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Western Theological Seminary is an institution of the Reformed Church in America and an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools. Its degree programs are authorized by the Department of Education of the State of Michigan. The seminary is approved for veterans' education under the provisions of the Veterans Administration.

Copies of the Association of Theological Schools standards for theological schools and the accreditation process are available for review at the registrar's office. A copy of Western's current accreditation certification is also available for review at the registrar's office.
Western Theological Seminary

101 East 13th Street
Holland, Michigan 49423-3622

For Admissions

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www.westernsem.org
It is the purpose of Western Theological Seminary to educate, equip, and empower Christians to lead communities of faith in mission.

Established by the Reformed Church in America in 1866, Western Seminary fulfills its purpose within the context of the Reformed tradition, nourished by insights from the many historic expressions of Christian faith. Western seeks to live with an evangelical heart, placing the gospel of Christ at the center of Christian faith, and with ecumenical arms, reaching out and celebrating the unity and diversity of the whole body of Christ. Out of that orientation, it cultivates leaders who are grounded in the Word of God, empowered to lead God's people in vital worship, and equipped to nurture congregations for participation in God's mission.

Western welcomes students from the Reformed Church in America and also from many other Christian traditions. It is a community of faith, teaching, and learning which engages in theological scholarship and which offers graduate degree programs and continuing education for clergy and lay leaders in the church.
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Welcome to Western

Western Theological Seminary prepares men and women for lives of service to the world through the church of Jesus Christ. Here, students learn the art of professional ministry – and engage in ministry – undergirded by careful biblical and theological study and nurtured by this community of faith.

Professional ministry

Western’s primary purpose is to nurture and educate those who find their vocations in the ministries of the church of Jesus Christ: those who will preach, teach, counsel, pursue justice, help others in need, and evangelize in fellowship with the church. At Western this task has always been uppermost.

Western was established by the Reformed Church in America in the last century to provide clergy for the burgeoning new churches of a Dutch immigrant population. Today Western continues to serve its denomination by preparing men and women for the tasks they will face as ministers and educators in its churches, chaplaincies, and missions. Western also welcomes students from many denominations and benefits from the enriching perspectives they bring. And increasingly students from many walks of life come to Western to deepen their Christian witness through theological study.

This vocational focus is central. The faculty brings practical ministry experience as well as strong academic credentials to its teaching task. Degree programs are structured within a context of on-site learning and personal growth, called Formation for Ministry. Students find their studies placed in context as they work in a variety of short- and long-term ministry placements.

At Western students work hard to prepare for the challenges they will face after graduation. They learn and practice the basic skills of ministry. They grapple with the relationship of the gospel to our culture and what ministry might mean in late twentieth-century North America. They explore specific ministry settings, become acquainted with a variety of people in church vocations, and strive to clarify their own callings. They prepare to take places of leadership and service in the church.

Theological Study

But ministry is about more than skills, and seminary is more than job training. It’s a place for concentrated biblical and theological study. Central to the curriculum is the study of the Bible—its languages, history, themes, and interpretations. Built around that center are studies in the history and traditions of the church, in theology, and in the
foundations of ministry—ethics, pastoral care and counseling, preaching, and more.

Western’s faculty is committed to its scholarly task and participates actively in the larger community of scholars. Professors hold memberships in the professional organizations of their fields, regularly publish books and articles, and often and in a variety of ways provide leadership in the continuing search for greater understanding of the church’s faith and mission.

The faculty is no less committed to its educational task. With a faculty/student ratio of approximately one to ten, Western can provide the intimate atmosphere that best fosters learning. Professors are easily accessible for formal and informal academic support and often serve outside the classroom as valued mentors and spiritual guides.

Western students build a foundation in biblical studies, in theology and history, and in the traditions of the church. This foundation enables them to minister out of the deep heritage of the church’s accumulated wisdom and continuing faith. They are well prepared for further academic study, if they so choose. And they are given tools not only to understand the faith and wisdom of the past but to continue to seek out new understandings the world—and the church—need today.

Community

Western is a community of students, teachers, staff, visitors, and friends united by a common task, but more fundamentally united by a common faith. Western is a community of faith. The chapel has often been called the heart of Western Seminary, and with good reason. Daily worship provides the context for taking up daily challenges, celebrating milestones and victories, mourning losses, and meeting each other before God. Here we remember who we are.

But if the chapel is the heart, Western’s main artery is the hallway that connects the chapel at one end of the building to the library at the other. Between the poles of prayer and study, faith and knowledge, lie the classrooms and offices in which much of the work of the seminary takes place. Access is direct and open to professors, staff members, and other students, and all are invited to mingle daily at a morning break in the Commons, to share news and friendship.

Student housing, too, fosters a sense of community. Townhouse apartments are arranged around a central green where students find pleasant, modern living spaces able to accommodate families as well as single people. Student-led social events
provide opportunities to get to know other students, faculty, and staff. Bible study groups encourage spiritual growth. In all these ways Western seeks to build a community to which all can belong.

Western is also part of communities beyond its walls. Recognizing its participation in the larger church, Western provides continuing education for congregational leaders, both lay and ordained; sends representatives to various assemblies, boards, and commissions of the Reformed church; and participates in ecumenical associations. It also encourages the active involvement of students, faculty, and staff in their home congregations.

In recent years, Western has realized in significant new ways its need to serve more directly in its host community and beyond. Acting on that new awareness, Western now houses a soup kitchen, which is run by a local relief agency and staffed by volunteers. The seminary also operates a nonprofit store in Holland’s popular downtown shopping area. The store makes the work of artisans from around the world available to shoppers, while promoting self help and fair profits for the artisans.

This is an urgent time for the church of Jesus Christ. The challenges of the next century are already making themselves felt. Western’s students will graduate to serve the church in the traditional roles of pastor and teacher, but also as counselors, scholars, chaplains, and in a host of ministries that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. Western Seminary is dedicated to providing them with the finest possible preparation for ministry in the twenty-first century.
The Western Community & Resources

Community Life

Affiliated Ministries

CONnECTS

Facilities and Resources
Community Life

Students entering Western become part of a multilayered community of faith and learning. They are, first of all, members of the student body. They also participate in the larger seminary community, which includes faculty and staff. The seminary is itself a member of the community of Holland, Michigan, and of the Reformed Church in America. Western works to promote a sense of community at all these levels.

Within Western, activities from chapel to basketball are open to all and regularly mix professors, students, administrators, and staff in worship, social, and study settings. Such gatherings help open doors to deep friendships and individual care.

Looking outward, Western encourages students to build ties to its larger communities in a variety of ways. They become involved in local church life, serve or eat at the Community Kitchen, serve as student representatives to a variety of Reformed church bodies, and learn about the denomination's worldwide mission through international study opportunities. Following are brief introductions to some aspects of community life at Western.

The City of Holland

Western Seminary is located in the heart of Holland, Michigan, on the southeastern shore of Lake Michigan. A wide variety of industry and commerce provides the area with a prosperous economy, while Holland’s proximity to larger urban areas (25 miles to Grand Rapids, 150 miles to Chicago, 170 miles to Detroit) makes a whole spectrum of cultural activities and other services accessible to Holland residents.

Holland is also a deeply religious city. In the 1840s, a group of Dutch Reformed Christians separated from the state church in the Netherlands. Soon they began to come to America looking for a place to worship according to their beliefs and to escape the poverty many of them faced in the Netherlands. Led by the Rev. Albertus Van Raalte, some of those immigrants founded Holland in 1847. Soon after, they affiliated with the Reformed Church in America, a Protestant denomination established in colonial days. Although today people of many ethnic backgrounds and religious beliefs call Holland home, the city remains a strong center of activity for the Reformed Church in America. In addition to Western Seminary, Hope College, one of three Reformed church colleges, is located here, as are many vital Reformed church congregations.
Holland’s active religious life is an advantage for Western students, who find many options open to them for worship, for membership in local congregations, and for places to practice ministry. Holland is also home to a number of service-based ministries, as people of faith reach out to those who are struggling in this community and in more distant parts of the world.

Worship and Spiritual Growth

Chapel services, led by faculty, students, and visiting preachers, are held every morning during the academic year. These take place both in Western’s Mulder Chapel and the more informal setting of Semelink Hall and encompass many styles of worship.

Students also participate in seminary-sponsored Bible studies, liturgical dance groups, choruses, dramatic productions, or other activities, depending on their interests. In addition, the city of Holland and nearby communities are filled with opportunities for worship, musical performances, retreats, spiritual conferences, and small-group study.
Fall Retreat

Each academic year begins with a day-long retreat for students, staff, and faculty at the Geneva Camp and Conference Center, located north of Holland on the Lake Michigan shore. The day of Bible study, introductions, community-building, and recreation culminates in a family picnic supper and the year’s convocation worship.

Table Fellowship

Students are invited to gather with faculty and staff each morning for coffee or tea immediately following worship, and for all-seminary luncheons once each month. Lunch at the Community Kitchen (below) is open to students for a small donation. Holidays and special events also provide opportunities to celebrate by eating together.

Student Council

The Student Council is made up of representatives from each class and two faculty advisors. It sponsors social activities and athletic events, addresses academic concerns, common worship, involvement in mission, and social action. It meets regularly during the academic year.

Seminary Publications

Poiema is published by the student body under the auspices of the Student Expression Team.

The Reformed Review is a theological journal published three times a year by Western Seminary, with a circulation of 2,800 readers.
The Community Kitchen

The Community Kitchen is a soup kitchen sponsored by Holland’s Community Action House and Western Seminary that operates out of the seminary Commons. The kitchen is staffed by volunteers from local churches and the seminary and feeds about 100 people five days each week the year around. Midday in the Commons is a time and place where people of all backgrounds, incomes, faiths, and social positions are welcome to nourish their bodies with food and their spirits with the companionship of others. Students are invited to volunteer their time if possible and certainly to join others in this mingling of the Western community with the larger community within which it resides.

The Bridge

A few short blocks from Western’s campus, Holland’s downtown thrives with specialty shops and galleries that attract local shoppers, as well as thousands of visitors annually. One of the shops, The Bridge, is an unusual type of “specialty” store – a third-world store staffed entirely by volunteers. The merchandise is purchased from cooperatives of artisans around the world who depend upon their work for economic survival. Because The Bridge bypasses expensive importers and operates with minimal overhead, it can offer reasonably priced handmade goods to shoppers and insure a fair return to the artisans who produce them. The Bridge is owned and operated by Western Seminary.
The Gospel and Our Culture Network

Western Seminary houses the administrative office of the Gospel and Our Culture Network, whose work is coordinated by Professor George Hunsberger. The network is a collaborative association of church leaders. It provides useful research regarding the gospel’s encounter with North American culture and encourages local action for transformation in the life and witness of the church.

The network was born out of the need for a fresh discovery of the meaning of the gospel in the midst of the rapid cultural changes taking place in this part of the western world. It exists to help churches develop mission identities; that is, to become communities who are able to show what it means to believe the gospel, and to live and speak in terms of that belief.

The network consists of pastors, scholars, church administrators, students, and others involved in ministry from a wide range of denominational backgrounds and geographical locations across the United States and Canada. Members meet each other to talk, to share research and conduct new research together, to develop resources for local ministry, and to encourage other creative efforts toward partnership and renewal.
CONnECTS (CONTinuing Education for Christian Training and Service) is the umbrella under which fall all of Western Seminary's continuing education opportunities. It includes lectures, workshops, special events, and international travel seminars, as well as regional off-campus events.

The annual guest lecture series brings scholars from a variety of fields to Western's campus to address students, faculty, and the interested public on topics of current interest to the theological community. The series has included lecturers such as Jane Dempsey Douglass, Justo Gonzalez, and Wolfhart Pannenberg.

Frequent day-long workshops draw local church leaders to Western to work together on such topics as preaching, pastoral counseling, youth ministry, spirituality, and other practical ministry issues. Students are invited to participate in these workshops to build skills and to meet future colleagues in ministry from across the denominational spectrum.

Special events provide diverse opportunities for learning and celebration hosted by the seminary, alone or in cooperation with other local associations and churches. Past special events have included a preaching festival featuring Fred Craddock, a pastoral leadership conference with Bill Hybels, annual training for Children and Worship leadership, and a week-long summer pastoral refreshment conference.

Intercultural travel experiences are a required part of the Master of Divinity Program. Two such experiences every year, typically one in Central America and one in Europe, are broadened to include participants outside the student body through CONnECTS.

Western also provides classes and speakers for regional continuing education throughout the United States and Canada.

The CONnECTS program is administered by George Brown, Jr., and Evelyn Diephouse.
Facilities and Resources

Classroom Resources & Beardslee Library

Western Seminary provides a learning environment designed to meet the special requirements of theological education. Special audiovisual resources, such as video- and audio-recording/playback, overhead and film projection, and sound amplification equipment, are available. All learning areas are wheelchair accessible.

In addition to the three classrooms in the original building, there is a specially equipped classroom designed as a worship center for the Children and Worship Program developed by Professor Sonja Stewart. Seminar rooms are found on the second, third, and fifth floors of the Cook Center for Theological Research. Learning labs with video equipment, used in conjunction with small-group and counseling sessions, are found in the basement of the Cook Center.

The John Walter Beardslee Library, also housed in the Cook Center, is the seminary's center for access to information resources supporting student studies, faculty research, and area ministries. Beardslee Library's resources include more than 100,000 books and bound periodicals. Approximately 1,300 books are added to
the collection each year. Current periodical subscriptions number close to 400. Library users find information on the collection through an automated system shared with Hope College’s Van Wylen Library. Beardslee Library and Van Wylen Library maintain reciprocal borrowing privileges and work cooperatively to develop strong collections for each institution. In addition, seminary students and faculty can request materials from libraries across North America through interlibrary loans. The library also has access to the vast information resources of the Internet.

Several special collections complement Beardslee Library’s core of materials. The Bast Preaching Resources Center provides a growing collection of sermons and homiletical instruction. An area on the library’s fourth floor is devoted to church school curricula from a wide range of publishers. A large collection of photographic slides depicts archaeology, church history, church art, and architecture. The Kolkman Memorial Archives (housed at the Joint Archives of Holland in the Van Wylen Library) contain papers documenting the history of Western Theological Seminary and of the Reformed church in western Michigan.

The Cook Center for Theological Research provides an excellent environment for study, offering study carrels, tables, lounge chairs, a seminar room, and computer access to the library’s catalog on each floor. Audiovisual equipment and computer work stations are available for student use.

Beardslee Library is a member of the American Theological Library Association, the American Library Association, the Michigan Library Association, and the Michigan Library Consortium.

**Bookstore**

The seminary bookstore operates during the school year and offers required textbooks and other books of interest to seminarians, most of them at a discount. Credit is available to students and can be arranged at the business office.

**Counseling**

Western provides short-term personal and family counseling and referral services to full-time students and their spouses. Students taking fewer than three courses each term may use the counseling service as time permits. Western also offers a variety of enrichment and group experiences to facilitate personal growth and wholeness among students.
Housing

Western Seminary offers on-campus townhouse apartments to its students. One-, two-, or three-bedroom units are available. Handicapped accessible units are also available. The townhouses are built around a central green which includes play space for children. The units are recently built, pleasant, economical, and adjacent to the classroom building. They are equipped with air-conditioning, dishwashers, and laundry facilities. The townhouses are an especially attractive option to families with young children and are within walking distance of an elementary school, parks, churches, and the downtown shopping district.

Students are advised to make their housing plans early, as space is limited and the seminary cannot guarantee housing to all students. Townhouses can be rented by contacting the business manager, who will also help locate housing in the greater Holland area for those who do not wish to live in seminary housing or if none is available (see "Financial Information," p. 54, for details).
Faculty and Staff

Resident Faculty
Emeriti Faculty
Adjunct Faculty
Administrative Staff
"I help students recover the sacred in the Scriptures; that is, its power to bless them and energize their ministries. Together we explore the ways Western culture has silenced the Scriptures, and together we listen again to its song of peace."

Courses:
- BF414 Hebrew I
- BF415 Hebrew II
- BF417 Biblical Study and Introduction
- BF513 Studies in Prophets
- BF522 Old Testament Narratives
- BF523 Old Testament Theology
- BF527 Literature of the Second Temple Period
- BF614 Hebrew Reading
- FM410 Gospel, Culture, and Ministry
- EM411 Studies in Old Testament Traditions
- EM514 Psalms, Prophets, and Social Ministries
- DM810 D.Min. Orientation Seminar

Thomas A. Boogaart
Professor of Old Testament

A.B. Calvin College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
Ph.D. University of Groningen

Tom Boogaart has spent a lifetime immersed in the scriptures, as a student and teacher in the Netherlands, in England, and later at Central College in Iowa and at Western. The biblical vision he has gained has sent him deep into the issues facing Western Christians, and he sees, through Old Testament lenses, the clear opposition of Western cultural values to those of scripture. Dr. Boogaart works to help his students renew their own biblical vision; he has also worked to bring his to life by helping initiate such ministries as The Bridge and the Community Kitchen (see p. 13) and Witness, an organization of support for women in church leadership.

Dr. Boogaart has extended his teaching ministry outward by leading many retreats and seminars and by teaching nearly weekly in area churches. The author of two books and many articles in Perspectives, a Journal of Reformed Thought, and Western's Reformed Review, he now also serves as an editor of both journals.
George Brown, Jr.
Professor of Christian Education and Associate Dean

A.B. Central College
M. Div. Western Theological Seminary
Th.M. Princeton Theological Seminary
Ph.D. Michigan State University

During more than twenty years as a Christian educator in the Reformed Church in America, George Brown has taught adults, children, and young people and pursues special interests in adult faith development and curriculum development. He represented the denomination on several ecumenical curriculum projects and served on the development team of the Reformed Church in America curriculum, Heritage and Hope. He also helped shape the denomination’s Associates in Ministry certification program. Dr. Brown’s book reviews appear widely, and he compiles a quarterly collection of reviews for church educators, called Readings. His annotated bibliography of religious education literature, Religious Education 1960-1993, coauthored with Dr. D. Campbell Wyckoff, was published in 1995.

At Western Dr. Brown serves as associate dean and teaches an annual summer seminar for entering Master of Religious Education candidates, as well as Christian education courses throughout the year.

"Christian religious education is about more than schooling and classrooms. Worship, community, and service also form faith in adults, children, and youth. I attempt to equip leaders for the church’s teaching ministry who are as concerned about the transformation of persons in Christ as they are about the communication of the Christian tradition.”

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<th>Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>TF411</td>
<td>Introduction to Theology</td>
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<td>CM531</td>
<td>Curriculum Evaluation and Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>CM571</td>
<td>Church Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>EM410</td>
<td>Orientation Seminar: Christian Formation and Discipleship</td>
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<tr>
<td>EM441</td>
<td>Ministry Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>EM574/CM532</td>
<td>Equipping for Teaching &amp; Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>EM645</td>
<td>Transformational Learning with Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>EM722/CM621</td>
<td>Christian Education of Adults</td>
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</tbody>
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"As a young man and a new convert in the late 1960s, I can still see the aging and ill Henry Bast ascending the pulpit to preach. I thrilled then, as I do now, to the gospel he preached. He spoke winsomely of the risen Christ, with the full authority of the Word of God. I've pledged myself to the task of raising up a new generation of preachers to do the same!"

Tim Brown brings to the task of teaching homiletics twenty years of preaching and pastoral experience, most recently as senior pastor of the Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan, from 1983-1995. During that time the church became one of the fastest growing congregations in the United States, as well as one of the largest in the Reformed Church in America.

Dr. Brown is a frequent speaker at church renewal events and student gatherings. He has served on the Reformed Church in America's Board of Theological Education, its General Synod Task Force for "Praise and Promise '91," and the executive committee of "Words of Hope," a worldwide radio ministry. He writes often for the Church Herald, the Reformed Review, and the Sunday School Guide and is the author of Witness Among Friends and Let's Preach Together.
James Victor Brownson
Academic Dean and
James and Jean Cook Professor of New Testament

A.B. University of Michigan
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

Jim Brownson’s dedication to understanding the message of the gospel in its first-century context and translating it for twentieth-century people began as a young pastor learning to preach. It continues today as he teaches a new generation of preachers to understand the New Testament more deeply. Dr. Brownson also serves Western as academic dean.

He is moderator of the Reformed Church in America’s Commission on Theology and a member of its Theological Education Agency certification committee. He maintains a computerized database of critiques and comments on the NRSV Bible for the National Council of Churches and coordinates the Theology Work Group for the Gospel and Our Culture Network.


"I try to teach the New Testament in a way that helps students understand the gospel more deeply. That means understanding both the central message of Christian faith and the diverse ways in which that faith was lived out in the New Testament church. Understanding the unity and diversity of the New Testament is critical to understanding how Christians are to minister today.”

Courses:
BF418 New Testament History & Introduction
BF531 Seminar in the Synoptics
BF532 The Gospel According to John
BF535 Interpreting the Parables
BF537 New Testament Theology
BF538 New Testament Christology
EM412 Kingdom and Parables
EM513 The Holy Spirit in Acts and Epistles
MT730 Seminar in Theological Method
"I am interested in communicating the development of doctrine in order that pastors, by recognizing the great areas of shared faith among the Christian communions, may more effectively minister to people of all denominational backgrounds. I also have a passion to communicate the full richness of historic Christian worship that the people of Christ may be fed on a full diet of word and sacrament."

Courses:
TF415 Early and Medieval Church
TF416 Reformation Church
TF538 Eastern Christendom (600-1700 A.D.)
TF540 Reformed Church in America (1628 - )
TF610 Travel Seminar Studies: The Cities of John & Paul
TF611 Travel Seminar: The Cities of John and Paul
TF612 Travel Seminar Studies: Rome
TF613 Travel Seminar: Rome: City of Peter and Paul
TF614 Hymnody, Liturgy, and Architecture
CM411 The Congregation Worshiping

Donald J. Bruggink
James A. H. Cornell Professor of Historical Theology

B.A. Central College
B.D. Western Theological Seminary
Ph.D. University of Edinburgh

Throughout a long career, Donald Bruggink has mined the church's history, theology, and worship as well as his knowledge and keen appreciation of the arts to help today's churches claim their own rich heritage. As general editor of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, he has guided the publication of twenty-six volumes of the denomination's history. As an indefatigable educator and explorer, he travels yearly with groups of students to sites in Europe and the Near East where they can discover church history firsthand. And as an expert in church architecture, he works with individual congregations as well as national groups to enhance spiritual and aesthetic understanding in the design of American churches.

Among Dr. Bruggink's many publications are Christ and Architecture and When Faith Takes Form, with Carl H. Droppers, and Worship the Lord, edited with James Esther.
I. John Hesselink
Albertus C. Van Raalte Professor of Systematic Theology

B.A. Central College
B.D. Western Theological Seminary
Dr. Theol. Basel University
L.H.D. Hope College
D.D. Central College

John Hesselink’s approach to theology reflects the twenty years of missionary service in Japan that began his ministry. There he worked as an evangelist to students and later as a professor at Tokyo Union Seminary. He returned to the United States in 1973 to become president of Western Theological Seminary, a position he held until 1985, when he left the president’s office to become a full-time teacher once again. He has served the Reformed Church in America in many capacities, including vice president and president of its General Synod.

Dr. Hesselink has studied under two of this century's leading theologians: Emil Brunner, at the International Christian University in Tokyo, and Karl Barth, who was his Doktorvater (mentor) at the University of Basel. He has also pursued postdoctoral studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School, the Free University in Japan, and Oxford University in England. Dr. Hesselink is the author of On Being Reformed, Calvin’s Concept of the Law, Introduction to Calvin’s Theology, and Sovereign Grace and Human Freedom, as well as essays and articles in a variety of periodicals, books, and dictionaries.

"As a Reformed theologian with a missionary background, I seek to be faithful to my tradition while exploring ways of presenting the gospel in a fresh and relevant manner. To be Reformed requires us to be always reforming according to the Word and the Spirit."

Courses:
- TF411 Introduction to Theology
- TF419 Christian Existence: Past, Present, and Future
- TF510 Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- TF513 The Life and Theology of John Calvin
- TF514 Revelation and Faith in K. Barth and E. Brunner
- TF515 Doctrine of the Sacraments
- TF517 Contemporary Liberation Theologies
Churches in North America can no longer do business as usual, because the culture has changed. We must recover what it means to be a body of people sent on a mission. This requires leaders who know God, who teach with insight, who form genuine Christian community, and who can lead congregations into their missions.

Courses:
- TF416 Reformation Church
- TF417 The American Experience
- TF420 Introduction to Missiology
- CM570/EM575 Equipping for Evangelism
- FM410 Gospel, Culture, and Ministry
- MT710 Th.M. Orientation Seminar
- MT720 Seminar in Contextual Analysis
- MT730 Seminar in Theological Method

George R. Hunsberger
Professor of Missiology

B.A. Belhaven College
M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary
Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary.

George Hunsberger brings to the teaching of missiology a rich variety of personal experience. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), he has been a campus staff member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; a pastor; a missionary team leader for Africa Foundation in Nairobi, Kenya; and a teacher at Princeton Theological Seminary and at his alma mater, Belhaven College. He came to Western in 1989, where he continues his special interest in exploring how the gospel speaks within and across cultures and in fostering congregations in North America who are missionaries for the encounter of the gospel with Western culture.

Dr. Hunsberger is coordinator of the Gospel and Our Culture Network in North America, whose administrative home is Western Seminary, and he edits the network’s newsletter. He is coeditor of Christian Ethics in Ecumenical Context: Theology, Culture, and Politics in Dialogue and The Church Between Gospel and Culture and has contributed many articles and reviews to missiological, Reformed, and Presbyterian journals. He is the secretary-treasurer of the American Society of Missiology, a position he has held since 1988.
Chris Kaiser began his professional life as a scientist and went on to become a theologian, and his teaching vocation has always included working to build bridges between his two disciplines. Since coming to Western in 1976, he has served as guest lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and at Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and has been a resident member of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey, conducting research on the interaction of science and theology during the Renaissance and the 18th century. He is a frequent contributor to theological journals, and his 1991 book, Creation and the History of Science, was awarded a John Templeton Prize for Outstanding Books in Science and Religion.

Dr. Kaiser has served on the Theological Commission of the Reformed Church in America and is active in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Gospel and Our Culture Network.

"I look at the scientific and technological framework of our culture and ask what the meaning of Christian faith might be for people at work in that world. The question leads me to an interest in the history of how our cultural framework developed and what its relation is to Christian theology—especially the doctrines of God, creation, and the person and work of Jesus Christ."

Courses:
- TF412  Doctrine of God
- TF511  Biblical and Secular Views of Humanity
- TF512  Biblical and Secular Views of Creation
- TF530  Early Christian Theologians
- TF531  Ante-Nicene Theologians
- TF532  Athanasius
- TF533  Post-Nicene Theologians
- TF534  Life and Times of Augustine
- TF535  Theology of Augustine
- TF536  Post-Reformation Conflicts & Controversies
- TF537  The Church in the Age of Reason
- DM830  D.Min. Project Seminar
“I am, by experience and by preference, essentially a parish pastor. I have loved parish ministry and believe it to be the heart of the Church of Jesus Christ. For that reason, I’m delighted to serve as director of Formation for Ministry. I want to communicate to students my optimism about the local parish as an exciting place to do ministry; and I want to help connect the seminary and congregations in a partnership of formation for ministry.”
Before joining Western's faculty, Carol Bechtel Reynolds taught at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. She has also served as a teaching fellow at Yale Divinity School and as interim pastor of the Turn of River Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Connecticut. A musician herself, Dr. Reynolds finds that the great works of church music can open new windows on scripture for students both within and beyond the seminary. Her study, *Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel's Messiah*, has recently been published, and *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place: The Bible and Brahms's Requiem* is forthcoming. She also writes a monthly Bible study column for *Presbyterians Today* and is at work on a study of the book of Job and a commentary on Esther.

Dr. Reynolds is a member of the Commission on Christian Worship of the Reformed Church in America. She is also the song leader for four and five-year-olds in her home congregation.

"The Bible is more than just a collection of ancient stories about strange people in faraway lands. It is, in a very real sense, our story. Watching students come to that realization is one of the most exciting things about teaching the Bible."

**Courses:**
- BF414 Hebrew I
- BF415 Hebrew II
- BF417 Biblical History and Introduction I
- BF514 Seminar in Psalms
- BF517 Wisdom Literature of the Bible
- CM412 Introduction to Preaching
- EM411 Studies in Old Testament Traditions
I believe that we separate the academic life from the practice of ministry at great peril. As Henry Nouwen has reminded us, teaching and learning is a redemptive process when mutual trust and mutual discovery help shape a classroom space where the future becomes present. We have a special opportunity at Western to integrate our learning and our experience so that the patterns of Christian community become a transforming spiritual reality.”

Stanley A. Rock
Florence M. Charavay Professor
of Pastoral Care and Counseling and
Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program

A.B. University of Michigan
M.A. University of Michigan
B.D. Western Theological Seminary
Ed.D. Drake University

Stan Rock’s interests in education, psychology, and the Christian life have carried him along a vocational path that has included campus and parish ministry and, for many years, seminary education. As a seminary professor, he keeps the practice of ministry in the forefront and remains an active pastoral counselor. He is also deeply engaged in encouraging lifelong education for ministry, having helped develop the Doctor of Ministry degree at Western and having served as the director of Western’s D.Min. program for fifteen years.

Dr. Rock has served on Reformed Church in America task forces on evangelism, leadership, problem pregnancy/abortion. He is also active in community organizations which minister to those affected by AIDS, sexual abuse, and challenges connected with aging. He is a twenty-six year veteran of the naval reserve and a consultant to the Battle Creek, Michigan, veterans hospital. In addition to contributing articles to a variety of journals and magazines, he is the author of This Time Together: A Guide to Premarital Counseling.
Paul M. Smith  
Director of Beardslee Library and  
Associate Professor of Theological Bibliography

A.B. Hope College  
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary  
Th.M. University of Toronto; Victoria University  
M.A. University of Iowa

During his tenure as director of Beardslee Library, Paul Smith has witnessed a gradual revolution of the role of the library in theological education, sparked by waves of new technology, and he has led Western into both familiarity with the new tools of the computer age and also an awareness of their theological implications.

Outside the library, Mr. Smith is a member of the Association of Doctor of Ministry Education and is himself a D.Min. candidate at the United Seminary of the Twin Cities. He also is a leader of Western’s intercultural immersion experiences in Central America and a member of the Community Kitchen of Holland Advisory Board.

"Theological education today occurs in what some have called 'the culture of the screen.' The electronic communications media have drastically changed the ways in which we intersect with and learn about our world. As director of Beardslee Library I seek to acquire and make available a variety of media—books, journals, computer programs, Internet connections—that will enhance our efforts to train leaders for the church. I also attempt to help students reflect theologically upon the effect computers have in our lives."

Courses:  
TF011 Orientation to Theological Research  
TF418 Introduction to Christian Ethics  
TF555 Theology & Ministry in the Computer Age  
TF626 Theological Bibliography & Research Methods  
DM820 D.Min. Candidate Seminar
"An exciting dimension of my work is the development of Children and Worship, which is an ecumenical and cross-cultural approach to the Christian formation of young children in worship."

Courses:
CM413 The Equipping Ministry of the Pastor
CM622 Seminar in Religious Education Research
EM441 Ministry Units
EM510 History of the Theory & Praxis of Christian Formation
EM647-648 Equipping for Intercultural Immersion
EM676/CM530 Equipping for Worship & Celebration of the Church Year
EM710 Equipping for Partnership, Justice, and Peace
EM723/CM554 Children and Worship

Sonja M. Stewart
Professor of Christian Education and Director of the Master of Religious Education Program
A.B. Muskingum College
M.R.E. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Ph.D. University of Notre Dame

Sonja Stewart’s career in religious education has been marked by a string of innovations which reach from founding a cooperative nursery school in the First Presbyterian Church in Holland where she was director of Christian education, to designing and implementing Western’s M.R.E. In-Ministry Program, to developing a Children and Worship curriculum and training workshop. Her Children and Worship program, which combines biblical storytelling and worship with young children, has drawn enthusiastic support from children and their teachers across ecclesiastical and national boundaries. Along with annual training workshops at Western, Dr. Stewart has brought the program to many U.S. and international locations.

Dr. Stewart’s many publications include journal articles, articles in the Guide to Curriculum Choice and Harper’s Encyclopedia of Religious Education, and the book Young Children and Worship, written with Jerome Berryman. She also serves her home congregation as elder for worldwide ministries.
Dennis N. Voskuil  
President and Professor of Church History

B.A. University of Wisconsin, Madison  
B.D. Western Theological Seminary  
Ph.D. Harvard University

Dennis Voskuil came to Western as president in 1994 after serving as a teacher, pastor, and student of church history. He was a professor of religion at Hope College before coming to Western, and has also served as pastor of several churches. He has served on the Reformed Church in America’s Commission on History, Theological Commission, and as chair of its Ad Hoc Committee on Ecclesiastical Office and Ministry.

Dr. Voskuil’s recent publications have included essays for several books on religion in America and articles in the Reformed Review, Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought, and the Church Herald. He is also the author of Mountains Into Gold Mines: Robert Schuller and the Gospel of Success.

"If we are to communicate the gospel of Jesus effectively, we must be keenly aware of the contours of our culture. As we study the history of the church we learn how the gospel becomes rooted in a particular culture. This is why I find church history so relevant and exciting."

Courses:  
TF417 The American Experience
Faculty Emeriti

James I. Cook
Professor of New Testament
A.B. Hope College
M.A. Michigan State University
B.D. Western Theological Seminary
Th.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

Robert A. Coughenour
Professor of Old Testament
B.S. Indiana University of Pennsylvania
B.D. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
M.A. Western Reserve University
Ph.D. Case-Western Reserve University

M. Eugene Osterhaven
Professor of Systematic Theology
A.B. Hope College
B.D. Western Theological Seminary
Th.D. Princeton Theological Seminary
D.D. Hope College
L.H.D. Northwestern College

Richard C. Oudersluys
Professor of New Testament
A.B. Calvin College
Th.B. Western Theological Seminary
D.D. Hope College

Adjunct Faculty

Roy M. Anker—The Gospel and contemporary media
B.A. Hope College
M.A. University of Illinois
Ph.D. Michigan State University

Barry L. Bandstra—Old Testament
B.A. University of Illinois
B.Div. Calvin Theological Seminary
M.A., Ph.D. Yale University

George D. Beukema—Urban ministry
B.A. Hope College
M.Div., D.Min. Western Theological Seminary

Dawn Boelkins—Biblical languages and
Director of Th.M. Program
B.A. Michigan State University
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

William Boersma—Christian education
B.A. Hope College
M.Div., D.Min. Western Theological Seminary

Steven C. Bouma-Brediger—Christian ethics
A.B. Hope College
M.Phil. Institute for Christian Studies
M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
Ph.D. University of Chicago

William C. Brownson—Evangelism and discipleship
B.A. Davidson College
B.D. Columbia Theological Seminary
Th.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

Inagrace Dietterich—Congregational development
B.A. University of Iowa
M.A. Wartburg Theological Seminary
Ph.D. University of Chicago Divinity School
(Christian Theology)
Andres Fierro—Crosscultural ministry
  B.A. Hope College
  M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Steven D. Hoogerwerf—Christian ethics
  B.A. Hope College
  M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
  Ph.D. Duke University

Joseph J.H. Horak—Pastoral care and counseling
  B.A. University of St. Thomas
  M.S.W. Wayne State University
  M.T.S. St. John's Provincial Seminary

Jeff Munroe—Christian ministry with youth
  B.A. Michigan State University
  M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Tom Schwanda—Spiritual formation and guidance
  B.A. Moravian College
  M.Div. New Brunswick Theological Seminary
  D.Min. Fuller Theological Seminary

Donald M. Topp—Pastoral care and counseling
  B.A. California State University Sacramento
  M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
  Psy.D. Rutgers University Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

David Blauw
  Director of pastoral care, Holland Community Hospital,
  Holland, Michigan
  B.A. Hope College
  M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
  D.Min. Princeton Theological Seminary

Ellen Brubaker
  Pastor, Aldersgate United Methodist Church,
  Grand Rapids, Michigan
  A.B. Albion College
  M.A. Eastern Michigan University
  M.Div. United Theological Seminary

Kathryn L. Davelaar
  Associate pastor, Third Reformed Church,
  Holland, Michigan
  B.A. Calvin College
  M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Ken Eriks
  Senior pastor, Fellowship Reformed Church,
  Holland, Michigan
  B.A. Hope College
  M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
  D.Min. Princeton Theological Seminary

Terry L. Nyhuis
  Senior pastor, Trinity Reformed Church,
  Holland, Michigan
  B.A. Hope College
  M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
Administrative Staff

Office of the President (left to right)
Marilyn Essink, administrative assistant to the president & faculty
Dennis Voskuil, president
Carol Bush, receptionist and secretarial assistant
Jodie Stamm, receptionist and secretarial assistant
not pictured, Connie Powers, receptionist and secretarial assistant

Academic Affairs (left to right)
James V. Brownson, academic dean
Dawn Boellkins, director of the Master of Theology Program
George Brown, Jr., associate dean
Timothy Brown, director of church vocations
Pat Dykhuis, registrar & administrative assistant to the deans

Financial Office (left to right)
Dale Vande Wege, superintendent of building & grounds
Sara Russell, manager of the bookstore and The Bridge
Norman Donkersloot, business manager
Mary De Blaay, accountant

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Office of Advancement and Communications
(clockwise from left)
Vernon Hoffman, director of advancement and communications
John Nordstrom, director of the Campaign for Western
Jacalyn Soper, secretarial assistant
Laurie Baron, communications coordinator
Harold Ritsema, director of planned giving
Sharon Van De Vusse, administrative assistant for advancement and communications

Beardslee Library (left to right)
Paul M. Smith, director
Carol Bush, periodicals supervisor
Ann E. Nieuwkoop, technical services librarian
Irene Herring, library technician
Karin Neils, circulation supervisor
not pictured, Nozomi Ito Brownell, circulation technician

Administrative Support to Faculty (left to right)
Judy Bos, administrative assistant to the faculty and the Gospel and Our Culture Network
Dorothy Boer, administrative assistant to the Christian Ministry Field
Sally Vis, secretary to the Christian Ministry Field, placement, and church vocations
Degree Programs

Master of Divinity
Master of Religious Education
Doctor of Ministry
Master of Theology
Non-Degree-Seeking Students
Other Programs
Western Seminary offers programs leading to four degrees:

the Master of Divinity,
the Master of Religious Education,
the Master of Theology,
and the Doctor of Ministry.

The Master of Divinity prepares students for ordained ministry, and the Master of Religious Education for professional education and youth ministries. These programs also provide foundational training for specialized ministries in such areas as mission, evangelism, education, counseling, social service, chaplaincy, and theological research. The Master of Theology is a one-year program of graduate study beyond the M.Div. The Doctor of Ministry program provides advanced study for ministry professionals.

All of Western's degree programs seek to impart a theological wisdom which is grounded in Scripture, informed by the history of the church and its doctrines, and engaged with our contemporary world. The professional programs also provide opportunities to deepen this wisdom through the actual practice of ministry.

Western offers classes on a traditional daytime schedule, on a one-day weekly schedule in the M.R.E. In-Ministry degree, and in the evening. It's possible to earn more than half of the necessary credits toward an M.Div. degree in evening courses.
The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is the degree program which ordinarily leads to the ordained ministry. It requires a minimum of three years to complete (four, if the student takes an internship after the second year). Applicants must have completed a bachelor of arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university.

A Suggested Guide for College Students

College students interested in pursuing theological education should seek a balanced undergraduate liberal arts program. The liberal arts equip the college graduate with foundational knowledge for theological studies. Following is a suggested guide:

ENGLISH—Literature, composition, and related studies; at least four semesters.

SPEECH—At least two semesters.

HISTORY—Ancient, modern European, and American; at least three semesters.

PHILOSOPHY—Orientation in history, content, and method; at least three semesters.

SOCIAL SCIENCE—Psychology, sociology, economics, political science, and education; at least six semesters, including a minimum of one semester of psychology.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES—Four semesters of Greek, including two of New Testament Greek; a modern European language such as German or French is also desirable.

RELIGION—Several courses in the study of Christian and non-Christian religions.

Requirements for the Degree

The Master of Divinity degree requires 144 credit hours. Of these, not fewer than 12 nor more than 16 must be earned in the area of Formation for Ministry (see below). For example, students may take 132 academic credit hours and 12 hours in Formation for Ministry for a total of 144 credit hours.

All students are required to take introductory courses in the Biblical, Theological, and Christian Ministry Fields.

Beyond the required introductory courses, students take at least one advanced course in each of the following disciplines: Old Testament, New Testament, systematic theology, historical theology,
ethics, pastoral care and counseling, Christian education, worship and preaching, and mission and leadership.

Students also choose 8-16 hours of elective courses in one of the fields. This allows a student to concentrate on an area of particular interest, such as biblical studies, youth ministry, or preaching.

M. Div. orientation is held each year during the week prior to the beginning of the first academic quarter.

Language Requirements

Students must pass an examination in New Testament Greek before being formally admitted to the M.Div. program. Prospective students who have some training in Greek are strongly urged to take the entrance exam in the spring, so that arrangements can be made to take a concentrated seven-week noncredit summer course in Greek at Western Seminary if the student does not pass the entrance exam.

Normally, students who have had no prior training in Greek or who have failed the Greek entrance examination are expected to enroll in the summer Greek course before admission to the M.Div. program.

Formation for Ministry

Director – Wesley Kiel

Formation for Ministry is the component of the M.Div. program that provides a place where knowledge gained through academic study can be integrated with experience in day-to-day ministry. It helps students form pastoral identities, develop ministry skills, and gain intercultural experience in ministry. Each year, students work with the director to design experiences in ministry that are most likely to enhance their formation for ministry. Prior to graduation, students develop a five-year plan of continuing education.

In order to graduate with an M.Div. degree, a student must complete a minimum of twelve credits in Formation for Ministry. Up to sixteen Formation for Ministry credits may be applied to the 144 required credits for graduation. One course (FM410 Gospel, Culture, and Ministry), a part-time ministry, an internship, an intercultural experience, and three colloquy experiences are required.

Formation for Ministry has four parts: experiences in ministry, intercultural experiences, colloquy groups, and mentors. Each is described below:
Experiences in Ministry. Working with the director, students design a plan of formation for ministry for each year of seminary. Such a plan might include:

- A teaching church relationship. Students participate in and observe a congregation in its many dimensions.
- A part-time ministry. Students engage in part-time worship, education, care, and witness ministries concurrent with their academic studies.
- An internship. Students engage in full-time ministry in parish, parachurch, clinical, or agency settings.
- A practicum. Students investigate through seminars, conferences, or other directed experiences significant aspects of their personal formation for ministry.

Intercultural Experience. The North American setting in which most of Western’s graduates serve is characterized by increasing ethnic and cultural diversity. In addition, active participation in a faith community is itself becoming one of many ways of life, rather than the cultural norm. This component of Formation for Ministry affirms the interdependence of Christians of all cultures and emphasizes our need in North America to address our own culture from the standpoint of the gospel, with the help of the global, multicultural church.

The intercultural component of a student’s formation for ministry is accomplished by placement in intercultural settings and through mentors drawn from a broad range of cultures. Western stresses the intercultural component when helping students select teaching churches, part-time ministries, internships, and practicums. An intercultural immersion experience, often in the form of international travel, is an essential part of a student’s intercultural experience. Each student is required to have participated in either an intercultural internship or an intercultural immersion experience by the time of graduation.

Colloquy. Colloquy is a Latin word meaning “dialogue.” At Western, colloquy groups of five to eight students meet regularly to reflect on issues of mission, pastoral identity, ministerial skills, and vocational direction:
First-year colloquy groups meet weekly to examine the mission of the church and how the church both enhances and arrests the spiritual development of children, youth, adults, families, and society. Students are also introduced to classical Christian disciplines of spiritual formation.

Second-year colloquy groups meet weekly to reflect on ministerial tasks involved in evangelism, worship, education, pastoral care and counseling, leadership, and service. Spiritual exercises engage students in the personal and liturgical use of the weekly lectionary and celebration of the Christian year.

Third-year colloquy groups prepare for and participate in a weekend seminar entitled "Launching Your Ministry," which helps students move from seminary into postgraduate ministry.

Mentors. Each ministry and intercultural experience provides a student with a mentor, be it the pastor of a congregation in which the student is serving, a parachurch professional, colloquy group leader, member of the faculty, or interested lay person. Mentors meet regularly with students to reflect theologically on the students' ministry experiences. Theological reflection helps students become aware of how their beliefs and attitudes affect their actions as ministers. Mentors receive training and support from the seminary, including regular meetings with members of the faculty for theological reflection.

Procedures Leading to Ordination

Each denomination has its own procedures for enrolling, supervising, and examining candidates for ordination. M.Div. candidates should check with their pastors or denominational officers regarding specific instructions for ordination in their particular denominations.

M.Div. candidates seeking ordination in the Reformed Church in America apply to their classes through their local church consistories for a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry. This certificate and the M.Div. degree are required for ordination in the Reformed Church in America. Western's faculty reviews M.Div. candidates annually and recommends to the board of trustees that it grant the certificate to those candidates who are deemed "fit for ministry."

Western Seminary works in close partnership with other denominational boards and candidate committees responsible for the formation of men and women for ordained ministry.
Master of Religious Education

Director - Sonja M. Stewart

The Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) program is designed to train people in the equipping ministries of the church and society. Graduates are equipped to serve in such vocations as Christian education direction, youth ministry, church music, hospice care, adult ministries and early childhood ministries. The program has two tracks: a two-year residency program and a three-year "in-ministry" program for people currently engaged in a ministry setting. Applicants must have completed a bachelor of arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university.

M.R.E. In-Residence

The Master of Religious Education In-Residence degree requires 90 credit hours for graduation. The following courses are required: EM410, 411, 412, 413, 471, 472, 473, 510, 513, 514, 574, 575, 710, 615, 616, 647, 648, and 676. Students also must complete 6 self-designed learning projects called ministry units. Elective courses EM711, 721, 722, 723, or others from the M.Div. program may be substituted for the ministry units.

The M.R.E. In-Ministry program is designed for people already engaged in a ministry setting. It can be completed in three years. It consists of a one-week intensive seminar in August of each year followed by classes held on Thursdays only to accommodate work schedules. Some courses may also be offered in the evening.

A minimum of 4 Formation for Ministry credits are required for graduation from the M.R.E. In-Residence degree program.

M.R.E. In-Ministry

The Master of Religious Education In-Ministry degree requires 90 credit hours for graduation. The following courses are required: EM410, 411, 412, 413, 471, 472, 473, 510, 513, 514, 574, 575, 710, 615, 616, 647, 648, and 676. Students also must complete 6 self-designed learning projects called ministry units. Elective courses EM711, 721, 722, 723, or others from the M.Div. program may be substituted for the ministry units.

The M.R.E. In-Ministry program is designed for people already engaged in a ministry setting. It can be completed in three years. It consists of a one-week intensive seminar in August of each year followed by classes held on Thursdays only to accommodate work schedules. Some courses may also be offered in the evening.

Students must also complete 12 credit hours in the Biblical Field, 12 in the Theological Field, and 12 additional hours in any field.
The Doctor of Ministry degree program is designed for pastoral leaders who wish to deepen their understanding and practice of a particular area of ministry. At the same time, the program is intended to challenge the participant to develop a life-long habit of continuing education which enriches all major areas of pastoral competency.

The special challenge of this program is its self-designed character. Candidates must be able to define clearly their focus in the program and be able to sustain consultative relationships with their peers and with their two-faculty supervisory team. The curriculum consists of two self-designed learning units and one elective in each of the first two years and a major project related to the candidate’s ministry in the third year. Two intensive three-week seminars in May-June during each of the first two years, and a two-week project seminar during the same period in the third year constitute the residency requirements of a 48-credit-hour curriculum.

A major second dimension of this in-ministry program concentrates on the candidate’s growth in four basic areas intrinsic to ministry:

- Ministry as pastoral and educational
- Ministry as collegial
- Ministry as empowering
- Ministry as God’s servant role in the world

Applicants must have completed the M.Div. or its equivalent. Preference is given to those who have several years of ministry experience.
Master of Theology

Director - Dawn Boelkins

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) program assembles a community of scholars from around the world who pursue advanced study to enhance their ministries. By design, the twelve-month (38 credit hours) program provides for focused research and reflection within the context of cross-cultural dialogue.


International and North American applicants must have completed an M.Div. degree or its equivalent, have three years of practical experience in ministry, and have the ability to relate theological study to the social, cultural, and historical contexts of their ministries.

Core requirements include an orientation seminar held each year in August (2 credit hours), one seminar in contextual analysis (4 hours), one seminar in theological method (4 hours), and completion of a master's thesis (8 hours).

The remaining 20 hours of course work are taken in the student's chosen focus area, in consultation with the student's advisor and the Th.M. director. These courses are chosen from among the 500- and 600-level courses in the M.Div. or M.R.E. curriculum.
Non-Degree-Seeking Students

Western Seminary allows those who wish to register for courses without enrolling in one of the four degree programs to apply for non-degree-seeking status (see Admissions, p.53). Non-degree-seeking students may audit courses or take courses for credit. Those wishing academic credit for a course must complete all assigned course work for the class in order to receive academic credit.

Other Programs

In addition to its regular degree programs, Western participates in other programs of specialized theological study.

For those working in or preparing for education and youth ministries in the Reformed Church in America, Western offers help in completing courses for the RCA Associate in Ministry Certification Program. Western can help students choose appropriate courses to complete the certification requirements; it also provides special short-term intensive classes in the required core areas.

Western Seminary is also a sponsor of the Hispanic Summer Program, a two-week academic program which takes place every summer at a different site in the United States or Puerto Rico. Hispanic students, as well as others who are bilingual and who are interested in Hispanic ministries, may enroll in a maximum of two courses for two credits each. Courses in the Hispanic Summer Program cover a wide range of the theological curriculum and are always taught with the Latino church in mind.
Applying to Western

Admissions

Financial Information
Admissions

Applicants for Master of Divinity or Master of Religious education degrees:

Western offers two beginning professional degrees—the Master of Divinity (M.Div.), which ordinarily leads to ordination, and the Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) degree, which is the foundational degree for Christian education ministries. Applicants seeking admission to the M.Div. or M.R.E. degree programs can obtain an application packet containing appropriate forms and instructions from the registrar or the director of church vocations.

Applicants to Western’s M.Div. or M.R.E. programs must have earned a bachelor of arts degree or its academic equivalent from an accredited college or university in order to be admitted as a candidate for either of these degrees. In some cases an applicant without a bachelor’s degree, but with exceptional compensatory qualifications, may be admitted to the degree program under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) standards. Such acceptance will normally be provisional pending satisfactory academic performance during the first quarter.

A college grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 is required for admission to the M.Div. and M.R.E. programs. An applicant with less than a 2.5 GPA may be admitted on probation if the admissions committee believes there are exceptional compensatory qualifications and potential for academic success. However, a GPA of 2.5 or higher must be sustained at the seminary to qualify for the lifting of academic probation and continuation in the degree program.

Transfer students:

Western Seminary accepts credits from other theological schools accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Students seeking to transfer to Western’s M.Div. program must earn at least 38 academic credit hours (the equivalent of nine four-credit courses and two hours of Formation for Ministry credit) in residence during the senior year. Students seeking to transfer to Western’s M.R.E. program must earn at least 36 academic credit hours in residence at Western.

Applicants for advanced theological degrees:

Western offers two advanced theological degrees: the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) and the Master of Theology (Th.M.). Applicants seeking admission to either of these advanced degree programs can obtain an application packet containing appropriate forms and instructions from the director of the D.Min.
program or the director of the Th.M. program.

An applicant to Western's D.Min. or Th.M. program must have earned an M.Div. degree from a school accredited by ATS or its educational equivalent in order to be admitted as a candidate for either of these degrees.

Non-degree-seeking applicants:

Some students wish to take seminary courses without applying to particular degree programs. They may have personal interests in theology, or they may wish to equip themselves for particular congregational ministries or to explore possible pastoral vocations. These students must complete a Special Student Application form and submit an official transcript of undergraduate or graduate degrees or courses from an accredited college, university, or theological school. Applicants can obtain the application form and further information about non-degree-seeking status from the registrar.

Western Theological Seminary admits men and women of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

For additional information about admissions procedures for specific degree programs, see the appropriate section under "Degree Programs" (pp. 41-50).
Financial Information

Tuition and Fee Schedules (1996-97)

M.Div., M.R.E., Th.M.

Charge per credit hour 110.00
Charge per credit hour-audit 25.00
Application fee (nonrefundable) 30.00
Matriculation fee 15.00
Registration fee 15.00
Graduation fee 30.00
Activities fee 25.00
Noon lunch fee (quarterly) 15.00
Summer Greek (noncredit) 500.00

Churches in which interns serve pay an internship fee of $200.00.

Housing

Applications for on-campus housing must be received by May 1. Monthly rents for townhouse apartments for the 1996-97 academic year are: One-bedroom, $345; two-bedroom, $390; three-bedroom, $500. Utilities except telephone are included.

D.Min. Program

The tuition charge is $6,000 for the three year program, plus three fees of $30 for application, registration, and graduation. The student may arrange a payment schedule with the business manager. A continuation fee of $400 is charged for each additional year beyond the first three years in the program.

Insurance

Students should carry adequate hospitalization and life insurance for themselves and their families. A program with G-M Underwriters is available at the seminary. Term life insurance of $125,000 is also available to new and transfer students by application. Students who want to participate in these programs must fill out application cards in the business office within 30 days of the first day of class.
Financial Aid

The programs of student aid at Western Seminary are designed to help students meet their minimum educational expenses as they prepare for Christian ministry. The estimated total cost of educational and living expenses for nine months ranges from $11,590 for single students to $16,435 for married students. Students should estimate costs carefully, based on their particular needs and situations.

If a student cannot match the expected expenses with equivalent income, savings, and assistance from his or her home congregation, the student should request financial aid application and FAFSA forms from the business office. The seminary will arrange a program of financial aid based upon a completed financial analysis. Scholarships, loans, and work opportunities are available to help meet educational costs. A statement of Western’s student loan refund distribution policy is available from the business manager.
Course Descriptions

Master of Divinity
Master of Religious Education
Master of Theology
Doctor of Ministry
Master of Divinity Course Descriptions

All courses receive four credit hours, except where otherwise indicated in the course descriptions.

Biblical Field

Required Courses

BF 410 REVIEW GREEK
Boelkins
A survey of difficult elements in New Testament Greek, vocabulary growth, and Greek reading. Designed especially for those who have taken summer Greek, but open to others who have passed the Greek entrance exam. Prerequisite: Placement examination.

BF411 INTRODUCTION TO EXEGESIS
Boelkins, Cook
Introduces principles and tools of exegesis and the development of an exegetical method. Experience with principles, tools, and method is provided by an exegetical study of selected texts. Prerequisite: Placement examination or BF410.

BF412 ADVANCED EXEGESIS
Cook
A workshop approach to exegetical practice based on the Gospel of Mark. Prerequisite: BF411.

BF414 HEBREW I
Bechtel Reynolds, Boogaart
An inductive study of the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew grammar and reading.

BF415 HEBREW II
Bechtel Reynolds, Boogaart
A continuation of biblical Hebrew grammar and reading and an introduction to exegetical methodology. Prerequisite: BF414.

BF417 BIBLICAL HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION I
Bechtel Reynolds, Boogaart
Surveys the literature of the Old Testament and explores the social, historical, and religious contexts in which the Old Testament documents are situated.

BF418 BIBLICAL HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION II
J. Brownson
Surveys the literature of the New Testament. Explores the social, historical, and religious contexts in which the New Testament documents are situated.

Advanced Courses, Old Testament

BF510 SEMINAR IN PENTATEUCH
Bechtel Reynolds
An exegetical, cultural, and historical study of the Pentateuch with a focus on the book of Exodus. Prerequisite: BF417; M.Div. students must complete BF415.
BF513 STUDIES IN PROPHETS
Boogaart
A study of the role prophets played in Israelite society, their theology, and their impact on Western culture. Prerequisite: BF417; M.Div. students must complete BF415.

BF514 SEMINAR IN PSALMS
Bechtel Reynolds
An exegetical study of selected psalms in the context of both the Old Testament and the larger canon of Scripture. Attention will also be given to the role of the psalms in the liturgical, devotional, and theological life of the church. Prerequisite: BF417; M.Div. students must complete BF415.

BF516 LITERATURE OF THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD
Boogaart
The literature produced during the life of the Second Temple (515 B.C.E.-70 C.E.) provides an essential background for understanding both Judaism and Christianity. This course surveys the relevant canonical books as well as selected literature from the apocrypha and pseudepigrapha in order to better appreciate the continuity between the Testaments.

BF517 WISDOM LITERATURE OF THE BIBLE
Bechtel Reynolds
Explores the forms, vocabulary, and concepts of wisdom in the Bible, emphasizing Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes. Prerequisite: BF417; M.Div. students must complete BF415.

BF520 ESTHER
Bechtel Reynolds
A theological exposition of the book of Esther which looks to literary issues such as theme, character, and irony as guides for interpreting the book in the contexts of both the Old and the New Testaments. Originally intended as a model for life in the Jewish Diaspora, the book is a potentially important guide for Christians seeking to live faithful lives in a secular society.

BF522 OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVES
Bechtel Reynolds, Boogaart
Study of the artistry and theology of Israelite storytelling. Prerequisite: BF 417; M.Div. students must complete BF415.

BF523 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY
Boogaart
Critical analysis of recent attempts at presenting an Old Testament theology. Prerequisite: BF417.
Advanced Courses, New Testament

BF530 LETTER TO THE ROMANS
*Cook*

An introduction and overview of the letter, together with exegetical study of selected portions. Prerequisite: BF411, BF418.

BF531 SEMINAR IN THE SYNOPTICS
*J. Brownson*

Explores the major approaches to interpreting the synoptic gospels, along with deeper study of one synoptic gospel. Prerequisite: BF411, BF418.

BF532 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN
*J. Brownson*

Considers important historical, literary, hermeneutical, and theological issues in the Gospel of John. Prerequisite: BF418; M.Div. students must complete BF411.

BF534 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES
*Cook*

Introductory material combined with an understanding of the entire book and the exegesis of selected passages. Prerequisite: BF411, BF418.

BF535 INTERPRETING THE PARABLES
*Brownson*

A survey of recent approaches to interpreting the parables of Jesus provides the context for considering hermeneutical issues in preaching and teaching the parables. Prerequisite: BF418, M.Div. students must complete BF411.

BF536 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY IN MINISTRY

A senior seminar integrating themes of biblical theology with the practice of ministry. Open to seniors only. Prerequisite: BF417, BF418.

BF537 NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY
*J. Brownson*

Explores the principal themes of New Testament theology. Prerequisite: BF418.

BF538 NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTOLOGY
*J. Brownson*

Considers how the dynamic unfolding and development of christological thought in the New Testament period may provide resources and strategies for contemporary christological reflection. Prerequisite: BF411, BF418.

BF539 LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS
*Cook*

Introduction and exegetical studies, supplemented by presentations on dominant themes of this letter viewed as a window on God’s will. Prerequisite: BF411, BF418.
Elective Courses

BF610 BIBLICAL ARAMAIC
Grammar and vocabulary of biblical Aramaic from the Old Testament and other documents, including the Qumran scrolls and the Targums (on request).

BF612 SYRIAC
Syriac grammar. Selected passages are translated, including Syriac New Testament reading (on request).

BF613 GREEK READING
*J. Brownson*
Maintains and enhances Greek language skills through weekly translation practice. Pass/fail, 1 credit.

BF614 HEBREW READING
*Bechtel Reynolds, Boogaart*
Maintains and enhances Hebrew language skills through weekly translation practice. Pass/fail, 1 credit.

BF616 CHRISTIANITY IN LITERATURE
*Cook*
A study of biblical and theological motifs in selected poetry, prose, drama, and film, ranging from John Milton to Frederich Buechner. Enrollment for this course is limited to 10 students.

Theological Field

Required Courses

TF011 ORIENTATION TO THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH
*Smith*
Meets twice during the first quarter to orient new students to the resources of the Cook Center for Theological Research and the methods of theological bibliography. Noncredit.

TF411 INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY
*Hesselink & G. Brown*
An introduction to the nature of theology and an overview of basic Christian doctrines using the Heidelberg Catechism as a guide. Readings, reflection papers, and a weekly praxis session will relate theology to concrete ministry situations.

TF412 DOCTRINE OF GOD
*Kaiser*
What do we believe on the basis of God's self-revelation in Scripture, and how has the church understood that faith through the ages? This course covers the divine attributes, the doctrines of the Trinity, Christology, and the Atonement. Prerequisite: TF411.
TF415 EARLY AND MEDIEVAL CHURCH
Bruggink & Hunsberger
The growth and mission of the church from the Apostolic Fathers through the Middles Ages. An emphasis on the development of doctrine intended to prepare pastors for ministry within the Christian pluralism of today.

TF416 REFORMATION CHURCH
Bruggink & Hunsberger
The development of doctrine, polity, liturgy, and mission in the churches of Western Christendom, with particular emphasis upon the Calvinistic branch of the Reformation.

TF417 THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
Voskuil & Hunsberger
The development of Christianity in the context of North American culture. Special attention will be paid to topics such as pluralism, evangelicalism, pentecostalism, ecumenism, civil religion, and church/state, as well as selected contemporary issues. The history and missiological character of the Reformed Church in America will be highlighted.

TF418 INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS
Basic principles of Christian ethics, beginning with its foundations in the Bible and theology.

TF419 CHRISTIAN EXISTENCE: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
Hesselink
In this course three traditional loci of systematic theology—soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology—are treated in a new way, showing the relationship of both the personal and the corporate aspects of the Christian faith as they relate to the three tenses of Christian existence. Texts include classical Reformed and contemporary sources. Prerequisite: TF411, TF412.

TF420 INTRODUCTION TO MISSIONOLOGY
Hunsberger
An examination of the nature and mission of the church. Attention is given to biblical, theological, and sociological foundations; historical and contemporary perspectives; and the global and local dimensions of the church’s mission. Special attention is given to the missionary ecclesiology of the RCA and its companion churches.
Advanced Courses, Systematic Theology
(TF411 is a prerequisite for all advanced systematic theology courses. TF412 is also recommended.)

TF510 THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Hesselink
A biblical and theological study of the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the individual, the church, and the world. Special attention is given to the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life, and to the charismatic movement.

TF511 BIBLICAL AND SECULAR VIEWS OF HUMANITY
Kaiser
Reviews the origin, nature, and corruption of humanity as seen from biblical, classical theological, scientific, and contemporary cultural viewpoints.

TF512 BIBLICAL & SCIENTIFIC VIEWS OF CREATION
Kaiser
Reviews of the present scientific account of the origin and evolution of the universe as well as the biblical teaching about creation.

TF513 CALVIN'S LIFE AND THEOLOGY
Hesselink
An introduction to Calvin's life and thought, indicating their relationship at various points as well as the relevance of Calvin’s theology to various contemporary issues. Principal texts are Calvin's first catechism (1538) and a commentary on this text by the instructor. The Institutes will be used to supplement the catechism.

TF514 THE THEOLOGIES OF KARL BARTH & EMIL BRUNNER
Hesselink
Compares selections from key works of two major theologians of the twentieth century. Readings will include brief theological biographies, followed by major sections from each theologian’s dogmatics and another seminal work.

TF515 THE SACRAMENTS
Hesselink
An in-depth investigation of the nature of sacraments and the meaning of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, in particular. Traditional views will be compared with more recent approaches and both evaluated biblically and theologically.

TF517 CONTEMPORARY LIBERATION THEOLOGIES
Hesselink
Focuses on works of African American, feminist, and Latin American theologians and their relevance to the church in North America.
TF520 GLOBAL MISSIOLOGY  
*Hunsberger*

Examines the way mission is envisioned and practiced by ecumenical, evangelical, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, pentecostal, and Third World churches in the various contexts of the modern world. Special attention is given to issues and challenges confronting the church as it faces the twenty-first century.

**Advanced Courses, Historical Theology**

TF530 EARLY CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIANS  
*Kaiser*

Readings from primary sources of the second century. 2 credits. Prerequisite: TF412 or TF515.

TF531 ANTE-NICENE THEOLOGIANS  
*Kaiser*

Readings from primary sources of the third century. 2 credits. Prerequisite: TF530.

TF532 ATHANASIUS  
*Kaiser*

Selected readings featuring the classic, *On the Incarnation of the Word*. Topics covered include the doctrine of the Trinity, creation, Christology, and the atonement. 2 credits. Prerequisite: TF412 or TF415.

TF533 POST-NICENE THEOLOGIANS  
*Kaiser*

Selected readings trace the development of patristic theology after the Council of Nicea. 2 credits. Prerequisite: TF532.

TF534 LIFE AND TIMES OF AUGUSTINE  
*Kaiser*

Readings in the *Confessions* and Augustine’s other early writings provide a historical basis for understanding Augustine’s theology. 2 credits. Prerequisite: TF412 or TF515.

TF535 THEOLOGY OF AUGUSTINE  
*Kaiser*

Readings in Augustine’s later theological works, especially those that influenced the Protestant Reformation. 2 credits. Prerequisite: TF534.

TF536 POST-REFORMATION CONFLICTS AND CONTROVERSIES (1560-1648)  
*Kaiser*

The modern world was born in an age of polemics and war. This course examines the effect of theological conflict on the emergence of modern science, philosophy, and politics. Prerequisite: TF416.
TF537 THE CHURCH IN THE AGE OF REASON (1648-1800)
Kaiser
The development of modern theology is traced from the rise of classical mechanics to the industrial revolution.

TF538 EASTERN CHRISTENDOM (600-1700 A.D.)
Bruggink
The Orthodox churches are linguistically and geographically closest to the origins of Christianity. The course studies their history together with the development of their liturgy, theology, and spirituality.

TF539 THE LIFE AND THOUGHT OF TODAY'S GLOBAL CHURCH
Wilson
A survey of the churches of the world and the variety of patterns of life and mission they exhibit, with particular emphasis on churches of the Third World. Special attention is given to the ecumenical movement in its various forms, the contributions of Third World theologies, and the emergence of Third World mission initiatives.

TF540 REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA (1628 -)
Bruggink
The history, liturgy, polity, missiology, and theology of the RCA.

Advanced Courses, Christian Ethics
(TF418 is recommended prior to all advanced Christian ethics courses.)

TF550 CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ETHICS
Christian responsibility in the areas of war and peace, uses of atomic energy, social justice, politics, and race. Each student selects an area for special concentration.

TF551 HISTORICAL CHRISTIAN ETHICS
A survey of major Christian formulations of the ideal Christian life from biblical times to the present.

TF552 PIETY AND POLITICS
Explores relationships between American churches and the social order during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Topics include revivalism, evangelical social reform, the social gospel, neo-orthodoxy, pacifism, the civil rights movement, and contemporary Christian models of church and culture.

TF554 FEMINIST THEOLOGIES
An analysis of the historical and contemporary relationships between women and the church, using the writings of feminist theologians, particularly their readings of biblical texts and their critiques and revisionings of traditional doctrines.
TF555 THEOLOGY & MINISTRY IN THE COMPUTER AGE

Smith

How should the church proclaim the gospel in a world pervaded by computer technology? Through readings, discussion, media presentations, and visits to the workplace, the class explores questions related to human self-understanding and develops a theological framework for addressing specific situations created by the use of computers.

TF556 RELIGION, SEXUALITY, AND POWER

Examines biblical and theological views of sexuality and power and explores the implications of these themes on preaching, pastoral care, images of God, professional ethics, and the quest for social and ecclesiastical justice for women and men.

TF557 CHRISTIAN SEXUAL ETHICS

Hoogerwerf

Introduces a broad range of issues in sexual ethics in a way that models a process of moral discernment which can produce clear and practical understandings of how Christians’ sexual lives ought to be lived. Coursework includes designing a resource for moral discernment that could be used in a particular ministry setting.

TF558 JUSTICE, PEACE, & THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Bouma-Prediger

An in-depth exploration of Christian ethics, including the process of ethical decision making and the substance of the Christian ethical tradition. Particular attention is given to issues of social justice, global peace, and ecological degradation.

Elective Courses

TF610 TRAVEL SEMINAR STUDIES: GREECE

Bruggink

Preparation for participation in the seminar to the cities of Philippi, Thessaloniki, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Patmos, the island of the Apocalypse, as well as a survey of the theology and liturgy of the Greek Orthodox Church.

TF611 TRAVEL SEMINAR: THE CITIES OF JOHN & PAUL

Bruggink

Follows St. Paul to the cities where he ministered in Greece and Asia Minor: Neapolis, Philippi, Amphipolis, Appolonia, Thessaloniki, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and the island of John: Patmos. There is also extended contact with living Orthodoxy at the Orthodox Academy of Crete.
TF612 TRAVEL SEMINAR STUDIES:ROME
Bruggink
Preparation for participation in the seminar in Rome, with its treasures of art and architecture from pre-Christian times to the present, as well as the varied institutions of the living church.

TF613 ROME: CITY OF PETER AND PAUL
Bruggink
Twenty centuries of Christian history can be seen in Rome. The course takes full advantage of the art and architecture of Rome to communicate the history of the church through the centuries, as well as contact with contemporary Roman Catholic leaders and institutions.

TF614 HYMNODY, LITURGY, AND ARCHITECTURE
Bruggink
Explores leadership in hymnody, liturgy, and architecture to help build the community of faith as it worships God.

TF617 ECClesiASTICAL LATIN
Hesselink
An introduction for students who have had little or no Latin, beginning with classical Latin grammar and syntax and moving on to ecclesiastical Latin readings (on request).

TF618 THEOLOGICAL GERMAN
Inductive study of selected texts in contemporary German theology (on request).

TF622 MISSION AND MINISTRY ACROSS CULTURES
Hunsberger
An introduction to the intercultural dimension of the church’s life and mission, including insights drawn from the fields of cultural anthropology, communications theory, mission history, biblical hermeneutics, and mission theology. Special attention is given to developing a theology of cultural plurality with implications for witness, conversion, and ministry.

TF623 CHRISTIAN WITNESS AMONG PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS
Vogelaar
Investigates historical forms of encounter between Christianity and other religions and current models of witness and dialogue. The philosophies of religion, missiological convictions, and personal attitudes involved in various approaches will be explored.

TF624 CURRENT ISSUES IN MISSIOLOGY
Hunsberger
A seminar research course on a particular facet of mission theory or strategy of contemporary importance. The course is offered and the topic chosen based upon the interests of students and the identification of a critical area of concern in the church’s life and mission.
TF626 THEOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS
Smith
Introduces research methodology, library use, and basic reference works for theological research. Designed for students planning to enter the pastoral ministry as well as those going on to graduate study.

TF629 RELIGION AND VIOLENCE
White
Throughout history, religions or surrogate religious ideologies have been attached to human collective violence. This course looks at this process, asking how it takes place, whether collective violence is inevitable, and whether renunciation of violence is the only option for Christians in the modern world. Three aspects of conflict and religion will be examined: social science theories of war, human aggression, and religion; subnational violence, crime, and terrorism; and state repression, revolution, and total war.

TF630 GOD AND GOSPEL IN FILM
Anker
Explores religious experience in contemporary films, observing the sorts of religious statements the films make and how they make them; tracing their dramatic movements from darkness to light, from despair to hope, and from tragedy to comedy; and reflecting on audience response. Concentrates on directors Francis Ford Coppola, Bruce Bersford, Laurence Kasdan, Paul Schrader, and Steven Spielberg.

Christian Ministry Field
Required Courses

CM011 ORAL COMMUNICATION LAB
T. Brown
A noncredit requirement for juniors, designed to equip and encourage a clear articulation of the gospel.

CM410 PASTORAL THEOLOGY
T. Brown
A foundational course on the nature and styles of ministry from biblical/theological, historical, and contemporary perspectives. Special emphasis will be given to the development of pastoral identity. 2 credits.

CM411 THE CONGREGATION WORSHIPING
Bruggink
Biblical and Reformed understandings of worship are studied, with particular emphasis given to the components of the liturgy. 2 credits.

CM412 INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING
T. Brown & Bechtel Reynolds
The biblical concept of preaching, principles of communication, and the development of expository sermons.
CM413 THE EQUIPPING MINISTRY OF THE PASTOR
Stewart
Examines a theology and praxis for equipping the congregation for discipleship, ministry, and mission. Prerequisite: FM410, CM414.

CM414 PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING
Rock
The fundamental counseling course in the ministry field. The lecture, demonstration, and laboratory approach are designed to enable the person in ministry to articulate a pastoral-theological framework for counseling, to develop skills in helping relationships, and to make effective decisions regarding referral.

Advanced Courses, Pastoral Care & Counseling

CM510 ORIENTATION TO MARRIAGE & FAMILY COUNSELING
Rock
This course is designed to increase the participant’s ability to build effective communication patterns in marital or premarital relationships, and to enable the person in ministry to develop counseling and enrichment strategies for couples and families. Spouses are required to take the course with the students. Students without spouses should consult the instructor prior to registration. Prerequisite: CM414 or permission of the instructor.

CM511 ADVANCED PASTORAL COUNSELING
Horak
Skill development in integrating theology, psychological theory, and pastoral counseling relationships, using seminar discussions, reality practice, and case material. Offered in alternate years (1997-98). Prerequisite: CM414.

CM512 MINISTRY IN GROUP RELATIONSHIPS
Rock
An exploration of the way people learn to live and work together in the covenant community. The pastor, director of religious education, or church leader develops theory and skill as an empowerer of ministry by the laity in the contemporary world through experiences in group relationships.

CM513 BASIC CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION
A pastoral ministry practicum which integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting with special attention given to the person in ministry. A basic practicum accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education receives six hours of credit. Other approved practicums in clinical settings receive four hours of credit. One quarter of a clinical pastoral ministry experience is granted four or six credits of CM513 and two credits of FM661. (See Formation for Ministry, p.44.)
CM514 MINISTRY WITH THE AGING  
*Ludwig*
Explores the dynamics of aging with emphasis on the abilities of older persons within the life of the church. An experience-based component includes involvement in local nursing homes and congregations. 2 credits. Offered in alternate years (1997-98).

CM515 SHAME, ABUSE, ADDICTIONS, & THE CHURCH  
*Topp*
A review of the psychosocial/spiritual dynamics of shame, abuse, and addictions with consideration of how congregations can provide an environment of prevention/education and recovery from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and addictive behaviors. 2 credits. Offered in alternate years (1997-98).

CM516 PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE  
Examines the psychological processes inherent in various religious experiences and practices, beginning with a survey of classical studies in the field and focusing on the need for religion in contemporary society.

CM518 FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY  
Examines various programs and models for family enrichment, growth, and counseling in the local parish.

Advanced Courses, Christian Education  
(CM413 is recommended prior to all advanced Christian education courses.)

CM530/EM676 EQUIPPING FOR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE CHURCH YEAR  
*Stewart*
A practicum on nurturing Christian faith through the celebration of the church year in worship, education, and mission. Attention is given to the sacraments.

CM531/EM711 CURRICULUM EVALUATION & DESIGN  
*G. Brown*
Analysis and evaluation of Christian education resources and curricula designs. Students develop skills for evaluating and designing a Christian education program.

CM532/EM574 EQUIPPING FOR TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP  
*G. Brown*
Skills taught in this course include: discerning spiritual gifts, calling people to service, equipping teachers and leaders for their ministries, and affirming their contributions. A variety of methods and media will be used.
Advanced Courses, Worship and Preaching
(Normally, CM412 is prerequisite for all advanced preaching courses and CM411 is prerequisite for all worship courses.)

CM554/EM723 CHILDREN AND WORSHIP
Stewart
A practicum treating the development and religious needs of the young child (aged 3-7), and ways to design an environment that enables children to worship God.

CM555 SEEKER SENSITIVE PREACHING
T. Brown
Investigates, evaluates, and implements strategies for preaching in a "post-Christian" culture. The course will evaluate the phenomenon of "seeker-sensitive worship" and offer a vision for preaching that is both responsive to the Reformed heritage and sensitive to contemporary culture.

CM556 PREACHING AND THE ORAL TRADITION
T. Brown
For centuries the faith of Israel and the church of Jesus Christ was carried along "by heart" through "word of mouth." This in part is the oral tradition. The function of "hiding the word" in one's heart has significant implications for preaching preparation and delivery. Students will examine those implications as well as practice "contemplative exegesis."

CM557 PREACHING AND THE LITERARY FORM OF THE BIBLE (APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE)
T. Brown
An exploration of the particular demands of preaching from the apocalyptic literature of the Bible. Focusing largely on The Apocalypse of St. John, the course will investigate preaching themes in corresponding Old Testament works such as Daniel and Ezekiel. Preaching is required, and each student will leave the course with a specific preaching plan.

CM559 PLANNING A YEAR'S PREACHING
T. Brown
The maxim "fail to plan, plan to fail" is as true in sermon preparation as in any other area. What guides the pastor in sermon planning? Students will analyze various strategies and, through guided research, develop a year's preaching schedule. Students are required to preach in this course. 2 credits.

CM560 ADVANCED READING IN PREACHING
T. Brown
Examines emerging trends in North American preaching by analyzing a selection of lectures in the Lyman Beecher Lecture Series at Yale Divinity School. Tracks the rise of pastoral care/therapeutic preaching, feminist preaching, narrative preaching, and social witness preaching. Students are required to preach in this course. 2 credits.
CM567  SPirituality for preaching
T. Brown
The spiritual vitality of the person who preaches is integral to the vitality of the message preached. Using biographies and autobiographies of men and women whom God has used in centuries past, participants will discover patterns for lifelong spiritual growth and development. Preaching is required in this course.

CM568  Preaching and Pain
T. Brown
Skill development for dealing with the deep pains of the human experience in relation to the biblical vision of hope and healing. Preaching is required in this course. 2 credits.

CM569  Preaching and Truth
T. Brown
The centuries-long Reformed tradition has left a rich legacy. The course examines that legacy from the perspective of preaching in the twenty-first century. Special attention is given to the development of contemporary approaches to preaching from historic creeds and doctrinal standards. Preaching is required in this course. 2 credits.

Advanced Courses, Leadership

CM570/EM575  Equipping for Evangelism
W. Brownson
Develops a theology of evangelism as the announcement of the Kingdom of God and cultivates patterns of practice which give living form to that announcement in the life of “missionary congregations.” Assesses contemporary models and examines forms of leadership which stimulate the dynamic of evangelism in a congregation.

CM571  Church Leadership
Kiel
Principles and practice of organization, management, and leadership in the church; principles and practice of church government; and leading effective meetings.

CM572  Advanced Group Leadership
Rock
Selected students are invited to assist in facilitating courses in group dynamics, religious education, and formation for ministry reflection groups. While assisting their instructors, participants engage in their own study and/or research of group dynamics, leadership, and participant roles (by permission of instructor).
CM573 ADVANCED PRACTICUM IN MINISTRY
Advanced students integrate biblical, theological, and historical understandings with pastoral and pedagogical principles, and express this integration in the actual practice of ministry.

CM574 SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND GUIDANCE
_Schwanda_
A course with an experiential focus, in which students develop the disciplines necessary for growth in the Spirit through journal writing, prayer, and meditation, and learn ways to offer spiritual direction to others. Offered in alternate years (1996-97).

CM588 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORY & POLITY
_Reese_
With denominational roots spanning four centuries, the United Church of Christ brings together a variety of theological, ethnic, and ideological perspectives. This course explores its history, structure, mission, and ethos. 2 credits.

Elective Courses

CM610 ADVANCED CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION
All clinical pastoral education beyond the first quarter; 4 credits.

CM611 GUIDED RESEARCH IN COUNSELING
_Rock_
A largely independent study concentrating on some area of pastoral counseling (on request).

CM620/EM721 CHRISTIAN MINISTRY WITH YOUTH
_Munroe_
A practicum treating the development and religious needs of youth and ways to design, implement, and support youth ministry in the congregation. Alternate years.

CM621/EM722 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY WITH ADULTS
_G. Brown_
Developmental characteristics and religious needs of adult learners, learning styles and appropriate instructional methods, and program design and resources are covered in this course. Students develop a philosophy of Christian education with adults.

CM622 SEMINAR IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESEARCH
_Stewart_
Students doing exceptional work in Christian education are invited to engage in research.
CM623 ADOLESCENT CULTURE
Munroe
Explores the questions: What is the nature of culture generally, and of popular and youth culture specifically? How do trends in youth culture influence young people growing up in America? How can we keep track of all that is going on in youth culture? How does the gospel intersect with youth culture, and how should those who want to make the gospel come to life for young people respond?

CM625-27 INTERCULTURAL IMMERSION
Smith & Voskuil
Preparatory study and an international travel seminar to immerse oneself in the religious, cultural, economic, and political/social situation of a particular people. January, 1997, location: Chiapas, Mexico.

CM650 GUIDED RESEARCH IN PREACHING
A largely independent study concentrating on some area of preaching (on request).

CM670 THE URBAN CHURCH: A STUDY OF ITS MISSION
Beukema
Leadership training for ministry in urban areas. Included are dimensions of understanding and coping with change, congregational and demographic analysis, educational and resource development, and alternatives for mission.

CM672 GROWING FAITHFUL & EFFECTIVE CHURCHES
Dietterich
Uses a systems approach to explore the theology, dynamics, practices, and structures needed for growing faithful and effective churches. Considers various approaches to “church growth” and develops theological and practical criteria for choosing strategies.

Formation for Ministry

FM410 GOSPEL, CULTURE, AND MINISTRY
Hunsberger, Boogaart, Kaiser, Fierro
Introduces the dynamic interactions between the gospel message, particular cultural contexts, and ministerial leadership. 4 credits.

FM411 THE MINISTER AS SPIRITUAL LEADER
Engages students in an intentional program of spiritual formation; acquaints students with the variety of ways the church engages children, youth, adults, and families in spiritual formation; involves students in ministerial leadership of worship, education, care, and witness; and discusses the nature of ministry and development of ministerial identity. 1 credit.

FM412 MINISTER AS PASTORAL LEADER
Explores, critiques, and develops ministerial leadership skills involved in worship, education, care, and witness. 1 credit.
FM413 LAUNCHING YOUR MINISTRY
T. Brown
Discusses styles and strategies for making a positive transition from theological student to person in ministry. 1 credit.

FM414 STUDENT PREACHING
During the middler and senior years the student preaches in twelve worship services. These are evaluated by lay persons and the professor of preaching. 1 credit at the end of the senior year.

FM510 THE TEACHING CHURCH
Students actively observe and participate in the worship, education, care, and witness ministries of a faith community. 1 credit.

PART-TIME MINISTRIES
Staff
FM511 (5-9 hours/week) 1 credit
FM512 (10-15 hours/week) 2 credits
Students engage in part-time ministry concurrent with their academic studies. Ministry experiences take place in parish, parachurch, or agency settings.

INTERNSHIPS
FM541 (3 months) 2 credits
FM542 (6 months) 4 credits
FM543 (9 months) 6 credits
FM544 (12 months) 8 credits
Students engage in the full-time ministry in a parish, parachurch, clinical, agency, or intercultural setting. Ministry settings are selected on the basis of the church’s or agency’s commitment to the ministerial formation of students and the opportunities for learning within the setting.

PRACTICUMS IN MINISTRY
FM611 1 credit
FM612 2 credits
Practicums for exploration or skill development in the individual’s formation for ministry. Exploratory models include: missions, church growth, rural ministry, urban ministry, and pastoral chaplaincy. Skill areas include: worship, education, care, evangelism, social ministry, conflict resolution, leadership, and administration.

FM661 CLINICAL PASTORAL MINISTRY
The supervised field education component of Clinical Pastoral Ministry integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a hospital setting. 2 credits. One quarter of a CPE experience is granted 2 FM611 credits and 4 or 6 CM513 credits.
Summer Seminars

EM410 ORIENTATION SEMINAR:
CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP
G. Brown
An introduction to the program dealing with six foundational issues of Christian formation and discipleship. Reading is required before the seminar. Meets annually the third week of August. 2 credits.

EM510 HISTORY OF THE THEORY AND PRAXIS
OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION
Stewart
A survey of various theories and praxes of Christian formation through the church and parachurch organizations. August, 1996.

EM710 EQUIPPING FOR PARTNERSHIP, JUSTICE, & PEACE
Stewart
Examines ways to educate for partnership, peace, and justice by imagining and constructing a climate of partnership instead of domination and by imagining ways to create a compassionate alternative to war and violence in the world. August, 1997.

Required Courses

EM411 STUDIES IN OLD TESTAMENT TRADITIONS
Bechtel Reynolds, Boogaart
Studies of the function, literature, and theology of key leaders in Israelite society.

EM412 KINGDOM AND PARABLES
J. Brownson
Developing skills for interpretation of the Gospels with particular attention to the person and work of Christ, and the proclamation of the Kingdom of God through parables.

EM471 EQUIPPING FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND CHURCH RENEWAL
Rienstra
Disciplines for spiritual formation and methods of guidance that enable personal and church renewal. The class designs models for equipping congregations in spiritual growth.

EM472 EQUIPPING FOR PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING
Rock
Through lab and congregational experiences, students learn skills for pastoral care and counseling, and models for equipping others in this ministry toward wholeness in God.
EM473 EQUIPPING FOR SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES
Rock
An exploration of the way people learn to live and work together in the covenant community. The pastor, director of religious education, or church leader develops theory and skill as an empowerer of ministry by church members in the contemporary world through experiences in group relationships.

EM513 THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTS AND EPISTLES
An exegetical, inductive approach to an understanding of the person, work, and function of the Holy Spirit in the individual, the Christian community, and the world, as demonstrated in the early church.

EM514 PSALMS, PROPHETS, & SOCIAL MINISTRIES
Boogaart
A reading and exegesis of some of the prophets and psalms, with implications for social ministries.

EM574/CM532 EQUIPPING FOR TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP
G. Brown
Skills taught in this course include: discerning spiritual gifts, calling people to service, equipping teachers and leaders for their ministries, and affirming their contributions. A variety of methods and media will be used.

EM575/CM570 EQUIPPING FOR EVANGELISM
W. Brownson
Develops a theology of evangelism as the announcement of the kingdom of God and cultivates patterns of practice which give living form to that announcement in the life of “missionary congregations.” Assesses contemporary models and examines forms of leadership which stimulate the dynamic of evangelism in a congregation.

EM615 ROMANS
Hesselink
An exegesis of Romans with attention to its nature, purpose, and theology.

EM616 INTERPRETATION OF THE COMMON LECTIONARY PASSAGES
Brownson
A study of the Common Lectionary passages as foundation for EM676.

EM647/648 INTERCULTURAL IMMERSION
Stewart
Preparatory study and an international travel seminar to immerse oneself in the religious, cultural, economic, and political/social situation of a particular people. These courses must be taken together. 8 credits. January, 1998, tentative location: Israel.
EM676/CM530  EQUIPPING FOR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE CHURCH YEAR
Stewart
A practicum on nurturing Christian faith through the celebration of the church year in worship, education, and mission. Attention is given to the sacraments.

Ministry Units and Elective Courses

EM441  MINISTRY UNITS I-VI
Stewart, G. Brown
Six ministry units, or their equivalents, are required for In-Ministry MRE degree students. Ministry units are independent, self-designed units of study that are related to students' jobs. They are designed in consultation with a faculty director and approved by a faculty committee.

EM645  TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING WITH ADULTS
G. Brown
Examines the educational philosophies of Paulo Freire and Myles Horton and their contributions to the Christian religious education of adults. Attention is given to alternative pedagogical methods.

EM711/CM531  CURRICULUM EVALUATION & DESIGN
G. Brown
Analysis and evaluation of Christian education resources and curricula designs. Students develop skills for evaluating and designing a Christian education program.

EM721/CM620  CHRISTIAN MINISTRY WITH YOUTH
Munroe
A practicum treating the development and religious needs of youth, and ways to design, implement, and support youth ministry in the congregation. Offered in alternate years.

EM722/CM621  CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY WITH ADULTS
G. Brown
Developmental characteristics and religious needs of adult learners, learning styles and appropriate instructional methods, and program design and resources are covered in this course. Students develop a philosophy of Christian education with adults. Offered in alternate years.

EM723/CM554  CHILDREN AND WORSHIP
Stewart
A practicum treating the development and religious needs of the young child (aged 3-7), and ways to design an environment that enables children to worship God.
Master of Theology Course Descriptions

MT710 ORIENTATION SEMINAR
Hunsberger, Boelkins
A one-week intensive seminar introducing the Th.M. program by forming a "cross-cultural community of scholars" in which scholarly reflection will be done. This academic pursuit will be achieved by creating new configurations of self-understanding for theological reflection in community and by introducing the philosophy, format, and thesis requirements of the Th.M. program. Meets annually the third week of August; 2 credits.

MT720 SEMINAR IN CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS
Hunsberger
Develops theoretical orientations and methodological skills for contextual analysis, with three foci: sociological, cultural, and psychological. The seminar also provides guidance for the development of the thesis proposal. Fall term; 4 credits.

MT730 SEMINAR IN THEOLOGICAL METHOD
Hunsberger, Brownson
Explores and applies methodologies in contextual, intercultural theological reflection, with three foci: hermeneutics, issues of gospel and culture, and alternative theological models. The seminar also assists in the development of thesis research methodology. Winter term; 4 credits.

MT740 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
In the event that courses critical to a Th.M. candidate's program are unavailable within current curriculum offerings, the candidate may request independent study in a particular field of inquiry within the chosen focus area. It may be done only with the consent of an individual professor who provides guidance and evaluation and with the approval of the academic dean. It may combine course materials of a 400-level course with additional independent work, at the professor's discretion.

MT750 THESIS
A major research paper which builds upon and extends in a focused area the knowledge and critical ability gained in the basic divinity degree. The topic and plan are subject to the approval of the Th.M. Committee. Guidance for the research is provided by the candidate's advisor in conjunction with a second reader. 8 credits.
Doctor of Ministry Course Descriptions

DM810 ORIENTATION SEMINAR
Rock, Boogaart
Introduces major components of the program. During the seminar, students refine their program of study, work on designing two learning units and one elective, and set goals for increased competency in ministry during the ensuing year. Meets for three weeks in May-June; 4 credits.

DM811-812 LEARNING UNITS
Learning units are primary building blocks of the D.Min. program. A learning unit is a specific action-reflection exercise which furthers the candidate’s knowledge, skill, and personal competence in ministry in a specific discipline with carefully defined objectives related to the overall program goal. Students develop two learning units during the first year. 4 credits.

DM813 ELECTIVE 1
Students select electives which will deepen the focus of their programs of study or which will strengthen them in particular areas of the practice of ministry. An elective may be self-designed, or a formal educational course or intensive may be chosen. 4 credits.

DM820 CANDIDATE SEMINAR
Smith
Begins the second year of the program, culminating and integrating the first year’s work and providing a foundation for the second year. Meets for three weeks in May-June; 4 credits.

DM821-822 LEARNING UNITS
Learning units are primary building blocks of the D.Min. program. A learning unit is a specific action-reflection exercise which furthers the candidate’s knowledge, skill, and personal competence in ministry in a specific discipline with carefully defined objectives related to the overall program goal. Students develop two learning units during the second year. 4 credits.

DM823 ELECTIVE 2
Students select electives which will deepen the focus of their programs of study or which will strengthen them in particular areas of the practice of ministry. An elective may be self-designed, or a formal educational course or intensive may be chosen. 4 credits.
DM830 PROJECT SEMINAR
Kaiser
Begins the third year, in which students design projects based upon their first two years' work. Students are expected to have completed four learning units and two electives prior to entering this seminar. Meets for two weeks in May-June; 4 credits.

DM840 PROJECT
Design and execution of a project is the final stage of the D.Min. program. The D.Min. project consists of an original investigation or activity in ministry and affords each student an opportunity to develop a mature practice of ministry characterized by careful scholarship. 12 credits.
Scholarships, Grants and Loans

The following scholarship funds have been established for North American students:

George C. and Clara Arnold Memorial Fund
Established by John J. and Rhea V.H. Arnold. Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence and financial need.

John J. and Rhea V.H. Arnold Endowed Scholarship
Assists students studying for the ministry of the Reformed Church in America, based on academic excellence and financial need.

Warren and Jeanne Burgess Endowed Scholarship Fund
Created by family, friends, and members of the Faith Reformed Church of Traverse City, Michigan, to honor this couple for faithful service to Christ in the churches they served for forty-three years.

Robert and Martha De Bruyn Internship Fund
Provides for student internships in creative churches in metropolitan communities. Preference will be given to gifted students who have an expressed interest in urban or intercultural ministry.

Steve Driesenga Memorial Scholarship Fund
Established by Ken and Fran Driesenga and the people of the Ottawa Reformed Church in West Olive, Michigan, in memory of the Driesenga's son, Steve. Tuition scholarships are awarded to male students preparing for gospel ministry from the Zeeland Classis if possible, or from any RCA church, on the basis of financial need.

Elton M. Eenigenburg Memorial Scholarship
Tuition scholarship awarded to a male student preparing for the gospel ministry in preaching in the Reformed Church in America and demonstrating financial need. Elton Eenigenburg served Western Seminary as professor or acting dean of the faculty from 1952-1985.

Faith Reformed Church of Zeeland, Michigan, Scholarship Fund
Scholarship granted to students from the Faith Reformed Church in Zeeland, or of the Zeeland Classis, or as named by the administration.

Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Endowed Scholarship
Created from the trust of Peter and Gertrude Hondorp by their son through the Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Gano, Trinity, and United Reformed Churches Scholarship Fund
Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence and financial need.

John W. Grooters II Memorial Scholarship Fund
Established by John and Luella Grooters on behalf of John W. Grooters II and granted to students preparing for full-time positions in ministry.

H.E.S. Inc., Los Angeles, Theological Scholarships
Tuition scholarships granted each year by the administration to full-time M.Div. students committed to the ministry, based on financial need.

Rev. Herman Harmelink and Thyrza Eringa Harmelink Scholarship
Established by Dr. Philip J. Harmelink in memory of the Rev. and Mrs. Herman Harmelink.

Donald and Vernon Hoffman Scholarship
Established by the two brothers, both Western Theological Seminary graduates. Vernon served as director of advancement and communications at Western.
Hoffman Family Scholarship
Established by the extended Hoffman family, which has sent thirteen members into the RCA pastorate, eleven of whom attended Western Theological Seminary. The thirteen include Benjamin, 1898; Benjamin Jay, 1938; Bruce, 1964; Craig, Donald, 1955; Harold, 1934; Harvey, 1935; James, John, 1874; Justin, 1925; Milton, 1914; Robert, 1977; Vernon, 1959. The award is to be granted to an RCA member planning to serve in this denomination.

Ella Jungling Scholarship Fund
Tuition scholarships granted each year by the administration.

The Jurries Scholarship Fund
A fund established by Mr. and Mrs. James (Virginia) Jurries to assist students with strong academic credentials who show promise of being outstanding pastors. The fund may be used as an incentive to encourage students who attend Western Seminary.

James P. Kamp Endowed Scholarship
Established through a gift from James P. Kamp.

Adrian Keppler Memorial Scholarship
Established by Thomas, Steven, Gregory, and Donald Thomas through Consumer Concrete Corporation to honor their grandfather, Adrian Keppler. Scholarships are granted to students demonstrating academic excellence and financial need. Preference is given to students from the Southwest Michigan Classis.

George and Elsie Kloote Scholarship
Established by a gift from the couple to assist needy students.

The Benjamin and Lucile Lemmen and Oliver and Angeline Kraay Scholarship Fund
Established by Russell J. and Gwendolyn L. Kraay in honor of their parents and awarded on the basis of academic excellence and financial need.

The Sena, Gertrude, and Margaret Lievense Scholarship Fund
Established by Margaret in memory of Sena and Gertrude Lievense to provide assistance to married students, preferably with children.

Linnea Nelson Scholarship Fund
Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence are granted to the highest ranking students in the entering junior class, and/or in the middler and senior classes.

Cornelius and Della Ooms Memorial Scholarship Fund
Tuition scholarships granted to students of the Ross Reformed Church, Gary, Indiana, or of the Illiana Classis, or as named by the administration.

John M. Osterhaven Memorial Scholarship Fund
Tuition scholarships granted annually by the administration.

Richard C. Oudersluys Scholarship
Established by the congregation of the Third Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan, to honor one of its long standing members, the Rev. Dr. Richard C. Oudersluys, who taught at Western Seminary for more than thirty-five years. Preference is given to Third Reformed Church members or candidates from the Holland Classis.

Jacob J. Prins Memorial Fund
Tuition scholarships granted to Hispanic, African-American, or American Indian; physically handicapped; or economically or educationally restricted students who have demonstrated financial need.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ridder, Sr. Fund
Presidential tuition scholarships based on academic excellence are granted each year to the highest ranking students in the middler and senior classes.
Ralph and Cheryl Schregardus Scholarship Fund  
Tuition assistance based on academic excellence and demonstrated financial need. Preference given to students from the Wisconsin Classis.

The Southgate Community Church Scholarship Fund, Classis of Lake Erie  
Funded by proceeds of the disbanded Southgate Community Church. Awards are granted to students based on financial need, with those from the Classis of Erie receiving first consideration.

Paul H. Tanis Scholarship Fund  
Scholarship granted to students preparing for youth ministry, domestic missionary service, international missionary service, or parish ministry.

Anna Mae Tenson Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Established through the estate of Ruth Tenson De Witte to provide scholarship money for students based on financial need.

Van Hamersveld Scholarship Fund  
Established by Dale and Dorothy Van Hamersveld. Tuition scholarships for women in the M.Div. program based on academic achievement and prospective Reformed Church in America ordination.

John J. and Lucille B. Van Heest Memorial Fund  
Established by John J. and Rhea V.H. Arnold. Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence and financial need.

The Rev. and Mrs. J.B.H. Van Lierop Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Established by their sons, Beryl, John, and Peter, and daughter, Joanne Izenbart. Tuition scholarship based on academic excellence and financial need.

Dick J. and Ethel Vanden Heuvel Scholarship Fund  
Scholarship assistance for RCA students based on financial need. Preference given to women students, then to older students with families.

Lawrence W. and Kathryn Middlebush Ver Sluis Scholarship Fund  
Awarded on the basis of financial need and intent to serve the Reformed Church in America. First consideration will be given to a member of North Park Reformed Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan; then to an RCA member from Southwest Michigan Classis; then to an RCA member.

Robert L. Wade and Lyda H. Wade Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Tuition scholarships granted by the administration.

James and Margaret Wayer Fund  
Presidential tuition scholarships based on academic excellence, granted each year to the highest ranking students in the middler and senior classes.

Jay Weener Scholarship Fund  
Established by family, friends, and members of the Second Reformed church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to honor the Rev. Dr. Jay Weener, long-time RCA pastor and professor of preaching at Western Theological Seminary.

Edward and Vera Wolfert Memorial Fund  
Subsidies for student housing based on academic excellence and demonstrated need.

The following endowed funds have been established to provide scholarship assistance to international students studying at Western Seminary.

Nancy Bedingfield International Scholarship Fund for Th.M. Students  
Established by members of the Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to honor the wife of their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Robert Bedingfield, with whom she served at Central for eight years.

Cornelia Dalenberg Scholarship Fund  
International students or students committed to mission service.
The Piet Family Scholarship Fund
Established by members, relatives and friends of the Piet family. Family members Wilma, Ann, and John Piet served as missionaries in India, Nepal, and Japan and on the faculty of Western Theological Seminary.

Mildred Schuppert Endowed Scholarship
Established through the estate of Mildred Schuppert, a long-time librarian at Western.

Gilbert, Mina and Margaret Vanden Broek Memorial Fund
Nellis and Pearl Wagner Overseas Graduate Student Scholarship Fund
John Rose Foreign Scholarship Fund
Agnes VanderHart Memorial Scholarship Fund

The following scholarships have been established for graduate study.

Erwin and Edith Bach Scholarship for Pastoral Care and Counseling
Established by sons David, Paul, and Philip to be awarded annually to a Western graduate who (1) has shown promise in pastoral care and counseling and (2) is seeking graduate training in counseling or psychotherapy.

Henry J. Beukema Graduate Scholarship
Established by the Rev. and Mrs. Henry J. Beukema to assist Western graduates who are preparing for a ministry in theological education. Recipients shall show promise for advancing Reformed theological scholarship by teaching or publishing in their chosen discipline. Financial need will be considered.

Osterhaven Graduate Scholarship
Established by John and Mattie L. Osterhaven to provide a graduate fellowship award to be determined by the faculty and administrative staff of Western Seminary.

Other grants and loan funds:

Peter C. Cook management seminar grants
Grants senior students travel expenses to attend the annual Institute for Successful Church Leadership at the Crystal Cathedral Congregation, Garden Grove, California.

Library Memorial Funds
Lena Kolkman Memorial Fund (for archives); John P. Luidens and G. John Kooiker Memorial Fund (for books); Lewis Scudder Memorial Fund (for books on Middle East study and missions); Menno and Ida Smith/Frank and Christine Mastenbroek Memorial Fund.

Student loan funds
Church Agency Loan Fund; The Rev. Donald Boyce Memorial Loan Fund; John De Haan Student Loan Fund; Perkins Loan Program (formerly NDSL); Western Theological Seminary Memorial Loan Fund, including the following memorial funds in the names of: John Benes, George R. Brandt, Francis and Reina De Jong, Nettie De Jong, Clarence Denekas, John Den Ouden, Mr. and Mrs. H. John Hoffs, Henry Huenemann, Marguerite E. Kinkema, Fanny Ludwig, Herman and Helen Meurs, Henry Mollema, Albertus Pieters, Rens-Van Westernburg, Randy Rosenberg, Henry and Minnie Ten Clay, Sr., Fanny Vande Bunte, Robert and Samuel Vander Ploeg, Lucille B. Van Heest, First Reformed Church, Ravenna, Michigan; anonymous donor.
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1996-1997 Academic Calendar

July 8-August 23
August 19-23
August 27-29
August 30
September 3
October 7-8
November 13
November 14-20
November 21
November 28-29
December 20-January 5
February 14
February 17-21
February 24
March 31-April 4
May 1
May 8
May 12
May 19-June 6

Summer Greek
M.R.E./Th.M. seminars
M.Div. orientation
All-Seminary retreat
First quarter begins
Fall reading and reflection days
First quarter ends
Fall recess
Second quarter begins
Thanksgiving recess
Christmas recess
Second quarter ends
Winter recess
Third quarter begins
Spring reading and reflection week
Awards convocation
Third quarter ends
Commencement
D.Min. seminars

1997-1998 Academic Calendar

July 7-August 22
August 25-29
September 3-4
September 5
September 8
October 13-17
November 21
November 24-28
December 1
December 19
January 5
February 20
February 23-27
March 2
April 6-10
May 7
May 14
May 18
May 26-June 12

Summer Greek
M.R.E./Th.M. seminars
M.Div. orientation
All-Seminary retreat
First quarter begins
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First quarter ends
Thanksgiving recess
Second quarter begins
Christmas recess begins
Classes resume
Second quarter ends
Winter recess
Third quarter begins
Spring reading and reflection week
Awards convocation
Third quarter ends
Commencement
D.Min. seminars
Western Theological Seminary
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