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Western Theological Seminary
WESTERN SEMINARY
A Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America

1998-2000 CATALOG
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.
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It is the purpose of Western Theological Seminary to prepare Christians called by God to lead the church in mission.

Established by the Reformed Church in America in 1866, Western Theological Seminary is an evangelical and ecumenical community of faith and learning in the Reformed tradition that serves the church of Jesus Christ. In covenant with the Reformed Church in America, Western equips men and women for Christ-centered, biblically based, theologically integrated, culturally sensitive, mission-oriented Christian leadership.

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 is dedicated to educating men and women to serve the world through the church of Jesus Christ. It nurtures students' spiritual and theological development through courses in professional ministry fields and active practice in various ministry settings, through biblical and theological study, and through its life as a community within the larger body of Christ.

Professional Ministry

The primary purpose of this seminary is to prepare 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 the Reformed church by preparing men and women for the tasks they will face as ministers and educators in churches and church-related organizations, chaplaincies, and missions. Western also welcomes students from many denominations and benefits from the enriching perspectives they bring. Increasingly students with a wide variety of vocational goals come to Western to deepen their Christian witness within those vocations.

This focus on applied ministry is central to Western’s mission. Faculty members bring practical ministry experience as well as strong academic credentials to their teaching task. Most degree programs are structured within an overarching 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 and practice 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 twelve, Western can provide the intimate atmosphere that best fosters learning. Professors are easily available 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 also 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 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.
Community Life

Many of Western's students come to this seminary out of the Reformed Church in America to prepare for ministry in the context of their denominational home and to deepen their understanding of the Reformed heritage. A significant number of others come from many different denominational backgrounds as Western increasingly becomes a center for theological study in the West Michigan area. While many students enter directly into a degree program, others come simply to test the possibility of a ministry vocation or to enrich their own theological understanding. In addition, each year a number of international students and practicing clergy come to Western to study for advanced degrees. Together these men and women form a student body that is diverse in age, in life and family circumstances, in experience, education, race, and religious tradition.

As each new class enters, its members become not only part of Western's student body, they also become part of a community that includes faculty and staff as well. 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 promote understanding and 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. These include becoming involved in local church life, serving or eating at the Community Kitchen, serving as student representatives to a variety of church bodies, and learning 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 a prosperous economy, while Holland's proximity to larger urban areas (25 miles to Grand Rapids, 150 miles to Chicago, 170 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. 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 John R. 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’s study, worship, and recreation in the relaxed and beautiful outdoor setting afford students and their families an opportunity to become acquainted with each other and the entire Western community.

Table Fellowship

Students are invited to gather with faculty and staff each morning for refreshments immediately following worship, and for all-seminary luncheons once each month. Lunch at the Community Kitchen (p. 13) 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

The Commons is a newsletter for Western alumni/ae and friends. It is published three times a year.

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

Poiema is published by the student body, under the auspices of the Student Expression Team.
The Community Kitchen

The Community Kitchen is a soup kitchen sponsored by the 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 ministry which links Western with the community in 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 offices of the Gospel and Our Culture Network, whose work is coordinated by Professor George Hunsberger. The network is a collaborative association of church leaders who share the purpose of providing useful research regarding the gospel’s encounter with North American culture and encouraging 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 our 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.

Western's annual guest lecture series brings scholars and church leaders from a variety of fields to campus to address students, faculty, and the interested public on topics of current interest to the church and the theological community. Frequent one-day workshops draw local church leaders together to work on practical ministry issues. Students are encouraged to attend these events to build their understanding and 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. Several endowed conferences enable Western to bring internationally recognized scholars and some of the most exciting and challenging voices in the contemporary church to campus. Recent guests have included pastoral theologian Eugene Peterson, Old Testament scholar Ellen Davis, Christian educator James E. Davison, and church leadership consultant Lyle Schaller.

Intercultural travel experiences are a required part of the Master of Divinity and Master of Religious Education programs. Two such experiences every year, typically one in Central America or Israel 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 directed by Professor George Brown, Jr.
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 handicapped 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. Students also have access to the vast information resources of the Internet through terminals in the library.

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 depict archaeology, church history, church art, and architecture. The Kolkman Memorial Archive (housed at the Joint Archives of Holland in the Van Wylen Library) contains papers documenting the history of Western Theological Seminary and of the Reformed church in West Michigan.

The Cook Center for Theological Research provides an excellent environment for study, offering study carrels, tables, reading areas, a seminar room, and computer access to the library’s catalog on each floor. Audiovisual equipment and computer workstations 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 availability 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 apartments to its students. Apartments are available as single bedrooms, communally sharing kitchen and living rooms; or as one-, two-, or three-bedroom units. Handicapped accessible units are available. Many of Western’s students live in an on-campus townhouse complex, which is built around a central green and includes play space for children. These 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 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. 53, for details).
Faculty and Staff

Resident Faculty
Emeriti Faculty
Adjunct Faculty
Administrative Staff
"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:**
- BF110 Biblical Hebrew
- BF111 Hebrew Translation and Interpretation
- BF510 Pentateuch
- BF514 Seminar in Psalms
- BF517 Wisdom Literature of the Bible
- BF520 Esther
- CM100 Worship in Spirit and Truth
- EM616 Interpreting the Common Lectionary

**Carol Bechtel**

Associate Professor of Old Testament

A.B. Hope College  
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary  
Ph.D. Yale University

Before joining Western’s faculty, Carol Bechtel 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, and she is the author of two such study guides: Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel’s Messiah and Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy: The Bible and Brahms’s Requiem. She has also written Glimpses of Glory: Daily Reflections on the Bible, is a monthly columnist for Presbyterians Today, and is at work on a study of the book of Job and a commentary on Esther.

Dr. Bechtel is also a member of the Commission on Christian Worship of the Reformed Church in America.
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, 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.

"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:
- BF103 Old Testament Life and Witness
- BF110 Biblical Hebrew
- BF111 Hebrew Translation and Interpretation
- BF513 Studies in Prophets
- BF522 Old Testament Narratives
- BF523 Old Testament Theology
- BF527 Literature of the Second Temple Period
- BF614 Hebrew Reading
- DM810 D.Min. Orientation Seminar
- EM411 Studies in Old Testament Traditions
- EM514 Psalms, Prophets, and Social Ministries
Christian religious education is about more than schooling and classrooms. Worship, community, and service also form faith in adults, children, and youth. I am committed to equipping 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.

Courses:
CM531 Curriculum Evaluation and Design
CM571 Church Leadership
EM410 Orientation Seminar: Christian Formation & Discipleship
EM441 Ministry Unit
EM574/CM532 Equipping for Teaching & Leadership
EM645 Transformational Learning with Adults
EM722/CM621 Christian Education of Adults
FM110 Learning Web: Engagement with Christian Practices in Ministry Settings
FM413 Launching Your Ministry

George Brown, Jr.
Professor of Christian Education & 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. An annotated bibliography of religious education literature, Religious Education 1960-1993, co-authored with Dr. D. Campbell Wyckoff, was published in 1995.

At Western Dr. Brown serves as associate dean, directs the M.Div. and D.Min., and CONnECTS programs, and teaches an annual summer seminar for entering Master of Religious Education candidates, as well as Christian education courses throughout the year.
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, the Hope College board of trustees 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.

"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 in the Reformed Church in America to do the same!"

Courses:
CM100 Worship in Spirit and Truth
CM110 Ministry of the Word in Proclamation & Sacrament
CM555 Seeker Sensitive Preaching
CM556 Preaching and the Oral Tradition
CM557 Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible
CM559 Planning a Year’s Preaching
CM560 Advanced Readings in Preaching
CM567 Spirituality for Preaching
CM568 Preaching and Pain
CM569 Preaching and Truth
FM120 Learning Web: Taking Responsibility as a Leader
"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:
- BF102 New Testament Life and Witness
- 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
- MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics

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 a member of the Reformed Church in America’s 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.

Dr. Brownson is the author of Speaking the Truth in Love: New Testament Resources for a Missional Hermeneutic, and he often contributes to Perspectives, a Journal of Reformed Thought and the Reformed Review. Other recent publications include articles for the International Review of Mission and Reformed Liturgy and Music.
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 thirty 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 theological 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 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:
TF100  The Church’s Life & Witness (150-1536 A.D.)
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
“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.”

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 interests 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 the author of Bearing the Witness of the Spirit: Lesslie Newbigin’s Theology of Cultural Plurality, co-author of Missional Church: A Theological Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America, and co-editor of Christian Ethics in Ecumenical Context: Theology, Culture, and Politics in Dialogue and The Church Between Gospel and Culture. He has also contributed many articles and reviews to missiological, Reformed, and Presbyterian journals.

Courses:
CM570/EM575 Equipping for Evangelism
FM100 Learning Web: Being Formed in Christ and Discerning God’s Presence
FM110 Learning Web: Engagement with Christian Practices in Ministry Settings
FM410 Gospel, Culture, and Ministry
MT210 Orientation Seminar
MT240 Seminar in Contextual Theology
TF111 Missional Church
Christopher B. Kaiser  
Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology

A.B. Harvard University  
Ph.D. in astrogeophysics, University of Colorado  
M.Div. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Ph.D. in Christian dogmatics and divinity, University of Edinburgh

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. He has been part of Western’s faculty since 1976. He has also 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. There, he conducted 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. An expanded version of that book, entitled, Creational Theology and the History of Physical Science: The Creationist Tradition from Basil to Bohr, was published in 1997.

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:
DM830 D.Min. Project Seminar
TF112 The Doctrines of God, Christ & Humanity
TF511 Biblical and Secular Views of Humanity
TF512 Biblical and Scientific 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
Wesley Kiel
Interim Director of Formation for Ministry

A.B. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
D.Min. Western Theological Seminary

“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 interim 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 the congregations in a partnership of formation for ministry.”

Wes Kiel comes to his present role at Western from thirty-nine years of experience as a solo, senior, and associate pastor. Most recently he served as executive pastor of the Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan. He has participated actively in the life of the Reformed Church in America as a member of various committees, commissions, and task groups. He also works as a church consultant.
Stanley A. Rock
Florence M. Charavay Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling

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. Dr. Rock has served on Reformed Church in America task forces on evangelism, leadership, and problem pregnancy/abortion. He is also active in community organizations that 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.

"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."

Courses:
CM111 Caring and Empowering
CM510 Orientation to Marriage & Family Counseling
CM512 Ministry in Group Relationships
CM611 Guided Research in Counseling
DM810 D.Min. Orientation Seminar
EM472 Equipping for Pastoral Care & Counseling
EM473 Equipping for Small Group Ministries
"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:
* DM820  Candidate Seminar
* TF555  Theology & Ministry in the Computer Age
* TF626  Theological Bibliography & Research Methods

**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. He has led Western into familiarity with the new tools of the computer age while fostering 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 Theological 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.
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.

"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:
CM111 Caring and Empowering
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, & Peace
EM723/CM554 Children and Worship
Theology is articulating the faith of the church for each new age. When it is grounded in scripture, responsive to the needs of the church, and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, it fulfills its task as a servant of the church. My own call to ministry is to help students see the great beauty, drama, and strength of the gospel—and then, how to express the gospel for the church today.

Courses:
- CM110 Ministry of the Word in Proclamation and Sacrament
- FM120 Learning Web: Taking Responsibility as a Leader
- TF110 Thinking Theologically
- TF120 The Doctrines of the Holy Spirit, Salvation, and Eschatology
- TF523 Doctrine of the Atonement

Leanne Van Dyk
Associate Professor of Reformed Theology

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

Leanne Van Dyk combines her love of teaching with a passion for the work of theology and a conviction that the teaching theologian must always keep in mind the present needs of the church. Her years in San Francisco, where she served on the faculty of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, sharpened her focus on the issues of cultural diversity that face the church today. She brings to Western an excitement for the rich resources within the Reformed tradition that speak theologically across cultural and religious boundaries.

Dr. Van Dyk has also served as a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California; as a member-in-residence at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey; as a member of the Wabash Center’s Consultation on Theological Education; and on the Catechism Committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is the author of The Desire of Divine Love: The Atonement Theology of John McLeod Campbell and serves on the editorial boards of Perspectives, Journal of Reformed Thought and the Banner.
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, Commission on Theology, 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 effectively communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ, we must be keenly aware of the contours of our culture. As we study the history of the church we learn how the gospel became rooted in particular cultures. This is why I find church history so relevant and exciting.”

Courses:  
TF101 The Church’s Life & Witness (1536-present)  
TF417 The American Experience
Emeriti Faculty

James I. Cook  
Anton Biemolt 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  
Cornelius Van der Meulen 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

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

M. Eugene Osterhaven  
Albertus C. Van Raalte 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

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

Curtis Birkey  
Advanced pastoral counseling  
B.A. Goshen College  
M.A. Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries  
M.S.W. Western Michigan University  
D.S.W. candidate, Loyola University of Chicago

Dawn Boelkins  
Biblical languages & director of the Th.M. Program  
B.A. Michigan State University  
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Steven C. Bouma-Prediger  
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

Steven Chase  
Spirituality and Philosophical Theology  
B.A. University of Washington  
M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary  
Ph.D. Fordham University

Inagrace Dietterich  
Congregational development  
B.A. University of Iowa  
M.A. Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Ph.D. University of Chicago Divinity School

Ken Eriks  
Pastoral theology  
A.B. Hope College  
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary  
D.Min. Princeton Theological Seminary

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

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

David J. Reese
United Church of Christ history and polity
B.A. University of Dubuque
M.Div. McCormick Theological Seminary
M.A. University of Northern Iowa
D.Min. Hartford Seminary

Marchiene Rienstra
Spiritual formation and guidance
B.A. Calvin College
M.Div. Calvin 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

Colloquy Leaders

David Blauw
Director of pastoral care,
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B.A. Hope College
M.S. Lora College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
D.Min. Princeton Theological Seminary

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Tom Schwanda
Adjunct professor, Fuller Theological Seminary;
Associate for Spiritual Formation, Reformed Church in America
B.A. Moravian College
M.Div. New Brunswick Theological Seminary
D.Min. Fuller Theological Seminary

Leigh Van Kempen
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M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

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Associate pastor, First Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
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M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
D.Min. candidate, Western Theological Seminary

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Pastor, Maple Avenue Ministries, Holland, Michigan
B.A. Calvin College
M.Div. Calvin Theological Seminary

Marlin Vis
Senior pastor, Beechwood Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
B.A. Calvin College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
D.Min. Western Theological Seminary

Barbara Wright
Associate pastor, Hope Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan
B.A. Northwestern College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
Administrative Staff

Office of the President (left to right)
Marilyn Essink, administrative assistant to the president and secretary to the Biblical & Theological Fields
Dennis Voskuil, president

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

Business Office (left to right)
Myra Bonzelaar, receptionist & secretarial assistant
Sara Russell, manager of the bookstore and The Bridge
Mary De Blaay, accountant
Norman Donkersloot, business manager
William Van Auker, superintendent of building & grounds
Beardslee Library (left to right)
Ann E. Nieuwkoop, technical services librarian
Paul M. Smith, director

Office of Advancement and Communications (left to right)
Laurie Baron, communications coordinator
Kenneth Neevel, director of advancement and communications
Vernon Hoffman, assistant to the president for advancement
Sharon Vande Vusse, administrative assistant for advancement & communications
Harold Ritsema, director of planned giving
Jacalyn Soper, secretarial assistant

Administrative Support to Faculty (left to right)
Sally Vis, administrative assistant to the Christian Ministry Field, placement, & church vocations
Beth Smith, administrative assistant to the Christian Ministry Field
Judy Bos, administrative assistant to the faculty and the Gospel and Our Culture Network
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:

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.)

Master of Theology (Th.M.)

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

The Master of Divinity degree prepares students for ordained ministry, and the Master of Religious Education degree leads to 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 degree program 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 almost half of the necessary credits toward an M.Div. degree in evening courses.
Master of Divinity

Director - George Brown Jr., Ph.D.

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is the degree program that ordinarily leads to the ordained ministry. It requires a minimum of three years of full-time study to complete the degree. The applicant 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 or cultural anthropology, economics, political science, and education. At least six semesters, including a minimum of two semesters 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.

**Minimum Undergraduate Requirements**

The admissions committee is guided by the following criteria in determining the minimum liberal arts content of a bachelor's degree or its equivalent for an applicant to Western's M.Div. Program:

- two semesters of world civilization or world history;
- one semester of English composition or two advanced English courses with substantial writing requirements;
- one semester of English literature;
- one semester of philosophy;
- one semester of psychology;
- one semester of sociology or cultural anthropology.

**Requirements for the Degree**

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree requires 96 semester credit hours. All M.Div. candidates are required to take introductory courses in the Biblical, Theological, and Christian Ministry Fields, as well as Formation for Ministry courses called Learning Webs. In addition to the required courses, students select courses around a particular vocational emphasis.

M.Div. orientation is held each year during the week prior to the beginning of the first semester and is a required component of the program. During orientation, students are introduced to the M.Div. curriculum and receive information crucial to seminary life. They are assigned to peer groups for the first-year learning web. Through worship, conversation, and spiritual autobiography, they begin to form a community of faith and learning. And they undergo evaluation of their capacities and competencies to provide a baseline for future growth and to help each one set individual learning goals.
Formation for Ministry
Interim Director - Wesley Kiel

Formation for Ministry is the dimension 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 M.Div. candidates form pastoral identities, develop and practice ministry skills, and gain intercultural experience in ministry. Formation for Ministry has several components: learning webs, teaching churches, a Christian formation retreat, an intercultural immersion, peer groups, and mentors. (See page 69 for Formation for Ministry course descriptions.)

Learning Webs
A learning web is a design for experiential learning. Through the learning web, men and women who are preparing for leadership in the church blend their ministry experiences, classroom learning, and theological discernment into a well-integrated theological education. This innovative approach is accomplished at Western with the help of the following specialized resources:

A learning web team consisting of the Formation for Ministry (FM) coordinator, learning web directors (each learning web has two core faculty members as directors), peer group facilitators, and teaching church mentors, who meet monthly to coordinate the M.Div. candidate's formation for ministry and to confer about the candidate's progress.

Ministry settings—called “teaching churches”—in which students can observe, experience, and practice ministry, and an experienced pastor or layperson—called a “mentor”—who can serve as a model and guide.

A group of peers with whom students reflect on their ministry experiences in a structured environment that is both supportive and challenging, and a skilled group leader—called a "facilitator"—who can ensure the security and the discipline of the peer group experience.

Weekly seminars led by professors and adjunct faculty of Western Seminary in the areas of specific subjects such as Bible, theology, history, preaching, worship, care, teaching, and evangelism.

The Flow of Formation for Ministry
There are three learning webs, one for each year of the three-year M.Div. Program.

The first year M.Div. candidate begins the academic year by participating in an orientation seminar. Here the candidate meets the rest of the entering class of students, begins to build a community of learning and faith, is introduced to the curriculum, and learns about the expectations of the first-year learning web.

A primary setting for the M.Div. is the teaching church. The teaching church provides the M.Div. candidate with an opportunity for supervised ministry. During the first year, the M.Div. candidate will meet weekly in a peer group, under the supervision of a trained facilitator who helps the group reflect critically on ministry experiences. With the help of the members of the peer group, the facilitator, teaching church mentor, and learning web directors, the candidate formulates a learning covenant. This covenant consists of the learning goals the candidate needs to achieve in three
areas: cultural awareness, spiritual formation, and discernment of call. Central to the formulation and development of the learning covenant is the learning web seminar in which the candidate participates.

First-year courses are designed to interact with the themes and learning goals of the first-year learning web and with the candidate’s ministry experience in the teaching church. The January term consists of a spiritual formation retreat.

Caring, teaching, and evangelizing are themes of the second-year learning web. The resources of peer group, learning web seminar, teaching church experience, mentor, and second-year courses all focus on these three themes. The January term consists of an intercultural immersion, in a place like Chiapas or Israel.

Preaching, worship and group leadership, and theological vision for ministry are the themes of the third year. The resources of peer group, learning web seminar, teaching church experience, mentor, and third-year courses all focus on these three themes. The January term consists of a course focusing on church government and standards. At the beginning of each year’s learning web the M.Div. candidate’s initial capacities and competencies related to that year’s three themes are assessed. This provides a base line for setting learning goals and developing a learning covenant. At the end of each year, the candidate’s progress toward the achievement of the learning goals is evaluated.

**Basic Requirements**

In order to graduate with an M.Div. degree, a candidate must successfully complete the following Formation for Ministry requirements: three learning webs (FM100, Being Formed in Christ and Discerning God’s Presence; FM 110, Engagement with Christian Practices in Ministry Settings; and FM120, Taking Responsibility as a Leader); participate in FM 101, Retreat for Christian Formation, and FM 111, Intercultural Immersion Experience; and complete 800 hours of experiential learning in a supervised setting (400 hours of which must be full time).

**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.

An M.Div. candidate seeking ordination in the Reformed Church in America must apply to his or her classis through the home church consistory 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 a close partnership with other denominational boards and candidate committees responsible for the formation of men and women for ordained ministry.
The Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) program is designed to train people in the equipping ministries of the church and society. Graduates have found employment in such vocations as Christian education direction, youth ministry, church music, hospice care, adult ministries, early childhood ministries, and in some cases as pastors of churches. 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 60 credit hours for graduation. The following courses are required: EM410, 411, 412, 471, 472, 510, 501, 511, 512, 514, 576, 647, and 710. Students also must complete five self-designed learning projects called ministry units. Up to three additional learning units may be completed as part of the program.

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.

M.R.E. In-Ministry

The Master of Religious Education In-Ministry degree requires 60 credit hours for graduation. The following courses are required: EM410, 411, 412, 471, 472, 510, 501, 511, 512, 514, 576, 647, and 710. Students also must complete five self-designed learning projects called ministry units. Up to three additional learning units may be completed as part of the program.

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.
Doctor of Ministry

Director - George Brown, Jr., Ph.D.

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) 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 challenges the participant to cultivate a life-long habit of continuing education that enriches all areas of pastoral competency.

Western's D.Min. program is distinguished by its self-designed character and consultative process. Self-designed learning means that candidates have the flexibility to shape the program around their particular learning needs, while at the same time facing the challenge of developing a clearly defined focus in the program. Candidates must be able to work collaboratively with peer learners and a two-person faculty supervisory committee.

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 served a minimum of two years in ministry after receiving the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent. Three to five years of ministry experience or more is preferred.
Master of Theology

Director - Dawn Boelkins, M.Div.

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) program assembles a community of international scholars who pursue advanced study to enhance their ministries. By design, the twelve-month (25 semester 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 the 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 (1 semester credit-hour), one seminar in contextual theology (1.5 hours), one seminar in research design (1 hour), one seminar in intercultural hermeneutics (2 hours), and completion of a master's thesis (6 hours).

The remaining 12 hours of course work are taken in the candidate's chosen focus area, in consultation with his or her advisor and the Th.M. director. These courses are chosen from among the upper level courses in the M.Div. or M.R.E. curriculum.
Non-Degree-Seeking

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.

Non-degree-seeking students may not register for more than 15 semester credit hours without receiving permission from the academic dean. FM courses and directed-study courses are not available to non-degree-seeking students.

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 that 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 graduate degrees oriented toward ministerial leadership—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 a variety of 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 2.5 grade point average (GPA) 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 30 semester credit hours in residence during the senior year. Students seeking to transfer to Western’s M.R.E. program must earn at least 18 semester 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.

Applicants to Western’s D.Min. or Th.M. programs must have earned an M.Div. degree from a school accredited by ATS or another recognized theological school’s accrediting body in order to be admitted as a candidate for either of these degrees.
Non-degree-seeking applicants:

Persons interested in taking courses for personal enrichment, to equip themselves for a specific ministry within a congregation, or to explore a sense of vocation 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. 42-49).

Tuition and Fee Schedules

Tuition and fee schedules for students matriculated prior to 1998 are available in the business office.

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

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<th>Service</th>
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Each semester the dean’s office publishes a drop date for courses. Any course discontinued by a student prior to that date bears no academic penalty. Tuition is refunded if a course is dropped prior to, but not after, that date. A financial penalty will be applied to any class registrations that occur after the posted registration deadline.

Free audits for certain courses are permitted to spouses of full-time degree students by application to the academic dean.
Housing

Applications for on-campus housing can be made after a student is accepted to Western. In 1998, monthly rents for townhouse apartments are: one-bedroom, $360; two-bedroom, $410; three-bedroom, $510. 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 $175,000 is also available through the Reformed Church in America 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 three credit hours, except where otherwise indicated. Since Western Seminary is in transition to a new curriculum, there are two different course-numbering patterns. All courses numbered from 100-199 are required courses in the newly revised M.Div. curriculum. Courses numbered 500-699 serve as vocational emphasis courses in the newly revised M.Div. curriculum. These courses fulfill area requirements and electives under Western's old curriculum.

Biblical Field

Required Courses

BF100 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK
An introduction to New Testament Greek vocabulary, grammatical forms, and sentence structure using inductive learning methods, with emphasis on New Testament Greek as a resource for ministry.

BF101 NEW TESTAMENT TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION
Continues BF100, with special emphasis upon syntax and translation. Introduces the tools and principles of biblical interpretation. Emphasis is on engaging the New Testament in its own linguistic, historical, and canonical context.

BF102 NEW TESTAMENT LIFE AND WITNESS
J. Brownson
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the New Testament. Emphasis is placed upon missiological interactions among gospel, culture, and tradition in the New Testament writings as the foundation for the church's witness.

BF103 OLD TESTAMENT LIFE AND WITNESS
Boogaart
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the Old Testament. Emphasis is placed upon the worldviews of the Old Testament as the foundation for the church's mission.

BF110 BIBLICAL HEBREW
An introduction to biblical Hebrew vocabulary, grammatical forms, and sentence structure, with emphasis on reading the biblical text and using biblical Hebrew as a resource for ministry.

BF111 HEBREW TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION
Continues BF110, with special emphasis upon syntax and translation. Introduces the tools and principles of biblical interpretation. Emphasis is on engaging the Old Testament in its own linguistic, historical, and canonical context.

BF120 THE OLD TESTAMENT & CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
Bechtel
Seeks to synthesize vision for proclaiming and teaching the gospel through the study of selected texts and themes from the Old Testament. 2 credits.

BF121 THE NEW TESTAMENT & CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
Seeks to synthesize vision for proclaiming and teaching the gospel through the study of selected texts and themes from the New Testament. 2 credits.
Advanced Courses, Old Testament

BF510 SEMINAR IN PENTATEUCH
Bechtel
An exegetical, cultural, and historical study of the Pentateuch with a focus on the book of Exodus.

BF513 STUDIES IN PROPHETS
Boogaart
The role of prophets in Israelite society, their theology, and their impact on Western culture.

BF514 SEMINAR IN PSALMS
Bechtel
An exegetical study of selected psalms in the context of both the Old Testament and the larger canon of Scripture. Attention is also given to the role of the psalms in the liturgical, devotional, and theological life of the church.

BF517 WISDOM LITERATURE OF THE BIBLE
Bechtel
Explores the forms, vocabulary, and concepts of wisdom in the Bible, emphasizing Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes.

BF522 OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVES
Bechtel, Boogaart
A study of the artistry and theology of Israelite storytelling.

BF523 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY
Boogaart
Critical analysis of recent attempts at presenting an Old Testament theology.

BF527 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 better to appreciate the continuity between the Testaments.

Advanced Courses, New Testament

BF530 LETTER TO THE ROMANS
Cook
An introduction and overview of the letter, together with exegetical study of selected portions.

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: BF102 or equivalent.
BF532 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN
J. Brownson
Considers important historical, literary, hermeneutical, and theological issues in the Gospel of John.
Prerequisite: BF102 or equivalent.

BF534 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES
Cook
Introductory material combined with an understanding of the entire book and the exegesis of selected passages.

BF535 INTERPRETING THE PARABLES
J. 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: BF102 or equivalent.

BF537 NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY
J. Brownson

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.

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.

Other 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, 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 Frederick Buechner.
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.

TF100 THE CHURCH’S LIFE & WITNESS (150-1536)
Bruggink
A study of the history of the church and its mission from 150-1536. Attention given to ways in which the church’s life and faith have shaped and been shaped by its various contexts and experiences and by its various forms of worship, proclamation, discipleship, and governance.

TF101 THE CHURCH’S LIFE & WITNESS (1536-PRESENT)
Voskuil
A study of the history of the church and its missionary expansion from 1536 to the present. Attention given to the American church and to the student’s denominational heritage, and the ways its life and faith have been shaped by its various contexts, experiences, forms of worship, proclamation, discipleships, and governance.

TF110 THINKING THEOLOGICALLY
Van Dyk
An introduction to the art of theological reflection as the dynamic interaction within Christian formation of biblical witness, Christian tradition, and cultural and social context, which together disclose the mystery of God’s presence and activity in the world.

TF111 MISSIONAL CHURCH
Hunsberger
Develops a theological vision for the life and witness of the church in North America, in light of the church’s mission, and explores strategies for empowering the church to clarify and embrace its mission.
Prerequisite: TF110.

TF112 THE DOCTRINES OF GOD, CHRIST, & HUMANITY
Kaiser
Explores who God is and what God has done in creation, the story of humanity, and the life of Christ as recorded in Scripture and celebrated in the church’s creeds and sacraments.
Prerequisite: TF110.

TF120 THE DOCTRINES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, SALVATION, AND ESCHATOLOGY
Van Dyk
Develops a comprehensive understanding of God’s salvation in and beyond history through the work of the Holy Spirit.
Prerequisite: TF110.

TF121 CHRISTIAN ETHICS
Van Dyk
Explores how the theological vision of the Christian community expresses itself in specific intentions, practices, and values, and how Christian communities can grow in moral discernment.
Prerequisite: TF110.

TF450 RCA STANDARDS (J-TERM)
A survey of the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dort designed to highlight distinctive elements of the Reformed tradition and to prepare RCA candidates for their ordination examinations. 1.5 credits.
Advanced Courses, Systematic Theology

TF510 THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
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 & SECULAR VIEWS OF HUMANITY
Hesselink
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 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
van Dyk
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 AND 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 other seminal works.

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.

TF523 DOCTRINE OF THE ATONEMENT
Van Dyk
This course will survey the rich variety in the doctrine of the atonement throughout Christian history, will examine the range of important theological issues and themes in the doctrine, and will raise lively pastoral issues that surround this doctrine. Sources will include the biblical materials, devotional and liturgical texts, and a selection of theological materials from the patristic period to the present.
Advanced Courses, Historical Theology

TF530 EARLY CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIANS
Kaiser
Readings from primary sources of the second century. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.
Prerequisite: TF100 or TF112.

TF531 ANTE-NICENE THEOLOGIANS
Kaiser
Readings from primary sources of the third century. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.
Prerequisite: TF530.

TF532 ATHANASIUS
Kaiser
Selected readings featuring the classic, On the Incarnation of the Word. Topics include the doctrine of the Trinity, Creation, Christology, and the Atonement.
Prerequisite: TF100 or TF112.

TF533 NICENE & POST-NICENE THEOLOGIANS
Kaiser
Selected readings trace the development of patristic theology after the Council of Nicea. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.
Prerequisite: TF531.

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. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.
Prerequisite: TF100 or TF112.

TF535 THEOLOGY OF AUGUSTINE
Kaiser
Readings in Augustine’s later theological works, especially those that influenced the Protestant Reformation. Seven weeks; 1.5 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.

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
Hunsberger
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, Ethics

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.

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 AND MINISTRY IN THE COMPUTER AGE
Smith
How should the church proclaim the gospel in a world pervaded by computer technology? Through readings, discussions, 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.

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, AND 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.

Other Elective Courses

TF610 TRAVEL SEMINAR STUDIES: THE CITIES OF JOHN AND PAUL
Bruggink
Preparation for participation in the seminar to the cities of Philippi, Thessaloniki, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Patmos and the island of the Apocalypse, as well as a survey of the theology and liturgy of the Greek Orthodox Church.

TF610 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
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 & MINISTRY ACROSS CULTURES
Hunsberger
An introduction to the intercultural dimension of the church's life and mission, including insights drawn from 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
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.

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 Beresford, 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.

CM100 WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH
*T. Brown, Bechtel*
A comprehensive understanding of worship as the celebration of God's worth accompanies the introduction of the skill and artistry of sermon preparation and delivery.

CM110 THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD IN PROCLAMATION AND SACRAMENT
*T. Brown, Van Dyk*
Builds upon CM100 with attention given to finding one's own "voice" for preaching and integrating the ministry of preaching with the sacramental life of the church.
Prerequisite: CM100.

CM111 CARING AND EMPOWERING
*Rock, Stewart*
An exploration of those forms of pastoral presence and action which nurture and empower all of God's people for ministry and mission, with attention given to the pastoral and teaching roles.

CM120 LEADING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES
An introduction into the theory and experience of Christian leadership from a missional and theological perspective. Meets throughout the senior year. 2 credits.
Corequisite: FM 120.

CM121 CHURCH GOVERNANCE AND DENOMINATIONAL STANDARDS (J-TERM)
*Kiel, Hesselink*
Within the context of an overall theology of church governance, explores the candidate's specific ecclesiastical tradition (including polity and standards) as a framework for mission. 2 credits.

CM450 RCA POLITY (J-TERM)
*A survey of the Book of Church Order and the organizational theory, structure, and function of the Reformed Church in America. One half credit.

Advanced Courses, Pastoral Care & Counseling

CM510 ORIENTATION TO MARRIAGE AND 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 instructor prior to registration.
Prerequisite: CM111 or permission of the instructor.

CM511 ADVANCED PASTORAL COUNSELING
*Birkey*
Skill development in integrating theology, psychological theory, and pastoral counseling relationships, using seminar discussions, reality practice, and case material.
Prerequisite: CM111.

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 church members 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 6 hours of credit. Other approved practicums in clinical settings receive 4 hours of credit.

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. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.

CM515 SHAME, ABUSE, ADDICTIONS AND THE CHURCH
Topp
A review of the psychosocial/spiritual dynamics of shame, abuse, and addictions with consideration of how congregations can provide environments of prevention/education and recovery from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and addictive behaviors. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.

Advanced Courses, Religious Education

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.

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.

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 & 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. Seven weeks; 1.5 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. Seven weeks; 1.5 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. Seven weeks; 1.5 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. Seven weeks; 1.5 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 practices of organization, management, and leadership in the church; principles and practices 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 learning to offer spiritual direction to others.

CM588  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORY AND 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. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.
Other Elective Courses

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

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.

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 one 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?

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.
Formation for Ministry

FM100 LEARNING WEB: BEING FORMED IN CHRIST AND DISCERNING GOD'S PRESENCE
Boogaart, Kiel, Hunsberger
Focuses upon the intersections of the Christian person, the Christian community, the wider community and world, and God's presence among them all. It provides for growth in Christian formation in community; awareness of the psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of life; and discernment of God's calling in the midst of the church's vocation. The M.Div. candidate is expected to develop appropriate designs for addressing the objectives under the guidance of the learning web director and FM coordinator, and in collaboration with a peer group and mentor. Meets throughout the academic year. 6 credits. Corequisite: TF110.

FM101 RETREAT FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION (J-TERM)
Boogaart, Rock, Rienstra
A spiritual retreat using autobiography, peer engagement, and the spiritual disciplines to assist students in clarifying and embracing God's call upon their lives. 2 credits. Corequisite: FM100.

FM110 LEARNING WEB: ENGAGEMENT WITH CHRISTIAN PRACTICES IN MINISTRY SETTINGS
Rock, G. Brown, Hunsberger
Caring, teaching, and evangelizing are the three strands of the second learning web. The M.Div. candidate is expected to develop appropriate designs for addressing the objectives under the guidance of the learning web director and FM coordinator and in collaboration with a peer group and mentor. Meets throughout the academic year. 6 credits. Corequisite: CM111, TF111.

FM111 INTERCULTURAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE (J-TERM)
Provides cognitive and experiential knowledge of the global character of the church's witness and mission in North America and around the world, with concern for the problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism. 2 credits.

FM120 LEARNING WEB: TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AS A LEADER
T. Brown, Van Dyk
Preaching and worship leadership, building and sustaining Christian communities, and theological vision in the service of the church's life and witness are the three strands of the third learning web. The M.Div. candidate is expected to develop appropriate designs for addressing the objectives under the guidance of the learning web director and FM coordinator, and in collaboration with a peer group and mentor. Meets throughout the academic year. 6 credits. Corequisite: CM120.
Summer Seminars

EM410 ORIENTATION SEMINAR:
CHRISTIAN FORMATION & 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; 1 credit.

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, 1999.

EM710 EQUIPPING FOR PARTNERSHIP, JUSTICE, AND 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, 2000.

Required Courses

EM411 OLD TESTAMENT LIFE AND WITNESS
Boogaart
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the Old Testament. Emphasis is placed upon the worldviews of the Old Testament as the foundation for the church’s mission.

EM412 NEW TESTAMENT LIFE AND WITNESS
J. Brownson
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the New Testament. Emphasis is placed upon missiological interactions among gospel, culture, and tradition in the New Testament writings as the foundation for the church’s witness.

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 CARING AND EMPOWERING
Rock, Stewart
An exploration of those forms of pastoral presence and action which nurture and empower all of God’s people for ministry and mission, with attention given to the pastoral and teaching roles.

EM501 THE CHURCH’S LIFE AND WITNESS (1536-PRESENT)
Voskuil
A study of the history of the church and its missionary expansion from 1536 to the present. Attention given to the American church and to the student’s denominational heritage, and the ways its life and faith have been shaped by its various contexts, experiences, forms of worship, proclamation, discipleships, and governance.

EM511 MISSIONAL CHURCH
Hunsberger
Develops a theological vision for the life and witness of the church in North America, in light of the church’s mission, and explores strategies for empowering the church to clarify and embrace its mission.

EM512 CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
Hunsberger
Provides an overview of central doctrines of the historic Christian faith, with particular focus upon an understanding of the Triune God.

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

EM576/CM530 LIVING THE CHRISTIAN 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.

EM647 INTERCULTURAL IMMERSION
Stewart
Provides cognitive and experiential knowledge of the global character of the church’s witness and mission in North America and around the world, with concern for the problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism. 2 credits.

Ministry Units and Elective Courses

EM441 MINISTRY UNITS I-V
Stewart, G. Brown
Five 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.
EM615  ROMANS  
Hesselink
An exegesis of Romans with attention to its nature, purpose, and theology.

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.
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 program of study or which will strengthen them in a particular area 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 program of study or which will strengthen them in a particular area 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 a project 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 students an opportunity to develop a mature practice of ministry characterized by careful scholarship. 12 credits.
MT210 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. 1 credit.

MT220 RESEARCH DESIGN
J. Brownson, Hunsberger
A seminar designed to support the writing of the thesis proposal. Provides a collaborative context for selection of research topics, refinement of research methodologies, and the articulation of a thesis proposal. Meets monthly during the first semester. 1 credit.

MT230 SEMINAR IN CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS
Sterk
Develops theoretical orientations and methodological skills for contextual analysis with three foci: sociological, cultural, and psychological. Meets during the first half of the first semester. 1.5 credits.

MT240 SEMINAR IN CONTEXTUAL THEOLOGY
Hunsberger
Explores and applies methodologies in contextual theology. Meets during the second half of the first semester. 1.5 credits.
Prerequisite: MT220.

MT 250 SEMINAR IN INTERCULTURAL HERMENEUTICS
J. Brownson
Explores and applies methodologies for the interpretation of Scripture in cross-cultural contexts, and addresses the interaction of gospel and culture in intercultural dialogue. Meets in the J-term, and has MT220 and MT230 as prerequisites. 2 credits.

MT 255 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 an independent study in a particular field of inquiry within the chosen focus area. It may be done only with the consent of a professor who provides guidance and evaluation and only with the approval of the academic dean. It may combine course materials from a required M.Div. course with additional independent work, at the professor's discretion.

MT260 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. The candidate's advisor, in conjunction with a second reader, provides guidance for the research. 6 credits.
Scholarships, Grants, and Loans

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

Alumni/ae Scholarship Fund
Established by Western Seminary graduates during the Campaign for Western to encourage deserving students to attend the seminary.

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

Lucille Beasley Fund
Created through the estate of Lucille Beasley for the benefit of married students.

Merle and Alyda Boes Scholarship Fund
Created by the couple to assist Western Seminary students.

Bouwens Scholarship Fund
Established by Lila Bouwens of Holland, Michigan. First preference for this scholarship goes to a member of the Second Reformed Church in Zeeland, Michigan, or to a member of the Zeeland Classis, then to a member of the Reformed Church in America.

Warren & Jeanne Burgess Endowed Scholarship Fund
Created by family, friends, and members of the Faith Reformed Church in 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.

Lee and Linda De Visser Scholarship Fund
Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence and financial need.

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.

Oliver Gerrit Droppers Memorial Scholarship Fund
Established by his sons Oliver J. and Carl to be awarded for academic excellence in and personal commitment to evangelism.

The Rev. and Mrs. John D. Dykstra Scholarship Fund
Created through the estate of Josephine E. Thostenson of Cedarville, Iowa, to honor her parents. There are no restrictions or suggestions for application of this scholarship.

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 in 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.
Nelson Fisher Scholarship
Established by Anne Fisher in honor and memory of her husband. Preference will be given to (1) a student from the First Reformed Church in Grand Haven, Michigan, or (2) a student from Muskegon Classis.

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.

Harvey B. and Iola Hoffman Scholarship Fund
Established by Jon and Karen Hanson in honor of Karen's parents, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Hoffman. Tuition scholarship based on academic excellence and financial need with first preference for students interested in urban ministry.

Illinois Classis Scholarship
Created by the Classis of Illinois with funds generated by the sale of the building that housed the Christ Family Church of Peoria, Illinois.

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 to attend Western Seminary.

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

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

Wesley and Nell Kiel Scholarship Fund
Established by family, friends, and members of the Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan, to honor the Rev. Dr. Wesley Kiel and his wife, Nell, on the occasion of his retirement from full-time ministry. Dr. and Mrs. Kiel served Christ Memorial Church for eighteen years. The award supplements student internships and supervised ministry experiences in churches that could not otherwise afford it.

Adrian Klepper Memorial Scholarship
Established by Tom, Stephen, Gregory, and Donald Thomas through Consumer Concrete Corporation to honor their grandfather, Adrian Klepper. 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.

Maas Scholarship Fund
Established by Leonard and Marjorie Maas of Grandville, Michigan, for deserving students who are committed to the beliefs and standards of the Reformed Church in America and who show promise of outstanding leadership in the church.

Mephibosheth Fund
Established by the estate of Peter De Korte through his Fellowship Homes, Inc., Fund. This scholarship is to be awarded to students with physical disabilities.

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.

Herman Miller Inc. Internship
Created by the Herman Miller Corporation to provide financial support for a student internship.

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 middle and senior classes.

Cornelius & 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 longstanding 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.

Eleanor M. Redeker Memorial Scholarship
Created through the estate of Eleanor by gifts from her sisters, Marion Redeker and Elaine Redeker Bruins. Aid will be granted based on academic excellence and financial need. First preference will be given to an RCA student from Wisconsin; second to an international student.

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 middle and senior classes.

Schregardus Family Foundation Scholarship
Tuition assistance based on academic excellence and demonstrated financial need.

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.

Third Reformed Church Scholarship Fund
Funded by members of the Third Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa, for deserving students, with first preference for members of that congregation and then for other members of Pella Classis. If there are no such applicants, then the scholarship may be given as determined by Western Seminary.

Jay & Adelle Van Daalen Endowed Scholarship
A tuition scholarship established by Jay and Adelle Van Daalen. Primary recipients are to be graduates of Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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. & 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.

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.

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

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.

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**
Western administers two loan funds, the Perkins Loan Program and the 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, and Lucille B. van Heest.
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The Rev. Dr. Dennis Voskuil,
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1998-1999 Academic Calendar

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<td>August 28</td>
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<td>December 16</td>
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<td>May 17-June 4</td>
<td>D.Min. seminars</td>
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