



School of Christian Studies

QUICK FACT SHEET

This sheet is designed to give you a quick overview of the School of Christian Studies and get you up to speed about our programs and our classes.

Why was the School of Christian Studies created?

Nearly 75% of West Virginia Baptist Convention churches are served by bivocational pastors. For a variety of reasons, many of these pastors have not had the opportunity to seek more traditional training. This school is not to be considered a substitute for traditional training, but rather an alternative training program.

What is the School of Christian Studies?

The School of Christian Studies is a ministry training program made to bring honor and glory to God, by developing quality church leaders, through training that will help them grow in spiritual maturity, biblical knowledge and ministry skills.

Who may participate?

The School of Christian Studies is open to all persons. Anyone may take course(s) for their own general improvement. It is not necessary to be a teacher, youth worker or pastor to benefit from a course of study.

What are the programs of study in the School of Christian Studies?

The basic program of study is the diploma in Pastoral Ministry (204 hours). The remaining five programs include: certificate in Lay Ministry (156 hours), certificate in Teaching (130 hours), certificate in General Studies (130 hours), certificate in Children's Ministry (156 hours - currently on hold) and the certificate in Youth Ministry (156 hours - currently on hold). These programs were developed out of the basic program, but require a different combination of courses. (See the catalog for more details.)

How long does it take to complete a program of study?

All six programs are part of a three-year cycle of courses. After the three year cycle is complete, the program begins again, with the classes occurring in the exact same order.

What types of courses are taught?

Core courses are six-week courses offered in January and February. Regular courses are six-week courses offered in May and September. Six-week classes meet for 2 hours once a week for six weeks. Elective courses are one-day courses offered in April and June. Classes meet for 4 hours. Module courses are one-day courses offered in August and October. Classes meet for 6 hours. (For information about the subjects taught, please see the catalog.)

How many classes are offered each year?

Eight classes are offered each year: 4 six-week courses (12 hours each), 2 elective one-day courses (4 hours each) and 2 module one-day courses (6 hours each). The number of courses required for your program of study may or may not require that you attend all 8 of the classes each year.

Where are the classes held?

Six-week classes are held in at least ten West Virginia Baptist Convention churches around the state, so there is almost always a location near you! All elective and module classes are held at our Parchment Valley Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia.

Do I have to enroll in a ministry program to take classes?

No. You may take classes for credit, towards a diploma or certificate for one of the 6 ministry programs, for the full cost or you may audit classes for a reduced rate. When auditing a class, it is not necessary to purchase a textbook or complete assignments.

Do I have to complete an application for admission to begin taking classes?

No, you may begin taking classes without completing an application for admission. It is suggested that you complete an application after you have taken several classes and it is required before graduation.

How much do classes cost?

Six-week courses are \$30.00 per person and \$40.00 per couple (husband and wife, parent and child, etc.), plus the cost of a textbook, and a small shipping fee. Auditing a six-week course is \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per couple. Electives and modules are \$28.50 per person and \$40.00 per couple, plus the cost of a textbook, if needed, and a small shipping fee. Auditing electives and modules are \$14.25 per person and \$25.00 per couple.

When can I begin taking classes?

At any time, as long as it is at the beginning of a class. You may not join after the class has started. It is not necessary to wait until the start of a new year to begin.

How do I find about upcoming classes?

The best way to be informed is to contact Donna at the West Virginia Baptist Convention office and request to be put on the School of Christian Studies' mailing list. This will insure you receive all upcoming class registration mailings and any notices about the school. Registration mailings are sent out one month before the class is scheduled to begin. It is important to register as soon as possible as an assignment may be required at the start of class. Class information will also be available at www.wvbc.org.

How do I register/pay for class?

We now have two ways to register/pay for class! The first is to complete the registration you receive in the mail and return it in the enclosed envelope with your fee. The second is to register online. Please see the "Online Registration" link on the School of Christian Studies' homepage for more information.