

Getting Started: Classes to Take First

As a Western Seminary student, you'll take courses in a variety of disciplines, including Bible, theology, language, spiritual formation and ministry. Some of these courses are designed to help you engage in deep theological thinking. Others are intended for practical ministry skill building or personal spiritual growth. As you create a plan for your studies, we advise you to include courses from each of the columns below for a balanced schedule.

Intellectually Rigorous	Spiritually Nurturing	Practical Skill Building
THS Theology	SFS Spiritual Formation	PTS/PCW Pastoral Studies
DBS Hermeneutics	BLS Biblical Literature	MFM Mentored Field Ministry
CHS Historical Theology		DMS Ministerial Studies
OTS Hebrew		MCS Coaching
NTS Greek		EMS Educational Ministry
RES Research and Thesis		YMS Youth Ministry

You'll also discover that we have structured programs so that some courses build on others as a progression. For that reason, we advise you to start with foundational classes like hermeneutics and Bible survey, before engaging in theology or languages. As you follow our curriculum plan, each discipline will prepare you for future studies.

Here's a sample curriculum plan for a full time student during the first two years of study:

Year One	Course Progression
Fall: DBS 506, BLS 501	Hermeneutics provides a foundation for biblical and theological studies.
Spring: SFS 501, BLS 502, MFM 500	Discovering and Developing Your Ministry Skills is designed to help you identify areas of strength that will guide the rest of your studies and ministry internships.
Summer: SFS 504, BLS 503, PTS elective	It is preferable to complete the biblical literature series before starting theology.
Year Two	
Fall: THS 501, NTS 508, MFM 501	Consider complementing theology and languages courses with some practical ministry courses.
Spring: THS 502, NTS 509, MFM 502	We advise students to study the languages over two years, rather than attempting Greek and Hebrew simultaneously.
Summer: THS 503, NTS 515, SFS 502	

As you consider this fall's courses, we suggest that you include some of the classes listed below in your schedule (conflicts can be resolved by taking some courses online). Highlighted courses are particularly recommended for first-year students.

Note	Course ID	Course Title	Faculty	Credits	Days	From	To	Dates
	BLS 501	@ Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon	Laney	4	M	6:00pm	10:00pm	
	BLS 502	@ Interpreting Prophets and Gospels	Laney	4	T	1:00pm	5:00pm	
	DBS 506	@ Learning to Interpret Scripture	Miles	4	M	6:00pm	10:00pm	
	DIS 501	@ Communicating Christ in Culture <i>(DIS 501 meets Sept 12, 26; Oct 10, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 12)</i>	Mikalatos	2	R	8:00am	12:00pm	alternate weeks
	DMS 501	@ Thinking Theologically Ministry Leadership	Jackson	2	M	3:10pm	5:10pm	
	EMS 505	@ Developing Disciples Intentionally	Marrs	2	M	1:00pm	3:00pm	
	MCS 510	@ Introduction to Coaching	Miller	1	FS	8:30am	4:30pm	Oct 11-12
	MFM 500	@ Discovering & Developing Ministry Potential <i>(MFM 500 meets Sept 5, 19; Oct 3, 17, 31; Nov 14; Dec 5)</i>	Marrs	2	R	1:00pm	5:00pm	alternate weeks
	PCW 511	@ Pastoral Understanding Women <i>(PCW 511 meets Sept 27-28; and Oct 18-19)</i>	Hislop	2	FS	9:00am	4:30pm	see dates below
	PTS 503	@ Practicing Evangelism & Apologetics <i>(PTS 503 meets Sept 5, 19; Oct 3, 17, 31; Nov 14; Dec 5)</i>	Breshears/ Fleischmann	2	R	8:00am	12:00pm	alternate weeks
	PTS 504	@ Maximizing Church's Redemptive Influence <i>(PTS 504 meets Sept 12, 26; Oct 10, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 12)</i>	Marrs/Tatlock	2	R	6:00pm	10:00pm	alternate weeks
	PTS 507	@ Providing Pastoral Counseling <i>(PTS 507 meets Sept 12, 26; Oct 10, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 12)</i>	Thiesen	2	R	1:00pm	5:00pm	alternate weeks
	SFS 501	@ Learning to Love God & Others <i>(SFS 501 meets Sept 12, 26; Oct 10, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 12)</i>	Roberts	2	R	1:00pm	5:00pm	alternate weeks