



**ASCENT**  
COLLEGE

## **Academic Catalog**

**2022 - 2023**

**1705 Todds Lane  
Hampton, VA 23666  
[www.ascent.edu](http://www.ascent.edu)**

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# ACCREDITATION AND ENDORSEMENTS

Legal Authorization to Operate as Incorporated in Virginia

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia as non-profit corporation – April 29, 2005

IRS Designation 501(c)(3)

Certified by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to operate in Virginia - May 23, 2005 and certified annually after that.

Ascent College 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. The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), 5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 26, Orlando, FL 32822-1781, 407-207-0808.

The Association for Biblical Higher Education is a North American agency that comprises over 200 postsecondary institutions throughout North America specializing in biblical ministry formation and professional leadership education. It is an officially recognized “national accrediting association” by the U.S. Department of Education ([www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)). ABHE is an officially recognized “faith-based” accrediting agency by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation ([www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)), and is a part of a global network that relates to regional or continental higher educational agencies through the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education ([www.iceteedu.org](http://www.iceteedu.org)).

Approved by the Potomac District Assemblies of God to provide educational requirements for credentialed ministers with the Assemblies of God.

Approved to offer G.I. Bill® educational benefits by the Virginia State Approving Agency. G.I. Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about educational benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>

Approved as an Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Continuing Education Unit Provider.

# FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Ascent College is all about “Cultivating the Call” in people’s lives. Ephesians 2:10 says, that we are “God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works.” Our mission at Ascent College is to prepare people for the work God has created them to do. You’ll find Ascent College to be...

## **PASSIONATE**

At Ascent College, we strive to create an atmosphere where students can grow into passionate followers of Jesus Christ. That environment includes weekly chapel services, small groups, and personal interaction with instructors.

## **PRACTICAL**

Students don’t have to wait until they graduate to put what they learn into practice. Through Christian service, practicums, and internships, students have a variety of experiences to help them learn by doing.

## **PURPOSEFUL**

Everything we do at Ascent College is about cultivating the call to ministry. As such, our curriculum focuses on ministry-related courses and programs. Many of our faculty are pastors of local churches and bring this pastoral experience into the classroom. Our prime mission is to cultivate your call into Christian ministry!

Please visit our website at [www.ascent.edu](http://www.ascent.edu). If I can assist you in any way, please don’t hesitate to contact me at [rrhoden@ascent.edu](mailto:rrhoden@ascent.edu). We look forward to serving you at Ascent College.

Dreaming Together,

Dr. Rob Rhoden  
President Ascent College

# INTRODUCTION

## **The Ascent College Story**

Bethel Bible Institute (BBI) was founded by Dr. John Mannion in 1996 for the purpose of training missionaries and church leaders. Pastor Ron Johnson, who was a sectional presbyter with the Potomac District, assumed the presidency. By 1997, BBI was approved by the Potomac District of the Assemblies of God as a training institute to provide the educational requirements for credentialing ministers at the certification and licensing level with the Assemblies of God.

In 1998, Rev. Stuart Ross was appointed as director to lead the school for training pastors, evangelists, missionaries, Christian education workers, and lay ministers. Rev. Ross was instrumental in positioning the school for the training of Hampton Master's Commission students and local pastors.

In 2002, Pastor Ron Johnson appointed Dr. Terry Minter as President of Bethel Bible Institute. Pastor Johnson and Dr. Minter envisioned a four-year college and began the transition from a Bible Institute into a college that awards both bachelor and associate degrees. In 2005, Bethel College was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a non-profit corporation (501(c)(3) and was certified to operate as an in-state, non-profit college by Virginia. In 2013 Bethel College was granted accreditation by The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), 5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 26, Orlando, FL 32822-1781, 407-207-0808.

In 2006, Bethel College moved into a new facility with a new library and several new classrooms to be shared with Bethel Temple Church. In May 2017, Dr. Mark Wootton became the third president of Bethel College. In March 2019, Dr. Ron DeBerry was appointed by the board as the Interim President. In November 2019, Dr. Rob Rhoden became the president of Bethel College. Soon afterward the college changed its name to Antioch College of the Assemblies of God and established an increased relationship with the Potomac Ministry Network. The name was changed again to our current name, Ascent College.

## **Location**

Ascent College is centrally administered in northern Virginia at the Potomac Ministry Center with the main campus at 1705 Todds Lane, Hampton, VA. It has connection with local churches, called Partner Sites, where students can experience community, spiritual formation, practicums, and Christian service. Ascent College currently has on-campus courses at one Partner Site, Bethel Temple Church, Hampton, Virginia.

## **Mission Statement**

Ascent College is equipping Spirit-empowered ministry leaders to be passionate, principled, and practical leaders through sound Biblical education and leadership development.

## **Philosophy of Education**

Ascent College intends for students to leave the school with the character evident of mature Christians and excellent academic training. Ascent College is able to provide comprehensive theological training, as well as the excellent practical tools necessary to equip students for a maximized ministry and life experience. It is the desire of Ascent College for each student to experience both the spirit of local church engagement and the academic training of the college. All the school's course offerings are consistent with this stated philosophy and purpose. The school focuses on instruction with no research or public service opportunities.

Our delivery model is best described as online education in the context of community. Students simultaneously enjoy the freedom of digital access as well as the benefits of face-to-face interaction with peers. This learning synergy takes place at our Partner Sites. Students are actively involved, learning, and serving at a Partner Site, where mentoring relationships between students and Partner Site leaders are established. All program offerings may be taken in an online format.

## Governance

Ascent College is a not-for-profit, private college governed by a constitution and bylaws providing the basis for institutional administration and governance. A Board of Control exercises legal and fiduciary responsibility for oversight of institutional integrity, policies, resource development, and ongoing operations. The President of the college provides administrative leadership for the institution. The President has an administrative staff who provides guidance and oversees the day-to-day operations.

The school offers the following concentrations in a Bachelor of Ministry degree:

- Biblical Studies (on campus and online)
- Ministerial Leadership (on campus and online)
- Children's Ministry Leadership (on campus and online)
- Youth Ministry Leadership (on campus and online)
- Intercultural Studies (on campus and online)
- Worship Leadership (on campus and online)
- Christian Counseling with a Focus on Psychology (on campus and online)
- Christian Counseling with a Focus on Pastoral Ministry (on campus and online)

All students are required to complete core courses in general education and general ministry in order to provide well-rounded training. This structure allows students to achieve broad academic and practical outcomes that are important in every aspect of ministry.

## Statement of Faith

Faith in God should be understood and talked about knowledgeably. The leadership and faculty of Ascent College offer these articles to represent our faith commitment.

- I. We believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative written Word of God.  
*2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21*
- II. We believe there is One God, eternally existent in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. *Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19*
- III. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years. *Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:9-11*
- IV. We believe in the blessed hope - the rapture of the Church at Christ's coming.  
*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 2:13*
- V. We believe the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ. *Romans 3:22-26; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:9*
- VI. We believe regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.  
*Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8*
- VII. We believe in water baptism by immersion. *Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16*
- VIII. We believe the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the human body in answer to believing prayer. *Isaiah 53:4, 5; James 5:14-16*



- IX. We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. *Corinthians 12:4-10, 28*
- X. We believe in the indwelling and sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit who enables the Christian to live a holy life. *Romans 8:11-13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 5:18*
- XI. We believe in the resurrection of the saved to everlasting life and the lost to everlasting damnation. *Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11-15*

### **Christ-Honoring Conduct**

Students, faculty, and staff of Ascent College are expected to maintain high standards of Christian conduct both on and off campus. Morally and biblically, certain practices are clearly wrong and should be avoided. These include substance abuse, stealing, slanderous or profane language, dishonesty, occult practices, addictions (mutilation, sexual addictions, eating disorders, drug addiction-both illegal and prescription), and sexual sins (premarital sex, adultery, pornography, and homosexuality). Attitudes such as greed, jealousy, pride, lust, bitterness, needless anger, an unforgiving spirit, discrimination, and prejudice are unacceptable at Ascent College. However, if you find that you are genuinely struggling with such issues, we advise you to seek the counsel of a faculty member.

The Bible does not provide specific teaching on all social practices, but advocates self-restraint in behavior toward others. Therefore, any behavior that is considered detrimental to Christian character and witness is disapproved of strongly, and disciplinary action will be taken accordingly.

### **Institutional Goals**

1. Provide a sound biblical, theological, and hermeneutical competence, which prioritizes the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God and results in "rightly dividing" the biblical text with a renewal theology emphasis.
2. Provide a general education program that will equip students with the written and oral communication skills necessary to excel both in ministry and professional areas.
3. Provide a general education program which will equip students with quantitative and technological skills; develop a general understanding of natural science, social science, and the humanities from a Christian perspective; and give the students a view of their responsibility as Christian scholars in both the local and global community.
4. Prepare Christian men and women professionally for ministry. Be a leadership development and resource center for Bible-believing churches and the community at large.
5. Provide academic support through faculty, curriculum, computer facilities, library resources, and student support services to ensure quality instruction and a challenging academic environment.
6. Provide an environment that supports and encourages students in their personal, social, spiritual, and cultural development.
7. Develop students who are committed to a lifestyle of spiritual growth, fellowship, prayer, worship, and Christian service.
8. Develop students who demonstrate an understanding of a biblical worldview that integrates faith with learning.

9. Prepare students for successful personal and professional life by providing opportunities for them to develop a personal mission statement including Christian core values and ethics that will shape their vocational goals and lifestyle choices.
10. Train students to comprehend and communicate biblical and theological truth and provide opportunities for students to participate in practical ministry within their respective communities.
11. Assess academic programs, academic support services, and institutional support services in a comprehensive systematic program that fosters continuous improvement.
12. Maintain efficient and effective administrative services and facilities to support all programs of the college.
13. Maintain sound financial management while focusing on programs and services vital to the mission of the college.
14. Optimize resources and generate revenue for and through programs, partnerships, donors, and grants.

# ADMISSIONS

## Admissions Policy

In accordance with our mission to prepare students spiritually, practically, and academically for professional and lay ministry, Ascent College's requirements for admission consider each prospective student's relationship with Christ and His Church, calling to ministry, commitment to Christian service, and scholastic aptitude for post-secondary education. The application process requires the submission of documentation demonstrating the applicant's suitability/aptitude in each of these areas.

While maintaining high standards for admission to Ascent College, our admissions policy does not discriminate between prospective students based on race, color, nationality, ethnic origin, or gender. Ascent College does not discriminate against disabled persons who are otherwise eligible for admission to the college. Furthermore, all students granted admission have the right to participate in all programs and activities available to the student body.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for the fall, spring, and summer semesters, and are accepted as early as 12 months before the requested entry semester. To allow adequate time for processing, all applications should be submitted at least one month prior to the beginning of official registration. All applications should be directed to the admission office. Once Ascent College receives and processes an application, notification of status will be sent to the student. If accepted, the student will also receive an enrollment packet which will include additional required information for enrollment and registration.

## General Admission Requirements

Prospective students applying to Ascent College must submit a completed Application for Admission and a non-refundable application fee of \$25.00.

The following requirements must be submitted for admission consideration:

Official high school transcripts or a high school equivalency diploma (GED) with test score;

OR

In lieu of high school transcripts, transfer students may submit official transcripts from any accredited postsecondary institution attended;

AND

Any additional documentation requested by the admissions office. If the college determines that the high school completion documentation may not be valid or was not obtained from an entity that provides secondary school education, the college will complete the following:

1. Receive documentation from the secondary school that the completion is valid, and
2. Receive documentation from the relevant department or agency in the state in which the secondary school is located that the secondary school is recognized as a provider of secondary school education, if applicable.

## Academic Requirements

The following requirements are designed to determine academic record and scholastic aptitude. All applicants must show that they have maintained a grade point average of 2.0, equivalent to a grade of "C".

## Conditional Status

Students may be placed on conditional status if all requirements for full acceptance (all official and unofficial documents have not been submitted) are not fulfilled and approved by the Registrar. Conditional students cannot be enrolled in future classes until cleared by the Registrar.

### **Provisional Status**

Students may be placed on provisional status if requirements for full acceptance (GPA at or above 2.0) are not met. The provisional status will be removed if the student achieves a cumulative GPA of 2.0 during the first semester of enrollment. If the provisional student does not achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 during the first semester of enrollment, the student will be subject to academic dismissal.

### **Home-schooled Applicants**

Home-schooled applicants must submit the following academic documentation in lieu of official high school transcripts:

1. Transcripts of all courses taken in secondary education reflecting the grades attained and the date of graduation;
2. A letter signed by the prospective student's parents indicating that all home-schooling standards required by the state in which the home schooling occurred have been met.
3. If these two submissions cannot be made, it will be necessary to obtain GED test scores.

### **Early College Admittance**

The Ascent College early college admittance program allows high school students to receive high school credit for Ascent College courses, or to take college courses before completing high school. To continue and complete an academic program, students must graduate from high school and submit official, completed high school transcripts. Students must be at least 16 years old, have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher, and be able to demonstrate good Christian character and maturity to enroll in freshman and sophomore level courses at Ascent College. The first college course will be tuition-free. Each class after that will be offered at 50% off the tuition price as long as the student is enrolled as an Early College student. Applications are available at <https://ascent.edu/early-college/>.

### **International Students**

International students must submit the following additional requirements:

1. A demonstration of reasonable mastery of the English language.
2. If English is not the prospective student's first language, it is required that the applicant takes the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) unless a waiver is granted. A minimum score of 500 must be obtained, and an official report of this score must be forwarded to Ascent College before an admissions decision can be reached or other documentation to demonstrate mastery of the English language.
3. A valid passport and proper medical documentation are required for leaving the home country and for issuance of a student visa upon entering the United States.
4. Demonstrate financial resources for one full academic year.

\*Due to additional requirements, international students should allow a minimum of one year to complete the admissions process.

### **Audit Students**

Policy for Audit Students

An applicant applying for admission as an audit student must submit an application with the two reference forms along with payment of the application fee. No record of previous academic work is required for audit students and no application essay is required. No enrollment fee is required. A record of classes audited will be maintained, but no academic credits will be granted. If a student later desires to be admitted as a regular student all admission requirements must be fulfilled.

### **Spiritual Requirements**

All students must submit the following requirements, which are designed to demonstrate the applicant's faith, character, and involvement in ministry within the local church and community:

1. Two references, one pastoral and one personal
2. A written testimony of personal Christian faith and growth, ministry experience, expectations, and goals.

#### **Admission Deposit Fee Requirement**

Upon acceptance, students are required to submit a deposit to hold their place. This is non-refundable and will be applied toward the first semester's tuition. Refer to the Finance Section of this catalog for the current tuition and fee schedule.

#### **Statement on Transferability of Ascent College Credits**

While Ascent College is accredited by a national accrediting agency, every college or university has its own policies on accepting credits or degrees earned at another institution. It is best to review the policy of the college or university to which you may be considering the transfer of credits.

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## Policy for Re-Admission

A student who has withdrawn from the college or has not enrolled for classes in a full year must apply for re-admission. Such students must submit the application fee, an application, both references, a letter explaining why he/she wishes to re-enroll, and official transcripts for any transfer credits earned in the interim. The student will be re-admitted with the same academic standing held when withdrawing from the college. All admissions requirements in effect at the time of re-enrollment must be met.

## Nondiscriminatory Policy

Ascent College admits students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, handicap, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and other school-administered programs. The college reserves the right to withdraw a student for what it considers to be a necessary cause at any time.

## Disclaimer Policy

The college reserves the right to make necessary changes without further notice. The regulations, courses, personnel, and costs listed herein are subject to change after date of publication of this catalog through established procedures. In such cases, the college will attempt to communicate such changes to all students, faculty, and staff through written means. It is important that students familiarize themselves with the regulations set forth in this catalog and assume their proper responsibilities concerning the regulations.

## Registration

Prior to registration, all requirements for admission or re-admission must be completed. Pre-registration may be available for returning students the final weeks of each semester. Official registration is held for all students three weeks prior to the start of each semester. Late registration is available during the add/drop period, but a late fee will be charged to all students registering during this time. All registration dates are posted on the official calendar.

## Students Needing Additional Educational Support

Students needing additional educational support may be considered underprepared and need additional resources to enhance their educational success. Students will be evaluated during the admissions process prior to starting classes. Students identified as needing additional educational support should be referred to the Dean of Students. When students are identified during their admission process, the potential student can only be admitted on a *PROVISIONAL* basis.

## Orientation

All first-time students are required to participate in orientation at the beginning of their first semester of enrollment. Orientation serves to assist students in adjusting to college life and includes an overview of policies, procedures, and services of the college.

## Learning and Educational Resources

The Ascent College Minter Library provides an excellent learning resource for the college. The entire library staff is dedicated to supporting the academic mission of Ascent College by teaching and helping students discover how to access, evaluate, and ethically use information. The library houses over 15,000 items including books, e-books, and audio-visual materials. All materials are indexed in the library's internet-accessible library catalog. Over 100 research electronic databases are provided to support the major disciplines with thousands of full text scholarly journal articles and research documents. Additional sources are available through a fast and efficient interlibrary loan system. The library houses the Ascent College Writing Center and information to access various online writing resources.

## Definition of Credit Hour

**Federal Definition:** All Ascent College courses must adhere to the Federal definition of credit hour. The Federal definition states that “A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

- One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks
- Or at least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other activities as established by an institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work and other academic work leading toward the awarding of credit hours.”

**The Ascent College Equivalencies of the Credit Hour:** The institutionally established equivalencies to the Federal definition of the credit hour at Ascent College are below.

1. Face-to-Face format (on-campus courses): For each semester hour of credit, classes that meet in a face-to-face format must include a 50-minute period with the instructor and two hours of outside class work for at least 15 weeks. 1 credit hour = 50 minutes contact + 120 minutes outside work over 15 weeks for a total of 2,550 minutes of student effort.
2. Distance Education (online courses): Credit hours awarded from courses taught via distance education or in some other non-traditional setting follow the same rules when determining the number of credit hours awarded. For each semester hour of credit, classes must include three hours of work per week for at least 15 weeks. The three hours include the interactions with faculty and other students in online discussion forums and other interactive formats and the additional course work required outside this interactive format. 1 credit hour = assignments equaling 170 minutes per week over 15 weeks for a total of 2,550 minutes of student effort.

Any off-cycle course (i.e., 8-week course) must be equivalent in both contact and outside work totals as a semester-length course.

## Academic Advising

Students will be assigned an academic advisor in their concentration. Students who have not declared a concentration will be assigned an advisor from one of the departments. The academic advisor will assist the student in course selection and planning, as well as be available for advice at any time throughout the year. The academic advisor approves scheduling, but the student must assume responsibility for fulfilling all degree requirements. It is recommended that all students meet with their academic advisor prior to registration each semester. The student will be provided the contact information of his or her academic advisor at the time of orientation. Academic advisors may be contacted by email and will respond within 48 hours during the workweek.

## Course Load

The full-time academic load is 12 credit hours per semester. Students should be aware that 12 credits per semester will require approximately five years for completion of a bachelor’s degree. For a completion time of four years, students will need to take at least 16 credits per semester and/or attend summer sessions. A student on academic probation may only enroll for a maximum of 12 hours. Students are expected to work with their academic advisors to avoid scheduling problems and deficiencies.

## Course Schedules

Course schedules are published each semester. Students should contact their academic advisors to assure they take courses within their respective degree plans.

## **Class Attendance**

Students are expected and encouraged to attend class regularly. A student who misses more than 20% of classes for any reason is subject to automatic failure in the class. He or she may be dropped from the course and can receive a grade of “F” for the course, unless the Academic Dean has granted a waiver. This waiver will be considered only when the student provides adequate justification of a medical or personal emergency that necessitated the class absences. Even with the waiver, it is expected that the student and the instructor would meet one-on-one at the discretion of the instructor, and as necessary, to review the material missed.

Likewise, students attending an online class are expected to engage in online courses weekly and meet assignment due dates and discussion forum due dates. Students should be aware that a failing grade may result from lack of participation in discussion forums for online classes.

An audit student who misses more than 20% of the classes of an on-campus course or fails to view more than 20% of the lessons in an online course will be withdrawn from the course.

## **Practicums**

Practicums are included in the approved curriculum for a program as defined in that program’s degree plan. The practicum’s syllabus contains the expected learning outcomes and training plan. These are provided at the time of enrollment in the practicum.

## **Office Hours for Instructors**

All instructors have virtual office hours outside the normal class meeting or online discussion forums. These office hours are posted in the course syllabus.

## **Course Add/Drop and Withdraw**

A student may add or drop a class up to seven days after the start of the term without financial penalties. Class withdrawal forms are available on the ascent.edu website on the Student Forms page. No student is allowed to change a class without completing the add/drop procedures. Withdrawal from a class will result in a withdrawal on the student's transcript. Failure to follow proper procedures when withdrawing from a class may result in automatic failure for that course.

## **Student Complaint Procedure**

Students are encouraged to follow the Biblical principles found in Matthew 18 to resolve conflicts, concerns or complaints. Written complaints shall be responded to in writing within 10 days of receipt of the complaint. If the complaint is rejected, the student shall be notified of the reasons for the rejection. None of the student’s rights or remedies shall be limited by participating in the complaint procedure. In addition, a student participating in the complaint process will not be subjected to retaliation or adverse action.

If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of this complaint process, they have the right to contact the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), which provides a webpage for students who may have complaints against a college (<https://www.schev.edu/index/students-and-parents/resources/student-complaints>). If you are a resident of a state other than Virginia, you may also contact the office in your state for filing complaints against the college. Please contact the Student Affairs Office for further information. Student may also contact The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) 5575 S. Semoran Blvd. Suite 26, Orlando, Florida 32822-1781 Phone: 407-207-0808 to file a complaint against a college. The student complaint will follow these steps below:

1. Students will be encouraged to resolve the complaint themselves by speaking directly to the person involved. If no resolution can be made, then the student is encouraged to complete the next step.



2. Complete the Student Grievance Form (downloaded from the Student Forms page on the [www.ascent.edu](http://www.ascent.edu) webpage) and submit to the Student Dean. The administration will acknowledge receipt of the form to the student within 48 hours.
3. If necessary, a meeting will be set-up to include the parties involved.
4. If no resolution is achieved the complaint shall be transmitted to the President for review and resolution.

The Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA) is the approving authority of education and training programs for Virginia. This office investigates complaints of G.I. Bill® beneficiaries. While most complaints should initially follow the school grievance policy, if the situation cannot be resolved at the school, the beneficiary should contact the SAA office via email [saa@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:saa@dvs.virginia.gov). G.I. Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about educational benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>

### **Leave of Absent Policy**

In the case of prolonged illness or accident or other special circumstances that make attendance impractical, a leave of absence may be granted to the student if requested in writing. Please refer to our website for details regarding this request (<https://ascent.edu/policies-and-procedures/>).

### **Withdrawal from College**

A student must file written notice with the Registrar's office to officially withdraw from college. Failure to attend classes is not considered an official notice and could result in a grade of "F" for all courses in progress at the time the student ceases attendance. An official withdrawal is recorded after the student completes all exit interviews and surrenders the student ID.

### **Classification of Students**

Year status Freshman: 1-30 semester hours completed; Sophomore: 31-60 semester hours completed; Junior: 61-90 semester hours completed; Senior: 91 and above semester hours completed.

#### *Full-time status*

Students carrying at least 12 hours per semester are designated as full-time students.

#### *Part-time status*

Students taking less than 12 hours per semester are part-time.

### **Audit Status**

The definition of audit is to attend a class as a listener, completing no work and receiving no credit. Ascent College will permit audits subject to the following regulations:

1. The academic dean in consultation with the instructor grants the student permission.
2. Auditors do not receive grades or credits for classes attended but are eligible to receive continuing education units (CEU) as documented by a transcript.

### **Transfer of Credits**

Credits may be accepted from Advanced Placement (AP) programs, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), credit for experience, and military education, on a case-by-case evaluation.

Credits from a postsecondary institution accredited by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) are transferable to Ascent College if the classes are comparable and applicable to the degree plan. Credits from other postsecondary institutions may be transferable and are evaluated on a course-by-course basis. Every effort is made by administration to transfer as many hours as possible to avoid loss of academic credit. For more detail, please refer to the

transfer credit policy on our website, [www.ascent.edu](http://www.ascent.edu), under the Student tab, Policies and Procedures link.

*Policy on Credits Earned at less than “C” Level:*

Transfer credit will not be granted for a grade below a “C”.

*Policy on Credits for Military Experience:*

Veterans who have successfully completed courses in the military service-training program may submit a record of the courses to the Registrar for review.

*Policy on Credits for Experience:*

Ascent College awards credit for life experience. No more than 30% of the credit in a student’s program may be awarded for life or work experience. For more detail, please refer to the transfer credit policy on our website, [www.ascent.edu](http://www.ascent.edu), under the Student tab, Policies and Procedures link.

## **Grading Scale**

### Evaluation of Course Work

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
100-98	A+	4.0
97-94	A	4.0
93-90	A-	3.75
89-87	B+	3.25
86-83	B	3.0
82-80	B-	2.75
79-77	C+	2.5
76-73	C	2.0
72-70	C-	1.75
69-67	D+	1.5
66-63	D	1.0
62-60	D-	.75
59 & below	F	0

To remain in good academic standing, all students are expected to maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average. A student whose semester GPA falls below 2.0 will be placed on academic warning. A student whose semester GPA falls below 2.0 for the second consecutive semester will be placed on academic probation. If the student’s semester GPA falls below 2.0 for a third consecutive semester and/or the cumulative GPA is below 2.0, the student may be placed on academic dismissal from the school and must wait for one semester before applying for readmission. The student will no longer be certified for GI Bill® benefits when the semester GPA falls below 2.0 for the third consecutive semester. For GI Bill® benefits to be restored, the student must be under a monitoring program that requires the student to maintain a semester GPA of 2.0.

## **Policy for Online Courses**

Online courses are comparable in content, faculty, educational objectives, and resources to those offered on campus. These objectives are stated in the syllabus for the course.

Online courses include regular student-faculty and student-student interaction through discussion forums, email, and zoom meetings. Faculty have virtual office hours for additional student-faculty interaction.

All online courses use the online learning platform, Populi, which provides training modules and support to faculty and students. Ascent College personnel also provide training sessions for both faculty and students as needed.

Students and faculty should be aware of the minimum technology specifications for engaging in online courses:

- a. Broadband Internet
- b. Modern Updated Web Browser
- c. PC or Mac with Monitor
- d. Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat Reader

For additional information regarding these requirements for online students, refer to <https://ascent.edu/>

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE POLICY**

### **The Word of God and Prayer**

Inasmuch as the Bible is inspired by God and is God's revelation to humankind, all students are expected to study its contents daily in personal devotions. Likewise, students are expected to pray daily as an act of worship that glorifies God, reinforces our need for Him, and advances God's purposes in the earth. Daily Bible study and prayer are the foundations upon which Ascent College builds a culture of academic excellence and leadership development.

### **Chapel Services**

Chapel services are a key component of our commitment to build a community of faith that is supportive, encouraging, and enduring. Each student is required to attend two chapel services per eight-week session that they are enrolled (summer sessions are excluded). There are three options for fulfilling this mandatory chapel service attendance:

- 1) The main chapel service is held at 7:00 PM, on the third Thursday of each month. These services are recorded. A link for virtual attendance will be provided.
- 2) Students unable to attend the main chapel service can attend a make-up chapel at 7:00 PM on the following Tuesday evening (fourth Tuesday).
- 3) Students who are unable to make option 1 or 2 above will be provided a link to view the recorded chapel service. Upon review of the recording, students will submit a one-page, double-spaced, written summary to the College Chaplain no later than the following Tuesday.

Once a student fulfills the required two chapels, Ascent College will waive the next student activity fee that is due.

### **Church Attendance Policy**

Ascent College supports and is committed to instilling the biblical concept of the local church into the school's framework. Thus, church attendance is mandatory for all with the expectation that students are actively engaged in their local services. Students involved with a Partner Site will attend the Partner Site church services and other spiritual activities as described by the Partner Site. Students not connected with a Partner Site will engage in practical ministry and spiritual development at a local church in their area.

## Practicums

These connections and involvements at the Partner Sites or the local church will be documented through the Practicum programs. These Practicum programs are integrated into the curriculum and students receive spiritual mentoring as well as practical experience through the required Practicums. These Practicums have an element of spiritual development via local church involvement and mentoring from local church leaders. Refer to the Ascent College Practicum Manual for a detailed description of these mentoring elements.

## Code of Conduct

All students are expected to maintain high standards of Christian conduct both on and off campus. Morally and biblically, certain practices are clearly wrong. Students should abstain from such behavior. These include substance abuse, stealing, slanderous or profane language, dishonesty, occult practices, addictions (mutilation, sexual addictions, eating disorders, drug addiction-both illegal and prescription), and sexual sins (premarital sex, adultery, pornography, and homosexuality). Refer to the Student Handbook for additional information about the Ascent College Code of Conduct.

# FINANCES

## Admission Deposit Fee

Non-refundable payment for the admission deposit fee (\$100) is due and payable at the time of acceptance and will be applied toward the first semester's tuition.

## Tuition and Other Fees

Payment for tuition and other fees is due and payable at the time of registration for courses. Payment may be in cash, check, credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or Discover), approved scholarships, or a combination of these methods.

### Tuition and Fees at Ascent College

- \$281 per college credit
- \$50 per college credit for auditing
- \$100 admission deposit fee applied to first semester's tuition fee
- \$100 fee for library resources course (no credit) required of all new students

## Textbooks

Textbook purchases are not included in Ascent College tuition and fees. Students will be responsible to purchase books from any source they choose.

## Paying for College

Tuition and fee payments will be due prior to the first day of classes. Students who still have outstanding bills on the first day of the semester will not be allowed to attend classes unless special arrangements have been made with administration to pay the semester bill in full. Ascent College does offer some institutional scholarships to qualified students. For more information, refer to: [ascent.edu/scholarships/](http://ascent.edu/scholarships/) There are several options for paying for college; to name a few, there are Personal Funds, Private Scholarships and Grants, Federal Grants and Loans as well as Private Loans. Please visit our website at [www.ascent.edu](http://www.ascent.edu) for information about paying for your college education. Applications for these additional resources can take several weeks to process so they need to be started at least twelve weeks before the semester begins. In fact, many private scholarships and grants have their own specific deadlines for application submission. It is imperative that students initiate financial applications along with their academic application in order to assure financial resources are available prior to the beginning of the semester. Please refer to our website for information concerning the percentage of students

receiving Federal Student Aid and the average student indebtedness at graduation (<https://ascent.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/>)

### **Special Provisions for Veterans Administration Covered Individuals**

A covered individual is any individual entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment or chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. Covered individuals will be permitted to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a certificate of eligibility can also include a Statement of Benefits obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) website – eBenefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

Ascent College will not impose any penalty, including assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

### **Policy on Refunds, Credits, and Reinstatement as a Result of Military Service**

Pursuant to 23-9.6:2 of the Code of Virginia, and corresponding State Council on Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Guidelines, Ascent College has developed this policy providing for the tuition relief, refund, and reinstatement of students whose service in the uniformed services has required their sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from their enrollment. Service in the uniformed services is defined as service (whether voluntary or involuntary) on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the National Guard or Reserve, for a period of more than 30 days under call or order to active duty of more than 30 days. Ascent College shall provide for the following:

a. **Tuition and Required Fees**

Should a student be ordered to active duty (for reservists) or be mobilized (active military) as described in the Code of Virginia, Section 23-9.6:2 and the State Council's Virginia Tuition Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement Guidelines and he/she requests to be withdrawn from the college after the ADD/DROP date, the student may elect either to be deleted from the registration file and be awarded a full refund or to be administratively withdrawn with no refund and assigned a grade of "W". This policy also applies to refunds of Student Activity fees and other fees to students.

Ascent College shall provide, at the option of the student refunds of deposits to be retained and to be applicable to tuition and fees charged in the semester or term in which the student returns to study.

b. **Textbooks**

Ascent College shall process refunds for textbooks according to contractual arrangement with vendors.

c. **Academic Credits and Grades**

Students who are called to active duty or are mobilized, meaning serving in the uniformed services, as described in Virginia Tuition Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement Guidelines, will have the opportunity to receive an incomplete grade ("I") until released from active duty (for reservists) or mobilization (for active military personnel). All course requirements shall be completed within one year from the date of release from active duty or mobilization.

Students may be given the option of taking their examinations prior to regularly scheduled times as an exception to Ascent College policy in accordance with the Virginia Tuition Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement Guidelines.

Careful consideration will be given and special options are available for students who receive student financial aid or Veterans Administration benefits.

d. Deposits

Ascent College shall provide, at the option of the student, deposits to be retained and to be applicable to tuition, or fees charged in the semester or term in which the student returns to study.

e. Reinstatement

Students who are called to active duty or are mobilized will be provided a reasonable opportunity to be reinstated in the same programs of study without having to re-apply for admission if they return to Ascent College after a cumulative absence of not more than five years so long as the student provides notice of intent to return to the institution not later than three years after the completion of the period of service.

f. Dissemination of Information

In accordance with the requirements of the Code of Virginia, Section 23-9.6:2, and the Virginia Tuition Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement Guidelines, Ascent College will make every effort to ensure that the aforementioned policies relative to tuition relief, refund, academic credit and reinstatement are well disseminated and carefully explained. Ascent College has designated the Office of Student Services as the office to ensure that these policies are properly disseminated and administered.

### **Institutional Policy on Refunds**

The application fee and the student activity fee are non-refundable; no refunds are given after the fifth week of classes. When refunds are given, it is preferred that they be given in the form of credit toward a future course(s). However, the student may elect to receive a refund check.

Tuition refunds are pro-rated according to the following table for our 8-week sessions:

- 0-7 days of the class: 100%
- 8-12 days of the class: 50%
- 13-17 days of the class: 35%
- 18-22 days of the class: 25%
- After 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the class: 0%

Refund policies for online students may differ depending on the state in which the student resides. Please contact the business office (703-753-2791) for the refund policy for your state. Class schedules for less than 8 weeks or more than 8 weeks will follow the same schedule as above with adjustment being made for the number of weeks of the class.

### **College Housing**

Ascent College can refer students to housing options during their attendance at Ascent College. Any student desiring housing should contact the office for further information.

### **Returned Checks**

A processing charge of \$35.00 is assessed when a check is returned by the bank for any reason.

### **Student Insurance**

Full coverage health insurance is not available through the college. It is recommended that each student review dependent health coverage (parental health insurance) to see if such coverage continues while the student is attending college. The college can suggest an insurance carrier that will offer primary or supplemental insurance coverage. The supplemental coverage is not full coverage but is designed to supplement an existing policy.

### **Federal Title IV Refund Calculation**

For students who are eligible and/or receiving Federal Title IV funds, the college must calculate the percentage of federal aid a student has earned. This percentage is based on the number of calendar days attended versus the total calendar days for the semester. Once this percentage is calculated, it is used to determine the amount Federal Title IV aid that may be retained to cover prorated charges on a student's account. The college must return any unearned aid to the federal government on a timely basis. This percentage is also used to determine the prorated charges for the semester. This procedure will enable Ascent College to refund the maximum possible institutional charges. Students who withdraw who are neither eligible nor receiving Federal Title IV aid will be subject to the institutional refund policy only.

Order of Refund Distribution Prescribed by Law and Regulation (Total Refund and Repayment):

- Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan
- Subsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan
- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal SEOG
- Federal ACG
- Other federal, state, private or institutional aid

# PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Ascent College offers four different levels of study (Certificate, Diploma, Associate, and Bachelor) to prepare students for their chosen field of ministry. These programs not only equip students professionally, but also assist them in viewing academic and professional subjects in light of their Christian faith. Program objectives in each of these programs assist the administration in assuring that Ascent College maintains its stated objectives for preparing students with academic proficiency, practical ministry skills, and opportunities for spiritual maturity.

## Ministry Formation Programs

Ascent College places high priority on providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the student’s chosen career focus. Students in three degree-programs (Diploma, Associate, and Bachelor) are required to take ministry formation courses designated as practicum courses in the degree plans.

Ministry Formation Programs Objectives for graduates from Ascent College will be:

- Capable of performing professional ministry functions at the introductory level
- Develop mentorship relationships with ministers actually engaged in the work of the ministry

## CHILDREN’S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE (12 credits)

The Children’s Ministry Certificate Program is a twelve-credit series of four courses to provide children’s ministry leaders with foundational learning and leadership relationships.

Upon completion, graduates of the Children’s Ministry Certificate Program will be able to:

- Perform children’s ministry functions at the introductory level
- Develop mentorship relationships with local church ministry practitioners
- Compose, communicate, and contextualize the Gospel in biblically sound teaching to children at an introductory skill level
- Explain the spiritual and the practical dynamics of administering children’s ministry and apply best practices to ministry context.

Course ID	Children’s Ministry Leadership Certificate Courses	Credits
GEN 102	Orientation and Library Resources	0
MIN 250	Intro to Children’s Ministry	3
MIN 356	Teaching and Learning in Children’s Ministry	3
MIN 340	Children and Worship	3
MIN 459	Leadership Development in Children’s Ministry	3
	<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>	<b>12</b>

## WOMEN’S COLLECTIVE COHORT CERTIFICATE (12 credits)

The Women’s Collective Cohort Certificate Program is a twelve-credit series of four courses to provide women leaders with foundational learning and leadership relationships.

Upon completion, graduates of the Women’s Collective Cohort Certificate Program will be able to:

- Develop communication skills for public communication, articulating calling and leadership story
- Develop relationships with other women leader ministry practitioners and mentors
- Describe a biblical theology of female ministry leadership
- Develop a strategic growth plan for their ministry leadership



<b>Course ID</b>	<b>Women's Collective Cohort Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
GEN 102	Orientation and Library Resources	0
MIN 242	Collective Journey: Leadership Health for Next-Gen Female Leaders	3
MIN 243	Communicating for Transformation	3
MIN 244	Biblical Theology of Women in Leadership: Why Not Women?	3
MIN 342	How Remarkable Women Lead: A Breakthrough Model for Life and Work	3
	<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>	<b>12</b>

### **DIPLOMA IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP (33 credits)**

The Diploma in Ministry Leadership is a one-year program that will provide the student with basic educational courses to prepare for entry-level ministry in various fields. This program meets the educational qualifications for credentialing in the Assemblies of God with two additional courses that can be taken independent study through the Potomac School of Ministry.

Upon completion, graduates of the Diploma in Ministry Leadership will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and skill in effective writing by producing a competent piece of writing that interprets, analyzes, and evaluates statements, arguments, and evidence to construct well-supported, clearly articulated conclusions and positions that meet the requirements of standard English.
- Describe the background, content, and themes of selected biblical texts
- Apply a biblical theology of the nature and mission of the Church into local church practices
- Compose and clearly communicate and contextualize the Gospel in biblically sound teaching to diverse audiences.
- Apply biblical principles that support spiritual, emotional, and relational health both personally and professionally.
- Integrate theology with professional competency in the practice of ministry.
- Explain the spiritual and the practical dynamics of ministry and apply best practices in context, demonstrating Christian leadership principles and effective administrative skills in various types of ministry positions and settings.

Curriculum Requirements – 33 credits

18 hours	Biblical and Theological Studies
6 hours	General Studies
9 hours	Professional Studies

<b>Course ID</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>
GEN 102	Orientation & Library Resources	0
ENG 101	Grammar & Composition	3
ENG 105	Academic Writing & Critical Research	3
BIB 100	Bible Review I	0
BIB 105	Old Testament Survey	3
BIB 110	New Testament Survey	3
BIB 150	Hermeneutics	3
BIB 215	Luke and Acts	3
MIN 103	Spiritual Formation I	3
MIN 112	Relational Outreach & Personal Evangelism	3
MIN 245	Principles of Christian Leadership Development	3
THE 212	Theology I: Spirit-Empowered Theology	3
MIS 220	The Biblical and Theological Basis for Missions	3
	<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>33</b>

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP: Two-Year Degree (63 credits)

The Associate of Science in Ministry Leadership degree is a two-year, 63 credit degree program for students interested in pursuing a foundational education in ministry leadership. This program also incorporates general education requirements which prepare the student for further study toward the bachelor's degree.

Upon completion, graduates of the Associates of Science in Ministry Leadership program will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and skill in effective writing by producing a competent piece of writing that interprets, analyzes, and evaluates statements, arguments, and evidence to construct well-supported, clearly articulated conclusions and positions that meet the requirements of standard English.
- Apply communication skills to various communication platforms, including oral communication, and social media platforms
- Describe the background, content, and themes of selected biblical texts
- Apply a biblical theology of the nature and mission of the Church into local church practices
- Compose, clearly communicate, and contextualize the Gospel in biblically sound teaching to diverse audiences.
- Apply biblical principles that support spiritual, emotional, and relational health both personally and professionally.
- Develop fundamental skills in pastoral care and counseling and be able to integrate them into a practical ministry setting.
- Integrate theology and knowledge of church history with professional competency in the practice of ministry.
- Explain the spiritual and the practical dynamics of ministry and apply best practices in context, demonstrating Christian leadership principles and effective administrative skills in various types of ministry positions and settings.
- Develop knowledge of and proficiency in navigating cross-cultural dynamics in ministry.
- Integrate ethical and Christian knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behavior into the practice of ministry.

Curriculum Requirements – 63 credits

24 hours	Biblical and Theological Studies
12 hours	Professional Studies
24 hours	General Studies
3 hours	Practicums

Course ID	General Education Courses	Credits
GEN 102	Orientation & Library Resources	0
ENG 101	Grammar & Composition	3
ENG 105	Academic Writing & Critical Research	3
MAT 115	Elements of Math	3
HIS 220	History of the Christian Church	3
PSY 202	Intro to Psychology and Christian Counseling	3
COM 101	Speech Communication	3
MIS 303	Cross-Cultural Anthropology	3
HUM 301	Contemporary Moral Issues	3
COM 201	Social Media and Digital Discipleship	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>

Course ID	General Ministry Courses	Credits
BIB 105	Old Testament Survey	3
BIB 110	New Testament Survey	3
BIB 150	Hermeneutics	3
BIB 215	Luke and Acts	3
BIB 200	Bible Review I	0
THE 230	Eschatology	3
THE 212	Theology I: Spirit-Empowered Theology	3
MIN 103	Spiritual Formation I	3
MIN 112	Relational Outreach & Personal Evangelism	3
MIN 212	Personal Christian Ethics	3
MIN 245	Principles of Christian Leadership Development	3
MIS 220	The Biblical and Theological Basis for Missions	3
PRA 100	Practicum I	3
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP 120-124 credits**

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership is a four-year program designed to prepare the student for leadership positions in their chosen field in ministry. The program not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the student's chosen career concentration. The core general education and general ministry course requirements are 84 credits, with additional required credits in the student's chosen concentration.

Upon completion, graduates of the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership program will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and skill in effective writing by producing a competent piece of writing that interprets, analyzes, and evaluates statements, arguments, and evidence to construct well-supported, clearly articulated conclusions and positions that meet the requirements of standard English.
- Apply communication skills to various communication platforms, including oral communication, and social media platforms
- Recognize ancient biblical Greek and Hebrew languages at an introductory proficiency
- Describe the background, content, and themes of selected biblical texts
- Apply a biblical theology of the nature and mission of the Church into local church practices
- Compose, clearly communicate, and contextualize the Gospel in biblically sound teaching to diverse audiences.
- Apply biblical principles that support spiritual, emotional, and relational health both personally and professionally.
- Develop fundamental skills in pastoral care and counseling and be able to integrate them into a practical ministry setting.
- Integrate theology and knowledge of church history with professional competency in the practice of ministry.
- Explain the spiritual and the practical dynamics of ministry and apply best practices in context, demonstrating Christian leadership principles and effective administrative skills in various types of ministry positions and settings.
- Develop knowledge of and proficiency in navigating cross-cultural dynamics in ministry.

- Integrate ethical and Christian knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behavior into the practice of ministry.

<b>Course ID</b>	<b>General Education Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
GEN 102	Orientation & Library Resources	0
ENG 101	Grammar & Composition	3
ENG 102	Composition & Literature	3
ENG 105	Academic Writing & Critical Research	3
MAT 115	Elements of Math	3
SCI 101	Life Science	3
HIS 220	History of the Christian Church	3
PSY 202	Intro to Psychology and Christian Counseling	3
COM 101	Speech Communication	3
COM 201	Social Media and Digital Discipleship	3
HUM 301	Contemporary Moral Issues	3
SOC 400	Marriage & Family	3
MIN 275	Non-Profit Financial Management	3
MIS 303	Cross-Cultural Anthropology	3
LAN 201	Intro to Biblical Languages (Greek & Hebrew)	3
GEN 401	Senior Seminar & Career Preparedness	0
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>

<b>Course ID</b>	<b>General Ministry Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
BIB 105	Old Testament Survey	3
BIB 110	New Testament Survey	3
BIB 150	Hermeneutics	3
BIB 400	Bible Review II	0
BIB 215	Luke and Acts	3
BIB 313	Pauline Epistles	3
MIN 103	Spiritual Formation I	3
MIN 104	Spiritual Formation II	3
MIN 112	Relational Outreach & Personal Evangelism	3
MIN 212	Personal Christian Ethics	3
MIN 245	Principles of Christian Leadership Development	3
THE 212	Theology I: Spirit-Empowered Theology	3
THE 230	Eschatology	3
THE 301	Theology II: Word and Doctrine	3
MIS 220	The Biblical and Theological Basis for Missions	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>

## FLOW OF COURSES FOR 120 CREDIT PROGRAMS

Below is the pace of courses to complete the bachelor's in ministry leadership in four years.

### YEAR 1 (30 credits per year)

Fall Session A – 2 courses

Fall Session B – 3 courses (see Option)

Spring Session A – 2 courses

Spring Session B – 2 courses

*Practicum I offered in Spring only. Students must have completed 12 credits to begin taking practicums.*

**YEAR 2 (30 credits per year)**

Fall Session A – 2 courses

Fall Session B – 2 courses

Spring Session A – 2 courses

Spring Session B – 2 courses

*Practicums II & III offered in Fall & Spring.*

**YEAR 3 (30 credits per year)**

Fall Session A – 2 courses

Fall Session B – 2 courses

Spring Session A – 2 courses

Spring Session B – 2 courses

*Practicums IV & V offered in Fall & Spring.*

**YEAR 4 (30 credits per year)**

Fall Session A – 2 courses

Fall Session B – 2 courses

Spring Session A – 3 courses (see Option)

Spring Session B – 2 courses

*Practicum VI offered in Fall only.*

**Option:** To avoid taking three courses at a time (Year 1 Fall Session B and Year 4 Spring Session A), students can two or more courses during a Summer A or Summer B session and still complete the degree in four years.

**Biblical Studies Concentration (40 credits)**

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership with a concentration in Biblical Studies is a four-year program that is designed to prepare the student for teaching positions in the biblical/theological fields in a church ministry and for further graduate studies in biblical/theological fields. The program not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the student's chosen career focus. This concentration is 40 additional credit hours, for a total of 124 credit hours.

Upon completion, graduates of the Biblical Studies Concentration will:

- Be able to identify the unique contributions of each biblical book and recognize the purpose, style, and form of each biblical genre.
- Be able to properly exegete any passage of Scripture.
- Be able to contextualize Scripture for daily Christian living.
- Demonstrate an ability to apply biblical teaching in the development of Christian ethics.
- Develop a lifestyle of personal study of the Scriptures in order to promote growth, ministry to others, and a positive influence on culture.
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of core Christian theology, philosophy, and values.
- Be able to demonstrate an ability to comprehend and construct sound Christian theology.

Curriculum Requirements – 124 credit hours

58 credit hours      Biblical and Theological Studies

18 credit hours    Professional Studies  
 36 credit hours    General Studies  
 12 credit hours    Practicums

Course ID	Biblical Studies Concentration Courses	Credits (124 total)
MIN 264	Apologetics	3
BIB 210	Life and Teachings of Christ	2
BIB 214	Book of Romans	2
BIB 303	OT Historical Literature	3
BIB 304	OT Poetic Literature	3
BIB 305	OT Prophetic Literature	3
BIB 315	General Epistles	3
BIB 320	OT & NT Apocalyptic Literature	3
BIB 450	Hermeneutics II	3
THE 401	Theology III: History of Christian Theology	3
PRA 100	Practicum I	3
PRA 200	Practicum II	3
PRA 304	Practicum III	3
PRA 306	Practicum IV	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>

### Children’s Ministry Leadership Concentration (37 credits)

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership with a concentration in Children’s Ministry Leadership is a four-year program designed to prepare the student for leadership positions in children’s ministry. The program not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the student’s chosen career focus. This concentration is 37 additional credit hours, for a total of 121 credit hours.

Upon completion, graduates of the Children’s Ministry Leadership Concentration will be able to:

- Perform professional children’s ministry functions at the introductory level
- Develop mentorship relationships with local church ministry practitioners
- Apply child developmental theories to children’s ministry practices
- Apply biblical theology into pastoring families and children
- Compose and clearly communicate and contextualize the Gospel in biblically sound teaching to children
- Explain the spiritual and the practical dynamics of children’s ministry and apply best practices in context.
- Demonstrate Christian leadership principles and effective administrative skills in children’s ministry positions and settings.

Curriculum Requirements – 121 credits

30 credit hours    Biblical and Theological Studies  
 36 credit hours    General Studies  
 40 credit hours    Professional Studies  
 15 credit hours    Practicums

<b>Course ID</b>	<b>Children's Ministry Leadership Concentration Courses</b>	<b>Credits (121 total)</b>
MIN 250	Intro to Children's Ministry	3
MIN 340	Children and Worship	3
PSY 351	Developmental Theory for Children	3
MIN 356	Teaching and Learning for Children's Ministry	3
MIN 380	Camp Ministry	2
MIN 450	Intergenerational Ministry	2
MIN 459	Leadership Development in Children's Ministry	3
MIN 481	Pastoral Care of Children	1
MIN 465	Special Needs in Children and Youth Ministry	2
PRA 100	Practicum I	3
PRA 200	Practicum II	3
PRA 304	Practicum III	3
PRA 306	Practicum IV	3
PRA 401	Practicum V	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>

### **Christian Counseling Concentration with a Focus in Psychology (36 credits)**

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership with a concentration in Christian Counseling with a focus on Psychology is a non-licensure, non-clinical four-year program that is designed to prepare the student for advanced studies in the Christian Counseling field or for pastoral care positions. It not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the field of Christian Counseling with the expectation that students would pursue additional studies for licensure or would be prepared for pastoral care positions. The program does not meet the requirements for a professional counseling license. This concentration is 36 additional credit hours, for a total of 120 credit hours.

Upon completion, graduates of the Christian Counseling Concentration with a Focus on Psychology will be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in the basic terminology and concepts of psychology and counseling.
- Analyze developmental psychological patterns.
- Analyze behaviors against personality theories.
- Describe human development.
- Communicate effectively using appropriate research style and methods.
- Articulate the Biblical and theological basis of Christian Counseling.
- Perform pastoral care functions at the introductory level
- Develop mentorship relationships with psychology practitioners

Curriculum Requirements – 120 credits

30 hours	Biblical and Theological Studies
36 hours	General Studies
48 hours	Professional Studies
6 hours	Practicums

<b>Course ID</b>	<b>Christian Counseling Concentration with a Focus in Psychology Courses</b>	<b>Credits (120 total)</b>
PSY 205	Social Psychology and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3

PSY 310	Lifespan Development	3
PSY 341	Psychology of Personality	3
PSY 354	Introduction to Statistics for the Social Sciences	3
PSY 355	Introduction to Research Methods	3
PSY 371	Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy	3
PSY 430	Abnormal Psychology	3
PRA 101	Psychology Practicum I	3
PRA 201	Psychology Practicum II	3
	Elective from Pastoral Ministry concentration I	3
	Elective from Pastoral Ministry concentration II	3
	Elective from Pastoral Ministry concentration III	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

### Christian Counseling Concentration with a Focus in Pastoral Ministry (36 credits)

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership with a concentration in Christian Counseling with a Focus on Pastoral Ministry is a non-licensure, non-clinical four-year program that is designed to prepare for pastoral care-focused ministry positions. It not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the field of Christian Counseling. The program does not meet the requirements for a professional counseling license. This concentration is 36 additional credit hours, for a total of 120 credit hours.

Upon completion, graduates of the Christian Counseling Concentration with a Focus on Pastoral Ministry will be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in the basic terminology and concepts of psychology and counseling.
- Analyze cultural and social issues in pastoral care
- Articulate the Biblical and theological basis of Christian Counseling.
- Guide others through conflict resolutions
- Describe and recognize trauma responses
- Provide support and describe the grieving process
- Perform pastoral care functions at the introductory level
- Develop mentorship relationships with local church ministry practitioners

Curriculum Requirements – 120 credits

30 hours	Biblical and Theological Studies
36 hours	General Studies
48 hours	Professional Studies
6 hours	Practicums

Course ID	Christian Counseling Concentration with a Focus in Pastoral Ministry Courses	Credits (120 total)
COUN 203	Issues in Christian Counseling	3
COUN 303	Christian Counseling for Marriage and Family	3
PSY 205	Social Psychology and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3
COUN 350	Grief and Trauma Counseling	3
COUN 400	Conflict Resolution Counseling	3
PRA 102	Counseling Practicum I	3
PRA 202	Counseling Practicum II	3



	Elective from Psychology concentration I	3
	Elective from Psychology concentration II	3
	Elective from Psychology concentration III	3
	Elective from Psychology concentration IV	3
	Elective from Psychology concentration V	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

### **Intercultural Studies Concentration (36 hours)**

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership with a concentration in Intercultural Studies is a four-year program that is designed to prepare the student for a career on the mission field. The program not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the student's chosen career focus. This concentration is 36 additional credit hours, for a total of 120 credit hours.

Upon completion, graduates of the Intercultural Studies Concentration will be able to:

- Demonstrate a passion for local, regional, and global missions and a commitment to serve the people groups of the world.
- Explain the spiritual, physical, educational, and financial preparation needed for missionaries.
- Articulate a missional theology that encourages all Christians to participate in missions.
- Explain the biblical, the theological, and the historical basis of missions.
- Describe the cross-cultural dynamics of missions and contextualize the salvation message to various target people groups.
- Describe the major religions of the world and compare and contrast them with Christianity.
- Develop strategies for evangelizing people groups of the world.
- Develop mentoring relationships with other missionaries

Curriculum Requirements – 120 credit hours

30 credit hours	Biblical and Theological Studies
45 credit hours	Professional Studies
36 credit hours	General Studies
9 credit hours	Practicums

<b>Course ID</b>	<b>Intercultural Studies Concentration Courses</b>	<b>Credits (120 total)</b>
MIS 103	World Religions	3
MIS 105	Missions and the Local Church	3
MIS 205	Relation Dynamics in Missions	3
MIS 301	History of Missions	3
MIS 302	Mission Call and Preparation	3
MIS 305	Introduction to Urban Missions	3
MIS 405	Leadership and Strategy of Missions	3
MIS 421	Contemporary Missions Issues	3
MIS 410	Contextualized Theology	3
PRA 100	Practicum I	3
PRA 200	Practicum II	3
PRA 312	Missions Practicum	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

## Ministerial Leadership Concentration (36 credits)

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership with a concentration in Ministerial Leadership is a four-year program designed to prepare the student for leadership positions and preaching and teaching responsibilities in ministry. The program not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the student's chosen career focus. This concentration is 36 additional credit hours, for a total of 120 credit hours.

Upon completion, graduates of the Ministerial Leadership Concentration will be able to:

- Perform professional ministry functions at the introductory level
- Develop mentorship relationships with local church ministry practitioners
- Compose, clearly communicate, and contextualize the Gospel in biblically sound, engaging preaching to diverse audiences.
- Provide a defense for faith in the divinity of Jesus and the reliability and validity of the Bible as God's word for us.

Curriculum Requirements – 120 credits

36 hours	Biblical and Theological Studies
30 hours	Professional Studies
36 hours	General Studies
18 hours	Practicums

Course ID	Ministerial Leadership Concentration Courses	Credits (120 total)
PRA 100	Practicum I	3
PRA 200	Practicum II	3
PRA 304	Practicum III	3
PRA 306	Practicum IV	3
PRA 401	Practicum V	3
PRA 402	Practicum VI	3
MIN 220	Homiletics	3
MIN 230	Pastoral Counseling	3
MIN 264	Apologetics	3
MIN 301	Leadership Theory & Practice	3
MIN 362	Church & Law	3
THE 406	Pastoral Theology	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

## Worship Leadership Concentration (39 hours)

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership with a concentration in Worship Leadership prepares the student for a leadership position in worship in a church ministry. The program not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the student's chosen career focus. This concentration is 39 additional credit hours, for a total of 123 credit hours.

Upon completion, graduates of the Worship Leadership Concentration will be able to:

- Demonstrate a passionate lifestyle of worship.
- Explain the biblical foundations for worship.
- Demonstrate an ability to lead worship in a variety of church settings.

- Understand music fundamentals and demonstrate musical skills in musicianship.
- Provide leadership in a music or worship department in a local church setting.
- Integrate arts into the worship experience.
- Follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in worship.
- Implement technology resources into enhancing worship services

Curriculum Requirements – 123 credit hours

30 credit hours    Biblical and Theological Studies  
 45 credit hours    Professional Studies  
 36 credit hours    General Studies  
 12 credit hours    Practicums

Course ID	Worship Leadership Concentration Courses	Credits (123 total)
WOR 201	Heart of a Worshipper	3
WOR 203	Role of a Worship Leader	3
WOR 211	Technology for Worship I: Music Production	2
WOR 302	The Role of the Arts in Worship	3
WOR 310	Technology for Worship II: Live Stage Production	2
WOR 312	Leading a Worship Ministry	3
WOR 330	History of Renewal Worship	3
WOR 340	Basic Conducting	2
WOR 405	Musicianship I: Fundamental Awareness	2
WOR 406	Musicianship II: Working Knowledge	2
WOR 407	Musicianship III: Skills for Worship Leading	2
PRA 100	Practicum I	3
PRA 210	Musical Instrument Practicum	3
PRA 310	Worship Team Practicum	3
PRA 403	Vocal Skills Practicum	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>

### Youth Ministry Leadership Concentration (36 credits)

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership with a concentration in Youth Ministry Leadership is a four-year program designed to prepare the student for leadership positions and preaching responsibilities in youth ministry. The program not only equips the student academically, but also is designed to prepare the student spiritually and practically with various Christian service requirements and mentoring opportunities. This program specializes in providing opportunities for practical experience and training in the student’s chosen career focus. This concentration is 36 additional credit hours, for a total of 120 credit hours.

Upon completion, graduates of the Youth Ministry Leadership Concentration will be able to:

- Perform professional youth ministry functions at the introductory level
- Develop mentorship relationships with local church ministry practitioners
- Explain the spiritual and the practical dynamics of youth ministry and apply best practices in context.
- Demonstrate Christian leadership principles and effective administrative skills in youth ministry positions and settings.
- Apply developmental theories to youth ministry practices
- Apply biblical theology to pastoring young people and their families

Curriculum Requirements – 120 credit hours

33 credit hours	Biblical and Theological Studies
36 credit hours	General Studies
33 credit hours	Professional Studies
18 credit hours	Practicums

Course ID	Youth Ministry Leadership Concentration Courses	Credits (120 total)
MIN 330	Gospel-Centered Youth Ministry	3
MIN 343	Discipleship Strategy in Youth Ministry	3
MIN 322	Understanding Adolescent Culture	3
MIN 412	Youth Ministry in the Local Church	3
MIN 422	Teaching a Biblical Worldview to Teenagers	3
MIN 472	Leadership Skills for Youth Ministry	3
PRA 100	Practicum I	3
PRA 200	Practicum II	3
PRA 304	Practicum III	3
PRA 306	Practicum IV	3
PRA 401	Practicum V	3
PRA 402	Practicum VI	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

### NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

Non-degree seeking students are individuals who wish to take advantage of coursework offered through Ascent College’s accredited or non-accredited programs. These students are not interested in fulfilling the requirements for a degree from Ascent College but are interested in study for personal development and professional integrity.

Ascent College offers two ways to approach additional personal and professional development in a non-degree setting:

**1. Courses taken for academic credit.**

Students may be interested in taking specific courses being offered by Ascent College for college credit, even though the intent is not to work toward fulfilling the requirements for a degree. Students need to identify this approach in the application process. After acceptance into this non-degree program, students may register for any courses in which they are interested in order to enhance personal or professional goals.

**2. Courses taken for audit credit only.**

Students who are only interested in audit credit for courses should contact the admission’s office for further guidance on applying for this specific program. After acceptance at the audit level, students may register for any courses in which they are interested in order to enhance personal or professional goals.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## GENERAL STUDIES

### **COM 101 Speech Communication (3)**

Study and practice in communicating ideas competently in public speaking. Students are also given a foundation for development of communication contexts, including dyadic and small group communication.

### **COM 201 Social Media and Digital Discipleship (3)**

This course introduces students to principles of digital discipleship and provides an awareness of the resources and tools required to do it well. Students learn how to leverage the various social media platforms for digital ministry purposes.

### **ENG 010 Fundamentals of English (0)**

This course is designed to provide basic instruction in English to students who enter college with below expected English proficiency skills. This course should prepare the student for college-level English composition courses. Students are approved for entry into this course and no college credit is given.

### **ENG 011 Fundamentals of English II (0)**

This course is designed to provide basic instruction in English to students who enter college with below expected English proficiency skills. This course should prepare the student for college-level English composition courses. Students are approved for entry into this course and no college credit is given.

### **ENG 100 Elementary English (3)**

This course is reserved for students who need a basic course to improve their English skills for college. Enrollment must be approved by the office of the Academic Dean.

### **ENG 101 Grammar and Composition (3)**

A comprehensive study of English grammar designed to remedy deficiencies in the knowledge and correct use of the English language.

### **ENG 102 Composition and Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: ENG 101

A culmination of English fundamentals with emphasis on the finer points of writing through the correct use of all grammatical procedures.

### **ENG 103 Effective Writing (2)**

This course is designed to provide an intensive review of the writing and composition skills needed to become a proficient writer. The course focuses on writing experiences in the following genres: essays, and research papers.

### **ENG 105 Academic Writing and Critical Research (3)**

Prerequisites: ENG 101

This course will focus on the fundamentals of academic writing with the goal of sharpening students' critical thinking and writing skills, with special attention to reasoning, formulating and developing arguments and explanations. Attention will also be paid to handling the citing of sources.

### **GEN 102 Orientation and Library Resources (0)**

This course is required for every student enrolling in Ascent College in any program, taken in the first eight-week session of classes alongside other courses. This course orients students with college life and academics and provides access and training for using Ascent College study tools and resources.

**GEN 401 Senior Seminar and Career Preparedness (0)**

Senior Seminar & Career Preparedness is required to complete a bachelor's degree and graduate. In this course, students process their transition out of Ascent College with a bachelor's degree. This course serves as a capstone for the senior student completing their required program. It is designed to prepare the student for entry into the Christian professional arena through systematic reflection upon their practical and academic experiences. The course requires the student to formulate a professional portfolio to include a comprehensive visionary plan.

**HIS 201 American History I (3)**

An exploration of major social, political, economic, and diplomatic developments in American History from colonial times through the Reconstruction period.

**HIS 202 American History II (3)**

An exploration of major social, political, economic, and diplomatic developments in the United States since the Reconstruction period.

**HIS 220 History of the Christian Church (3)**

A study of the expansion and growth of the Church through a concentrated examination of key historical movements of revival and renewal within the history of Christianity.

**HUM 301 Contemporary Society from a Christian Worldview (3)**

This course explores current issues affecting both American society and the international community from a Christian perspective. It includes topics such as the Christian response to current events and politics, Christians in government, civil responsibility, and social action.

**LAN 201 Intro to Biblical Languages (3)**

A basic course introducing students to rudiments of classical Hebrew and Koine Greek. Designed to help students in the use of various study tools and/or to prepare them for more advanced study of the biblical languages.

**MAT 010 Fundamentals of Math (0)**

This course is designed to provide basic instruction in Math to students who enter college with below expected Math proficiency skills. This course should prepare the student for college-level Math courses. Students are approved for entry into this course and no college credit is given.

**MAT 101 Foundations of Mathematics (3)**

A foundational course in math that reviews basic math concepts to include algebra in order to prepare students for higher level math courses.

**MAT 115 Elements of Mathematics (3)**

A survey course including a review of algebra and an introduction to logic, probability and statistics, mathematical structure, problem solving, number theory, geometry, and consumer applications.

**MIN 275 Non-Profit Financial Management**

This course provides an understanding of how to manage a Christian nonprofit organization, including best practices for donor development, banking, hiring employees, capital campaigns, and budgets. In addition, it provides a biblical theology of financial stewardship.

**MIS 303 Cross-cultural Anthropology (3)**

Designed to give an understanding of the cultural implications associated with ministry in and to people of another culture in order to communicate Christ more effectively and reach them with the gospel.

**PSY 200 Introduction to General Psychology (3)**

Designed to introduce students to the field as a scientific discipline concerned with the study of behavior. Consideration will be given to such topics as human development, motivation, emotion, perception, learning, personality, intelligence, measurement, and applied areas.

**PSY 202 Introduction to Psychology and Christian Counseling (3)**

This class is designed to introduce students to the field as a scientific discipline concerned with the study of behavior and expose them to basic counseling techniques and the theoretical approaches to counseling. It also provides an overview of the counseling process with the intent of experiencing the counselor's role in the counseling process. Consideration will be given to such topics as human development, motivation, emotion, perception, learning, personality, intelligence, measurement, and applied areas.

**PSY 310 Developmental Psychology (3)**

An introductory course, which focuses on the development of childhood and adolescent years. Emphasis will be placed on psychological and developmental issues that occur in the physical, cognitive, and social domains.

**PSY 205 / SOC 205 Social Psychology (3)**

The course explores the scientific study of how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of a person are influenced by personal interactions, experiences, and social situations. Topics include the self, beliefs, attitudes, individual and group behavior, and relationships.

**SCI 100 General Health and Wellness (1)**

This course is designed to provide a Christian perspective toward physical fitness, wellness, personal health, and lifestyle choices. The course will also provide basic nutrition guidelines and will include lectures and out of the classroom activities.

**SCI 101 Life Science (3)**

Explores fundamental characteristics of living matter from the molecular level to the ecological community with emphasis on general biological principles. Develops a basic understanding of plant and animal form, function, and relationships.

**SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology (3)**

A study of social theories, their histories, social structures, functions, and conflict emphasizing human, institutional, and group interactions. The course provides an overview of political, economic and other cultural phenomena and methodologies of the results of scientific social research. In addition, it seeks to expand ideas, concepts, and theoretical and practical orientations by utilizing a comparative perspective.

**SOC 210 Social Problems (3)**

This course examines the definition and development of social problems in modern American society. The course discusses sociological issues such as poverty, education, and crime and deviance, and their impact on today's society.

**SOC 215 Urban Sociology (3)**

An introductory look at the urban community. Topics to be discussed include urban development, characteristics, and problems to include social segregation, inequality, and social conditions specific to urban areas. This course will also explore social characteristics of fringe and suburban areas.

### **SOC 220 Human Growth and Development (3)**

This course examines the human growth process as it relates to learning. Students should expect to gain fundamental knowledge of human growth and development through psychosocial theories, cognitive development, educational and sociological observations, fundamentals of counseling, case management and basic cognitive and educational foundations. A theological perspective will be investigated throughout the studies in this course.

### **SOC 400 Marriage and Family (3)**

The application of sociological and biblical approaches to the study of marriage and family. This course examines mate selection, marriage, life-course and functions of the family, as well as changing patterns of family life in contemporary American society.

### **SPA 100 Conversational Spanish (2)**

This minimal grammar class concentrates on conversational techniques and basic word phrases. Emphasis will be placed on pronunciation and oral exercises.

### **SPA 101 Introduction to Spanish (3)**

This course introduces the students to basic vocabulary and fundamental sentence structure. Basis oral and reading comprehension is developed and students hold simple conversations and write short compositions about present and past actions.

## **GENERAL MINISTRY STUDIES**

### **BIB 100 Bible Review (0)**

The course is a Bible review course designed to prepare graduating students in the Diploma program for passing the Bible Knowledge exam required for graduation.

### **BIB 101 Parables in the New Testament (1)**

This course explores the Parables in the New Testament. The class is a seminar format based on guest lectures and student practical exercises. The classes are facilitated by staff and guest instructors.

### **BIB 105 Old Testament Survey (3)**

A study of the nature, contents and history of the Old Testament, providing an overview of its background and key themes.

### **BIB 107 Seminar on the Book of Psalms (1)**

This course explores the book of Psalms from a Christian Perspective. The class is a seminar format based on guest lectures and student practical exercises. The classes are facilitated by staff and guest instructors.

### **BIB 110 New Testament Survey (3)**

A study of the nature, contents, and history of the New Testament providing an overview of its background and key themes.

### **BIB 150 Hermeneutics I (3)**

Prerequisite: LAN 201 or permission of instructor.



The practice of the principles of inductive Bible study with a focus on asking and answering interpretative questions of the biblical text and on the application of the truths gained in Bible study in the preparation of sermons or lessons.

**BIB 200 Bible Review (0)**

This course is a Bible review course designed to prepare graduating students in the Associate program for passing Bible Knowledge exam required for graduation.

**BIB 202 Pentateuch (2)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105, or permission of instructor.

An inductive study of the first five books of the Old Testament emphasizing the development of an understanding of the overall theme of the OT.

**BIB 210 Life & Teachings of Christ (2)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, or permission of instructor.

A study of the biography & teachings of Jesus Christ as distinctly presented in each of the Gospels, focusing on the theological and practical teachings of Jesus.

**BIB 213 The Book of Acts (2)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, or permission of instructor.

A study of Luke's unique understanding of the mission, founding, and growth of the early church, for the purpose of developing a biblical understanding of the apostolic nature of the church.

**BIB 214 The Book of Romans (2)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, or permission of instructor.

An exegetical exposition of the book of Romans with special attention given to the major themes of the book and aspects of practical Christianity.

**BIB 215 Luke and Acts (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, or permission of the instructor.

This course examines the narratives of Luke as he engages the person and ministry of Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the nature and work of the Church in the books of Luke and Acts.

**BIB 303 Old Testament Historical Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105, or permission of instructor.

An analysis of the second section of the canon known as the "historical books": Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

**BIB 304 Old Testament Poetic Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105, or permission of instructor.

A study of poetry in the Old Testament with special emphasis on Psalms, Proverbs, and Song of Solomon.

**BIB 305 Old Testament Prophetic Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105, or permission of instructor.

An inductive study of the messages and messengers of one or more of the major prophetic books of the Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.

**BIB 313 Pauline Epistles (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, or permission of instructor.

A study of the letters of Paul with special emphasis given to historical background, his journeys, style, and distinctive themes of each book.

**BIB 320 OT & NT Apocalyptic Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105 & 110, or permission of instructor.

A study of the apocalyptic literature of the Old Testament and New Testament and the nature of apocalyptic literature. Special emphasis is given to the apocalyptic literature of Daniel and Revelation.

**BIB 315 The General Epistles (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, or permission of instructor.

An analytical study of the letters of James, Peter, John, and Jude, with special emphasis given to historical background, structure, and distinctive teachings of each book.

**BIB 400 Bible Review (0)**

This course is a Bible review course designed to prepare graduating students in the Bachelor program for passing the Bible Knowledge exam required for graduation.

**BIB 450 Principles of Bible Study II (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 150, or permission of instructor.

An advanced study of the principles of inductive Bible study with a focus on asking and answering interpretative questions of the biblical text and on the application of the truths gained in Bible study in the preparation of sermons or lessons.

**BIB 480 Biblical Studies Independent Studies (1), (2), or (3)**

This is an independent study under the direct supervision of an instructor. The student researches a topic in biblical studies and culminates the research with a report or paper as approved by the instructor. This course is open only to senior level students.

**MIN 103 Spiritual Formation I (3)**

A foundational process to encourage spiritual growth & renewal in one's daily relationship with God. Biblical principles of spiritual growth and development will be examined.

**MIN 104 Spiritual Formation II (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 103, or permission of instructor

A comprehensive, integrated study of the biblical meaning and theology of spirituality; the historical development of and the contemporary practice of spirituality that encompasses Christian faith, life and ministry. The traditional streams of Christian spirituality will be examined by reading, reflection and discussion of the Christian classic writings.

**MIN 107 Seminar on Jesus of the New Testament (1)**

This course explores the personage and divinity of Jesus as presented in the New Testament. The class is a seminar format where students discuss this topic using the New Testament and supplementary texts. The classes are facilitated by staff and guest instructors.

**MIN 112 Relational Outreach and Personal Evangelism (3)**

A study of the principles of evangelism and the development of a personal lifestyle of one-on-one evangelism in the context of personal relationships.

**MIN 212 Personal Christian Ethics (3)**

A study of the theological and biblical foundations of Christian morality with a specific study of ethics in ministry. Selected contemporary moral issues will be examined in the light of biblical teachings.

**MIN 245 Principles of Christian Leadership Development (3)**

A study and application of leadership development principles and strategies in the growth and exercise of biblical leadership, focusing on personal development first. Students learn leadership from the second chair, and how to identify and develop other leaders. Includes modules on relationships, ethics, and conflict resolution in a ministry context.

### **MIS 100 World Christian Perspectives (3)**

A study of the biblical, historical and cultural dimensions of world evangelization.

Attention is given to the state of the unevangelized peoples and how to strategically complete the Great Commission.

### **MIS 220 The Biblical and Theological Basis for Missions and Contemporary Issues (3)**

This introductory course consists of an in-depth study of the mission of God and God's heart for the nations as revealed in the entirety of the biblical text. Missions and the interpretation of Scripture within the Bible is analyzed in terms of history, culture, philosophy and the progressive development of biblical theology as new cultures and peoples were engaged by Israel and the Church. The application of biblical missiology to the contemporary world is evaluated in light of the modes of missions and ministry evidenced in the Bible. Emphasis includes mobilizing and personalizing missions in the local church and life of every believer

### **THE 100 Seminar on The Spirit in Pauline Theology (1)**

In a five-night seminar format, this course investigates Paul's understanding of the Holy Spirit and the role He plays in God's plan and purposes for the children of God.

### **THE 212 Theology 1: Spirit-Empowered Theology (3)**

What is theology, where does theology come from, why are Christians called to theologize, and how does the Holy Spirit empower all of this? This course will focus on how we craft theology and utilize the theological method to further discipleship and ministry.

### **THE 230 Eschatology (3)**

A systematic study of the theology of end times as recorded in the Old and New Testaments. Special emphasis is given to prophecy found in Daniel, the Gospels, and Revelation.

### **THE 301 Theology II: Word and Doctrine (3)**

Prerequisite: THE 212, or permission of the instructor.

What defines Christianity, what are the core doctrines of the Christian faith, and how do we systematically develop beliefs from the Word of God? This course will cover doctrines of Scripture, Creation, Sin, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, the Church, and the Last Things.

## **PRACTICUMS**

### **PRA 100 Practicum I (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings.

### **PRA 101 Psychology Practicum I**

In this practicum, the student will volunteer for eight weeks at a help center (e.g. Pregnancy Care Center, Teen Challenge). The institution must have Ascent approval before the student can start. The student will be given reading assignments and will write a final capstone paper for an Ascent professor.

### **PRA 102 Counseling Practicum I**

In this practicum, the student will find a church or ministry situation that has a pastoral counselor. After approval by Ascent and the pastoral counselor mentor, the student will spend a semester in this mentoring relationship. The student will be given reading assignments and will write a final capstone paper for an Ascent professor.

**PRA 200 Practicum II (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings.

**PRA 201 Psychology Practicum II**

In this practicum, the student will volunteer for eight weeks at a help center (e.g. Pregnancy Care Center, Teen Challenge). The institution must have Ascent approval before the student can start. The student will be given reading assignments and will write a final capstone paper for an Ascent professor.

**PRA 202 Counseling Practicum II**

In this practicum, the student will find a church or ministry situation that has a pastoral counselor. After approval by Ascent and the pastoral counselor mentor, the student will spend a semester in this mentoring relationship. The student will be given reading assignments and will write a final capstone paper.

**PRA 210 Musical Instrument Practicum (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings focused on a musical instrument.

**PRA 304 Practicum III (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings.

**PRA 306 Practicum IV (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings.

**PRA 310 Worship Team Practicum (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings focused on supporting a worship team.

**PRA 312 Mission Practicum (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides mentored ministry experience through a cross-cultural missionary experience in another national context, integrating cross-cultural ministry, learning, leadership and spiritual development in a practical ministry setting.

**PRA 401 Practicum V (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings.

**PRA 402 Practicum VI (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings.

**PRA 403 Vocal Skills Practicum (3)**

A practical ministry project that provides ministry experience through mentoring, while integrating faith and learning in practical ministry settings focused on vocal singing skills.

## **BIBLICAL STUDIES**

### **BIB 210 Life & Teachings of Christ (2)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, BIB 150, or permission of instructor.

A study of the biography & teachings of Jesus Christ as distinctly presented in each of the Gospels, focusing on the theological and practical teachings of Jesus.

### **BIB 214 The Book of Romans (2)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, BIB 150, or permission of instructor.

An exegetical exposition of the book of Romans with special attention given to the major themes of the book and aspects of practical Christianity.

### **BIB 303 Old Testament Historical Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105, BIB 150, or permission of instructor.

An analysis of the second section of the canon known as the "historical books": Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

### **BIB 304 Old Testament Poetic Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105, BIB 150, or permission of instructor.

A study of poetry in the Old Testament with special emphasis on Psalms, Proverbs, and Song of Solomon.

### **BIB 305 Old Testament Prophetic Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105, BIB 150, or permission of instructor.

An inductive study of the messages and messengers of one or more of the major prophetic books of the Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.

### **BIB 315 The General Epistles (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, BIB 150, or permission of instructor.

An analytical study of the letters of James, Peter, John, and Jude, with special emphasis given to historical background, structure, and distinctive teachings of each book.

### **BIB 320 OT & NT Apocalyptic Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 105, BIB 110, BIB 150, or permission of instructor.

A study of the apocalyptic literature of the Old Testament and New Testament and the nature of apocalyptic literature. Special emphasis is given to the apocalyptic literature of Daniel and Revelation.

### **BIB 450 Hermeneutics II (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 150, LAN 201, or permission of instructor.

An advanced study of the principles of inductive Bible study with a focus on asking and answering interpretative questions of the biblical text and on the application of the truths gained in Bible study in the preparation of sermons or lessons.

### **MIN 264 Apologetics (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 110, or permission of instructor.

A philosophical study of the Christian faith as it is related to secular humanism with emphasis on the deity of Christ, the incarnation, substitutionary death, and physical resurrection. Attention will be given to practical, everyday application.

### **THE 401 Theology III: History of Christian Theology (3)**

Prerequisite: THE 212, THE 301, or permission of instructor.

How has God used theologians throughout history to form and refine Christianity and why does this theology still matter today? This course will introduce you to the writing of some of the significant theologians who have shaped Christian belief from the time of Jesus until now.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP**

### **MIN 250 Intro to Children's Ministry (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 240, or permission of instructor

Fundamentals of leading ministry with children in the local church context.

### **MIN 340 Children and Worship (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 250, or permission of instructor

Focus on leading children and children's leaders into a deeper understanding of worship, including music, the creative arts, prayer, worship response stations, and leading children in the ways of Pentecostal/charismatic worship styles.

### **MIN 355 Communicating with Children (2)**

A study in the development of skills to communicate with children in various effective ways including storytelling, puppets, ventriloquism, human video, and audio/visual means. Sound system basics will also be covered.

### **MIN 356 Teaching and Learning for Children (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 250, or permission of instructor

Focus on pedagogy: how children learn, and how to effectively teach the Bible and theology to young people.

### **MIN 375 Communicating with Adolescents (2)**

A study in the development of skills to communicate with youth in various effective ways including storytelling, illustrated sermons, human video, and audio/visual means. Sound system basics will also be covered.

### **MIN 380 Camp Ministry (2)**

Prerequisite: MIN 250, or permission of instructor

Focus on leadership and program management of summer camps, weekend retreats, and other outdoor-related ministry experiences, including Royal Rangers and MPact programs.

### **MIN 450 Intergenerational Ministry (2)**

Prerequisite: MIN 250, SOC 400, or permission of instructor

Focus on learning how to nurture a worshipping community that intentionally integrates across generations; focus on understanding family structures, relationships, and how to serve the needs of whole families in the church and community.

### **MIN 457 Holistic Children's Ministry (3)**

Focus is placed on providing ministry to children that is balanced in evangelism, discipleship, and worship. Priority will be given to educating children cognitively, affectively, and behaviorally so that their head, heart, and hands are impacted. Curriculum development will also be covered.

**MIN 459 Leadership Development in Children’s Ministry (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 250, or permission of instructor

Focus on developing teams, volunteers, children in leadership, and developing the self as a leader in children’s ministry.

**MIN 465 Special Needs in Children and Youth Ministry (2)**

Prerequisite: MIN 250, PSY 350, or permission of instructor

Focus on all types of special needs communities and how to accommodate/serve them in the church and community.

**MIN 481 Pastoral Care of Children (1)**

Prerequisite: MIN 250, PSY 200, PSY 350, or permission of instructor

Focus on issues of counseling, grief, and trauma.

**PSY 351 Developmental Theory for Children (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 250, PSY 200, or permission of instructor

Focus on sociological, psychological, and spiritual developmental theories that help inform ministering to children and youth.

**CHRISTIAN COUNSELING**

**COUN 201 Introduction to Christian Counseling (3)**

This class introduces students to psychology and Christian counseling as a scientific discipline concerned with the study of behavior and exposes them to basic techniques and theoretical approaches to counseling. Consideration will be given to such topics as: human development, motivation, emotion, perception, learning, personality, intelligence, measurements, and other applicable areas.

**COUN 203 Issues in Christian Counseling (3)**

Prerequisite PSY 202, or permission of the instructor.

This course helps students become knowledgeable about the inner conflicts and insecurities faced by those being counseled. It teaches the different aspects of physiology, theology, and sin to help establish the connections needed to counsel individuals.

**COUN 302 Christian Counseling for Children (3)**

This class will provide training which is specifically focused on the unique needs of children and adolescents in order to help them grow emotionally, socially, mentally, and spiritually. It provides instructions on parental involvement and guidelines to enhance a Christ-centered relationship among family members. It will explore a variety of treatment interventions to include play therapy, individual, and family counseling.

**COUN 303 Christian Counseling for Marriage & Family (3)**

This course considers the dynamics of marriage and family relationships from a systems perspective. It emphasizes the Christian counseling perspective in understanding family and other systems theories, the structure and function of marriage, various aspects of the marital relationship and family systems, and models of family and systemic interventions.

**COUN 304 Christian Counseling for Women (3)**

This study provides counseling techniques to enhance positive life approaches to the varied roles and life functions faced by women. The class targets the spiritual as well as the emotional aspects of counseling with women.

### **COUN 350 Grief and Trauma Counseling (3)**

Prerequisite PSY 202, or permission of the instructor.

This class will provide training to help students develop skills to deal with the issues of trauma, death, grief, and loss. It examines the biblical view of trauma, grief, death, dying. It offers a cognitive and pragmatic investigation of the skills necessary to address a wide variety of crisis counseling situations.

### **COUN 400 Conflict Resolution Counseling (3)**

Prerequisite PSY 202, or permission of the instructor.

This course will investigate a biblical and practical understanding of conflict. It analyses the conflict cycle and styles of conflict management and intervention strategies to help students comprehend how to use conflict for positive change.

### **PSY 205 Social Psychology and Cultural Issues in Counseling (3)**

Prerequisite PSY 202, or permission of the instructor.

This course explores the scientific study of how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of a person are influenced by personal interactions, experiences, and social situations. It also examines counseling religiously and culturally diverse populations through a psychological and Christian lens. It emphasizes the need for counselors to understand the multiplicity of culture and change their counseling technique accordingly. Topics include the self, beliefs, attitudes, individual and group behavior, and relationships.

### **PSY 310 Lifespan Development (3)**

Prerequisite PSY 202, or permission of the instructor.

An introductory course which focuses on the development of people from childhood to senior adulthood. Emphasis will be placed on the psychological and developmental issues that occur in the physical, cognitive, and social domains of each age group (childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle adulthood, and senior adulthood).

### **PSY 341 Psychology of Personality (3)**

Prerequisite PSY 202, or permission of the instructor.

This course reviews the basic concepts and principles of the major theories of personality. It also assesses the scientific worth and validity of these theories and includes case studies that show how they apply to the treatment of psychological disorders. Detailed descriptions of healthy and unhealthy personality types will be stressed. Students will be challenged to evaluate their personality, as it relates to the theory being presented.

### **PSY 350 Child Development (3)**

This course will cover the physical, mental, and spiritual development of a child from birth through sixth grade. One unit will also survey common learning disabilities of children often faced by those ministering to children.

### **PSY 354 Introduction to Statistics for Social Sciences (3)**

Prerequisite: MAT 115



This course investigates descriptive and inferential statistics and introduces multiple techniques for statistical analysis. It explores formulas for presenting and evaluating data in accordance with generally accepted protocol for statistical analysis.

### **PSY 355 Introduction to Research (3)**

Prerequisite: PSY 354

This course introduces the foundations of research methodology, design, and analysis. It explores and evaluates the basic principles of qualitative and quantitative research. This curriculum focuses on understanding the results of statistical analysis as it applies to research.

### **PSY 370 Adolescent Development (3)**

This course will cover the physical, mental, and spiritual development of an adolescent from teenager through young adult. One unit will also survey common learning disabilities often faced by those ministering to youth.

### **PSY 371 Theories of Counseling & Psychotherapy (3)**

This class introduces the major schools of counseling and psychotherapy. It investigates the topics of: theoretical orientation to the field of psychotherapy, the underlying theory and assumptions of each approach, and instruction on how to use and interpret the psychological tests frequently used to facilitate counseling and psychotherapy.

### **PSY 430 Abnormal Psychology (3)**

The course entails a study of the diagnosis, causes, treatment, and prevention of psychological disorders. Problems with the reliability and validity of the American Psychiatric Association system for diagnosing psychological disorders will be discussed, and various alternative systems will be introduced.

## **INTERCULTURAL STUDIES**

### **MIS 103 World Religions (3)**

Designed to equip students with an overview of various major world religions, this course seeks to stir a passion for communicating Christ more effectively and demonstrate the value of building bridges with people of other religions.

### **MIS 105 Missions in the Local Church (3)**

This course enables the student to mobilize and train local churches and church networks to participate in God's global mission and engage unreached persons and people groups with the gospel. Topics addressed include participating in the Harvest, giving through faith promises, networking through partnerships, being goers and/or senders, and facilitating church planting movements.

### **MIS 205 Relational Dynamics in Missions (3)**

In light of the pressures of acculturation, this course assists the student in understanding his/her own personality and how this affects developing and maintaining healthy relationships by examining the dynamics of significant relationships in the life of the missionary including those with his/her marriage, family, fellow missionary teammates, and the national church.

### **MIS 301 History of Missions (3)**

Beginning with the New Testament Church this course evaluates movements and leaders throughout missions history providing a rubric and guide for present and future missionary endeavors. Special consideration focuses on the history of Assemblies of God and Pentecostal missions.

**MIS 302 The Missionary Call & Preparation (3)**

A study of the motive, objective, call, qualifications, and opportunities for missionaries today with particular attention to the practical issues of personal, spiritual, and administrative preparation for missionary service constitutes the purpose and content of this course.

**MIS 303 Cross-Cultural Dynamics (3)**

This course of study is designed to provide tools to address anthropologically the cultural implications associated with ministry to people of another culture in order to communicate the gospel of Christ more effectively.

**MIS 305 Introduction to Urban Missions (3)**

An examination of the biblical and theological basis for urban missions and biblical perspectives on urban issues such as poverty, leadership, and globalization constitute the content of this course.

**MIS 404 Practical Intercultural Ministries (3)**

Designed to provide a biblical perspective on the cities of the world and strategies for relevant urban ministry, church planting, and releasing urban missionaries through servant and power evangelism.

**MIS 405 Leadership & Strategy in Missions (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 240, or permission of the instructor.

An explanation of the process of leadership development in the life of the student and how to select and This course addresses theological and strategic issues related to personal and indigenous church leadership development from a Pentecostal perspective with special attention to spiritual formation, moral issues, social/organizational structures in a missional context, and cross-cultural church planting movements.

**MIS 410 Contextualized Theology (3)**

Prerequisite: THE 212, THE 301, or permission of instructor

Contextual theology and the process of contextualization relates to the knowledge of God, an unchanging God who reveals himself uniquely within specific contexts. God assures authentic knowledge of Himself through His action in *missio Dei*. Guided by the Holy Spirit God's missionary people communicate gospel truth in an ever-changing world. This course explores the ways in which culture intersects with and informs the task of theology and examines both the theoretical and practical aspects of contextualization as related to biblical interpretation, theology, missiology and leadership development. Contextualization is reviewed and evaluated in terms of its bearing on the communication of the gospel, the varied expressions of the Christian faith and its spread in various cultural settings.

**MIS 421 Contemporary Mission Issues (3)**

Prerequisite: MIS 302, or permission of instructor.

A Pentecostal approach to the unique challenges and opportunities facing missionaries today guide the content of this course. Spirit-empowered missiological thinking, grounded in biblical truth, is applied to diverse contemporary missions issues to assist the church and the missionary to communicate Christ to the world.

**MIS 460 Studies in Unreached People Groups (3)**

An in-depth research study of a particular mission field and/or people groups for the preparation of evangelization strategies or as advance preparation for cultural adaptation. Offered as an independent study project.

## **MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP**

### **COUN 301 Family Systems and Counseling (3)**

This course is designed as a psychological as well as a sociological view of the family system and how it affects biblical worldview. The course will address family structure, rituals and cultural diversity within the system. Course content includes the gathering of information to prepare the student's own genogram in order to analyze his/her own family dynamics. Family Systems and Counseling will integrate the dynamics of the family systems with counseling models for the church setting.

### **COUN 310 Fundamentals of Crisis Intervention for Pastoral Care (3)**

This course examines the ethical implications of pastoral care and counseling reviewing the Christian Counseling Code of Ethics as currently promulgated. The course also investigates basic crisis intervention skills for use by pastors and ministers.

### **MIN 105 Leadership Lab (1)**

This course is designed to explore three areas of Christian leadership: positioning the church to grow, building high performance teams, and releasing the potential of those around the leader.

### **MIN 106 Seminar on Christian Topics (1)**

This course explores various Christian topics of current interest. The class is a seminar format where students discuss the topic for the class. The classes are facilitated by staff and guest instructors.

### **MIN 220 Homiletics (3)**

Prerequisite: BIB 110, or permission of the instructor.

The application of the principles of inductive Bible study in the development of biblical expository messages, both for sermons and teaching. Also includes a study of the theology, theory, & practice of preaching and teaching, with emphasis on expository preaching, as well as classroom methods for teaching.

### **MIN 221 Expository Preaching Seminar (1)**

This course explores the discipline of expository preaching. The class is a seminar format based on guest lectures and student practical exercises. The classes are facilitated by staff and guest instructors

### **MIN 230 Pastoral Counseling (3)**

Prerequisite: PSY 200, or permission of instructor.

Emphasis on the development of basic skills in addressing people's needs for emotional and spiritual healing through (1) basic analysis of people's needs, (2) the use of the Bible in care and counseling, (3) acquiring skills in interpersonal relationships, and (4) utilizing resources in diagnosis and referral of pastoral care and Christian therapy.

### **MIN 241 The Leader's Foundation (3)**

Designed to aid in the formation of a godly self-image and proper foundation for leadership.

### **MIN 242 Collective Journey: Leadership Health for Next-Gen Female Leaders**

God calls leaders to finish well and multiply. Using the passage in 2 Timothy 1:1-18, the student will discover four foundations for leadership development and sustainability; personal leadership development (core-self), the power of story (communication), skillsets (calling), and a sustainable network (community).

This class enforces that women grow stronger by being together; this is especially true when women connect intergenerationally and learn from one another.

**MIN 243 Communicating for Transformation (3)**

This course helps women sharpen their communications skills in multiple settings and allow participants to explore how gender potentially affects communication and develops tools for speaking effectively to mixed-gender audiences. They will learn how to develop talks and messages that are biblically accurate and relevant, and applicable to their audience.

**MIN 244 Biblical Theology of Women in Leadership (3)**

This course tells the stories of women throughout the Bible and history. The use of Scripture and history provides two bookends that the issues concerning the ministry and leadership of women can be discussed and can help the student locate her story within the context of God's story.

**MIN 264 Apologetics (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 110, or permission of instructor.

A philosophical study of the Christian faith as it is related to secular humanism with emphasis on the deity of Christ, the incarnation, substitutionary death, and physical resurrection. Attention will be given to practical, every day application.

**MIN 280 Gifts (2)**

Analysis of the New Testament focuses on spiritual gifts as found in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4. Class examines the role of spiritual gifts in an ecclesial community and the practical application of these principles.

**MIN 301 Leadership Theory and Practice (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 240, or permission of instructor.

This course focuses upon the theoretical development and challenges of effective leadership by reviewing the historical development of various leadership theories. This includes leader traits, skills, and behaviors; models; and other approaches to leadership.

**MIN 310 The Ministry of Prayer (3)**

A study of the biblical principles and practices of prayer and intercession as part of the ministry of the body of Christ.

**MIN 312 Church Planting I (3)**

A practical study of the principles of church planting and development, focusing on the various challenges and considerations of planting and growing a church.

**MIN 332 Church Planting II (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 312, or permission of the instructor.

A continuing study of the principles of church planting and development, focusing on the various challenges and considerations of planting and growing a church.

**MIN342 How Remarkable Women Lead: A Breakthrough Model for Work and Life (3)**

Based on a five-year research study by McKinsey & Company, consultants Joanna Barsh and Susie Cranston linked five elements to all successful female leaders: meaning, framing, connecting, engaging, and energizing. This course is designed to bring definition and personal story to each trait and allow the students time for personal assessment to develop a strategic leadership growth plan for each element and enhance their lifelong leadership journey.

**MIN 362 Church and Law (3)**

Prerequisite: MIN 270, or permission of instructor.

A study of the laws in various administrative areas affecting clergymen, religious institutions, and churches.

**MIN 370 Five-Fold Ministry (3)**

A study of the biblical organization and techniques of the church. The course teaches how to mature the church for service through a team-leadership strategy.

**MIN 372 Understanding Apostolic Ministry (3)**

A presentation of the biblical plan and strategy for the expansion of the church. Emphasis will be given to the role of the apostle, and various dimensions of the apostolic church will be examined.

**MIN 374 Understanding Prophetic Ministry (3)**

A study of the biblical office of the prophet and the gift of prophecy, with a practical emphasis on the place of the prophetic in church life.

**MIN 430 Pastoral Care & Counseling (3)**

A study of the biblical basis for pastoral counseling, the basic techniques of pastoral care, a general introduction to the major areas of pastoral concern, counseling the sick, the grief-stricken, teenagers, the aged, and those in crises. This course requires careful study of and reflection upon the appropriate biblical texts.

**THE 406 Pastoral Theology (3)**

Prerequisite: THE 212, THE 301, or permission of the instructor.

A study of the biblical materials as they relate to the pastoral ministry. The course includes an overview of the pastor's call, the church's call, the pastor's personal life, general administrative duties, church community, district responsibilities, and Assembly of God polity.

**WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE COHORT****MIN 242 Collective Journey: Leadership Health for Next-Gen Female Leaders (3)**

God calls leaders to finish well and multiply. Using the passage in 2 Timothy 1:1-18, the student will discover four foundations for leadership development and sustainability; personal leadership development (core-self), the power of story (communication), skillsets (calling), and a sustainable network (community). This class demonstrates how women grow stronger by being together; this is especially true when women connect intergenerationally and learn from one another.

**MIN 243 Communicating for Transformation (3)**

This course helps women sharpen their communications skills in multiple settings and allow participants to explore how gender potentially affects communication and develops tools for speaking effectively to mixed-gender audiences. They will learn how to develop talks and messages that are biblically accurate and relevant, and applicable to their audience.

**MIN 244 Biblical Theology of Women in Leadership: Why Not Women? (3)**

This course tells the stories of women throughout the Bible and history. The use of Scripture and history provides two bookends that the issues concerning the ministry and leadership of women can be discussed and can help the student locate her story within the context of God's story.

**MIN 342 How Remarkable Women Lead: A Breakthrough Model for Life and Work (3)**

Based on a five-year research study by McKinsey & Company, consultants Joanna Barsh and Susie Cranston linked five elements to all successful female leaders: meaning, framing, connecting, engaging, and energizing. This course is designed to bring definition and personal story to each trait and allow the students time for personal assessment to develop a strategic leadership growth plan for each element and enhance their lifelong leadership journey.

## **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

### **WOR 201 Heart of a Worshipper (3)**

To have a heart of worship and to be a leader of worship requires a lifestyle of daily worship. We can only lead where we have been. This course is designed to deepen the call and guard the passion of personal worship.

### **WOR 203 The Role of the Worship Leader (3)**

This course is a study of the motive, objective, call and qualifications for leading worship. It is designed to study the many and varied roles of a worship leader with special emphasis placed on the relationship between the worship leader and the lead pastor, other staff members, worship team vocalists/instrumentalists, creative team, and the congregation.

### **WOR 204 Worship in the Psalms (3)**

An in-depth study of the book of Psalms examining the structure, history, and nature of the Psalter. Discover the use of the Psalms in Old Testament times and in modern application.

### **WOR 211 Technology for Worship I: Music Production (2)**

Training and application to enhance the production of creative worship settings utilizing midi, click tracks, in-ear monitors, and music production, recording, and playback software. (Specialized technology required.)

### **WOR 302 The Role of the Arts in Worship (3)**

A study of how the arts (dance, drama, graphic arts, media, poetry, spoken word, etc.) has influenced and played a significant role in worship through time and denominations. Focusing on how the creative arts can enhance and impact corporate worship services today.

### **WOR 310 Technology for Worship II: Live Stage Production (2)**

Designed to give practical training in systems and technology to support and enhance the worship environment. Student's will gain a basic understanding of audio, lighting, media, video and streaming components along with core technologies and issues in copyright laws. (Hybrid course with a one-day in-person seminar for hands-on practice.)

### **WOR 312 Leading a Worship Ministry (3)**

This course is a study of the practical issues involved in planning and facilitating creative corporate worship. Application is made to practical issues of corporate worship, administration, assembling and training a team, rehearsal techniques, worship planning, special services/ordinances of the church, staging, and incorporating creative aspects.

### **WOR 321 The Local Church: Cultural Issues (3)**

A study of worship in the post-modern era examining the effects of cultural change on worship style and how worship can be a powerful conduit of change within culture.

### **WOR 330 History of Renewal Worship (3)**

This course is a study of the history of worship and the working of the Holy Spirit from the Old Testament, the Tabernacle, the early church, through the modern period. Emphasis is given to changes in worship practices resulting from the Reformation, the Great Awakenings, revival movements, large evangelistic crusades of the 1940-1950s, Jesus Movement, praise and worship movement through to the worship culture of today.

**WOR 340 Basic Conducting (2)**

A rudimentary course in conducting techniques for traditional and non-traditional settings. Knowledge and skills areas addressed include basic conducting gestures and patterns; score interpretation; rehearsal management and technique; programming considerations; and insight into navigating vocal and instrumental issues.

**WOR 405 Musicianship I: Fundamental Awareness (2)**

An introduction to the rudiments of music and theoretical concepts through practical experience with notation, meter, key signatures, scales, intervals, and chord structures. (No previous music background required.)

**WOR 406 Musicianship II: Working Knowledge (2)**

Prerequisite: WOR 405 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

Further study of musical rudiments and theoretical concepts; including visual/aural training, musical analysis, transposition, progressions, basic form and composition methods.

**WOR 407 Musicianship III: Skills for Worship Leaders (2)**

Prerequisite: WOR 401, WOR 402, or permission of instructor.

A practical application of harmonic, melodic and rhythmic principles in worship music. Special attention is given to the Nashville Number System and jazz harmony practices to understand chord construction and progressions as the foundation for crafting charts, compositions, and arrangements for worship services.

**WOR 410 Directing & Conducting Principles (3)**

The study of the fundamentals of techniques for conducting instrumentalists and vocalists and development of the skills needed to work with an ensemble, choir, and worship team.

**YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP**

**MIN 108 Seminar in Youth Ministry (1)**

Students will learn specific techniques to recruit and develop volunteer staff and to plan and implement youth services. Students will hear from guest speakers and will plan a youth service.

**MIN 330 Gospel-Centered Youth Ministry (3)**

This course lays a foundation for being a gospel-centered leader, creating a gospel-centered culture, having a good theology on suffering, and creating biblical literacy and gospel fluency in leaders and students.

**MIN 343 Discipleship Strategy in Youth Ministry (3)**

This course contributes to forming a philosophy of ministry where students view all of life as discipleship, understand a definition of discipleship. Students learn to leverage all ministry environments for discipleship, develop a culture of disciples making other disciples, and the role of the gospel in discipleship.

**MIN 322 Understanding Adolescent Culture (3)**

This course helps students be savvy about technology & social media, how to address mental and emotional health matters for adolescents, leading in a post-truth world, and knowing how to exegete culture and use God's truth to address it.

**MIN 412 Youth Ministry in the Local Church (3)**

This course helps train youth leaders to understand their part in a larger church-wide discipleship strategy, by being a team player, supporting the vision of another, and working with other ministries. This course trains students to equip parents to be disciple-makers.

**MIN 422 Teaching a Biblical Worldview to Teenagers (3)**

This course trains students to understand and be able to teach on the basic building blocks of a biblical worldview: there is a righteous Creator to whom we are accountable, the designer is the definer, God's plan for human flourishing and freedom, what it means to be an image bearer, the Fall, the ongoing results of the fall, God's redemptive plan from beginning to end, the person and work of Jesus, the Lordship of Jesus, the mission of God, and the end of the story.

**MIN 472 Leadership Skills for Youth Ministry (3)**

This course provides students with necessary administrative skills for youth ministry, including implementing and sustaining effective systems, necessary steps for recruiting and on ramping new youth leaders, communicating with parents, planning out a preaching calendar, planning out an event calendar, and budget management.

**MIN 477 Holistic Youth Ministry (3)**

Focus is placed on providing ministry to youth that is balanced in evangelism, discipleship, and worship. Priority will be given to educating youth cognitively, affectively, and behaviorally so that their head, heart, and hands are impacted. Curriculum development will also be covered.

**MIN 479 Development of the Youth Ministry Team (2)**

Explores the role, duties, and qualifications of the Youth Ministry Team, including parents, pastoral staff, sponsors, and the entire church. Emphasis will be placed on the Youth Pastor's ability to work with adults, as well as children.

## GRADUATION

Students must complete the course degree requirements applicable at the time of matriculation into the college as specified in the college catalog current at the time. These course requirements may be fulfilled by successfully completing the course (higher than a letter grade of F) at Ascent College, by successfully transferring the course into Ascent College from another postsecondary educational institution as approved by the Registrar's office or experiential learning, or by successfully substituting the course by another course with approval from the Academic Dean's office.

The minimum requirement for graduation is a GPA of 2.0 overall and 2.5 for area of concentration. The final 25 percent of credits for any program must be earned at Ascent College and a minimum of 30 percent of total credits must be earned at Ascent College in order to be awarded a degree from Ascent College.

A personal mission statement as evidenced in the student portfolio prepared by the student and approved by the Dean of Students. Completion of practicums as may be defined in the Academic Catalog. All students



must demonstrate biblical knowledge proficiency by passing the Bible Knowledge exam.

Students with at least a 2.0 who are within six semester hours of meeting graduation requirements and who plan to fulfill these requirements in Ascent College's summer session may petition the Registrar to participate in spring commencement exercises. The student will subsequently be granted the degree upon successful completion of the required hours.

Student accounts must be paid in full and cleared by the Registrar before graduation is finalized.

Honors will be awarded to students attaining the following final grade point averages:

- Cum Laude; 3.40 - 3.59
- Magna Cum Laude; 3.60 - 3.79
- Sum Cum Laude; 3.80 - 4.00

Upon graduation from Ascent College, the student will have a quality, academic education and practical ministry experience to aid in ministry. Students should take full advantage of the opportunities this affords.

### **Graduation Activities**

Each year, Ascent College graduates a class of trained leaders that impact the Kingdom of God. Graduation activities may include a banquet, and the Commencement Exercise. Graduating students are strongly encouraged to attend all activities.

### **Graduation Policy**

All students anticipating graduation in the Spring must submit a graduation petition form no later than November 5. The forms are available online. A graduation fee applies.

### **Transcripts**

After a student graduates or for some reason leaves Ascent College he or she may request official transcripts from the Registrar's Office. Ascent College provides transcripts for a fee of \$5.00. Students with an outstanding balance will not be able to receive their transcript until their balance is paid in full.

### **Career Advising and Placement Services**

Ascent College offers no formalized career advising and placement services. However, the college is connected with local churches throughout the Potomac Network and may assist in providing information regarding current pastoral and local church positions.

## **Board Members**

Chairman of the Board: Rev. George Raduano, Lead Pastor, Trinity Church

Dr. Jacob Al-Hassan, Pastor, River of Life Worship Center

Dr. Ken Cramer, Lead Pastor, Lighthouse Worship Center

Mr. Robert McDowell, Retired Air Force

Mr. Ken Moreland, Retired Vice President, Financial

Rev. Frank Potter, Superintendent, Potomac Network, AG

Rev. John Rajan, ECPI University

Dr. Rob Rhoden, President, Ascent College

Ms. Lori Ricks, Co-Pastor, Bethel Temple Church

Ms. Sherilynn Tounger, Missionary, Assemblies of God

## **Administrative Staff**

Dr. Rob Rhoden, M.Div., D.Min.  
President

Dr. Anna Morgan, M.A.G.L., D.I.S.  
Executive Vice President of Academics

Dr. Ron DeBerry, M. Div., D.Min.  
Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness/Compliance

Ms. Sonji Thee, M.Ed.  
Registrar/Office of Student Affairs

Ms. Amy Piehl, M.T.  
Admissions Director

Dr. Ron DeBerry, MLS., M.Div., D.Min.  
Director of Library Resources

### **PROGRAM DIRECTORS**

Dr. Mark Morrow, Ministerial Leadership  
Dr. Valerie Rance, Christian Counseling  
Dr. Taehyun Lee, Biblical Studies  
Dr. Valerie Rance, Intercultural Studies  
Ms. Karen Clark, Worship Leadership  
Dr. Jesse Joyner, Children's Ministry Leadership

## **Faculty**

### **FACULTY (Full Time Administrators/Part Time Faculty)**

Ron DeBerry, Instructor of Biblical and Ministerial Studies  
M.Div., D. Min., Regent University; MLS, Texas Women's University

Anna Morgan, Instructor of Practical Theology and Intercultural Studies  
M.A.G.L., D.I.S., Fuller Theological Seminary

### **FACULTY (Part Time)**

Jenell Sanford, Instructor of English and Telecommunications  
M.A., Ohio University

Kevin Willis, Instructor of Biblical Studies and Practical Ministry  
M.A., Regent University

**ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS**

Mark Ackerman, Instructor of Biblical Studies and Practical Studies  
M.A., Regent University

Jacob Al Hassan, Instructor of Practical Ministry and Biblical Studies  
M.A., D. Min., Southeastern University

Gloria Bazemore, Instructor of Counseling  
M.A., Regent University

Jonathan Burtram, Instructor of Ministerial Studies  
M.Div., Regent University

Luisa Castro, Instructor of Psychology  
M. Ed., Strayer University

Doug Chapman, Instructor of Biblical Studies  
M.A., Ashland Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Michigan State University

Karen Clark, Instructor of Worship Leadership  
M.A., Regent University

Daryl Crosby, Instructor of Education  
M.T., Hampton University; D.Ed., Nova Southeastern University

Julia Eichenlaub, Instructor of History  
M.A., Virginia Commonwealth University

Yvonne Gould, Instructor of Counseling  
M.A., Regent University

Doris Harmon, Instructor of Counseling  
M.A., Hampton University

Tarron Howe, Instructor of Biblical Studies and Theology  
M.A., Ed.D., Liberty University

Alicia Howell, Instructor of Life Science  
M.S., Hampton University

Jesse Joyner, Instructor of Biblical Studies and Children's Ministry  
M. Div., Asbury Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Russell Joyner, Instructor of Biblical Studies  
M.A., Union Seminary; D.Min., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Taeyhun Lee, Instructor of Biblical Studies and Theology

Ph.D., Regent University

Martin Monacell, Instructor of Theology  
M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

Randall Morrow, Instructor of Biblical Studies  
M.A., Southeastern University

Stephanie Nance, Instructor of Ministerial Studies  
M.Div., D.Min., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

Lisa Potter, Instructor of Ministerial Studies  
M.L.M., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

Valerie Rance, Instructor of Counseling and Intercultural Studies  
M.A., Ph.D., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

DeLonn Rance, Instructor of Intercultural Studies  
M.A., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, M.A., Vanguard University, Ph.D., (Intercultural Studies)  
Fuller Theological Seminary

John Randall, Instructor of Biblical Studies  
M.T.S., Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

Jim Rodriquez, Instructor of Pastoral Ministries  
M.A., Southeastern University; D.Ed. Min, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ben Rothwell, Instructor of Ministerial Studies  
M.A., Southeastern University

Paul Thee, Instructor of Math  
M.S., National Defense University; Ph.D., Air Force Institute of Technology