



# **Biblical Studies Institute**

## **Program Manual**

**[Findlay, Ohio Campus]**

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This manual contains relevant information concerning policies and procedures for the Biblical Studies program offered in Findlay, OH by Winebrenner Theological Seminary. The manual will be revised as necessary (effective Fall 2011).

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# **Biblical Studies Institute**

**[A training program for persons exploring theological education]**

**Based on the WTS campus in Findlay, Ohio**

## **Purpose**

The Biblical Studies Institute program (BSI) is designed for laypersons desiring to expand their biblical foundation while they seek further clarity of God's call in their life. BSI students are at least 21 years of age and are active members of a local church. No prior college preparation is necessary for students enrolling in the BSI, but students with post-secondary academic work may be exempt from certain courses. The size of the harvest and need for Kingdom workers around the globe is a vital call for WTS to prepare disciples to proclaim Christ to the nations (Luke 24:45-48).

## **Outcomes**

WTS has established student learning outcomes for all programs with a focus on knowing (practice generosity), being (seek wholeness), and doing (live missionally). The following BSI program outcomes correspond with these student learning outcomes:

- BSI graduates demonstrate a foundational understanding of biblical, spiritual, theological, and historical disciplines in a spirit of generous evangelicalism.
- BSI graduates demonstrate a commitment to formation that is holistic and manifested in their character as leaders.
- BSI graduates demonstrate compassion, theological self-identity, and wisdom in their ministry praxis.

## **Admission Requirements**

Students taking courses for academic credit in pursuit of a diploma in Biblical Studies will be admitted to the BSI program on the approval of the Admissions Committee. Receipt of an application form, application fee, a high school transcript, and all post-high school transcripts are required prior to the Committee's review and decision. A high school diploma or its equivalent is required for admission.

## **Curriculum**

The BSI diploma program utilizes courses from the master's degree programs based in Findlay, Ohio. This program has several delivery formats. Students have the opportunity to take courses at the WTS campus in Findlay, Ohio, in one or twelve-week formats. Students will be able to enter this program in any trimester. The curriculum plan has been designed to incorporate a formational perspective that affords time for ministry, family and friends, and focused theological education over a two-year time period. Seven foundational courses, and a one hour course in Foundations in Theological Studies, if not previously completed (one-hour credit), spread over the two years comprises the 22 credit hours of this diploma program.

## Communication and Registration

Students in the BSI program are required to maintain a University of Findlay e-mail account and to keep the Seminary informed of changes in their residential address, and telephone numbers. Students are encouraged to contact the Registrar, either by telephone or e-mail, with any questions and to register for courses.

## Course Grade

A letter grade of **A – F** will be given for courses. A minimum grade of **C-** is required to meet the minimum hour requirement for the BS. A required course in which a **D** is received may or may not need to be repeated at the discretion of the faculty. A required course in which an **F** is received must be repeated. Plusses and minuses are regularly assigned.

## Program Continuity

If applicable, students do not have to repeat any courses in the Discipleship Studies Institute Diploma Program after successfully completing the Biblical Studies Institute Diploma Program. All course credits successfully completed in either the Discipleship or Biblical Studies Institutes Diploma Programs are transferable to the Pastoral Training Institute (PTI).

## Requirements for Graduation

The student must complete 22 credit hours to graduate. The seminary confers the Biblical Studies Institute diploma on those students who have met the requirements for graduation, have been recommended by the Faculty, and are approved by the Board of Trustees.

### Course Offerings: Biblical Studies

PTI 010	Foundations in Theological Studies	1
PTI 100	Hermeneutics	3
PTI 104	Old Testament Foundations	3
PTI 106	New Testament Foundations	3
PTI 202	Prophets (or PTI 205 Psalter and Wisdom)	3
PTI 209	Christian Theology	3
PTI 226	Synoptic Gospels (or a Gospel or PTI 127 Studies in Paul)	3
PTI 251	Christian Leadership	3
<b>Total credit hours</b>		<b>22</b>

## Suggested Course Sequence Biblical Studies Institute

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>1</b>	New Testament Foundations##  Hermeneutics#  [Foundations in Theological Studies**]	[Studies in Paul #]  Christian Theology#	Old Testament Foundations##
<b>2</b>	Prophets #  Synoptic Gospels* (or a course on a Gospel)	Christian Leadership##	[Psalter and Wisdom #]

\*Online facilitated course

# 12-week course at the WTS campus in Findlay, Ohio

## One-week intensive course at the WTS Campus in Findlay, Ohio

\*\*Orientation day plus 5 class sessions; course is taken during the first term.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **PTI 010 Foundations in Theological Studies**

Students demonstrate understanding of theological research, critical thinking, writing, and computer skills through completion of a sequence of assignments based on the Annual Theological Theme. They complete initial institutional requirements, are incorporated into the seminary community, and become proficient in using academic tools and facilities. This course must be scheduled during the initial semester of matriculation for all DS students. *(1 hour)*

### **PTI 100 Hermeneutics**

Students demonstrate understanding of a multidisciplinary, evangelical approach to biblical interpretation, integrating theological, biblical, historical, philosophical, and pastoral knowledge for faithful biblical exposition. They also develop an appreciation of the unity and diversity of Scripture and of scholarly devotional interpretive methods. *(3 hours)*

### **PTI 104 Old Testament Foundations**

Students demonstrate understanding of the major divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures: the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. They learn the basic types of genres through study of classic

texts. Students also evidence comprehension of the Messianic promise as it is developed chronologically through the Old Testament. *(3 hours)*

### **PTI 106 New Testament Foundations**

Students demonstrate understanding of the writings of the New Testament in view of their content, origin, literary form, theological value, and practical application. *(3 hours)*

### **PTI 127 Studies in Paul** (Optional)

Students demonstrate understanding of the Pauline corpus of literature. They examine the circumstances and issues that occasioned Paul's letters, the literary forms within Paul's letters and the principles used to interpret Paul for today. Selected passages in Paul's epistles are interpreted. *(3 hours)*

### **PTI 202 Prophets**

Students demonstrate understanding of the message and background of the books of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, with attention given to final-form readings. They interpret selected passages from the prophetic corpus. *(3 hours)*

### **PTI 205 Psalter and Wisdom Literature** (Optional)

Students demonstrate understanding of the cultural and historical settings of the Wisdom corpus and the Psalter, understanding of the poetics of the literature and appreciation of biblical texts that evoke new meanings and worldviews for persons engaged in ministry today. They interpret selected passages from the Psalter and the Wisdom corpus. *(3 hours)*

### **PTI 209 A Survey of Christian Theology**

Students demonstrate an introductory understanding of the central teachings of the Christian faith (East and West). Through a theological framework of creation, fall, redemption, and eschaton, this brief survey will focus on special topics, including the sources and norms of Christian belief, the Trinity, the incarnation, humanity, sin, salvation, the Church, and the last things. Students also learn and practice theological thinking as regards unity and diversity. *(3 hours)*

### **PTI 226 Synoptic Gospels**

Students demonstrate understanding of the first three Gospels. They interpret narratives of the Gospels, the sayings of Jesus, and the parables of Jesus. *(3 hours)*

### **PTI 251 Christian Leadership**

Students demonstrate understanding of the principles and practices essential to leadership. They formulate a biblical basis for congregational mission, vision, and ministry, analyze personal and congregational strategies for ministry, and utilize administrative models designed for congregational management. Students demonstrate willingness to view all persons as called to ministry by equipping them for ministry. *(3 hours)*

## **WTS Contact Information**

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