

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Certificate in Practical Ministry

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

100% ONLINE

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: \$495
- Total Tuition: \$8,910
- Total Tuition + Fees: \$8,910

*Students who begin class before the Spring 2027 term will receive a 75% scholarship on tuition, bringing the cost per credit hour to \$125.



Timeline: 1-2 Years

Job Outlook in Texas:

8,334 Jobs

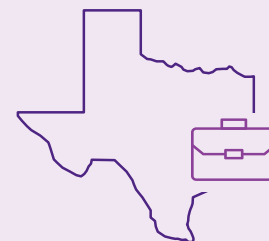
in 2025*

+1.2%

Employment Growth (2025-2026)

\$59,300 *per year*

Median Earnings



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



Core Curriculum:

BIBM 603: Foundations of the Theology of Ministry

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

BIBL 627: Biblical Exegesis

This course concerns the theory and practice of biblical interpretation. It encourages critical use of the perspectives, tools, and methods of biblical scholarship from the standpoint of the Christian faith. Participants are expected to gain greater experience in the analysis of texts from both testaments through practical exercises and written work.

BIBD 660: Systematic Theology 1

Introduces the tasks and methods of systematic theology and focuses on Christian doctrines such as God, atonement, providence, human selfhood, and the church. Children's Ministry Concentration

Children's Ministry Concentration

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 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 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.

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: Spirituality and Christian Leadership

This course explores the inner life of the leader by integrating the dimensions of being, knowing, and doing as the foundation of authentic spiritual leadership.

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. Preaching Ministry Concentration

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 681: Preaching in Contemporary Contexts

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

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.

OR

BIBM 629: 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.



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 640: Spirituality and Christian Leadership

This course explores the inner life of the leader by integrating the dimensions of being, knowing, and doing as the foundation of authentic spiritual leadership.

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.

Worship Ministry Concentration

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 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.

BIBM 670: Worship

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

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.

General Concentration

This will allow students to choose any three electives of their choice, (BIBL, BIBH, BIBM, BMIS, BIBD).