Heritage Christian University
Graduate Program in Biblical Studies
2016–2017 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 the U.S. Department of Education.

Association for Biblical Higher Education
5850 T. G. Lee Boulevard, Suite #130
Orlando, FL 32822
Telephone: (407) 207-0808
www.abhe.org

This catalog supersedes all previous issues.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Heritage Christian University admits qualified students of any race, age, sex, religion, disability, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the university. Heritage Christian University does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, religion, disability, race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

Based upon this commitment, Heritage Christian University follows the principle of non-discrimination and operates within applicable federal and state laws. As a recipient of federal financial assistance, Heritage Christian University is required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, as amended, not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its admission policies, treatment of students, employment practice or educational programs, except as required by religious tenets of the churches of Christ. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policy:

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 or Undergraduate Programs at HCU, visit www.hcu.edu.

A Message from the President

In the 25 years that have passed since I began my work as president of Heritage Christian University, I have witnessed many changes, both in society and in the church. The increasing number of individuals with graduate degrees is significant among those changes. In order to communicate effectively to their congregations, ministers must have more and better education than ever before. And I believe that's a positive change! Like experts in any field, we should strive to know all we can about our field of study. That's why a thriving graduate program is a desire that has always been close to my heart.

Since 2000, we have helped students take their biblical knowledge to new heights through our graduate program. I believe HCU is an ideal place for Bible students to further their education because: (1) Classes will always emphasize the balance between theory and practice, and the balance between the academic and the practical. You will develop both knowledge and the ability to use that knowledge in life settings. (2) Heritage offers an ideal teaching/learning situation: a carefully selected faculty, chosen for both their academic and spiritual attainments; a small teacher to student ratio; and a caring and concerned administrative staff. (3) The overall goal of world evangelism flavors everything we do. All HCU faculty

members encourage students to think both locally and globally.
I encourage you to consider HCU. You'll be glad you did.

Sincerely,

Dennis Jones
President

A Message from the Director of the Graduate Program

In 2008, I had the opportunity to travel with Master of Divinity graduate Joey Barrier and Master of Ministry graduate Travis Harmon to New Delhi, India for the purpose of preaching and teaching in a leadership training program under the direction of one of our Master of Ministry graduates, Vinay David. I was impressed as I listened to the story of one of the men who was attending the leadership training classes. He told us about how he first heard of Christ through a radio program sometime in the 1970s. After listening to this radio program, he decided to make a two-day journey to New Delhi to meet the radio speaker, who was none other than Vinay David's uncle, Sunny David.

After spending a week with Sunny, the man decided to become a Christian, and he was immersed into Christ, traveling home with his new faith. As the first Sunday came around, he rose that morning realizing that this was the day that he could worship in his new faith. There was one problem. He did not know a single song about Jesus! What was he to do? As I sat listening to him tell this story, I was struck and moved as he then went on to tell us about how he "wrote" a new song for Jesus, so that he could worship him on that first Sunday. As we all listened to him tell this story, then sing his "first song" for Jesus, we were moved to the core of our faith.

This is exactly why I am in Christian education. These are the people that I want to work with, influence, shape, and be shaped by as we labor together in ministry and in education. Having the opportunity to work with people who are serious about ministry and service to God is the type of student that I enjoy training in the mission field and in the graduate program 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. Heritage Christian University is committed to providing a rigorous academic education at the graduate level through our offering of the **Master of Arts**, the **Master of Ministry**, the **Master of Divinity**, and our newest certificate program for training in **Resource Development Models for Small Churches**. 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– Each faculty member is well established in their 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
& Associate Professor of Biblical Literature

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Purpose

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

Mission Statement:
Heritage Christian University exists for the advancement of churches of Christ by equipping servants through undergraduate and graduate programs and continuing education. HCU produces effective communicators, preachers, teachers, and missionaries for real-world ministry with a focus on evangelism and a commitment to scripture.

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 mission of the institution.

GENERAL INFORMATION

History:
Heritage Christian University traces its roots to 1871, when T.B. Larimore opened Mars Hill Academy on land inherited by his wife Esther Gresham Larimore. Located along Cox Creek near Florence, Alabama, Mars Hill Academy equipped ministers and other Christian leaders for service in the Churches of Christ. Students trained at Mars Hill established hundreds of congregations in Florence and surrounding communities in North Alabama and southern Tennessee. Initially housed in Larimore's home, the Academy closed in 1887 in order for Larimore to devote himself fully to evangelism. The 12-room house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. Among those educated by Larimore at Mars Hill were notable restoration preachers F.D. Srygley and J.C. McQuiddy.

Locally organized Christian education for the Churches of Christ resumed in 1947 when Mars Hill Bible School, an elementary and secondary school, began on the site of the old Mars Hill Academy. Property for the school was purchased by William Wallace Alexander, a local physician, from T.B. Larimore's son, Virgil, who still resided on the land where his father had operated the original academy. Mars Hill Bible School continues to provide excellent preschool through high school education.

In November 1965, noting an extreme shortage of preachers, a number of Shoals area church leaders proposed to the Mars Hill Board of Directors the establishment of a school to help prepare men for ministry. A steering committee, functioning under the Mars Hill Board of Directors, quickly assumed responsibility for the promotion of the school, curriculum planning, and the selection of teachers. Supplementing the work of Mars Hill Bible School, the new T.B. Larimore School of Evangelists was seen as a restoration of the type of preacher training accomplished by Larimore in the late 19th century.

Opening in January 1966 with 70 students enrolled, the T.B. Larimore School of Evangelists followed the model of a non-credit Bible institute or preacher training school. After operating in the spring and fall of 1966, the school's steering committee, at the direction of the Mars Hill Board of Directors, transitioned from an administrative function to an advisory one. There is no known record of the school meeting for classes after December 1966.

The dream of providing higher education in the Shoals, designed specifically for the training of preachers, did not lay dormant for long. Before the end of 1967, plans were already underway to establish a private college in Florence, independent of Mars Hill, to prepare students for ministry. In 1968, those plans began taking shape, when Malcolm Hill agreed to leave his work as preacher for the Forest Park congregation in greater Atlanta to become the inaugural president of the newly established

Southeastern Institute (College) of the Bible in Florence. Inez Alexander, widow of Dr. William Wallace Alexander, donated land for a campus near the old T.B. Larimore home and local orthopedic surgeon, Dr. G.R. Melson, serving as chair of the Businessmen's Advisory Board, began efforts to establish an endowment for the school. Founded in 1968, Southeastern classes met for the first time in January 1969. The institute would include a three-year program offering bachelor's degrees in Sacred Literature and Religious Education. No accreditation from secular or academic associations would be sought.

In October 1970, the Southeastern administration and Board of Directors was reorganized and in early 1971, Charles Coil was selected by the new board as the second president of Southeastern College of the Bible. As president, Coil was empowered to establish a program unique among the Churches of Christ – the four-year Bible college. Neither a preacher training school nor a liberal arts college, the coeducational Bible college would have a standardized academic calendar, admissions policies, and curriculum. In September 1971, Southeastern was renamed International Bible College. The new name would reflect a desire and practice to train men and women for service worldwide. In 1989, after serving eighteen years as the college's chief administrator, Charles Coil announced his resignation as president of International Bible College. He continued to serve as chancellor until his death in 1994. IBC alumnus, Dennis Jones, succeeded

Coil as the institution's third president, taking office on January 1, 1990.

To help meet the need for advanced education for preachers and church leaders, a graduate program offering Master of Ministry and Master of Arts degrees was added in 2000. In January 2001, the institution changed its name to Heritage Christian University to reflect more accurately its status as offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees. In August 2001, the first graduates were awarded their master's degrees. In 2011, the university initiated a Master of Divinity program with emphasis on small church growth.

Heritage Christian University is properly constituted, authorized, and operated as a non-profit organization and is officially recognized by both state and federal authorities. A Board of Directors governs the university through its Constitution and Bylaws. Heritage Christian University was initially accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education in 1988. Accreditation was reaffirmed for a ten-year period in 2009. In 2011, HCU was acknowledged as a Military Friendly School, one of the Service Members Opportunity Colleges, and as a Yellow Ribbon School. The Internal Revenue Service recognizes the university as a tax exempt organization, 501(c)(3), eligible to receive tax-deductible gifts.

Library:
Overton Memorial Library, which serves Heritage Christian University, has over 120,000 volumes in its physical collection plus over 100,000 ebooks. With more than one half of the holdings related to biblical studies, the library is an invaluable source of information helping the student reach his or her goal of attaining a Master's degree. The library's database, and other databases, including ATLA Serials, are available for student use via the Internet.

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

Location:
The university is located in Florence, Alabama, which is in 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 connecting the river towns of Florence, Muscle Shoals, Tuscumbia, and Sheffield. 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.

Heritage Christian University is approved for Veteran's training and is licensed by the State of Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education to offer Associates, Bachelor's, and Master's Degrees. The university's undergraduate (since 1988) 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 Administration 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 planting 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.

Distance Learning:
Most courses are digitally recorded. In addition to the instructor's recorded class presentation (usually audio and video), supplemental materials such as video presentations/slideshows, paper materials, 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.

The student is able to access the class presentation and supplementary materials. Each class is fully searchable, enabling the student to view an entire class or quickly pinpoint the specific section the student wishes to review. The assignments, tests, and grades are all available through the course management system.

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 two times: Introduction to Graduate Studies Week and 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.

The same policies apply to Distance Learning students that apply to on–campus students pertaining to admissions, academic, graduation standards, and coursework in which they meet the same requirements (or their equivalents) and are graded on the same basis.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Payment Policy:
Student account balances are expected to be paid in full at registration. If a student needs to defer full payment until later in the semester, s/he must make arrangements with the Office of Financial Aid prior to the first day of class. Students who make full payment on or before registration day will receive a 5% discount off tuition charges. The university accepts payment by cash, check, money order, debit or major credit card.

Financial Hold
A financial hold will be placed on the student's academic record when there is any past due financial obligation to the University. When there is a financial hold, the student will not be permitted to re-enroll or receive transcripts, or any other services from HCU.

Partial Payment Plan
Heritage Christian University offers a Partial Payment Plan which extends tuition payments over a four month period for the fall and spring term, and a three month period for the summer term. The plan is as follows:

Fall Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
25% at Registration	25% at Reg.	50% at Reg.
25% Sept 1	25% Feb. 1	25% June 1
25% Oct 1	25% March. 1	25% July 1
25% Nov 1	25% Apr. 1	//////////////////////////

Students who cannot pay all charges in full at the time of registration, but can make payments on the above applicable dates are encouraged to sign up for the Partial Payment Plan.

Auditing a class is free only for on–campus audit students. Those who wish to audit a class via distance learning must pay a $100 service fee. Registration as an audit student is always subject to the discretion of the instructor and limitations of classroom seating space.

Explanation of Charges

Registration fee. The per credit hour registration fee is required of all credit students, regardless of classification (campus, online, undergraduate, and graduate) or type of housing (on or off-campus). The fees are used to cover the cost of courses and the amount is determined by the number of credit-hours for which the student registers each semester. In addition, this fee helps to cover the cost of maintaining academic records, the publication costs of the HCU yearbook, costs to assist student support programs, and related library-based activities.

Tuition. The tuition fee applies to credit courses. Conversion from audit to credit status must be made within the drop/add period. If a student wants university credit after that date, he must repeat the course. Scholarships are available to help cover tuition for spouses of degree-seeking, full-time (9 hours or more) students. The Administrative Council annually reviews tuition charges.

Refund Policy:

When students withdraw from one or more of their courses, they will receive a prorated refund. The official withdrawal date is recorded as 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	100%
Second week	100%
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

Tuition Reduction:

All graduate courses taken on-campus are eligible to receive 25% tuition reduction.

Information:
For information on tuition, tuition discounts, and scholarships, students should contact the Office of Financial Aid located in the Enrollment Services department.

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, however, 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 University Advancement Department.

GI Bill and Financial Aid Assistance

Veteran services are provided to our student veterans, dependents, and military personnel through the Office of Financial Aid. The OFA aims to facilitate veteran student success by providing support, resources and information that meets the unique needs of veteran students. Its administrative role includes assisting with the processing of veteran benefits, processing payments from the VA and ensuring that students understand the procedure to ensure that they will be receiving their benefits from the VA.

Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program

HCU is pleased to be participating in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program**.** HCU

will provide funds toward tuition and fees and Veterans' Affairs (VA) will match HCU's contribution for each eligible veteran student. This program is a provision of the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. Yellow Ribbon is a scholarship designed to help students supplement their Post 9/11 GI Bill tuition benefits. HCU has expanded the Yellow Ribbon program's eligibility to include not only undergraduate, but graduate students as well, both full time and part time.

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

Services Provided:

Housing:
Several on-campus rooms are available for students. Room assignments are made according to the date of application. Interested students should contact the Department of Student Affairs located next to the Enrollment Services Department for further information. The reservation and maintenance fees should accompany the admission application. The university retains the maintenance fee. The reservation fee is refundable within ten days after written request by the student at the end of the contract period (withdrawal from school, end of semester, or graduation), or it may be left as a room reservation fee for the succeeding period.

Food Services:
The university maintains an excellent cafeteria providing breakfast and lunch Tuesday through Friday at competitive prices. The cafeteria is in service through the Fall and Spring semesters. A meal plan is available for all students.

Employment Assistance:
The Advancement Office keeps a current list of churches seeking ministers. Some places have fulltime, others part-time employment opportunities in the Shoals area. See www.hcu.edu/resources.

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., chapel, student devotionals, and the annual workshop. In addition, students taking graduate morning classes on campus on days when chapel is conducted 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 spiritual growth and service. More than 100 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.

Standards of Conduct:
Heritage Christian University is an institution based on Christian beliefs. All HCU's 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 university's supporters are members of churches of Christ and expect HCU 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, students 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 Dormitory Handbook.)

APPLICATION PROCESS

HCU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its admission policies.

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 a student completes are awarded only on the condition of their completion of the B.A. degree.

The applicant must provide the following documents to be considered for admission:

1. All transcripts from colleges, universities, seminaries, or divinity schools previously attended, regardless of whether or not a degree was completed. The applicant must contact each institution's registrar using the form located at http://www.hcu.edu/share/pdf/send_transcript.pdf. The official transcripts must be sent directly to HCU to the attention of Enrollment Services. For admission into the graduate program, the completion of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent from an institution with accreditation deemed satisfactory by the Graduate Acceptance Committee is required. 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 Acceptance Committee.

2. A completed online application at www.hcu.edu. Three letters of recommendation are required as to the applicant's ability to do graduate work and his/her good character. The "Letter of Recommendation Form" is within the application.

3. Every applicant will be required to authorize HCU to obtain a background check. HCU will complete the application review when the background check is received.

4. A personal statement concerning the goals and plans of the applicant, along with an explanation of how graduate studies fit into this plan. This personal statement must be submitted as a component of the online application.

5. If English is not the applicant's first language, then TOEFL scores must be submitted. See "International Students" section below.

6. A non-refundable application fee of $35 with the application.

7. Applicants to the MA and MMin (not for the MDiv) will submit official scores from either the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) or official scores from the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). The examination must have been completed within the last five

years. On the day of the test, enter the MAT Score school recipient code for Heritage Christian University (2636) to ensure that official score reports are sent to HCU. The examiners will supply HCU with the scores upon request by the applicant. Generally, applicants who hold a Master's degree or higher are exempt from submitting test scores.

In addition to these specifications mentioned above, the student will be expected to have a basic level of computer literacy prior to entrance into the program. In addition, the applicant should expect to spend a considerable amount of time learning to use word processing programs, internet web-based tools, online classroom management systems, and various other computer related programs throughout the graduate program. This is an essential part of becoming a leader and all HCU 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 the Conditional Acceptance portion of this section). Notification of the prospective student's admission status will be sent at the appropriate time after all the above prerequisites have been received and reviewed.

Procedures:
The application procedure is primarily an online process. However, some materials, such as the Letters

of Recommendation and Official Transcripts, are to be sent to:

Enrollment Services
Heritage Christian University
P. O. Box HCU
Florence, AL 35630

For matriculation in the Fall semester: All materials must be received by July 1.

For matriculation in the Spring semester: All materials must be received by November 1.
The application will be reviewed and verified by the Enrollment Services department. When all relevant data has been received, it will be turned over to the Graduate Acceptance Committee for consideration. Responses will be sent in a timely fashion so that the applicants will be able to participate fully in the preregistration process that typically takes place the first week of August for the fall semester and the first week of December for the spring semester.

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. Based on past experience, performance, and student satisfaction, the following servicer is recommended:

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, or (3) a conditionally accepted student. 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. For conditional acceptance, see the following section. If a student who is conditionally accepted does not complete all outstanding requirements by the end of the semester, then s/he will not be allowed to register for the following semester.

Conditional Acceptance:
A student may be conditionally accepted if all admissions requirements have been met except the university receiving the student's GRE or MAT score report.

Auditing Classes:
Individuals may audit courses for whatever benefit they derive from them, as long as their presence does not detract from the teaching/learning process. Auditors need not go through the admissions process;

nor will their work, if any, be graded. To audit a class, a student must see the registrar, fill out a class registration form, and pay the audit fee.

International Applicant Admission Requirements

International applicants must complete the International Applicant Master's Degree Application. Please review the information under Admission Procedures, as the same information applies to international students, with the following exceptions:

Scholarship
Eligible international students may be awarded a full tuition scholarship. Because of the limited financial aid resources available to international applicants, HCU can offer this scholarship to no more than 5 individuals from the same country each year. Students who are awarded the scholarship must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Financial Support
International applicants are not eligible for Federal Financial Aid nor are they allowed to work in the United States while in school. Therefore, applicants are required to submit proof of financial support and sponsorship from a church of Christ congregation in the United States or pay all charges for at least two years up front. For additional information about financial support and church sponsorship, contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Non-U.S. Education Credentials

Official education documents that note your grades or degrees are required and must be sent directly from your school to a professional academic credential evaluation company. We recommend the use of World Education Services (www.wes.org). Personal copies of academic credentials will not be accepted by HCU for the admission process.

Fluency in English

Fluency in English is a prerequisite for admission for international students at Heritage Christian. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency by taking and passing the TOEFL as part of the application process. Applicants must also complete a TOEFL Score Report Request Form to request an official score record. Use the code number 8931 when indicating Heritage Christian University as the score recipient. Applicants may not submit personal copies of TOEFL scores as official records. Complete the TOEFL form online by visiting www.toefl.org. Applicants who have earned an accredited degree from an institution of higher learning within the United States or an American institution abroad, or a transfer student who completed English Composition 101 or higher with a C or better from an accredited institution from within the United States, are not required to take the TOEFL. In addition, applicants from a TOEFL exempt country are not required to take the exam. For a complete list of TOEFL exempt countries, please visit our website. Applicants must achieve at least the following scores on the TOEFL:

- Internet Based Exam – 100

- Paper Based Exam – 600

Residential Requirements
Single students and married students who are not accompanied by a spouse must live in campus housing. Married students accompanied by a spouse and family may live off campus with prior written permission from both the university and the student's sponsoring congregation.

Students who remain in the United States during the summer are required to take a minimum of six credit hours at Heritage Christian University.

Fundraising
Students will not engage in fundraising without prior written approval from the university's Directors of Enrollment Services and University Advancement.

Health Insurance Coverage
International students must secure and maintain health insurance coverage while attending Heritage Christian University.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Graduate Catalog:
The HCU calendar year is a 12–month period that begins with the fall semester of one year (e.g. Fall 2015) and ends with the summer semester of the following year (Summer 2015). The graduate student is provided a catalog in the semester that s/he matriculates (e.g. 2015–17 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 the student matriculated, or embracing the most recent catalog published. In order to make this change, a student needs the permission of the Director of the Graduate Program.

NOTE: Some academic policies are different for international students because of federal law. Please see the section on International Students.

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 two 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 the Graduate Program. It is suggested that students who are working fulltime should take no more than six hours per semester.

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	.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 contact the Registrar. Simply failing to attend class will result in

an ‘F’ on the student’s transcript. 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, a Withdrawn Passing (WP) or a Withdrawn Failing (WF) as a grade on the course will be given.

If the student withdraws before the class meets, a full refund for the cost of the course will be given. If a student withdraws from the class after that, a refund of a proportion of the money paid for tuition through the fourth week of the semester will be given. 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 an important part of the student's intellectual, social, and spiritual development. Instructors will keep a record of attendance, and, at their discretion, may consider attendance in the determination of students' grades. A student who is absent more than twenty percent of the class time will be dropped from the class and will receive a WP or WF for the course.

Proctor Policy
A proctor is a trusted person who administers and supervises course examinations. Some campus instructors require students to participate in proctored assignments. Campus students should contact the Distance Learning Department for an appointment at

least 24 hours before the desired appointment time. If a campus student is registered in a Distance Learning course, the Distance Learning Department is automatically the proctor. Use the instructions above for scheduling an appointment. All distance learning students will need a proctor for testing. The student must select a proctor according to the following criteria:

- The proctor must be 21 years of age or older.
- The proctor should not be a relative, in-law or employee of the student to avoid conflict of interest.
- The proctor cannot be a fellow Heritage Christian University student.

Often, the student will choose a minister, church secretary, fellow church member, or neighbor as his/her proctor. Many public librarians are familiar with this process and are willing to serve in this capacity. This is convenient for many students because of regular business hours including evenings and weekends. If a Distance Learning student lives near campus, s/he may use the Distance Learning Department for proctoring.

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"). A student who receives an "I" will have two weeks after the last day of class 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." Students with one incomplete will only be allowed to register for one course in the following semester.

Academic Standing:
Students must maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative grade point average (GPA) to remain in the program and a cumulative GPA of 3.00 to graduate. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.50 will be placed on academic probation (see below). Students who complete the curriculum with a cumulative 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 cumulative GPA, if a student takes a class over, only the grade of the last attempt will count. An "I" will not be counted in computing the GPA.

Academic Probation:
No more than six hours per semester will be allowed until the cumulative GPA is raised to 2.50 or higher. Also, if a student is placed on academic probation and the student fails to attain a GPA of 2.50 or higher (not cumulative) within the next semester, academic suspension follows.

Academic Suspension:
After serving one required semester (fall or spring) of academic suspension, a student may petition the Director of the Graduate Program for permission to

register. The written request to register will be accompanied by an essay detailing the student's educational and spiritual goals. If the student fails to earn a GPA of 2.50 in the semester of his/her return, an additional suspension will follow.

Transfer of Credits:

MA or MMin

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 at another university with a GPA of 3.00 or better, s/he 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. No course on which the student has made less than a "B" can be accepted for transfer credit. Decisions regarding whether courses can be accepted for transfer credit will be made by the Graduate Committee.

MDiv

Students may transfer credit from another degree program (completed or not) from an accredited college or university. However, no more than half of the total number of hours required to complete the MDiv degree may be accepted. If a student successfully completed fifteen or more graduate hours at another university with a GPA of 3.00 or better, s/he 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. No course on which the student has made less than a "B" can be accepted for transfer credit. Decisions regarding whether or not courses can be accepted for transfer credit will be made by the Graduate Committee.

Enrollment in Multiple Programs:
Eligible students may be either simultaneously or sequentially enrolled in two master's programs as long as each degree program has a clear integrity and meets the stated standards. The programs may in some instances use the same resources and be overlapping. The total time required will be determined by the demands of the two degrees combined but must conform to the stipulations on shared credit in degree programs as stated above in the section "Transfer of Credits."

Advanced Standing:
Students who, in the judgment of the Graduate Director, have taken at the undergraduate level the equivalent of a course required in the graduate program will be allowed to do one of two things.

Option 1: When a person comes to a graduate course in which s/he has skill, experience, and knowledge, and the course would be a repetition of things s/he already knows, the student may challenge the course at the graduate level for credit. The procedure is as follows:

1) Inform the Academic Dean of your desire to challenge the course.

2) With the Academic Dean's approval, register for the challenge test through the Registrar.
3) The Academic Dean will ask the appropriate supervising instructor to prepare the comprehensive challenge test. This test will include a major essay component.
4) A time to take the challenge test will be arranged through the Registrar.
5) If the challenge test is passed at a level of B or higher, credit will be given for the course.
6) Note: The challenge test procedure assumes that the student possesses mastery of course content. The challenge test procedure **does not** include instruction or access to lectures.
7) Note: There is a non-refundable fee for scheduling the challenge test and a per-credit-hour fee for recording the credit if the challenge is successful.

Option 2: If the student chooses not to take a challenge test, then the student may substitute another course in its place in his or her degree plan. Students in the MA or MMin program are eligible for up to 6 credit hours advanced standing, while MDiv students are eligible for 12 credit hours advanced standing (no more than 1/6 of the degree).

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, (b) a new syllabus is created with graduate level requirements, and (c) if permission is granted by the teacher of the course, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and the Director of the Graduate Program. 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 the Graduate Program will serve 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 will serve as advisor to the graduate students who have chosen that professor's concentration.

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 re-apply for admission to the program.

Transcripts:
The registrar will send official transcripts of the student's work to other parties with a signed request completed by the student, and if the student has met financial obligations to the school. The first transcript will be sent at no charge; after that, a fee will be charged for subsequent requests.

Graduation Requirements:
To graduate from the program a student must:

1. Successfully complete all hours required in the degree plan.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale). No course in 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 a Major area, while the other half will be over a Minor area. This exam will be given no later than

March 15 during the student's final year. If the student fails, the exam may be retaken.

4. File an "intent to graduate" form during 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. The "intent to graduate" must be filled out no later than the first week of December, as the HCU graduation ceremony typically takes place at the conclusion of the Spring semester.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The graduate program at Heritage Christian University offers three graduate theological degrees designed to prepare students for more effective Christian service and ministry. The Master of Arts in Christian Scripture is designed to train students in general theological studies. The Master of Ministry is oriented primarily toward ministerial leadership. The Master of Divinity offers three graduate theological degrees designed to prepare students for more effective Christian service/ministry. The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies is designed to train students in general theological studies. The Master of Ministry is oriented primarily toward ministerial leadership. The Master of Divinity is a comprehensive degree that thoroughly trains qualified individuals for Christian ministerial leadership in a congregational setting.

We strongly encourage students to take Greek as their first biblical language, though Hebrew courses are available for those who do not need to take Greek.

Master of Arts in Christian Scripture

General Description and Purpose:
The Master of Arts in Christian Scripture 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 program.

Program Objectives:
The Master of Arts in Christian Scripture enables graduates to:

1. Demonstrate a critical approach to scripture. This objective reflects our commitment to genuine comprehension of scripture rather than propagating traditional understandings and dogmas. We teach our students to engage high-quality scholarly resources and explore new ways of interpreting the text of scripture.
2. Read New Testament Greek and/or Biblical Hebrew. Reading scripture in its original languages has proven fundamental to a renewed appreciation for God's revelation to man, as opposed to a reliance on traditional interpretation. The student of Greek and Hebrew

can better understand biblical passages and more easily utilize standard scholarly resources.

3. Appreciate the theology of scripture. Viewing scripture theologically entails seeing the whole of scripture as a revelation of God to humanity and relating the individual books or passages to this overall conception of scripture. It is opposed to viewing scripture through the lens of proof-texting. The MA in Christian Scripture trains students to understand scripture theologically and to teach the theology of scripture to God's people as a vital component of their task as Christian ministers.
4. Conduct independent biblical research. The MA trains students to read with comprehension both scripture—in one or more original languages—and biblical scholarship of the highest level with the goal of enabling students to ask appropriate questions of scripture and find the answers. Graduates will not necessarily be in a position to contribute to the field of academic biblical scholarship (the goal of a doctoral degree, not a master's degree), but they will be able to interact critically with scripture and scholarship, rejecting or accepting proposed interpretations based on their own research.

Planning Your Program:

After a student has been accepted into the program, a plan will be developed that meets his or her situation in life. In particular, 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 student's 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 Christian Scripture, as follows. All requirements must be completed for graduation.

1. ***Introduction to Graduate Studies (3 hours)*** **–** Every student will take this course within the first nine hours of graduate studies. 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. ***Language Study (12 hours)*** **-** A foundational aspect of the critical approach to scripture encouraged by the MA is knowledge of the original language(s) of the Hebrew Bible and/or New Testament. The program does not require

previous knowledge of these languages, but at least twelve hours of coursework will focus on mastering one or more of these languages. Students with no previous language training will choose one of the biblical languages--either Greek or Hebrew--and take two elementary courses and two advanced readings courses, all focusing on building the student's proficiency in the selected language. These courses are the following:

NT 501 Greek 1
NT 502 Greek 2
NT 601 Greek 3
NT 602 Greek 4
or
OT 56X Hebrew 1
OT 57X Hebrew 2
OT 58X Hebrew 3
OT 59X Hebrew 4

Students who already have an elementary knowledge of Greek or Hebrew (equivalent to one full year of study) upon matriculation have several options for fulfilling their 12-hour language requirement: (a) take four advanced courses in the language previously studied; (b) take four courses, two elementary and two advanced, in the biblical language not previously studied; (c) take two advanced courses in the language previously studied, and use the other two required language courses to acquire an

elementary knowledge of another relevant language (e.g., one of the biblical languages, Latin, Coptic).

3. ***Introductions to the Hebrew Bible and New Testament (6 hours)*** **–** Every student will take both of the following courses:

   OT 611 Introduction to the Old Testament
   NT 612 Introduction to the New Testament

   These courses must be taken during the first eighteen hours of the program.

4. ***Biblical text courses (6 hours)*** **–** Every student is required to take two courses on the biblical text. The following courses may each be taken multiple times. Students are not required to take both of the following courses, but may choose two OT text courses or two NT text courses.

   OT 511 Old Testament Textual Studies
   NT 512 New Testament Textual Studies

5. ***Theology (3 hours)*** **–** Every student will take a theology course, choosing from the list below.

   HBI 501 History of Theology
   NT/TH 52X Theology of the New Testament
   OT/TH 522 Theology of the Hebrew Bible

6. **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 Christian Scripture. The student will be assigned to a professor who will guide him or her 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 that includes definition terms, description of the problem/issue/question to be dealt with, relevance/importance, and 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 that includes an analysis and application of the results, a description of their usefulness, and suggested 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. 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 graduate faculty member; 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 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 extension 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, 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.

Master of Ministry

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)
(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 MDiv degree.

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. This is composed of six major divisions: General Course Requirements, Introduction to Graduate Studies, a Major area, a Minor area, Electives, and a Practicum. All five divisions must be completed for graduation.

1. ***General Course Requirements (6 hours)*** – Every student will take MN500 Introduction to Graduate Studies (3 hours) and one Biblical Studies course

(i.e., courses that begin with the prefix NT or OT). Every student will take MN 500 within the first 9 hours of graduate studies. 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 one of the following:
   a. Ministerial Counseling
   b. Homiletics/Ministerial Care
   c. History of Biblical Interpretation and Theology
   d. Biblical Studies
3. ***Minor Area (6 hours)*** – Every student will choose a minor concentration (see Planning Your Program above) in:
   a. Ministerial Counseling
   b. Homiletics/Ministerial Care
   c. History of Biblical Interpretation and Theology
   d. Biblical Studies
4. ***Electives (12 hours)*** – Every student is free to take elective classes, choosing from any of the courses offered through the graduate program at HCU.

Practicum Specifications:

The Master of Ministry program is a 36-hour program that consists of 30 hours of coursework in the major and minor plus 12 hours of electives (electives may be taken from any track unless otherwise specified).

- The goal of the practicum is to give students experience in a supervised program of the church.

- Approximately 40 hours of ministry, effort, and assessment, not including travel time, will be required for each hour of credit.
- An annotated bibliography of the best works in the field in which the practicum is based.
- Simple guidelines of how to duplicate the practicum in another place by another student.
- Evidence of the completed practicum must be provided by the student. This evidence will include items such as:
    - A letter from the mentor in the field verifying that the work has been completed.
    - In some cases, an on-sight visit by a representative of the university may be necessary.
    - A folder with a sample of any forms, advertisements, or other documentation involved with the practicum along with, if applicable, a DVD or website of pertinent aspects of the project involved (mission trip, V.B.S., curriculum, archaeological dig, etc.).

Master of Divinity

General Description and Purpose:

The Master of Divinity is a comprehensive degree that thoroughly trains qualified individuals for Christian ministerial leadership in a congregational setting. Also, the MDiv is the first theological degree required for admission to the Doctor of Ministry degree, and the recommended degree for preparation for admission into advanced research-based theological degrees such as the Master of Theology, the Doctor of Theology, or the Doctor of Philosophy. Additionally, the MDiv is the required degree for service as a chaplain in the United States Armed Forces.

In most cases, the student's primary area of study will determine the language requirements for the program. For instance, students who select New Testament and Early Christian Literature as their primary 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 primary area will be required to know Hebrew.

Program Objectives: The Student will…

1. Develop an appreciation for the Christian heritage associated with the American Restoration Movement.
2. Interpret the Bible both critically and theologically for the benefit of the church.

3. Develop holistic spiritual disciplines.
4. Evaluate people and their personal circumstances and provide appropriate pastoral care or referral.
5. Know how to plan ministries and employ programs that serve the church.

Planning Your Program:
Each student needs to work closely with his/her advisor to develop a realistic plan for completion of the program. There is a recommended schedule that the student may follow that leads to graduation within a three year period. However, if a student is not able to take classes on a full-time basis, a suitable schedule can be arranged between the student and his/her advisor.

Curriculum (75 hours):

Each student will be required to complete a total of 75 hours for the Master of Divinity. This is composed of four major divisions. All four divisions must be completed for graduation.

1. Our Religious Heritage: (30 hours)

Our Religious Roots I: Tools (9 hours):

NT 501 Greek 1
NT 502 Greek 2
NT 601 Greek 3
or

OT 56X Hebrew 1
OT 57X Hebrew 2
OT 58X Hebrew 3

Our Religious Roots II: The Texts (12 hours):

OT 611 Introduction to the Old Testament
NT 612 Introduction to the New Testament
NT 512 New Testament Textual Studies (may be repeated)
OT 511 Old Testament Textual Studies (may be repeated)

Our Religious Roots III: Our History (9 hours):

NT/TH 52X Theology of the New Testament
OT/TH 522 Theology of the Hebrew Bible
HBI 501 History of Theology

2. Contextualizing our Religious Heritage (12 hours)

HBI/NT 551 Methods of Biblical Interpretation
MN 60X Seminar in Small Church/Limited Resource Ministry
Choose 1:
NT 66X Limited Resource Dynamics in the New Testament
OT 51X Limited Resource Dynamics in Ancient Israel
TH 511 Biblical Ethics

3. The Spiritual Formation of a Leader (6 hours + 6 Spiritual Formation units)

MN 500 Introduction to Graduate Studies
TH 50X Spiritual Development
Boundaries in Ministry Seminar and Spiritual Formation Retreat
Spiritual Formation Program (6 semester units)

4. Praxis in our Religious Heritage (27 hours)

Ministering within our Religious Heritage (12 hours):

Choose 2:
CN 501 The Ministry of Counseling
CN 502 Solution-Focused Counseling
CN 511 Seminar in Conflict Resolution
CN 602 Special Issues in Ministerial Counseling

Choose 2:
MN 502 Biblical Preaching
MN 511 Congregational Health and Ministry
MN 522 Family Life Ministry
MN 61X Directed Studies in Homiletics/Ministerial Care

Electives (9 hours) or *Focused Ministry within our Religious Heritage (Choose 1 Area; 9 hours):*

Youth and Family Ministerial Care
New Testament Early Christian Literature in Ministry
Old Testament & the Literature of Ancient Israel/Early Judaism in Ministry
Theology and the History of Biblical Interpretation
Greek
Hebrew

Practicum in Ministerial Leadership (6 hours)

MN 68X Practicum in Ministry 1
MN 69X Practicum in Ministry 2

Spiritual Formation Retreat and Requirements:
Although not part of the curriculum of classroom instruction as offered through the MDiv degree, the importance of Christian leaders being spiritually developed and godly leaders is essential for effective ministry. With this in mind, in addition to the curriculum, MDiv students will be prepared to enter a serious engagement with their relationship to God as a primary part of their formation as a leader in a Christian community. Within the first calendar year of enrollment in the MDiv degree, students are required to attend a retreat and become part of a spiritual formation group. During an annual retreat, MDiv students will learn to incorporate their academic growth in conjunction with their spiritual and personal formation. Students will complete a spiritual formation journal (digital or hardcopy) and maintain a relationship with a mentor throughout the year, designated by the student and the Director of the Graduate Program. In addition to the retreat, the community involvement, and the relationship with the Director of the Graduate Program, students will develop spiritual disciplines and learn to engage spiritual concerns that affect their personal and family lives. This growth process will be reinforced by watching online or attending three days of chapel, which will be mandatory for all MDiv students to

attend each semester. These chapel sessions will be tailored for MDiv students with specific requirements relating to their spiritual growth as leaders. As a part of this development, journals and personal advising by the Director of the Graduate Program will be an important part of their development as a leader. All MDiv students must complete a total of 6 units (six semesters) within the Spiritual Formation Program. Transfer students reduce the total Spiritual Formation units based on the total number of transfer credits, i.e., 12 transfer credits equals one Spiritual Formation unit requirement.

***Boundaries in Ministry* Seminar:**
Because issues about setting boundaries quickly become apparent as the minister enters the realm of ministry, the seminar focuses on the minister's personal, spiritual, professional, and ministerial development. The most prevalent pressures are appropriate relationships, family, and finances. This is a seminar offered annually at the beginning of the spiritual formation retreat.

Practicum Specifications:
In the MDiv program, students will develop a holistic ministry plan that specifically addresses the needs of a Christian community or communities while basing the program upon the student's rigorous academic research. The student will implement 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 primary area and will be

developed with his or her profession 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 the best results if begun during 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 and implementation of various stratagems, studies, and surveys.

The practicum should include:

(1) An introduction that includes definition of terms, description of the problem/issue/question to be dealt with, relevance/importance, and 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 that includes analysis and application of the results, description of their usefulness, and suggested 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. Students are encouraged to focus upon quality rather than quantity.

A completed draft of the practicum is read by the instructor and at least one other graduate faculty member; the final grade is assigned by the instructor. A public presentation of the results of the practicum, open to all faculty and administration, concludes the practicum. If the student is not on campus, 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 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.

The MDiv practicum is 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 the program, so s/he can begin working on his/her 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 thesis, an 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 extension for the thesis as often as needed. If at the end of the seventh year of study the student has not completed 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. f at the end of the seventh year of study the student has not completed 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.

Resource Development Models for Small Churches Non-Degree Certificate Program

Heritage Christian University currently offers a non-degree certificate in *"Resource Development Models for Small Churches."* Students completing this certificate program are specifically equipped to work within small churches while producing literature through their practicums that is available via the Overton Memorial Library. The certificate program in outlined below.

This certificate in small church growth models is offered by HCU to persons who fit into two basic categories: (1) those working on the MDiv degree who want to equip themselves for specialized ministry in a global context, namely working within church

missions with new or emerging churches; and (2) those who do not desire to complete any of the degree programs offered by HCU at the graduate level, yet still have the desire to equip themselves for theological studies and ministerial leadership to help small churches. Small churches are defined as congregations of 120 members or less without significant ambitions to exceed this number. The need for a program with such high specificity is due to the fact that anthropological studies and U.S. Census statistics have demonstrated that small towns/communities usually have a lower cost of living, different organizational dynamics, and most important to ministry, **a stronger sense of community and geographical identity**. Such specific ministry details are rarely addressed in most graduate theological schools due to a general focus upon urban areas and various forms of urban ministry. With this in mind, students at HCU have this certificate option for further training in ministry.

It is also a point of interest that looking at church growth at a global level is a completely different idea than looking at large churches/mega-churches in the United States. Defining church growth models on large churches in the US is largely unproductive and not useful in determining how to grow the church in most places in the world, where limited resources are the standard. Such was also the case for growing churches in the first century. It is our conviction that not only were small churches a reality of the first century due to circumstance, but implicitly, better Biblical models can be derived in the 21st century through the application of these models.

For instance, most mission models for church plantings in foreign cultures assume that there will be supporting and overseeing congregations that have an immense level of depth in resources (i.e., finances, human support, and spiritual support and maturity), all of which were not available to the first Christian missionaries, who nevertheless succeeded. Their success was not dependent upon miraculous deliverance by God or the Spirit, but God intended for Christians to be able to emulate first century models applicable to the 21st century. In this case, small church growth concerns become primary, rather than circumstantial, for modeling purposes in the 21st century.

Curriculum

Biblical Studies for Small Churches (9 hours):

NT 612 Introduction to the New Testament
NT 66X Limited Resource Dynamics in the New Testament
OT 51X Limited Resource Dynamics in Ancient Israel

History of Biblical Interpretation and Theology (3 hours):

Choose one:

HBI 501 History of Theology
NT/TH 52X Theology of the New Testament
OT/TH 522 Theology of the Hebrew Bible

Limited Resource/Small Groups Dynamics (6 hours)

Choose two:

CN 512 Seminar in Conflict Resolution
MN 501 The Ministry of Counseling
MN 511 Congregational Health and Ministry

Limited Resource Ministry Field Work (3 hours):

MN 60X Seminar in Small Church/Limited Resource Ministry

Seminars relevant to small churches (offered through the adult education program):

Legal Concerns Associated with Church Growth
The Mission and Role of the Small Church
Resource Development for Small or Emerging Churches
Models for Growing New and Emerging Churches

Requirements

1. Certificate candidates are required to attend/audit all five areas, usually spanning a two year timeframe.
2. All courses must be attended at HCU.
3. Students must declare their intent to complete the certificate program. This is important due the nature of some of the courses. For instance,

HBI 501 History of Theology is not a subject unique to small church ministry. However, the content and course requirements may be tailored toward the certificate program. Such a subject (e.g. Reformation Theology) is very important for an individual being able to lead effectively in a limited resource environment.

4. Students in the certificate program will complete courses on a "Pass" or "Fail" basis, but do not receive university credit. If a student desires university credit, s/he must apply and be accepted to HCU through the Enrollment Services department.

For more information, contact Dr. Jeremy Barrier in the Graduate Studies offices.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Ministerial Counseling (CN):

CN/MN 501 **The Ministry of Counseling** 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 502 **Solution-Focused Counseling** 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 511 **Seminar in Conflict Resolution** 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 602 **Special Issues in Ministerial Counseling** will 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 60X **Independent Study** With the permission of the Director of the Graduate Program, 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 68X **Practicum in Counseling 1** involves reading, research, and analysis, but also emphasizes applying theory to practice through a project which has, as its purpose, helped 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 will be required to have 12 hours of graduate courses completed prior to registering for this course.

CN 69X **Practicum in Counseling 2** is a continuation and completion of CN 68X.

History of Interpretation and Theology (HBI/TH):

HBI/OT 50X **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.

HBI 501 **History of Theology** surveys historical Christian doctrine from the second century to the contemporary era. Theological development is studied in light of its historical and cultural background to aid students in understanding how the divine commission of the church has been expressed in theology in history

HBI/NT 551 **Methods of Biblical Interpretation** 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.

HBI 60X **Independent Study** With the permission of the Director of the Graduate Program, 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.

HBI 68X **Guided Research in Biblical Interpretation 1** Under the guidance of the teacher of the course, the student will undertake an independent research project, requiring considerable research, reading, and analysis, all 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.

HBI 69X **Guided Research in Biblical Interpretation 2** is a continuation and completion of HBI 68X.

TH 502 **Biblical Ethics** 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** 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 51X **Systematic Theology** 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 522 **Theology of the Hebrew Bible** – see OT/TH 522.

TH 52X **Theology of the New Testament** – see NT/TH 52X.

TH 60X **Independent Study** With the permission of the Director of the Graduate Program, 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 68X **Guided Research in Biblical Interpretation and Theology 1** Under the guidance of the teacher of the course, the student will undertake an independent research project, requiring considerable research, reading, and analysis, 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.

TH 69X **Guided Research in Biblical Interpretation and Theology 2** is a continuation and completion of HBI/TH 591X.

Homiletics and Ministerial Care (MN):

MN 500 **Introduction to Graduate Study** 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** – see CN/MN 501 The Ministry of Counseling.

MN 502 **Biblical Preaching** 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 511 **Congregational Health and Ministry** 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** 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** 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 60X **Seminar in Small Church/Limited Resource Ministry** involves the combined teaching of one of HCU's faculty along with one experienced minister/evangelist who has been highly engaged in ministry in a rural setting. The course will be an intersection of ministerial experience and practice combined with the research and experiences of each other in micro-urban ministry.

MN 61X **Directed Studies in Homiletics/Ministerial Care** is designed to deal with specific issues in ministry. The content may vary from year to year.

MN 62X **Independent Study** With the permission of the Director of the Graduate Program, 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 68X **Practicum in Ministry 1** involves reading, research, and analysis, but also emphasizes applying theory to practice through a 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.

MN 69X **Practicum in Ministry 2** is a continuation and completion of MN 69X.

New Testament and Early Christian Literature (NT):

NT 501 **Greek 1** equips students to be able to read basic Koine Greek texts. Upon the completion of the course, the students should have a basic grasp of the Greek language and grammar, acquisition of vocabulary, utilization of various parts of speech, the verb, and the ability to read and translate basic Greek narrative texts.

NT 502 **Greek 2** is a continuation of NT 501. In this course, the students will complete a basic overview of Greek grammar, morphology, syntax, and begin reading basic Greek texts.

NT 50X **New Testament Backgrounds** 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.

NT 511 **New Testament Textual Studies 1** 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.

NT 512 **New Testament Textual Studies 2** is 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.

NT/TH 52X **Theology of the New Testament** examines the theological framework of the New Testament. Issues related to the "theologies" of the

New Testament as well as a "canonical theology" will be discussed. In addition, critical reading of texts from a theological perspective is also addressed.

NT 551 **Methods of Biblical Interpretation** – see HBI/NT 551.

NT 601 **Greek 3** This course will improve the student's command of Greek through reading a variety of Greek literature and reviewing the elements of morphology and syntax.
NT602 **Greek 4** This course will improve the student's command of Greek through reading a variety of Greek literature--especially non-biblical Greek--and reviewing the elements of morphology and syntax.

NT 60X **Reading Coptic for Beginners 1** equips students to be able to read basic Sahidic Coptic texts. Upon the completion of the course, the students should have a basic grasp of the Coptic language and grammar, acquisition of vocabulary, utilization of various parts of speech, the verb, and the ability to read and translate basic Coptic narrative texts.

NT 612 **Introduction to the New Testament** presents a general introduction to the New Testament with special attention being given to presenting a historiographical narrative to explain the origins of Christianity. Special attention is also devoted to processing critical concepts in conjunction with reading these texts from a theological perspective (i.e. reading texts from a faith-based perspective).

NT 61X **Reading Coptic for Beginners 2** is a continuation of NT 60X. In this course, the students will complete a basic overview of Coptic grammar, morphology, syntax, and begin reading basic Sahidic Coptic texts.

NT/OT 622 **Directed Studies in Early Judaism/Early Christianity** 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 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.

NT 62X **Coptic Readings** The purpose of this course is to read Sahidic Coptic texts, specifically texts from the Bible, early Christian literature, and other Coptic texts that are related to early Christianity. Emphasis is given to reading and expansion of vocabulary.

NT 63X **Reading Latin for Beginners 1** equips students to be able to read basic ecclesiastical Latin texts. Upon the completion of the course, the students should have

a basic grasp of the Latin language and grammar, acquisition of vocabulary, utilization of various parts of speech, the verb, and the ability to read and translate basic Latin texts.

NT 64X **Reading Latin for Beginners 2** is a continuation of NT 63X. In this course, the students will complete a basic overview of Latin grammar, morphology, syntax, and begin reading basic Latin texts.

NT 65X **Ecclesiastical Latin Readings** The purpose of this course is to read Latin texts, specifically texts from the Bible, early Christian literature, and other Latin texts that are related to early Christianity. Emphasis is given to reading and expansion of vocabulary.

NT 66X **Limited Resource Dynamics in the New Testament** is an in-depth study of micro-urban churches as can be studied within the New Testament and other early Christian sources.

NT 67X **Independent Study** With the permission of the Director of the Graduate Program, 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 68X **Thesis/Guided Research in the New Testament 1** 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.

NT 69X **Thesis/Guided Research in the New Testament 2** This is a continuation and completion of NT 59X.

Old Testament (OT):

OT 501 **Hebrew 1** is to equip students to be able to read basic Hebrew texts. Upon the completion of the course, the students should have a basic grasp of the Hebrew language and grammar, acquisition of vocabulary, utilization of various parts of speech, the verb, and the ability to read and translate basic Hebrew narrative texts.

OT 502 **Hebrew 2** is a continuation of OT 501. In this course, the students will complete a basic overview of Hebrew grammar, morphology, syntax, and begin reading basic Hebrew texts.

OT 50X **Interpreting the Old Testament** – see HBI/OT 50X.

OT 511 **Old Testament Textual Studies 1** 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.

OT 512 **Old Testament Textual Studies 2** is a continuation of OT 511.

OT 51X **Limited Resources Dynamics in Ancient Israel** This course is a survey of ancient Israel with the intention of using "micropolitan dynamics" as an interpretive lens. In particular, texts that provide insight into the less urban dynamics will be analyzed thoroughly.

OT/TH 522 **Theology of the Hebrew Bible** 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.

OT 52X **The Septuagint** 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 53X **Directed Studies in Ancient Near East** This is a study of the history, culture, religion, languages, and/or texts of the ancient Near East. The topics explored will vary from semester to semester. Topics may include close readings of primary texts in English translation (e.g., The Epic of Gilgamesh, Near Eastern Law Collections), ancient languages (e.g., Akkadian, Aramaic, Ugaritic), archaeology, the Bible in its Near Eastern context, or studies of specific peoples and/or social institutions in Mesopotamia, Syria, Egypt or Israel from 3000 to 330 BCE.

OT 54X **Dead Sea Scrolls** 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 Testament will also be explored. Extensive readings of English translations of the scrolls will be required.

OT 55X **Post–biblical Jewish Literature** 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 58X **Hebrew 3** This course will improve the student's command of Hebrew through reading select passages of Hebrew literature and reviewing the elements of morphology and syntax.

OT59X **Hebrew 4** This course will improve the student's command of Hebrew through reading select passages of Hebrew literature--including non-biblical Hebrew (e.g., Dead Sea Scrolls, Mishnah)--and reviewing the elements of morphology and syntax.

OT 60X **Independent Study** With the permission of the Director of the Graduate Program, 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 611 **Introduction to the Old Testament** This course introduces the student to the modern study of the Hebrew Bible. Major points of emphasis will include the textual and canonical history of the biblical documents and the redaction of the various books, especially those forming the Pentateuch, the Deuteronomistic History, and the prophetic literature.

We will constantly examine how critical scholarship benefits an understanding of the Bible as the word of God.

OT 622 **Directed Studies in Early Judaism/Early Christianity** – see NT/OT 622.

OT 68X **Thesis/Guided Research in the Old Testament 1** 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.

OT 69X **Thesis/Guided Research in the Old Testament 2** is a continuation and completion of OT 68X.

2016-2021 Tentative Course Schedules

Summer 2016:

NT/TH 52X	Theology of the New Testament
OT 51X	Limited Resource Dynamics in Ancient Israel
	Electives

Fall 2016

MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 501	The Ministry of Counseling
MN 511	Congregational Health and Ministry
NT 501	Greek 1
NT 511	New Testament Textual Studies
NT 601	Greek 3
HBI 501	History of Theology

Spring 2017

CN 502	Solution-Focused Counseling
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 502	Biblical Preaching
NT 502	Greek 2
NT 602	Greek 4
OT 512	Old Testament Textual Studies

Summer 2017

NT 66X	Limited Resource Dynamics in the New Testament
	Electives

Fall 2017

CN 511	Seminar in Conflict Resolution
HBI 501	History of Theology

HBI/NT 551	Methods of Biblical Interpretation
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 511	The Ministry of Preaching
NT 501	Greek 1
NT 511	New Testament Textual Studies
NT 601	Greek 3
OT 611	Introduction to the Old Testament

Spring 2018

CN 602	Special Issues in Ministerial Counseling
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 502	Family Life Ministry
NT 502	Greek 2
NT 602	Greek 4
NT 612	Introduction to the New Testament
OT 512	Old Testament Textual Studies
TH 502	Biblical Ethics

Summer 2018

NT/TH 52X	Theology of the New Testament
OT 51X	Limited Resource Dynamics in Ancient Israel
	Electives

Fall 2018

MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 511	Congregational Health and Ministry
MN 501	The Ministry of Counseling
NT 501	Greek 1
NT 511	New Testament Textual Studies
NT 601	Greek 3

Spring 2019

CN 502	Solution-Focused Counseling
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 502	Biblical Preaching
NT 502	Greek 2
NT 602	Greek 4
OT 512	Old Testament Textual Studies
TH 512	Spiritual Development

Summer 2019

OT/TH 522	Theology of the Hebrew Bible
MN60X	Seminar in Small Church/Limited Resource Ministry
	Electives

Fall 2019

CN 511	Seminar in Conflict Resolution
HBI 501	History of Theology
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 511	The Ministry of Preaching
NT 501	Greek 1
NT 511	New Testament Textual Studies
NT 601	Greek 3
OT 611	Introduction to the Old Testament

Spring 2020

CN 602	Special Issues in Ministerial Counseling
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 502	Family Life Ministry
NT 502	Greek 2
NT 602	Greek 4
NT 612	Introduction to the New Testament
OT 512	Old Testament Textual Studies

Summer 2020

NT 66X	Limited Resource Dynamics in the New Testament
	Electives

Fall 2020

MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 501	The Ministry of Counseling
MN 511	Congregational Health and Ministry
NT 501	Greek 1
NT 511	New Testament Textual Studies
NT 601	Greek 3

Spring 2021

CN 502	Solution-Focused Counseling
MN 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies
MN 502	Biblical Preaching
NT 502	Greek 2
NT 602	Greek 4
OT 512	Old Testament Textual Studies
TH 502	Biblical Ethics

Summer 2021

MN 60X	Seminar in Small Church/Limited
OT/TH 50X	Old Testament Theology
	Resource Ministry
	Electives

PERSONNEL

Board of Directors:

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Dr. Betty Hamblen
Dr. Michael Strickland
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MAIL, TELEPHONE, AND EMAIL DIRECTORY

Heritage Christian University www.hcu.edu
P. O. Box HCU (mailing address)
3625 Helton Drive (shipping address)
Florence AL 35630
(256) 766-6610 or toll-free 1- (800) 367-3565
Fax (256) 767-7887

BY DEPARTMENTS:

Academic Affairs
Vice President of Academic Affairs (Academic Dean)
Dr. Bill Bagents (x.308) bbagents@hcu.edu
Director of Graduate Studies
Dr. Jeremy Barrier (x.314) jbarrier@hcu.edu
Registrar
Charlotte Orr (x.307) corr@hcu.edu
Faculty Secretary
Whitney Burgess (x.320) wburgess@hcu.edu

Business Office
Vice President of Administration
Pat Moon (x.334) pmoon@hcu.edu
Business Office Manager
Tricia Bretherick (x.302) tbretherick@hcu.edu
Payroll and Human Resources Clerk
Nancy Cooper (x.306) ncooper@hcu.edu

Cafeteria
Cafeteria Manager
Peggy Brewer (x.330) pbrewer@hcu.edu

Campus Security
Director
Travis Harmon (x.316) tharmon@hcu.edu

Distance Learning Department
Director
Travis Harmon (x.316) tharmon@hcu.edu
Associate Director
Aläna Marks (x.324) amarks@hcu.edu

Executive Office
President
Dennis Jones (x.322) djones@hcu.edu
Assistant to the President/Director of Public Relations
Brittany McGuire (x.323) bmcguire@hcu.edu

Enrollment Services Department Fax (256-716-8020)
Director
Jim Collins (x.304) jcollins@hcu.edu
Admissions Counselor
Rusty Pettus (x.328) rpettus@hcu.edu
Associate Director of Financial Aid
Mechelle Thompson (x.303) mthompson@hcu.edu
Fax 256.716.8021
Admissions Assistant
Lucas Suddreth (x.301) lsuddreth@hcu.edu

Faculty
Dr. Bill Bagents (x.308) bbagents@hcu.edu
B.S., Auburn University, 1978; M.A., Alabama School of Religion, 1980; M.Ed., Auburn University, 1982; M.Div., Southern Christian University, 1992; D. Min., 1996.

Dr. Jeremy Barrier (x.314) jbarrier@hcu.edu
B.S. in Mathematics and Natural Science, Freed–Hardemen 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 Burleson (x.317) tburleson@hcu.edu
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 S. Cox (x.326) jcox@hcu.edu
B.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 1985; M.L.S., University of Southern Mississippi, 1990.

Nathan Daily (x.319) ndaily@hcu.edu
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.

Dr. Ed Gallagher (x.318) egallagher@hcu.edu
B.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 2001; M.A., 2002; M.Phil., Hebrew Union College, 2006; Ph.D., Hebrew Union College, 2010.

George Goldman (x.315) saragoldman07@comcast.net
A.A., Cameron State Agricultural College, 1967; B.A., Southeastern State University, 1971; M.A., Harding University Graduate

School of Religion, 1974; M.Th., 1984.

Michael Jackson (x.325) mjackson@hcu.edu
B.A., Heritage Christian University, 2004; M.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 2005.

Dennis Jones (x.322) djones@hcu.edu
B.A., Heritage Christian University, 1977; M.S., Murray State University, 1994.

C. Wayne Kilpatrick (x.327) wkilpatrick@hcu.edu
B.A., Heritage Christian University, 1974; M.A.R., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1981.

Brad McKinnon (x.305) bmckinnon@hcu.edu
B.A., University of Memphis, 1995; M.Min., Freed-Hardeman University, 2000; M.A., University of North Alabama, 2012.

Dr. Rosemary Snodgrass (256-765-7111) rsnodgrass@hcu.edu
B.A., David Lipscomb University, 1974; M.A., University of Alabama, 1976; Ed.D., 1990.

Faculty – Adjunct

Dr. Larry Adams lwadams1@una.edu
B.S., University of North Alabama, 1989; D.A., Middle Tennessee State University, 2002.

Mary Arny maryharny@yahoo.com
B.S., East Carolina University, 1984; M.S., East Carolina University, 1987.

Dr. Laura Bagents lsbagents@comcast.net
B.S., Auburn University, 1982. M.A.Ed., University of North Alabama, 1993; Ed.S., University of North Alabama, 1999; Ed.D., University of Alabama, 2008.

Janet Barrier janetbarrier@gmail.com
B.S., University of Tennessee, 1972. M.A., University of North Alabama, 1985.

Joey Barrier joeybarrier@gmail.com
B.A., Athens State University, 1999; B.A., Heritage Christian University, 2007, M.Div., 2014

Chelsey Cook ccook@hcu.edu
B.B.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 2014; M.B.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 2014.

Arvy Dupuy adupuy@scope310.com
B.S., Athens State University, 1987; M.S., Southern Christian University, 2002; M.A., Amridge University, 2007.

Jeanne Foust bamafoust@comcast.net
B.S., University of Alabama, 1992. M.A., 1993.

Dr. Matt Gargis mattgargis@bellsouth.net
B.M.M.Ed., University of North Alabama, 1994; M.Ed., 1999; University of Alabama, Ph.D., 2013.

Justin Guin jsbguin@gmail.com
B.A., Heritage Christian University, 2006; M.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 2009.

Dr. Betty Hamblen
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.

Matt Heupel mheupel120272@gmail.com
B.S., University of North Alabama, 2000; M.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 2004.

Dr. Michael Strickland
B.S. and M.Ed. in Mathematics Education, Auburn University, 1997 & 1998; M.A. in Biblical Studies, Lipscomb University, 2000. Ph.D. in Theology, University of Birmingham, England, 2012.

Dr. Steve Williams joelstephenwilliams@comcast.net
B.S., Harding University, 1972; M.Th., Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1976; Ph.D., Baylor University, 1987.

Library

Librarian
Jamie S. Cox (x.326) jcox@hcu.edu

Public Relations Department

Director
Brittany McGuire (x.323) bmcguire@hcu.edu

Director of Web Communications and IT
Justin Connelly (x.300) jconnelly@hcu.edu

Graphic Design
Robin Barrier (x.335) rbarrier@hcu.edu

Receptionists (x.1) receptionist@hcu.edu
Aquilla Beck abeck@hcu.edu
Dianne Tays dtays@hcu.edu

Student Affairs Department

Dean of Students
Brad McKinnon (x.305) bmckinnon@hcu.edu

Dean of Men
Dr. Ed Gallagher (x.318) egallagher@hcu.edu

Dean of Women
Dr. Rosemary Snodgrass (256-765-7111)
rsnodgrass@hcu.edu

University Advancement and Donor Services Department

Vice President for Advancement
Philip Goad (x.310) pgoad@hcu.edu
Benefit Dinner Coordinator
Janet Moon (x.309) jmoon@hcu.edu
Donor Services Supervisor
Melanie Irions (x.312) mirions@hcu.edu
Donor Services Assistant
Barbara Dillon (x.311) bdillon@hcu.edu

BY LAST NAME:

Bagents, Bill.....x. 308
Barrier, Jeremy x.314
Barrier, Robin.....x.335
Beck, Aquilla.....x.001
Bretherick, Tricia x.302
Brewer, Peggy.....x.330
Burgess, Whitney x.320
Burleson, Ted.....x.317
Collins, Jim.....x.304
Connelly, Justin x.300
Cooper, Nancy.....x.306
Cox, Jamie x.326
Daily, Nathan.....x.319
Dillon, Barbara.....x.311
Gallagher, Ed x.318
Goad, Philip x.310
Goldman, George.....x.315

Harmon, Travis x.316
Irions, Melanie x.312
Jackson, Michael x.325
Jones, Dennis x.322
Kilpatrick, C. Wayne x.327
Marks, Aläna x.324
McGuire, Brittany x.323
McKinnon, Brad x.305
Moon, Janet x.309
Moon, Pat x.334
Nichols, James x.399
Orr, Charlotte x.307
Pettus, Rusty x.328
Snodgrass, Rosemary 256.765.7111
Suddreth, Lucas x.301
Tays, Dianne x.001
Thompson, Mechelle x.303

Academic Calendar 2016–2018

Fall 2016:

Jul. 5 – Aug. 15	Online Pre-registration
August 15	Classes Begin
August 26	Last Day for Drop/Add
September 5	Labor Day Holiday
October 24-28	Fall Break
November 21-25	Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 28 – Jan. 9	Online Pre-Reg. for Spring 2017
December 9	Last Day of Lecture
December 12-14	Final Exams
December 14	End of Term

Spring 2017:

Nov. 28 – Jan. 9	Online Pre-Registration
January 9	Classes Begin
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
January 20	Last Day to Drop/Add
March 27-31	Spring Break
Mar. 27 – May 15	Online Pre-Reg. for Summer 2017
April 28	Last Day of Lecture
May 1-3	Final Exams
May 3	End of Term
May 6	Graduation

Fall 2017:

Jul. 3 – Aug. 14	Online Pre-Registration
August 14	Classes Begin
August 25	Last Day for Drop/Add
September 4	Labor Day Holiday
October 23-27	Fall Break
November 20-24	Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 27 – Jan. 8	Online Pre-Reg. for Spring 2017
December 8	Last Day of Lecture
December 11-13	Final Exams
December 13	End of Term

Spring 2018:

Nov. 27 – Jan. 8	Online Pre-Registration
January 8	Classes Begin
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
January 19	Last Day to Drop/Add
March 26-30	Spring Break
Mar. 26 – May 14	Online Pre-Reg. for Summer 2017
April 27	Last Day of Lecture
May 1-3	Final Exams
Apr. 30 - May 2	End of Term
May 5	Graduation