



Discipleship Studies Institute

Program Manual

[Findlay, Ohio Campus]

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

Discipleship Studies Institute

[A training program for persons exploring theological education]
Based on the WTS campus in Findlay, Ohio

Purpose

The Discipleship Studies Institute program (DSI) is designed for laypersons desiring to expand their own discipleship and their ability to disciple others while they seek further clarity of God's call in their life. DSI 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 DSI, 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 DSI program outcomes correspond with these student learning outcomes:

- DSI graduates demonstrate an essential understanding of discipleship, spirituality, and Christian ministry disciplines in a spirit of generous evangelicalism.
- DSI graduates demonstrate a commitment to formation that is holistic and manifested in their character as leaders.
- DSI 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 Discipleship Studies will be admitted to the DSI program on the approval of the Admissions Committee. Receipt of an application form, application fee, and a high school transcript or academic record are required prior to the Committee's review and decision. A high school diploma or its equivalent is required for admission.

Curriculum

The DSI 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 one-year time period. Seven courses plus a one hour class in Foundations in Theological Studies, if not previously completed, comprises a one year, 22 credit hours of this diploma program.

Communication and Registration

Students in the DSI program are required to have a University of Findlay e-mail account and to keep the Seminary informed of changes in their home address and phone 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 DS. 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. Pluses and minuses are regularly assigned.

Program Continuity

Students do not have to repeat any courses in the Biblical Studies Institute Diploma Program after successfully completing the Discipleship 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 Discipleship Studies 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: Discipleship Studies

DS 010	Foundations in Theological Studies	1
DS 151	Church in Mission	3
DS 208	A Survey of the History of Christianity	3
DS 252	Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
DS 254	Discipleship Ministries	3
DS 342	Christ & Culture	3
DS 369	Spiritual Direction	3
DS 374	Spiritual Formation	3
Total credit hours		22

Suggested Course Sequence Discipleship Studies

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	Christ & Culture# Spiritual Direction## [Foundations in Theological Studies**]	A Survey of the History of Christianity# Discipleship Ministries* Pastoral Care and Counseling* [Foundations in Theological Studies**]	Church in Mission # or @ Spiritual Formation@ [Foundations in Theological Studies**]

*Online facilitated course

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

@One-week intensive course at a Retreat Center in Fremont, 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

DS 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)*

DS 151 Church in Mission

Students demonstrate understanding of God's mission of reconciliation and the role of the Church in fulfilling its missional calling via the gospel of Jesus Christ. They study missiological issues from biblical, theological, historical, ecclesiological, and cultural perspectives. Students implement faithful, holistic, and appropriate approaches in emergent and pluralistic contexts. *(3 hours)*

DS 208 A Survey of the History of Christianity

Students demonstrate understanding of the general flow of Christian history (both East and West), from Pentecost to the present, including major figures and events. Some themes to be examined in greater detail include theological controversies, creeds, councils, Christianity and state, monasticism, liturgy, the marginalized, socio-political changes, calls for reform, modernity, globalization, and contemporary ecumenical dialogue. This course will look at the implications the history of Christianity has for life and thought today. *(3 hours)*

DS 252 Pastoral Care and Counseling

Students demonstrate understanding of a biblical, theological, and theoretical base for pastoral care and counseling. They demonstrate a pastoral attitude toward caring, an appreciation for the centrality of biblical wisdom in pastoral care and counseling, and the ability to discern between appropriate and inappropriate issues, approaches, and techniques applicable to providing Christian care and counseling. *(3 hours)*

DS 254 Discipleship Ministries

Students demonstrate understanding of the biblical principles and methodology for developing, motivating and equipping people to become mature disciples. They will explore and apply contextualized models in a current ministry setting. *(3 hours)*

DS 342 Christ and Culture

Students demonstrate an understanding of one of the most fundamental issues facing the church in today's rapidly changing world—the relationship between the Christian faith and contemporary culture. The course provides biblical and theological foundations for thinking Christianly about culture. It then introduces a variety of models for engaging culture as well as cultural-studies methodologies for surveying the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, highlighting those trends and forces that have significantly impacted the church and its relation to the mission of God. *(3 hours)*

DS 369 Spiritual Direction

Students demonstrate understanding of and commitment to giving and receiving spiritual direction. They practice advanced levels of spiritual disciplines in the context of a small group, a spiritual retreat, and daily personal spiritual formation. They develop skills and insights in spiritual direction by leading spiritual direction sessions. *(3 hours)*

DS 374 Spiritual Formation

Students demonstrate understanding of and commitment to personal spiritual formation. They practice daily the inward and outward disciplines of the spiritual life, and participate in a one-day retreat. Students research the classic Christian streams of spirituality. They demonstrate self-awareness and insight in their spiritual journey, and develop a personal growth plan. *(3 hours)*

WTS Contact Information

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