to construct and implement lessons, activities, and special events for the purposes of evangelism and discipleship of children in different settings such as church, VBS, camp, missions, school, social media, etc. This includes understanding the mental and spiritual development of children, aspects of children's ministry within a cultural context, and how to communicate Biblical truth effectively and creatively to the postmodern child. Practical, hands-on training is a large aspect of this course.

MIN134 Foundations of Youth Ministry (3 units, elective)
This course is designed to create a theology and philosophy of youth ministry needed to develop an effective work within the local church or non-church youth ministry. The youth ministry worker will also be equipped in shepherding, mentoring, leadership, and administrative roles.

MIN231 Prominent Cults & World Religions (3 units, elective)
The first section of this course explores the history, founders, cultural background, and belief system of each of the world's largest religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam—in the light of their impact on the nations and cultures of the world. Their teachings will be compared to and contrasted with orthodox Christian dogma. The second section examines the development and teachings of the major pseudo-Christian and non-Christian movements and cults that have emerged since the 19th century to determine how they differ from Biblical Christianity. Throughout the course, each religion will be studied with an eye to apologetics and application, so that students can more sensitively and knowledgeably share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

MIN232 Leadership Development (3 units, core curriculum)
An analysis of Biblical leadership at different levels, including individual leadership and team leadership. The course will focus on leadership development and the roles that authenticity, integrity, and creativity play in one's character. Attention will be given to the exercising of leadership as a "whole person," balancing responsibilities of home, work, and community.

MIN233 The Pentateuch & Ministry Paradigms (3 units, elective)[2]
In this course, students will consider leadership habits, decisions, and relationship-implications of characters in the Pentateuch, specifically how leadership successes and failures are embedded in the redemptive-historical plan of God. The course will detail the leadership impact of both principal and minor characters, and how choices and obstacles create a framework-pathway for God's power and character in the develop of God's covenant among His people.

[2] MIN233 and MIN234 can technically be classified as either Biblical Studies or as Vocational Ministry courses. Students engage the respective corpora for the purpose of gleaning essential principles for leadership and ministry. In both courses, however, this is undergirded by a thorough study of the specific historical and cultural contexts of each body of writing.

MIN234 The Gospels & Ministry Paradigms (3 units, core curriculum)[2]
This course is designed to introduce an applied gospel theology as well as a contextualized ministry foundation to students preparing to serve in modern contexts. The supernatural principles of Jesus' life within Second Temple Judaism will be transformed in applicable ways for church life today. The course will explain how Jesus' method was radically practiced in the cultural setting of rabbinic Judaism, lived out within Roman occupation and Greek city-states, and the thrived among the seekers of 1st century Palestine. It will also address how we can assess and employ similar principles in 21st century settings.

MIN235 Discipleship Essentials II (3 units, core curriculum)
Students will use a biblical approach to acquiring patterns of discipleship. This course will survey the New Testament, discuss the concept of discipleship, and analyze scriptural principles of disciple making. The fundamental focus of our semester will be learning the role of the Holy Spirit in discipleship, how to develop and sustain a committed life that reflects the person of Jesus, and how to acquire a biblical approach to discipleship. With intentionality, we will look at the development of spiritual formation in the discipleship process, as evidenced in the New Testament. We will discuss and address elements of discipleship patterns that are modeled by Jesus' relationships to others. Using the teachings in the New Testament as a model on patterns of discipleship, students will receive a practical approach to achieve optimum effectiveness in authentic discipleship formation today within their home, church, and community.

COM131 Cross-Cultural Communication (3 units, core curriculum)
The goal of verbal and non-verbal communication is being able to convey one's intended message so that it is understood by others. However, differences in culture often present barriers to clear communication and understanding. This course examines the basic principles of effective communication and explores many major cultural differences that can hinder one's ability to convey intended meaning to others. In this course, students will engage principles of communication and cultural literacy, learning to adapt their style of interaction to be a more effective minister—able to bridge cultural differences and foster better communication with those outside their own culture.

COM132 Small Group Communication (3 units, elective)
Life change happens in the context of *relationship*. God created us to live in community with others. Only then can we experience the full life He intends for us. Small groups are one way this is accomplished. This course is designed to provide students with the basic principles of leading effective small groups within the church setting. Focus will be centered on the purpose for small groups, the role of a small group leader, training for small group leaders, how to start small groups, integrity, and ethics in small group settings, etc. Practical, hands-on application of the teaching will also be included in the course as students will facilitate a small group within the setting of the classroom.

HIS131 Church History (3 units, core curriculum)
A proper understanding of the history of the Church, from its conception to the modern times, is foundational to evaluating the present church. Special emphasis will be placed on particular situations and important junctures in this history primarily to explain the ramifications that are presently being experienced in the modern church.

MIS131 Introduction to World Missions (3 units, elective)
This course provides a general introduction to contemporary global missions. The material is broken down into five parts. The first part focuses on examining the biblical basis for missions and a theology of missions. The second provides an overview of the history of the Christian church in missions. The final three parts provide the student with practical information about contemporary missions, what is involved in sending missionaries and being sent as a missionary, issues and dilemmas confronted on the mission field and the challenges of cross-cultural communications.

MTN131 Audio Production I (3 units, elective)
Designed for students who have an interest in audio engineering and live sound production. This course will have a focus on mixing sound in both studio and live environments. In addition, there will be a focus on editing techniques in Pro Tools. Knowledge of Mac's OS X and basic computer navigation is required.

MTN132 Audio Production II (3 units, elective)
This experience is designed for students who wish to engage introductory music production and live sound techniques. It offers hands-on and interactive instruction through project-based learning. Upon completion, students will have basic knowledge of what elements constitute a recording, mix, and master, as well as how to apply them to a studio project or live sound environment. Basic knowledge of Mac's OS X and computer navigation is recommended.