



# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SEMINARY

# ACADEMIC CATALOG

# 2025-2027

*Approved by the Board of Directors: October 16, 2024*



This catalog contains the proposed program, regulations, requirements, and general information for Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College for the 2025-2027 calendar years. It should be used only for informational purposes and does not constitute a contract. All information, including admissions requirements, tuition, degree requirements, course offerings, and Seminary policies, is subject to change without notice and is no way binding upon the Seminary.

For more information, please contact the Seminary at its mailing address or visit our website:

Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College

3160 J. R. Lynch Street

Jackson, MS 39209

Web Address: [www.msbsbc.org](http://www.msbsbc.org)

General Inquiries: (769) 233-8089 | [info@msbsbc.org](mailto:info@msbsbc.org)

Admissions Inquiries: (769) 233-8089 [admissions@msbsbc.org](mailto:admissions@msbsbc.org)

Registrar Inquiries: (769) 233-8089 [registrar@msbsbc.org](mailto:registrar@msbsbc.org)

### **ACCREDITATION**

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College is accredited by the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation. More information about the Commission is available at <http://www.mississippi.edu/mcca/>. The Commissions may be contacted by mail (Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211) or by phone (601-432-6198).

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

The Seminary seeks to maintain an environment in which the dignity and worth of all members of the community are respected. For this reason, the Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College is committed to offering equal access to educational opportunities for all qualified students. MSBSBC does not discriminate in matters of hiring, admissions, academics, or student affairs on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or age. Furthermore, the Seminary prohibits harassment or violence based on these protected statuses.

### **COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY**

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College is committed to inclusive excellence in all aspects of an individual's experience. We strive to develop and sustain an environment that is free from bias, prejudice, and discrimination to enable members to thrive in our seminary community. We welcome, seek, and strive to engage multiple dimensions of diversity while actively working to dismantle systems, policies, and practices that serve as barriers to true inclusion for our constituent communities.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT ----- 4

GENERAL INFORMATION

    Accreditation ----- 6

    Purpose ----- 6

    History ----- 6

    Vision Statement ----- 8

    Mission Statement----- 8

    Statement of Faith and Affirmation ----- 8

    Board of Directors-----10

    Seminary Staff -----10

    Teaching Sites -----11

    Government of the Seminary -----11

    Financial Support-----11

    Facilities -----11

    Alumni Association -----11

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

    Admissions Information-----13

    Registration -----16

    Transfer Policy -----16

    Library & Resource Support-----19

    Tuition and Fees -----21

    Refund Policy-----21

    Financial Aid-----21

    Scholarships-----22

    Request for Transcripts-----22

    Institutional Objectives (Learning Outcomes)-----23

    Programs of Study-----23

    Undergraduate Course Descriptions -----28

ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

    Instructional Delivery Information -----42

    Academic Support and Remedial Services -----42

    Credit Hours and Class Attendance-----43

    Grading Scale -----44

    Incomplete Grades Policy-----44

    Withdrawals-----44

    Student Tenure-----45

    Reasonable Accommodation Policy-----45

    Code of Ethics -----46

    Student Grievance Process-----47

    Student Conduct Procedures-----49

    FERPA-----52

Academic Calendar -----53

## WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Greetings my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary, incorporated in 1943 as the Mississippi Union Theological Seminary, was started to provide religious and secular education to African Americans throughout Mississippi and across the nation. In March 1944, the amended incorporation birthed Mississippi Baptist Seminary, an institution that established a rich history of teaching, training, and instructing both lay and clergy in Christian and Theological studies aimed at supporting the African American church community of Mississippi and surrounding areas.

Mississippi Baptist Seminary is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in Mississippi. Owned by the General Mississippi Baptist State Convention, Inc., we continue to build on Mississippi Baptist's rich legacy by providing a diverse program of study aimed at supporting the Christian Church's ordained and lay leaders.

Our primary focus is serving Christian leaders desiring to grow their theological understanding to support the Christian Church in worship, community service, lay leadership, and pastoral ministry. Mississippi Baptist Seminary brings together students and faculty from varying backgrounds to create a stronger learning community.

I must acknowledge that the Christian Church is experiencing social and theological challenges due to an ever-changing society. However, we stand ready to meet these challenges by equipping our students with a strong curriculum that considers the spiritual and human needs of today's society. We stand in a unique space, having a history and focus on the common beliefs that unite us as fellow believers.

One in Jesus,

Dr. M. Edward Cheeks,  
President, Mississippi Baptist Seminary



# GENERAL INFORMATION



## **ACCREDITATION**

The Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation has granted the Mississippi Baptist Seminary conditional approval to offer degrees under our proposed degree programs, contingent on our pursuit of accreditation by a Commission-recognized accrediting agency. The Commission reviewed our conditional status at their annual meeting in 2024.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary is to educate and develop Christians for worldwide leadership and service. This purpose embraces the institution's founders' beliefs and values as represented in the goals and objectives delineated in the goals and objectives. The purpose was and is to offer a valuable resource to perpetuate Baptist traditions in ministry for ministerial and laity leaders through teaching and religious nurturing for effective leadership of largely Black and rural minorities.

## **HISTORY**

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary was founded in 1941 by Dr. Herbert L. Lang, who was its first president. While serving as president of Union Baptist Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Lang discovered that a majority of the students enrolled at Union were from Mississippi. In response, he organized Bible classes and institutes in Tylertown, Magnolia, the Gulf Coastal Region, the South-Central Region, the Delta Region and as far north as Sardis.

So vast was the opportunity and so great was the need that Dr. Lang resigned from the presidency of Union Baptist Seminary to give full-time service to extension work in Mississippi. He had no means of financial support, but trusted God to raise up friends in Mississippi who would support this work.

Professor J. E. Johnson, the founder and President of Prentiss Institute and Junior College, visited Dr. Lang in 1942 and persuaded him to go to Jefferson Davis County to organize a Bible class at Prentiss Institute. The class was begun in the summer of 1943. Interest in the Seminary for the training of ministers was intense. A historic meeting took place in the home of Professor and Mrs. Johnson on December 31, 1943. Attending this meeting were: Reverend E. T. Oatis, Reverend M.L. Gray, Reverend Eddie Barnes, Mr. U. S. Polk, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Johnson, and Dr. Herbert L. Lang. At this meeting, the Union Theological Seminary was founded. The Seminary was incorporated as the Mississippi Union Theological Seminary and a charter of incorporation was granted by the State on March 15, 1944. On May 30, 1946, the name of the Seminary was changed to the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. Jackson, Mississippi was selected as its permanent location.

On February 9, 1944, another historic meeting took place in the Pastor's study of the First Baptist Church, Indianola, Mississippi. This meeting was called by Dr. D. A. McCall, Secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Attending this meeting were: Mr. John Davis, President of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Dr. J. D. Ray, Chairman of the Committee on African American Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Dr. G. Norman

Price, Pastor, First Baptist Church; and Dr. Herbert L. Lang, President and Founder of Mississippi Baptist Seminary. Dr. Lang proposed that Mississippi Baptist Seminary would be a cooperative venture of white and African American Baptist Churches and conventions offering in-service training to Negro ministerial and lay leadership, taking them where they were in educational preparation and offering them courses of value on a level of their apprehension and utilization. This proposal was accepted. Thus began a cooperative work in mission which was to bring about reconciliation and understanding.

This cooperative sponsorship of the Seminary continued through December 1988. On January 1, 1989, the Mississippi Baptist Convention terminated its sponsorship and financial support of the Seminary, thus turning control of the Seminary over to National Baptists. On this same date, Dr. Hickman Johnson was elected President of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. Dr. Johnson served in this capacity for fifteen years, the longest serving president of the Seminary. In 2004, due to the enormous financial burden of the Seminary, it was no longer feasible to remain open.



The General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi (GMBSC) under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Young, president, purchased and procured The Mississippi Baptist Seminary at its 116th year Annual Session in Jackson, Mississippi. Now under new leadership and name, the seminary's main campus opened temporarily at the Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, 1245 Tunica Street, Jackson, Mississippi, and classes began October 2005.

The newly appointed interim president was Pastor Carl E. Thomas, Clarksdale, Mississippi, and the interim Dean of Academic Affairs was Reverend Eric Williams, Jackson, Mississippi. In September 2005, Dr. Young challenged the convention to achieve greatness for the glory of God and the good of our communities through its offerings of ministries and missions.

In 2007, the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, Main Campus was completely renovated, and the building was opened for administrative operation and classes in September of 2007. Dr. Isiac

Jackson, Jr. was appointed President and Dr. John Patrick was appointed Academic Dean of Students. Under Dr. Jackson's leadership, the Board of Directors, and the administration, the Seminary student population grew. Dr. Jackson was instrumental in the reestablishment of policies and procedures under which the Seminary continues to operate. In 2010, Dr. Jackson was elected President of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention and Dr. Lewis Ragins was appointed President of the Seminary. Dr. Ragins served from 2010 until his death in 2013. Dr. Ragins dedicated himself to the Seminary and often stated that "We are committed to the idea of moving our Seminary and Bible College toward credibility and full accreditation." In 2014, Dr. C. J. Rhodes was appointed president of the Seminary. At the 2020, Spring Session held in Natchez, Mississippi, Reverend Marcus Cheeks was appointed President of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary's vision is to educate and develop Christians for worldwide leadership and service. The Seminary is committed to providing men and women with outstanding interdisciplinary undergraduate professional education for the practice in Biblical theology. The Seminary trains both clergy and laity for the practice of Christian ministry and various professional social vocations. The Seminary's Board, faculty and staff believe in fostering an academic environment in which students and faculty can dialogue about critical issues facing the church, society and the world. The Seminary's holistic educational philosophy enhances the spiritual, intellectual, and social growth of its students.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Mississippi Baptist Seminary provides Christian theological education to persons called to serve the Church in Christian ministry and social vocations, with a principal mission to educate and empower historically underserved communities. The Seminary offers programs designed to equip leaders to carry out its mission, educating and developing Christians for worldwide leadership and service in the Church, academy, and society.

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH AND AFFIRMATION**

In accordance with the tenets of the Baptist Articles of Faith, which offer the biblical foundation for the Mississippi Baptist Seminary's Statement of Faith and Affirmation, we believe and affirm the following:

#### **The Bible**

The unique divine, plenary, verbal inspiration and absolute authority of all sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as originally given. The Bible is the only infallible, authoritative Word of God and is free from error of any sort, in all matters with which it deals, scientific, historical, moral, and theological.

**The Trinity**

The triune Godhead, one eternal, transcendent, omnipotent, personal God existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father: God the Father, the first person of the Divine Trinity, is infinite Spirit, sovereign, eternal, and unchangeable in all His attributes. He is worthy of honor, adoration, and obedience.

**The Son**

The Perfect, sinless humanity and the absolute, full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, indissolubly united in one divine-human person since His unique incarnation by miraculous conception and virgin birth.

**The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead who convicts, regenerates, indwells, seals all believers in Christ, and fills those who yield to Him. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to all believers; however, the manifestation of any particular gift is not required as evidence of salvation.

**Historicity**

The full historicity and perspicuity of the biblical record of primeval history, including the literal existence of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal fall and resultant divine curse on the creation, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge, and the origin of nations and languages at the tower of Babel.

**Redemption**

The substitutionary and redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sin of the world, through His literal physical death, burial, and resurrection, followed by His bodily ascension into heaven.

**Salvation**

Personal salvation from the eternal penalty of sin provided solely by the grace of God on the basis of the atoning death and resurrection of Christ, to be received only through personal faith in His person and work.

**Last Things**

The future, personal, bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth to judge and purge sin, to establish His eternal Kingdom, and to consummate and fulfill His purposes in the works of creation and redemption with eternal rewards and punishments.

**Biblical Creation**

Special creation of the existing space-time universe and all its basic systems and kinds of organisms in the six literal days of the creation week.

**Satan**

The existence of a personal, malevolent being called Satan who acts as tempter and accuser, for whom the place of eternal punishment was prepared, where all who die outside of Christ shall be confined in conscious torment for eternity.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **General Missionary Baptist State Convention Officers:**

Reverend Reginald Buckley, GMBSC President  
Reverend Melvin White, GMBSC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Reverend Thomas Morris, GMBSC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Reverend C.J. Rhodes, GMBSC 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
Reverend John Whitfield, GMBSC 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Interim Chair  
Reverend Dennis Grant, GMBSC Executive Secretary  
Reverend Nathaniel Christian, GMBSC Treasurer  
Sister Willie M. Robinson, GMBSC Financial Secretary

### **Administrative Officers:**

Reverend M. Edward Cheeks, Seminary President  
Brother Glen Lacey, Seminary Treasurer  
Evangelist Lucille Brown, Board Member  
Brother David Lindzey, Board Member  
Reverend Nathan Stevenson, Board Member  
Reverend John Wicks, Jr., Board Member  
Reverend Thaddeus Williams, Board Member

## SEMINARY STAFF

M. Edward Cheeks, *President*

B.A., Tougaloo College; M.S., Jackson State University; Ph.D., The University of Mississippi

Marquise Kessee, *Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs*

B.S., M.S., Jackson State University; MA., Northeastern Seminary; Ph.D., The University of Southern Mississippi

Vanice Barnes, *Registrar*

A.A., Hinds Community College

Bobbie Daniels, *Chief Financial Officer*

B.S., Mississippi State University; M.P.A., Jackson State University; D.B.A., Jackson State University

David Ponter, *Academic Librarian*

B.A., University of Queensland (Australia); M.L.S., Queensland University of Technology (Australia);  
M.Div., Reformed Theological Seminary

Rachel Stiff, *Executive Assistant*

B.S., Alcorn State University; M.A., Jackson State University

## TEACHING SITES

Mississippi Baptist Seminary at Canton (MS)	Rev. Otis Davis, Dean	349 N Canal Street Canton, MS 39046 Phone: 601.202.5876
Mississippi Baptist Seminary at Gulfport (MS)	Dr. Darrell Taylor, Dean	1541 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Gulfport, MS 39501 Phone: 228.846.2224
Mississippi Baptist Seminary	Dr. Marquise Loving Kesse, Jr., Provost	3160 J. R. Lynch Street Jackson, MS 39209 Phone: 769-233-8089
Mississippi Baptist Seminary at Natchez (MS)	Dr. Franklin Jackson, Dean	1010 North Union Street Natchez, MS 39120
Mississippi Baptist Seminary at Tupelo (MS)	Rev. Nollen Elzie, Dean	2556 Clayton Road Tupelo, MS 38801 Phone: 662.255.1731

## GOVERNMENT OF THE SEMINARY

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary is owned by the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc. The Seminary is governed by a fifteen (15) member board consisting of eight (8) officers of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc.; these officers appoint the seven (7) administrative officers and sets the policies governing the theological education. The curriculum and degrees are approved by the Board upon the recommendations of the Dean and the President with consultation and advice from staff, faculty, students and alumni.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Mississippi Baptist Seminary & Bible College derives its support from churches, associations, the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, various other National Baptist State Conventions and gifts from individuals, foundations, tuition and student fees. No government aid is received in any form.

## FACILITIES

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary & Bible College's main office is located in Jackson, Mississippi. Its address is 3160 J. R. Lynch Street in the west Jackson community. A modern facility was constructed and dedicated in June 1980. The administration-classroom facility is named in honor of Dr. T. B. Brown, who served as Seminary president from 1970-1978.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary & Bible College National Alumni Association is composed of graduates and former students of the Seminary. The Association provides financial support and undertakes projects to aid the Seminary in its growth and development.

# ACADEMIC INFORMATION



## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Students who meet basic requirements for admission to Mississippi Baptist Seminary & Bible College are admitted without regard to sex, race, color, religious tradition, national or ethnic origin. All students admitted have equal access to the rights, privileges, activities and scholarship programs afforded by the Seminary and are governed without discrimination by its established policies and procedures. Admission policies and procedures are established by the Mississippi Baptist Seminary & Bible College's Board of Directors.

### GENERAL PROCEDURES

#### UNDERGRADUATES

Students desiring admission to Mississippi Baptist Seminary must secure and complete the appropriate application for admission and provide letters of recommendation as specified on the application for admission. Students must request their high school to send an official transcript, which lists all high school courses and immunizations for measles, mumps and rubella. Applications are accepted year-round for admission for Spring, Summer and Fall sessions.

**The High School Course Requirements are listed below:**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Carnegie Units</b>	<b>Description</b>
English	4	Units must require substantial communication skills, to include reading, writing, listening, and speaking (excluding compensatory courses).
Mathematics	4	Algebra I or its equivalent (1 unit), Math higher than Algebra I (3 units).
Science	3	Biology I or its equivalent (1 unit), Science higher than Biology I (2 units).
Social Studies	3	Units must include integrated courses of social sciences and humanities promoting civic competence.
Arts	1	Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two 1/2 units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.
Advanced Electives	2	Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II

		<p>Option 2: Foreign Language I and one unit from Option 3</p> <p>Option 3: (1) Any combination of advanced electives above the required Carnegie units in: (a) as noted in the Office of Academic and Student Affairs CPC Manual and/or (b) any Advanced Placement (AP), Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course.</p> <p>(2) Completion of any two- year Career and Technical course may count as one unit. Example: completion of both Health Sciences I &amp; II will count as an advanced elective</p>
Technology or Computer Science	1	<p>Technology application emphasizes use as a productivity tool to create, collaborate, organize, and publish information. The application of technology as a productivity tool, rather than specific hardware and/or software packages should be the focus of the course.</p> <p>Computer Science courses emphasize computational thinking to solve problems and will involve the study of computers and their algorithmic processes, software/hardware designs, and principles. Their impact on society and should include focus on one or more of the following core concepts: computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing.</p>
Pre-High School Units	Courses taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission provided the course earns Carnegie credit and the content is the same as the high school course.	
Substitutions	Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Academic or Career Technical Dual Credit (DC), and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses may be substituted for each requirement in the College Preparatory Curriculum.	
Course Acceptance	A course may not be used to satisfy more than one requirement.	
Total Carnegie Units	18	

*MS IHL Board Policies & Bylaws November 2024, §602, page 94*

**Official transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, and other documents must be sent to:**  
**Mississippi Baptist Seminary**  
**3160 J. R. Lynch Street**  
**Jackson, MS 39209**

Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted from students.

Official ACT or SAT scores of 16 or more, for all applicants finishing high school within the past five years are to be mailed to the Office of the Registrar. Beginning fall 2021, institutions will use the highest ACT or SAT subject test scores from the same test type when scores from more than one test date are submitted. This process is known as super scoring. A combination of ACT and SAT scores cannot be combined to calculate a super score.

Applicants who do not graduate from high school must submit qualifying scores on a state approved high school equivalency examination, transcript which denotes academic performance. The Seminary recognizes General Education Development (GED testing Service).

TEACHING SITES:

The original admissions documents will be collected by the Dean and mailed to the Official Registrar, located at the Main Campus within seven days of receipt.

Students who do not meet the requirements for admissions, will be invited to enroll in a Summer long remediation program to address the student's deficiencies to include the subjects English, Reading and Mathematics. Upon successful completion of these subjects, the student will be guided to take or retake the General Education Development Test and/or ACT examination to achieve an acceptable entry score. Those who receive an acceptable entry level score after retaking the General Education Development Test and/or ACT, will be allowed to enroll in a regular academic program as a freshman, but are eligible to participate in the Academic Support Program for the remainder of their freshman year. The Semester long remediation courses in English, Reading, and Mathematics are intensive and will not be included as credits toward graduation. The Semester long Academic Support Program will include classroom, individual, career counseling and computer assisted instruction.

Those who fail to make an acceptable entry level score following the summer remediation will not be allowed to enroll until the student can meet the required entry level requirements.

Students are encouraged to apply for admission and institutional financial aid (scholarships, tuition-forgiveness, awards, and other non-federal assistance) according to the following schedule. The earlier applications are received, the earlier students will be notified of admission and financial aid decisions.

- Fall semester: July 15<sup>th</sup>
- Spring semester: November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Summer session: April 15<sup>th</sup>

Completed applications, tests scores, and transcripts should be received at least 30 days prior to the student's scheduled registration date.

### **REGISTRATION**

Registration should be conducted during the registration window announced in the calendar.

The late registration window is one week, and no administrative approval is needed; and students registering after the indicated registration window shall pay a \$50.00 late charge.

Enrollment after late registration closes must have special permission from the instructor with approval from the Instructional Dean.

### **TRANSFER POLICY**

#### **Transfer Credit Evaluation**

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary awards full credit for courses satisfactorily completed at approved institutions, with a minimum grade of C required for accepted credits. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for transfer admission consideration. The Office of the Registrar evaluates official transcripts based on the student's anticipated degree plan. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended are mandatory, and students with fewer than 15 transferable semester hours must also submit their high school transcript.

#### **Non-traditional freshman category**

ACT scores are not required for older students who have been out of high school for at least five years and have never attended college or have less than 30 transferable college credit hours. This category is referred to as the non-traditional freshman category, and applicants in this category do not need to submit ACT scores.

#### **Residency Requirement**

All degree-seeking students must complete at least 25 percent of the credit hour required for their academic program through the Seminary. This residency requirement is applied during transfer evaluation and degree audit processes to ensure that all graduates complete a substantive portion of their studies at the institution awarding the degree.

#### **Credit by Examination and Prior Learning**

The student who has completed the equivalent of college-level study through high school courses, independent study, or any other means may wish to seek advanced placement and credit at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. A student may earn a maximum of 12 semester credit hours because of AP, Credit by Examination, CLEP examinations, Credit for Prior Learning, or any combination of the four. Official results from AP Tests must be sent to the Office of Admissions.

CLEP options are identified by the Institution. All these options affect the students attempted hours as listed on their academic transcript.

- **Advanced Placement (AP):** Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the secondary school level who scored a 3 or better on the AP Examination may receive Seminary credit. To receive credit in biology, history, or music, a student needs to score a “4.”
- **International Baccalaureate (IB):** Students enrolled in International Baccalaureate (IB) courses at the secondary school level who scored a 5 or better on the IB Examination may receive Seminary credit.
- **College Level Examination Program (CLEP):** Students may receive credit for the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) based on the current score recommendations of the American Council of Education.

### **Credit by Examination (CE)**

To receive credit by examination, the student must score at least 85 percent on the examination. In certain courses, the required passing score may be higher. The examination may be taken only once, and a student failing the examination must complete the course for credit. No more than 10 percent of the total credit hours required by the student’s plan of study may be earned by examination unless the Vice President for Academic Affairs gives special approval to exceed this limit.

The special grade of CE is awarded when a student successfully completes the requirements for credit by examination. Qualified curriculum students with relevant prior training or experience may earn academic credit for certain courses by examination. To receive credit by examination, the student must be enrolled in a curriculum program and be registered for the course for which application is made. The application must be approved within the first 7 calendar days of the semester, and the examination must be completed within the first 14 calendar days of the semester. The student should apply to the respective academic program to request permission to gain credit by examination.

### **Credit for Prior Learning: Experiential Learning (CP)**

The Seminary places experiential education and learning at the center of every student’s time at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. As defined by the Association of Experiential Education, “Experiential education is a philosophy and methodology in which educators purposefully engage with learners in direct experience and focused reflection in order to increase knowledge, develop skills and clarify values.”

The program will approve or disapprove the student based on certain criteria: sophomore status, completion of core English and Math courses, and good academic standing.

The program will provide clear written guidelines for portfolio (documentation of the college level learning gained from experiences through paid and unpaid work, community, and other activities outside of the traditional classroom setting) for students granted permission. Upon successful completion of portfolio, the student will be granted the appropriate credits and a grade of CP. The grade of CP will count towards credits earned only. A student cannot earn more than the maximum number of credits as set in the policy for Credit for Examination & Prior Learning.

We heavily emphasize experiential learning (service-learning, ministry internships, study away and undergraduate research) as an essential component of the Seminary experience.

A successful experiential learning program provides the following:

- A solid basis for career/vocational decisions.
- Broader perspectives about the communities in which they live, locally, nationally, and globally.
- Integration of intellectual knowledge, “real world” ministry experience, and self-understanding.
- Skills for reflection.
- Connections to the Seminary’s mission to “educate and develop Christians for worldwide leadership and service.”
- Demonstrated competence in “real world” settings.

#### **Application Process for Transfer Students:**

A complete admissions application for transfer students consists of the following:

- A completed admissions application.
- An official transcript for each college and/or university attended.
- An official final high school transcript or GED certificate with graduation date included.
- Recommendation Letters.
- Essay.

NOTE: All official transcripts can be received electronically, by mail, email, or fax and must be designated as an *official* transcript.

## LIBRARY & RESOURCE SUPPORT

Onsite library support plays a vital role in supporting the research mission of the Seminary.

### Contact Information and Hours:

David Ponter, Academic Librarian Polymath

3160 J. R. Lynch Street | Jackson, MS | 39209

Email: [david.ponter@msbsbc.org](mailto:david.ponter@msbsbc.org) (All inquiries will receive a response within 48-72 hours.)

Phone: (769)233-8089

Onsite availability:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
9:00am-12:00pm	9:00am-12:00pm	9:00am-1:00pm

### Comprehensive Services

Type of Service	Scope
Bibliographic Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisting students in writing bibliographies for research.</li> <li>For any given topic, the librarian shows how students are to facilitate database searches and vet books.</li> </ul>
Citation Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aids and provides tutorials for the Turabian (Chicago) Style Guide which is the official MBS citation style.</li> </ul>
Essay Formatting and Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aids and provides tutorial for building sentences into paragraphs and then into research papers.</li> <li>Provides guidance on formatting essay title page, body formation, footnotes, citing references, assembling bibliography, page numbers, etc.</li> <li>Guidance and instruction on how to write essays, projects, theses, and dissertations.</li> </ul>
Theological Research Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answer questions and use theology background knowledge to generate and spur topic ideas for student research.</li> </ul>
Library Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolve student access issues with partnering libraries.</li> <li>Coordinate interlibrary loans (ILLs).</li> <li>Leland Speed Library at Mississippi College: the physical location is 130 W College Street Clinton, Mississippi 39058. Students may purchase a Community User card at the Circulation Desk for an annual fee of \$5.00. The card must be renewed each semester and entitles the cardholder to check out up to 5 items for a period of three weeks.</li> <li>Reformed Theological Seminary Library: located at 5422 Clinton Boulevard, Jackson, Mississippi 39209. Students are allowed to use the printed materials and collections onsite. The library grants borrowing privileges to area pastors/preachers. Digital Resources are accessible via the RTS website: <a href="https://rts.edu/academics/library/">https://rts.edu/academics/library/</a>. RTS features include the following resources.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RTS Library Catalog</li> <li>Databases</li> <li>Inter-Library Loan</li> <li>RTS Libguides</li> <li>Dallas Online Catalog</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Patron Management	<p>OPAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online Public Access Catalog – online searchable index of library holdings.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From any teaching site, students have access via the MBS website at <a href="https://msbsbc.booksys.net/opac/mbs/index.html#menuHome">https://msbsbc.booksys.net/opac/mbs/index.html#menuHome</a></li> <li>• Online citations database that allows students to research and access the MBS library collection.</li> <li>• Replaces card catalog; reflects all onsite journals, books, and other resources for search by keywords, author, title, subject, or other criteria.</li> </ul> <p>ATLA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Theological Library Association</li> <li>• Provides digitized historical collections and journal databases.</li> </ul>
Required Readings for Seminary Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides pdf versions of required class readings in MySeminary folders.</li> </ul>

## Library Resources

The Seminary Library supports the academic, spiritual, and professional formation of students by providing access to a curated collection of theological, historical, and ministry-focused resources. The collection includes academic and peer-reviewed commentaries; theology texts; works in Black, womanist, and liberation theology; social justice literature; pastoral and counseling resources; chaplaincy materials; missions and urban ministry texts; and denominational and church history volumes.

Students have access to research databases, including ATLA, as well as the library's online catalog (OPAC) for locating books and digital resources. The Library also provides guidance in bibliographic construction, research methods, and the use of academic tools essential for theological study.

At the beginning of each semester, the Librarian offers in-person and online orientation sessions to introduce students to available resources, research tools, and library services. Students may also benefit from access to partner libraries at Mississippi College and Reformed Theological Seminary, expanding the range of materials available for research and study.

The Library is committed to supporting the Seminary's academic mission by maintaining a collection that reflects the institution's theological heritage, academic programs, and commitment to social justice, ministry preparation, and community engagement.

## TUITION AND FEES

All tuition and fees are to be paid in full at the time of registration each term. No exceptions will be made unless prior arrangements have been made with the Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

### TUITION CHARGES:

Undergraduate Coursework/Audit	\$100.00/credit hour
Continuing Education Courses	\$100.00/course

### FEES:

Application Fee	\$0.00
Registration Fee (each semester)	\$50.00, non-refundable
Late Registration Fee	\$50.00, non-refundable
Technology Fee (one-time fee)	\$30.00, non-refundable
Graduation Fee	\$0.00
Transcript Fee	\$10.00 per copy

*NOTE: These costs are accurate at the time of this publication. Tuition, fees and book prices may change in the future, and will be reflected in future editions of the publication. Fee changes will be approved by the Seminary Board of Directors. Each student is billed 100% of the tuition and fees due. Unpaid balances are subject to referral to collection agencies.*

## REFUND POLICY

**After 1<sup>st</sup> Class Meeting: 90% Tuition Refund**

**After 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Meeting: 40% Tuition Refund**

**NOTE: No refunds will be given after the 3<sup>rd</sup> class meeting.**

Tuition adjustments are based upon the date that classes begin and the date a course(s) is dropped or the date by which a student withdraws. Students withdrawing before the end of the semester must complete an Application for Withdrawal form secured from the Registrar.

## INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID

Mississippi Baptist Seminary & Bible College is a division of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi. As a division, it derives its primary support from churches and associations of the conventions. Therefore, student fees constitute only a fraction of the Seminary's income. To make quality education available to all, students pay only a small portion of the entire cost of their education. The balance is borne by gifts received by the Seminary.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The primary purpose of the Reverend Dr. S. L. Spann, Sr. Memorial Scholarship is to provide financial support to deserving young ministers from the State of Mississippi to attend a Theological Seminary. Young Ministers entering a Theological Seminary for the first time will be given first priority. However, all other applicants will receive consideration. The amount of the award is determined annually with regard to the number of qualified applicants and the availability of funds. The Scholarship Award is granted once the recipient has shown matriculation of enrollment. Application forms are available by written request or by [email at nalz424@att.net](mailto:nalz424@att.net).

### Eligibility Criteria for Applicant:

- Must be a baptized believer in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Must be a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States.
- Must have attained a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Must be enrolled in at least two classes for the current or upcoming semester.
- Must demonstrate evidence of academic achievement and religious/community service.
- Must have a significant financial need.
- Must submit all of the following: current resume, transcript from most recent educational training, two sealed letters of recommendations and a minimum 500-word essay.

## REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPTS

Current and former students may order transcripts by contacting the Registrar's office and paying the processing fee.

Transcripts will not be issued to persons who have past due monetary obligations to the Seminary. All tuition and fees are to be paid in full at the time of registration each term. No exceptions will be made unless prior arrangements have been made with the Chief Financial Officer.

## INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILOs)

Institutional Learning Outcomes	Description
ILO-1: <i>Communication Skills</i>	Students will communicate ideas, express feelings, and support conclusions effectively in written, oral, and presentation formats.
ILO-2: <i>Discipleship</i>	Students will cultivate and develop habits of mind, allowing them to research and study new subjects and to cultivate a lifestyle of lifelong learning in understanding and sharing the human experience.
ILO-3: <i>Leadership Responsibility</i>	Students will foster their ability to shepherd and lead others in ecclesiastical and workplace contexts and to disciple believers for spiritual formation in the image of Christ.
ILO-4: <i>Social Responsibility</i>	Students will demonstrate a global perspective toward issues of culture, society, politics, environment, and sustainability and inclusively consider points of view to achieve a shared purpose or goal.
ILO-5: <i>Theological Literacy</i>	Students will develop their abilities to present reasoned explanation of the doctrines that are integral to Scripture and to defend the historic Christian faith.

## PROGRAMS OF STUDY

### General Education Requirements

General Education is a required curriculum that makes up the foundation of an undergraduate degree. This set of standard classes goes by many other names, including Core Curriculum, and it normally entails the first two semesters of study for all undergraduate students.

Students enrolled in associate-level and baccalaureate-level programs must complete a 30-hour core curriculum consisting of the following:

English Composition	6 semester hours
College Algebra, Quantitative Reasoning, or higher-level mathematics	3 semester hours
Natural Science	6 semester hours
Humanities and Fine Arts	9 semester hours
Social or Behavioral Science	6 semester hours

*MS IHL Board Policies & Bylaws November 2024, §512, page 85*

## Undergraduate Certificate Programs

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### CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

All students enrolled in the Certificate in Biblical Studies are required to take six (6) courses in Bible studies as listed below for a total of 18.0 hours. Credits earned in this certificate course are transferable to higher degree programs.

OT111 Survey of Old Testament I	3h	*Elective Options
NT111 Survey of New Testament I	3h	(choose one course from the following list):
OT311 Prophets and Prophecy	3h	CH 311 History of the Christian Church I (3h)
NT311 Pauline Letters	3h	PM113 Evangelism (3h)
NT414 The Book of Revelation	3h	TS 211 Introduction to Theology (3h)
Elective*	3h	

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 18.0**

### CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

All students enrolled in the Certificate in Christian Education are required to take six (6) courses in Christian Education as listed below for a total of 18.0 credit hours. Credits earned in this certificate course are transferable to higher degree programs.

CE201 Methods of Teaching	3h	*Elective Options
CE211 Foundations of Christian Ed	3h	(choose one course from the following list):
CE400 Program Planning and Curric.	3h	CE214 Worship (3h)
CE410 Leadership Training	3h	PM113 Evangelism (3h)
Option (choose a focus area):		PM413 Sunday School Admin (3h)
CE321 Christian Ed for Adults	3h	
CE322 Christian Ed for Children	3h	
CE422 Christian Ed for Young People	3h	
Elective*	3h	

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 18.0**

## Undergraduate Associate Degree Programs

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### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES

The Associate of Arts in General Studies degree program offers students the opportunity to explore a wide range of subjects, providing them with a well-rounded education and a solid foundation for future academic pursuits. Courses within the program cover areas such as Mathematics, English, Social Sciences, and Humanities. The General Studies curriculum is designed to foster critical thinking skills, enhance communication abilities, and promote personal growth and development.

#### CORE REQUIREMENTS: 32 Hours

Communication	ENG111, ENG112	6 semester hours
Computational/Reasoning Skills	MAT113	3 semester hours
Natural Science	Any Science	6 semester hours
Humanities and Fine Arts	Any Literature, History, & Fine Arts	9 semester hours
Social or Behavioral Science	Any Social/Behavioral Science	6 semester hours
Orientation	SEM111	1 semester hour
Spiritual Formation	SEM112	1 semester hour

In addition to the above core, students may choose any ten (10) academic courses of interest to complete the remaining 30 hours of the General Studies degree program. (Developmental courses do not meet graduation requirements and should not be counted toward the 62 hours for degree completion.)

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 62.0**

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN MUSIC MINISTRY

The Associate of Arts in Music Ministry is a two-year degree program designed to equip students with both musical proficiency and theological grounding for service in worship leadership and church music settings. Students will receive musicianship training, worship leadership and planning tools, and biblical and theological ministry doctrine.

#### CORE REQUIREMENTS: 32 Hours

Communication	ENG111, ENG112	6 semester hours
Computational/Reasoning Skills	MAT113	3 semester hours
Natural Science	Any Science	6 semester hours
Humanities and Fine Arts	Any Literature, History, & Fine Arts	9 semester hours
Social or Behavioral Science	Any Social/Behavioral Science	6 semester hours
Orientation	SEM111	1 semester hour
Spiritual Formation	SEM112	1 semester hour

In addition to the above core, students must take the seven (7) required academic courses below and an additional three (3) electives from any academic courses of interest to complete the remaining 30 hours of the Music Ministry degree program. (Developmental courses do not meet graduation requirements and should not be counted toward the 62 hours for degree completion.)

BCS301 Music and the Black Church

MUS111 Fundamentals of Music Theory

MUS112 Sight Singing & Ear Training

MUS113 Praise & Worship Leading

MUS211 Conducting Fundamentals

or MUS212 Gospel Choir Dir. Fundamentals

MUS212 Hymnology

SPT227 Communication I

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 62.0**

**ASSOCIATE OF DIVINITY**

The Associate of Divinity degree is a two-year undergraduate degree designed for persons who desire competency to perform in their ministry roles in churches. Students are prepared to share their religious viewpoints with others through careers in the church, social service organizations, and other faith-based agencies. The program will equip students with the tools necessary to serve God and minister to people through preaching, teaching, counseling and administration in the local church.

**CORE REQUIREMENTS: 32 Hours**

Communication	ENG111, ENG112	6 semester hours
Computational/Reasoning Skills	MAT113	3 semester hours
Natural Science	Any Science	6 semester hours
Humanities and Fine Arts	Any Literature, History, & Fine Arts	9 semester hours
Social or Behavioral Science	Any Social/Behavioral Science	6 semester hours
Orientation	SEM111	1 semester hour
Spiritual Formation	SEM112	1 semester hour

In addition to the above core, students must take the eight (8) required academic courses below and an additional two (2) electives from any academic courses of interest to complete the remaining 30 hours of the Divinity degree program. (Developmental courses do not meet graduation requirements and should not be counted toward the 62 hours for degree completion.)

OT111 Survey of the Old Testament	PM113 Evangelism
NT111 Survey of the New Testament	CE214 Worship
CE211 Christian Education	PM221 Homiletics I
TS211 Intro to Theology	SPT213 Speech

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 62.0****ASSOCIATE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (A.R.E.)**

The Associate of Religious Education degree is a two-year undergraduate degree designed for students who desire competency in Christian education without the requirements of a four-year program of study. Students typically seek employment in local church ministry as pastors, teachers, and administrators.

**CORE REQUIREMENTS: 32 Hours**

Communication	ENG111, ENG112	6 semester hours
Computational/Reasoning Skills	MAT113	3 semester hours
Natural Science	Any Science	6 semester hours
Humanities and Fine Arts	Any Literature, History, & Fine Arts	9 semester hours
Social or Behavioral Science	Any Social/Behavioral Science	6 semester hours
Orientation	SEM111	1 semester hour
Spiritual Formation	SEM112	1 semester hour

In addition to the above core, students must take the eight (8) required academic courses below and an additional two (2) electives from any academic courses of interest to complete the remaining 30 hours of the Divinity degree program. (Developmental courses do not meet graduation requirements and should not be counted toward the 62 hours for degree completion.)

CE211 Christian Education	SPT213 Speech
CE201 Methods of Teaching	TS211 Introduction to Theology
CH212 Baptist History	OT111 Survey of the Old Testament or
PC201 Introduction to Counseling	NT111 Survey of the New Testament
PM211 Church Administration	

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 62.0**

## Undergraduate Bachelor's Degree Program

### Bachelor of Theology (B. Th.)

The Bachelor of Theology degree is a four-year undergraduate degree, which is terminal in nature and is designed to satisfy the prerequisite for graduate-level work. Its focus is the theory and practice of persons called to the gospel and gives an educational focus on Christian religious ethics, history, literature, and philosophy. Students will gain an understanding of biblical, historical, and systematic themes throughout the church's history.

#### CORE REQUIREMENTS: 32 Hours

Communication	ENG111, ENG112	6 semester hours
Computational/Reasoning Skills	MAT113	3 semester hours
Natural Science	Any Science	6 semester hours
Humanities and Fine Arts	Any Literature, History, & Fine Arts	9 semester hours
Social or Behavioral Science	Any Social/Behavioral Science	6 semester hours
Orientation	SEM111	1 semester hour
Spiritual Formation	SEM112	1 semester hour

2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Suggested Track:		3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Suggested Track:		4 <sup>th</sup> Year Suggested Track:	
CE211 Christian Education	3h	CH311 History of the Christian Church I	3h	CE401 Field Experience	1h
CGC111 World Religion	3h	CH312 History of the Christian Church II	3h	CE402 Field Experience	1h
OT111 Survey of Old Testament I	3h	CH315 Baptist Polity	3h	CE410 Leadership Training	3h
OT112 Survey of Old Testament II	3h	HT313 Reformation and Modern Church History	3h	CGC400 The Church and The Community	3h
NT111 Survey of New Testament I	3h	NT311 Pauline Letters	3h	CH411 History of the Black Church	3h
NT112 Survey of New Testament II	3h	OT311 Prophets and Prophecy	3h	CH412 History of Christian Missions	3h
PM113 Evangelism	3h	PM322 Homiletics II	3h	NT414 The Book of Revelation	3h
PM221 Homiletics I	3h	PSY312 Psychology of Religion	3h	PC412 Theology of Pain and Suffering	3h
TS211 Introduction to Theology	3h	SOC311 Sociology of Religion	3h	TS411 Systematic Theology	3h
SPT213 Speech	3h	Any 3 hours of electives	3h	TS412 Christian Ethics & Moral Philosophy	3h
	30h		30h	Any 3 hours of electives	3h
					29h

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 121.0**

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

#### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

##### **BIO 101 Human Biology I**

This content course and accompanying lab are designed to provide each student with an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of living things and their cell and tissue structure and function, simple chemistry, cell division, basic genetics, reproduction and aging, the structure and function of the nervous and endocrine systems, and ecological relationships. The lab component of this course, taken concurrently with the lecture class, explores these concepts and theories in biology using the scientific method, and proper use of biological laboratory equipment will be emphasized. (For non-science majors) **Credit: 4 hours**

##### **BIO 102 Human Biology II**

This content course and accompanying lab are a continuation of BIO 101. Human systems examined will include cardiovascular, digestive, respiratory, urinary, skeletal, muscular, and immune. The course also includes an examination of the DNA to protein connection and discusses the basics of biotechnology, evolution, ecology, and human impacts on the environment. (For non-science majors) **Credit: 4 hours**

##### **BIO 103 Introduction to Conservation Biology**

This course involves a study of the earth's ecosystems and biodiversity as well as historical and current human impacts on these systems. The importance of conserving the earth's biodiversity is also discussed. **Credit: 3 hours**

#### COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

##### **CA 101 Introduction to Computers**

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic skills of using computers and the application of computer-based technology in preparing and using religious presentations for a variety of audiences and purposes. **Credit: 3 hours**

##### **CA 111 Computer Applications**

This course will teach students the computing fundamentals and concepts involved with the use of common software applications. Students will gain proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentations while engaging in key critical thinking skills. Students will practice ethical and appropriate behavior for the responsible use of technology. **Credit: 3 hours**

##### **CA 121 Social Media Applications**

This course introduces the use of a variety of social media applications and content platforms for marketing businesses, tracking social media use, apps and integration, link building, and monetization. It includes popular applications for online social networking services, microblogging, visual bookmark boards, video-sharing websites, photoshare sites, and online image editing. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CA 201 Introduction to Cybersecurity**

Designed for students with no security experience or background, this course will cover basic terminology and concepts. Included will be the basics of computers and networking such as Internet Protocol, routing, Domain Name Service, and network devices. This course will introduce students to the basics of cryptography, security management, wireless networking, and organizational policy. Topics will include: an overview of the information security framework, network infrastructure security, security and cryptography, information security policy, and defense in depth. Other topics covered in this course include: basic security terminology and professional terms, network basics, tracert, nslookup, ipconfig, ping, DNS, DoS attacks, overview of malware, rules for avoiding viruses and vulnerabilities. **Credit: 3 hours**

**ENGLISH****ENG 111 English Composition I**

This course is a study of the skills essential to effective composition and essay writing. Special emphases is placed on the elements of the writing process, the principles of proper paragraph development, logical argumentation, grammar, and mechanics. **Credit: 3 hours**

**ENG 112 English Composition II**

This course is a study of the research and composition skills needed to write research papers. Special emphasis will be given to developing knowledge of the MLA format for research papers, understanding and applying principles of research, and writing effective research papers. An introduction to the primary genres of literature will also be covered. [Prerequisite: ENG111] **Credit: 3 hours**

**ENG 211 Comparative Study of Modern and Contemporary World Literature**

This course will explore the human experience through the study of literature from different cultures and countries. It is an intensive study of outstanding religious literature throughout the world which has emerged from the fascinating literary expressions of cultural groups of color. **Credit: 3 hours**

**HISTORY****HIS 211 Western Civilization I**

The course of study deals with a survey of ancient civilizations, history of Greek and Roman peoples, feudalism, the medieval church, the Renaissance, and the Reformation. **Credit: 3 hours**

**HIS 212 Western Civilization II**

This course offers a comprehensive view of concepts, people, and events that shaped Western culture from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries, including the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, Imperialism, World Wars I and II. **Credit: 3 hours**

**HIS 221 World Civilization I**

A study of world history from the beginning of civilization through the 1500s. **Credit: 3 hours**

**HIS 222 World Civilization II**

A study of world political, economic, military, social, and cultural history from 1550 to the modern era.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**MATH****MAT 111 General Mathematics**

This course is designed to improve the students' mastery of fundamental operations of arithmetic and includes drills, elements of basic applied mathematics, and a survey of the principles of elementary algebra.

[Does not count toward graduation requirements.] **Credit: 3 hours**

**MAT 113 College Algebra**

A study of algebra that includes the properties and graphs of linear, polynomial, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic functions. This course also covers inequalities, exponents, radicals, systems of equations, and other special equations. This class assumes a working knowledge of integer arithmetic and basic linear equations. [Prerequisite(s): Placement via score on SAT or ACT or upon successful completion of MA111.]

**Credit: 3 hours**

**MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES****MFL 101 Spanish I**

This is a course tailored to the needs of ministerial and laity students who anticipate future communications with Hispanic cultures. Students will be expected to master the expressions and the basic vocabulary necessary for holding basic conversations, giving directions, and reading/using manuals written in Spanish.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**MFL 102 Spanish II**

This course, a continuation of MFL 101, reinforces progress in the four language skills: speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Increased emphasis given to oral communication skills. Students will explore a deeper understanding of Hispanic culture. **Credit: 3 hours**

**MUSIC****MUS 101 Collegiate Choir**

This is an audition-based performance ensemble open to all members of Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College with the purposes of providing individual and group vocal techniques and promoting musical growth through the study and performance of choral and gospel repertoires. **Credit: 1 hour**

**MUS 102 Music Appreciation**

This is an overview course that introduces the student to the elements of music and the engagement of music in historical and global contexts. In this course, the student will seek to understand music and its relationship to his/her life and other cultures. The student will study diverse music of both Western and non-Western traditions, including an introduction to a rudimentary familiarity with the Western art music (Classical) tradition. **Credit: 3 hours**

**MUS 111 Music Theory Fundamentals**

Students will implement higher-level musical language and grammar skills including musical notation, harmonic analysis, and part writing which will lead to a thorough understanding of music composition and music theory. Students will obtain and practice ear training skills and skills required for sight reading musical literature. They will recognize the development of music from an historical and cultural perspective and extend musical awareness beyond music currently familiar to the student.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**MUS 112 Sight Singing & Ear Training**

This course is designed to develop the ability of the student to understand the relationship between sound and notation. Sight singing and dictation of narrow ranged diatonic melodies and simple and compound rhythms. **Credit: 3 hours**

**MUS 113 Praise & Worship Leading**

This class will give pastors and worship leaders a broad overview of important relevant issues regarding congregational worship. The goal will be to build the kind of strong, humble worship team that will enhance and enable the congregation to praise God without obstruction or distraction.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**MUS 211 Conducting Fundamentals**

This course is an introduction to the art and skill of conducting. Focus will be on the development and refinement of psychomotor skills, as well as non-verbal communication, body alignment, baton technique, conducting terminology, score reading, aural skills development, rehearsal planning, and leadership. **Credit: 3 hours**

**MUS 212 Gospel Choir Directing Fundamentals**

This course is an introduction to the art and skill of directing a gospel choir. Focus will be on the development of rhythmic and anticipatory skills, as well as non-verbal communication, vocal coaching, signals and terminology, expression, aural skills development, rehearsal planning, and leadership. **Credit: 3 hours**

**MUS 213 Hymnology**

A survey of Christian hymnody, its historical patterns and the broad scope of hymnic literature, its environment, and the significant poet's contributing. The class will participate in critical study of the poetry of numerous hymns. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PSYCHOLOGY****PSY 111 General Psychology**

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of the basic principles, methods, and problems of human behavior and mental problems. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PSY 310 Human Growth and Development**

A study of individual human growth and development from the beginning of life through adulthood. Students will explore social, cognitive, spiritual, and personality development across the lifespan of childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and elderliness. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PSY 312 Psychology of Religion**

An examination of the relationship of biblical, theological, sociological, and psychological understandings on pastoral care and an exploration of their implications for marriage and family life, interpersonal relationships and understandings. Psychological means and methods of interpreting the religious life will be pursued. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SOCIOLOGY****SOC 111 Sociology**

This course is designed to introduce students to the sociological study of society. Sociology focuses on the systematic understanding of social interaction, social organization, social institutions, and social change. Major themes in sociological thinking include the interplay between the individual and society, how society is both stable and changing, the causes and consequences of social inequality, and the social construction of human life. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SOC 112 Introduction to Social Justice and Social Welfare**

This course introduces students to foundational critical theories used in deconstructing one's own identity, privilege, and oppression to examine the lived experiences of people with intersecting identities. Students will explore how policies, laws, and culture impact different groups through a historical lens and examine how social injustices were created and perpetuated within the U.S. Students will engage in self-awareness, building critical cultural consciousness for social change, develop culturally sensitive practices to manage bias and privilege, and challenge institutionalized discrimination within their fields of study. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SOC 202 Theology and Violence**

This course will examine violence within global, historical, and multidisciplinary contexts. Delivered with honesty and sensitivity to the diversity of spiritual beliefs, students will consider how faiths like Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism view concepts like human sacrifice, martyrdom, penitence, and means of violence; the ways religious violence can be directed toward specific races, genders, and cultural groups; the connections between violence and other religions, including Mormonism and Native American faiths; and concepts like heresy, demonology, witch-hunting; and more. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SOC 210 Theory and Practice of Social Justice and Human Rights**

This course is an interdisciplinary survey of theories and practices of social justice and human rights in transnational and global perspectives. Explores various theories of social justice and human rights and examines in-depth case studies of social injustice and human rights challenges. Also explores the future of social justice and human rights in light of global climatic and environmental change. Social sciences theories and methods combine with humanistic philosophy to understand the foundations of social justice and human rights. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SOC 211 Social and Political Activism**

This course examines methods of organizing people for social and political action on their own behalf or on behalf of others. Students will analyze different approaches to bringing people together for collective action, building organizational capacity, and generating power, with emphasis on the role of labor unions, coalitions, political organizing, and community-based policy advocacy. The course includes the study of skills in analyzing power structures, developing action strategies, conflict and persuasive tactics, challenging oppressive structures, conducting community campaigns, using political advocacy as a form of mobilization, and understanding contemporary social issues as they affect oppressed and disadvantaged communities. Special emphasis will be placed on organizing around social, economic, racial, and political injustice in the US and globally. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SOC 212 Race and Ethnic Relations**

This course is an analysis of the emergence of trends in minority relations in the US. Emphasis will be placed on the impact of race and ethnicity on social life and relations between racial and ethnic groups through both social-structural and social-psychological perspectives. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SOC 311 Sociology of Religion**

A review of contemporary American sociologists of religion and their thought as it relates to social class, empirical analysis of religion, power, church-sect characteristics, and the interaction of religion and society. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SPEECH****SPT 213 Public Speaking**

This course is designed to develop the student's proficiency in communication to others. Emphasis is placed on control of voice, and development of confidence and poise and the study of techniques of delivery of various types of speech communication forms. **Credit: 3 hours**

**SPT 227 Communication I**

The basic principles of effective communication for the church and the Christian worker's overall task will be considered with special emphasis on written communication skills. The students will be involved in several writing projects during the course of the semester. A brief overview of oral communication within the congregation and the broader community will be covered as well. **Credit: 2 hours**

**SPT 330 Communication II**

A continuation of Communication I. This course will focus on basic principles of effective oral communication with emphasis on voice quality, articulation, pronunciation, body language, and public speaking. The student will be asked to engage in various oral presentations in class. **Credit: 3 hours**

**ORIENTATION****SEM 111 Seminary Success**

This course utilizes discussions, learning community projects, reviews of resource materials and short special topic workshops to help students understand the support resources available to them. Lectures will cover what students can do for themselves to be successful in their studies including: time

management, organizing their study materials, developing positive relationships with instructors, and cooperating in study groups with their peers. Students will also be shown how to write and edit their papers and how to use library resources. The course will also adjust (when necessary) to discuss problems they bring to class. **Credit: 1 hour**

### **SEM 121 Spiritual Formation**

Christian spiritual formation is a popular concept that stems from ancient roots. This introductory course will invite students to explore the nature of their own spiritual formation as well as introduce beliefs and practices of formation and community from Christian traditions of spirituality. Students will discover a variety of ancient and modern Christian spiritual practices that encourage a Biblical and holistic approach to life. **Credit: 1 hour**

## **BIBLICAL STUDIES COURSES**

### **BLACK CHURCH STUDIES**

#### **BCS 201 Biblical Interpretation from a Black Perspective**

This course will discuss the African American biblical hermeneutics and biblical interpretation of the scriptures. This interpretation of the Christian Bible is informed by African American history, traditions, culture, and experiences. The course will be informed by the classical approach to hermeneutics while addressing the specifics from the historical Black Church perspective. **Credit: 3 hours**

#### **BCS 210 Black Theology**

Students will have the opportunity to explore African American theologies before the Civil Rights movement, the origins and development of Black Theology as a theological movement in the late 1960s against the backdrop of the Black power and Black Consciousness movements, and Womanist Theologies. Black Theology is a theological perspective which draws on the diverse sources, including religious experience, art, literature, music, and lived narratives. **Credit: 3 hours**

#### **BCS 301 Music and the Black Church**

This course surveys the authorized worship resources of the United Methodist Church, with attention to their history, theology, and pastoral practice. In particular, we will explore the shape and practice of Christian prayer, liturgical time, the relationship of word and sacrament, the meaning and practice of baptism and Eucharist, and the liturgical pastoral offices of the Church. **Credit: 3 hours**

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

#### **CE 201 Methods of Teaching**

A study of the spiritual dynamics of effective Bible teaching and the principles of learning and teaching, with practice in using creative methods. **Credit: 3 hours**

#### **CE 211 Foundations of Christian Education**

A study of the historical development of educational thought and expression with stress placed on emerging educational theories and practices which have influenced Christian education will be emphasized. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CE 214 Worship**

A study of the history and forms of Christian worship. Attention will be devoted to the art of conducting recurring services of worship, developing meaningful programs for special occasions and the exploration of new and creative expressions of worship. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CE 321 Christian Education for Adults**

A study of the basic needs and problems of adults with special attention to their religious growth and development. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CE 322 Christian Education for Children**

A study of the basic needs of children, preschoolers and elementary, with emphasis on fulfilling some of those needs in Christian context. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CE 400 Program Planning and Curriculum Building**

This course is designed to aid the student in understanding the theory of curriculum building for their preparation to build and plan programs for the various organizations of the church.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**CE 401/402/403/404 Field Experience**

The field experience is a structured learning opportunity that will guide student development of the skills and competencies to be used in professional situations. Student duties will include observing, assisting, ministering, teaching, and reflecting on ministry activities in a supervised, professional setting. **Credit:**

**1 hour**

**CE 410 Leadership Training**

This course is concerned with the study of leadership theory as a basis for developing a personal concept of church leadership. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CE 411 Missions of the Church**

A study of the biblical basis of the motives and aims of world missions. Basic biblical concepts and teachings of portions of the Old Testament and New Testament will be reviewed.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**CE 422 Christian Education for Young People**

A study of the needs and problems of high school and college youth with special attention to their religious development. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CHURCH IN GLOBAL CONTEXT****CGC 111 World Religions**

A study of the history of the living religions of the world and their comparison with Christianity. Specialized study will be made of some non-Christian religions. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CGC 400 The Church and Community**

A study of current social problems and the ways the church should meet them. Social reforms are briefly traced and problems in connection with housing and family life, delinquency and crime, public education, commercialized recreation and the broader uses of leisure are studied with a view to discovering avenues of church cooperation with local agencies in solving these problems.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**CHURCH HISTORY****CH 212 Baptist History**

This course is a survey of Baptist life from the earliest days of Christianity to the present. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CH 311 History of the Christian Church I**

This course traces the historical development of the Christian Church from the New Testament period to modern times. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CH 312 History of the Christian Church II**

This course traces historical development of the Christian Church from the Age of Reason and Revival, 1648-1789, to modern times. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CH 315 Baptist Polity**

A study of the structure and practices of the Baptist denomination. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CH 411 History of the Black Church**

A study of the historical development, beliefs, practices, and contemporary significance of the Black Church. The course examines the historical realities of the Black religious community and its ministry while lifting the responses it has made as a proper preparation for sustained reflection on that experience. **Credit: 3 hours**

**CH 412 History of Christian Missions**

A survey of the spread of Christianity from the Apostolic Age to the present. Attention is given to the problems of missionary expansion in the present world order and to the Ecumenical Movement. **Credit: 3 hours**

**HISTORICAL THEOLOGY****HT 313 Reformation and Modern Church History**

Causes and events leading up to the Reformation with focus on its leaders and effects. Also covered are the Counter-Reformation, the Evangelical Revival and growth of the Protestant Church to the present. **REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS. Credit: 3 hours**

**NEW TESTAMENT****NT 101 Introduction to Greek**

An introductory study concentrating on basic vocabulary and analysis of the grammar of New Testament Greek. **Credit: 3 hours**

**NT 111 Survey of the New Testament I**

This course is designed to introduce students to the skills and tools of critical analysis while understanding the literature of the New Testament in historical context and contemporary relevance. **Credit: 3 hours**

**NT 112 Survey of the New Testament II**

Part II in the Survey of the New Testament series. **Credit: 3 hours**

**NT 311 The Pauline Letters**

A study of the themes and emphasis in Paul's thoughts as revealed in his letters and writings. Pauline Theology is revealed in the light of Biblical Scholarship and Paul's apostolate is viewed in the light of Acts and Letters. **Credit: 3 hours**

**NT 414 The Book of Revelation**

A study of Apocalyptic Literature and Thought. Reference will be made to the Book of Daniel and other Apocalyptic writings. **Credit: 3 hours**

**NT415 New Testament Theology**

A study of the formation of the canon, of textual criticism, of Israelite history, and an evaluation of critical scholarship. The Christ-centered interpretation of the Old Testament takes into consideration the organic, progressive structure of biblical theology. REQUIRED FOR M.DIV., and M.A.B.S. PROGRAMS  
**Credit: 3 hours**

**OLD TESTAMENT****OT 111 Survey of the Old Testament I**

This course is an introduction to the people, history and developing religion of ancient Israel. Israel's social and religious character and basic concerns are examined, and the contemporary meaning of the Old Testament is accentuated. Emphasis is also placed on the critical study of the texts of the Old Testament.  
**Credit: 3 hours**

**OT 112 Survey of the Old Testament II**

Part II in the Survey of the Old Testament series. **Credit: 3 hours**

**OT 311 Prophets and Prophecy**

A study of the prophetic movement in Israel and history of Old Testament prophecy. The prophetic books, basic elements of prophetic theology and the abiding role and task of the prophet are viewed. Contemporary application is stressed. **Credit: 3 hours**

**OT315 The Old Testament History and Theology**

A study of the formation of the canon, of textual criticism, of Israelite history, and an evaluation of critical scholarship. The Christ-centered interpretation of the Old Testament takes into consideration the organic, progressive structure of biblical theology. **Credit: 3 hours**

## **PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING**

### **PC 201 Introduction to Counseling**

The focus of this course of on special problems encountered by the minister and the examination of methods for dealing with crisis situations. **Credit: 3 hours**

### **PC 202 Foundations of Biblical Counseling**

This course establishes a theological and practical introduction to the ministry of biblical counseling. Presents a biblical Christ-centered foundation, including the doctrines of the sufficiency of Scripture and progressive sanctification. Provides a biblical methodology for addressing counseling related problems. **Credit: 3 hours**

### **PC 211 Pastoral Counseling**

Theories and techniques which are necessary for pre-counseling are learned. Relationships skills are applied to church-staff relationships and too many other areas of interpersonal ministry. Practical experience and evaluation are gained using verbatim reports. **Credit: 3 hours**

### **PC 212 Ethics and Legal Issues in Chaplaincy**

A study of the ethical and legal challenges that occur in connection with ministry in government service. Topics covered include pluralism, ecumenism, interfaith practices, confidentiality, evangelism, proselytization, gender identification and relations, marriage in military context and divorce. **Credit: 3 hours**

### **PC 310 Addiction Issues in Counseling**

Addresses the theological, physiological, and secular theoretical models of addiction. Examines the core theological and physiological issues involved in behavioral life-dominating sins-sexual addiction, obsession behaviors, etc. Established a biblical framework for ministry to individuals enslaved to substances and experiences with special emphasis upon the involvement of the church community in helping those seeking deliverance. **Credit: 3 hours**

### **PC 311 Pastoral Psychology**

Attention is given to the meaning of pastoral care, major psychological contributions to the understanding of pastoral work with individuals, marriage and family, groups, and crisis experiences. Emphasis is upon theoretical insights, use of the professional self, empathy and practical application. **Credit: 3 hours**

### **PC 410 Introduction to Life Coaching**

This course offers an introduction to professional coaching from a Christian worldview with special attention given coaching theories, practice, skills, and various coaching specialties. This will include an overview of common client presenting issues. **Credit: 3 hours**

### **PC 411 Religion and Personality Process**

This course pursues an understanding of the psychological growth process and the personality factors that relate to religious development. It views faith and patters of belief and their relationship to casual factors in negative behavioral patterns. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PC 412 Theology of Pain and Suffering**

This course will address responses to the faith challenges of pain and suffering and offer theological discussion surrounding the Book of Job regarding how best to answer questions of “why.” **Credit: 3 hours**

**PRACTICE OF MINISTRY****PM 113 Evangelism**

The study of the biblical background, the theological bases and history and methods of Christian evangelism. Considered in the context of the churches, attention will be given to the art of evangelistic preaching, preparation for special emphasis on evangelism, and the conservation of the results of evangelism. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PM115 Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics**

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to develop a sound method for biblical interpretation. The student will be introduced to the basic principles, steps, and major resources available for practicing biblical exegesis. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PM 211 Church Administration**

An attempt is made to evaluate the vital elements which should be included in building a New Testament type church. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PM 215 Discipleship**

The purpose of this course is to assist students in the application of the personal spiritual disciplines in their churches. The emphasis is on helping students to model and teach the disciplines to the members of their church family. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PM 221 Homiletics I**

A basic course in sermon preparation and delivery. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PM 311 Church Administration II**

A study of the organizations of the Baptist church with suggestions as to their place and function is made. Also, a study will be made of the church budget as it relates to the total program of the church. A study of the Sunday School administration from the Cradle Roll Department through the Adult and Extension Departments will be made, too. **Credit: 3 hours**

**PM 322 Homiletics II**

Moving from text to sermon, this course analyzes sermon intra-structure, meaning styles and language and explores hermeneutical cultural and theological questions.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**PM 413 Sunday School Administration**

A study of the educational needs of smaller churches, including how to assess needs, set objectives, plan programs, select and use proper methods and materials, maintain a flexible organization, recruit and train leaders, and evaluate the ministry of smaller churches for all age groups.

**Credit: 3 hours**

**THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES****TS 211 Introduction to Theology**

This is a survey course designed to introduce the student to Christian theology, including its biblical, historical, philosophical and systematic aspects. Special attention is given to Baptist theology. **Credit: 3 hours**

**TS 411 Systematic Theology**

In this survey course, students are introduced to Christian theology and the various schools of systematic thought. **Credit: 3 hours**

**TS 412 Christian Ethics and Moral Philosophy**

An introduction to the principles, assumptions, theological and philosophical issues involved in the creation of Christian Ethics. Using the teachings of the Old and New Testaments to provide the basic norms, the course focuses on the issues of racism, colonialism, war, and other social issues. **Credit: 3 hours**

# ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES



## INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY INFORMATION

Mississippi Baptist Seminary provides instruction through approved, in-person instructional methods across the main campus and all teaching sites. The following statements explain authorized instructional formats in use at the Seminary.

- **In-Person Instruction**

All courses are delivered through face-to-face, onsite instruction at the Seminary's main location and approved teaching sites. Faculty and students meet in person for all scheduled class sessions, and instructional activities are designed to support direct engagement, discussion, and applied learning.

- **Field Education**

Field Education courses provide supervised, ministry-based learning experiences in approved church or community settings. These courses require onsite participation, documented supervision, and regular faculty oversight to ensure alignment with course learning outcomes and program requirements.

- **Instruction by Arrangement**

Instruction by arrangement may be approved in limited circumstances when a student's academic progress requires an alternative scheduling format. These arrangements maintain the same academic rigor, contact expectations, and learning outcomes as standard in-person courses and must be authorized by the Dean or Provost.

- **Distance Education Statement**

Mississippi Baptist Seminary does not offer Distance Education courses or programs, does not enroll students in Distance Education, and does not transcript Distance Education credit. All instructional delivery methods used by the Seminary fall below the federal definition of Distance Education. If Distance Education is pursued in the future, no courses or programs will be initiated without prior approval from the Board of Directors and without establishing the required policies, technological infrastructure, and student support services.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT & REMEDIAL SERVICES

Mississippi Baptist Seminary is committed to supporting student success through responsive, faculty-guided academic assistance. The Seminary uses a flexible, needs-based approach that allows instructors to identify students who may benefit from additional academic support and to recommend appropriate interventions.

### **Identification of Students Needing Support**

Faculty members monitor student progress throughout the term and identify students who may require supplemental instruction, skill development, or targeted remediation. Indicators may include course performance, class participation, assignment quality, or demonstrated difficulty with foundational skills.

### **Faculty-Guided Support Plans**

When a need is identified, instructors collaborate with their Dean to prescribe an individualized support plan. Support plans are designed to reinforce course learning outcomes and promote student mastery of essential competencies. These plans may include one or more of the following:

- Targeted review assignments.
- Structured study plans.
- Supplemental readings or practice materials.
- Guided skill-building activities.
- Referral to tutoring or academic coaching.

### **Tutoring and Resource Support**

The Seminary may provide tutoring, peer support, or access to approved instructional software or digital tools as resources allow. These supports are selected based on student needs, course requirements, and available personnel or technology.

### **Continuous Improvement**

As the Seminary expands its academic support capacity, additional resources, tutoring options, and instructional technologies may be incorporated. The Seminary remains committed to strengthening its academic support systems in alignment with institutional growth and student needs.

## **CREDIT HOURS AND CLASS ATTENDANCE**

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary bases its definition of a credit hour on the standard “Carnegie Unit.” A semester unit of credit is equal to a minimum of three hours of work per week for a semester. Carnegie definition is based upon a minimum semester length of 15 weeks. Thus, a “unit” of credit equates to three hours of student work per week (1 hour lecture plus 2 hours of homework or 3 hours of lab) for 15 weeks. For a lecture class, one unit is considered to be one hour of lecture class time and two hours per week of homework. For the typical three-unit class, a student spends three hours per week in class and should do six hours per week of homework.

Academic credit for a course requires regular class attendance. Class attendance means being present in the classroom for the entire scheduled class meeting. The physical presence of a student is crucial in any class meeting regardless of whether the student assignments are

completed. The maximum absence allowance is three (3) class sessions in a semester. Once a student reaches the limit of missed classes, the instructor is required to report the student's absence status to the Office of Academic Affairs for further evaluation, which may result in academic discipline proceedings.

### **GRADING SCALE**

The following grading system of letters is based on percentage grading for completion of graded requirements. Corresponding quality points are assigned as follows.

<b>Grade Symbol</b>	<b>Numerical Equivalent</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
A	100-93	4.000
A-	92-90	3.667
B+	89-87	3.333
B	86-83	3.000
B-	82-80	2.667
C+	79-77	2.333
C	76-73	2.000
C-	72-70	1.667
D+	69-67	1.333
D	66-63	1.000
D-	62-60	0.667
F	Below 60	0.000

*Grade point averages are computed by dividing the total hours for which the student is officially enrolled into the total number of quality points earned each semester.*

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES POLICY**

When a student desires extension of time to complete a course, the instructor may submit a grade of Incomplete and forward a justification to the Dean along with the final grade reporting template. The student will be given a period of one semester to submit all incomplete assignments and complete the course requirements. A course completed during this window will receive the final grade as assigned by the instructor; a course not completed during this window will receive a final grade of F unless exception is made to assign a WP or WF.

### **WITHDRAWALS**

Any student desiring to withdraw from study prior to completion of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the semester must self-withdraw through the student enrollment portal. Resulting grade will be assessed as "W" with no punitive assessment.

Students who have not self-withdrawn but stop attending prior to the start of final exams will be assigned a final grade of "WP" or "WF" by the instructor with no punitive assessment.

Once final exams begin, all students will be graded according to the seminary scale.

## **STUDENT TENURE**

Student tenure is based upon satisfactory completion of course requirements. Any violation of school policy may be considered cause of dismissal. All decisions regarding the application of the rule of tenure are made by faculty with the right of appeal to the Board of Directors of the Seminary.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

1. A completion of the required curriculum with a “C” (2.0) average on all work taken.
2. The Seminary must have on file the official transcripts of student showing that he/she holds a high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. The student must clear all financial obligations to the seminary and give assurance that all accounts have been settled.
4. Successful completion of a comprehensive English Bible examination and a comprehensive Baptist Articles of Faith examination are required prior to graduation. Examinations may be repeated until it is passed. A grade of C is considered a passing grade.
5. All pastors and ministers must have completely read an English version of the Holy Bible (Genesis 1:1-Revelation 22:21)

All students expecting to graduate must make formal application for graduation to the Seminary through the registrar at the time of registration for their final semester of academic work.

A degree from Mississippi Baptist Seminary & Bible College indicates that the graduate has completed the requirements for the course of study. Graduation from the Mississippi Baptist Seminary & Bible College with either the B. Th., A. Div., A. R. E., A. A. degree or Certificate should not in itself be construed as a recommendation for the ministry. Ecclesiastical bodies and pulpit committees are responsible for applying their own requirements for ordination to determine the doctrinal soundness, suitability, and readiness for ministry of a particular graduate. One should check with the appropriate judicatory. *Although the Bachelor of Theology meets the standard educational requirement for ordination for most denominations, the degree does not possess all biblical qualification requisites for the ministry or adherence to the Baptist faith.*

## **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION POLICY**

As part of its policy of nondiscrimination, and in accordance with Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Mississippi Baptist Seminary will make reasonable accommodation to ensure equal opportunity and access for qualified students to applicable programs, services, activities, and facilities. After acceptance and prior to entering classes, a student with a disability must submit written requests for modifications or auxiliary aids to the Provost’s Office. Documentation of disability may be required in order to receive appropriated modifications. Service animals are permitted if the appropriate documentation has been filed. Students with documented disabilities may use marked parking spaces in the visitor parking lot.

## CODE OF ETHICS

### **Academic Integrity**

Mississippi Baptist Seminary assumes that all its students desire to pursue all academic work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Breaches of academic honesty and integrity are infringements of the mutual faith and trust essential to the academic enterprise. Activities that have the effect or intention of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student's performance are prohibited. Examples of activities include, but are not limited to, the following definitions.

- ***Cheating***

Using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, material, or study aids in examinations or other academic work, or preventing or attempting to prevent another from using authorized assistance, material, or study aids. Examples: using a cheat sheet; altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for a better grade, etc.

- ***Plagiarism***

Using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific and proper acknowledgement. Examples: misrepresenting another's work or using someone else's ideas (paper, report, article, or computer work) as one's own original creation and submitting it for an assignment; failing to cite a reference or to use quotation marks where appropriate, etc.

- ***Fabrication***

Submitting contrived or altered information in any academic exercise. Examples: making up data, fudging data; citing nonexistent or irrelevant articles, etc.

- ***Multiple Submissions***

Submitting, without prior permission, any work submitted to fulfill another academic requirement. Example: submitting the same paper for two different classes without the instructor's express prior approval.

- ***Misrepresentation of Academic Records***

Misrepresenting or tampering with or attempting to tamper with any portion of a student's transcripts or academic record, either before or after coming to Mississippi Baptist Seminary. Examples: forging a Registration Form or a grade report; tampering with computer records, etc.

- ***Facilitating Academic Dishonesty***  
Knowingly helping or attempting to help another violate any provision of this code. Example: working together on an exam or others' assignments intended to be an individual project without the instructor's express or prior approval.
- ***Unfair Advantage***  
Attempting to gain unauthorized advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Examples: gaining or providing unauthorized access to examination materials (either past or present); obstructing or interfering with another student's efforts in an academic exercise; lying about a need for an extension for an exam or paper; continuing to write even when time is up during an exam etc.
- ***Computer Crimes***  
Damaging or modifying computer programs without permission. Examples: piracy of copyright protected software; hacking; constructing viruses; knowingly introducing viruses into a system; copying programs and data belonging to others, and so on. Those students whose work definitively can be shown to breach academic honesty or scholarly integrity will face academic investigation. Sanctions will be imposed, ranging from course failure to dismissal from the school

### **Authority**

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Board of Trustees have responsibility of maintaining "appropriate standards of conduct of students." This duty has been delegated to the Dean of Academic Affairs. The Dean of Academic Affairs is further authorized to expel, dismiss, suspend and place limitations on continued attendance and to levy sanctions for student conduct violations and is responsible for receiving and examining student conduct matters related to the behavior of students, student groups, and/or student organizations. In addition, the Dean of Student Academic Affairs with approval of the Board of Directors, have the discretion in determining the appropriate sanction (s) for students, student groups, and/or student organizations found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct.

### **STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

Mississippi Baptist Seminary is committed to providing a fair and respectful environment for all students. A grievance is a concern or complaint related to a policy, decision, action, or condition that a student believes is unjust, inconsistent, or harmful. Grievances may be academic or non-academic in nature. This process is designed to ensure that student concerns are addressed promptly, respectfully, and without fear of retaliation.

**Informal Resolution (Recommended First Step)**

Students are encouraged to seek informal resolution by discussing the concern directly with the faculty or staff member involved. Many concerns can be resolved quickly through open communication.

If the issue is not resolved informally, or if the student is uncomfortable addressing the matter directly, the student may proceed to the formal grievance process.

**Formal Grievance Process****Step 1: Written Grievance Submission**

The student submits a written grievance to the Dean (for academic matters) or the Provost (for non-academic matters). The written grievance must include:

- A description of the concern
- Relevant dates and individuals involved
- Steps taken to resolve the issue informally (if applicable)
- The desired resolution

Grievances should be submitted within 15 business days of the incident or decision.

**Step 2: Administrative Review**

The appropriate administrator will:

- Acknowledge receipt of the grievance
- Review relevant documents
- Meet with the student
- Meet with the involved faculty/staff member
- Determine whether additional information is needed

A written response will be provided to the student within 15 business days of receiving the grievance.

**Step 3: Appeal (Final Level)**

If the student is not satisfied with the decision, they may submit a written appeal to the President within 10 business days of receiving the decision.

The President will review the grievance file and issue a final written decision within 15 business days.

The President's decision is final.

**Protection from Retaliation**

No student may be penalized, threatened, or retaliated against for filing a grievance in good faith. Any retaliation should be reported immediately to the President.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT PROCEDURES**

Student Conduct procedures may be initiated against a student, student group, and/or organization upon receiving and examining an official incident report and/or valid complaint regarding the behavior of a student, student group, and/or student organization. Any person affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Seminary community, students, faculty, visitors, guests, and staff may bring complaints of misconduct against a student or group of students.

To initiate a case, allegations must be presented to the Extension Director. After receiving allegations of misconduct, the Extension Director will provide a written incident report to the Dean of Student Affairs who will review the allegations and determine an appropriate individual or group to hear the case or determine whether to pursue an informal resolution process. All allegations should be submitted at the earliest opportunity after an incident occurs. There is no time limit on reporting violations of the Student Code of Conduct, however, the longer someone waits to report an offense, the harder it becomes for Seminary Staff to obtain information and witness statements and to make determinations regarding alleged violations.

As necessary, Seminary Staff reserve the right to initiate a complaint, and initiate conduct proceedings without a formal complaint by the victim of misconduct. Once an incident report is received, the Dean of Student Affairs will determine whether the behavior warrants action. In the event a sufficient cause is determined, the Dean of Student Affairs reserves the right to conduct an administrative hearing or assign the case to a student conduct committee. All Student Affairs Conduct Committee members are trained students, faculty, and staff members. This committee shall hear cases which may result in a student, student group, and/or student organization being admonished, exonerated, receiving a letter of warning, being for counseling, receiving a fine, being placed on probation, losing privileges, being assigned a research assignment or reflection journal, paying restitution, being required to attend workshops/seminars, being suspended or being expelled from the Seminary.

### **Notification Process**

The initial form of communication with a student, student group, and/or student organization named in an incident report will be via phone and/or e-mail. These methods will be used to provide the charges being brought against the student, student organization, or student group and will also outline the requirement of contacting the Dean of Academic Affairs or designee, in order to schedule the hearing.

Hearings may only be scheduled via phone, e-mail, or by the student scheduling in person. In cases where the student schedules a hearing less than 48 hours prior to the hearing, the 48-hour notification process outlined below, becomes null and void. When there are more than five (5) students involved in a case, the Dean of Academic Affairs reserves the right to schedule the hearing date and time for all students involved, without confirmation from the students due to the

number of individuals involved. Documentation can be provided to students for missed classes or work responsibilities when such circumstances exist. Failure to report to the Dean of Academic Student Affairs after being properly notified may result in the student, student group, or student organization being charged with “Failure to Comply” and/or “Contempt of Hearing.” In this case, a decision will be made in the student’s absence based on the information outlined in the incident report and any information gathered from the investigation.

### **Student Rights During the Hearing Process**

When the hearing date, time and location have been determined, the student, student organization or student group will be notified. The notice will be via letter or e-mail outline the charges and advising the student(s) of their rights and responsibilities.

The student(s) have the right to:

1. Know within 48 hours of the hearing, the time, date, and location; and who will be responsible for adjudication.
2. Know that the student, student organization or student group are permitted to have witnesses present, and they are allowed to present evidence.
3. Know that they have the right to have a representative of their choice present for support only, not to ask questions or to give input. They may advise the student, student group or organization of their fifth Amendment Rights.
4. The accused is permitted to ask questions or to question evidence presented.
5. Know that failure to appear will result in “Failure to Comply” or “Contempt of Hearing”
6. Know that the Seminary will follow the Hearing Process outline below.
7. Confirmation that records pertaining to the hearing will be maintained in the office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

### **Hearing Process**

The purpose of the Hearing is to conclude whether the accused has violated a code of conduct that warrants adjudication and possible sanction. The student or student organization is required to attend the hearing. If they fail to attend, the hearing will be held in their absence and a determination will be made. All matters relating to the hearing will be held in confidence and the records will be maintained in the office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

The hearing will proceed as follows:

1. Call to order by the chairperson.
2. Presentation of the violation (s).
3. Response from the accused student, student group, or student organization to the violation (s). The accused may plead responsible, not responsible, or no plea.
4. Presentation of the case against the accused, which may include testimony of witnesses and supporting information on the violation. The accused may ask questions of the witnesses.
5. The accused may present a response which may include testimony of witnesses and supporting information.
6. All witnesses will be called separately and may not hear each other's testimony.
7. Examination and questioning by the hearing committee may follow any witness statement or information presented.
8. The decision is reached by the Dean of Academic Affairs (administrative hearing) or members of the Student Affairs Conduct Committee (student conduct committee hearing) as to whether the accused is "responsible" or "not responsible" for violating the Student Code of Conduct.
9. If possible, the accused is usually informed in writing of the outcome (responsible or not responsible) of the hearing and sanctions within a minimum of three (3) business days after the hearing. In the event a decision cannot be made within three (3) business days, the accused will be informed by the Dean of Academic Affairs.

### **Appeal Process**

Students, student organizations or student groups may appeal the decision made by the Dean of Academic Affairs if there was a substantial violation of the Hearing Process or there is new evidence to be presented.

One day after receipt of the decision of the by the Academic Dean in the Hearing, the student, student group, or organization will submit, in writing to the Seminary President, supporting documents with the appeal letter. Specific grounds must be delineated as to why there is a need for appeal.

After receipt of the letter of appeal the President will determine if an appeal is justified and will notify the aggrieved within five days of the receipt of the letter of appeal. If the appeal is justified, the student is notified of the time and location to be present. The aggrieved is allowed to have representation,

however, the representative is there only in a supportive role and to advise of their Fifth Amendment Rights.

The decision of the President is final.

### **FERPA**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) affords students over 18 years of age the right to review, inspect, and challenge the accuracy of information kept in a cumulative file by the Seminary. It also ensures that records cannot be released without the written consent of the student. These are the following exceptions:

1. Records may be released to school officials and faculty who have a legitimate educational interest.
2. Records may be released when the information is classified as “directory information.” The following categories of information have been designated by the Seminary as directory information.
  - a. Name,
  - b. Email address,
  - c. Program of study,
  - d. Photographs (real, printed, and/or digital),
  - e. Dates of attendance, degrees, and awards received,
  - f. The most recent previous educational institution attended by the student, and
  - g. Information needed for honors and awards.
3. Violations of drug and alcohol policies may be disclosed to parents of students who are under the age of 21.
4. Disciplinary proceedings of violent crimes or sex offenses may be disclosed to the victims of the crime regardless of the outcome of the proceedings. They may also be disclosed if the accused was found to have violated the Seminary’s rules or policies.
5. Records may be released to a court if a parent or student has initiated legal action against the Seminary or if the Seminary has begun a legal action against a parent of a student.
6. If students would like their parents or guardians to have access to their records, they must give written consent in the Registrar’s Office. This consent must be renewed at the beginning of each academic year.

Parents or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Seminary to comply with FERPA requirements.

#### **Family Policy Compliance Office**

U.S. Department of Education  
600 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202-46058

## ACADEMIC CALENDARS

## SPRING SEMESTER 2025

**January**

- 2 Registration Begins
- 13 Classes Begin
- 17 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop
- 20 MLK Holiday (No Classes)
- 21 Classes Resume

**February**

English & Bible Proficiency Exam

**March**

- 1 Submit Petition to Graduate
- 3-7 Mid-Term Exams
- 10-14 SPRING BREAK (No Classes)
- 17 Classes Resume
- 17 Pre-Registration -Summer/Fall- Begins

**April**

- 18-21 Easter Break (No Classes)
- 22 Classes Resume

**May**

- 5-9 Final Exams
- 16 Spring Term Ends

## SUMMER SEMESTER 2025

**June**

- 7 Graduation
- 9 Classes Begin
- 13 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop
- 19 Juneteenth Holiday (No Classes)
- 30 Mid-Terms Begin

**July**

- 3 4<sup>th</sup> of July Observance (No Classes)
- 21-24 GMBSC Annual Session (No Classes)

**August**

- 7 Final Exams Begin
- 12 Summer Term Ends

## FALL SEMESTER 2025

**August**

- 17 Student & Faculty Convocation
- 18 Classes Begin
- 22 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop

**September**

- 1 Labor Day Holiday (No Classes)
- 8-12 NBC Annual Sess. (No Classes)
- 8 Classes Resume

**October**

- 13-17 Mid-Term Exams
- 20-21 Fall Break (No Classes)
- 22 Classes Resume

**November**

- 24-28 Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)

**December**

- 1 Classes Resume
- 15-19 Final Exams
- 23 Fall Term Ends

## SPRING SEMESTER 2026

**January**

- 2 Registration Begins
- 12 Classes Begin
- 16 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop
- 19 MLK Holiday (No Classes)
- 20 Classes Resume

**February**

English & Bible Proficiency Exam

**March**

- 1 Submit Petition to Graduate
- 2-6 Mid-Term Exams
- 9-13 SPRING BREAK (No Classes)
- 16 Classes Resume
- 17 Pre-Registration -Summer/Fall- Begins

**April**

- 3-6 Easter Break (No Classes)
- 7 Classes Resume

**May**

- 4-9 Final Exams
- 15 Spring Term Ends
- 16 Graduation

## SUMMER SEMESTER 2026

**June**

- 6 Convocation
- 8 Classes Begin
- 12 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop
- 18 Juneteenth Observance (No Classes)
- 22 Mid-Terms Begin

**July**

- 2-3 4<sup>th</sup> of July Observance (No Classes)
- 20-23 GMBSC Annual Session (No Classes)

**August**

- 3 Finals Begin
- 10 Summer Term Ends

## FALL SEMESTER 2026

**August**

- 16 Student & Faculty Convocation
- 17 Classes Begin
- 21 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop

**September**

- 7 Labor Day Holiday (No Classes)
- 8 Classes Resume

**October**

- 5-10 Mid-Terms Exams
- 12-13 Fall Break (No Classes)
- 14 Classes Resume

**November**

- 23-28 Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
- 30 Classes Resume

**December**

- 7-12 Final Exams
- 18 Fall Term Ends

## SPRING SEMESTER 2027

**January**

- 4 Registration Begins
- 11 Classes Begin
- 15 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop
- 18 MLK Holiday (No Classes)
- 19 Classes Resume

**February**

English & Bible Proficiency Exam

**March**

- 1 Submit Petition to Graduate
- 1-6 Mid-Term Exams
- 8-12 SPRING BREAK (No Classes)
- 15 Classes Resume
- 15 Pre-Registration -Summer/Fall- Begins
- 26-29 Easter Break (No Classes)
- 30 Classes Resume

**April****May**

- 3-8 Final Exams
- 14 Spring Term Ends
- 15 Graduation

## SUMMER SEMESTER 2027

**June**

- 5 Graduation
- 7 Classes Begin
- 11 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop
- 21 Juneteenth Observance (No Classes)
- 29 Mid-Terms Begin

**July**

- 5 4<sup>th</sup> of July Observance (No Classes)
- 19-22 GMBSC Annual Session (No Classes)

**August**

- 3 Final Exams Begin
- 10 Summer Term Ends

## FALL SEMESTER 2027

**August**

- 15 Student & Faculty Convocation
- 16 Classes Begin
- 23 Reg Ends/Last Day to Add/Drop

**September**

- 6 Labor Day Holiday (No Classes)
- 7 Classes Resume

**October**

- 4-9 Mid-Term Exams
- 11-12 Fall Break (No Classes)
- 13 Classes Resume

**November**

- 22-26 Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
- 29 Classes Resume

**December**

- 6-11 Final Exams
- 17 Fall Term Ends