

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Certificate in Church Leadership: Foundations

COLLEGE OF LEADERSHIP AND
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

100% ONLINE

16
CREDIT
HOURS



Admission Requirements:

- Complete the online program application accompanied by a non-refundable processing fee.
- Submit official high school and/or college transcripts.
- Students are not required to submit ACT or SAT test scores.
- Two letters of recommendation from the leadership of the applicant's home congregation. (Recommendation forms will be provided.)
- An essay in response to a provided prompt. This essay will serve as a writing sample and will help determine student fit in the program.

Cost:

- Per Credit: \$395
- Per Course: \$1,185
- Total Tuition: \$6,320
- Total Tuition + Fees: \$7,870

Timeline: 8-12 Months

Job Outlook in Texas:

9,670 Jobs

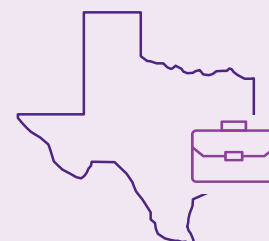
in 2025*

+1.1%

Employment Growth (2025-2026)

\$54,200 *per year*

Median Earnings



*Filtered by the proportion of the national workforce in these occupations with Undergraduate Certificate. Source Lightcast 2026.



Course Requirements:

BIBO 320 Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (3 credit hours)

This course explores various methods of biblical interpretation with emphasis on the tools needed for responsible, insightful, and creative Bible study in the context of ministry.

BCSO 322 Biblical Interpretation 2 (3 credit hours)

This advanced course builds on upon the methods analyzed in BIBL 320 - Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Students will explore the tools needed for responsible, insightful, and creative Bible study in the context of ministry.

BIMO 401 Christian Leadership (3 credit hours)

The course prepares students in all majors to think critically about how they practice Christian leadership in the church and in the world.

Select 1 of the following (BIBO 454, 453, 458 or 364):

BIBO 454 The Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament

(3 credit hours)

Background and message of the prophetic books.

BIBO 453 The Devotional and Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (3 credit hours)

An exegesis of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

BIBO 458 The Synoptic Gospels (Mark) (3 credit hours)

A detailed study of one of the synoptic gospels, either Matthew, Mark, or Luke.

BIBO 364 The Pauline Message (3 credit hours)

Surveys the life and writings of one of the most important and influential leaders of the early church. It explores the cultural context of Paul's work and writings as well as the concepts expressed in his letters.

BCSO 335 Spiritual Formation 1 (3 credit hours)

This course is an introduction to the history of Christian spirituality with an emphasis on the history of Christian spiritual disciplines. Students will explore the spiritual disciplines found in the Hebrew scriptures, Gospels, and life of the early church while practicing spiritual disciplines and reflecting upon implications for life, ministry, and cultural engagement.

Or

BMSO 270 Living the Mission (3 credit hours)

This introductory missions course familiarizes students with key themes and dimensions of the world Christian movement, beginning with an overview of God's continuous engagement with human culture from Genesis to our contemporary 21st century context. Using both biblical and historical biographies, the course gives special emphasis to how God has brought about Kingdom blessings by using ordinary people motivated by the mission dei ("the mission of God") in their own particular cultural contexts.

BCSO 493 Church Leadership

Foundations Capstone (1 credit hour)

This capstone to the Certificate in Church Leadership: Foundations synthesizes the material the student has learned in the foundations certificate coursework and applies one focused aspect of it effectively and creatively to their Christian context for faithful transformation.