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No person in whatever relation with Welch College shall be subject to discrimination because of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability.

The Welch College Graduate School

Welcome to the Welch College Master of Theology and Ministry Program!

The Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry is a 33-semester-hour graduate degree that integrates the classical theological disciplines with the study of the practice of Christian ministry. It is designed for college graduates who desire additional education in biblical and theological studies and ministry studies, whether they are or wish to be in ordained Christian ministry or lay ministry.

The program of studies is unique in that it aims at the interdisciplinary study of Christian theology and the practice of Christian ministry. Thus, the classical theological disciplines are studied with a focus on ministry practice, and ministry is studied with a focus on the application of theology.

It is our prayer that you will gain a thorough understanding of the history, principles, and methods of Biblical exegesis and communication, a biblical philosophy of church and pastoral leadership, pastoral ministry within the local church, a rigorous theological critique informed by a Christian worldview, an understanding of Christian theological thought, a grasp of the global expanse of God's Kingdom-building through His church, and a solid grasp of the history of the church. We believe that God can bless you as you employ these skills and concepts for His glory.

Yours truly,

J. Matthew Pinson, President
Kevin Hester, Dean, School of Theology

MATM Calendar 2017

Semester A

Session 1

BIB 6027 Issues in Old Testament Studies THE 6017 The Arminian Theological Tradition	Jan. 23 – Mar. 24 , 2017	Hybrid	McAffee Hester/Pinson
	Intensive: Feb. 20 - 24, 2017	On Campus	

Session 2

ICS 6007 Mission & Church Growth THE 6047 Church & Culture	April 10 – June 9, 2017	Hybrid	Raper/Callaway Ball
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	Intensive May 8 – 12, 2017	On Campus	
THE/MIN 6107 Summative Experience: Orientation		On Campus	Cockrell

Semester B

Session 1

THE 6087 Theological Foundations THE 6097 History of Doctrine	June 12 – Aug. 18, 2017 (One week allowed for break)	Online	Ball Hester
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Both Courses Fully Online

Session 2

MIN 6037 Discovering & Communicating Biblical Truth MIN 6057 Ministry & Leadership I	Aug. 28 – Oct. 27, 2017	Hybrid	Cockrell Raper/Pinson
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	Intensive Sept. 25 – 29, 2017	On Campus	
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Session 3

BIB 6067 Issues in New Testament Studies MIN 6077 Ministry & Leadership II	Oct. 30 – Jan. 5, 2018 (One week allowed for break)	Hybrid	Cockrell Raper/Pinson
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	Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, 2017	On Campus	
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THE/MIN 6107 Summative Experience (Project/Thesis Due)	April 2018	Project or Thesis	Cockrell
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Commencement	May 11, 2018		
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Mission

The mission of Welch College is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His church, and His world through biblical thought and life.

The mission of the Welch College graduate program is drawn from this institutional mission statement as follows:

The Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry at Welch College seeks to provide leaders with graduate education in the classical theological disciplines and the integration of those disciplines with the practice of Christian ministry.

Objectives

Program Objectives

Students who successfully complete the program should demonstrate:

- A thorough understanding of the history, principles, and methods of Biblical exegesis and the ability both to defend the reliability of the Biblical text and to communicate the Bible's redemptive storyline in an effective, relevant way.
- Mastery and implementation of a biblical philosophy of church and pastoral leadership as applied to: (a) the leader's personal spiritual formation and interpersonal relationships; (b) Christian worship; (c) principles of pastoral care in ministering to people's spiritual, psychological, relational and material needs; and (d) practical issues involved in the pastoral ministry within the local church.
- Application of rigorous theological critique informed by a Christian worldview toward the assessment of: (a) trends, issues, and ethical concerns in the secular culture; and (b) current movements and trajectories within the church culture.
- An understanding of Christian theological thought with a view toward: (a) critical engagement with a wide scope of theological systems and worldviews; (b) grounding in Reformation Arminianism and the distinctives of Free Will Baptist theology; and, (c) the role of presuppositional apologetics oriented toward worldview critique.
- Grasp of the global expanse of God's Kingdom-building through His church encompassing: (a) missiological principles of international evangelization and church planting as applied to the local church; and (b) organic models of church growth founded upon an understanding of biblical principles of evangelism and discipleship.
- A solid grasp of the history of the church, particularly: (a) the heritage of evangelical orthodoxy traced through the patristic, reformation, and post-reformation eras; and (b) Free Will Baptist history and traditions, with an emphasis on confessional loyalty.

Admission of Students: MA Theology and Ministry

Entrance Requirements

Welch College is owned and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. As such, it exists primarily to meet the educational needs of Free Will Baptist churches. The college's primary mission is to educate leaders for those churches who will take seriously a life of service to Christ, His church, and His world. The College also opens its doors to students who share its commitment to the Christian faith in its historic, evangelical Protestant expression.

The Welch College Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry program subscribes to the beliefs and practices set forth in the *Free Will Baptist Treatise*. Thus, the following statement of faith is not an all-inclusive statement regarding Free Will Baptist Doctrine and Practice. However, all applicants must sign the statement, along with signed acknowledgement of genuine Christian conversion, in order to be eligible for admission to the College.

Statement of Christian Faith

- I believe that there is only one God who is a spirit and that He is the creator of all things. This one God has forever existed as the three persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three persons of this trinity are equal in power and glory.
- I believe that the second person of the trinity became the man Jesus who was fully God and fully human. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a life without sin, suffered, died, and physically rose again. After the resurrection, Jesus returned to heaven. He is the only representative between God and humanity. This same Jesus will return to earth again to judge all humanity.
- I believe that when Jesus returns all the dead will be raised and that Jesus will judge all humanity. Those who have repented of their sins and placed their faith in Jesus will receive eternal life. Those who have not done so will receive eternal judgment.
- I believe that a person is saved when he repents of his sins and trusts in Jesus. A person is saved only by faith. There are no works that can merit God's acceptance. Jesus' death on the cross was the only way to provide salvation for all who will believe in Him.
- I believe that the Bible is God's own word revealed to humanity. The Bible is entirely true in all that it says and cannot fail to communicate. Only the Bible has the right to tell us what to believe, how to live, and how to worship.

Character—Every applicant must have experienced a genuine Christian conversion marked by Christian discipleship and high moral character. Applicants must also exhibit a commitment to Christian higher education as outlined in the College's Mission and Institutional Purpose, sign a statement of Christian faith, and provide references to confirm their Christian character. Students are expected to behave in a manner consistent with their Christian testimony at all times. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to remain at the College.

Bachelor's Degree—Applicants must present evidence of graduation with a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The Graduate Admissions Committee may consider provisional enrollment for applicants with bachelor's degrees from non-accredited colleges and universities.*

Writing Sample—500-700 word essay on the topic, "My Approach to a Theology of Ministry" in a form acceptable to the graduate faculty. (Students whose writing sample is judged to be marginal may be required to pass an online course for review upon the discretion of the graduate faculty.*)

Association of Biblical Higher Education Bible Major Test—minimum score of 90 (Those candidates who do not achieve the score of 90 on the Bible Major Test will be required to pass an online course for review upon the discretion of the graduate faculty.*)

*Provisional enrollment may be granted by the Graduate Admissions Committee. Provisional enrollment cannot extend beyond 12 credit hours. Upon completion of twelve (12) hours of course work in the MATM program with at least a 2.67 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) and satisfactory completion of all provisional requirements, the Dean of the School of Theology may grant the provisional candidate full admission status. (At the Dean's discretion, a GRE or MAT score may be considered by the Admissions Committee in decisions about full admission of students who are provisionally enrolled.)

Application Procedure

1. Complete the Application for Admission. As part of the completed application, the students must submit a written essay, giving personal testimony of their salvation experience and reasons for desiring to attend the College. Attention should be given to proper English composition.
2. Submit the names and contact information for two, non-family personal references, including one from a pastor or spiritual mentor.
3. Submit a \$75 application fee. Contact the Graduate Office for details.
4. Submit signed statement of faith and acknowledgement of Christian conversion.

If acceptance is granted, the following additional items must be submitted:

1. ABHE Bible Test
2. Official, final college transcript,

3. Health Record Form,
4. Medical Authorization Form, and
5. Student Consent to Release Academic Information Form (FERPA). All records must be filed in the Graduate Program Office and approved before a student is permitted to enroll.

Graduate Admissions Committee

The graduate admissions committee will be made up of the graduate program coordinator, the graduate dean or provost, and another member of the graduate faculty who will, if the applicant is admitted, become the graduate student's advisor. The graduate admissions committee will determine whether or not candidates will be admitted for enrollment in the program. The graduate admissions committee will be chaired by the Program Coordinator for the MA Theology and Ministry.

Transfer Credit

Transfer credit for courses taken in residence at another college may be granted, providing the student remains in good standing at that college and subject to the following limitations. Generally, courses approved for transfer carry letter grades and contribute to the student's Welch College grade-point average (GPA). In the event that the transferring college utilizes a quality point system differing from that of Welch College, all quality points awarded will be converted to the system at Welch College.

1. Courses must be essentially equal in content and level to Welch College courses.
2. Courses must meet requirements or serve as electives in the degree program as defined at Welch College.
3. Courses must have received a final grade of A or B.
4. Courses from an unaccredited college must be validated by satisfactory, probationary residence. Satisfactory residence means the completion of the student's first twelve (12) attempted hours at Welch College with at least a 2.67 GPA (Courses from unaccredited, nonresidential programs will not be recognized.) In general, no more than six (6) hours credit is transferrable. Upon written appeal, the Registrar, dean of the graduate program, and the Provost may award additional credit.
5. Once the student has enrolled at Welch College, no courses toward Welch College degree requirements can be taken elsewhere without prior approval by the graduate dean overseeing the student's program, expressed in writing to the Provost. Contact the Registrar's Office for the appropriate forms.
6. As indicated elsewhere, no more than six (6) hours of a graduate degree program can be earned other than in residence at Welch College. Any portion of those six (6) hours approved to be taken after the student's final semester in residence must be completed within 12 months for the degree to be awarded on that basis.
7. Students may transfer courses for credit to Welch College to substitute for courses already taken at Welch College. However, to replace the courses

included in the GPA computation, the same course must be repeated at Welch College.

International Students

International students who wish to enter the College must file their applications and complete certified copies of official transcripts, certificates, diplomas, and degrees translated to English well in advance of the semester for which they seek admission.

All regular admission requirements must be completed before final acceptance will be granted, including evidence of financial resources sufficient enough to pay expenses while a student at the College. Welch College's Certification of Financial Support must be on file at the time the I-20 is issued. International students will have the same financial policy applied to them as any other student. In addition, an advance deposit of \$1,000 USD is held in escrow for the total period of enrollment. The deposit must be received prior to the issuance of the letter of acceptance. At the time of enrollment, the student must present an I-94, a visa, and a passport.

Students for whom English is not the first language must take the TOEFL or provide appropriate documentation of competency from a recognized college or university or other reputable agency, and attain a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based assessment and on the internet-based test must score at least: Writing – 22; Speaking – 22; Reading – 21; Listening – 17; for a total of 82.

All applicants whose academic records are from schools, colleges, and universities located outside the United States must provide a course-by-course report, as well as appropriate accrediting recognition of the college or university that issues the document. Based on recommendations from approval groups and the American Association of College Registrars and Academic offices, we do not engage in initial analysis of international transcripts.

Original transcripts from international colleges and universities are generally forwarded to a recognized agency engaged in transcript analysis. These agencies usually require a contract fee in advance. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the group he chooses to review the transcript and to furnish any information the agency may require.

To be deemed official, a report should be sent directly to the Welch College Registrar from the evaluating agency. Under no circumstances should the student hand deliver these, since this would compromise the integrity of the document.

Failure to complete admission requirements or unresolved issues with the Business Office may result in suspension of a student's enrollment.

Re-Enrollment

Any student who has not been enrolled in courses for one year or more is classified as a re-enrollee. Students who intend to re-enroll at Welch College follow a different procedure than do students who are continuously enrolled. Until all the following have been observed, a student will not be officially re-enrolled at the College:

1. Complete the Application for Readmission, along with a \$15 application fee. The Graduate Admissions Committee must approve all readmission applications.

2. A re-admit applicant who has attended other institutions since leaving Welch College must have an official academic transcript forwarded from **each** institution. These documents need to be received by the Graduate Program Coordinator at least 90 days before the semester begins. No readmission will be processed for a student during a term of academic suspension since leaving Welch College or any other school.
3. Re-enrollees who wish to return after a suspension, either academic or disciplinary, must meet items 1 and 2, as well as the following:
 - a. They must completely observe all the terms of the suspension.
 - b. No coursework taken during the term of the suspension will be transferred to Welch College.
4. Students must submit for approval a written plan for improvement to:
 - a. the Graduate Dean, in the event of academic suspension, or
 - b. the Student Dean, in the event of disciplinary suspension.
5. Re-enrollees may be required to meet any changes in the program or
 - a. curriculum under which they were originally enrolled.
6. Re-enrollees who have missed courses scheduled for their cohort will have to enroll in courses with a subsequent cohort.

Veterans Benefits

The College is approved for the instruction of those eligible to receive benefits via provisions of various Veterans Benefit Acts. It is the recipient's responsibility to notify the campus VA officer if he or she wishes to receive benefits. Applicants must furnish proof of eligibility as a condition of enrollment; however, the College does not exempt the student from financial obligations until expenses have been settled by the Veterans Administration. An applicant should obtain an application for benefits from a local VA office, Welch College, or the official governmental website, complete and mail it as directed. The College is also approved to instruct the orphans of veterans who are qualified to receive training under Public Law 634. These should follow the procedure outlined above.

Note: Veterans should become familiar with the College's probationary system. For purposes of benefits, they must be making satisfactory progress toward their degree objective. If they fall behind one semester, they have the following probationary semester to meet the standards. If they fail to do so, VA will be notified and benefits terminated. They may also be asked to withdraw for a semester. At the end of that period, they may apply for readmission to the College and renewal of benefits.

Financial Aid

Graduate students may apply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA. Unsubsidized loans may be obtained by qualifying students. The FAFSA form may be completed online and may be submitted as early as January 1st.

Note: Applicants and prospective students may obtain certain consumer information as required by law (See page 16).

Tuition

\$450 per credit hour

Total Cost for Program

33 credit hours X \$450 = \$14,850

Scholarships

Several institutional scholarships are available for Welch graduate students. Students must apply for scholarships through the Financial Aid Office. Documentation such as a copy of the ministerial ordination certificate (Ministry Scholarship) or transcript from undergraduate institutions (Academic Merit Scholarship) should be provided along with the scholarship application.

Free Will Baptist Scholarship - \$1,320

This one-time scholarship is available for students have current membership in a Free Will Baptist church. The scholarship is pro-rated with equal portions to be paid at the beginning of each module or course.

Academic Merit Scholarship - \$2,500

This one-time scholarship is available for students who have an undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or better. The scholarship is not applied until full admission is granted. The scholarship is pro-rated with equal portions to be paid at the beginning of each module or course.

Ministry Scholarship - \$1,000

This one-time scholarship is available for licensed and ordained Free Will Baptist ministers or full-time Free Will Baptist missionaries. The scholarship is pro-rated with equal portions to be paid at the beginning of each module or course.

Application of Scholarships: Example

No scholarships	FWB Scholarship	Academic Merit Scholarship	Ministry Scholarship	All scholarships
Per Two Courses a Session \$2,700	\$240 \$2,460	\$500 \$2,200	\$200 \$2,500	\$240 + \$500 + \$200 = \$940 \$1,760
Per Course \$1,350	\$120 \$1,230	\$250 \$1,100	\$100 \$1,250	\$470 \$880

Policies and Procedures and Academic Standards

Registration

Each student should complete registration on the days designated for this purpose. Admission to class is not final until the student has completed registration and satisfied the Treasurer's Office. Credit will not be given for any course in which the student was not properly registered.

Students in the graduate program will have one class day to make any class changes without penalty. Since the MA Theology and Ministry is a cohort based program, changes should be made only in emergencies or otherwise unique, extenuating circumstances. The Provost and Graduate Dean must be consulted and provide written permission before changes are made.

Grading System

<i>Grade, with explanation</i>	<i>Quality points per hour</i>
A—(93-100)—Superior	4
B—(85-92)—Above average	3
C—(77-84)—Average.....	2
D—(70-76)—Below average	1
F—(Under 70)—Failure.....	0
W—Withdrew	0
WP—Withdrew Passing.....	0
WF—Withdrew Failing	0
X—Audit.....	0
I—Incomplete	0

If a student withdraws from a course while passing or failing, but before the on-campus intensive, a grade of W will be given. If a student withdraws from a course while passing after midterm*, a grade of WP will be assigned. If a student withdraws from a course while failing after midterm*, a grade of WF will be assigned. In every case, a grade of WF will be given when a student willfully abandons a course, unofficially drops a course, or unofficially withdraws from school.

The grade W is given when a student officially withdraws from Welch College.

The grade I (Incomplete) means that a part of the semester's work is unsatisfactory or unfinished for acceptable reasons. Any course with a grade of Incomplete (I) or No Report (NR) must be completed within eight weeks from the last day of the semester during which the I or NR was awarded. If not completed in that time frame, the grade will be assigned as a grade of F.

Any grade of I or WF will be counted in the GPA as an F.

*The on-campus intensive is considered to be midterm.

Notification of Grades

Grades are available via the student's personal, secure, digital information management portal within three working days of the end of midterm and semester exams. Any time a grade change is made on a transcript, this is visible to both the student and the advisor on the digital information management portal. Transcripts and degree audits are available to advisors before the beginning of each semester, and all students must obtain his/her advisor's written permission to register, change a schedule, or change his/her program. Graduate students are furnished marked copies of transcripts and degree audits at the beginning of their final term of enrollment (i.e. fifth module or final two courses). All students have access to their transcripts and degree audits during each registration. All students have access to unofficial student transcripts and/or degree audits via their personal, secure digital information management portal or upon request from the Registrar's Office. As provided under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students may request an appointment to review their records. Spouses or other individuals are furnished copies of student records only as provided under FERPA and only upon written student request.

Grade Change

Any student who has a question regarding a grade should contact the faculty-member-of-record immediately. If this results in a grade change, the faculty member should notify the Registrar at once. In the event the student and the faculty member are unable to resolve the question, the student may submit a written appeal to the Registrar.

Appeals Regarding Grades

Students may register an appeal regarding any grade(s). This should be done in writing and addressed to the Registrar. To be processed, the appeal must be received in the Registrar's Office within 10 days after the last day of the semester during which the class was taught. The Registrar, Provost or Graduate Dean, faculty-member-of-record, and Graduate Program Coordinator will form the appeals committee. The student may appear before the committee at his discretion.

Special Students

The College may admit students who have not been admitted as candidates for a degree nor do they meet the minimum requirements for admission as regular students. These students are formally permitted to take up to 12 hours of degree-credit courses in a post-baccalaureate program prior to full admission to the graduate degree program. Admission will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Auditing students are counted separately for the purposes of reporting to some accrediting and other agencies.

Academic Load, Ineligibility, and Appeals

A normal load is about 12 credit hours per semester for students on the five-module schedule (6 hours for those taking one course in each module). No student whose academic

standing the previous semester is lower than a 2.5 grade-point average (GPA) may register for additional semester hours without written permission of the Provost. Students whose graduate GPA falls below 2.5 will be placed on probation and must improve the GPA within one semester in order to continue in the graduate program.

Appeals of Suspension

Students may register an appeal regarding academic ineligibility. This should be done in writing and addressed to the Provost within 10 days after the end of the course contributing to the suspension. A student is limited to one appeal of academic suspension.

Graduate Degree Program Length

All master's programs require a minimum of 33 credit-hours. See definition of graduate credit hours below.

Graduate Program Course Structure

The MA Theology and Ministry program courses define a 3 credit-hour course as having a minimum of 45 hours of class engagement. Courses must also provide a sufficient period of reflection on course content, including reading assignments, projects, and a significant research component. Each 3 credit-hour course require 5 in-class sessions (20-hour, on-campus intensive) and 25 hours of reflection, reading, assignments, threaded discussions, and class/course research and/or project.

Time Limits for Degree Completion

All master's programs have a maximum time limit of five years from the date of matriculation. Any student who does not complete coursework within the permissible time limit for any reason – including discontinued enrollment – must reapply for admission.

Class Dress

Students are expected to dress in a neat and professional manner and are to dress according to guidelines set by faculty in the graduate program (slacks for men; dresses, skirts, or dress slacks for women; dress shoes; dress shirts). See the *Welch College Student Handbook* regarding expectations for graduate students.

Lifestyle Requirements

Welch College students must maintain a distinctively Biblical, Christian lifestyle. See the *Welch College Student Handbook* regarding expectations and policies pertaining to graduate students.

Readmission After Academic Suspension

Following a semester of scholastic suspension, a student must request and complete a readmission packet. This should be returned to the Graduate Office. Upon readmission following academic suspension, a student must show significant academic progress and

achieve at least a 2.5 GPA within the first module of re-enrollment. Failure to achieve this will mean that the student will be ineligible to enroll for additional courses with no appeal being available.

Attendance Regulations

Attendance and punctuality are required at all on-campus classes and students must consistently be actively engaged each week for online discussions and assignments, including online hybrid portions of courses (see course syllabus for specifics regarding each course). All required responses/submissions must be completed in online and hybrid portions of all courses. Online attendance is defined as submission of an academic assignment (such as an examination, written paper or project, discussion board post, or other academic event) or communication with the professor regarding academic content or an assignment. When a student is absent for any reason, he must follow the prescribed procedure for determining whether the absence is excusable or be subject to the required penalties.

If a student stops attending and/or participating in a class for a period of 21 consecutive days or longer, the Registrar or Graduate Program Coordinator will contact him to determine if he intends to continue the class. If no response is received, the class will be declared abandoned. In any event, the grade awarded will be F.

The student alone assumes responsibility for course work missed from non-attendance. Students are fully responsible for all resulting charges on their student account.

Class attendance policies and appeals procedures are found in the *Welch College Student Handbook* which is distributed to each student at the beginning of his/her enrollment.

Withdrawals

The process of withdrawing from a course begins with the Grad Office. Withdrawing from school also begins with the Grad Office.

Before the on-campus intensive, all course withdrawals will show as W on the student's transcript. During or after the on-campus intensive, those withdrawing from a course with a passing grade will be shown as WP, those with a failing grade as WF. Withdrawal from school will be addressed as W.

Specific dates for exams will be noted in graduate course syllabi.

In order to withdraw from the graduate program, the student must obtain a withdrawal form from the Grad Office. The form must be properly filled out and signed by the Graduate Dean or Program Coordinator. Otherwise, the grades for that semester will be F. Any credit or refunds will be based on the date of official written withdrawal from school as received in the Registrar's Office regardless of the date on the withdrawal form. Merely ceasing to attend classes does not constitute official withdrawal.

If a student receives federal student loans and withdraws from a class which results in the number of required hours to drop below the minimum requirement, the student is obligated to pay the balance and may be required to repay any moneys received from the federal student loan.

Students who pre-register must follow the official withdrawal process to avoid being charged for all classes for which they enroll. Withdrawal must take place before the fifth day of classes during normal semesters.

Any student who is out of the graduate program for a semester for any reason must request and complete a readmission packet. This is to be returned to the Graduate Program Coordinator. Students who drop out of their original cohort may have to wait to enroll in remaining courses with a subsequent cohort.

Refund Policy

A student must properly withdraw from the College in order to qualify for any credit or refund. Credit for tuition after a student withdraws from any course is as follows:

First week of a course – 90%

Fourth week of a course – 45%

Second week of a course – 75%

Fifth week of a course – 30%

Third week of a course – 60%

There will be no refund for withdrawals after the fifth week of any course(s).

Repeat Courses

When a student improves a final grade by repeating a course taken at Welch College, honor points and credit will be awarded as though the course had been taken only the second time. Both the initial and the repeated courses must be taken at Welch College. No application is made under this rule for courses taken at other schools or for substitute courses taken at Welch College.

Privacy, Release of Information

Welch College is subject to the provisions of the federal law known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This Act guarantees graduate students access to certain educational records and restricts the College in the area of release and disclosure of those records to third parties. The College releases no information to third parties except as noted below or upon receipt of an original signed request by the student. The College accords all the rights under the law to students who are declared independent.

The Act provides that information may be released to personnel within the institution, to officials of other institutions at which the student wishes to enroll, to persons or organizations providing student financial aid, to accrediting agencies carrying out their function, in compliance with a judicial order, and to persons in an emergency in order to protect the health and safety of students or others.

At its discretion, and as appropriate, Welch College may provide directory information to approved agencies in accordance with the provisions of the Act to include name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, and any other similar information.

Any student who does not wish disclosure of directory information should notify the Registrar in writing, specifying what information he wants withheld. This request will

remain in effect as long as the student is enrolled or until he files a written request to discontinue it.

A copy of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is available in the Registrar's Office. Find additional information at www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco/ferpa/.

Permission for Release of Student Records No release of student records or verification of attendance and grades will be made except as provided above or upon receipt of an original signed request by the student or a fax containing an original signature and upon receipt of appropriate fees. Release forms may be found on the College website, www.welch.edu. These should be forwarded to the attention of the Registrar. Emails and telephone requests will not be honored.

Accreditation and Recognition

Welch College is both regionally and nationally accredited and is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) by virtue of either of these. It is approved by the Tennessee State Department of Education to offer degrees leading to teacher education licensure in grades PreK-12.

Welch College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, and master degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Welch College. (Note: Other than for general inquiries the Commission on Colleges should be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support an institution's significant non-compliance with a requirement or standard.)

The College is also approved by the:

- State of Tennessee, which provides for its students to participate in grants and loans provided by Tennessee;
- Tennessee State Approving Agency for the training of veterans and their eligible dependents; and
- Tennessee State Department of Education for teacher education (graduate of the teacher education programs and with approved majors and degrees may be recommended for professional license to teach in the public schools of Tennessee).

Welch College also maintains membership in a number of organization, including the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, Tennessee College Association, Association of Christian Schools International, Council for Independent Colleges, and Evangelical Training Association.

Report to Students and Prospective Students: Student Consumer Information

1. As required by the Student Right-To-Know Act, colleges must report graduation/completion rates to all enrolled and prospective students:
2. The current graduation/program completion rate for 2014-2015 is 32.78%. This percentage includes non-degree seeking students, such as dual enrollment or off-site, students in special courses, and students who transfer to other institutions, as well as students who enroll but do not complete a program of studies at Welch College.
3. The current retention rate between fall of 2014 and fall of 2015 from the freshman to sophomore years is 69.84%.
4. Further inquiries may be directed to the Registrar.

Graduation Requirements: A Summary

1. Satisfactory Completion of All Courses in Declared Program of Studies

All courses in the student's program of studies must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to be considered for the awarding of the degree. Students with outstanding coursework or incomplete courses will not be approved to participate in Commencement and degrees will not be awarded until all coursework is satisfactorily completed. The College seeks Christian students who are serious about pursuing academic excellence and doing the will of God. Graduates of the College must have developed in good measure the general objectives of the College, which include spiritual, moral, ethical, and attitudinal objectives, in order to satisfactorily complete their program.

2. Submission of a Satisfactory Summative Project/Thesis Approved by the Graduate Faculty.

3. Graduate Faculty Approval/Recommendation

The graduate faculty will make the final determination as to whether or not to recommend the awarding of any degree to any student. All prospective graduates must be approved by the faculty. This decision is made by the faculty near the end of the spring term prior to Commencement. The faculty's recommendation is presented to the President prior to his granting the degree at Commencement.

Note: No candidate will be recommended for any degree or diploma who possesses personal qualities that might render him unacceptable as a Christian leader in his community or that might reflect discredit upon the College were he granted a degree. The College reserves to itself, after careful consideration, the sole and final right to determine this without respect of any curricular requirements.

4. Minimum Degree Hours

All master's degrees require a minimum of 33 hours. No student will be recommended for awarding of any degree prior to satisfactory completion of all required coursework. No student may participate in Commencement unless all coursework is completed and other obligations to the College are met.

5. Transfer Credit and Transfer Transcripts

Students who have taken courses at other properly accredited and approved institutions must request an official transcript from that institution be sent to the Welch College Registrar. The transcript must be received by the Welch College Registrar on or before the deadline for transcripts and grades listed in the Welch College Catalog. Courses for which documentation of satisfactory completion at a CHEA-recognized, accredited institution is not received by the deadline will be considered incomplete and the student will not be able to participate in Commencement exercises.

Students who want to take courses at other institutions to be applied to their Welch College program of studies must have the course(s) and institutions approved in advance. The application of courses not taken in residence to meet degree requirements is subject to the department faculty administering the student's program, and subject to the Registrar's approval.

6. Residency Requirements

At least 27 of 33 hours of a student's graduate program must be completed in residence at Welch College.

7. Minimum GPA

Students must have a minimum 2.5 GPA to continue in the graduate program and to be eligible for graduation.

8. Meeting Financial Obligations to the College

Students with outstanding financial obligations will not be eligible to participate in Commencement exercises. The College strives to work with students who demonstrate good faith efforts in this area but arrangements to meet financial obligations must be made before participation in Commencement is approved.

9. Participation in Commencement Exercises and Issuance of Diplomas

In some instances graduates may not be required to participate in Commencement. Those who choose not to participate in Commencement must provide appropriate evidence supporting a need to be excused and notify the Provost of this in writing at least three weeks before Commencement. The College reserves the right to exclude from Commencement exercises students who have holds on their accounts due to unresolved financial, Student Services matters, or other issues. Diplomas will not be issued to students who have remaining unresolved financial, Student Services, or other issues.

10. Length of Time Necessary to Complete Degree Programs

The College does not guarantee completion of a degree program within a particular time frame. For the most part, graduate degrees can be completed in three years. Personal scheduling of the courses by the student may mean that the student will have to engage in regular academic studies for longer than three years.

Student Resources

Welch Library

The College's Welch Library provides all students with access to services and a total collection of over 100,000 volumes, including the library's general collection, print journals, numerous databases such as JSTOR, ATLA, and the Tennessee Electronic Library, e-books, the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection, curriculum lab, music collection, and other materials. For further information see the library website at <http://WelchCollegelibrary.wordpress.com>. The *Welch Library Handbook* may be accessed through the library website link and through Populi. An inclusive Information Literacy Plan is incorporated throughout all programs of study at Welch College.

The objectives of the Welch Library are:

- (1) to support the curriculum with information and services;
- (2) to provide resources for students' independent learning;
- (3) to provide for some of the research and professional growth of the faculty;
- (4) to equip students for life-long learning.

Graduate students may access all library resources in person at any time when they are on campus and through the Welch.edu website or Populi when not on campus. Materials will be drop-shipped or digitally delivered in a very prompt manner. Students who need assistance or more information about the Welch Library may contact Carol Reid, Librarian, at creid@welch.edu or (615)844-5274

Student Services

Graduate students will have access to all services made available through the College's Student Services Department. These services include counseling and assistance with other health or personal issues affecting their successful matriculation. Student Services also implements student conduct standards and any necessary disciplinary measures for all students. In the event of serious disciplinary issues, including plagiarism, graduate students will be subject to disciplinary standards and procedures presented in the *Welch Student Handbook*, including disciplinary hearings. Students may obtain a digital copy of the *Welch Student Handbook* via the link on Populi.

Peer Mentors

A virtual graduate peer mentor program will be created to mirror the current *Access to Success* peer mentoring program for undergraduates following the graduation of the first MA Theology and Ministry cohort.

Populi

Populi is Welch College's digital student information system. All graduate students will have access to their personal attendance, academic, and financial records through their personalized, secure, digital Populi account. Populi is also the vehicle and platform through which all students will access hybrid and fully online courses in the graduate

program. An orientation to Populi will be provided following the student's first on-campus intensive.

Peer Tutors

A virtual graduate peer tutor program will be created to mirror the current *Access to Success* peer mentoring program for undergraduates following the graduation of the first graduate cohort.

Graduate Faculty Advisor

The graduate program coordinator will assign each graduate student a graduate faculty advisor once admitted. The graduate faculty advisor will personally assist the student throughout his matriculation at Welch College with the goal of providing academic, personal, and spiritual guidance in supporting the student's success. The graduate advisor will serve as a member of the student's thesis or project approval committee and will also be a member of the thesis or project evaluation committee.

Degree Program: Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry

The M.A. in Theology and Ministry is a 33-semester-hour graduate degree that integrates the classical theological disciplines with the study of the practice of Christian ministry. It is designed for college graduates who desire additional education in biblical and theological studies and ministry studies, whether they are or wish to be in ordained Christian ministry or lay ministry.

The program of studies is unique in that it aims at the interdisciplinary study of Christian theology and the practice of Christian ministry. Thus, the classical theological disciplines are studied with a focus on ministry practice, and ministry is studied with a focus on the application of theology.

Curriculum Plan

ICS 6007 Mission and Church Growth
THE 6017 The Arminian Theological Tradition
BIB 6027 Issues in Old Testament Studies
MIN 6037 Discovering and Communicating Biblical Truth
THE 6047 Church and Culture
MIN 6057 Ministry and Leadership I
BIB 6067 Issues in New Testament Studies
MIN 6077 Ministry and Leadership II
THE 6087 Theological Foundations (Fully online course)
THE 6097 The History of Doctrine (Fully online course)
MIN/THE 6107 Summative Experience (15-30 week project)
Digital Orientation
MIN/THE Summative Experience Orientation

Course Descriptions

Digital Orientation

Prepares the student to properly utilize Populi and other digital media integral to hybrid and online courses in the MA Theology and Ministry degree program. Also includes orientation to the library, library services, and information literacy instruction. Student must complete this orientation prior to enrolling in additional courses.

MIN/THE 5097 Research Project in Theological and Ministry Studies

A guided research project in theological and/or ministry studies on the graduate level for regular students admitted to the graduate program or special students holding an undergraduate degree by approval of the Dean of the School of Theology. To be supervised by an appropriate, regular member of the graduate faculty within the School of Theology. The course will require substantive, graduate-level research and presentation of findings. Regular meetings with faculty and, where applicable, with other students in the course for sharing and exchanging ideas should be expected. This course may be repeated for a significant extension of the original study or for a separate study. One to three hours, offered as approved and upon demand.

MIN 6007 Mission and Church Growth

This course surveys the church's missional identity in areas such as church health, growth, and planting; biblical strategies for evangelism; and cross-cultural and global outreach. It emphasizes God's global purpose and activity in providing redemption to all the nations as revealed in canonical Scripture and covers missiological principles, trends, and challenges as they impact the pastor and local church.

The formation and evaluation of a healthy congregational culture are considered, with emphasis on shaping identity, mission, and spiritual formation within a local setting conducive to maintaining a vibrant church. Also included is a study of biblical strategies in evangelism focusing on Jesus' relational methods, a Pauline model of church planting, and other current issues.

Mission and Church Growth also examines church growth theory and practice. Contemporary models for growing healthy, reproducing churches are examined. Focus is also given to the recruitment and training of leaders as well as to principles for urban ministry.

THE 6017 The Arminian Theological Tradition

This course will be an historical and theological study of the development of the distinctive thought and principles of the Reformed or Reformation Arminian tradition of Free Will Baptists. Included will be a detailed exposition of the soteriology of the works of Jacobus Arminius and his modern heirs. The theological tradition of this system of

thought will be traced through early Free Will Baptists in Europe and America before culminating in the modern Free Will Baptist movement. Consideration will be given throughout to a historical understanding of Arminian contributions in light of the theological environment of the time. Thus, the student can expect an emphasis on interacting with the Reformed and Wesleyan Arminian traditions as well as the latest and best Calvinist scholarship.

The student will read primary sources in translation of Arminius and other early Arminian theologians. Although not a strictly confessional group, Free Will Baptists have produced many important statements of faith that will be addressed in this course as well. More modern Free Will Baptist theologians, such as Leroy Forlines and Robert Picirilli, will also be examined as they relate to the Arminian theological tradition broadly construed and to the ongoing soteriological debate with modern Calvinism.

BIB 6027 Issues in Old Testament Studies

This course offers a graduate level analytical summary of theological and critical issues related to the study of the Old Testament. One of its components involves a biblical theological perspective of the Old Testament storyline, examining the progressive development of redemptive history from Creation and the fall, through the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants, the monarchy and Davidic covenant, to kingdom and Messianic oracles in the prophets surrounding the exile and return. Within the context of this development key contributing themes in the Old Testament text are analyzed, including Creation, the fall, kingdom, covenant, redemption, worship, law, wisdom, prophecy, and Messiah.

A second component discusses in summary fashion Old Testament criticism and investigates key problems related to interpreting the Hebrew Bible such as textual criticism, introduction and higher criticism, historicity and historical issues, moral and ethical problems, the New Testament's use of the Old, and the contributions of archaeology to Old Testament scholarship.

Finally, the course includes discussion of how the Old Testament contributes to a Christian worldview, its relationship to believers today, and principles for preaching and teaching the Old Testament.

MIN 6037 Discovering and Communicating Biblical Truth

This two-pronged course seeks to develop the practice of sound biblical exegesis and its communication in various Christian settings. The class will take a biblical theology approach to Scripture focusing on the Bible's redemptive "storyline" as it unfolds progressively throughout the Old and New Testaments and how the entire canon contributes to this theme. Special attention will be given to principles of exegesis that take into account historical, cultural, and literary elements of Scripture. Tools for working with the original languages and analyzing Biblical genres will be developed. The course will also make use of a laboratory approach in developing written and oral

communication skills. While not a homiletics course per se, the course seeks to promote a framework for the proclamation of Biblical genres that often go under-utilized in contemporary preaching. The student should expect to learn how to move “from text to sermon” in effectively communicating the truth of the Bible and applying it to meet modern needs in a way that is culturally relevant and socially engaged.

The student will read and study selections from gifted preachers and teachers throughout church history. He or she will gain intellectual awareness of principles important for sound exegesis of all types of Biblical revelation. He or she will put these tools into practice by writing, presenting, and critiquing their own lessons and those of others.

THE 6047 Church and Culture

A thoroughgoing engagement with Christian worldview and culture, with an emphasis on the interaction of biblical-Christian thought with the intellectual and cultural dimensions of the Christian tradition and with application to ecclesial, familial, spiritual, and “everyday” concerns.

This course will seek to answer questions such as the following: What is the relationship of the church and its mission (the body as well as the individual believer) to culture and its products? How does culture affect the church’s ability to engage in faithful discipleship and worship, and what should its response be? Thus, the course will deal with major issues such as the relation of the Christian faith to public ethics, political and economic thought and practice, war and peace, arts and entertainment, work and leisure, science and technology, and the formation or creation of culture and cultural products that exemplify Christian virtue and foster family discipleship.

MIN 6057 Ministry and Leadership I

The first semester will establish a theology of leadership and ministry grounded in New Testament and Free Church ecclesiology. The course will tie theory to practice in helping the student understand principles for applying pastoral theology and biblically grounded leadership theory to the practice of Christian ministry. This course will also emphasize the leader’s personal life and its connection to ministry practice, with special emphasis on spiritual formation and family relationships.

BIB 6067 Issues in New Testament Studies

This course involves a graduate level analytical summary of theological and critical issues related to the study of the New Testament. It traces the New Testament storyline as fulfillment of Old Testament promise from the inauguration of the Kingdom of God in the life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, who is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament; through the birth, expansion, and definition of the first century church as portrayed in the epistolary literature; to the consummation of the Kingdom envisioned in Revelation.

Issues in New Testament Study examines pivotal subjects prominent in New Testament canonical and theological discussion, including: text and canonicity in light of the Apocrypha and Gnostic gospels; Third Quest, the Jesus Seminar, resurrection, and other questions involving Jesus studies; Pauline theology and themes, including law, grace, justification, atonement, covenant, and salvation highlighted in connection with the New Perspective on Paul; advanced critical issues in Gospel and Synoptic studies; recent archaeological discoveries and their bearing on early Christianity; interpretation of the parables; New Testament eschatology; conceptions of the Trinity in recent New Testament studies; ecclesiological issues in the Pastoral Epistles; and the nature, history, and interpretation of Luke-Acts. The student will read significant works in New Testament theological method.

MIN 6077 Ministry and Leadership II

The second semester will emphasize the practice of Christian ministry, building on the theological and spiritual foundations laid in the first course. Special attention will be paid to practical leadership strategies within the context of the church's mission; contemporary trends and issues in local church ministry; professional issues church leaders face; and the regular duties and practices of Christian ministers, with an emphasis on worship, family discipleship, and pastoral care.

THE 6087 Theological Foundations

This course is a Biblical and philosophical study of Christianity taught from a Reformed or Reformation Arminian perspective. It seeks to answer the question of why Christianity is rational in the current, postmodern context. This course seeks to lay the theoretical groundwork for the later application of theological critique toward the assessment of trends, issues, and ethical concerns in secular culture; and current movements and trajectories within the broader evangelical church.

Christianity will be presented and defended as providing the most complete answers to life's inescapable questions. The course begins with a basic discussion of worldview development concentrating on issues of general and special revelation. It will provide rational and existential arguments for Christianity in the context of a critique of other worldview systems. Students will be exposed to the importance of epistemology in reference to postmodern concepts of truth and attention will be given to broad theological themes such as creation, fall, redemption, and consummation with the goal of developing a holistic Christian worldview.

THE 6097 History of Doctrine

This course will be an historical and theological study of the development of the central doctrines of the Christian faith including: theology proper, trinity, Christology, soteriology, and ecclesiology. It will survey the intellectual heritage of evangelical theology, with an emphasis on the streams from Christian history that have flowed into evangelicalism, focusing especially on the Christian orthodoxy of the first five centuries

which provided the essential background of Protestant orthodoxy, the earliest Christian ecclesiology which helped fuel the free church wing of the Reformation, and the impact of the Protestant Reformation and Post-Reformation periods on evangelical theology.

The student should expect to read primary sources in translation by key figures in Christian history. Key figures, movements, and institutions from Church history will be studied for their contribution to the conceptualization and actualization of Christianity in their own environment. Confident that the Holy Spirit has been at work among His people throughout time, this course will seek to examine what lessons (theological, spiritual, moral and cultural) the Church of today can glean for contemporary theology and ministry.

MIN/THE Summative Experience Orientation

Prepares the student to submit a project or thesis proposal. Required prior to submission of proposals to the student's graduate committee.

MIN/THE 6107 Summative Experience

Three of the 33 hours required for completion of the MA Theology and Ministry program will involve research, preparation, and presentation of an appropriate summative project. This project may take either of two forms, as selected by the student in consultation with a graduate faculty advisor: (1) a traditional thesis analyzing a topic chosen by the student and supervised by the graduate faculty. This project should demonstrate original research and a level of mastery of the specific thesis involved. Students considering further graduate education should likely opt for this approach; or (2) a capstone project involving research, preparation, and implementation of an approved ministry-related proposal. Prerequisite: MAT Summative Experience Orientation.

Personnel



Kevin L. Hester, Ph.D., Church History and Theology; Dean, School of Theology & faculty
B.A., Welch College, 1993
M.Div., Covenant Theological Seminary, 1997
Ph.D., Saint Louis University, 2002
Adjunct Faculty, Saint Louis University, 2002
Teaching Consultant, Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence, Saint Louis University, 2000-2001
Faculty, Welch College, 2003 –
Chairman, Department of Theological Studies 2011-



Jeffrey L. Cockrell, Ph.D., Theology (New Testament); Graduate Program Coordinator & graduate faculty
B.S., Liberty University, 1992
M.A.R., Liberty University, 1998
M.A.N.T., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 2005
Ph.D. University of Wales, 2010
Pastor, Free Will Baptist Churches, 1986–2015
Adjunct Faculty, Williamsburg Technical College, 2010-2011
Adjunct Faculty, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 2012-2014
Adjunct Faculty, Azusa Pacific University, 2012-2015
Adjunct Faculty, School of Divinity, Liberty University, 2010-2015
Adjunct Faculty, North Carolina Wesleyan College, 2014-2015
Online Instructor, Welch College, 2008–2015
Faculty, Welch College, 2016-



Andrew Ball, Ph.D., Philosophy; Adjunct graduate faculty
B.A., University of Detroit Mercy, 2006
M.A., University of Windsor, 2011
Ph.D., University of Alberta, 2015
M.Div., (in progress) Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
Graduate Research Fellowship, Centre for Research in Reasoning, Argumentation and Rhetoric, University of Windsor, 2011
Adjunct Professor, University of Detroit Mercy, 2011
Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Alberta, 2011-2013
Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, University of Alberta, 2013-2014
Instructor in Philosophy, the King's College, 2014



Ron Callaway, D. Min., Missiology; Graduate faculty
B.A., Welch College, 1975
M.Div., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1997
D. Min., Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, 2014
Missionary, Free Will Baptist International Missions, (Spain,
Panama, Cuba) 1976-2003
Faculty, Welch College, 2003-



Matthew McAfee, Ph.D., Old Testament; Graduate faculty
B.A., Welch College, 1997
M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2002
M.A., University of Chicago, 2007
Ph.D., University of Chicago, 2015
Interim Pastor, Free Will Baptist Church, 1997-1998, 2003-2006
Part-time Faculty, Welch College, 2003-2009
Faculty, Welch College, 2010-



J. Matthew Pinson, Ed.D., Educational Leadership; President and
graduate faculty
Welch College, 1985-1986, 1988-1989
B.A., University of West Florida, 1990
M.A., University of West Florida, 1993
M.A.R., Yale University, 2007
Ed.D., Vanderbilt University, 2007
Doctoral Studies, Florida State University
Adjunct Faculty, Bainbridge College, 1996-2002
Pastor, Free Will Baptist Churches, 1990-1992, 1994-2002
President, Welch College, 2002-



Barry Raper, D. Min., Pastoral Ministry; Graduate faculty
B.A., Welch College, 1999
M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2002
D.Min., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2012
Recruitment, Welch College, 1999
Youth Pastor and Associate Pastor, 2002-2003
Pastor, Free Will Baptist Churches, 2003-present
Adjunct Faculty, Welch College, 2005
Faculty, Welch College, 2006-

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