



WELCH
— COLLEGE —

MASTER OF ARTS

IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Classical Theology. Practical Ministry.

Academic Catalog

1045 Bison Trail
Gallatin, TN 37066
welch.edu

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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.

From the President and Dean

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

Calendar

**2022-2023
Fall 2022**

Fall A		
Course	Format	Professors
August 22-October 15		
BIB 5067 Issues in New Testament Studies	Hybrid: Thursday Lectures (6:00-9:00 pm CST)	Sheldon
MIN 5077 Ministry & Leadership II	Hybrid: Tuesday Lectures (6:00-9:00 pm CST)	Raper & Pinson

Fall B		
October 17-December 17 (Observing Thanksgiving Break)		
THE 5087 Theological Foundations	Hybrid: Thursday Lectures (6:00-9:00 pm CST)	Bracey
THE 5095 History of Doctrine	Hybrid: Tuesday Lectures (6:00-9:00 pm CST)	Hester
THE 5100 Research Methodology	Online	Owens

Spring 2023

SPRING A		
COURSE	FORMAT	PROFESSORS
January 2-February 25		
BIB5027 Issues in Old Testament Studies	Hybrid-Online Tuesday lectures 6-9 PM, CST	McAfee
ICS5007 Mission and Church Growth	Hybrid-Online Thursday lectures 6-9 PM, CST	Raper/Callaway
SPRING B		
COURSE	FORMAT	PROFESSORS
March 6-May 6 (observing holiday)		
THE5017 The Arminian Theological Tradition	Hybrid-Online Thursday lectures 6-9 PM, CST	Hester/Pinson

MIN5037 Discovering and Communicating Biblical Truth	Hybrid-Online Tuesday lectures 6-9 PM, CST	Owens
THE5100 Research Methodology	Online	Owens
SUMMER		
COURSE	FORMAT	PROFESSORS
May 8-July 15 (observing July 4 holiday)		
THE5047 Church and Culture	Online Thursday lectures 6-9 PM, CST	Bracey
MIN5057 Ministry and Leadership I	Online Tuesday lectures 6-9 PM, CST	Raper/Pinson
2023 FALL A		
COURSE	FORMAT	PROFESSORS
August 14-October 7		
BIB5067 Issues in New Testament Studies	Hybrid-Online Thursday lectures 6-9 PM, CST	Sheldon
MIN5077 Ministry and Leadership I	Hybrid-Online Tuesday lectures 6-9, CST	Raper/Pinson
2023 FALL B		
COURSE	FORMAT	PROFESSORS
October 16-December 16 (observing Thanksgiving break)		
THE5087 Theological Foundations	Hybrid-Online Thursday lectures 6-9, CST	Bracey
THE5095 History of Doctrine	Hybrid-Online Tuesday lectures 6-9, CST	Hester
THE5100 Research Methodology	Online	Owens

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's graduate program in theology and ministry 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.

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 effectively relevant way.
- Mastery and implementation of a biblical philosophy of church and pastoral leadership as applied to: (a) the leader's 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 Reformed 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 outlined 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 an acknowledgment of genuine Christian conversion 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 or she repents of his or her 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 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 (See the Welch College Graduate Student Handbook). 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. Colleges and Universities are considered accredited when they hold accredited status with an accreditor recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The Graduate Admissions Committee may consider provisional enrollment for applicants with bachelor's degrees from non-accredited colleges and universities.*

Writing Sample—A 500-700 word essay on the topic, "My Approach to a Theology of Ministry" is required. Essays should be written in a standardized academic format (essays that fail to meet this requirement will not pass inspection, please check with the graduate faculty in advance for questions related to essay formatting). 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 Content Exam— Candidates must take the Association for Biblical Higher Education Bible Content Exam and obtain a minimum score commensurate with the average exit score of four-year undergraduate Theological Studies majors from Welch College. Candidates who do not achieve the expected score on the Bible Content Exam may be required to pass an online course for review upon the discretion of the Graduate Admissions Committee.*

*The Graduate Admissions Committee may grant provisional enrollment. Provisional enrollment cannot extend beyond 12 credit hours. Upon completion of 12 credit hours of coursework 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 will 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 the full admission of students who are provisionally enrolled.)

Early Enrollment Students

High-performing undergraduate students who wish to take courses in the MATM program before completing his or her undergraduate program may be provisionally admitted to the MATM program. Such students must meet all admission requirements for the program with the exception of an undergraduate degree. Early enrollment students will only be

admitted during the final year of undergraduate coursework and can take no more than 12 credit hours prior to completion of an undergraduate degree.

Transient Students

Some students may wish to only take a course or courses while not wishing to undertake the entire program of study. Such students may be admitted as Transient Students. They will file an abbreviated Application for Admission but are subject to all the entrance requirements listed above. Any Transient Student wishing to take more than 12 credit-hours must apply for full admission to the program.

Application Procedure

1. Complete the Application for Admission. As part of the completed application, the students must submit a written essay and provide a personal testimony of his or her 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 a signed statement of faith and acknowledgment of Christian conversion.

The following additional items must be submitted:

1. ABHE Bible Test
2. Official, final college transcript,
3. Health Record Form (if students will be on campus),
4. Medical Authorization Form (if students will be on campus), and
5. Complete a 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 is composed of the graduate program coordinator, the graduate dean or provost, and another member of the graduate faculty. The graduate program coordinator 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 Program Coordinator will chair the graduate admissions committee for the MA Theology and Ministry.

Transfer Credit

Transfer credit for courses taken 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). If 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 an 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 12 attempted credit hours at Welch College with at least a 2.67 GPA (Courses from unaccredited, nonresidential programs will not be recognized.) No more than 6 credit hours are transferable.
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 6 credit hours of a graduate degree program can be earned other than in residence at Welch College without proper approval. Any portion of those 6 credit-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. Also, an advance deposit of \$1,000 USD is held in escrow for the total period of enrollment. The deposit must be received before 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 their 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 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 Officers, we do not engage in the 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 applicant to contact the group he or she 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 Welch College's Registrar from the evaluating agency. The student should, under no circumstances, hand-deliver these to the institution since this would compromise the integrity of the documents.

Failure to complete admission requirements or unresolved issues with the Business Office may result in the 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-admitted 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 a disciplinary suspension.
5. Re-enrollees may be required to meet any changes in the program or 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 the Veterans Administration has settled expenses. An applicant should obtain an application for benefits from a local VA office, Welch College, or the official governmental website, complete it and mail it in 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.

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 the 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 19).

Tuition

\$450 per credit hour

*Tuition payments are due by the first day of each term.

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 who have a 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 3.25 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 ministers, full-time missionaries or full-time Free Will Baptist denominational workers. 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 course registration on the days designated for this purpose. Admission to classes 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 must withdraw from any class prior to the first class day in order to avoid any financial penalty (See "Withdrawals" and "Refund Policies" below).

Grading System

Grade, with explanation

Quality points per hour

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	o
X—Audit	o
I—Incomplete	o

If a student withdraws from a course while passing or failing, but before the fourth week of the course, a grade of “W” will be given. If a student withdraws from a course while passing after the fourth week of the course a grade of “WP” will be assigned. If a student withdraws from a course while failing after the fourth week of the course, 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 course 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.

Notification of Grades

Grades are available via Welch College’s student information management system (Populi) 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 student information management system. Transcripts and degree audits are available to advisors before the beginning of each semester, and all students must obtain his or her advisor’s written permission to register, change a schedule, or change his or 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) if requested. 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 the student information management system 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 provided 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 Dean of the School of Theology.

Appeals Regarding Grades

Students may register an appeal regarding any grade(s). This should be done in writing and addressed to the Dean of the School of Theology. To be processed, the appeal must be received within 10 days after the last day of the semester during which the class was taught. The Graduate Dean, faculty-member-of-record, and Graduate Program Coordinator will form the appeals committee. The student may appear before the committee at his or her desire or 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 before 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 may register for additional semester hours without written permission of the Dean of the School of Theology. Students whose graduate GPA falls below 2.5 will be placed on probation and they must improve the GPA within one semester to continue in the graduate program. Failure to improve the GPA will result in academic suspension.

Appeals of Suspension

Students may register an appeal regarding academic ineligibility. This should be done in writing and addressed to the Dean of the School of Theology within 10 days after the end of the course that contributed to the suspension. A student may only appeal a decision of academic suspension once.

Graduate Degree Program Length

The Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry requires 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 requires 8 weekly, in-class sessions (24-hours) and 24 hours of reflection, reading, assignments, threaded discussions, and class/course research and/or project(s).

Time Limits for Degree Completion

The Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry has a maximum time limit of 5 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 neatly, professionally, and 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 Graduate Student Handbook](#) regarding expectations for graduate students.

Lifestyle Requirements

Welch College students must maintain a distinctively Biblical-Christian lifestyle. See the [Welch College Graduate Student Handbook](#) regarding expectations and policies pertaining to graduate students.

Readmission After Academic Suspension

Following a semester of academic 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 (or virtual) 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 the submission of an academic assignment (such as an examination, written paper or project, discussion board post, or other academic events) or communication with the professor regarding the academic content or an assignment. When a student is absent for any reason, he or she 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 21 consecutive days or longer, the Graduate Program Coordinator will contact him or her to determine if he or she 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 Graduate Student Handbook](#) that is distributed to each student at the beginning of his/her enrollment.

Withdrawals

The process of withdrawing from a course begins with the Graduate Office. Withdrawing from school also begins with the Graduate Office. Before the fourth week of the course, all course withdrawals will show as “W” on the student’s transcript. During or after the fourth week of the course, 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. To withdraw from the graduate program, the student must obtain a withdrawal form from the MATM Graduate Office. The form must be properly filled out and signed by the MATM 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 officially written withdrawal from the course or school as received in the Graduate 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 sums of money 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 second day of the course in order to receive a full refund of any tuition paid. Any student who is out of the graduate program for twelve months for any reason must request and complete a readmission packet. This is to be returned to the MATM 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 or course to qualify for any credit or refund. Refunds for tuition after a student withdraws from any course are as follows:

Prior to day one – 100%	Days twelve through fifteen – 60%
Days one through four – 90%	Days sixteen through eighteen – 50%
Days five through seven – 80%	Days nineteen or after – 0%
Days eight through eleven – 70%	

There will be no refund for withdrawals after the eighteenth day 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 honor points or grade substitutions will be made 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 or she wants to be withheld. This request will remain in effect as long as the student is enrolled or until he or she 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 fax, containing an original signature and upon receipt of appropriate fees. Release forms may be found on the College website, <http://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.)

Welch College is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education](#) to grant degrees at the Associate, Bachelors, and Masters levels. Contact the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education at 5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 130, Orlando Florida 37822 or call 407-207-0808 for questions about the accreditation of Welch College.

ABHE is the accrediting agency approved by CHEA to accredit degree-granting Bible colleges in the United States and in Canada.

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 (graduates of the teacher education programs, with approved majors and degrees, may be

recommended for a professional license to teach in the public schools of Tennessee).

Welch College also maintains membership in several organizations, including the [Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association](#), Tennessee College Association, [Association of Christian Schools International](#), [Council for Independent Colleges](#), and [Evangelical Training Association](#).

All Welch College accreditation information is available on the college website: <https://welch.edu/about/accreditation/>.

Report to Students and Prospective Students: Student Consumer Information

As required by the Student Right-To-Know Act, colleges must report graduation/completion rates to all enrolled and prospective students

Welch College publishes up-to-date data for Consumer Information including graduation/completion rates and employment statistics on its website: <https://welch.edu/about/consumer-information-disclosure/>.

NC-SARA

Welch College is a member of [NC-SARA](#) as an added security measure for its students not residing in the state of Tennessee. The required NC-SARA disclosures may be found on the college website: <https://welch.edu/about/consumer-information-disclosure/>.

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 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, to satisfactorily complete their program.

2. Submission of a Satisfactory Summative Project/Thesis Approved by the Graduate Faculty (Thesis Track), or an additional three-hour Summative Practical Course (Ministry Track).

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. The faculty must approve all prospective graduates. This decision is made by the faculty near the end of the spring term before Commencement. The faculty's recommendation is presented to the President before 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 or her unacceptable as a Christian leader in his or her community or that might reflect discredibly upon the College, were he or she 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 before 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 Graduate Office on or before the last day for course enrollment. 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 credit 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 <https://welchlibrary.wordpress.com/>. The *Welch Library Handbook* may be accessed through the library website link and 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 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 Christa Thornsby, Librarian, at chill@welch.edu or (615) 675-5290.

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.

Populi

[Populi](#) is Welch College's digital student information system. All graduate students will have access to their 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 early on, as part of the student's program.

Peer Tutors

A virtual graduate peer tutor program is available to students by request. Contact the Graduate Office with questions or to request a tutor.

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 or her matriculation at Welch College to provide 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 professional or lay Christian 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.

One Program, Two Tracks

The Welch M. A. is intended to be academically rigorous but ministry-oriented. We recognize that the needs of students and their interests are diverse. Therefore, the Welch M. A. has two tracks: a ministry track and a thesis track. The two tracks share a thirty-hour core curriculum.

The Ministry Track: The final three hours of the ministry track provide the student with an opportunity to select an advanced course in either leadership or applied theology.

The Thesis Track: The final three hours of the thesis track are dedicated to researching and writing an academic thesis. While all qualifying students may pursue the thesis option, those students who desire to do further education beyond Welch College's M. A. are strongly encouraged to pursue the thesis track.

Core Curriculum (30 hours)

MATM 4100 Digital Orientation

ICS 5007 Mission and Church Growth

THE 5017 The Arminian Theological Tradition

BIB 5027 Issues in Old Testament Studies

MIN 5037 Discovering and Communicating Biblical Truth

THE 5047 Church and Culture

MIN 5057 Ministry and Leadership I

BIB 5067 Issues in New Testament Studies

MIN 5077 Ministry and Leadership II

THE 5087 Theological Foundations

THE 5095 The History of Doctrine

Ministry Track (3 hours, select one of the following)

THE 6117 Advanced Seminar in Baptist Ecclesiology

LDR 6017 Advanced Seminar in Leadership

Thesis Track (3 hours)

THE 5100 Research Methodology

MIN/THE 5107 Summative Experience*

MIN/THE 5207 Summative Experience Continuation (1 hour as needed)**

*MIN/THE 5107 runs for six months twice a year (January-June and July-December). If a student enrolls in the Spring course and desires to walk in the May graduation, the student will have approximately 15 weeks to complete their summative project or thesis. Otherwise, the student has six months to complete the project or thesis. Should the project or thesis extend beyond the end of the course, the student will need to enroll in MIN/THE 5207 Summative Experience Continuation.

**Students who do not complete the Summative Experience course within the six month window must enroll in the Summative Experience Continuation course each semester until completion of the project or withdrawal from the program.

Course Descriptions

MATM 4100 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. The student must complete this orientation before enrolling in additional courses, unless granted special permission by the Director of the MATM program.

MIN/THE 5097 Research Project in Theological and Ministry Studies

This is 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. The project is 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 a separate study. This course is one to three hours and is offered only as approved, upon demand.

ICS 5007 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 also examined. The focus is also given to the recruitment and training of leaders as well as to principles for urban ministry.

THE 5017 The Arminian Theological Tradition

This course will be a 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 translations 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 5027 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 the 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 5037 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 the sound exegesis of all types of Biblical revelation. He or she will put these tools into practice by writing, presenting, and critiquing their lessons and those of others.

THE 5047 Church and Culture

This course strives to be a thoroughgoing engagement with the 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 5057 Ministry and Leadership I

The first semester will establish a theology of leadership and ministry grounded in the 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 5067 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 5077 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 5087 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 comprehensive 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 to develop a holistic Christian worldview.

THE 5095 History of Doctrine

This course will be a 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 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.

THE 5100 Research Methodology

This course prepares the student to submit a project or thesis proposal. It is required before submission of proposals to the graduate committee. This course is designed to give students a good introduction to the academic research and writing skills needed to succeed in the completion of their summative project. The course will instruct students on graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, proper use of outside sources, the citation of sources, avoiding plagiarism, and the usage of style manuals. The emphasis of this course is to guide students in developing and submitting their summative project/thesis proposals.

MIN/THE 5107 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:* THE 5100 Research Methodology. The course runs for six months twice a year (January-June and July-December). If a student enrolls in the Spring course and desires to walk in the May graduation, the student will have approximately 15 weeks to complete their summative project or thesis. Otherwise, the student has six months to complete the project or thesis. Should the project or thesis extend beyond the end of the course, the student will need to enroll in MIN/THE 5109 Summative Experience Continuation.

MIN/THE 5207 Summative Experience Continuation (1 hour as needed)*

When needed, this course serves as a continuation of MIN/THE 5107 in which a student will complete his or her thesis or project under the direction of a faculty member.

Students must maintain enrollment in this course after completing MIN/THE 5107 until successful completion of the thesis or project or withdraw from the program.

*Students who do not complete the Summative Experience course within the six-month window must enroll in the Summative Experience Continuation course each semester until completion of the project or withdrawal from the program.

THE 6117 Advanced Seminar in Baptist Ecclesiology

An advanced reading seminar aimed at an evaluation of contemporary perspectives on the church, its historical context, and its traditions. Readings will assess different definitions of the Church and different philosophical and historical approaches to ministry according to a biblical and historical framework. Emphasis will be placed on the student's development of a balanced synthesis of historical tradition and modern church praxis. Application of this synthesis will be made to specific ministry contexts. Readings will give special attention to Baptist authors from the seventeenth-century to the present.

LDR 6017 Advanced Seminar in Leadership

An advanced readings seminar in leadership aimed at fostering continued assessment of Christian leadership strategies at a more advanced level. Students will learn to implement sound management principles and discover ways to refine their leadership skills. Special emphasis will be given to leadership presence, time management, strategy, execution, and the distinction between leadership in corporate and social-sector, particularly ecclesial contexts. The course will seek to form outstanding leaders who are strong in self-management and transformative organizational leadership.

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-



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-



Jesse Owens, Ph.D., Historical Theology; Program Coordinator;
Assistant Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology
B.A., Welch College, 2017
M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2013
Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2021
Pastor, First FWB Church, Louisville, KY, 2014-2016
Pastor, Immanuel FWB Church, Gallatin, TN, 2016-present



Martin E. Sheldon, Ph.D., Director of Administration, Welch
Divinity School
B.A., Welch College, 1987
M.Div., Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, 1993
Th.M., Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, 1998
Ph.D., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2012
Christian Ministry, 1976--Present
Christian Higher Education, 2003--Present
Adjunct Faculty, Welch College and Divinity School, 2021--Present

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