

Graduate Studies Certificate Program

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Western Seminary offers the short and flexible Graduate Studies Certificate (GSC) program for individuals who require limited and focused theological training to enter a ministry role or for personal growth and development. Since these credits could also be subsequently applied to diploma or degree programs (depending upon the specific curricular requirements of each), the GSC is suitable for those who wish to enroll in seminary without making the commitment required for longer programs. GSC students are able to select the discipline in which they will take most (or all) of this coursework. The program may be appropriate for:

- Ministry directors and staff in a local church;
- Mission personnel in professional and non-professional roles who seek formal biblical, theological and missiological training;
- Christian school educators who need to further their education in biblical and theological studies;
- Laypersons and marketplace leaders who desire to deepen their preparation for effective lay ministry;
- Individuals who need a “trial year” in seminary to better define their vocational aspirations;
- Spouses of Western students who wish to participate in some aspect of their spouse’s education.

Students who wish to pursue this type of program, but on an enrichment basis, should take the Advanced Studies Certificate offered by the Online Campus (see page 16).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students entering the certificate program for credit are expected to present a baccalaureate degree and give evidence of Christian faith, character, promise, and maturity. The same admission standards, materials, and procedures as for the M.Div. program are required. Applicants who seek admission, but who do not meet admission requirements, may seek special consideration from the Admissions Committee.

TRANSFER CREDIT

Neither transfer credit nor advanced standing are allowed toward completion of the Graduate Studies Certificate.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Of the 16 credit hours required for the Graduate Studies Certificate program, all 16 credit hours must be completed through coursework at any of the Western Seminary campus locations (including our Online Campus). Reinstatement to the program after withdrawal requires Admissions Committee action and may subject the student to additional requirements for the degree. All work leading to the Graduate Studies Certificate must be completed within two years from the time of matriculation. All credits applied toward the program requirements must be earned within ten years of the awarding of the certificate.

GRADUATE STUDIES CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

To earn a certificate for credit a student must complete 16 credit hours of study with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Students, with advisor consent, will choose one concentration area of at least 8 credits grouped around a common discipline or theme, and the remaining hours (up to the required 16) as open electives. Students anticipating or considering later applying these credits towards a 30-hour Graduate Studies Diploma or a master’s degree (M.A. or M.Div.) should consult with their advisor to ensure that credits earned in the certificate program will apply toward their future degree program.

Many courses are offered by an intensive (on campus) schedule, or through a variety of distance learning formats. The intensive module permits study through convenient scheduling options throughout the year. The distance learning format provides opportunity to individuals outside Portland to study and learn while remaining in their home area and ministries.

Western Seminary offers seven options in the Graduate Studies Certificate program: Open Track, Bible specialization, Theology specialization, Ministry specialization, Coaching specialization, Pastoral Care to Women specialization, and Youth and Family Ministry specialization.

CURRICULUM PLAN

Please note: Biblical studies, theological studies, hermeneutics and church history courses may be offered in 4-credit or 2-credit (i.e., BLS 501X, BLS 501Y) formats, depending on the campus location.

SPECIALIZATION OR TRACK

16 credits — Select one

OPEN TRACK

Concentration studies (with advisor consent): 8 credits
Electives: 8 credits

BIBLICAL STUDIES SPECIALIZATION

Biblical studies: 4 credits

DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture (4)

Biblical literature: 12 credits

BLS 501 Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon (4)

BLS 502 Interpreting the Prophets to Gospels (4)

BLS 503 Interpreting Acts to Revelation (4)

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES SPECIALIZATION

Biblical studies: 4 credits

DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture(4)

Theological studies: 10 credits

THS 501 Knowing the Triune God: Theology I (4)

THS 502 Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II (4)

THS 503 Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III (2)

Electives: 2 credits

MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Ministerial studies: 12 credits

DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture(4)

DIS 501 Communicating Christ in Culture..... (2)

DMS 501 Thinking Theologically about Ministry Leadership (2)

EMS 505 Growing Disciples Intentionally(2)

PTS 504 Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence (2)

Electives: 4 credits

PASTORAL CARE TO WOMEN SPECIALIZATION

Pastoral Studies to women: 12 credits

PCW 511 Pastoral Understanding of Women (2)

PCW 512X Women in Pain, Part I (2)

PCW 512Y Women in Pain, Part 2 (2)

PCW 513 Women in Leadership (2)

PCW 514 Building Relational Ministries for Women (2)

PCW 515 Develop and Deliver Life-Changing Messages (2)

Electives: 4 credits

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