



# Online Certificate in Practical Ministry

18 Credit Hours

## Admission Requirements:

- Completed application and application fee of \$50.
- Official transcript of all previous colleges attended. The transcript must indicate an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university or equivalent.
- Cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Probationary status may be granted.
- Reflective essay (purpose statement) 1-2 pages typed, double spaced.

## Cost:

- Per Credit: \$499\*
- Total Tuition Per Course: \$1,497
- Estimated Total Tuition: \$8,982

\*Students who begin class in the Spring 2025 or Summer 2025 terms will receive a 75% scholarship on tuition, bringing the cost per credit hour to \$125.



## Graduation Requirements:

Students must earn a 3.0 GPA or higher to meet graduation requirements and successfully complete all required courses.

## Job Outlook in Texas:



**136,207 Jobs**  
Open in 2024\*



**6,342**  
Unique Postings (1/22-11/23)



**\$45,600** per year  
Median Earnings

\*Filtered by the proportion of the national workforce in these occupations with a Bachelor's degree. Source Emsi Analyst 2024.

## Acquired Skills:

### Top Hard Skills

- Youth Ministry
- Theology
- Children's Ministry
- Discipleship

### Top Common Skills

- Communication
- Leadership
- Planning
- Teaching

## Core Curriculum:

### **BIBM 603 Foundations of the Theology of Ministry**

A cornerstone experience for students enrolled in the ministerial formation programs (MDiv, MAGS, or MACM) which introduces ministry students to the resources and practices in the fields of practical theology and contextual education.

### **BMIS 649 Reading and Engaging Contemporary Culture**

Provides an overview of the theory and history of anthropology, including an in-depth investigation of the notion of culture. Students will engage in critical reflection on the use of anthropological theory for praxis in global context.

### **BIBL 682 Teaching Scripture to the Contemporary Church**

An examination of the challenges of a teaching ministry in contemporary church settings, with a reconsideration of the literary, rhetorical, and theological dimensions of Scripture and how Scripture shapes the processes and contents of teaching. Significant attention is given to the effects of culture on a teaching ministry so that students may begin to develop more sophisticated curricular options for church education. Teaching methods also receive significant attention.

## Youth & Family Ministry Concentration

### **BIBM 635 Engaging Adolescents in Christian Formation**

Explores the processes of Christian spiritual formation and implications for ministry with adolescents. Students will think critically and theologically about adolescence as a socially constructed concept and plan intentionally for spiritual formation in a ministry directed at those in this time of life.

### **BIBM 646 Youth and Family Ministry**

A detailed study of youth/family ministry in light of congregational systems, developmental studies, and youth culture with readings on topics significant to advanced youth ministry.

### **BIBM 693 Church and Family Ministry**

Students will explore the sociological, educational, and theological dimensions of churches and families. Students will write ethnographies of church and family systems and then build educational programs that respond to the reality of ministry in such settings. Students learn how to move beyond therapeutic or schooling models of Christian education to more holistic approaches.

## Children's Ministry Concentration

### **BIBM 675 Spiritual Formation of Children**

This course explores the processes of Christian spiritual formation and implications for ministry with children in a variety of contexts. Students will engage critically with theological, sociological, and cultural frameworks as they consider how to nurture children toward full participation in the kingdom of God.

### **BIBM 673 Ministry with Children and Families**

Through interviews and participant observation, students will learn to examine the family, school, church, and community contexts of the spiritual lives of children so as to be able more effectively to engage in their pastoral care. Intellectual, spiritual, and social dimensions of the formation of children will be attended to, as will the theological and biblical underpinnings of children's ministry.

### **BIBM 693 Church and Family Ministry**

Students will explore the sociological, educational, and theological dimensions of churches and families. Students will write ethnographies of church and family systems and then build educational programs that respond to the reality of ministry in such settings. Students learn how to move beyond therapeutic or schooling models of Christian education to more holistic approaches.

## Worship Ministry Concentration

### **BIBM 657 Contexts of Ministry**

Identify and explore contemporary ministry contexts. Students will study and practice methods of observation and reflection on ministry that result in an enriched practice of ministry in diverse contexts.

### **BIBH 655 History of Christianity in America**

Christianity in America from its beginnings to the present. Special emphasis on the colonial period, the democratization of Christianity, the development of 19th-century denominationalism, the rise of ecumenism, and contemporary trends.

OR

### **BIBD 631 Historical Theology**

This course traces the development of one or more theological topics over time by investigating historical contexts, the theological perspectives that emerge from them, and their lasting influences on the Christian tradition.

### **BIBM 670 Worship**

Examines biblical, historical, theological and practical perspectives on worship.

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## Preaching Ministry Concentration

### **BIBM 604 Homiletics**

Focuses on rigorous exegesis for preaching and effective delivery of sermons based on the unique styles, problems and themes of diverse biblical genres.

### **BIBM 628 Preaching Pauline Literature**

Enhances the ability of students to move from text to sermon as they preach from Pauline literature and examines how the form and function of different genres influence form and function in sermons.

**OR**

### **BIBM 605 Preaching Old Testament Literature**

Explores the challenges of preaching from various genres of Old Testament literature. Particular attention is paid to the theological shape and flow of whole canonical books and the homiletical possibilities they offer as students move from text to sermon. This variable topic course periodically focuses on different canonical books. As topics vary, the course may be taken only twice.

### **BIBM 681 Preaching in Contemporary Contexts**

Emphasis on communication skills in preaching (delivery, language vividness and clarity) and enhanced facility with diverse organizational strategies.

## Spiritual Formation Concentration

### **BIBM 621 Fundamentals of Spiritual Nurture**

Vital Christian task of spiritual guidance beginning with early faith and leading to mature, active discipleship.

### **BIBM 648 Christian Spiritual Formation**

Christian spiritual formation is the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others. This course identifies how God utilizes Scripture, people, contexts, literature, spiritual disciplines, and events to transform believers into Christ likeness.

### **BIBM 696 Theological Perspectives on Human Behavior**

A study of the interrelationship between theological and systematic explanations of human behavior and how they may be integrated in psychotherapeutic practice and/or ministry settings while maintaining the integrity of both.

## Church Leadership Concentration

### **BIBM 601 Church Leadership**

Principles of effective organization, administration, and leadership as they apply to the life of the church. Additional course fee required.

### **BIBM 640 Renewing Churches for Mission**

This practical theology course arises in the decline in Christianity and Christian communities in American contexts. Church closures, mergers, secularity, urbanization, technology, social upheaval and more create the environment for ministerial leaders to engage in the study of renewal of congregations and the planting of new congregations. The course will draw from history, social science, theology, and biblical studies to develop constructive models and practices for congregational life and mission.

### **BIBM 645 Managing Conflict in Churches**

The course will offer an examination of the causes, arenas, and dynamics of conflict in churches with an introduction to five major approaches to interviewing in conflicted situations. A variety of instructional methods, including lectures, case studies, role plays, media, expert resource persons, and personal style instruments will be employed. Additional course fee required.