

Heritage Christian University

Graduate Program in Biblical Studies

2010–2011/2011–2012 Catalog

Heritage Christian University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (and/or the U.S. Department of Education).

The information in this catalog is accurate at the time of publication. However, changes in the program may be necessary while this catalog is in effect. Every effort will be made to keep students and prospective students advised of any such changes. Nevertheless, the university reserves the right to change the requirements and regulations contained in this catalog and to determine whether a student has satisfactorily met its requirements for admission or graduation. The university also reserves the right to reject any applicant for admission or graduation for any reason the university determines to be material to the applicant's qualifications for admission or graduation.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Heritage Christian University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. In respect for the specific religious tenets held by the university and its controlling body, leadership in worship activities is limited to men who are members of the church of Christ. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Mechelle Thompson
PO Box HCU (Campus Box 51)
Florence, AL 35630
256-766-6610

Inquiries may be sent directly to the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education.

For online information on the Graduate Program at HCU, visit www.hcu.edu.

A Message From the President

We are now one decade into the new millennium, and technological advances are continuing to evolve at an incredible rate. Yet in spite of so many great advancements, world hunger, genocide, overpopulation, and spiritual depravity are more pervasive than ever before. The world is desperate for high quality spiritual leaders. As an institution of higher learning, we are attempting to meet the needs of our society and the world by offering advanced training within the graduate program.

Those who desire a graduate degree in biblical studies should consider Heritage Christian University because: (1) Classes will always emphasize the balance between theory and practice, between the academic and the practical. Experience has proven the value of this approach, as HCU graduates have worked capably in the Lord's vineyard throughout the world. (2) Heritage offers an ideal teaching/learning situation: a carefully selected faculty, chosen for both their academic and spiritual attainments; a small teacher/student ratio; and a caring and concerned administrative staff. (3) The overall goal of world evangelism flavors everything the university does. All Heritage students are encouraged to think both locally and globally.

Sincerely,



Dennis Jones
President

A Message From the Director

In the spring of 2003 I had the opportunity to travel to the Philippines for the purpose of preaching the Gospel and teaching in the *Philippine Institute of Biblical Studies*. As I sat looking out over the forty students who had travelled great distances to study the Bible, I looked into the face of each student and saw their stories unfold before my very eyes. Before me sat Santiago, who had preached the gospel for over forty years. I could also see Edwin, who survived a storm by sea, floating on a stranded ship for two days as he was attempting to come to my classes. Dem spends three days out of every week travelling and preaching, while his family works especially hard to cover his responsibilities in the rice fields so that he can preach. The stories go on and on... These students rise above the rest in their faith, commitment, and a passion for God. This is the kind of student we are looking for at Heritage Christian University.

Deep within my heart, I have a passion to teach and to mold leaders of the church across the world. The passion for teaching that I take to Myanmar, India, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Peru, and many other places is the same passion that I am bringing to the graduate program at Heritage Christian University. It is my desire first and foremost to prayerfully train students of the Bible who seek to know God through first studying Scripture, and then sharing this knowledge with others in teaching. I am convinced that we at Heritage Christian University will commit ourselves to providing a rigorous academic education at the graduate level. In doing this, there are several things that we hope to pass on to our graduate students:

Appreciation for God and the Bible – The core of our program is directly related to helping students learn how to appreciate, honor, and respect God and the Bible. We firmly believe that our graduate students should learn to read the biblical texts so that they may be able to apply the teachings in their lives, and share this knowledge with others.

Appreciation for the Diversity of Humanity– The core of Jesus’ teaching was to love God and love your neighbor. Learning to love our neighbor is best demonstrated by serving our neighbor. We are committed to teaching our students to respect others.

Appreciation for Academic Quality– The faculty is well established in his/her academic fields of study. Students can expect a program that is demanding and enriching.

Appreciation for Real World Application– We are committed to an education rooted in real world ministry, and the graduate program is an extension of this vision.

Appreciation for the Mission of God– The importance and divine commission of the church is taken seriously within the graduate program. Students are educated in ways that will develop stronger churches through each graduate’s spiritual service.

Heritage Christian University is pleased to welcome those qualified students who share the joy and the sense of urgency for working and growing in God’s kingdom. It is an exciting experience where minds are expanded, hearts are opened, and God is praised.



Jeremy W. Barrier, Ph.D.
*Director of the Graduate Program
& Assistant Professor of Biblical Literature*

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Purpose

The purpose of Heritage Christian University, which governs the Program Objectives of the graduate program, is well expressed in its Mission Statement and the Institutional Goals. In particular, the graduate program meets these Program Objectives by means of the second Institutional Goal. The General Description and Purpose Statement and Program Objectives can be found within the chapter entitled "Degree Programs."

Mission Statement:

Heritage Christian University provides a biblically based education, promotes spiritual growth, and prepares communicators of the gospel.

Institutional Goals:

- To provide general studies courses that parallel the lower division offerings of other four-year colleges and universities.
- To provide degree offerings in Biblical Studies to give students the skills necessary to meet the needs of the church.
- To offer a quality library to assist students, faculty and alumni in research, ministry, and personal development.

- To assist students in achieving their educational goals by making available student and educational support services.
- To operate with a systematic, broad-based research, planning, and evaluation process, for the ongoing pursuit of institutional effectiveness, and continuous improvement.
- To utilize a qualified, competent faculty, staff, and administration dedicated to carrying out the role, scope, and mission of the institution as adopted by the Board of Trustees.
- To operate with adequate physical, financial, and relational resources to accomplish the role, scope, and missions of the institution.

General Information

History:

Heritage Christian University, formerly International Bible College, was organized in 1971 to increase the number of capable men and women with world vision and to prepare them for a life of Christian service. From the beginning, the university offered a four-year program of study emphasizing the biblical text and evangelism.

When classes began in the spring of 1971, thirty-one students were present. In the first graduating class five men received the Bachelor of Sacred Literature degree. In all, twenty-nine men received this degree until it was discontinued in 1976.

Dennis Jones succeeded founding president Charles R. Coil in 1990 and continues to serve the university in this capacity.

The Graduate School began in the fall of 2000 to answer the need for advanced training expressed by many of Heritage's alumni and to fulfill a long-time dream of President Jones. Rather than changing the university, the graduate program is designed to help the school continue to accomplish, even more effectively, the goals for which it was established: preparing men and women to play a part in taking the saving gospel to a lost world.

In January 2001, the name of the school was changed from International Bible College to Heritage Christian University. The new name more accurately reflects the school's status as both a graduate and undergraduate degree-granting institu-

tion. On August 18, 2001, four graduates completed the Master's program and received their degrees.

A total of 3,013 students have taken classes for credit or audit at Heritage Christian University; the university has awarded 171 Associate of Arts degrees, 527 Bachelor of Arts degrees, and 13 Master of Arts or Master of Ministry degrees. Heritage's alumni have proven themselves faithful and competent in ministry in the church both at home and abroad.

Library:

Overton Memorial Library, which serves Heritage Christian University, has over 84,000 volumes in its total collection. With more than one half of the holdings related to biblical studies, the library is an invaluable source of information in helping the student reach his or her goal of a Master's degree. The library's database, as well as other databases including ATLASerials, is available for student use via the internet.

Facilities:

The facilities on Heritage Christian University's sixty-seven acre campus include the Bible Building, containing administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, an auditorium, and a cafeteria; and the Alexander Activities Building, which houses the Overton Memorial Library, faculty offices, and a gymnasium. The campus also provides a student center, a two-story dormitory, student apartments, and a maintenance building.

Location:

The university is located in Florence, Alabama, which is an epicenter of one of the most highly concentrated areas in the world for churches of Christ. Florence is an attractive city that is part of a quad-cities area called The Shoals. The four cities are located on both sides of the beautiful Tennessee River, which can be crossed at three different locations that connect the river towns of Florence (on the north side of the river in Lauderdale County), Muscle Shoals, Tuscumbia, and Sheffield (all three on the south side of the river in Colbert County). The metropolitan area of "The Shoals" has a population of approximately 143,000. The area has many recreational facilities and tourist attractions, and hosts numerous cultural events. Florence is also the home of the University of North Alabama, one of the oldest universities in the South.

Churches of Christ are numerous in the area, with thirty-two congregations in the city of Florence and approximately one hundred in Lauderdale and Colbert counties.

Official Recognition:

Heritage Christian University is properly constituted, authorized, and operated as a non-profit corporation and is officially recognized by both Federal and State authorities. The university is authorized to operate as an "educational society" or a "society for promoting knowledge."

Heritage Christian is approved for Veteran's training and is licensed by the State of Alabama to offer both Bachelor's

and Master's Degrees. The university's undergraduate (since 1984) and graduate (since 2009) programs are accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Member institutions of the ABHE are also recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the U.S. Department of Education. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the university is an exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code and is eligible to receive tax-deductible gifts.

Governance:

The university is governed by a Board of Directors through its Constitution and Bylaws. The chief executive, subject to the Board, is the President of the university. The Vice President of Operations is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the university. The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for the academic program. The Director of the Graduate Program has the specific responsibility of overseeing the graduate program, with the help of the Graduate Committee.

Relationship to the Church:

While having neither legal nor formal ties to any religious organization, Heritage Christian University is associated with and supported by individuals and congregations of the churches of Christ. The Board of Directors, administrators, teachers, and staff members are all members of the church of Christ. The university exists to encourage the work of plant-

ing and building up churches of Christ throughout the world.

At the same time, students of other faiths or of no faith are welcome to enroll in the graduate program at Heritage Christian University as long as they are willing to abide by the rules of the program.

It should also be noted that the university is not the church, nor should its classes or other meetings be thought of as church meetings.

Admission Requirements

Prerequisites:

In general, the Graduate Faculty wants to assure that the students admitted to the graduate program are capable of benefiting from it. For this reason, the following prerequisites have been established for admission to the graduate program at Heritage Christian University:

- (1) A transcript showing an earned Bachelor's Degree from a college or university with accreditation deemed satisfactory by the Graduate Committee. No particular undergraduate major is required, though some undergraduate leveling classes may be deemed necessary depending on undergraduate course work. This will be determined in consultation with the Graduate Committee.
- (2) A grade point average of 2.50 or higher (on a 4.00 scale). With less, the student can be accepted on academic probation (see below). Academic probation will be removed after the student completes 6 hours with a 3.00 GPA.
- (3) A completed application, including three positive recommendations as to the applicant's ability to do graduate work and his or her good character, along with a statement concerning his or her plans and reasons for doing graduate work, etc.

- (4) Each applicant will submit official scores from either the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) with a minimum total score of 800 or official scores from the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) with a minimum score of 40.
- (5) With the application, the prospective student must include a nonrefundable application fee of \$25.00.
- (6) Some level of computer literacy is required for students in the graduate program. This is an essential part of becoming a leader and all of our classes incorporate varying degrees of participation by means of online interaction between students and instructors.

No student will be admitted to the graduate program until all prerequisites are satisfied or the student is granted conditional acceptance (see below). Notification of the prospective student's admission status will be sent after all the above prerequisites have been received and reviewed.

Procedures:

The applicant must fill out the application form and the personal statement, have the three letters of recommendation mailed directly to the university, arrange to have official transcripts of all prior college work sent to the university, and include the application fee with the application. The application should be sent to:

Admissions Office
Heritage Christian University
P. O. Box HCU
Florence, AL 35630

All materials must be received by the date set for each term. If an application is incomplete by the deadline, the applicant may not be allowed to enroll for that term and all materials may be forwarded toward the application deadline for the subsequent term. The deadlines are as follows:

Fall semester:

All materials must be received by July 1.

Spring semester:

All materials must be received by December 1.

The application will be checked by the Admissions Department and, when all relevant data have been received, it will be turned over to the Graduate Acceptance Committee for consideration. When the Committee has made its decision, the student will be notified.

International Students:

International students must meet the same admission policies and procedures as students from the United States. In addition, they must take and pass the TOEFL (*Test of English as a Foreign Language*) exam to demonstrate proficiency in

English before enrolling at Heritage Christian University. They must also complete a TOEFL Score Request Form at www.toefl.org using code number 8931 to authorize Heritage Christian University as a recipient of their official TOEFL score. Scores must be a minimum of:

- 500 (paper version)
- 173 (computer version)
- 61 (internet version)

Applicants may not submit personal copies of TOEFL scores as official records. Exceptions may be made for international students whose native language is English or international students who have earned an accredited degree from an IHL (Institution of Higher Learning) within the U.S. or an American institution abroad.

Academic Credentials/ Transcripts of International Students:

All applicants with academic records, transcripts, and credentials from colleges and universities located **outside** the United States must provide for Heritage Christian University a course-by-course academic credential/ transcript evaluation from an approved evaluation service company. The evaluation service company listed below is preferred based on past experience and qualifications. Please log on to the website for more information:

World Education Services (WES)
P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0745
(212) 966-6311
www.wes.org

Acceptance Status:

The student may be granted acceptance in one of the following categories: (1) A regular (degree-seeking) student. (2) A non-degree-seeking student. (3) A conditionally accepted Student. Conditional acceptance may be granted if the student has not yet received an undergraduate degree (see the following paragraph).

Undergraduate students who are within nine hours of receiving a Bachelor's degree from a college or university with accreditation deemed satisfactory by the Graduate Committee may apply for admission, be granted conditional acceptance, and enroll in one or more graduate courses. Any graduate hours they complete are awarded only on the condition of their completion of the B.A. degree.

A non-degree-seeking student who wishes to change his or her status in order to receive a degree must write a letter to the Graduate Committee requesting such a change and must meet all the requirements degree-seeking students have met.

Auditing Classes:

Individuals may also audit courses for whatever benefit they may derive from them, as long as their presence does not detract from the teaching/learning process. Auditors do not need to go through the admissions process; nor will their work, if any, be graded. To audit a class, a student must fill out a class registration form and pay the auditor's fee.

Degree Programs

The Graduate Program in Biblical Studies of Heritage Christian University offers two graduate degrees designed to prepare students for more effective Christian service/ministry in two different areas: the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies and the Master of Ministry in Biblical Studies.

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies

General Description and Purpose:

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies enables students to read and interpret biblical texts in their original languages. Our Christian faculty trains students to engage Scripture responsibly and interact thoughtfully with biblical scholarship, resulting not only in a deeper appreciation for the Bible but also in spiritual growth and increased ability to communicate the gospel effectively. Moreover, those wishing to continue their graduate education beyond the MA will receive excellent preparation from the biblical studies program.

The program instills depth and breadth of knowledge within biblical studies by allowing the student to focus on a Major area of study (12 hours course work, 6 hours thesis) and a Minor area of study (6 hours), while also offering some elective options. Students will choose their Major and Minor areas from the following options: (1) Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism (OT), (2) History of

Biblical Interpretation and Theology (HBI & TH), or (3) New Testament and Early Christian Literature (NT).

In most cases, the student's Major area of study (not the Minor area) will determine the language requirements for the program. For instance, students who select "New Testament and Early Christian Literature" as their Major Area and "Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism" as their Minor Area will be required to know Greek but not Hebrew. Such students will use the Greek Bible in classes with an NT prefix and the English Bible in classes with an OT prefix. Students selecting "Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism" as their Major area will be required to know Hebrew. However, "History of Interpretation and Theology" does not entail studying any particular language, so students selecting this field as their Major area will study the language associated with their chosen Minor area of study.

Program Objectives:

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies enables graduates to:

1. Read the biblical texts in their original languages.
2. Interpret the biblical texts.
3. Engage critically with primary and secondary sources.
4. Understand the role of God through Scripture within the life of the church.
5. Apply biblical teachings to the contemporary world.
6. Conduct independent biblical research.

Prerequisites:

For the general admission process along with prerequisites, see the section of the graduate catalog that specifically addresses the admission process. In dealing with the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, each student will be required to meet the general admission requirements for the program, and in addition each applicant must have the equivalent of one year of study in either “biblical” Greek or Hebrew, or obtain permission to enter on the recommendation of the Director of the Graduate Program. Each student who seeks admission into the M.A. in Biblical Studies will pass an informal, oral examination as arranged through the Director of the Graduate Program. Students who are wishing to enter without the acceptable level of Greek or Hebrew studies will have the option of auditing either Elementary Greek A and B or Elementary Hebrew A and B at the undergraduate level during the first year of study in the program, or the student may ask the Director for a list of several options to improve their language abilities.

Requirements for Graduation:**Planning Your Program:**

After a student has been accepted into the program, s/he will develop a plan that meets his or her situation in life. In particular, a major area and minor area will be determined

before matriculation, and the process of formulating a thesis will be initiated no later than the beginning of a student's second semester. It is in the student's best interest to be thinking about the thesis early in the program. In addition, the graduate faculty recognizes that the scope of the program extends beyond graduation from the program; therefore, the thesis needs to be developed within the context of the students and their social location/place within a Christian community. This is important because one's study is intended to have a direct and/or specific outcome within one's Christian ministry. In addition to the curriculum, the student will be required to pass a comprehensive exam (see the section under "Graduation Requirements."

Curriculum (36 hours):

Each student will be required to complete a total of 36 hours for the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies. This is composed of five major divisions: Introduction to Graduate Studies, a Major Area, a Minor Area, Electives, and a Thesis. All five divisions must be completed for graduation.

1. *Introduction to Graduate Studies (3 hours)* – Every student will begin his or her program by taking this course. This class introduces the student to HCU, the embodiment of the *Mission Statement*, and what is expected from students in the Master's degree programs.
2. *Major Area (12 hours)* – Every student will choose a major area (see "Planning Your Program" above) in either

(1) OT, (2) HBI & TH, or (3) NT. Students who choose OT or NT as the major area of study will be required to read, translate, and conduct research in the original languages in each class within the major. Students who choose HBI & TH as the major area of study will be required to do original language work in the minor area of study – either OT or NT.

3. *Minor Area (6 hours)* – Every student will choose a minor area (see “Planning Your Program” above) in either (1) OT, (2) HBI & TH, or (3) NT.
4. *Electives (9 hours)* – Every student is free to take elective courses, choosing from any of the courses offered through the graduate program at HCU.
5. *Thesis (6 hours)* – As a student progresses in his or her course work, s/he will be able to embark upon a major writing project that will demonstrate the student’s competency in the area of Biblical Studies. The student will be assigned to a professor in his or her major area who will guide them through this process. Additional specifics are offered below.

Thesis Specifications:

In the Master of Arts, students will engage in rigorous academic research working from relevant primary and secondary sources that address specific issues or concerns in the field of biblical studies. In particular, the study will be specific to the student’s major area. The results of this research will be presented to the faculty as the student’s thesis.

While engaging in the thesis, the student will be under the supervision of his or her major professor, who will prepare a syllabus for the project in accordance with graduate school policies. The thesis can be taken any semester as an Independent Study by students who have successfully completed a minimum of eighteen hours of graduate work in the program. The thesis is usually completed within the last two semesters of the student's program.

The thesis should include: (1) An introduction, defining terms, describing the problem/issue/question to be dealt with, dealing with its relevance/importance, and setting out the methodology and limitations of the present study. (2) A review of the literature and/or the present state of the problem. (3) A section describing the project and/or detailing the results of the present study. (4) A conclusion, analyzing and applying the results, describing their usefulness, and suggesting directions for further research. This paper will be no shorter than 30 pages and no longer than 100. The individual instructor may provide more specific guidelines. Typically, students are encouraged to focus upon quality rather than quantity.

The completed thesis is read by the student's major professor and at least one other reader; the final grade is assigned by the major professor. The thesis concludes with an oral defense open to all faculty and administration, but the student's major professor is in charge. If the student is not on campus, a conference call may be required.

The thesis will be bound and placed in the Overton Memorial Library. The graduation fee covers the cost of this

service. For an extra fee, a copy can be bound for the student.

While a student is registered for the thesis, an "X" ("Extension") may be given if it is necessary for the student to continue research beyond the semester in which s/he initially enrolls in the course. When the thesis is carried over to the subsequent semester, the student will be charged the regular tuition price and registration fee for that new semester. A student may receive an "X" for the thesis as often as needed. However, if at the end of the seventh year of study the student has not completed the thesis, a grade of "F" will be assigned. At this juncture, if a student desires, they can submit a formal letter requesting an extension, including reasons, and at the discretion of the Graduate Committee, the student may be allowed to continue.

Courses Available in the Specific Areas:

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism:

OT 511 Interpreting the Old Testament*

OT 515 Theology of the Hebrew Bible*

OT 524 The Septuagint

OT 531 Directed Studies in Early Judaism/Early Christianity*

OT 532 Dead Sea Scrolls

OT 542 Post-biblical Jewish Literature

* Cross-listed.

OT 552 Old Testament Textual Studies

History of Biblical Interpretation and Theology:

HI 511 Interpreting the Old Testament*

HI 512 History of Theology

HI 515 Methods of Biblical Interpretation*

TH 511 Biblical Ethics

TH 512 Spiritual Development

TH 513 Systematic Theology

TH 514 World Religions

TH 515 Theology of the Hebrew Bible*

New Testament and Early Christian Literature:

NT 512 New Testament Backgrounds

NT 514 New Testament Textual Studies

NT 515 Methods of Biblical Interpretation*

NT 531 Directed Studies in Early Judaism/Early Christianity*

Master of Ministry in Biblical Studies

General Description and Purpose:

The Master of Ministry program seeks to enhance the service and leadership of persons who are engaged in biblical ministry. Faculty members facilitate understanding of Christian ministry based on the example of Jesus Christ and comprehensive biblical teachings. Students explore ministry from a holistic perspective with special attention to their individual ministry contexts. Within this program students will have the option of selecting a Major and Minor area in which to focus their attention. Students can choose from the following concentrations: (1) Ministerial Counseling (CN), (2) Homiletics/Ministerial Care (MN), (3) History of Biblical Interpretation and Theology (HBI & TH), and (4) Biblical Studies (BI).

Program Objectives:

The Master of Ministry enables students to:

1. Identify the biblical foundation for authentic ministry;
2. Formulate a life-long process of spiritual maturity;
3. Assess various ministry specializations through critical consideration of context, content, and processes;
4. Practice ministry competently in real-world settings;
and
5. Acquire scholarship that provides a foundation for ongoing studies such as the M.Div. Degree.

Prerequisites:

For the general admission process along with prerequisites, see the section of the graduate catalog that specifically ad-

dresses the admission process. In the Master of Ministry, each student will be required to meet the general admission requirements for the program.

Requirements for Graduation:

Planning Your Program:

After a student has been accepted into the program, s/he will develop a plan that meets his or her situation in life. In particular, a major area and minor area will be determined, and the process of formulating a practicum will be initiated before matriculation. In addition, a major professor will be selected no later than the beginning of the second semester for a student to develop his or her practicum. It is in the student's best interest to be thinking about the practicum early in the program. In addition, the Graduate Faculty recognizes that the scope of the program extends beyond graduation from the program; therefore, the practicum needs to be developed within the context of the student and his or her social location/place within a Christian community. This is important because one's study is intended to have a direct and/or specific outcome within one's Christian ministry. In addition to the curriculum, the student will be required to pass a comprehensive exam (see the section under "Graduation Requirements.")

Curriculum (36 hours):

Each student will be required to complete a total of 36 hours for the Master of Ministry in Christian Service. This is composed of five major divisions: Introduction to Graduate

Studies, a Major area, a Minor area, Electives, and a Thesis. All five divisions must be completed for graduation.

1. ***Introduction to Graduate Studies (3 hours)*** – Every student will begin his or her program by taking this course. This class introduces the student to HCU, the embodiment of the *Mission Statement*, and what is expected from students in the Master degree programs.
2. ***Major Area (12 hours)*** – Every student will choose a major area (see “Planning Your Program” above) in either (1) CN, (2) MN, (3) HBI & TH, or (4) BI.
3. ***Minor Area (6 hours)*** – Every student will choose a minor concentration (see “Planning Your Program” above) in either (1) CN, (2) MN, (3) HBI & TH, or (4) BI.
4. ***Electives (9 hours)*** – Every student is free to take elective classes, choosing from any of the courses offered through the graduate program at HCU.
5. ***Practicum (6 hours)***– As a student progresses in the course work, s/he will be able to embark upon a major research project that will demonstrate the student’s competency in the area of Christian Service. The student will be assigned to a professor in his or her major area who will guide them through this process. More specifics are offered below.

Practicum Specifications:

In the Master of Ministry, students will develop a holistic ministry program that specifically addresses the needs of a

Christian community/communities, while basing the program upon the student's rigorous academic research implementing relevant primary and secondary sources, case studies, etc., that address specific issues or concerns in the field of Ministry and Christian Service. In particular, the study will be specific to the student's major area and will be developed with praxis in mind. The results of this research will be presented to the faculty as the student's practicum.

While engaging in the practicum, the student will be under the supervision of his or her major professor, who will prepare a syllabus for the project in accordance with graduate school policies. The practicum can be taken any semester as an Independent Study by students who have successfully completed a minimum of eighteen hours of graduate work in the program. The practicum, different from a thesis, renders best results if it is begun within the second or third semester of study and completed within the last two semesters of the student's program. This will allow the student more time for application, implementation of various stratagems, studies, surveys, etc.

The practicum should include: (1) An introduction, defining terms, describing the problem/issue/question to be dealt with, dealing with its relevance/importance, and setting out the methodology and limitations of the present study. (2) A review of the literature and/or the present state of the problem. (3) A section describing the project and/or detailing the results of the present study. (4) A conclusion, analyzing and applying the results, describing their usefulness, and suggesting directions for further research. This paper will be no shorter than 30 pages and no longer than 100. The individual instructor may provide more specific guide-

lines. Typically, students are encouraged to focus upon quality rather than quantity.

The completed practicum is read by the instructor and at least one other reader; the final grade is assigned by the instructor. A public presentation of the results of the practicum concludes the practicum, open to all faculty and administration. If the student is not on campus, then an alternative method for a "public presentation" will be developed in order for the student to present his or her results.

This practicum will be bound and put in the Overton Memorial Library. The graduation fee covers the cost of this service. For an extra fee, a copy can be bound for the student.

The Master of Ministry practicum is technically considered two independent courses that are part of one major project. Therefore the student is encouraged to sign up for the practicum (3 hours of course work) as early as possible within their program, so that they can begin working on their project early. The student should sign up for the second half of the practicum within the last two semesters before graduation, in order to bring the project to completion.

While a student is registered for the second semester of the practicum, an "X" ("Extension") may be given if it is necessary for the student to continue research beyond the semester in which he or she initially enrolls in the course. When the practicum is carried over to the subsequent semester, the student will be charged the regular tuition price and registration fee for that new semester. A student may receive an "X" for the practicum as often as needed. However, if at the end of the seventh year of study the student has not com-

pleted the practicum, a grade of “F” will be assigned. At this juncture, if a student desires, s/he can submit a formal letter requesting an extension, including reasons, and at the discretion of the Graduate Committee, the student may be allowed to continue.

Courses Available in the Specific Areas:

Ministerial Counseling¹

CN 501 The Ministry of Counseling*

CN 512 Seminar in Conflict Resolution

CN 522 Solution Focused Counseling

CN 583 Special Issues in Ministerial Counseling

Homiletics and Ministerial Care

MN 501 The Ministry of Counseling*

MN 511 Congregational Health and Ministry

MN 512 The Ministry of Preaching

MN 513 Directed Studies in Homiletics/Ministerial Care

MN 522 Family Life Ministry

MN 523 Biblical Preaching

History of Biblical Interpretation and Theology:

¹ The ministerial counseling emphasis takes a holistic pastoral counseling perspective. It is not a track for professional counseling licensure.

HBI 511 Interpreting the Old Testament*
HBI 512 History of Theology
HBI 515 Methods of Biblical Interpretation*
TH 511 Biblical Ethics
TH 512 Spiritual Development
TH 513 Systematic Theology
TH 514 World Religions
TH 515 Theology of the Hebrew Bible*
HBI/TH 58X Independent Study

Biblical Studies:

NT 512 New Testament Backgrounds
NT 514 New Testament Textual Studies
NT/OT 531 Directed Studies in Early Judaism/Early Christianity*
NT/OT 515 Methods of Biblical Interpretation*
OT 511 Interpreting the Old Testament*
OT 515 Theology of the Hebrew Bible*
OT 524 The Septuagint
OT 532 Dead Sea Scrolls
OT 542 Post-biblical Jewish Literature
OT 552 Old Testament Textual Studies
NT/OT 58X Independent Study

Academic Policies

Graduate Catalog:

The HCU calendar is a 12-month period that begins with the fall semester of one year (e.g. Fall 2010) and ends with the summer semester of the following year (Summer 2011). The graduate student is provided a catalog in the semester that s/he matriculates (e.g. 2010-11 Graduate Catalog). This catalog represents a "contract" between the school and the student. A student who began in a previous year covered by a previous catalog has the choice of either retaining the "contract" that is represented in the catalog that s/he matriculated, or embracing the most recent catalog published. In order to make this change, a student needs to make his or her desire to change catalogs known to the Director of the Graduate Program, and the Director will supply the student a signed form permitting the change to take place.

Semester Hours:

The "semester hour" is the basic unit for measuring the amount of time spent on a university course. One semester hour equals fifty minutes spent in class each week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent. In addition, for each hour spent in class, graduate students are expected to spend about three hours outside of class in study, in class preparation, and on assignments. Intensive classes meet fewer hours in class, but require a proportionately greater amount of time spent on assignments.

Course Load:

Enrollment in nine or more semester hours is considered a full-time load. No student may take more than twelve hours without special permission from the Director of Graduate Studies. It is suggested that students who are working full-time should take no more than six hours per semester.

Late Registration:

In general, students may register for a course through the time of its first meeting. The exception to this rule is that students must register at least a month early for intensive courses. Students who register after the first class will be charged a late registration fee. In keeping with the attendance policy, no student will be permitted to register for a class after it has met more than two weeks of a fifteen-week semester (or the equivalent). Please note that "late registration" is not the same as "late admission." If the student has not been officially admitted to the graduate program, the student will not be allowed to register.

Grades:

The grading system is as follows:

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	Quality Points
A+	98-100	4.00

A	95-97	4.00
A-	93-94	3.66
B+	90-92	3.33
B	86-89	3.00
B-	83-85	2.66
C+	79-82	2.33
C	74-78	2.00
C-	70-73	1.66
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.66
F	0-59	0.00

Any class in which the student earns below a "C-" must be retaken.

Withdrawal:

To withdraw from a course, a student must complete a Class Change Form. Simply failing to attend class is not sufficient to complete the withdrawal process. If a student withdraws from a course within the first two weeks of a fifteen-week semester (or the equivalent), the course will not appear on his or her transcript. If a student withdraws from the class after that, s/he will receive a WP or a WF as a grade on the course.

If the student withdraws before the class meets, s/he will receive a full refund for the cost of the course. If a student withdraws from the class after that, s/he will receive a refund of a proportion of the money paid for tuition through the fourth week of the semester. For details, see the chapter on Financial Information.

Attendance:

On-campus students are expected to attend classes regularly. Association with one another and with the teacher is considered an important part of the student's intellectual, social, and spiritual development. Instructors will keep a record of attendance, and may, at their discretion, consider attendance in the determination of students' grades. A student who is absent more than twenty percent of the time will be dropped from the class and will receive a WP or WF for the course.

Incompletes:

A student who fails to complete all the work required in a course may, at the discretion of the teacher, receive an "Incomplete" ("I") as a grade for the course. A student who receives an "I" will have the first six weeks of the next semester to complete the course. If the student asks for an extension in writing, and there are compelling reasons to do so, the teacher may grant a longer extension to remove an "I." A student who has more than one "I" in a semester will not be eligible to enroll for another course until s/he has addressed

the "I." The student's transcript will show both the incomplete and the final grade received for the course.

Academic Standing:

Students must maintain at least a 2.50 Grade Point Average to remain in the program and a 3.00 to graduate. A student whose GPA falls below 2.50 will be placed on academic probation (see below). Students who complete the curriculum with a GPA higher than 2.50 but less than 3.00 must repeat a course or courses to reach the 3.00 required for graduation. For purposes of determining his or her GPA, if a student takes a class over, only the grade s/he makes in the last attempt will count. An "I" or "X" will not be counted in computing the GPA.

Academic Probation:

A student on academic probation must retake any course with a grade of "C" or lower. Retakes are limited to 6 credit hours until the GPA is raised to 2.50 or higher. If a student fails to raise the GPA to 2.50 or higher in the next semester, academic suspension follows.

Academic Suspension:

After one semester's suspension, a student may re-apply with an added demonstration of competency and commitment in an essay detailing the student's educational and spiritual goals. If upon readmission, the student fails to raise

the GPA to 2.50 or higher in the next semester, additional suspension will follow.

Transfer of Credits:

No more than 18 graduate hours completed at a satisfactorily accredited college or university can be accepted for transfer credit. If a student has successfully completed fifteen or more graduate hours in another university with a GPA of 3.00 or better, he or she will not be required to take MN 500. Only courses which are the same as or equivalent to courses required in the HCU graduate program can be transferred in. No course on which the student has made less than a "B" can be accepted for transfer credit. Grades for courses which are accepted for transfer credit will be included in determining a student's GPA. Decisions regarding whether courses can be accepted for transfer credit will be made by the Graduate Committee.

Undergraduate Courses:

Students who, in the judgment of the Graduate Committee, have taken on the undergraduate level the equivalent of a course required in the graduate program will be allowed to substitute another course in its place in his or her degree plan.

Undergraduate Courses for Graduate Credit:

Undergraduate courses at Heritage Christian University which are designed for college seniors (courses having a 400

prefix) can be taken for graduate credit if: (a) a particular course is needed to complete a graduate student's degree plan, and (b) if permission is granted by the teacher of the course, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and the Director of the Graduate Program. To receive graduate credit for an undergraduate course, the graduate student must do sufficient quality graduate level work. If a student takes an undergraduate course for graduate credit, the course will be numbered as a graduate Independent Study and given the name the course is called in the undergraduate catalog.

Academic Advising:

Initially the Director of Graduate Studies serves as the advisor to all new graduate students. After their first semester of enrollment, students are assigned to other graduate faculty members who will serve as their advisors. Usually, the major professor in a concentration serves as advisor to the graduate students who have chosen that professor's concentration.

Summer Courses:

Normally, there are no summer courses scheduled. If a student desires a summer course and can offer a justification, the course can be scheduled to satisfy the student's needs. This procedure is subject to a consultation with the proposed instructor and with the Director of the Graduate Program.

Independent Studies:

Any course taken that is not officially scheduled can be considered an independent study. No student may take more

than three courses by independent study through the entire program unless permission is granted from the Director of the Graduate Program.

Time Limit:

Work on the Master's Degree must be completed within seven years. If the student needs extra time, s/he may apply for an extension. If one is granted, additional course work may be required. If the student does not enroll for a course during a period of twelve consecutive months, s/he will be under the most recent graduate catalog when s/he re-enrolls. After two years of non-attendance, the student must submit a new application for admission to the program.

Transcripts:

The registrar will send official transcripts of the student's work to other parties if the student requests it and has met his or her financial obligations to the school. The first transcript will be sent at no charge to the student; after that, a fee will be charged.

Graduation Requirements:

To graduate from the program a student must:

1. Successfully complete the 36 hours required in the degree plan.

2. Have a GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale). No course on which the student has a grade of less than "C" can be counted towards meeting course requirements for graduation.
3. Pass a comprehensive six-hour examination with two to four questions. Half of the exam will be over the major area, while the other half will be over the minor area. This exam will be given no later than March 15 during the student's final semester. If the student fails, the exam may be retaken.
4. File an "intent to graduate" form the semester before his or her planned graduation; pay a graduation fee; attend the graduation ceremony, unless specifically excused by the Director of the graduate program; take care of all school debts; and not be subject to any disciplinary action by the school.

Distance Learning:

Most of the courses are digitally recorded. In addition to the instructor's recorded class presentation (usually audio and video), supplemental materials such as video presentations/slideshows, "handouts," notes, etc., are also provided to the student in various ways. The primary delivery system for the course is a web-based course-management system, where the student will be able to access class presentations with the supplemental materials posted as well.

Within 24 hours, a student is able to access the class presentation and the supplementary materials. Each class is fully searchable, enabling the student to view an entire class or just quickly pinpoint the specific section the student wishes to review. The assignments, tests, and grades are all available through the online program.

A graduate degree through Distance Learning is an option for some people. While the bulk of classes can be taken via distance learning, students seeking a graduate degree should plan to be on campus at least four times: three times to take three intensive courses and once to attend graduation exercises. In addition, distance learning students will need to come to campus to take the comprehensive final exams, unless they make alternative arrangements with the Graduate Committee. For more information, students should contact the Director of the Graduate Program.

In general, the same policies apply to Distance Learning students that apply to on-campus students: They must meet the same admissions, academic, and graduation standards, and they must take the same courses in which they meet the same requirements (or their equivalents) and are graded on the same basis.

Student Life

The faculty and staff at Heritage Christian University are interested not only in the graduate students' development academically, but also in their spiritual, personal, and social growth. To encourage such growth, Heritage Christian Uni-

versity provides numerous services for, and requires certain behavior of, its graduate students.

Services Provided:

Housing, Food:

The university operates a men's dormitory and a women's dormitory, and has several student apartments for rent. A cafeteria on campus provides breakfast and lunch Tuesday through Friday at competitive prices.

Employment Assistance:

The Advancement Office keeps a current list of churches seeking ministers, as well as providing information about fulltime and part-time employment opportunities in the Shoals area.

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth:

As a rule, graduate classes begin with a prayer and/or short devotional. In addition, graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities for spiritual growth provided on campus for undergraduate students--e.g., Tuesday through Friday chapel, student devotionals, and the annual Evangelism Workshop. In addition, students taking graduate morning classes on campus (Tuesday through Friday) will be required to attend chapel.

Students are also expected to be active members of a local congregation in which they will find opportunities for spiri-

tual growth and service. More than seventy churches of Christ are within easy driving distance of the HCU campus.

Social Activities:

Opportunities for graduate students and faculty to visit together on social occasions are provided. Graduate students are also welcome to participate in the social and recreational activities planned for and attended by the undergraduate students at Heritage Christian University.

Counseling:

A number of the members of the faculty and staff at Heritage Christian University are trained and experienced counselors. Graduate students are welcome to seek counseling from any of them at no charge and on a confidential basis. Counseling is available concerning spiritual problems, personal problems, family problems, work-related problems, financial problems, etc. In addition, a professional counseling center, Alpha Center, has its offices on the campus.

Advising:

After the completion of one semester's work, each student will be assigned an academic advisor. The advisor's role is to help the students achieve their objectives at Heritage Christian and in their personal lives. To accomplish this, the student's advisor will meet with the student to discuss his or her progress. After the student has completed approximately half of the program, the advisor will talk with the student

about his or her personal, social, and spiritual development to that point. For on-line learning students, this meeting may take place by telephone. The two of them will devise a strategy to help the student overcome any obstacles to his or her becoming more effective in service.

Standards of Conduct:

Heritage Christian University is an institution based on Christian beliefs. All Heritage Christian personnel subscribe to a statement of faith, accept biblical teachings as literally true, and are active members of local churches of Christ. Most of the college's supporters are members of churches of Christ and expect Heritage Christian staff, faculty, and students to exemplify Christian behavior.

The teachers in the graduate program pledge that they will do their best to live by Christian principles as revealed in the Bible. They are striving to glorify God, serve humanity, build up the church, and imitate Christ in their daily lives. For this reason, they are determined to maintain high standards of integrity and to treat each student fairly, courteously, and respectfully.

In a similar way, the graduate faculty desires that Heritage Christian University graduate students be men and women of God. Therefore, students are expected to live by Christian standards, and maintain high standards of integrity in their personal, social, and financial relationships.

In their schoolwork, they will avoid plagiarism and dishonesty. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated.

While they are on campus or living in school dormitories, graduate students are subject to the same rules as undergraduate students. (See the Student Handbook and Resident Handbook.)

Financial Information

Payment Policy:

Payment of tuition and fees is due at registration. If a student needs to defer full payment until later in the semester, s/he must make arrangements with Enrollment Services at the time of registration to make monthly payments on his or her account.

NOTE: Tuition and fees for the semester must be paid in full before the student will be allowed to take finals or register for the next semester. Students cannot graduate until they have met all financial obligations to the university.

Tuition:

The cost of tuition per credit hour for graduate courses is \$199.00.

Fees:

Application Fee (nonrefundable)	\$25
Registration Fee, per credit hour	\$25
Change of Course Fee	\$10
Graduation Fee	\$199
Audit Fee, per course	
Campus	\$0
Distance Learning	\$99

Heritage Christian University reserves the right to change the amount of these fees as it is deemed necessary.

*The free audit fee is only for on-campus audit students. Those who wish to audit a class via distance learning must pay a \$99 service fee. Registration as an audit student is always subject to the discretion of the instructor and limitations of classroom seating space.

Refund Policy:

When students withdraw from one or more of their courses, they will receive refunds on a pro rata basis. The withdrawal date is the date the Business Office receives a completed drop slip, not the date the student stops attending class. The amount refunded will be figured according to the following schedule:

Courses meeting throughout semester:

Before the student attends the class	100%
First week	90%
Second week	75%
Third week	50%
Fourth week	25%
After the fourth week	No Refund

Intensive Courses:

Before the student attends the class	100%
Second day	50%
After the second day	No Refund

Financing Graduate Education:

Students have the responsibility of paying for their education. However, some financial help is available to deserving graduate students.

Tuition Reduction:

When on-campus students are admitted to the graduate program, they receive a 25% tuition reduction.

Information:

For information on Financial Aid and Scholarships, students should contact Mechelle Thompson, Financial Aid Counselor, in the Office of Enrollment Services.

Opportunities to Work:

Opportunities for employment are abundant in the Shoals area, both in the secular field and in the many churches that exist in the area. Students should beware of working too many hours while they carry a heavy load of courses. For information on opportunities for employment in the area, students should contact the Admissions Office.

Course Descriptions**Ministerial Counseling:**

CN 501 The Ministry of Counseling (3) This course explores the unique place of counseling within the context of ministry with the local church, including discussion of opportunities, pitfalls, strengths, and limitations of counseling as an aspect of local ministry. Special attention is given to training other Christians as personal counselors and to helping the church foster an atmosphere of healing.

CN 512 Seminar in Conflict Resolution (3) This course acquaints students with the vast literature of conflict resolution with particular application to the local

church setting. Emphasis is placed on identifying the types and sources of interpersonal conflict, understanding the dynamics of such conflict, and the counseling skills helpful in fostering resolution. Attention is given to anger management, mediation, and problem solving.

CN 522 Solution-Focused Counseling (3) This class explores, analyzes and applies contemporary solution-oriented counseling to today's real-world issues. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition and development of skills that encourage prescription, amplification, and maintenance of positive change in client lives. Special attention is given to student demonstration of solution-focused language, questions, and interventions for real-world settings.

CN 583 Special Issues in Ministerial Counseling (3) The purpose of this course is to examine and strengthen the understanding and skills needed to help those with unique needs. Topics include grief and loss, eating disorders, compulsive spending, alcohol-drug dependency, spousal-parental abuse, homosexuality, and identifying mental illness. Special attention is given to knowing when and how to refer clients who need more skilled help.

CN 58X Independent Study (3) With the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies, and under the direction of the teacher, the student will complete an assigned

set of requirements uniquely designed to meet his or her needs in this area.

CN 593 Practicum in Counseling (3) The practicum course involves reading, research, and analysis, but also emphasizes applying theory to practice through some project which has, as its purpose, helping the church grow spiritually and/or numerically. The results of the project must be put into writing in an acceptable form. The class will take the form of an independent study with the teacher serving as advisor, director, and evaluator of the student's work. Students are required to have 12 hours of graduate courses completed prior to registering for this course.

Homiletics and Ministerial Care:

MN 500 Introduction to Graduate Study (3) This course is designed to introduce the basic tools of theological research and to promote the basic writing skills necessary for the presentation of scholarly research. Students are required to take this course within the first 9 hours of their degree program. This course is only offered on campus.

MN 501 The Ministry of Counseling (3) This course explores the unique place of counseling within the context of ministry with the local church, including discussion of opportunities, pitfalls, strengths, and limitations of counseling as an aspect of local ministry. Special attention is given to training other Christians as per-

sonal counselors and to helping the church foster an atmosphere of healing.

MN 511 Congregational Health and Ministry (3) This class discusses the history and background of the church growth movement and exposes students to church growth literature. Emphasis will be placed on the biblical mandate for church growth, biblical principles of church growth, and practical methods of implementing those principles. The seminar will include discussion of the assessment of the "church growth-atmosphere and potential" of a congregation.

MN 512 The Ministry of Preaching (3) Affirming the vital importance of preaching to the health and life of the church is the central goal of this course. The theology of preaching must be translated into the nuts and bolts of relevant, effective communication. Emphasis will be placed on helping the student stay fresh and in the "real world" in sharing God's truth. One unit of this class will be "Preaching from the Gospels," a practical exercise that seeks to heighten the student's ability to move effectively from text to sermon.

MN 522 Family Life Ministry (3) This class documents and explores the role of the church in building strong families. From leadership styles and program offerings to Bible class curriculum and sermon content, the course investigates what makes a church effectively pro-family. Every aspect of church work can be an aspect of family life ministry.

MN 523 Biblical Preaching (3) In focusing on the art and process of developing effective sermons from unique and neglected parts of Scripture, the aim of this course is to help preachers improve in their ability to move their hearers from an accurate understanding of the text to its application and importance today. Emphasis will be given to identifying key themes and communicating their relevance to others. Biblical texts will be chosen by the instructor.

MN 58X Independent Study (3) With the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies, and under the direction of the teacher, the student will complete an assigned set of requirements uniquely designed to meet his or her needs in this area.

MN 593 Practicum in Ministry (3) The practicum involves reading, research, and analysis, but also emphasizes applying theory to practice through some project which has as its purpose helping the church grow spiritually and/or numerically. The results of the project must be put into writing in an acceptable form. The class will take the form of an independent study with the teacher serving as advisor, director, and evaluator of the student's work. Students are required to have 12 hours of graduate courses completed prior to registering for this course.

History of Interpretation and Theology:

HBI 511 Interpreting the Old Testament (3) Interpreting the Old Testament investigates hermeneutical issues arising from close study of the Hebrew Bible. Some of the issues that may be covered in this class include: historico-critical exegesis of various OT books, text and canon of the OT, Christian appropriation of Jewish Scripture, and NT interpretation of the OT (cross-listed as OT 511).

HBI 512 History of Theology (3) This class surveys historical Christian doctrine from the second century to the contemporary era. Theological development is studied in light of its historical and cultural background. The class may focus on one or more historical eras in any given semester—for example, patristic, medieval, Reformation, Restoration and modern—to aid students in understanding how the divine commission of the church has been expressed in theology in history.

HBI 515 Methods of Biblical Interpretation (3) This course explores the basis, history, methods, and art of biblical interpretation. Grammatical-historical exegesis, biblical criticism, interpretation of narrative, and hermeneutics as twenty-first century application receive particular emphasis (cross-listed as NT 515).

HBI/TH 58X Independent Study (3) With the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies, and under the direction of the teacher, the student will complete an assigned set of requirements uniquely designed to meet

his or her needs in this area. This course cannot be substituted for a required course.

TH 511 Biblical Ethics (3) This class focuses on ethics in the Old and New Testament documents and major interpretations of biblical ethics in Christian theology. Emphasis is given to methodology in constructing a Judeo-Christian ethical system that is biblically based and apropos for Christian ministry in today's world.

TH 512 Spiritual Development (3) This course is a study of Christian spirituality and spiritual formation. Topics include the history of Christian spirituality, Christian devotional and spiritual classics, spiritual disciplines (e.g., prayer and fasting), spiritual formation, and spiritual development in church ministry.

TH 513 Systematic Theology (3) This class examines the theology of the Christian faith such as the doctrine of the inspiration and authority of the Bible, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, humans, sin, atonement, salvation, the church, worship and the last things. After reviewing theological method, each doctrine is studied in relation to the biblical text, Christian theology in general and significant historical developments in Christian theology to aid a student as a communicator of the gospel in real world application of the Christian faith in ministry.

TH 514 World Religions (3) This class examines the major non-Christian religions of the world, including Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Taoism

and Jainism. Each religion's historical development and theology is studied to gain an understanding and appreciation of the expression of non-Christian belief systems in today's world. The goal of comparative analysis with Christianity in this course is to enhance the effectiveness of communicators of the gospel in Christian ministry and missions.

TH 515 Theology of the Hebrew Bible (3) This class examines the theological framework of the Hebrew Bible. Issues pertaining to whether or not there is a theology or theologies in the Old Testament are addressed. In addition, critical reading of texts from a theological perspective is also addressed (cross-listed as OT 515).

HBI/TH 59X Guided Research in Biblical Interpretation and Theology (3) Under the guidance of the teacher of the course, the student will undertake an independent research project, requiring considerable research, reading, and analysis, and culminating in a comprehensive well-written paper. The project should contribute in some way to the development of the student as a scholar and to the growth of the church. Students are required to have 18 hours of graduate courses completed prior to registering for this course.

New Testament and Early Christian Literature:

NT 512 New Testament Backgrounds (3) This course is a survey of the first-century, Greco-Roman world through a careful reading and study of several ancient historical, legal, and religious texts. The student will

acquire a basic knowledge of the political, social, and religious history of this period and discover how such knowledge can help in understanding and interpreting certain passages in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament. Undergraduate students can take this course with the permission of the instructor and receive credit for HY 302.

NT 514 New Testament Textual Studies (3) This course entails a close reading of the Greek text of selected passages of the NT, with a focus on grammar, textual criticism, hermeneutical issues, and theology. Students may take this course in either an English or Greek language track, and the course may be repeated.

NT 515 Methods of Biblical Interpretation (3) This course explores the basis, history, methods, and art of biblical interpretation. Grammatical-historical exegesis, biblical criticism, interpretation of narrative, and hermeneutics as twenty-first century application receive particular emphasis (cross-listed as HBI 515).

NT 531 Directed Studies in Early Judaism/Early Christianity (3) This course is designed to acknowledge the high level of overlap that exists between early Judaism and early Christianity. In particular, this class is designed for the teacher to be able to lead focused studies in the field of early Judaism/Christianity. Close reading and analysis of primary texts with a high awareness of relevant secondary literature will be emphasized as

the teacher covers various subjects. Examples of material to be covered are as follows: (1) Exodus in both the Hebrew Bible and the Greek Septuagint; (2) Jewish/Christian Apocalyptic Literature (1 Enoch, Revelation, Shepherd of Hermas, etc.); (3) First Century Jewish Writings (Philo, Pauline Epistles, Josephus, Wisdom of Solomon); (4) Early Christian Novel Writing (Gospels, Acts, the Protoevangelium of James, the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles); and (5) the Canon of Scripture. While this list is not comprehensive, it should provide ample information on the purpose and direction of this course (cross-listed as OT 531).

NT 58X Independent Study (3) With the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies, and under the direction of the teacher, the student will complete an assigned set of requirements uniquely designed to meet his or her needs in this area. This course cannot be substituted for a required course.

NT 59X Guided Research in the New Testament (3) Under the guidance of the teacher of the course, the student will undertake an independent research project, requiring considerable research, reading, and analysis, and culminating in a comprehensive well-written paper. The project should contribute in some way to the development of the student as a scholar and to the growth of the church. Students are required to have 18 hours of graduate courses completed prior to registering for this course.

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism:

OT 511 Interpreting the Old Testament (3) Interpreting the Old Testament investigates hermeneutical issues arising from close study of the Hebrew Bible. Some of the issues that may be covered in this class include: historico-critical exegesis of various OT books, text and canon of the OT, Christian appropriation of Jewish Scripture, and NT interpretation of the OT (cross-listed as HBI 511).

OT 515 Theology of the Hebrew Bible (3) This class examines the theological framework of the Hebrew Bible. Issues pertaining to whether or not there is a theology or theologies in the Old Testament are addressed. In addition, critical reading of texts from a theological perspective is also addressed (cross-listed as TH 515).

OT 524 The Septuagint (3) The Bible of the early church was the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Old Testament deemed by many of its users to be inspired in its own right. This course will focus on the origins of this earliest biblical translation, along with its reception in both Judaism and Christianity. The use of the Septuagint in New Testament research will form a significant component of the course. Readings in Greek will include excerpts from the *Letter of Aristeas*, Aristobulus, Philo, Josephus, the New Testament, Origen, the Septuagint, and other Greek versions.

OT 531 Directed Studies in Early Judaism/Early Christianity (3) This course is designed to acknowledge the high

level of overlap that exists between early Judaism and early Christianity. In particular, this class is designed for the teacher to be able to lead focused studies in the field of early Judaism/Christianity. Close reading and analysis of primary texts with a high awareness of relevant secondary literature will be emphasized as the teacher covers various subjects. Examples of material to be covered are as follows: (1) Exodus in both the Hebrew Bible and the Greek Septuagint; (2) Jewish/Christian Apocalyptic Literature (1 Enoch, Revelation, Shepherd of Hermas, etc.); (3) First Century Jewish Writings (Philo, Pauline Epistles, Josephus, Wisdom of Solomon); (4) Early Christian Novel Writing (Gospels, Acts, the Protoevangelium of James, the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles); and (5) the Canon of Scripture. While this list is not comprehensive, it should provide ample information on the purpose and direction of this course (cross-listed as NT 531).

OT 532 Dead Sea Scrolls (3) The 1940s discovery of nearly a thousand Jewish manuscripts in caves near the Dead Sea has made a significant impact on the study of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. This course will introduce students to the Dead Sea Scrolls, with attention to the scholarly debates regarding the nature of the community inhabiting Qumran, and the nature of the scrolls themselves. The course will integrate other information regarding first century Judaism, in order to construct a schema of the Jewish background to the New Testament. The importance of the scrolls for the textual criticism of the Old Testa-

ment will also be explored. Extensive readings of English translations of the scrolls will be required.

OT 542 Post-biblical Jewish Literature (3) Jews did not stop writing after the completion of the Old Testament. A vast body of Jewish literature from the Second Temple Period and Late Antiquity has come down to us. These writings include the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, the Septuagint, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the writings of Philo and Josephus, and Rabbinic Literature. This course will introduce the student to each of these corpora, situating each in its historical context and providing basic tools for research. Extensive readings from these writings in English translation will be required.

OT 552 Old Testament Textual Studies (3) This course entails a close reading of the Hebrew text of selected passages of the OT, with a focus on grammar, textual criticism, hermeneutical issues, and theology. Students may take this course in either an English or Hebrew language track, and the course may be repeated.

OT 58X Independent Study (3) With the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies, and under the direction of the teacher, the student will complete an assigned set of requirements uniquely designed to meet his or her needs in this area. This course cannot be substituted for a required course.

OT 59X Guided Research in the Old Testament (3) Under the guidance of the teacher of the course, the student will

undertake an independent research project, requiring considerable research, reading, and analysis, and culminating in a comprehensive well-written paper. The project should contribute in some way to the development of the student as a scholar and to the growth of the church. Students are required to have 18 hours of graduate courses completed prior to registering for this course.

Personnel

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Director of the Graduate Program.....J. W. Barrier
Dean of Students Cory Collins
Director of Enrollment ServicesLarry Davenport
Financial Aid Administrator Mechelle Thompson
Secretary of Enrollment ServicesShay Bingham

Director of Distance LearningMichael Jackson
Director of Institutional Research.....Michael Jackson
RegistrarCharlotte Orr
Librarian Jamie Cox
Director of Christian Service Brad McKinnon
Director of Public Relations..... Lori Eastep

Faculty:

Dr. Bill Bagents serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs in addition to his teaching duties. His work experience includes tenures as a campus minister, a youth minister, an educational director, and a preacher. His pastoral counseling continues through The Alpha Center, a Christian counseling center, which he helped found. He enjoys presenting seminars on home and family. Bill and his wife, Laura, are active in ministry with the Mars Hill church of Christ. In recent years, he has made at least one international teaching/mission trip annually. He has taught counseling, ministry, and textual courses in Bangladesh, Nigeria, Russia, and South Africa.

Bill loves to write. He is co-author of *Easing Life's Hurts* and most recently edited a book entitled *Renewing Respect: Rediscovering a Forgotten Virtue*. In addition, he has written numerous VBS manuals and workbooks.

B.S., Auburn, 1978; M.A., Alabama Christian School of Religion, 1980; M.Ed., Auburn, 1982; M.Div., Southern Christian University, 1992; D.Min., Southern Christian University, 1996.

Dr. Jeremy W. Barrier is an Assistant Professor of Biblical Literature and the Director of the Graduate Program. He teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Jeremy has also been involved in foreign mission activities since 1994 and full time since 2002. He is presently working under the leadership of the Madison Church of Christ as a missionary abroad, coordinating and directing a program entitled World Mission that seeks to advance the Good News of Jesus to Asia and South America. He is married to Robin Nichole (Samuels) Barrier, and they have two children, Samuel and Sophia.

B.S. in Mathematics and Natural Science, Freed-Hardeman University, 2000; M.A. in New Testament, Freed-Hardeman University, 2002; Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, 2008; Certificate from the Second International Summer School in Coptic Papyrology, Universität Leipzig, 2008.

Dr. Ted D. Burlison was born in Haleyville, Alabama. His wife is Karen Semore Burlison. They have two sons, Doug (Baton Rouge, LA) and David (Spring Hill, TN). Ted has been preaching for 31 years and has served congregations in Duck River, TN; Lawrenceburg, TN; Old Hickory, TN; Columbia, TN; Jasper, AL; and began his work with the Hamilton congregation in May 2006.

A.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 1982; B.A., Lipscomb University, 1990; M.Min., Freed-Hardeman University, 1993; M.Div., Lipscomb University, 2000; D.Min., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 2004.

Jamie Cox has served as librarian since 1992. During her tenure as librarian, the Overton Memorial Library collection has grown from approximately 26,000 to more than 84,000 items. In addition to securing and maintaining the scholarly works that support the university's curriculum, she manages special holdings collections and operates a used bookstore within the library. Jamie is a founding member of Friends of the Overton Memorial Library. She wrote a grant that began the Heritage Marriage and Family Resource Center in 2006. She played a leading role in the origination of the Annual Charles Coil Lecture.

Jamie enjoys reading, watching favorite movies, and traveling to historic sites when opportunities arise.

B.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 1985; M.L.S., University of Southern Mississippi, 1990.

Dr. Edmon L. Gallagher is Assistant Professor of Biblical Interpretation. His research interests revolve around the reception of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament among ancient Jews and Christians. He and his wife, Jodi, have three children. They worship with the Florence Blvd. Church of Christ, where Ed serves as Deacon over Adult Education.

B.A. in Biblical Studies, Freed-Hardeman University, 2001; M.A. in New Testament, Freed-Hardeman University, 2002; M.Phil. in Hebraic and Cognate Studies, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 2007; Ph.D. in the History of Biblical Interpretation, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 2010.

Dr. Rosemary Snodgrass was added as a full-time faculty member in the summer of 2006. She was awarded an Ed.D. in Counselor Education from the University of Alabama and is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). She is the director of the Alpha Center, which provides professional Christian counseling, and was the high school guidance counselor at Mars Hill Bible School for more than 25 years. Her education and experience is invaluable to the counseling concentration of the graduate program.

B.A., David Lipscomb University, 1974; M.A., University of Alabama, 1976; Ed.D. (Counselor Education), University of Alabama, 1990.

Adjunct Faculty

Dr. Doug Burleson served as the preacher at the Goodwood Church of Christ in Baton Rouge, LA from June 2004-June 2010. In July he began serving as an instructor in Bible at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, TN. He is in the dissertation stage of the PhD program at the New Orleans

Baptist Theological Seminary working in the area of New Testament Textual Criticism. His dissertation is titled, "*Case Studies in Closely Related Manuscripts for Determining Scribal Traits.*" He is a graduate of Freed–Hardeman and has Master's degrees from Freed–Hardeman University ('01), Lipscomb University ('03), and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary ('07). Doug is married to Kristi Johnson Burleson and they have two children, Eden and Canaan. Doug wrote the Horizons teen curriculum for the Gospel Advocate for three years and has also written articles in several brotherhood periodicals.

B.A., Freed–Hardeman University, 1999; M.A. Freed–Hardeman University, 2002; M.Div., Lipscomb University, 2005; Ph.D., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2010.

Nathan Daily teaches courses in Old Testament, New Testament, and ancient Near Eastern Languages. He also serves as the college minister at Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ. He is currently completing a Ph.D. in Religion (Hebrew Bible) at Claremont Graduate University. His research interests focus on the interpretation of pentateuchal literature, ancient Near Eastern literature, form–critical method, and biblical theology. He is presently writing chapters on Ruth, Zephaniah, and Obadiah for a textbook on Old Testament Theology with *Wipf & Stock Publishers*.

B.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 1999; M.A., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 2004; M.Div., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 2004; M.A., Brandeis University, 2006; Ph.D. (in progress), Claremont Graduate University.

Dr. Steven Guy taught at Heritage Christian as an adjunct faculty member from 1996 to 1999, when he joined the faculty fulltime. He has served various congregations since 1975 and presently works as the pulpit minister for the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee.

A.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 1973; B.A., Oklahoma Christian University, 1975; M.S., Pepperdine, 1989; M.Div., Pepperdine, 1992; D.Min., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1997.

Dr. Betty Hamblen has been an adjunct faculty member for Heritage Christian University, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses and served as the Director of Public Relations for the university from 1999-2006. She is currently a counselor specializing in marriage and family issues with The Alpha Center, a Christian counseling center, which she helped found. Besides both high school and college teaching, her work experience includes serving as Director of Education in Alabama and Texas hospitals. She also owned an educational consulting business, based in Dallas, which targeted healthcare institutions and other corporations. She has been the featured speaker for women's Bible classes in

numerous states across the country. Betty and her husband, Willie, work with the Leoma, TN church of Christ, where Willie serves as the pulpit minister.

B.S., English, University of North Alabama, 1969; M.A., English, University of North Alabama, 1977; Ph.D., Adult/Continuing Education, Texas Woman's University, 1993; M.A., Counseling, University of North Alabama, 2000.

Dr. Joel Stephen Williams is an adjunct instructor at Heritage Christian, having been with International Bible College in the early 1990s. He has been a pulpit minister for churches throughout the southeastern United States for over thirty years. He also has been an adjunct instructor for St. Leo College in Gainesville, Florida and Amridge University in Montgomery, Alabama. As an author, Williams has written eleven books and over 260 articles, pamphlets and book reviews. Most of these were designed to be used by preachers in church ministry and evangelism or by native evangelists in the mission field. Several of his books were published in foreign countries, and his *What is Christianity?* has been translated into eleven languages. Steve and his wife Dail are members at Crosspoint Church of Christ in Florence.

B.S., Harding University, 1972; M.Th., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1976; Ph.D., Baylor University, 1987.

Academic Calendar 2011–2012

Fall 2010:

August 12	New/Re-admit Student Registration
August 13	Continuing Student Registration
August 16	Classes Begin
August 27	Last Day for Drop/Add
August 28	Heritage Event
September 6	Labor Day Holiday
September 19–22	SHINE and Workshop
October 4–8	Midterm Week
October 17–22	Campaign Week
October 25–29	Fall Break
November 24–26	Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov, 29–Dec. 3	Pre-register for Spring 2011
December 10	Last Day of Classes
December 13–15	Finals

Spring 2011:

January 3	Registration
January 4	Classes Begin
January 14	Last Day for Drop/Add
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 21–25	Midterm Week
March 21–25	Campaign Week
March 28–April 1	Spring Break
April 29	Last Day of Classes
May 2–4	Finals

May 7 Graduation

Summer 2011:

April 20-22 Pre-Registration
May 16 Registration
May 16-20 Intensive Course
July 4-8 Summer Recess

Fall 2011:

August 11 New/Re-admit Student Registration
August 12 Continuing Student Registration
August 15 Classes Begin
August 26 Last Day for Drop/Add
August 27 Heritage Event
September 5 Labor Day Holiday
September 18-21 SHINE and Workshop
October 3-7 Midterm Week
October 17-21 Campaign Week
October 24-28 Fall Break
November 23-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 28-Dec. 2 Pre-register for Spring 2012
December 9 Last Day of Classes
December 12-14 Finals

Spring 2012:

January 2 Registration
January 3 Classes Begin
January 13 Last Day for Drop/Add
January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

February 20-24	Midterm Week
March 18-23	Campaign Week
March 26-30	Spring Break
April 27	Last Day of Classes
April 30-May 2	Finals
May 5	Graduation

Summer 2012:

April 18-20	Pre-Registration
May 14	Registration
May 14-18	Intensive Course
July 2-6	Summer Recess

2010–12 Class Schedule
(This schedule is subject to modification)

Fall Semester 2010:

CN 512	Seminar in Conflict Resolution
HBI 512	History of Theology
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Study
MN 501	The Ministry of Counseling
MN 522	Family Life Ministry
NT/OT 531	Directed Studies in Early Christianity/Early Judaism
NT 514	NT Textual Studies
OT 552	OT Textual Studies

Spring Semester 2011:

CN 583	Special Issues in Ministerial Counseling
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Study
MN 523	Biblical Preaching
MN 511	Congregational Health and Ministry
NT 514	NT Textual Studies
OT 552	OT Textual Studies
OT 532	Dead Sea Scrolls
TH 514	World Religions
TH 515	Theology of the Hebrew Bible

Summer 2011:

MN 513	Directed Studies in Homiletics/Min. Care
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Fall Semester 2011:

HBI 512 History of Theology
HBI 522 Methods of Biblical Interpretation
MN 500 Introduction to Graduate Study
MN 501 The Ministry of Counseling
MN 511 Seminar in Church Growth
NT 514 NT Textual Studies
OT/NT 531 Directed Studies in Early Judaism/Early
Christianity
OT 552 OT Textual Studies

Spring Semester 2012:

CN 522 Solution-Focused Counseling
MN 500 Introduction to Graduate Study
MN 523 Biblical Preaching
NT 514 NT Textual Studies
OT 552 OT Textual Studies
OT 542 Post-biblical Jewish Literature
TH 511 Biblical Ethics
TH 515 Theology of the Hebrew Bible

Summer 2012:

NT 512 New Testament Backgrounds