

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE, CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS (GC-CF)

Purpose

The Graduate Certificate, Christian Foundations is designed to offer Biblical, theological, historical, and personal training for lay ministry in the local church. It is not an alternative to professional preparation for vocational ministry, as offered through the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Arts in Church Music, and Master of Arts in Counseling Degree programs.

Graduate Certificate, Christian Foundations Program Objectives

Students graduating with the Graduate Certificate, Christian Foundations will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an adequate knowledge of the Bible and theology.
2. Interpret the English text of scripture using appropriate hermeneutical principles.
3. Articulate and defend their own theological beliefs on the basis of scripture and within the larger setting of church history.
4. Understand and practice the classical spiritual disciplines.
5. Be engaged faithfully in the Great Commission, having the skills and understanding needed for lay evangelism and/or missions involvement.

Duration

A full-time student could complete this certificate program in one year. Part-time students may complete the program at their own pace.

Location

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary offers courses for the Graduate Certificate, Christian Foundations on the main campus in Kansas City and at extension sites where course offerings overlap with those offered for the M.Div. degree. All students are required to complete fifty percent or more of the credit hours required for the Graduate Certificate through Midwestern.

Admission

The Graduate Certificate, Christian Foundations is a post-baccalaureate program. Admission requirements to enter this program include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, evidence of the commitment and qualities desired for Christian lay leadership, and the academic ability to engage in graduate education.

Distinctive Resources

Students have access to community life that provides informal educational experiences, religious fellowship, and opportunity for reflection upon the meaning of faith in its relation to educational training for lay ministry.

Concluding Evaluation

The Graduate Certificate, Christian Foundations requires the successful completion of a concluding comprehensive assessment. This comprehensive assessment must be successfully completed prior to participation in Commencement and graduation.

CURRICULUM

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| Christian Foundations Emphasis | 34 hours |
| 2210-2211 Old Testament Survey I & II | 6 hrs |
| 2310-2311 New Testament Survey I & II | 6 hrs |
| Select: 2400 Introduction to Hermeneutics OR | |
| 3300 Introduction to Apologetics | 2 hrs |
| 3100 History of Christianity I | 3 hrs |
| Select: 3101 History of Christianity II OR | |
| 3110 Baptist History | 3 hrs |
| 3200-3201 Theology I & II | 6 hrs |
| 3400 Christian Ethics | 3 hrs |
| 5000 Personal Spiritual Disciplines | 2 hrs |
| Select: 5201 Basic Evangelism OR 7001 Theology and Philosophy of Missions | 3 hrs |
| Concluding Evaluation ¹ | 0 hours |
| TOTAL | 34 hours |

1. A comprehensive assessment.