



2024-2025
COLLEGE CATALOG

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Preparing Real People for Real Purpose

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Welcome from the President

On behalf of the leadership team of Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary, we want to welcome you into a unique learning experience. Please note as you review this catalog that our courses and degree programs are designed to be practical in nature, academically and biblically sound, local church oriented, and focused on equipping men and women to minister the Word of God with power and excellence for service in the Kingdom of God.

Our mission at Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary is to prepare REAL people for REAL purpose! Whether you are pursuing a degree track or just taking an individual course, it is our desire that you gain resources that will benefit you as you walk out God's plan for your life.

More than an academic institution, we believe it is our mandate to train and equip the body of Christ. Our model for ministerial training can be seen throughout the Scriptures, but particularly in the book of Acts and the church at Antioch. Here we see the restoration and transformation of lives, cities, and nations by the power of God. What God did through that first century church serves as a blueprint for what we believe He will do through Vision as we faithfully steward our influence.

As you read through this catalog, please know that it is our pleasure to serve you in any way we can. We are honored that you are considering us as we are aware you have many options available to you with respect to your academic and spiritual goals. If at any point you have questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to us! May God continue to bless you as you pursue His will for your life.

In Service of our King,



Christopher J. Romano, Ph.D.
President, Vision Christian Bible College

ABOUT VCBCS

VISION

Preparing real people for real purpose.

MISSION

Equipping men and women to minister the word of God with power and excellence.

STUDENT GOALS

To disciple faithful men and women after the pattern of ministry found throughout the book of Acts.

Upon graduation from Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary, the student should:

- Develop a vital Christian experience and mature, Christlike character.
- Possess a comprehensive knowledge of the Bible.
- Have a keen awareness of their responsibility to represent Christ to a lost world.
- Be prepared to serve in some sphere of ministry within the local church.

MODEL FOR MINISTRY

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

HISTORY

VCBCS was established in 1992 by the late Dr. Jan Garber and has operated successfully since, equipping men and women for the work of the ministry. The graduates of VCBCS can be found serving God in the local church, in the marketplace, and in the mission field all around the world according to their specific gifts and calling.

OUR DISTINCTIVES

- **Kingdom Focused:** We are a Kingdom-centric college equipping students to seek first and advance God's Kingdom on earth.
- **Quality Education:** We work to transform lives with quality educational opportunities at an affordable cost.
- **Bible Based:** We provide biblically based programs with an emphasis on dynamic leadership that will benefit students far into the future.
- **Personalized:** We develop a specific course of study to meet your needs in whatever season you find yourself.
- **Honoring Life Experience:** We grant advanced standing to qualified students with equivalent life experience.
- **Foundational:** We teach every student the foundations of the Word of God.

OUR BELIEFS

We believe...

- That there is only one God, who has eternally existed in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- In the absolute Lordship and deity of Christ including His preexistence, virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, bodily resurrection, and eventual return to the earth in glory and power to establish His eternal kingdom.
- In the inerrancy, authority, reliability, and divine inspiration of the Holy Bible.
- That nothing can replace the importance of the local church in the program of God and that each local church should be under the authority of the Word, the oversight of the Holy Spirit, and should determine its own character and role in obedience to the Word of God.
- That entrance into the Church is through the “**new birth**” which is brought about by genuine repentance of sin and confession of faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.
- That the great tasks of the Church are worldwide evangelism and equipping the saints.
- That membership in the Church is signified by baptism; the joyful participation in its worship, fellowship, sacraments, and witness; and acceptance of its discipline.
- That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is an essential component of effective Christian life and witness.
- That the Church cannot fulfill its mission apart from the five ascension gift ministries that Christ has sent into the world: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers and we accept that it is part of our task to recognize those people and to assist in equipping them to fulfill their ministry.
- That Christ purchased bodily healing for every believer at Calvary.
- In the reality of Satan, the kingdom of darkness over which he reigns, and the absolute victory of Christ over the devil and all his works.
- In the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ as witnessed by the scriptures.
- That the victorious Christian life is built upon a proper understanding of the Bible and upon the exercise of the spiritual authority imputed to the believer by the gift of righteousness.
- In the resurrection of the dead at Christ's return, the certainty of God's judgment, and the inescapable result of that judgment foretold in the scriptures for both the just and the unjust.

AT VCBCS WE ARE...

Conservative in Doctrine: The Word of God is divinely inspired and is our source of doctrine and instruction in righteousness. We teach the Holy Scriptures as the authority for discerning truth. There is no other source for establishing doctrine in the church and in the life of the believer. We teach all students to place this same emphasis on God's Word. This is the means of securing the foundation of our faith. (**2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; Galatians 1:6-9**).

Charismatic in Practice: We teach that all gifts of the Spirit are needed in the church today as they were in the 1st Century church. Each believer has been given spiritual gifts by the Lord to build up the body of Christ and to reach out and minister to a lost world. We seek to encourage and activate the gifts within our students (**1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11-16**).

Loving in Fellowship: We teach that the greatest commandment and the proof of our discipleship is the love we have for each other. All Christians are to keep the unity of the Spirit and grow into the unity of the faith. As Christians, we are to walk in the light and have fellowship with one another. We encourage and expect this fellowship among the students of VCBCS (**Mark 12:30-31; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 John 1:7**).

Evangelistic in Emphasis: Every student is required to be born again. We take Jesus' last command to go and make disciples of all nations very serious. We teach and train all our students to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. It is our heart to see every student evangelize their sphere of influence and beyond even to the nations. (**Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8**).

Bold in Faith: We train students to be bold in faith, to do the impossible, to believe in the promises of God, to expect miracles and to do miracles in the name of Jesus. We serve a God who can do the impossible. Those who know their God shall be strong and do exploits (**Daniel 11:32; Luke 1:37; 18:27**).

AUTHORIZATION AND AFFILIATION

VCBCS does not hold regional accreditation, nor do we intend to seek such affiliation. Our intent is to remain an institution devoted to preparing men and women for ecclesiastical vocations.

VCBCS was authorized to operate and to grant degrees by the Florida State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities under section 246.084 (1), State of Florida Statutes.

In 1999 VCBCS became a member of the American Federation of Colleges and Seminaries (AmFed) that was approved by the Florida State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities (SBICU) to grant degrees in 1999. The Federation established a quality educational standard in post-secondary education for evangelical colleges and seminaries that do not seek secular accreditation.

VCBCS currently is a member in good standing, with the full benefits of membership in the International Association of Bible Colleges and Seminaries or IABCS (registered as Southern Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges). The purpose of IABCS is to

furnish, recognize, and verify certain standardized requirements in various fields in which the representative institutions operate in keeping with, and acceptable to, other accredited institutions of higher education.

ACCREDITATION

VCBCS is a member of International Association of Bible Colleges and Seminaries (IABCS) for accountability and accreditation. IABCS is a Non-Governmental Accreditation Institution (NGAI) setting standards for Bible Colleges and Seminaries that do not want to come under secular governmental control and at the same time maintain a genuine degree program for higher education. IABCS is the oldest NGAI in the USA, established in 1954.

We believe that the federal government or any secular institutions are not qualified to dictate the qualifications for instructors or the programs for a spirit-filled ministerial degree. As a Christian University, Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary offers academic programs that are specifically designed to equip students who feel the call of God on their lives and wish to build a ministerial career or to further their Christian education.

Accreditation in the U.S. is a voluntary, non-governmental process that is undertaken by private agencies. Some, but not all, of those agencies have applied for and received approval from the U.S. Department of Education or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), which maintains criteria for such approval. Those agencies that are so approved enable their members to qualify for several billion dollars annually of federal student funds. This creates a “gatekeeper” role for such agencies and a direct relationship between them and federal government. The main reason why many institutions in the U.S. seek accreditation is to gain access to federal student funds, which are not available to schools that do not hold accreditation.

“It should be noted that some institutions have chosen not to participate in the federal student aid program and therefore do not have to be approved by an accrediting agency recognized by the Department. While these institutions do not appear on the Department’s list, they may be legitimate schools”

United States Department of Education

Most Bible Colleges and Seminaries choose not to be governed by the USDE and do not seek regional accreditation.

Once the decision is made to become accredited through a Department of Education recognized agency, reversing that choice is not a simple process. The decision to reject government sanctioned accreditation would have an immediate and profound effect on all alumni holding degrees. For the accredited college, the approval of an accrediting agency becomes its ‘life’s blood.’ The college is left to choose between compromising core biblical beliefs to conform to the requirements of the government or face the possibly substantial loss of funds and angry alumni.

Although religious schools may opt to seek accreditation, many regard the separation of church and state as a reason either to remain unaccredited or to seek accreditation from a specifically religious agency with no ties to the government.

We believe training men and women for ministry is best done under the authority of a local church and independent of the constraints of a liberal arts program. Another concern we have held regarding accreditation relates to government intervention. To accept Title IV or other government funding could obligate us to government oversight and vetting of our curriculum, staffing and even beliefs. We recognize that we live in a pluralistic society and with a government which is increasingly antagonistic toward Christian beliefs. There is no doubt in our minds that, were the government given oversight of our operations, their secular, humanistic paradigm would see our curriculum as unsatisfactory to the pluralistic philosophies of today. In addition, there is a concern that accreditation could put the college in a position where a faculty degree would usurp a ministry focused hiring process of evaluating a candidate's personal ministry and ability to transfer truth as a facilitator of 2 Timothy 2:2. We have seen where accreditation has pressured institutions to hire a required number of professors with particular degrees, rather than hiring them based on a philosophy of local church ministry with a commitment to doctrine and soul winning.

The legal right to grant degrees is independent from the issue of accreditation. Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary was authorized to operate and to grant degrees by the Florida State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities under section 246.084(1), State of Florida Statutes.

We are committed to education that is legitimately postsecondary and academically rigorous, challenging students to develop critical thinking skills and leading them in the formation of biblically grounded Christian worldview.

Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary is an institution of higher education in which the Bible is central, and the development of Christian life and ministry is essential. We engage the student intentionally in:

1. **Biblical Higher Education** - Education that involves extensive and serious study of the text of Scripture, not in a posture of detachment and skepticism, but in a posture of discipleship and submission, seeking to understand the will of God so that we may conform to it, and the plan of God so that we may join Him in bringing about its fulfillment. This engagement with Scripture ensures that the formation of a Christian worldview issues not only from sincere devotion to Christ, but also from a comprehensive grasp of biblical teaching and a well-honed ability to bring sound theological thinking to bear upon a broad spectrum of humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral science and natural/information science disciplines.
2. **Transformational Higher Education** - Education that calls us to explore the moral and ethical implications of what we are studying. In so doing, we apply what we are learning from God's Word while developing personal values and virtues worthy of His adopted children. We are transformed through deep engagements with a community of fellow Christ-followers. Such transformational higher education is

validated not by a life orientated toward self-actualization or self-fulfillment, but rather by a posture of submission and self-denial, displaying Kingdom values and Gospel priorities before a watching world.

3. Experiential Higher Education – Facilitating hands-on ministry, service-learning and intercultural study opportunities. Such experiences help us to discover and develop our own distinctive God given gifts, passions, and sense of calling as well as to exercise and grow the life, ministry and leadership skills required for passionate and proficient service.
4. Missional Higher Education- We maintain that an authentically biblical worldview compels all believers, regardless of present or future occupation, to understand their personal vocation within the context of history’s destiny: the day when the kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our God and His Christ. We seek to encourage and equip graduates to take part according to their unique gifts, passions, and callings in the global cause of proclaiming through word and deed the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

In the United States of America, most of our nation’s first colleges and universities, such as: Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, Rutgers, Vassar, Wellesley, and Mt. Holyoke began as Christian colleges and universities offering Christian education. Harvard began in 1636 and was founded for training in the Gospel ministry. Harvard’s charter stated that the university was established for the purposes of educating the English and Indian youth in knowledge and Godliness. Harvard’s motto was “Christo et Ecclesiae” (For Christ and Church).

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate based on race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship or loan programs. Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary does not discriminate in admission or employment practices in its programs and activities with respect to those with impaired vision, hearing or physical mobility.

ADMISSION TO VCBCS

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & DEGREES

Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary is authorized to grant awards, degrees, and diplomas.

VCBCS offers the following degrees and certificates through our Distance Learning Program.

CERTIFICATES
Chaplaincy Certificate
*Certificate in Christian Ministry
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES
*Associate's in Biblical Studies
*Bachelor's in Biblical Studies
*Bachelor's in Theology
Bachelor's in Ministry
Bachelor's in Christian Counseling
Bachelor's in Business Leadership
GRADUATE PROGRAMS
Master's in Theology
Master's in Ministry
Master's in Christian Counseling
PhD in Theology
PhD in Ministry
PhD in Christian Counseling
Doctorate in Theology
Doctorate in Ministry

*Also offered through an affiliate campus

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A VCBCS STUDENT

We have designed our courses to benefit people who are serious about obeying the biblical call upon their lives. Students at VCBCS find that they have the opportunity to become enriched by the impartation of the gifts of our outstanding faculty. As a student you will have the opportunity to become involved within a community of faithful servants, learning how we are to live by faith alone.

The college commits itself to help students become aware of the work of God in their life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Students are taught sound and balanced doctrine, how to use their Bible, and how to separate truth from error. The result should be growth in spiritual stature and in their ability to serve Christ successfully.

REQUIREMENTS

All students must make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and give evidence of a continuing relationship with God. Students must have a desire to reach greater maturity through Christ. Students must submit their lives to the absolute lordship of Christ. Prospective students must have obtained a high school diploma, GED, or an

equivalency for admission. Special acceptance to VCBCS can be granted to students who do not have a high school diploma or GED if the student is over 26 years of age. This special student will be on academic probation and must achieve a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale during their first year of study to be removed from academic probation.

An application and student disclosure form must be completed and submitted with the non-refundable application fee by each student.

All students must be actively involved in a local church.

All admissions are subject to final approval by the Academic Board of VCBCS.

APPLICATION

By submitting and signing an application form, students of VCBCS commit to abiding by the academic and lifestyle standards of VCBCS as described in this catalog and the VCBCS Student Handbook.

Applications for admission can be found at www.vcbcs.org

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed application
- Application fee submitted
- Official transcript for any previous college work (if applicable) mailed directly to:
VCBCS Administrative Office, PO Box 622, Hudson, NY 12534

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

At VCBCS we offer two ways in which a student can enroll and take classes. This provides student the opportunity to learn in the environment that best fits their individual needs.

Distance Learning Program (DLP) offers students the option of taking classes online using Moodle, our online Learning Management System (**LMS**). This provides students with a personal and flexible format that enables them to take courses at their own leisure while working at a pace that fits their own schedule. Every student is assigned a mentor who will be available to guide the student through their course of studies. All our mentors are experienced ministers – they are practitioners who are serving in ministry themselves.

Affiliate Campus Program (ACP) offers student the opportunity to attend classes at an affiliate campus (satellite campus) of VCBCS. This provides students the opportunity for an in-person educational experience within a classroom type setting. Contact admin@vcbcs.org for more information on affiliate campus locations.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

It is permissible for students to enroll in only 1 class per semester. Every student who is enrolled in the degree programs are encouraged to maintain at least part-time status.

Full Time Students are those who enroll in at least 4 classes per semester (a min. of 12 credits, a max of 15 credits).

Part Time Students are those who enroll in 1-3 classes per semester (a min. of 3 credits, a max of 9 credits).

Non-Degree Students are those students who are not interested in earning credit towards a degree program but are interested in the opportunity for enrichment. These students are not responsible for the academic requirements but would attend and participate in course lectures.

ADMISSION STATUS

An application is reviewed upon receiving all application materials (application, fees, transcripts, etc.). Notification of admission is communicated via email within 1-2 business days.

STUDENT CLASSIFICATION

# of Credits	Student Classification
0 - 29	Freshman
30 - 59	Sophomore
60 - 89	Junior
90 - 119	Senior
120+	Graduate

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students transferring from recognized colleges will be given advanced standing to the extent that VCBCS accepts their credits. Since VCBCS deems its courses essential for graduation, at least 30 credit hours of course work must be completed with VCBCS to obtain a degree. No courses used as credit toward undergraduate college degrees will be accepted as credit toward a graduate degree. Courses graded less than "C" will not transfer.

All evaluations for advanced standing and/or transfer credit are to be handled by the Academic Board. Copies of previous transcripts are to be sent to the Administrative Office for evaluation. Upon completion of the evaluation, a VCBCS administrator will notify the student of the number of credits accepted. This information will be added to the student's transcript at the time of evaluation.

LIFE EXPERIENCE CREDITS

Life experience credit is granted by the Executive Board of VCBCS (a maximum of 30 hours of undergraduate credit). A student is eligible for consideration of advanced standing based on life experience if the student meets the following criteria:

1. The student applicant is at least 28 years of age.
2. The Applicant has at least 5 years of demonstrated skills and experience beneficial to their field of study.
3. The applicant has provided a life experience portfolio including a curriculum vitae and letters of recommendation.

4. The applicant has never received equivalent credit for life experience in any other degree program.

PROCEDURE

1. The applicant should request life experience Credit through the administrative office of VCBCS.
2. The completed portfolio with letters of reference and documentation are to be reviewed by the Executive Board.
3. The Executive Board may request further information or documentation and may require an interview with each applicant, usually via telephone.
4. The President or her designate will make the final decision.
5. This decision will be made in adequate time to facilitate registration by the applicant.
6. The applicant must submit the appropriate evaluation fee of \$150 for undergraduate credit.

PORTFOLIO

The portfolio, which is submitted by each student in support of the application for life experience credit should contain at least these four elements:

1. **Curriculum Vitae:** This is a report of “**the current of one’s life**” and “**the course of one’s experience.**” It should be as simple as possible including a list of the year (s) of service or achievements with a brief identification of the areas of experience and responsibility involved. The list may be singular, or plural, one or many, but the items listed should be included:
 - **Personal:** Date of birth, baptism, graduation(s), marriage, ordination, etc.
 - **Education:** Institutions and schools attended as well as awards and degrees granted.
 - **Vocational:** Employment and job responsibilities.
 - **Ecclesiastical:** Formal and informal responsibilities in the church.
 - **Community and Social:** Participation in voluntary organizations.
2. **Description of Ministry Activity:** This section of the portfolio will focus on ministerial experience (whether within or outside the Church) in chronological order. The applicant for Life Experience Credit should provide a description of ministry in the following areas:
 - Conduct of Worship
 - Sermon Preparation
 - Educational Instruction
 - Pastoral Care and Counseling
 - Church Administration
 - Evangelism & Church Development
 - Community Organization & Development

If comparable experience was gained in an alternate setting, it should be included in portfolio.

3. **Analysis of Skills:** The ministerial skills identified are not exhaustive, but they suggest variety and nature of skills, which should be included. The applicant should be able to demonstrate development in these skills and others he/she has developed the understanding how:
 - To develop appropriate worship for diverse worship settings (lifestyles, ethnic constituencies).
 - To identify and illustrate various methods of sermon construction via recordings, outlines, or notes.
 - To evaluate alternate curricula in Christian education. Individual skills should be identified here, with reference to settings where skills developed, but with major focus on the skills.
 - To utilize a variety of pedagogical methods.
 - To develop pastoral goals with their programmatic components.
 - To identify a variety of leadership styles. Understanding how to assess their efficiency.
 - To isolate particular symptoms of individuals in need of pastoral care.
 - To implement alternate styles in pastoral counseling.
 - To identify and manage conflict situations.
 - To train a congregation for community witness.
 - To know one's own strengths and weaknesses.
 - To analyze one's own motivations and skills.
4. **Letters of Reference and Documentation:** Letters from all individuals in supervisory capacities for the applicant's ministerial experience should be received and submitted. Experience for which no external documentation is provided is not considered for Life Experience Credit. Supporting letters that document the variety of experience gained are required. Letters from supervisors are encouraged when they endorse the applicant's candidacy for credit, document the variety of ministry which was developed, and further document the ministry exercised in the ministerial experience.
5. **Cost:** An examination fee for life experience credits is set at \$150. To encourage students to use the examination process, a partial refund will be given if the examination determines that the applicant is not eligible for life experience credits. However, if the examination process is successful, a fee of \$45.00 per credit hour is charged for the undergraduate program in addition to the \$150 evaluation fee. Thus, a student receiving no credit is charged nothing, but a student receiving 6 hours of credit is charged \$270. No credit appears on student transcripts until the fee is paid. Students should note that the fee for the examination process is considerably less than tuition costs for the same amount of credit. No scholarships are provided for payment of examination fees.

Summary: Experience is a prerequisite for consideration for Life Experience Credit, but years of experience are not adequate in and of themselves to guarantee credit. Life Experience Credit depends on the ability to analyze one's experiences and to identify

learning derived from them. Experience does not warrant credit. Credit is granted for the learning derived from the experience. Moreover, an experience, which was judged, and was a failure, may be a more helpful learning experience. This illustrates the fact that Life Experience Credit is more closely related to learning from the experience than it is to the experience itself.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transfer of credits from Vision Bible College & Seminary to other institutions is at the discretion of the receiving institution. VCBCS will file the necessary transcripts to provide the receiving institution with the most information about the courses sought to be transferred. However, since each school has its own basic curriculum and educational philosophy, credit transfer is strictly up to the receiving institution and is out of the control of VCBCS.

The United States Department of Education (USDOE) wrote in its publication on accreditation that: *“Accreditation does not provide automatic acceptance by an institution...acceptance of students or graduates is always the prerogative of the receiving institution...for this reason students...should take additional measures to determine prior to enrollment whether or not their educational goals will be met through attendance at a particular institution. These measures should include inquires to institutions to which transfer might be desired...”*

All degree programs of Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary are intended for religious training in ecclesiastical vocations. VCBCS encourages all students to consider the above USDOE recommendations prior to enrollment.

TUITION & FEES

Financial information is provided for Distance Learning Program Students only. For affiliate campus financial information, please check with the local campus administrator. All costs EXCLUDE textbooks.

Application Fee: *Non-Refundable*

Undergraduate	\$50
Graduate	\$100

Orientation Fee: *Non-Refundable*

All Degree Programs	\$100
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Tuition:

Non-Degree	\$125/class
Undergraduate	\$125/credit hour
Master’s Program	\$190/credit hour
PhD Program	\$220/credit hour

Graduation Fee: *Non-Refundable*

Undergraduate	\$150
Graduate	\$300

*There is a 10% discount available for active military, veterans, police, firefighters, and EMS.

AFFILIATE STUDENT REGISTRATION

A registration fee must be paid to the affiliate campus by the date specified for the beginning of the program in which you are enrolling. Late registrations can be accepted at the discretion of the affiliate campus leader.

A registration fee is paid once per semester. After this fee is paid, you may enroll in any subject(s) without any further registration charge.

REFUND POLICY

Any student dropping a course(s) or withdrawing after registration without completing the necessary forms and receiving the consent of the Registrar will not receive a refund.

Students may change or drop courses at any time during the first three (3) weeks after notification of their acceptance in the program. When a course is dropped or withdrawn from and no substitute taken, the following policy will apply:

1. No refund will be made of the application, registration, evaluation or textbook fees.
2. Refund of tuition is as follows:

1 week of class	90% refund
2 weeks of class	80% refund
3 weeks of class	70% refund

THERE ARE NO REFUNDS AFTER THE THIRD WEEK OF CLASS.

ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary is a ministry equipping institution that is committed to raising the academic level of the learning environment.

We believe in a strong academic learning environment where the Holy Spirit has the freedom to instruct and operate. This environment cannot be dictated by a natural mind. The Word of God must be the foundation of learning and equipping. The anointing of God (**Holy Spirit**) must be the teacher. We do not place our confidence in our flesh. Our confidence is in the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and anoint us in ministry.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. For ‘*who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

1 John 2:27 (NKJV)

“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”

We also recognize the anointing in gifted ministries that are sent from God to prepare us for the work of the ministry. We make use of these ministries for the equipping process.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

ORIENTATION

All students will participate in an orientation process upon acceptance to assist them with their transition to VCBCS.

Distance Learning (DLP) students are assigned an academic mentor upon acceptance to VCBCS, who will provide information on VCBCS, a copy of the VCBCS Student Handbook, and assist them in their transitions and studies at VCBCS.

Affiliate Campus students should refer to their campus for orientation information and requirements. Orientation will provide the student with all the information they need to register for courses and prepare for the semester.

REGISTRATION

Distance Learning students work with their academic mentors regarding course schedules and enrolling into their courses using Moodle.

Affiliate Campus students work with the campus administrator to enroll in courses at their campus location.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Upon acceptance to VCBCS, students are assigned an academic mentor to assist in their transition and provide guidance in their studies at VCBCS. Students are encouraged to connect and communicate often with their mentors. A strong mentor relationship for DLP students is extremely important. They are a great resource to help you stay engaged in course material and grow deeper in your relationship with God. *While academic mentors will provide guidance in meeting academic requirements for purpose of graduation, students are responsible for making certain they meet all requirements and academic deadlines.*

MOODLE

Moodle is VCBCS's online learning platform. Course materials will be accessed through this platform, and it is also where students will submit their assignments for each course. Instructions for using Moodle are provided upon acceptance to VCBCS.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

While it is always true that Christians reflect their faith by the way they live, it is particularly true of Bible College students. People rightly expect your conduct to be of a very high standard. We are confident that you will strive to bring honor to your Lord, your church, and your college by an example of mature godliness.

In this respect, VCBCS expects the highest level of academic integrity from our students. Academic dishonesty will be taken seriously as it is an offense against a student's Christian character and testimony. Academic dishonesty can include, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying other students' work, falsifying reports, completing assignments for other students, etc.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own work and to operate themselves according to Scriptural standards. Students are encouraged to report acts of academic dishonesty to their instructor to promote and foster a healthy spiritual atmosphere among the student population.

It is the responsibility of the student to be fully informed of VCBCS's Academic Integrity policy. Lack of knowledge regarding this policy is not enough basis for appealing disciplinary action.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

Academic Warning: a cumulative GPA below a 2.0

A student who is placed on academic warning is highly encouraged to seek out the help and guidance of their academic mentor to work in making needed academic improvements.

Academic Probation: a cumulative GPA below a 1.6, *recorded on student transcript.*

A student placed on academic probation is at risk for academic suspension if improvements are not made, and therefore required to meet with their academic mentor to discuss an academic action plan for academic improvement. This may include repeating courses to improve GPA.

Academic Suspension: a cumulative GPA below 1.0, *recorded on student transcript*

A student placed on academic suspension is terminated from the college but is eligible for readmission. Should the student reapply and is accepted back to the college, they will enter on academic probation status for a minimum of one semester until grades for that semester have been completed.

GRADING SYSTEM

A 4.0 grading system is in effect.

GRADE	PERCENTAGE	GRADE POINT	INTERPRETATION
A	95 - 100	4.00	Excellent*
A-	90 - 94	3.67	Superior*
B+	87 - 89	3.33	Exceeding All Requirements
B	84 - 86	3.00	Very Good
B-	80 - 83	2.67	Good
C+	77 - 79	2.33	Meeting all Requirements
C	74 - 76	2.00	Satisfactory
C-	70 - 73	1.67	Passing
F	69 and below	0.00	Failure

*Honor Students

Note: Vision Christian Bible College does not except grades below C- as passing.

The grades below are not used to calculate grade point averages. No grade points are earned under these designations.

I		0.00	Incomplete - Conditional
WP		0.00	Withdrawal - Passing
WF		0.00	Withdrawal - Failing
TC		0.00	Transfer Credits
LC		0.00	Life Experience Credits

GRADES

In an extenuating circumstance (illness, family emergency, military deployment, etc.), students can request a time extension to complete course assignments/requirements after the course completion deadline. The request should be made in writing to the

course instructor no later than the last week of the course. If the extenuating circumstance occurs during the last week of a course, then the request should be made in writing within 7 days after the end of a course. If the request is granted, a temporary grade of "I" will be assigned. The student will have two weeks to complete and turn in all assignments. At the end of this period, the student will receive a grade for any work turned in.

GRADE REPORTS

Grades for each course are posted to each student's Moodle account and are only visible to the student and instructor. Grade reports are sent to the Registrar Office and student upon completion of each course.

GRADE APPEAL

A grade appeal involves a situation in which a student believes an instructor (a) has not followed fair grading practice or (b) has not followed published grading policy. A student who wishes to appeal a final course grade based one on or both of these conditions must follow the following procedure:

Level 1: Appeal to the Instructor

Made in writing to the instructor of the course.

Level 2: Appeal to the Department Head

Made in writing to the Department Head.

Level 3: Appeal to the Academic Board of VCBCS

Made in writing to the Academic Board of VCBCS.

REPLACING A LOW GRADE

A student is permitted to repeat a course for which he/she has received an "F" grade. Both the "F" and the subsequent grade shall stand in the student's permanent record and be included in calculating the grade point average. A student is not permitted to repeat a course for credit in which he has received a passing grade.

CHANGE OF COURSE SCHEDULE

Students may add or drop a course during the first week of class (with the approval of the Registrar) without academic penalty. Courses dropped without permission after the first two weeks will receive an automatic "WF" grade. The Department Head may permit a drop with a "WP" in response to a written petition stating the reason(s) for the request.

DEGREE CHANGES

Any student desiring to change his degree program should discuss the change with their Department Head.

WITHDRAWAL FROM VCBCS

Students who wish to withdraw from VCBCS should make a written request to the Administrative Office at admin@vcbcs.org. Please refer to the Refund Policy regarding financial responsibilities/policy regarding withdrawal.

TERMINATION

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

- Failing grades in more than 25% of assignments.
- Attendance is less than 75% of the lectures.
- Financial delinquency.
- Excessive tardiness.
- Conduct in or out of the classroom that is inconsistent with the philosophy and goals of the college.

If a student has personal or financial difficulties, or if a problem develops concerning an aspect of the college, the student should consult with a VCBCS administrator immediately. Difficulties should not be allowed to grow until they become insurmountable. The college faculty is prepared to do everything in its power towards preparing the student for ministry.

Note: Every effort will be made to resolve a problem before termination of a student's enrollment takes effect. A refund of fees may be applied (see Refund Policy's section).

GRADUATION

All degrees are granted by Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary, Clermont, FL.

To qualify for graduation, a student must:

- Complete required courses for degree sought.
- Earn the required number of credit hours for each award.
- Be present for at least 75% of the lecture hours (or an equivalent) for each subject.
- Complete all assignments with a passing grade (C- or higher).
- Pay all required tuition and fees.
- Pay the graduation fee of \$150.00 for undergraduate students and \$300 for graduate students. NOTE: Release of final transcript and diploma will not occur until the graduation fee is paid by the student.

EMPLOYMENT

VCBCS does not guarantee employment with any organization.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & DEPARTMENTS

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

CHAPLAINCY CERTIFICATE

Our online Chaplaincy Certificate Program is designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools that you need to advance your kingdom calling in the area of Chaplaincy. Our program is constructed with busy, ministry-minded leaders in mind. Therefore, the program is tailored to fit your scheduling needs and can be done at a pace that is conducive to your lifestyle. Additionally, our program operates on an “open-enrollment” basis, meaning there is no defined semester or start-date so you can begin the program immediately!

Our program consists of 10 specialized modules that together form a comprehensive unit supplying the individual with a well-balanced foundation to carry out their ministry. This particular ministry is of paramount importance in a historic era of conflict, change, and increasing complexity. Yet, while relevant and urgent in our contemporary era, the clarion call for Christ-like chaplains derives its significance from its 4th century historical roots.

The term “chaplain” originates from the story of St. Martin accompanying an impoverished man in the rain, which took place at the gate to the city of Amiens, France, in 337. As crowds hurried past the half-naked and close-to-death beggar, Martin -- a military officer at the time -- took out his sword and removed his cloak. Martin sliced his cloak into two pieces, giving one half to the man and using the other half to cover himself. After being so moved by this powerful turn of events, Martin dedicated his life to serving the poor, and years later, his cloak became a treasured spiritual symbol. The cloak was kept in a building that came to be known as a cappella, or “chapel,” and the person assigned to look after the sacred relic was deemed the *capellano*, or “chaplain.” To this day chaplains can be identified as “the keepers of sacred things.”

QUALIFICATIONS

Associates Degree in Theology or Ministry OR Equivalent Ministry Experience¹

COST

- Application Fee: \$50
- Program Tuition: \$299
- Annual Re-Certification: \$150

COURSES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Chaplaincy • Chaplaincy Advisement (Do’s and Don’ts) • Chaplaincy Ethics for Support and Pastoral Care • Effective Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with Complex Trauma • Grief Counseling • Biblical Worldview • Kingdom Perspective • People Literacy • Biblical Discipleship |
|--|--|

¹ To be determined by the evaluation of supporting documentation submitted in the candidate's application.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

One of the greatest challenges churches face is raising up faithful followers of Christ from one generation to the next. Much of the church today is facing further challenges as church attendance dwindles and biblical illiteracy rises. We created the Discipleship Training Program (DTP) to help local churches face these challenges by giving them the tools to raise up faithful disciples of Jesus.

The DTP consists of ten dynamic, biblically based courses designed to furnish students with a foundation in sound doctrine and practical ministry training. With courses ranging from *How to Study the Bible*, to *Spiritual Warfare*, students of this program will walk away better equipped to live faithful and fruitful lives for Christ.

This program is highly flexible and can be implemented in a local church context as a school of ministry, discipleship program, Sunday school curriculum, new believer's program, or bible study. The ten courses are structured into four sections that can be taught weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or whenever your church schedule permits.

While the DTP was created with local churches in mind, individuals can go through the DTP online at their own pace through VCBCS.

Upon completion of the program, whether at a local church or online with VCBCS, students are eligible to receive a Certificate in Christian Ministry. Students also have the option to receive credit towards a degree in Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary upon completion of the program.

CHURCH DTP COST

- Program: \$1,000*
- Certificate: \$250/student

*One-time fee includes digital copies of all student workbooks and instructor manuals, registration and attendance reports, and instructor access to online lectures and learning portal.

ONLINE DTP COST

- Application Fee: \$50
- Program: \$1,250*

*For individual students only. Includes access to learning portal and Certificate of Christian Ministry upon completion of program.

COURSES

- How to Study the Bible
- Essential Doctrines
- Discipleship
- Spiritual Disciplines
- Prayer
- Faith
- Identity
- Apologetics
- Spiritual Warfare
- Serving in the Local Church

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

GENERAL INFORMATION

The degrees in the Christian Counseling department are carefully designed to prepare men and women to counsel in a disciplined and skilled way. The Apostle Paul was very sensitive to the needs of hurting individuals when he wrote, *“we who are strong must bear the weaknesses and help carry the burdens of those who are weaker.”*

- **EFFECTIVE** counseling skills are developed to address the very diverse problems people face today.
- **CARING** counselors provide encouragement and guidance for those who are facing loss, decisions, or disappointments.
- **UNIQUE** techniques of the Christian counselor set us apart from the secular as we seek to change behavior, attitudes, values, and perceptions from a Biblical perspective.

IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

It is time, now more than any other time in history, to recapture the dynamic of the first century church while remaining relevant in the twenty first century. The Lord has chosen us to serve Him before the foundation of the world. As you follow the calling of the Lord to counsel those who are lost and hurting, we will serve the dedicated student in the process of developing your skills through discovery, development, and deployment. It is important that the men and women of God be equipped to minister counseling through the Word of God with power and excellence.

SAMPLE DEGREE COMPLETION PLANS

(pre-requisite courses are in bold & starred)

Bachelor of Christian Counseling (120 credit hours)

Year 1:

Semester 1-

***SYS-105 Kingdom I**

***NTS-307 Identity**

CNS-101 Intro to Nouthetic Counseling

ECM-414 Spiritual Disciplines

PSY-401 Intro to Psychology

Semester 2-

CNS-102 Intro to Christian Counseling

CNS-265 Family Violence & Abuse

CNS-402 Stress

SYS-202 The Doctrine of Healing

Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective

Year 2:

Semester 1-

THE-308 Spiritual Warfare

PSY-403 Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

SPT-456 D.I.S.C in Counseling

CNS-403 Grace Principles

Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective

Semester 2-

CNS-410- Grief Counseling

CNS-406 Marriage & Family Counseling

Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective

CNS-425 Counseling Techniques: Basic

CNS-424 Case Studies

DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our Department of Ministry has many cutting-edge ministry training programs and fields of study to help equip followers of Jesus Christ for the work of the ministry. Thus, "Preparing Real People for Real Purpose" is not just our motto but also our purpose. Whether you are called to a pulpit or a profession, a congregation, or a career – Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary is here to equip you to make a difference. Most of us think of ministry as the work done by pastors, missionaries, Christian conference speakers, or evangelists. We rarely think of work done by bankers, lawyers, engineers, or homemakers, as the work of the ministry. We believe all arenas of work are to be viewed as our act of worship to the Lord and our mission field.

Whether you are called as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher, janitor, factory worker, engineer, worship leader, etc., our programs of study are all centered around advancing God's Kingdom in your environment. Operating from a Kingdom perspective means studies are not only focused on the various ministries that labor in the church but also in the marketplace, the community, the prison environment, and in missions. We are prepared to equip you to be culturally relevant without becoming culturally compromised and to influence the world for the Kingdom of God.

TAILORED PROGRAMS

Our ministry program is built around three areas of training.

1. Scriptures – God's Word

All of our studies are based solidly on the Word of God. The student will be equipped in the study of the Bible and in solid biblical doctrine. The Scriptures provide the foundation of study and preparation for ministry. The Scriptures are also important for establishing godly values in our life. We are encouraged in 2 Timothy 2:15 to study hard so we can correctly handle the Word of God.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

2. Servant - The servant of God (you)

The student also becomes the focus of study. A minister is a servant. The student will be equipped as a servant of the Lord. Greatness is achieved as we master the concept of learning to be last. The servant learns to follow the Master (Jesus). The servant learns to live a life in a manner that exemplifies Godly character.

1 Tim. 4:16 (NKJV) Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

3. Service - to God

The student will be trained in their calling, gifting and service in the Lord. Each believer is wired specifically by the Lord to fulfill God's purpose for their lives. We will help guide you in discerning your "Grace-mix" (i.e. your gifts, passion, purpose, identity, etc.). Paul, an apostle of our Lord Jesus Christ, said;

1 Cor 15:10 NIV But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

And then Paul exhorts us...

1 Cor 15:58 NLT So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

SAMPLE DEGREE COMPLETION PLANS

In the Department of Ministry, the course of study is directly related to the end ministry goal of each student. Prospective students are assigned a mentor who will not only help them discover and define their purpose (end ministry goal) but also develop an individualized course of study to prepare them to fulfill it. This is a sample framework of courses for a student who will be working in Youth Ministry.

Bachelor's in Ministry (Youth Ministry)

Year 1:

Semester 1-

PRE-201 Preaching Skills
ECM-312 The Art of Planning
OTS-101 Old Testament Survey*
Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective
ECM-318 Youth Counseling

Semester 2-

ECM-315 The Art of Failing
PRE-303 Great Preaching
Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective
ECM-325 Evangelism Outside the Box
ECM-300 Ministry Practicum

Year 2:

Semester 1-

ECM-417 Developing Leadership I
ECM-410 Team Dynamics
Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective
Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective
ECM-405 Youth Ministry

Semester 2-

ECM-420 Developing Leadership II
Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective
ECM-405A Jr. High Youth Ministry
Bible/Theology/Ministry Elective
ECM-400 Missions Practicum

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & BIBLICAL STUDIES (DTBS)

GENERAL INFORMATION

As it pertains to biblical and theological training, a common misconception is that systematic or scholastic study of the Scriptures is merely for those currently in some form of spiritual leadership or plan on entering full-time ministry. Nothing could be further from the truth! At VCBCS, we believe it is the responsibility of every believer in Christ to know the truth of the Word of God. **THAT MEANS YOU!**

The neglect of the study of God's Word, whether deliberate or in ignorance, has proven disastrous in our times. Much of the professing church is struggling with biblical and theological illiteracy, leaving churches and individuals vulnerable to be swayed by "every wind of doctrine" (**Eph. 4:14**). This has also opened the door for sin and all its deceptions to creep into the church, detrimentally affecting our witness to the world. An illiterate church, held captive by its own ignorance, has no power or influence with a lost, depraved culture. If the church doesn't know what it believes, how can it explain it to those whose eyes have been blinded by the god of this age (**2 Cor. 4:4**)?

For these reasons, our goal in the Department of Theology and Biblical Studies is to:

- **Educate** every student in the foundational truth of the Scriptures.
- **Equip** them with the tools necessary to be faithful exegetes and theologians.
- **Empower** them to cross the bridge from education to application.

Every course within the DTBS is carefully designed to remain faithful to this goal. Students will be well-taught, adequately trained, and sufficiently tested to carry out their specific purpose and assignment within the Kingdom of God.

We are committed to being part of the solution to the current biblical and theological illiteracy crisis in the church. At VCBCS, we are devoted to drafting a different narrative that culminates with a wholly different outcome. Our students will **NOT** experience ruin, but revival! They will be catalysts of change, influencers, and carriers of the presence and power of God, being fully furnished with the foundation of truth.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

There are currently two primary areas of study offered within the Department of Theology and Biblical Studies (DTBS):

1. Theology
2. Biblical Studies

For students in the Associate's Degree Program (60 credits), we offer exclusively a degree in Biblical Studies. On this track, students will receive a foundational, Bible-based education with exposure to various, complimentary subjects such as Hermeneutics, Church History, Theology, and Apologetics.

For students in the Bachelor's Degree Program (120 credits), we offer degrees in both Theology and Biblical Studies. While each of these degrees provide exposure to broader

subjects like those listed above, the Theology degree has a greater emphasis on theological studies while the Biblical Studies degree focuses in on the text of scripture.

SAMPLE DEGREE COMPLETION PLANS

(pre-requisite courses are in bold & starred)

BIBLICAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Associate's in Biblical Studies (60 credit hours)

Year 1:

Semester 1-

THE-101 Essential Doctrines*

BBL-101 Hermeneutics*

OTS-101 Old Testament Survey*

NTS-101 New Testament Survey*

SYS-105 Kingdom I*

Semester 2-

OTS-102 The Journey of Israel

NTS-110 The Gospel of Mark

SYS-102 Christology

APL-201 Apologetics

SYS-204 The Covenants of God I

Year 2:

Semester 1-

SYS-209 The Covenants of God II

OTS-203 Isaiah

NTS-202 Acts

SYS-208 Kingdom II

NTS-307 Identity

Semester 2-

OTS-202 Biblical Wisdom

NTS-203 Romans

ECM-414 Spiritual Disciplines

PTH-203 Work is Worship

ECM-100 Servanthood Practicum

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies (120 credit hours)

Year 3:

Semester 1-

OTS-302 Genesis

NTS-201 John

HCH-101 Church History I

SYS-301 The Unseen Realm

BBL-300 Biblical Exegesis

Semester 2-

OTS-304 The Tabernacle of Moses

NTS-301 Hebrews

HCH-102 Church History II

OTS-201 Minor Prophets

PRE-102 Principles of Teaching

Year 4:

Semester 1-

OTS-206 Exodus

NTS-409 Philippians

HCH-103 Church History III

APL-202 Cults & False Beliefs

NTS-208 James

Semester 2-

OTS-310 Leviticus

NTS-404 Revelation

HCH-104 Church History IV

SYS-212 Kingdom Mission

PC-401 Biblical Studies Practicum

THEOLOGY PROGRAM**Bachelor of Arts in Theology (120 credit hours)****Year 3:***Semester 1-*

SYS-205 Intro to Systematic Theology

OTS-302 Genesis

HCH-101 Church History I

SYS-104 The Holy Spirit

ECM-108 Discipleship in the Church

Semester 2-

SYS-103 Ecclesiology

NTS-201 John

HCH-102 Church History II

PRE-102 Principles of Teaching

SYS-211 Kingdom Ethics

Year 4:*Semester 1-*

SYS-202 The Doctrine of Healing

THE-201 Spiritual Authority

HCH-103 Church History III

APL-202 Cults & False Beliefs

ECM-218 Hearing God

Semester 2-

PTH-204 God's Design for Man

THE-203 Prophecy

HCH-104 Church History IV

THE-301 Faith Dynamics

PC-400 Theology Practicum

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