

Fulfilling Jesus' Mission

Establishing an Classic* Christian Educational Center
based in New York City



NEW YORK DIVINITY SCHOOL In Times Square



2004-2005 CATALOG

We have the Master's ministry training for you.

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* "Classic" Christianity is based upon the trustworthy authority of the Bible for questions of belief and behavior.

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Students in Evangelical Communities

The New York Divinity School is devoted to serving especially the large, multi-ethnic, multi-denominational, evangelical communities of the greater New York metropolitan area. “*Evangelicals*” are defined here as people who hold to *the Classic Christian perspective* of the Bible as the final authority for behavior and belief, and who believe Jesus literally arose from death after having been crucified for us. These are two elemental Christian affirmations throughout the Church’s history.

Since a large number of potential New York City ministry students are from the lower strata of social-economic experience, the proposed seminary will strive to keep its education affordable. Efficient operation and the *continued generous support* of Churches, donors, and foundations will make this possible.

Offering seminary training in Times Square makes this training *accessible and affordable* in the category of both travel costs and commuting time as well. Scholarship fund drives will encourage local Churches and individuals to sponsor scholarships for students from their Churches or communities.

The Seminary’s Mission Statement

The mission statement of the New York Divinity School was selected by a multi-ethnic, multi-denominational team of fifty (50) pastors who met monthly for 3-hour meetings of prayer, discussion and lunch in 1997. They were drawn together by the idea of a City-based seminary that was also Christ-centered, Bible-based, and Spirit-led.

The tone was set by the first comment at the very first meeting. Rev. V. Simpson Turner from Brooklyn, a seasoned African-American Baptist pastor, said, “This new seminary project must be evangelical in *behavior*—and belief.” Gospel excellence must define the policies and practices of the program, with respect to justice and love in individual life and society.

To embody this commitment to excellent ministry training for Godly behavior and belief, the fifty ministers selected a literal statement of the last command of Jesus Christ—called the “Great Commission” by Christians—as the very *mission statement* for the new seminary project, and the mission statement of the funding instrument they developed: the New York Evangelical Seminary Fund, Inc. The words of the Great Commission are in fact the very last words of the Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 28:19, 20):

*As you are going,
Disciple all ethnic people
Baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,*

*And teaching them to be vigilant concerning all that I commanded.
Look, I am with you every day until the end of the age.*

This Great Commission of Jesus was selected as the mission statement by the pastors because it clearly emphasizes Bible-based education in three important ways. The fifty pastors selected it because (1) its main focus is *holistic* education (discipleship), (2) its core method is teaching God's Word, and (3) it is a direct command from the greatest Teacher.

First, the word "*disciple*" is actually the *only verb* in the main sentence of this famous command of Jesus. The participles—'*going*,' '*baptizing*,' '*teaching*'—help describe some of the context and results of discipling, but the central responsibility of Jesus' disciples then and now is to disciple others, to be a model teacher to others as Jesus had been to the Apostles and other disciples 2000 years ago, and to all his "disciples" now.

The verb "disciple" connotes holistic education: engaging personal discipline, conceptual knowledge, heart commitment, and behavioral focus. The teacher models the special commitment, conduct, consciousness and character that need to be learned by the Apostles' pupils, the next generation of disciples, and generations of disciples after them. Jesus continues to remain the model teacher who demonstrates in his life what he taught with such cogent authority and consistency. Classic Christianity—Christianity committed to the final authority of the Bible—is committed to this holistic education. Jesus' Great Commission has been used to motivate evangelism, but evangelism and preaching are partial aspects of the holistic training mentioned here.

Second, other than "*going*" to other people and "*baptizing*" them, the rest of Jesus' Great Commission to "disciple all ethnic peoples" is about "*teaching*" people to be vigilant concerning all that Jesus commanded. Most modern translations of this text say that people are to be taught to "obey" Jesus' commands, but Jesus' own words are much stronger. People can obey Him out of habit, peer pressure, or culture—but Jesus wants his followers to be alert, attentive, intentional, self-aware in following His commands.

There is also what logicians label a 'strange-loop' here, because the command to be vigilant concerning all Jesus' commands includes being *vigilant also concerning this last command, the Great Commission*. Christ-centered behavioral vigilance is self-reinforcing. In this a way, the NYDS mission statement also fortifies itself.

Third, the Great Commission comes at the end of the Gospel According to Matthew, a book that itself was written as a teaching device, giving focus to the life and teachings of Jesus, the greatest Teacher of all. In fact, the purpose of the whole Bible is to give wise instruction to the readers. Committed to Classic Christianity, we are "people of the Book." The fifty pastors selected a text of scripture as the mission statement because their commitment was to see the teachings of the Bible taught effectively—to pastors and lay leaders, and consequently also to generations of Church members

benefiting from this lay and pastoral leadership—including the teaching of this command of Jesus which instructs us to teach.

Over the centuries, the forms of ministry teaching have varied widely. The Apostles themselves spent three years being disciplined by Jesus Himself, for example. In other times monasteries have taken in young potential pastors to train them. For many American pastors, the standard has been to go away from familiar surroundings for three academic years to a secluded, splendid, residential seminary campus. That model does not generally work very well for lay leaders and present and future pastors in New York City who cannot afford the time or expense of three years away at a residential campus many miles from the City. Since there presently is no seminary committed to Classic Christian belief and based in the City, the plan instead is to fulfill the Great Commission through an excellent *Bible-based, Christ-centered, Spirit-led, commuter seminary* program at the very cross-roads of the world—Times Square.

The Seminary's Five Distinctives

The fifty founding pastors also crafted a document of Five Distinctives that they saw as necessary for a City-based seminary, with a Great Commission mission, and devoted to Classic Christian behavior and belief. Each of the five distinctives embodies also a pointed instruction from the Apostle Paul *to Timothy*, one of his ministry students.

The fifty pastors were convinced that no other City-based seminary satisfied these five distinctives needed for obeying the Great Commission in New York City at this time.

- ⇒ **Devoted to Biblical standards of justice, love, accountability, holiness and righteousness.** In individual, social, and structural issues, Biblical teaching is upheld, taught and exemplified, including God's standards of racial and ethnic justice, economic engagement and fairness, care for the poor, and sexual abstinence outside of marriage. *I Timothy 1:5: "The purpose of our instruction is love – from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and a sincere faith."*
- ⇒ **Committed to Classic Christian doctrine and mission.** All teachers and leaders both profess and articulate, sincerely and cogently within the marketplace of ideas, the Classic Christian doctrines, undiluted by any factors, including rationalism, empiricism, skepticism, liberalism, or conservatism – including the doctrines of the authority of the Bible, the Trinity, the humanity and deity of Jesus, His death for our sins, and His bodily resurrection. *II Timothy 1:14: "Guard the treasure that has been entrusted to you, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us."*
- ⇒ **Excellent in personal and professional practice.** For God's glory, excellence is the standard in the classroom, library, family, Church and ministry service. Both in labor and in results, the LORD is honored as our minds and hearts are marked by a life of excellence devoted to Him and His Word. *II Timothy 2:15: "Be*

diligent to present yourself approved unto God, a worker that does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”

- ⇒ **Church-based in accountability and support.** Students must be sent by Churches that affirm their calling to ministry and that participate in their nurturing and training in ministry. Faculty and staff should be engaged in the ministry of their Churches as well. *I Timothy 3:15: “...The Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”*
- ⇒ **Engaged in mentored ministry.** Every student is intentionally mentored in spiritual development and in ministry skills, while they are resolutely engaged in evangelism and other ministry. *II Timothy 2:2: “The things which you have heard me teach in public, hand them on to reliable people, who are competent to teach others also.”*

Three Core Purposes

In further developing the mission of the new seminary, the Board of the New York Evangelical Seminary Fund affirmed in 2002 that the new seminary’s education will be characterized by three genuine purposes and intended results:

- **Equipping leaders in Biblical, holistic ministry** – to creatively introduce people to the Lord Jesus Christ and to help the struggling, via vibrant Churches.
- **Engaging the world** with the divine perspectives and purposes taught in the Bible, and cogently demonstrated in responsible commitment, conduct, consciousness and character.
- **Effecting sustainable change** in New York City – especially in the areas of spiritual relationships, quality of life, and leadership in the world.

Program Content and Requirements

Students may enroll in any one of three graduate programs: a two-year 36-credit Master of Arts (MA) in Faith and Practice, a two-year 48-credit Master of Arts (MA) in Theological Studies and a three-year 90-credit Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree. The schedule for taking the classes can be found in **Appendix A: Course Schedules**. A list of courses for all degrees and their descriptions can be found in **Appendix B: Course Descriptions**. The seminary course numbers consist of a prefix followed by a two-digit course number.

In addition to classes, all students will be required to participate in a Spiritual Formation group

1. All students are involved in accountability groups for personal spiritual formation, prayer and growth in Christian character and conduct—ethics themes, also.
2. The accountability groups may include students from more than one degree track, but who nevertheless have taken similar courses.

a. Common-Core Courses

All three degree programs have a set of nine core courses, including a required **common-core** of courses that are the same for all three degrees—including these nine, with a total of 27 credits. These courses are central to the mission of the new seminary as well as its distinctives and purposes. They also embody its motto: *Bible-based, Christ-centered, and Spirit-led*. The last three have a strong internship component:

Bible-Based – three courses = 9 credits

- Hermeneutics: Biblical and Cultural (3 credits)—An examination of the processes and resources available for truth-based interpretation of Scripture and of cultural contexts for applying Scripture.
- Surveys of the Old and New Testaments (2 courses, 6 credits total)—An English Bible study of the background and key themes of the nature, content, and history of the Old and New Testaments, with special attention to issues of culture and behavior.

Christ-Centered – three courses = 9 credits [In the MA in Faith and Practice, the 3-courses Biblical/Christian Values sequence may be substituted for these 3-courses.]

- Christian Worldview and Theology I and II (2 courses, 6 credits total)—a philosophical/theological study of foundational Christian beliefs (including methodology of analysis, revelation and reason, God, Trinity, creation, human nature, family, government, evil, and sin) and these beliefs' behavioral implications and outcomes.
- Strategic World Christian Movement (3 credits)—a multifaceted exploration of Biblical, Classical, cultural and strategic dimensions of evangelization and Christian service in the United States and around the world.

And Spirit-led – three courses = 9 credits

- Personal Growth and Discipleship/Mentoring (3 credits)—Intensive training in Christian disciplines to nurture personal excellence and spiritual growth, found in the history of Christian spirituality and disciplines of the inward journey.

- Life Re-focus and Core/Biblical Values (3 credits)—Key Biblical leadership issues and skills that will enable students to see a more rapid development and deployment of their own leadership and of leaders in their organizations. Methodologies to refocus leaders’ lives are experienced, practiced and integrated so that these principles become transferable in various settings of leadership development.
- Leadership Coaching in Church, Workplace and Community (3 credits)—Implementation of skills for designing and leading contextual workplace and Church ministry that understands engages, challenges, transforms, transcends and utilizes cultural patterns and structures. Confidence grows through the application in coaching new leaders, as well as the recognition and ongoing resourcing of the student’s ministry calling.

While each of these seven courses addresses all of the mission, distinctives, and purposes of the new seminary in some way, the following chart helps to point out some of the main highlights of the competence and capacity of the common-core to help fulfill these essential standards.

The <u>Common-Core</u> in fulfilling the mission, distinctives and purposes of the new seminary.			
<u>Common-Core</u> Courses	Mission/Great Commission	Distinctives	Purposes
Hermeneutics: Biblical and Cultural	Interpret the Bible accurately for sound teaching and wise application in different cultural contexts.	Distinctives 1, 2 and 4: Actively interpreting the Bible’s standards and doctrines in present contexts of ministry.	2&3: Engaging the culture with Biblical perspective; and effecting sustainable cultural change.
Surveys of the Old and New Testaments	Understand the original content of Christianity and its historic roots.	Distinctives 1 and 2: start by knowing the Biblical standards and doctrines.	2: Engaging the world with the actual Biblical perspectives.
Christian Worldview and Theology, Basic and Advanced	Expand a holistic, whole-life perspective of Biblical discipleship & teaching.	Distinctives 1 and 2: Applying the Biblical standards and doctrines.	2&3: Engaging the world with divine perspective, & primed to effect sustainable change.
Strategic World Christian Movement	Understand the pertinence of the Gospel for all “ethnic peoples.”	Distinctives 1, 3 and 4, developing the behavioral teaching in Church and community outreach	2&3 Strategic training for engaging the rest of the world, and following through with the positive effects of the Gospel.

Personal Growth and Discipleship/ Mentoring	Engage the “disciplines” of discipling and mentoring.	Distinctives 3 and 5: personal excellence and mentored ministry.	1: Equipping leaders in Biblical and holistic ministry
Life Re-focus and Core/Biblical Values	Learning and teaching to be vigilant about all that Jesus taught.	Distinctive 1, 3 and 4: practicing the authority of Biblical teaching.	Comprehension of the changes available through the Biblical teaching.
Leadership Coaching in Church, Workplace and Community	Understand ministry roles and the contexts of disciplining and teaching others.	Distinctives 3, 4 and 5: Developing professional and mentored/mentoring Church-related work.	1&3: Learning Biblical holistic ministry, and engaging the world and culture.

The students participating in these **common-core** courses will include those in the MDiv degree program preparing for professional ministry, *as well as* students already in other professions (such as law, business, medicine, education, social work or fine arts) who are pursuing a research degree (the MA in Faith and Practice) studying especially some aspect of their profession or some related social/civic/economic issue.

This active *cross-professional engagement* will add a level of awareness and excitement that “cloistered” environments (Pastors-only) in secluded seminary campuses can miss. The cross-professional aspect is also enhanced by the additional students involved in significant theological training in the Master of Arts (MA) in Theological Studies, the multi-cultural background of our New York City students and the learning opportunities from skilled professors and articulate peers.

The excitement and relevance of the classes will be enhanced by the fact that the students come from a wide range of professions as well as different denominations and ethnic backgrounds. Rarely do pastoral students have such an opportunity to study side by side with people experienced in other professions who are also serious about Biblical and theological training.

Students take courses toward their degree according to their own pace as long as they continue to make progress. Since most potential students have full employment in addition to their level of service in ministry, they will rarely be able to take more than twelve (12) credits in a semester. The MDiv degree may take four years or five years according to the student’s required pace. Students will be urged by their faculty advisors to keep pace toward their degree, as much as is reasonable according to the students’ responsible use of their time and attention.

On the one hand, every student will be in a degree track and will be advised to continue to progress to the degree for which they have been admitted and matriculated. On the other hand, “*commencement occurs at the end of every class*” as students immediately apply what they are learning in their lives, ministries, and professions—and measurably benefit from their seminary training now.

b. Additional Courses Required for Each Degree

In addition to the *common-core* of seven courses, each degree has additional core courses that embody the primary purposes of each degree.

- ***For the MA in Faith and Practice, there are two (2) additional required courses with total of nine (9) credits, for a total of 11 required courses, or 36 credits:***
 - Research Methods(3 credits)
 - Research and Thesis (6 credits)

- ***For the MA in Theological Studies, there are four (4) additional required courses, for a total of 13 required courses, or 39 credits:***

Bible-based: Content, Understanding, and Application

- An Old Testament Book Study
- A New Testament Book Study

Christ-centered: Consciousness, Conduct, Culture and Cogency

- History of Christian Thought and Conduct I or II

Spirit-led: Personal Development and Ministry-Skill

- Preparation of Biblical Messages

- ***For the Masters of Divinity (MDiv), there are nine (9) additional required courses, for a total of 18 required courses, or 54 credits:***

Bible-based: Content, Understanding, and Application

- An Old Testament Book Study
- A New Testament Book Study
- Elementary Hebrew
- Elementary Greek
- Greek or Hebrew – Syntax and Exegesis

Christ-centered: Consciousness, Conduct, Culture and Cogency

- History of Christian Thought and Conduct I
- History of Christian Thought and Conduct II

Spirit-led: Personal Development and Ministry-Skill

- Preparation of Biblical Messages
- Pulpit Ministry

c. Elective/Specialization Courses

At least one Elective/Specialization cycle of three 3-credit courses will begin each semester and continue for three sequential semesters. By the third semester there will be at least three Elective/Specialization courses available each semester. Masters of Divinity students must take twelve elective specialization courses, completing at least three specializations of three courses. MA in Theological Studies students may take any three of these elective/specialization courses whether or not from the same specialization area.

Biblical Counseling—three-course sequence

1. Personal Counseling
2. Psychology and Theology of Family Relationships
3. Marriage and Family Counseling

Prison-release Ministry—three-course sequence

1. Introduction to Prison Ministry
2. Advanced Prison Ministry
3. Prison-Release Ministry

Strategic Evangelism and Missions—three-course sequence

1. Urban Evangelism
2. Church Planting
3. Evangelism Practicum

Ministry with Moslem-background people—three course sequence

1. Effectively Reaching out to Moslems in America
2. Ministry among Moslem Groups
3. Building Ministry among Moslems

Marketplace Decisions and Biblical Values—three-course sequence

1. Biblical/Christian Values in the Professions
2. Biblical/Christian Values in Social, Civic, and Economic Decisions
3. Biblical/Christian Values in Personal Ethics

Victim Chaplaincy for ministry with the traumatized—three-course sequence

1. Introduction to Victim Chaplaincy
2. Critical issues in Victim Chaplaincy
3. Restoration Ministries in Victim Chaplaincy

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)—one and a half (1.5) units = 9 credits

d. Spiritual Formation Groups

All students are expected to participate in a spiritual formation group during the period in which they are taking classes. Groups will meet on a regular basis and will be

given readings and assignments associated with issues of spiritual formation. The focus of these groups will be integrate theory and practice and share experiences that nurture spiritual growth, that discover and clarify one's ministry call and that cultivate the kind of character, integrity, relational skills, and spiritual resources required for that ministry.

Curricular Outlines of Three Degree Programs

There are three different kinds of ministry that the New York Divinity School is seeking to train and equip, and there is a Master's degree designed for each. First, every Christian leader needs to engage Biblical insight and wisdom into daily life, in every workplace, and in every community. The Master of Arts (MA) in Faith and Practice equips all leaders for the levels of significance they desire. Second, every pastor, future pastor and chaplain should seek the full professional pastoral degree, and the seminary offers that with the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program. Third, Christian men and women may seek extensive knowledge of Christian behavior and belief, without the full professional pastoral degree, or as a stepping stone to later upgrade to a professional degree. The Master of Arts in Theological Studies will thoroughly serve their needs.

The Master of Arts (MA) in Faith and Practice (36 credits) is designed for those professionals who already have a *degree and work experience* in their profession (*such as* government, law, business, medicine, education, accounting, engineering, social work or fine arts) and wish to engage a higher level of significance in their lives and in some aspect of work, profession, culture, or social/civic/economic issue in the light of Biblical and Christian teaching, to help equip them in their chosen field and Church leadership.

The educational objective of the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program is to prepare persons for the pastoral ministry in Christian churches. This degree is modeled after the standards used by most other seminaries, as well as denominations, chaplaincy requirements, and such like. This MDiv degree provides recognized professional training for men and women pursuing a calling into the pastorate or related ministry professions.

The Master of Arts (MA) in Theological Studies (48 credits) is a degree for men and women who are serious about the preparation and work of ministry, as pastors or lay people, although it is not the full MDiv professional degree. The MA in Theological Studies degree provides Biblical, personal, historical, and theological training to equip people in ministry. Students who complete the MA in Theological Studies degree and enter professional ministry will be encouraged to continue to further their training toward a Master of Divinity degree. The MA in Theological Studies is often chosen by those who plan further study toward a Doctor of Theology or a Doctor of Philosophy and a career in teaching in a university, a Christian school or a seminary.

We are working to make each of these degree programs available by Fall 2004. For each of the three degrees, **Biblical ethos/ethics and Biblical apologetics/evangelism themes** bind the curriculum together and penetrate all courses. The courses are organized into

three main categories: (1) ***Bible-based*** Content, Understanding, and Application of Scripture; (2) ***Christ-centered*** Worldview/Theology, Conduct and Cogency; and (3) ***Spirit-led*** Personal Growth, Ministry Skills and Community Leadership.

a. Master of Arts in Faith and Practice

The students in this degree program are people with professional training and experience who desire to achieve another level of significance in their lives. This creative degree engages aspects of culture, the professions, or social/civic/economic issues in the light of Biblical and Christian teaching. Students admitted to the program must have specialized undergraduate or graduate *training and experience* in government, business, private services or professional work – which they will draw upon in this Master’s program.

Bible-based Content, Understanding, and Application **9**

- Hermeneutics: Biblical and Cultural 3
- Survey of the Old Testament 3
- Survey of the New Testament 3

Christ-centered Worldview/Theology, Conduct and Cogency **9**

[Any or all of the 3-courses of the Biblical/Christian Values sequence – see below – can be used as substitutes for these courses.]

- Biblical/Christian Values in the Professions 3
- Biblical/Christian Values in Social, Civic and Economic Decisions 3
- Biblical/Christian Values in Personal Ethics 3

Spirit-led Personal Growth, Ministry Skills and Community Leadership **9**

(* These three are internship/mentoring courses, and equip in leadership coaching)

- Personal Growth and Discipleship/Mentoring* 3
- Life Re-focus and Core/Biblical Values* 3
- Leadership and Leadership Coaching* 3

Thesis Preparation and Define **9**

- Research Methods 3
- Research and Writing of Thesis on Biblical perspective on specific, contemporary values or issues in the student’s profession, line of work, or area of expertise in the contemporary social/civic/economic context. 6

TOTAL **36**

ESSENTIAL NOTE on the MA in Faith and Practice Degree: Students pursuing the Master of Arts in Faith and Practice will draw heavily from their training and experience in their profession, area of expertise or line of work. This degree requires fewer credits because a level of mastery in such an area is a prerequisite for entering the program.

b. Master of Divinity (MDiv)

This degree is modeled after the standards of most other seminaries, as well as denominations, chaplaincy requirements, and such like. This degree provides recognized professional training for men and women pursuing a calling into the pastorate or related ministry professions.

Bible-based Content, Understanding, and Application **24**

- Hermeneutics: Biblical and Cultural 3
- Survey of the Old Testament 3
- Survey of the New Testament 3
- Old Testament Book Study 3
- New Testament Book Study 3
- Elementary Hebrew 3
- Elementary Greek (could be transferred from college level) 3
- Greek or Hebrew – Syntax and Exegesis 3

Christ-centered Worldview/Theology, Conduct and Cogency **15**

- History of Christian Thought and Conduct I 3
- History of Christian Thought and Conduct II 3
- Christian Worldview and Theology I 3
- Christian Worldview and Theology II 3
- Strategic World Christian Movement 3

Spirit-led Personal Growth, Ministry Skills and Community Leadership **15**

(* The first three are internship/mentoring courses, and equip in leadership coaching)

- Personal Growth and Discipleship/Mentoring* 3
- Life Re-focus and Core/Biblical Values* 3
- Leadership and Leadership Coaching* 3
- Preparation of Biblical Messages 3
- Pulpit Ministry 3

Specialization **27**

(Recommended: 9 credits in each of three of these specializations = 27 credits)

1. Biblical Studies
2. Clinical Pastoral Education
3. Evangelism and Missions Strategy
4. Leadership Decisions and Biblical Values
5. Moslem Outreach
6. Pastoral Counseling
7. Prison/Prison-release Ministry
8. Victim Chaplaincy for ministry with the traumatized
9. Writing Ministry

Free Electives (or the fourth specialization) **9**

TOTAL **90**

c. Master of Arts in Theological Studies

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies is a degree for men and women who are serious about the preparation and work of ministry, as pastors or lay people, although it is not the full MDiv professional degree. The MA in Theological Studies degree provides Biblical, personal, historical, and theological training to equip people in ministry. Students who complete the MA in Theological Studies degree and enter professional ministry will be encouraged to continue to further their training.

Bible-based Content, Understanding, and Application 15

- Hermeneutics: Biblical and Cultural 3
- Survey of the Old Testament 3
- Survey of the New Testament 3
- Old Testament Book Study 3
- New Testament Book Study 3

Christ-centered Worldview/Theology, Conduct and Cogency 12

- History of Christian Thought and Conduct I or II 3
- Christian Worldview and Theology I 3
- Christian Worldview and Theology II 3
- Strategic World Christian Movement 3

Spirit-led Personal Growth, Ministry Skills and Community Leadership 12

(* The first three are internship/mentoring courses, and equip in leadership coaching)

- Personal Growth and Discipleship/Mentoring* 3
- Life Re-focus and Core/Biblical Values* 3
- Leadership and Leadership Coaching* 3
- Preparation of Biblical Messages 3

Elective/Specialization 9

The student may take any three 3-credit courses from these areas of specialization. If the MA in Theological Studies student wishes to declare a specialization, the nine credits must be taken in the same area of specialization.

- Biblical Studies
- Clinical Pastoral Education
- Evangelism and Missions Strategy
- Leadership Decisions and Biblical Values
- Moslem Outreach
- Pastoral Counseling
- Prison/Prison-release Ministry
- Victim Chaplaincy for ministry with the traumatized
- Writing Ministry

TOTAL 48

Course Scheduling

Proposed sequences of courses may be requested from the student advisor. However, most courses do not have prerequisites so that students may begin their studies at various points in the sequences of courses.

For the convenience of pastors and lay people who work during the day, the NYDS courses will be offered primarily during evenings and weekends. Scheduling will allow for each three-credit course to have forty-two class hours, according to traditional “Carnegie” standards. While adult learners may not need that much actual class time, these hours together in classes are also beneficial for building vibrant community awareness among the commuting students.

Two models are followed. Both models involve, in fact, 35 hours of 60 minutes each, for 2100 minutes—equivalent to 42 education hours of 50 minutes each. This is the traditional interpretation of semester hours, and it is the pattern that the leadership of the new seminary has followed for the past five years in administering the Southern Seminary extension program that was licensed in New York.

- Evening classes will generally be offered from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM, each course once a week, for fifteen weeks (2.5 hours x 15 evenings = 37.5 clock hours, or 45 educational hours).
- Weekend classes will meet from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM Friday evenings, and then the same class will continue from 9:00 AM until 1:30 PM on Saturday for five weekends (7.5 hours x 5 weekends = 37.5 clock hours or 45 educational hours).

Admission Requirements

Applications to the New York Divinity School will include the following

- Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Official transcripts of all studies beyond high school, showing a minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.3 (4.0 scale).
- Recommendation forms completed by applicant’s pastor and two other knowledgeable people.
- Completed application form and \$50 non-refundable application fee
- Three-page autobiographical essay, including a statement about coming to faith in Christ and God’s leadership in the applicant’s life.
- For applicants whose primary language is not English, the TOFEL is required with score of a 550, or a computer-based score of 220.

Applicants with a grade point average below 2.3 or without a completed baccalaureate degree may be accepted through academic probation, on an exceptional individual basis. Also, regulations of the Department of Home Security will be followed.

International Students

When all of the preceding requirements have been received and satisfied, and after the applicant has been accepted by the seminary, an I-20 or IAP-66 form will be mailed to the student so that an F-1 (student) visa classification can be obtained from the admitted student's nearest U. S. Embassy or Consulate.

Enrollment Classification

A degree-track student is fully admitted to New York Divinity School. A special student is an individual who has applied to the seminary with a completed official application form and application fee, but has not yet satisfied all admission requirements. Approval can be extended to register for up to, but not more than, eighteen semester credits. If, at the completion of the eighteen credits all the admission requirements are not completed, the individual will not be allowed to register.

Every student who is admitted to the seminary will chose a degree track for the purposes of organizing the student's curriculum, and planning additional courses. It is the desire of NYDS that most students will complete their degrees.

However, the main purpose of the Seminary's training ministry, and of students being edified and growing, aided the Seminary's ministry, is to equip pastors and lay people for excellent ministry in the Churches, workplaces and communities. Every course contributes to that purpose, and in a sense "commencement occurs at the end of every class." Equipping for ministry may be more important than completing degrees.

New and Re-entering Students Registration

All new students must receive advisement for course scheduling prior to registration. The Academic Dean and members of the faculty will be present at registration to advise new students at registration during the week prior to registration.

Registration for Returning Students

Students in their second semester and beyond will be assigned to a faculty advisor and must be affirmed for registration by the faculty advisor. Students may register during

early registration prior to the beginning of the next semester, according to the seminary calendar.

Financial Information

In order to better fulfill the mission of the program, it is the intention of the NYDS leadership to keep students' costs for the three Masters degree programs very affordable. The most direct method is to keep the actual tuition rates low. In addition, grant and scholarship resources are being developed—based upon the encouragement of Churches as well as the students' individual needs and achievement merit—to bring students' net tuition costs lower yet.

One plan is to have a “*Church and Seminary Matching Grant*,” consistent with the Bible's emphasis on the Church's own role in the development of Church ministry leadership. NYDS will be an active partner with Churches and ministries investing in the ministry-training experience of men and women, whether they are attending part-time or full-time. When a Church, denomination, or ministry invests in a student's tuition, NYDS will match that grant dollar for dollar, up to 20% of tuition. Other scholarships and grants will be based upon particular students' demonstrated financial needs in a fair and equitable procedure, and in complete accordance with state and federal regulations. Additional scholarships and grants may be based upon student-excellence in completing course assignments.

Regular tuition, per semester credit.....	\$210.00
Audit Tuition, per semester credit.....	\$70.00
Application Fee.....	50.00
Change-of-course Fee.....	20.00

Refunds

Tuition refunds are given only during the first two weeks of classes if a student withdraws from a class. The student must complete a course withdraw slip in the office of the Academic Dean.

Academic Regulations

A student taking nine semester credits is considered a full-time student. Students have outside employment or ministry obligations should consider the demands of the rigorous graduate ministry education program when planning their academic program.

Students are urged to attend all classes. Under no circumstances will a student be given credit for courses in which he or she has been absent more than 25% of the total number of class meetings, unless a student has made up for those classes by listening to class recordings. Students who attend class and are passing, but have not finished the class responsibilities will be given an “I” for incomplete. The student must complete the incomplete portion of the course and receive a final grade before the last class day of the next semester, or else the grade will become an “F” after that period. An “I” grade is not counted in the grade average until after the last day to complete the work or when the work is completed.

The following grades are given: A, B, C, D, F, WF (withdraw failing) and WP (withdraw passing). Grade pluses (+) and minuses (-) can be given where appropriate. Grade point averages are computed on the basis of hours attempted, not hours completed. Credit transferred from other school does not affect the NYDS grade point average.

Not more than half the credits required for a graduate degree at NYDS may be transferred from another seminary. No grade lower than a “B” or its equivalent will be transferable.

Any student whose grade point average falls below 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale shall be placed on probation at NYDS for one semester. Depending on the student’s needs, time management or writing skills or other needs will be addressed. If the student’s work improves to higher than 2.0 that semester, the student will be taken off probation. If there is evidence of improvement, but the grade point average for the first probationary semester is still below 2.00, the student may be allowed one more probationary semester. If there is inadequate improvement, the student may be dismissed from the program, and counseled concerning alternatives.

Library Resources

NYDS students have multiple library resources available to them to enhance the quality and quantity of their learning content, and to facilitate their positive attitude and practiced skills for life-long learning.

First, all students are required to utilize the NYDS Library, including books, periodicals, recordings and DVDs. To assist them, every student will be offered a CD with the complete Library catalogue, so that they can search for books wherever they are.

Second, all students will be required to utilize the Center for the Humanities of the New York Public Library, just two blocks from the Seminary. This single Library has 15 million books on 172 miles of shelving, counting all the collections. As many as 1.5 million books are on subjects addressed by seminary courses – including special collections. This Library also holds a copy of the Gutenberg Bible, the Tyndale Bible and the largest single collection of the famed Dead Sea scrolls. Students will be required to do some of their research at this famed Library, perhaps the largest Library in the world. Become introduced to the system by first visiting the Reading Room on the third floor to receive a free access card. Then visit the Catalogue room on the third floor, and type in an author’s name or the title of some books to obtain their special code numbers, fill out a request slip, and receive the books from the Librarians.

Third, every student will receive a listing of all the theological libraries in the metropolitan area. Prior arrangements have been made with General Theological Seminary’s Library – St. Mark’s Library – but students may introduce themselves to the librarians at other theological libraries to work out additional relationships.

At least two branches of the New York Public Library or other public library systems should also be visited, early in the student’s seminary experience, to see what is available – especially at a library near where the student ministers, and another near where the student lives. Public library resources may or may not be useful for seminary studies.

Training Seminars

In addition to the accredited classes, NYDS’s founding organization – New York Evangelical Seminary Fund (NYESF) – has recognized the importance of creating other types of opportunities that are open and accessible to the wider community and which would provide an additional educational service to its community and allow it to broaden its training methods and modular forms of learning. The Seminary works with cooperating ministry partners in creating specialized ministry training events to help men and women in local Churches and other ministries. Also, in some cases NYDS students participating in training seminars can receive partial credit toward course requirements.

Standards of Conduct

The Seminary has established standards of conduct for maintaining public order on the Seminary campus and other Seminary owned properties. These principles, regulations, and procedures are in compliance with provisions of Section 6450 of the Education Law of the State of New York.

No member or guest of the Seminary may engage in any of the following behaviors on the premises: Obstruction or disruption of any sanctioned and authorized

Seminary activity; possession or use of firearms and explosives; possession or use of dangerous, destructive, or obnoxious chemicals or any dangerous or apparently dangerous weapons, other than as allowed by law and Seminary regulations; possession or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or illegal drugs; detention, physical abuse, or conduct that threatens bodily harm or endangers the safety or health of any person; intentional damage or theft of Seminary property or the property of any person when it is located on the premises of the Seminary or during an authorized function of the Seminary; entry into living quarters, private offices, or working areas of another person without expressed or implied permission of that person or of an authorized Seminary official; or the invasion of the privacy of records, data, or communications belonging to individuals, to the Seminary, or to others.

Violators of these policies are subject to disciplinary action, which may result in academic suspension or employment termination. It is the student's responsibility to become informed and to observe all regulations and procedures for degree completion required by the New York Divinity School. This includes strict attention to all internal deadlines, such as applications, degree completion, registration, and graduation, as well as satisfying all requirements leading to completion.

Appearance

The Seminary expects that all faculty, staff and students' appearance and dress will be in good taste and appropriate to the functions they perform in the Seminary. The Seminary believes that a person's appearance is reflective of that person's view of self. More specific guidelines or rules may be established by administrative heads, at their sole discretion. In addition, certain articles of clothing and accessories may be prohibited because of the nature of the work, or to satisfy certain health, safety, and other regulations.

*God's divine power has given us everything we need
for life and true devotion,
by the personal knowledge of Jesus who called us
by His own glorious reputation and excellence.
In His excellence He has given rich and wonderful promises to us.
Through these promises He wants you to
escape the lust-based decadence all around you, and
He wants you to share the divine nature.
Therefore, make every effort to
strengthen your faith with excellence, and to
strengthen your excellence with knowledge...*

– a literal translation of 2 Peter 1:3-5.

Appendix

Seminary Course Descriptions

1 Core Courses

1.1 Bible-based: Biblical Content, Understanding, and Application

- Hermeneutics: Biblical and Cultural (3 credits)—An examination of the processes and resources available for truth-based interpretation of Scripture and of cultural contexts for applying Scripture.
- Survey of the Old Testament (3 credits)—A study of the background and key themes of the nature, content, and history of the Old Testament with special attention to issues of culture and behavior.
- Survey of the New Testament (3 credits)—A study of the background and key themes of the nature, content, and history of the New Testament, with special attention to issues of culture and behavior.

1.2 Christ-centered: Biblical Consciousness, Conduct, Culture and Cogency

(For the MA in Faith and Practice, these three courses can be substituted with the three courses sequence on Biblical Christian Values outlined below.)

- Christian Worldview and Theology I and II (6 credits total)—a philosophical/theological study of foundational Christian beliefs (including methodology of analysis, revelation and reason, God, Trinity, creation, human nature, family, government, evil, and sin) and these belief's behavioral implications and outcomes.
- Strategic World Christian Movement (3 credits)—A development of mission and evangelism awareness and skill for communicating effectively with non-Christians. This course will also be connected with the United States Center for World Mission.

1.3 Spirit-led: Biblical Personal Development and Ministry-Skill

(* There is a strong internship component to the three courses marked with this asterisks.)

- * Personal Growth and Discipleship/Mentoring (3 credits)—An active integration of Christian disciplines to nurture personal excellence and spiritual growth, based in Christian spirituality and the disciplines of the inward journey, and focused to minimize the issues that keep leaders from finishing well.
- * Life Re-focus and Core/Biblical Values (3 credits)—A study of key leadership issues that will enable students to see a more rapid development of leaders in their ministries and organizations. Methodologies to prepare or refocus leaders' lives

are both experienced and integrated so that these principles can be transferable in various models of leadership development.

- * Leadership and Leadership Coaching in Church, Workplace and Community (3 credits)—A development of skills for designing and leading effectual pastoral and lay ministry that understands engages, challenges, transforms, transcends and also utilizes cultural patterns and structures.

2 Courses Required for some of the Degrees

2.1 Bible-based: Biblical Content, Understanding, and Application

- Old Testament Book Study (3 credits)—An intensive and comprehensive study of a section of the Old Testament, including context, author, purposes, structure, initial impact, historic significance, and applications to our belief and behavior now.
- New Testament Book Study (3 credits)—An intensive and comprehensive study of a section of the New Testament, including context, author, purposes, structure, initial impact, historic significance, and applications to our belief and behavior now.
- Elementary Hebrew (3 credits)—An introduction to the Hebrew of the Old Testament, including basic grammar, syntax and vocabulary.
- Intermediate Hebrew – Syntax and Exegesis (3 credits)—A study of intermediate Hebrew grammar with emphasis on vocabulary, syntax and Biblical textual reading.
- Elementary Greek (3 credits; could be transferred from college level)—An introduction to the Greek of the New Testament, including basic grammar, syntax and vocabulary.
- Intermediate Greek – Syntax and Exegesis (3 credits)—A study of intermediate Greek grammar with emphasis on vocabulary, syntax and Biblical textual reading.

2.2 Christ-centered: Biblical Consciousness, Conduct, Culture and Cogency

- History of Christian Thought and Conduct I (3 credits)—A study of the history of Christian thought, philosophy, ethics, theology, from the end of the Book of Acts through the early Reformation (1600).
- History of Christian Thought and Conduct II (3 credits)—A study of the history of Christian thought, philosophy, ethics, theology, from 1600 to the present, looking at the role of the Gospel in the lives and thought of men and women on six continents.
- Christian Worldview and Theology I (3 credits)—A philosophical/theological study of foundational Christian beliefs (including methodology of analysis, revelation and

reason, God, Trinity, creation, human nature, family, government, evil, and sin) and the behavioral, social and cultural implications and outcomes of these beliefs.

- Christian Worldview and Theology II (3 credits)—a philosophical/theological study of foundational Christian beliefs (including Christ, Holy Spirit, church, society, professions, school, personal ethics, social responsibility) and the behavioral, social and cultural implications and outcomes of these beliefs.

2.3 Spirit-led: Biblical Personal Development and Ministry-Skill

- Preparation of Biblical Messages (3 credits)—A development of communication, educational and homiletical skills for developing expository teaching and preaching.
- Pulpit Ministry (3 credits)—A development of skills for organization, application, style, and delivery to communicate, cogently, well-researched Biblical teachings.

2.4 Thesis Preparation and Defense = 9 credits

- Research Methods (3 credits)—A study of research methods, including Biblical hermeneutics, library exploration, on-line investigation, observations, interviews, and other methods.
- Research and Thesis Writing (6 credits)—The definition of a research project, extensive research, and clear, cogent reporting of information and conclusions in a thorough, well-written thesis that will be in a permanent, accessible collection in the seminary library. For the MA in Faith and Practice degree, the thesis will engage Biblical perspective on specific well-researched contemporary dilemmas, values or issues in the student's profession, area of expertise, or line of work.

3 Elective Courses and Specializations

Please Note: Recognition will be granted and Certificates awarded in each of the specialization areas—only for those who complete the three courses in that specialization, as degree-track students, whether or not they eventually complete their degrees.

3.1 Biblical Studies—three courses = 9 credits

Students may complete a Biblical studies specialization by taking three Biblical studies courses in addition to the courses required for their degree.

- Old Testament Book Study (3 credits)—An intensive and comprehensive study of a section of the Old Testament, including context, author, purposes, structure, initial impact, historic significance, and applications to our behavior and belief now. These studies may include:
 - Genesis-Exodus
 - Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

Historical Literature: I Samuel through II Chronicles
Psalms
Wisdom Literature: Job, Proverbs and Song of Songs
Isaiah and Jeremiah
Ezekiel and Daniel.

- New Testament Book Study (3 credits)—An intensive and comprehensive study of a section of the New Testament, including context, author, purposes, structure, initial impact, historic significance, and applications to our behavior and belief now. these studies may include:
 - Matthew and Mark
 - John’s writings: John, three epistles, and Revelation
 - Luke-Acts
 - Romans and Galatians
 - I and II Corinthians
 - Pastoral Epistles
 - Hebrews and the letters James, Peter and Jude

3.2 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)—one and a half (1.5) units = 9 credits

- Each half unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is worth 3 credits. Students will be connected with Clinical Pastoral Education programs endorsed by the College of Pastoral Care and Psychotherapy and/or the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)—organizations that guide and certify CPE programs.

3.3 Evangelism and Missions Strategy—three courses = 9 credits

- Urban Evangelism (3 credits)—An examination and development of strategies for evangelism and church growth in urban settings, including field experience.
- Church Planting (3 credits)—An examination and development of strategies for community research, planning, recruiting, and planting a vibrant, dynamic church, with field experience.
- Evangelism Practicum (3 credits)—Each student strategically designs, directs, and completes an evangelism or missions project, with peer criticism and guidance from other students and guidance from a seasoned minister with background in the area.

3.4 Leadership Decisions and Biblical Values—three courses = 9 credits

- Biblical/Christian Values in the Professions (3 credits)—A penetrating study of the basic values embodied in the various professions and vocations, and contemporary marketplace choices, strategies, problems and dilemmas, from a Biblical worldview.
- Biblical/Christian Values in Social, Civic, and Economic Decisions (3 credits)—An essential study of values embedded in present social/economic/civic structures, and

the contemporary social/economic/civic choices, strategies, problems and dilemmas, from a Biblical worldview.

- Biblical/Christian Values in Personal Ethics (3 credits)—A decisive study of the basic personal values practiced in contemporary personal choices, strategies, problems and dilemmas, from a Biblical worldview.

3.5 Moslem Outreach – three courses = 9 credits

- Effectively Reaching out to Moslems in America – Learning to relate with Moslems in a personal, practical and informed manner. Themes discussed will include gaining familiarity with the basics of Islam and how to respond from a Biblical perspective, differentiating key issues in theological and cultural terms, and gaining a familiarity with the Moslem communities in America.
- Understanding Islam – A comprehensive study of the history, sources, doctrines, practices, divisions and modern movements within Islam, around the world and in America.
- Church Planting Strategies among Moslems – Discipling Moslem background believers (MBBs). Understanding the process of believing, modeling the life of Christ with seekers, developing the spiritual life and witness of MBBs, effectively gathering MBBs together, and empowering MBBs in the development of Biblically-indigenous forms of worship.

3.6 Pastoral Counseling—three courses = 9 credits

- Personal Counseling (3 credits)—Basic theories of counseling are combined with skill development and effective communication for informal and formal counseling concerning personal problems and spiritual growth.
- Psychology and Theology of Family Relationships (3 credits)—A Biblical worldview and theological understanding of family interaction, attitudes, conflicts, adjustments, mutual interdependence in contemporary families, as well as influences competing with or distorting healthy, well-adjusted family life.
- Marriage and Family Counseling (3 credits)—A development of skills for assessing and treating dysfunctional family relationships, utilizing theories and techniques, and for nurturing healthy, well-adjusted family relationships.

3.7 Prison/Prison-release Ministry—three courses = 9 credits

- Introduction to Prison Ministry (3 credits)—An introduction to effective principles of ministry in prisons, including protocol, prison structure and culture, limitations and opportunities in working with wardens and chaplains.

- Prison-Release Ministry (3 credits)—A development of strategic skills for individuals and church-based groups to work with inmates, their families, their communities, and others to help prepare for a positive prison-release, without return to crime.
- Advanced Prison Ministry (3 credits)—A development of strategic skills for prison ministry, including structured Bible studies, worship, seminars on life skills, understanding Christian worldview in prison life, and preparing inmates for prison release.

3.8 Victim Chaplaincy for ministry with the traumatized—three courses = 9 credits

Please note that the Victim Chaplaincy specialization works in cooperation with the Victim Chaplain and Counselor Association of America, which NYDS leaders helped to found in response to the needs of victims, including 9/11 victims. NYDS works with other chaplains' organizations and public agencies as well. Students taking this specialization are encouraged also to take the Biblical Counseling specialization.

- Introduction to Victim Chaplaincy (3 credits)—An introduction to the role of a Victim Chaplain and principles of ministry for people traumatized by domestic violence, street crime, dysfunctional families, terrorist attacks, transportation catastrophes, natural disasters, and such like.
- Critical issues in Victim Chaplaincy (3 credits)—Development of strategic ministry skills for assisting dysfunctional families and communities, Red Cross training, working with other private and governmental agencies, police relations and collaboration, and care for the care-givers.
- Restoration Ministries in Victim Chaplaincy (3 credits)—Longer term tactical ministries for both the victimized and the care-givers, police precinct partnerships and other special relationships, and supervised chaplaincy experience with victim cases.

3.9 Writing Ministry—three courses = 9 credits

- Ministry of Prose Writing in Christian Media (3 credits)—Strategizing publishable writing skill for effective Gospel communications in Christian media, through essays, news articles, devotionals, written expository sermons and other written communication.
- Ministry of Prose Writing in Secular Media (3 credits)—Strategizing publishable writing skill for effective Gospel communications in secular media, through essays, news articles, devotionals and other written communication.
- Ministry of Poetry Writing (3 credits)—Strategizing publishable poetry writing skill for effective Gospel communications in worship, and in Christian and secular media.

NYDS has the Master's ministry training for you.

New York Evangelical Seminary Fund NYES Fondo del Seminario Evangélico de Nueva York SENY

Bible-based, Christ-centered and Spirit-led

New York Divinity School

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