

2026–2027

Undergraduate Catalog



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Academic Catalog

This Academic Catalog describes the policies and academic programs of Highlands College in effect at the time of publication. It is IMPORTANT for each student to become familiar with the regulations in this Catalog. Highlands College has made every effort to ensure that everything stated in the catalog is accurate. However, sometimes changes are necessary after the date of publication. Courses and programs offered, together with other matters contained herein, are subject to change at the discretion of the College. Highlands College admits students who are Christians of good character of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship, and other school-administered programs.

2026–2027 Undergraduate Academic Calendar



Fall Semester

August 12	Wednesday	Term A: Begins
August 18	Tuesday	Course Drop/Add Deadline
September 7	Monday	Labor Day*
September 9	Wednesday	Term A: Course Withdrawal Deadline
October 7	Wednesday	Term A: Ends
October 8-9	Thursday-Friday	Expedition
October 10-12	Saturday-Monday	Fall Break
October 13	Tuesday	Term B: Begins
October 16	Friday	Academic Classes**
October 16	Friday	Term B: Course Drop/Add Deadline
November 5	Thursday	Term B: Course Withdrawal Deadline
November 11	Wednesday	Veterans Day Celebration*
November 13	Friday	Academic Classes**
November 10-28	Friday-Saturday	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	Wednesday	Impact Conference
December 10	Thursday	Semester: Ends

Winter Break

December 11-January 3

Spring Semester

January 4	Monday	Term A: Begins
January 7	Thursday	Course Drop/Add Deadline
January 16	Friday	Academic Classes**
January 18	Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. Day*
January 21-23	Thursday-Saturday	Saturate
January 28	Thursday	Term A: Course Withdrawal Deadline
February 25	Thursday	Term A: Ends
March 1	Monday	Term B: Begins
March 4	Thursday	Term B: Course Drop/Add Deadline
March 12-20	Friday-Saturday	Spring Break
April 1	Thursday	Term B: Course Withdrawal Deadline
April 10	Saturday	Highlands College Half Marathon
April 29	Thursday	Semester: Ends
May 1	Saturday	Commencement

*No academic classes **Friday class day

Welcome from the Chancellor



Dear Student,

Welcome to Highlands College—America's Ministry Leadership University! It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you into a community unlike any other—a community centered on Jesus, anchored in purpose, and built to empower you to become the leader God has called you to be.

Over the next few years, you will embark on a transformative journey—spiritually, academically, and personally. Every step you take at Highlands College will help you discover and fulfill your God-given calling, and I could not be more excited for the growth and impact that lies ahead.

At Highlands College, we are committed to graduating leaders deeply rooted in the Great Commission and devoted to serving the local church. Our highest aim is to see you develop a love for God's Word, not just in knowledge, but in practice. We believe the authority of Scripture is foundational. Through consistent study and application, you will build an unshakable faith that stands strong in any season and resonates in the lives of those you will serve.

We desire for you to cultivate a Christ-centered life—a life shaped by personal devotion, authentic relationships, Godly character, and holistic health. You will be part of a vibrant, life-giving community where discipleship happens daily and leadership is formed through humility.

As you grow, we encourage you to remain teachable. Embrace the pursuit of excellence in all things and approach every opportunity as a steward of God's calling on your life. We believe in lifelong learning, and the most effective leaders are those who remain humble and hungry to grow.

Finally, our prayer is that you leave Highlands College with clarity of calling and boldness of purpose. You are being equipped for Kingdom leadership—for impact that extends beyond the moment and into eternity. As you develop the vocational and leadership skills necessary for ministry, may you do so with a heart full of faith and a vision fixed on what matters most.

We have high expectations for you because we believe in the greatness God has placed within you. Go all in. Steward this season well and finish strong. The Church needs what God has placed in you, and the world is waiting.

Sincerely,

Chris Hodges
Chancellor, Highlands College



Our Story

Highlands College was founded in 2011 by Chancellor Chris Hodges, founding pastor of Church of the Highlands, to meet the urgent need for well-equipped ministry leaders. His vision was to create a higher education model integrating academic instruction with ministry training, character formation, and spiritual development.

Today, Highlands College offers an accredited four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in a ministry-specific field. Every element of the student experience is designed to develop leaders of competence, character, and spiritual maturity, fully equipped to serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission.



State Licensing and Accreditation

Highlands College is an Alabama non-profit corporation licensed through the state of Alabama's Private School Licensure Division and is accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation (5850 T. G. Lee Blvd., Ste. 130, Orlando, FL 32822, 407-207-0808) to grant certificates and degrees at the Associate, Baccalaureate, and Master's levels.

NC-SARA

Highlands College is approved by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) to participate in the SARA initiative. This allows us to offer distance education to students in participating SARA states. For more information about NC-SARA, please visit www.nc-sara.org.

Administration

Board of Directors

Ronnie Bennett
Duane Donner
Chris Hodges, Chairman
Dr. John C. Maxwell
Jana McDonnell
Patricia Oh
Scott Olson
Mark Pettus
Ken Polk, Vice-Chairman
Darryl Rosser
Mike Stockard
Glenn Siddle
Dr. Courtney J. Winston

Officers

Kay Hargrave, Chief Advancement Officer
Matthew Brumfield, Chief Financial Officer
Katie Reeves, Secretary/General Counsel
Jordan Williamson, Chief Operating Officer

Campus Location

3660 Grandview Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
(205) 963-6900

Vision, Mission, and Goals

Vision

To educate, equip, and empower leaders in a ministry academy model, applying leading-edge methods in world-class facilities where students launch into their calling to expand the Kingdom of God.

Mission

Highlands College is a biblical higher education institution that exists to supply the Church with leaders of competence, character, and spiritual maturity, holistically trained to lead lives of eternal impact by fulfilling the Great Commission.

Goals

Highlands College will:

- Strengthen the Four Pillars of Ministry Leadership.
- Improve and enhance the academy leadership development model.
- Develop student services that propel success.
- Expand educational platforms.
- Refine the implementation-driven operating model.
- Continue to build a world-class training ground for world-changing leaders.
- Fund the future.

Student Learning Objectives

The graduates of Highlands College will be known for their commitment to:

The Authority of Scripture, as evidenced by the knowledge, interpretation, and integration of Scripture, and the possession of a biblical worldview.

The Pursuit of a Christ-Centered Life, as evidenced by a personal devotional life with God, a godly character, a healthy, active lifestyle, and an investment in life-giving relationships.

The Passion of Lifelong Learning, as evidenced by the intentional pursuit of truth, and creative problem solving.

The Calling of Ministry Leadership, as evidenced by the discovery of, and devotion to, personal calling, and the development of leadership and vocational skills.

The Advancement of the Kingdom, as evidenced by service to the Church, stewardship of time and resources, commitment to finishing well.

The Four Pillars of Highlands College



Academic Instruction



Highlands College students grow in the highest standards of excellence as they develop their intellect and increase their knowledge of God. Students become lifelong learners across various disciplines, strengthening their understanding of their Christ-centered calling in engaging classroom settings.

Ministry Training



Highlands College equips students to be the hands and feet of Jesus through exceptional hands-on ministry training and empowers students to take ownership in every area of church life. Highlands College gives students leadership training and opportunities to develop the skills needed to make a difference in the world.

Character Formation



Highlands College challenges students to live a life of excellence by living a healthy, active lifestyle and growing their leadership abilities. Students develop Christ-like character through relationships with mentors and peers during their time at Highlands College.

Spiritual Development



Highlands College students strengthen their devotion to God through the local church, chapels, small groups, and relationships with others. Students are disciplined by spiritually mature church and academic leaders.

Statement of Faith

Students, Faculty, and Staff agree with the beliefs expressed in this Statement; and commit to living in accordance with these beliefs.

Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible, and inerrant. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26)

Trinity

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and coeternal. (I John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11)

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the Cross for mankind, and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory. (John 1:14, 20:28; I Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; I Timothy 2:5)

Virgin Birth

Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the Virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God. (Matthew 1:18, 25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:27-35)

Redemption

Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Gen. 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21)

Regeneration

For anyone to know God, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. (John 6:44, 65; Matthew 19:28; Titus 3:5)

Salvation

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ: His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22)

Repentance

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation. (Acts 2:21, 3:19; I John 1:9)

Sanctification

Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life. (I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; II Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, II Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11)

Jesus' Blood

The Blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death. (I John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; John 1:29)

Jesus Christ Indwells All Believers

Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to him thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead. (John 1:12; John 14:17, 23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelation 3:20)

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Given at Pentecost, it is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His Ascension, to empower the Church to preach the Gospel throughout the whole earth, one of the signs being speaking in other tongues along with other gifts. (Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5,8, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6)

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible's lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters. (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16; I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6-7; I Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; I Peter 4:10)

The Church

The church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the church as a member of the body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23)

Sacrament of Water Baptism

Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and by full immersion. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the symbols of Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25)

Sacrament of Marriage

We believe that because God our Creator established marriage as a sacred institution between one man and one woman, marriage is a covenant only between one man and one woman, as clearly conveyed in God's inerrant Scriptures, including for example in Matthew 19:4-6 where in speaking about marriage Jesus referred to the fact that "he which made them at the beginning made them male and female." (Genesis 1:27, 5:2)

Sexuality

We believe sexuality and the divinely prescribed boundaries for its expression are covered clearly in the Holy Scriptures, which limit sexual expression to the marital relationship of one man with one woman. Homosexual acts, adultery, bestiality, and all forms of fornication are categorically condemned in the Holy Scriptures. We believe that sexuality is assigned by God at conception, male or female, whatever that may be, and the Holy Scriptures does not permit an individual to alter their sexual identity physically or otherwise. (Deuteronomy 23:1, 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Romans 1:26-27; Proverbs 5:3-5, 8-13; 7:21-27; Galatians 5:19; Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27; 19:18; Luke 18:20; Romans 13:9; James 2:11; Leviticus 20:10-21; 1 Corinthians 10:8, 6:18; Jude 7)

Healing of the Sick

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign, which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the Cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit. (Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; I Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29)

God's Will for Provision

It is the Father's will for believers to become whole, healthy, and successful in all areas of life. But because of the fall, many may not receive the full benefits of God's will while on earth. That fact, though, should never prevent all believers from seeking the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to better serve others.

Spiritual (John 3:3-11; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10)

Mental and Emotional (II Timothy 1:7, 2:11; Philippians 4:7-8; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3)

Physical (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24)

Financial (Joshua 1:8; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 34:10, 84:11; Philippians 4:19)

Resurrection

Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the Cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation. (Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21)

Heaven

Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All of God's children will reign forever in a new heaven and a new earth.

(Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; II Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; I Peter 1:4; Revelation 21:1-5)

Hell

After living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to Hell where they will be eternally tormented with the Devil and the Fallen Angels. (Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8)

Second Coming

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures. (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7)

Admission Requirements

Highlands College is designed to give students an experience that challenges them to grow in the same ways Jesus grew as a young man: in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and with man (Luke 2:52). Acceptance to Highlands College is an honor reserved for students who are ready for the challenge of committing at least four years of their life to prepare for their future in ministry.

Applicants must meet the following admissions requirements to be accepted into Highlands College.

- Meet the age requirement of 17-24 years by the first day of the semester. Age exceptions may be permitted in very limited circumstances at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.
- Be a United States Citizen or have a visa permitting college attendance.
- Be a committed follower of Christ.
- Demonstrate a strong sense of the call of God on their life.
- Be a current, regular, and active member of a local church for at least three months.
- Ensure access to sufficient financial resources to cover tuition, fees, housing, and living expenses.
- Meet one of the following academic requirements.
 - 2.5 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA) as of high school graduation with a standard diploma.
 - 2.5 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA) from 30 or more postsecondary college credit hours.
 - Completed the General Educational Development (GED) Certificate.
 - Other state-recognized equivalencies of a high school diploma.
- Affirm agreement with the Highlands College Statement of Faith.
- Complete the following admission requirements:
 - Online application
 - Application fee
 - Pastoral recommendation
 - Christian Experience Questionnaire
 - Satisfactory background check
 - Satisfactory Social Media check
 - All required academic transcripts
 - Admissions interview
 - Proof of physical exam
 - Signed Post-Acceptance Documents (PADS)
 - Paid enrollment deposit
 - Immunization records*
- Highlands College requires all students to live on campus for all four years to cultivate an immersive educational and spiritual environment where students can forge meaningful relationships through consistent community and encouraging interactions. The Housing Agreement and Policy are published annually and are available upon

request. All students must agree to abide by the policy.

*An immunization exemption may be submitted.

The Admissions Committee will review the application information, and the Admissions Department will notify the applicant of a decision. In some cases, an applicant may be asked to provide additional evidence that they meet these requirements, or the Admissions Committee may apply additional conditions concerning the above entry requirements. Based on our experience of the demands for a vocation and calling in ministry, these requests are in the applicant's best interest. Exceptions may be permitted in very limited circumstances at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Application Process

The application process consists of a completed online application form with the submission of all program-specific requirements and supporting documentation. The application for admission is on the Highlands College website, www.highlandscollege.edu.

Once the application package, including all required supporting documentation, is complete, the Admissions Committee will review the application and make an admission decision. The Admissions Committee meets monthly to review completed applications. The Admissions Department will notify applicants of the outcome of their application. Applicants accepted for admission who do not enroll in the application year for which they applied must complete a new application for admission for another application year.

Online Recommendation Form

Applicants must request an electronic recommendation form as part of their application. This recommendation should be completed by someone with a close, pastoral relationship with the applicant, such as a pastor, pastoral staff, small group leader, etc., who can testify to the applicant's relationship with Jesus, leadership skills, and Christian character. The recommendation may not come from a relative. Highlands College may call this individual for more information about the applicant to follow up concerning academic or behavioral issues disclosed in the application process.

Admission Interview

Once an applicant's admission application is submitted, the Admissions Counselor will contact the applicant to schedule an interview as a last step in the application process.

Background Authorization Consent

Applicants 18 and older should complete the Background Check Consent Form in the Admission Application. Applicants 17 and under should complete the Minor Background Check Questionnaire. This form will be completed by applicants while completing the online application. After admissions application submission, a Parent Background Check Questionnaire will be emailed to their selected parent/guardian for completion.

If there are questions or issues regarding the applicant's background check, the Admissions Committee, in partnership with the Security Department, will decide whether the applicant qualifies to enroll.

Transcript Submission

Applicants must submit an official transcript or other formal certification verifying completion of the secondary education requirement. High school applicants should request one transcript at the time of application, followed by a final transcript upon graduation. All transcripts submitted, both in progress and final, must be official and sent directly to Highlands College from the high school. Transcripts issued to the student are considered unofficial and cannot be used for admission consideration. All high school graduates must request a final transcript that includes grade point average (GPA), graduation date, and reflects the equivalency to a high school diploma. Official transcripts are also required from all colleges and universities attended (once enrollment is concluded). An in-progress official transcript may be submitted for preliminary evaluation if the applicant is presently enrolled; however, it must be followed by an official transcript showing all final grades once the applicant's final grades are posted. Applicants accepted for admission will not be enrolled in classes until required official transcripts have been received. Highlands College will only accept official transcripts, not photocopies or documents marked "Issued to Student." All transcripts from a foreign institution must be translated, received in English, and evaluated for equivalency by a transcript evaluation service. Applicants must use one of the following transcript evaluation services for academic transcript(s) evaluation:

www.jsilny.org
www.evalcompany.com
www.ece.org
www.wes.org

Official transcripts can be submitted electronically to admissions@highlandscollege.edu. Official transcripts can also be mailed directly to the following address:

Highlands College
ATTN: Admissions Department
3660 Grandview Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35243

Grade Point Average Requirements

Applicants must have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 as evidenced by their secondary or post-secondary education transcript(s). Applicants who do not meet this requirement may provide alternative satisfaction by demonstrating an overall 2.5 GPA in 9 or more semester hours of completed coursework at the post-secondary level in the most recent semester. All transcripts received are evaluated on a four-point scale determined by Highlands College. Exceptions may be permitted in very limited circumstances at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Standardized Test Scores

Submission of standardized test scores from either the American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is OPTIONAL for both scholarship and admission considerations. If an applicant wants a test score considered for a scholarship decision, the test scores must be sent directly from the testing agency or a student's high school to Highlands College. Student copies of score reports will not be considered official.

Highlands College Code Numbers: SAT: 7193 /
ACT: 7829

Student Information Release

Highlands College is committed to student safety, growth, and development as individuals prepare for ministry. During a student's enrollment, situations may arise where student information needs to be shared between Highlands College departments and small group leaders for the benefit of the student. Student privacy is essential, and Highlands College seeks to maintain appropriate discretion regarding information sharing. Students will be required to formally acknowledge that in certain circumstances, limited personal information regarding a specific need may be shared carefully and with discretion with Highlands College departments, Church of the Highlands Campus Pastors, Staff, or Small Group leaders to benefit their growth and development in preparation for ministry during the post-acceptance process.

Technical Standards

Highlands College imposes strict technical standards to ensure students possess the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed for a career in full-time ministry. These standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, must be met for students to enroll at Highlands College. The Student Success team assesses the reasonableness of accommodations, ensuring they do not undermine the educational process. Students are expected to maintain access to a personal computing device that supports required academic software and college systems, including Microsoft 365, the Student Information System (SIS), the Learning Management System (Blackboard), and other institutional platforms required for coursework, communication, and engagement.

These abilities and skills, as determined by Highlands College, are as follows:

- **Observation Skills:** A student must be able to use the sense of vision, hearing, and somatic sensation in order to assimilate information quickly and accurately in the classroom and in ministry training fields. Students will be expected to participate in an active learning approach and must have the capacity to remain engaged for extended periods, fully participate in class discussions, and make oral presentations to groups.
- **Communication Skills:** Students must be able to read, speak intelligibly, and hear sufficiently to affect an adequate exchange of information and create rapport with team members, congregation, and others. A student must be able to read and write English effectively to fulfill academic requirements and maintain accurate records as needed in ministry. Students must be able to accurately interpret verbal and nonverbal communication.
- **Behavior and Social Skills:** Students must possess the physical and emotional health required for the application of their intellectual abilities and the employment of sound judgment appropriately and promptly. Students must display emotional stability, a spirit of teamwork and cooperation, compassion, sensitivity, respect, honesty, reliability, perseverance, and concern for others in order to facilitate interpersonal relationships and provide effective pastoral care while maintaining appropriate professional boundaries. Students must exercise good judgment, accountability, professional integrity, strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to receive and integrate feedback. Students must demonstrate the skills required to effectively manage heavy workloads, function professionally under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of the uncertainties inherent to ministry.
- **Cognitive Skills:** These abilities include an aptitude for rapid problem solving, the capability to independently access, interpret, and respond to academic and ministry information independently, and pastoral scenarios. Assimilate, critique, prioritize, and appropriate the Christian story as understood through scripture, tradition, reason, experience, and as centered on the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Psychomotor Skills:** Students must possess the physical skills, talents, and abilities to perform the essential physical task functions of academics and areas in ministry training outlined below:
 - **School of Media:** Students must be able to serve long days and late nights for extended periods of time. Students must have the physical strength and mobility to lift and carry equipment and assist with the setup and repair of equipment. Students must be comfortable working at heights and willing to be certified to use personnel and material lifts. Students must be proficient in keyboarding. Students must have the ability to load in and load out audio, video, and lighting equipment for campuses and other events. They must be able to physically manipulate user inter-faceable gear requiring gross and fine motor skills and a high degree of precision. Students must exhibit the capacity to lead and manage all aspects of a live production environment.
 - **School of Ministry and Dunn School of Business:** Students must be able to serve long days and late nights for extended periods of time. Students must have the physical strength and mobility to lift and carry equipment and assist with the setup and repair of equipment. If enrolled in Family Ministry, students must have functions reasonably required to carry out the skills necessary to teach, attend to, and intervene with youth ages birth to 5th grade.
 - **School of Worship:** Students must be able to serve long days and late nights for extended periods of time. Students must have the physical strength and mobility to lift and carry equipment, assist with setup and repair of equipment. Students need to have musical ability in either singing or instrumentation. Students must be proficient in keyboarding and have the ability to work with their hands and stand for long periods. Students must have the ability to load in and load out instruments, audio, video, and lighting equipment for campuses and other events. They must have the ability to physically manipulate user inter-faceable gear and instruments requiring gross and fine motor skills and a high degree of precision. Students must exhibit the capacity to lead and manage all aspects of a live worship environment.

Accommodation Requests

The Student Success Team oversees all accommodation requests and will evaluate any applicant or student who states he/she can meet the College's Technical Standards with reasonable accommodation. This determination includes a review of whether the student is a "qualified individual with a disability," whether the student has provided proper documentation to support a request for accommodation, whether the accommodation requested is reasonable, whether an accommodation would cause undue burden on the College, and whether the accommodation would compromise the fundamental nature of the program (including all coursework, ministry training, student life requirements, and/or internships deemed essential for graduation).

If you anticipate needing accommodation, Highlands College encourages you to complete the application process as soon as possible. Please email the Student Success Team with any questions at accommodations@highlandscollege.edu.

Probationary Admission

Highlands College offers Probationary Admission in the limited circumstance of offering admission to an applicant who does not meet the requirements for standard admission. Probationary Admission students must earn a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 2.0 by the end of their first semester. Students will be placed in "good standing" status if they meet this requirement. Students who do not meet this requirement will be dismissed from the program. Students may appeal the decision of dismissal. If an appeal is denied, the student may reapply for admission after a period of five months after their probationary semester.

Provisional Admission

Highlands College offers Provisional Admission in the circumstance of an applicant who is a strong candidate for admission but needs additional time to obtain the required admission application documentation. Provisionally admitted students must submit all the necessary admission application documentation before enrollment. Highlands College may revoke admission if required documentation is not received prior to enrollment or the applicant presents new evidence that no longer meets the minimum application requirements.

Application Denial and Reapplication

The Admissions department will notify applicants who are not accepted for admission. An applicant denied admission can appeal the decision of the Admissions Committee if they feel additional information might influence the evaluation of their application. If an applicant wishes to appeal an admission

decision, they should submit the following items to admissions@highlandscollege.edu. The items for an appeal should be submitted via attachments in one email with the applicant's name and "Admission Decision Appeal" in the email's subject line.

- Submit one to three letters of recommendation from pastors/staff from the church where the applicant currently serves, including their contact information.
- Submit a typed one to three-page essay answering the following questions:
 - Why do you feel called to attend Highlands College?
 - Why do you think you will be successful at Highlands College?
 - What have you done and are continuing to do to prepare yourself spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically for the rigorous demands of Highlands College and eventual placement into full-time ministry?
 - Are there additional factors not included in your initial application that you would like the Admissions Committee to consider?
 - Appealing an admission decision does not guarantee acceptance into Highlands College. Applicants denied admission may reapply five months from the date the prior application was submitted for the following application year.



Financial Information

Obtaining a college education requires a significant financial investment. Highlands College attempts to make such an education affordable to students from various economic backgrounds through endowment income and the generous gifts of donors.

Tuition and Fees

Full-Time Tuition

Tuition (annual): \$30,000

Students are considered full-time with a semester load of 12 or more semester credit hours. Students have a maximum semester limit of 18 credit hours. Full-time tuition covers 12 to 18 credit hours. Students must seek permission to take more than the maximum credit hours in a semester or less than 12 credit hours.

Students must pay additional tuition for each credit hour they take over the limit. Highlands College will inform the student of the costs associated with such an arrangement in these instances. Students must have an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above to be eligible for an overload of up to 21 credit hours and an overall cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above to be eligible for an overload of up to 24 credit hours.

Part-Time Tuition

Highlands College considers students who take less than 12 credit hours a semester as part-time students. Tuition is the per-credit-hour rate of all academic courses taken.

Tuition (per credit hour): \$425

Housing, Dining, and Fitness Plan

Fitness and Nutrition: \$6,000

Primary Housing: \$6,000

Tiered Upgrades: Prices listed below are in addition to Primary rates.

Deluxe Room: \$500/year

Premier Room: \$1,500/year

Premier Dining: \$2,500/year

Off-Campus Housing

Students must obtain approval to reside off campus. If a student does not live in Highlands College housing, partial credit will be determined based on eligibility.

Additional Fees

Application for Admission (Non-Refundable): \$50

Course Repeat: \$300

Co-curricular Retake : \$100

Leave of Absence Request: \$250

Premier Parking: \$300/year

Replacement Diploma: \$25

Replacement Diploma Cover: \$35

Replacement ID: \$10

Returned Check: \$35

Mission Trip: TBD

Payment Guidelines

New students will be invoiced for their tuition and student experience fees for the upcoming academic year following committing to Highlands College. Continuing students will be invoiced tuition for the upcoming academic year in advance.

For a student to be enrolled in classes, have access to courses and course materials, attend Highlands College events, and move into housing, all tuition must be paid in accordance with applicable payment due dates.

Outstanding Balances

Any student whose account becomes past due 30 days or more is placed on financial hold. This prevents future course enrollment and the ability to request transcripts or diplomas. Once the account is current, the financial hold will be removed.

All students must either have a zero balance or maintain a current payment status in an approved payment plan to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students who owe a balance will not receive their diploma and can only receive or send transcripts once the student pays the balance.

Refunds

The Academic Calendar lists a Drop/Add deadline for each term. A student may be eligible for a refund only if the student formally withdraws on or before the first Drop/Add deadline for each semester.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Highlands College offers several competitive scholarships to full-time students. Scholarships are available to both incoming and returning students. Scholarship requirements are outlined in the Scholarship Agreement that students complete, and additional details for each scholarship are located on the College's website. Students are expected to maintain a minimum overall cumulative GPA according to their scholarship agreement.

In addition to scholarships, Highlands College offers internal financial aid. After applying for scholarships, students may apply for financial aid to be awarded based on financial need. Highlands College does not participate in federal financial aid programs, such as Title IV or Veterans Administration.

Degree Programs



Programs of Study

Highlands College prepares students to become tomorrow's leaders by holistically training students in academic instruction, character formation, ministry training, and spiritual development. Highlands College offers majors in various ministry interests so students can discover their unique calling and graduate educated, qualified, and confident in their ability to lead a life of eternal impact.

Degree Programs

Highlands College defines a degree program as a Major. A Program of Study is a degree with a specified Major.

The graduation requirements for all undergraduate programs are listed in this Catalog and in Degree Completion Plans. Each Degree Completion Plan includes an Example Course Sequence. Undergraduate students declare a major upon acceptance to Highlands College. Students may process a change of major at any time following matriculation.

Minors

Undergraduate students may complete a minor by selecting a specific grouping of 15 credit hours of courses outside of their major. Courses applied toward a minor must be selected in consultation with an academic advisor. Course availability is subject to scheduling and enrollment.

The major and minor degree credit hours do not overlap with any other credits in the core curriculum, major, or minor unless otherwise specified in the curriculum.

Change of Degree

A change of degree occurs when a student desires to change enrollment from a current degree program to any other degree program. Students who wish to initiate a degree change should complete a Change of Degree request. Forms are available from the Registrar.

Students must meet all requirements of the new degree before they may change to that program. Due to the differences in program requirements, the decision should be made in consultation with Student Accounts and the Registrar. Changing programs may extend the student's anticipated date of graduation. Approval to request a degree change is not definite and is subject to final approval. Decisions are final and may not be appealed.

Program Learning Outcomes

At Highlands College, every program is intentionally designed to develop servant leaders who are grounded in biblical truth, shaped by spiritual disciplines, and equipped for effective ministry in today's world. Our program learning outcomes reflect the holistic nature of our educational approach—integrating spiritual development, character formation, ministry training, and academic instruction. These outcomes guide the structure and content of each degree and program, ensuring that students graduate with the theological foundation, practical skills, and Christlike character needed to lead in the Church and influence culture.



Biblical Studies (Core)

Foundational Knowledge of Scripture. Develop a foundational knowledge of Scripture's attributes, formation, content, and context by articulating and defending a theologically sound doctrine of the Bible and demonstrating the biblical literacy necessary for effective ministry.

Intentional Interpretation of Scripture. Demonstrate the ability to accurately interpret Scripture's original meaning by applying effective interpretive tools and methods to assigned biblical texts.

Contextual Application of Scripture. Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply Scripture's original meaning to personal life and ministry contexts. Determine how Scripture's original meaning addresses the needs of today's unique ministry settings and broader cultural challenges.

Foundational Studies (Core)

Written Communication. Produce clear, coherent, and compelling written assignments that make logical arguments and present information in a structured and engaging manner while using appropriate language, style, and formatting conventions.

Critical Thinking. Analyze, interpret, and synthesize information to draw appropriate conclusions, solve complex problems, and form coherent arguments in written and oral forms. Support the analysis with relevant evidence and information.

Oral Communication. Create and deliver logically organized, well-supported, compelling presentations for specific audiences and diverse settings using engaging visual aids.

Theological Studies (Core)

Understanding of Theological Knowledge and History. Demonstrate the ability to analyze foundational theological knowledge. Examine essential Christian beliefs based on biblical perspectives and historical developments.

Integration of Theological Knowledge in Spiritual Practice. Develop spiritual maturity based on theological principles. Critically apply these principles to personal spiritual practices and lead others in their spiritual growth through assessed activities such as reflective papers and projects.

Application of Theological Knowledge with Contemporary Issues. Respond to contemporary moral, cultural, and theological challenges. Evaluate and synthesize a biblically informed Christian worldview to create solutions.

Practical Ministry

Church Administration. Demonstrate proficiency in managing church systems and operations from a central and campus viewpoint.

Team Building. Create and demonstrate leadership of effective ministry teams, fostering collaboration and guiding others toward shared goals.

Pastoral Care. Demonstrate compassionate and relevant pastoral care to the congregation, addressing their emotional, spiritual, and relational needs.

Business Leadership (Major)

Biblical Worldview in Business. Understand and apply biblical and theological principles as the foundation for ethical business practice and Christ-centered leadership.

Business Knowledge and Skills. Demonstrate competency in accounting, economics, management, and business law necessary to operate in organizational contexts.

Ethics and Social Responsibility. Understand and practice decision-making shaped by Christian ethics, addressing issues of justice, stewardship, sustainability, and community impact.

Christian Business Leadership. Demonstrate the ability to lead people and steward resources to build organizational health and advance mission in nonprofit contexts.

Kingdom Entrepreneurship. Create and implement business ventures and innovative strategies that produce growth and extend Gospel impact locally and globally.

Business Leadership (Major)

Biblical Worldview in Business. Understand and apply biblical and theological principles as the foundation for ethical business practice and Christ-centered leadership.

Business Knowledge and Skills. Demonstrate competency in accounting, economics, management, and business law necessary to operate in organizational contexts.

Ethics and Social Responsibility. Understand and practice decision-making shaped by Christian ethics, addressing issues of justice, stewardship, sustainability, and community impact.

Christian Business Leadership. Demonstrate the ability to lead people and steward resources to build organizational health and advance mission in nonprofit contexts.

Family Ministry (Major)

Apply Models of Family Ministry. Apply foundational models and principles of family ministry, integrating theoretical knowledge with practical skills to effectively support and nurture families within the church.

Kids and the Family Unit Discipleship. Integrate child development theories and strategies with discipleship practices to foster spiritual growth in children and families, creating a holistic approach to ministry.

Family Ministry Operations and Administration. Demonstrate strong operational leadership and administrative skills, effectively managing family ministry departments with a focus on strategic planning and organizational excellence.

Pastoral Care and Safeguarding. Demonstrate compassionate pastoral care with a commitment to safeguarding the family unit, ethically and responsibly addressing the needs of those in their ministries.

Assessing Child-Centered Curriculum. Survey and assess child-centered curricula, demonstrating readiness for active ministry roles by creating impactful and engaging educational environments.

Global Ministry (Major)

Cultural Intelligence. Demonstrate cultural intelligence (CQ) by respecting, adapting to, and communicating effectively across diverse cultural contexts.

Cross-Cultural Evangelism. Exhibit a robust understanding of Evangelism, practicing biblically grounded methods to share the Gospel effectively across various cultural and ministry audiences.

Responding to Needs. Synthesize biblical and contextual knowledge into their pastoral practices, ensuring their ministry is relevant, sensitive, and effective across unique, individual needs.

Local Outreach. Engage in local outreach, applying their knowledge to serve and uplift communities by addressing their practical and spiritual needs.

Church Growth and Discipleship. Demonstrate contribution to the growth of the local church through leadership and outreach by applying discipleship techniques in diverse audiences, fostering spiritual growth in various cultures.

Live Production (Major)

Worship Production Technologies. Demonstrate proficiency in utilizing production technologies to enhance the worship and ministry experience.

Live Video Operation. Demonstrate operation of live video systems, ensuring high-quality visual presentations during ministry events.

Live Audio Management. Manage live audio hardware and software, delivering clear and balanced sound that supports diverse ministry environments.

Live Lighting Design. Designing and executing live lighting schemes that complement and enhance the atmosphere of ministry environments.

Media and Design (Major)

Technical Proficiency. Demonstrate technical proficiency in key visual arts disciplines, showcased by their productions of media using industry-standard hardware and software.

Interdisciplinary Visual Communication. Synthesize photography, videography, and graphic design principles to create cohesive and impactful visual pieces that communicate across multiple media formats.

Problem Solving and Collaboration. Demonstrate proficiency in creative problem-solving by utilizing interdisciplinary approaches and effectively collaborating in team environments to develop innovative solutions in visual media projects.

Visual Storytelling. Apply visual narrative techniques to create compelling stories that engage and inform diverse audiences across various platforms.

Audience Research and Analysis. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research and audience analysis, applying these insights to inform their design and storytelling decisions, and creating targeted and effective visual media.

Pastoral Ministry (Major)

Pastoral Leadership. Exhibit strong leadership skills rooted in biblical principles, effectively guiding and inspiring congregations and ministry teams.

Pastoral Care. Demonstrate the ability to offer compassionate and relevant pastoral care to the congregation, addressing their emotional, spiritual, and relational needs.

Cultural Competency. Demonstrate the ability to navigate and engage with diverse cultural contexts within pastoral ministry.

Develop Evangelism Strategies. Develop and execute evangelism strategies that resonate with the unique needs and challenges of the congregation.

Strategic Innovation. Develop and implement strategic innovations in pastoral ministry, creating effective solutions for contemporary challenges within their congregations and communities.

Student Ministry (Major)

Student Ministry Cultural Competency. Navigate and engage with diverse cultural contexts within student ministry.

Student Evangelism. Craft and execute evangelism strategies that resonate with the unique needs and challenges of students.

Pastoral Care to Students. Demonstrate the ability to offer compassionate and relevant pastoral care to students, addressing their emotional, spiritual, and relational needs.

Student Ministry Communication. Employ effective communication techniques that resonate with students, fostering clear understanding and meaningful engagement in ministry activities.

Worship Ministry (Major)

Apply Musical Theory. Applying their knowledge of musical theory to arrange and lead worship music that enhances the worship experience.

Utilize Live Music Technologies. Utilize live music technologies to elevate worship experiences.

Apply Worship Theology. Apply their leadership and musical choices in sound biblical principles and worship theology.

Create a Collaborative Worship Team. Create a collaborative worship team environment and guide congregations in meaningful worship.

Worship Experience Creativity. Cultivate creativity in designing and executing worship experiences that are both engaging and spiritually enriching.

Vocal or Instrumental Proficiency. Demonstrate proficiency in vocal or instrumental performance, enabling them to lead worship with technical skill and confidence.

Character Formation (Co-Curricular)

Promote a Culture of Integrity. Demonstrate ethical behavior in academic, extracurricular, and personal activities. Exemplify responsibility for their actions and decisions, acknowledge mistakes, and learn from them.

Uphold a Standard of Discipline. Exhibit self-discipline in their campus life and personal responsibilities. Demonstrate time management skills in their campus life and personal responsibilities. Live and lead a healthy, active lifestyle.

Create Opportunities for Service. Participate in campus engagement and leadership opportunities that contribute to strengthening the Highlands College Community. Collaborate with peers and team members to address collective needs, emphasizing teamwork and cooperative effort.

Dedication to Excellence. Demonstrate personal growth and community responsibility. Achieve or exceed individual and team performance measures and benchmarks. Demonstrate resilience and steadfastness in their faith and personal endeavors, which they have developed through overcoming academic, spiritual, and personal challenges.

Spiritual Development (Co-Curricular)

Devotion to God. Devotion to God through prayer, worship, and the study of Scripture.

Life-Giving and Genuine Relationships. Life-giving and genuine relationships in the Body of Christ.

Continual Discipleship. Continual discipleship with pastoral leadership and mentors.

Mental and Emotional Resilience. Mental and emotional resilience through pastoral relationships.

Spiritual Maturity. Spiritual maturity through growth and transformation more and more into the image of Jesus.



Dunn School of Business Leadership (B.S.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in the fall of 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs.

Core Requirements

Professional Development

CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3

Global Awareness and Cultural Engagement

HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3

Analysis and Inquiry

MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3

Biblical Foundations

BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3

Theological Essentials

THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3

Total Hours

63

Major Requirements

Major Core

PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
BUSI 205	Introduction to Business Concepts	3
BUSI 215	Organizational Behavior	3
BUSI 225	Introduction to Financial Accounting	3
BUSI 305	Design Thinking and Innovation	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
BUSI 315	Corporate and Social Responsibility	3
BUSI 325	Christian Business Principles	3
BUSI 405	Kingdom Economics	3
BUSI 415	Business Law	3
BUSI 425	Intermediate Financial Accounting	3
BUSI 435	Impact and Legacy	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
BUSI 465	Ministry Capstone	2

Total Hours

42

Minor or Free Electives

Choose 15 credit hours	15
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Total Hours

15

All applicable prerequisites must be met.

- **Graduation Requirements**
- **120** Total hours
- **2.0** Overall grade point average
- **30** Hours must be upper-level courses (300-400 level)
- **Grade of 'C'** Minimum is required for all courses
- **100%** Of the major must be taken through Highlands College
- **100 Hours** must be completed through Highlands College
- **Co-Curricular** complete requirements
- **Graduation Application** Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Business Leadership courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College

Example Course Sequence

First Semester		
CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
Total		15
Second Semester		
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
BUSI 205	Introduction to Business Concepts	3
Total		15
Third Semester		
HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
BUSI 215	Organizational Behavior	3
Total		15
Fourth Semester		
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
BUSI 225	Introduction to Financial Accounting	3
BUSI 305	Design Thinking and Innovation	3
Total		15
Fifth Semester		
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
BUSI 315	Corporate and Social Responsibility	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Sixth Semester		
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
BUSI 325	Christian Business Principles	3
BUSI 405	Kingdom Economics	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Seventh Semester		
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3
BUSI 415	Business Law	3
BUSI 425	Intermediate Financial Accounting	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Eighth Semester		
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3
BUSI 435	Impact and Legacy	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
BUSI 465	Ministry Capstone	2
Minor/Elective		3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15

School of Media - Live Production (B.A.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in the fall of 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs.

Core Requirements

Professional Development

CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3

Global Awareness and Cultural Engagement

HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3

Analysis and Inquiry

MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3

Biblical Foundations

BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3

Theological Essentials

THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3

Total Hours

63

Major Requirements

PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
WSHP 101	Biblical Foundations of Worship	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
PROD 101	Live Production Foundations	3
PROD 203	Production Technologies	3
PROD 212	Live Video Production	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
PROD 232	Lighting for Worship	3
PROD 302	Church Audio	3
PROD 312	Advanced Live Video Production	3
PROD 322	Audio Reinforcement	3
PROD 332	Lighting Practices	3
PROD 411	Producing Live Events	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
PROD 465	Ministry Capstone	2

Total Hours

42

Minor or Free Electives

Choose 15 credit hours	15
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Total Hours

15

All applicable prerequisites must be met.

- **Graduation Requirements**
- **120** Total hours
- **2.0** Overall grade point average
- **30** Hours must be upper-level courses (300-400 level)
- **Grade of 'C'** Minimum is required for all courses
- **100%** Of the major must be taken through Highlands College
- **100 Hours** must be completed through Highlands College
- **Co-Curricular** complete requirements
- **Graduation Application** Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Live Production courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College

Example Course Sequence

First Semester		
CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
Total		15
Second Semester		
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
BUSI 205	Introduction to Business Concepts	3
Total		15
Third Semester		
HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
PROD 101	Live Production Foundations	3
Total		15
Fourth Semester		
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
PROD 203	Production Technologies	3
PROD 212	Live Video Production	3
Total		15
Fifth Semester		
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
PROD 232	Lighting for Worship	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Sixth Semester		
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
PROD 302	Church Audio	3
PROD 312	Advanced Live Video Production	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Seventh Semester		
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3
PROD 322	Audio Reinforcement	3
PROD 332	Lighting Practices	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Eighth Semester		
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3
PROD 411	Producing Live Events	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
PROD 465	Ministry Capstone	2
Minor/Elective		3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15

School of Media - Media & Design (B.A.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in the fall of 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs.

Core Requirements

Professional Development

CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3

Global Awareness and Cultural Engagement

HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3

Analysis and Inquiry

MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3

Biblical Foundations

BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3

Theological Essentials

THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3

Total Hours

63

Major Requirements

PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
MDES 101	Creative Foundations	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
MDES 212	Introduction to Graphic Design	3
MDES 222	Photography Principles	3
MDES 232	Introduction to Filmmaking	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
MDES 312	Digital Media	3
MDES 316	Advanced Graphic Design	3
MDES 332	Video Postproduction	3
MDES 336	The Art of Storytelling	3
MDES 338	Advanced Filmmaking	3
MDES 436	Content Writing and Editing	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
PROD 465	Ministry Capstone	2

Total Hours

42

Minor or Free Electives

Choose 15 credit hours	15
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Total Hours

15

All applicable prerequisites must be met.

Graduation Requirements

- **120** Total hours
- **2.0** Overall grade point average
- **30** Hours must be upper-level courses (300-400 level)
- **Grade of 'C'** Minimum is required for all courses
- **100%** Of the major must be taken through Highlands College
- **100 Hours** must be completed through Highlands College
- **Co-Curricular** complete requirements
- **Graduation Application** Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Media & Design courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College

Example Course Sequence

First Semester		
CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
Total		15
Second Semester		
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
MDES 101	Creative Foundations	3
Total		15
Third Semester		
HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
MDES 212	Introduction to Graphic Design	3
Total		15
Fourth Semester		
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
MDES 222	Photography Principles	3
MDES 232	Introduction to Filmmaking	3
Total		15
Fifth Semester		
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
MDES 312	Digital Media	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Sixth Semester		
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
MDES 316	Advanced Graphic Design	3
MDES 332	Video Postproduction	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Seventh Semester		
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3
MDES 336	The Art of Storytelling	3
MDES 338	Advanced Filmmaking	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Eighth Semester		
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3
MDES 436	Content Writing and Editing	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
MDES 465	Ministry Capstone	2
Minor/Elective		3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15

School of Media - Family Ministry (B.S.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in the fall of 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs.

Core Requirements

Professional Development

CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3

Global Awareness and Cultural Engagement

HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3

Analysis and Inquiry

MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3

Biblical Foundations

BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3

Theological Essentials

THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3

Total Hours

63

Major Requirements

PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
FMLY 101	Family Ministry Foundations	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
FMLY 202	Family Ministry Models	3
FMLY 204	Family Ministry Strategies	3
FMLY 212	Departmental Operations and Administration	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
FMLY 305	Discipleship and Child Development	3
FMLY 321	Child Learning and Curriculum I	3
PMIN 323	Foundations of Pastoral Care	3
FMLY 345	Safeguarding Ministry	3
FMLY 422	Child Learning and Curriculum II	3
PMIN 424	Advanced Topics of Pastoral Care	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
FMLY 465	Ministry Capstone	2

Total Hours

42

Minor or Free Electives

Choose 15 credit hours	15
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Total Hours

15

All applicable prerequisites must be met.

Graduation Requirements

- **120** Total hours
- **2.0** Overall grade point average
- **30** Hours must be upper-level courses (300-400 level)
- **Grade of 'C'** Minimum is required for all courses
- **100%** Of the major must be taken through Highlands College
- **100 Hours** must be completed through Highlands College
- **Co-Curricular** complete requirements
- **Graduation Application** Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Family Ministry courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College

Example Course Sequence

First Semester		
CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
Total		15
Second Semester		
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
FMLY 101	Family Ministry Foundations	3
Total		15
Third Semester		
HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
FMLY 202	Family Ministry Models	3
Total		15
Fourth Semester		
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
FMLY 204	Family Ministry Strategies	3
FMLY 212	Departmental Operations and Administration	3
Total		15
Fifth Semester		
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
FMLY 305	Discipleship and Child Development	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Sixth Semester		
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
FMLY 321	Child Learning and Curriculum I	3
PMIN 323	Foundations of Pastoral Care	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Seventh Semester		
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3
FMLY 345	Safeguarding Ministry	3
FMLY 422	Child Learning and Curriculum II	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Eighth Semester		
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3
PMIN 424	Advanced Topics of Pastoral Care	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
FMLY 465	Ministry Capstone	2
Minor/Elective		3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15

School of Media - Global Ministry (B.S.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in the fall of 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs.

Core Requirements

Professional Development

CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3

Global Awareness and Cultural Engagement

HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3

Analysis and Inquiry

MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3

Biblical Foundations

BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3

Theological Essentials

THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3

Total Hours

63

Major Requirements

PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
GLBL 101	Understanding Poverty	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
GLBL 202	Global Missions	3
GLBL 204	Local Strategies	3
GLBL 243	Personal Evangelism	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
GLBL 322	Ministry in Complex Culture	3
PMIN 335	Culture-Driven Team Building	3
PMIN 323	Foundations of Pastoral Care	3
GLBL 307	Ministry Finance Fundamentals	3
GLBL 344	Holistic Discipleship Ministry	3
GLBL 405	Navigating Organizational Partnerships	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
GLBL 465	Ministry Capstone	2

Total Hours

42

Minor or Free Electives

Choose 15 credit hours	15
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Total Hours

15

All applicable prerequisites must be met.

Graduation Requirements

- **120** Total hours
- **2.0** Overall grade point average
- **30** Hours must be upper-level courses (300-400 level)
- **Grade of 'C'** Minimum is required for all courses
- **100%** Of the major must be taken through Highlands College
- **100 Hours** must be completed through Highlands College
- **Co-Curricular** complete requirements
- **Graduation Application** Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Global Ministry courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College

Example Course Sequence

First Semester		
CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
Total		15
Second Semester		
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
GLBL 101	Understanding Poverty	3
Total		15
Third Semester		
HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
GLBL 202	Global Missions	3
Total		15
Fourth Semester		
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
GLBL 204	Local Strategies	3
GLBL 243	Personal Evangelism	3
Total		15
Fifth Semester		
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
GLBL 322	Ministry in Complex Culture	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Sixth Semester		
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
PMIN 335	Culture-Driven Team Building	3
PMIN 323	Foundations of Pastoral Care	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Seventh Semester		
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3
GLBL 307	Ministry Finance Fundamentals	3
GLBL 344	Holistic Discipleship Ministry	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Eighth Semester		
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3
GLBL 405	Navigating Organizational Partnerships	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
GLBL 465	Ministry Capstone	2
Minor/Elective		3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15

School of Media - Pastoral Ministry (B.S.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in the fall of 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs.

Core Requirements

Professional Development

CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3

Global Awareness and Cultural Engagement

HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3

Analysis and Inquiry

MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3

Biblical Foundations

BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3

Theological Essentials

THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3

Total Hours

63

Major Requirements

PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
PSTR 101	Pastoral Ministry Foundations	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
PSTR 204	Essential Skills of Pastoral Leadership	3
PSTR 214	Organizational Leadership	3
PSTR 224	Church Management Systems	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
PMIN 323	Foundations of Pastoral Care	3
PSTR 331	Strategy and Innovation	3
PMIN 335	Culture-Driven Team Building	3
PMIN 341	Evangelism and Discipleship	3
PMIN 402	Effective Preaching	3
PMIN 424	Advanced Topics of Pastoral Care	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
PSTR 465	Ministry Capstone	2

Total Hours

42

Minor or Free Electives

Choose 15 credit hours	15
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Total Hours

15

All applicable prerequisites must be met.

Graduation Requirements

- **120** Total hours
- **2.0** Overall grade point average
- **30** Hours must be upper-level courses (300-400 level)
- **Grade of 'C'** Minimum is required for all courses
- **100%** Of the major must be taken through Highlands College
- **100 Hours** must be completed through Highlands College
- **Co-Curricular** complete requirements
- **Graduation Application** Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Pastoral Ministry courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College

Example Course Sequence

First Semester		
CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
Total		15
Second Semester		
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
PSTR 101	Pastoral Ministry Foundations	3
Total		15
Third Semester		
HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
PSTR 204	Essential Skills of Pastoral Leadership	3
Total		15
Fourth Semester		
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
PSTR 214	Organizational Leadership	3
PSTR 224	Church Management Systems	3
Total		15
Fifth Semester		
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
PMIN 323	Foundations of Pastoral Care	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Sixth Semester		
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
PSTR 331	Strategy and Innovation	3
PMIN 335	Culture-Driven Team Building	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Seventh Semester		
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3
PMIN 341	Evangelism and Discipleship	3
PMIN 402	Effective Preaching	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Eighth Semester		
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3
PMIN 424	Advanced Topics of Pastoral Care	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
PSTR 465	Ministry Capstone	2
Minor/Elective		3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15

School of Media - Student Ministry (B.S.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in the fall of 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs.

Core Requirements

Professional Development

CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3

Global Awareness and Cultural Engagement

HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3

Analysis and Inquiry

MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3

Biblical Foundations

BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3

Theological Essentials

THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3

Total Hours

63

Major Requirements

PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
SDNT 101	Student Ministry Foundations	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
SDNT 202	Student Discipleship Models and Strategies	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
SDNT 303	Cultural Competency in Student Ministry	3
PMIN 323	Foundations of Pastoral Care	3
PMIN 335	Culture-Driven Team Building	3
PMIN 341	Evangelism and Discipleship	3
FMLY 345	Safeguarding Ministry	3
PMIN 402	Effective Preaching	3
SDNT 404	Student Ministry Curriculum Design	3
PMIN 424	Advanced Topics of Pastoral Care	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
SDNT 465	Ministry Capstone	2

Total Hours

42

Minor or Free Electives

Choose 15 credit hours	15
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Total Hours

15

All applicable prerequisites must be met.

Graduation Requirements

- **120** Total hours
- **2.0** Overall grade point average
- **30** Hours must be upper-level courses (300-400 level)
- **Grade of 'C'** Minimum is required for all courses
- **100%** Of the major must be taken through Highlands College
- **100 Hours** must be completed through Highlands College
- **Co-Curricular** complete requirements
- **Graduation Application** Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Student Ministry courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College

Example Course Sequence

First Semester		
CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
Total		15
Second Semester		
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
SDNT 101	Student Ministry Foundations	3
Total		15
Third Semester		
HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
SDNT 202	Student Discipleship Models and Strategies	3
Total		15
Fourth Semester		
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
PMIN 335	Culture-Driven Team Building	3
PMIN 323	Foundations of Pastoral Care	3
Total		15
Fifth Semester		
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
SDNT 303	Cultural Competency in Student Ministry	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Sixth Semester		
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
PMIN 341	Evangelism and Discipleship	3
FMLY 345	Safeguarding Ministry	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Seventh Semester		
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3
PMIN 402	Effective Preaching	3
SDNT 404	Student Ministry Curriculum Design	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Eighth Semester		
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3
PMIN 424	Advanced Topics of Pastoral Care	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
SDNT 465	Ministry Capstone	2
Minor/Elective		3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15

School of Media - Worship Ministry (B.A.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in the fall of 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs.

Core Requirements

Professional Development

CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3

Global Awareness and Cultural Engagement

HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3

Analysis and Inquiry

MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3

Biblical Foundations

BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3

Theological Essentials

THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3

Total Hours

63

Major Requirements

PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
WSHP 101	Biblical Foundations of Worship	3
PROD 101	Live Production Foundations	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
WSHP 201	Music Theory for the Church	3
WSHP 203	Songwriting for the Church	3
WSHP 212	Worship Platform Development	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
WSHP 303	Worship Ministry Leadership	3
WSHP 305	Creating Worship Environments	3
WSHP 325	Voice Study	3
or WSHP 335	Instrument Study	3
WSHP 341	Live Music Technologies	3
WSHP 426	Advanced Vocal Techniques	3
or WSHP 436	Advanced Instrument Techniques	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
WSHP 465	Ministry Capstone	2

Total Hours

42

Minor or Free Electives

Choose 15 credit hours	15
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Total Hours

15

All applicable prerequisites must be met.

Graduation Requirements

- **120** Total hours
- **2.0** Overall grade point average
- **30** Hours must be upper-level courses (300-400 level)
- **Grade of 'C'** Minimum is required for all courses
- **100%** Of the major must be taken through Highlands College
- **100 Hours** must be completed through Highlands College
- **Co-Curricular** complete requirements
- **Graduation Application** Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Worship Ministry courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College

Example Course Sequence

First Semester		
CORE 101	Freshman Seminar	3
CORE 103	First-Year Writing	3
COMM 107	Speaking and Presenting Skills	3
BIBL 101	Introducing the Bible	3
PMIN 101	Personal Leadership	3
Total		15
Second Semester		
PSYC 105	Principles of Identity and Social Behavior	3
MATH 103	Topics in Mathematics	3
BIBL 105	Interpreting the Bible	3
THEO 121	Living the Spiritual Disciplines	3
WSHP 101	Biblical Foundations of Worship	3
Total		15
Third Semester		
HIST 105	The Legacy of Christianity	3
BIBL 212	Understanding the Old Testament	3
THEO 203	Exploring Christian Beliefs	3
PMIN 201	Church Structures	3
WSHP 201	Music Theory for the Church	3
Total		15
Fourth Semester		
COMM 215	The Art of Listening and Responding	3
BIBL 222	Understanding the New Testament	3
THEO 212	Shaping the Christian Mind	3
PROD 101	Live Production Foundations	3
WSHP 203	Songwriting for the Church	3
Total		15
Fifth Semester		
CORE 204	Money Management and Budgeting	3
THEO 312	Navigating Moral Choices	3
PMIN 301	Church Practices	3
WSHP 212	Worship Platform Development	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Sixth Semester		
BIBL 324	Revealing Christ in the Gospels	3
CORE 201	Critical Thinking and Decision Making	3
WSHP 303	Worship Ministry Leadership	3
WSHP 325	Voice Study	3
or WSHP 335	Instrument Study	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Seventh Semester		
BIBL 326	Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts	3
SOCI 204	Marriage and Family Life	3
WSHP 305	Creating Worship Environments	3
WSHP 341	Live Music Technologies	3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15
Eighth Semester		
THEO 324	Engaging with the Mission of God	3
WSHP 426	Advanced Vocal Techniques	3
or WSHP 436	Advanced Instrument Techniques	3
PMIN 465	Readiness for Ministry	1
WSHP 465	Ministry Capstone	2
Minor/Elective		3
Minor/Elective		3
Total		15

Ministry Studies Minor

The Ministry Studies minor consists of a selection of ministry and elective courses drawn from across disciplines, providing foundational ministry knowledge and leadership development that complement a student's major. Course selection is completed in consultation with an academic advisor to ensure alignment with the student's academic program and ministry interests.

Minor Requirements

Important: This minor plan is effective for those starting in the fall of 2026. This minor plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change minors.

Completion Requirements

- Choose Ministry courses not previously taken to meet requirements of the declared major, for a total of 15 credit hours
- Grade of 'C' Minimum is required for all courses
- 100% Of the minor must be taken through Highlands College



Student Services



Ministry Placement

Ministry Placement supports students in developing the spiritual, personal, and professional competencies necessary to pursue vocational ministry opportunities. Through the Placement Pathway, one-on-one coaching, and career services, students receive guidance in preparing for ministry placement. The Placement Pathway is available to students through Blackboard.

Student Success

The Student Success team provides resources to help students achieve academic, ministry, character, and spiritual goals. The Student Success team is comprised of the HC Library, HC Writing Lab, HC Navigate, and HC Accommodations. Resources include individual writing consultations, library research assistance, and the Freshman Navigator program. The HC Navigator equips Freshman students with tools to meet the challenges of college life and reach their goals. For additional information, log in to MyHC – Student Success or contact studentsuccess@highlandscollge.edu.

Student Council

The Student Council is a diverse group of students representing the student body's interests. They are elected and empowered in various ways, including overseeing student events, activities, and initiatives. The Council provides feedback on the strengths and areas for improvement of the College.

Library

HC Library partners with faculty and team to provide a core collection of scholarly resources and various public and technological services supporting the College's vision and mission and students' educational endeavors. The library is located on the third floor. For information about the library, including hours of operation and a list of services provided, students can direct inquiries to library@highlandscollge.edu.

Writing Lab

The HC Writing Lab supports students in all aspects of their writing. The Writing Lab partners with learners to develop clarity, critical thinking, research skills, and successful writing processes for their educational goals. Through individual consultations, resources, and workshops, the Writing Lab fosters a culture of writing in the HC community that will empower scholars as they impact spheres of ministry around them. The Writing Lab is located on the third floor in Learning Studio 306, adjacent to the library. Scheduling an appointment is highly recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. To see hours of operation or to schedule an appointment, connect online at MyHC.

Resolution Process

The purpose of the Resolution Process is to provide an equitable means of resolving student concerns. Highlands College is committed to the Scriptural principles found in Matthew 18:15-17. A direct approach between the offended person and the offender, "speaking the truth in love," when appropriate, will resolve most issues. Therefore, when appropriate, the student should first attempt to discuss the matter privately with the other person to resolve the matter.



If a student cannot resolve a concern with another student, Highlands College teammate, or Church of the Highlands teammate, the student should follow the Resolution Process described below. Students should follow the appropriate procedures outlined in the Academic Catalog for concerns related to academics, co-curricular activities (e.g., chapel, sports, small groups, and Sunday Serve attendance), grade appeals, and other policy-specific matters. Housing-related concerns should be addressed directly with the Resident Assistant. If concerns remain, the student should then follow this Resolution Process.

Students should submit concerns through the [Highlands College Resolution Form](#) within 7 days of occurrence. The student will receive an immediate acknowledgment of receipt of the information and can expect a timely response from the Resolution Committee. The Resolution Committee is committed to respecting the students' concerns and protecting the confidentiality of all information submitted.

Resolution Form Submissions

Students who have specific concerns regarding their experience as Highlands College students are encouraged to use this form to make those known. The Resolution Committee will review and give a timely response to all completed forms. Anonymous submissions cannot receive a response.

The Resolution Committee is a small group of Highlands College teammates. Depending upon the nature of the concern and the level of response needed, a member of the Resolution Committee will respond directly to the student. The Committee will elevate the matter to the Highlands College Lead Team for review.

Students should direct any questions related to the Highlands College Resolution Policy to the Care Team (care@highlandscollege.edu). Highlands College cannot guarantee that it will resolve every issue raised to the satisfaction of a student or a group of students. Highlands College seeks to address pertinent issues that affect the quality of our students' experiences.



Academic Policies



Student Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable U.S. Department of Education program. Highlands College does not receive funds from the U.S. Department of Education and is not subject to FERPA. However, ethical principles for the confidentiality of student records are important to Highlands College. The College has established policies and procedures that align with FERPA regulations. FERPA gives parents certain rights concerning their children's education records. When a student turns 18 years old or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parents to the student. For more information, contact the Registrar.

Credit Hour Determination

The term credit hour is the unit used to measure coursework at Highlands College. The Faculty and Administration determine the credit hours awarded for courses in accordance with the vision, mission, and student learning objectives of Highlands College. This measure meets the Carnegie Collegiate Student Hour Guidelines, related Federal definitions, and requirements, and the Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission (ABHE) on Accreditation standards, policies, and guidelines. The number of credit hours assigned to a course should reflect the Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) and the appropriate amount of time spent by a student in a course, otherwise known as "time on task."

The following are principles and working definitions, conforming to sound and commonly accepted practices, regarding the credit hour and the basis for its determination.

- The Faculty and Administration are responsible for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum; therefore, they are responsible for credit hour determination.
- Time spent in Classroom Instruction, Direct Instruction (Non-Classtime), and Outside-Of-Class Student Work determines the number of credit hours awarded to courses.
- Classroom Instruction and Direct Instruction (Non-Classtime) times are equivalent for credit hour determinations.
- The Carnegie Collegiate Student Hour equals one semester hour of academic credit for 750 minutes of combined Classroom Instruction/Direct Instruction (Non-Classtime) plus 1,500 minutes of Outside-Of-Class Student Work.
- The ratio of Classroom Instruction/Direct Instruction (Non-Classtime) and Outside-Of-Class Student Work is 1:2.
- Credit-hour equivalency for online coursework is determined by a student's total time on task, including time spent learning, studying, and completing assignments. Instructional time and student preparation time are combined to represent the student's total time on task of 2,250 minutes for one credit hour of academic credit.

Course Delivery Methods

Highlands College offers courses through multiple instructional delivery methods, including face-to-face, online, asynchronous, and hybrid formats. The instructional delivery method for each course is identified in the course description and/or course schedule. Highlands College determines the appropriate delivery method for each course in alignment with institutional policies and accreditation approvals.

Class Attendance

One of the most vital aspects of a residential university experience is attendance and punctuality in the classroom. Class activities for each course have been specifically designed to enable students to meet the course's objectives. Students are expected to be present when class begins and to remain the entire class session. Attendance is collected and recorded for each class, and instructors reserve the right to factor lateness, early departures, and class attendance into a student's grade. Inclement weather or other events beyond Highlands College's control may occasionally result in changes to normal campus operations, including the cancellation of classes or events. In such cases, the calendar schedule may be adjusted. In certain circumstances, students may be approved to miss a class session due to participation in college-approved activities, military obligations, ministry service opportunities, conferences, or other institutional events. Students must receive prior approval from the appropriate Highlands College team and communicate with their course instructor in advance of the absence. Approved participation does not remove the student's responsibility to complete all required coursework or assignments.

Attendance expectations may vary depending on the instructional delivery method of the course.

Hybrid Course: Students are expected to attend all required in-person class sessions and actively participate in the online components of the course as defined by the course.

Online Course: Attendance is demonstrated through regular, meaningful participation in course activities as defined by the course.

Classification of Absences

Each absence is classified as either “unexcused” or “excused.” All absences, including excused absences, count as absences. Absences may be considered excused for illnesses, emergencies, or unforeseen circumstances. An excused absence permits the student to make up any in-class work or assignments. If a student is absent for any reason, they are expected to confer with their course instructor concerning the possibility of being allowed to make up missed work. Students should inform instructors of planned absences.

An unexcused absence is one in which the student does not attend a class. Work missed due to an unexcused absence may not be eligible for make-up and may result in a grade penalty. Examples of unexcused absences include alarm clock failure, traffic, inoperative vehicles, forgetfulness, and oversleeping. Students should not schedule mission trips during class sessions. All mission trips are unexcused absences. Any absence, even those for a reason that would otherwise be excused, is considered unexcused if the student does not communicate with the instructor within 72 hours of the absence.

In rare emergency circumstances, an excused absence may be approved not to count toward the maximum number of allowed absences that result in a grade of “FA.” Exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis and must be documented and approved through the Accommodations Process. Examples of emergency circumstances may include serious illness, injury, or significant family emergencies. Students are responsible for promptly notifying their instructor and initiating the Accommodations Process to request consideration for an emergency absence exception.

Students must monitor their own class attendance to know when they are approaching or have exceeded the maximum allowed. Students who exceed the maximum number of absences allowed for a class earn a Failure due to Absences grade of “FA.” The grade “FA” is recorded regardless of the student’s grade in the course. A course in which the student earns a grade of “FA” counts toward the student’s attempted credit hours, adversely affects the student’s GPA, and carries the same weight as if the student had earned a grade of “F.”

Number of Absences Allowed

For in-person courses, the maximum allowable excused and unexcused absences are three (3) per course. Students who miss more than three (3) class sessions may appeal to the Academic Review Committee if they believe extenuating circumstances were present. The student should submit a letter with supporting documentation to the Academic Review Committee to appeal.

Grading

At the end of the term, instructors assign a grade for every course that carries academic credit. Highlands College calculates grade point average (GPA) on a 4-point scale.

Letter Grade.	GPA
A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0
FA	0.0

Chancellor’s and Dean’s Lists

Highlands College publishes a Dean’s List and a Chancellor’s List at the end of each Fall and Spring semester to give recognition for outstanding academic achievement. A student must have taken at least 12 semester hours to be eligible. The Dean’s List requires an overall semester GPA of 3.70-3.99, and the Chancellor’s List requires an overall 4.0 semester GPA or greater.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the vision and mission of Highlands College to develop world-class leaders who possess intellect and virtue and who love the truth according to a biblical worldview. In cases of alleged academic dishonesty, Highlands College will investigate and review according to the principles, policies, and procedures outlined in the Student Handbook and this Academic Catalog. Academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in any of the following behaviors.

- Plagiarism (Refer to the Plagiarism section of this catalog.)
- Misuse of Artificial Intelligence (Refer to the Artificial Intelligence section of this catalog.)
- Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, study aids, or people for personal assistance in academic work or examinations, including, but not limited to, the following actions:
 - Looking at an examination paper or answer sheet of another student
 - Obtaining, before the administration of a test, unauthorized information regarding the test
 - Possessing or distributing an exam or exam questions
 - Using any unauthorized materials or equipment during an examination
 - Cooperating or aiding in any of the above

- Fabrication: Altering, contriving, or inventing information that would be deceptive in any academic exercise, written or otherwise. Misrepresentation of attendance or absence.
- Misrepresentation of Academic Records: Altering of any portion of Student Records
- Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Aiding another to violate the Academic Integrity Policy of this Institution
- Unfair Advantage: Using improper means to attempt to gain a more favorable advantage on an academic assignment or exercise
- Multiple Submissions: Using the same work to fulfill requirements for more than one assignment or course without prior approval from all instructors involved
- Sabotage: Deliberately acting to obstruct, destroy, damage, or inhibit the use of materials or equipment
- Substitution: Using a proxy or acting as a proxy in an academic assignment or exercise
- Tolerating Academic Dishonesty: Failing to address academic dishonesty promptly

Penalties for Violations of Academic Integrity

The College may impose one or more of the following penalties for a confirmed instance of academic integrity or dishonesty, including previous infractions.

- A failing grade on the assignment in question
- A failing grade in the course
- Suspension from the College for a determined period
- Dismissal from the College

Right to Appeal

The student has the right to appeal an Academic Integrity penalty. The appeal must come within two weeks of the receipt of the decision. To appeal the penalty, the student should submit a letter with supporting documentation to the Academic Review Committee. The Academic Review Committee may choose to do one of the following.

- Reverse the finding and dismiss the penalty or
- Confirm the finding and impose the penalty or
- Confirm the finding and modify the penalty

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's ideas, words, or work without properly acknowledging the original source. This can include directly copying text, paraphrasing without proper citation, using someone else's ideas or research findings without attribution, and self-plagiarism, which involves presenting one's own previously submitted work as new without proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism undermines academic integrity, erodes trust, and violates ethical standards by misrepresenting the originality of one's own work.

At Highlands College, we believe in fostering student development and upholding academic integrity. Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, and it is essential for students to understand the consequences of engaging in such behavior. By embracing academic integrity, students are not only safeguarding their own educational experience, but they are also contributing to the integrity and reputation of Highlands College. We have categorized plagiarism into three levels, each with its corresponding actions and consequences, aimed at promoting growth and preventing further instances of plagiarism.

Tier-0 Plagiarism (Coaching)

Tier-0 Plagiarism involves minor mistakes in the citation of resources generally made by novice college writers. As students learn more about how to properly cite utilized resources, these mistakes should not continue. The course instructor will coach the student about the improper writing incident. The instructor will meet with the student and provide coaching on how to correct the deficiency. The instructor may also require the student to make an appointment with the Writing Lab to work on these skills. The student may receive a grade penalty of up to 10% of the total grade earned on the assignment.

The following is a list of actions that are examples of zero-level plagiarism:

- Citation of information not utilized in the submission (a.k.a. "padding reference list")
- Failing to include all the parts required for a proper citation of resourced materials (i.e. failing to provide page numbers for quoted materials, missing year of publication, etc.)
- Failing to properly insert quotation marks at the beginning or ending of quoted materials
- Improper formatting of citations
- Inserting verbatim phrases of 2-3 distinctive words or inserting small parts of media or other materials without crediting the author(s)
- Citing non-credible sources (blogs or popular media) for academic arguments
- Citing a source without proper engagement with the source

Tier-1 Plagiarism

Tier-1 Plagiarism involves improper citation or the use of source content (either human- or AI-generated) without proper attribution. This is a learning opportunity for students to enhance their understanding of academic integrity. The following is a list of actions that are regarded as Tier-1 Plagiarism:

- Using ideas or concepts from a source without crediting the author(s)
- Substituting synonyms into a sentence from a source rather than rewriting the complete sentence while not crediting the author(s)
- Reordering the clauses of a sentence while not crediting the author(s)

- Imitating the sentence, paragraph, organizational structure, or writing style of a source or using a source's line of logic, thesis, or ideas without crediting the author(s)
- Repeated Tier-1 Plagiarism may be subject to Tier-2 Plagiarism consequences.

Possible Consequences

- The student will participate in a corrective conference between the student and their course instructor to address any areas of limited understanding.
- The student is referred to the Writing Lab for assistance with understanding the proper citation of resources and the importance of academic integrity.
- The student receives a score reduction for the assignment to reflect the severity of the incident up to the total grade value of the assignment.
- The student may be given an opportunity to resubmit the work, with proper attributions, for a reduced grade.

NOTE: Three (3) submissions with Tier-1 Plagiarism by any one student throughout their Highlands College enrollment may result in Tier-2 or Tier-3 consequences and a referral to the Writing Lab.

Tier-2 Plagiarism

Tier-2 Plagiarism represents a greater degree of improper use of others' work. In these cases, we aim to guide students toward a deeper understanding of academic integrity and originality. The following is a list of actions that are considered Tier-2 Plagiarism:

- Engaging in Tier-1 Plagiarism three times in one or more courses
- Combining paraphrasing with verbatim sentences to create a paragraph or more of the text (a.k.a. "mosaic plagiarism")
- Direct plagiarism of phrases, but not entire paragraphs or works, that lack proper attribution and are presented as the student's work.
- Failure to cite in-text (parenthetical or footnotes) resources multiple times in a single submission that are listed on the reference list.
- Failure to cite any references, either in-text or in a reference list, when references were used to construct the assignment.
- Paraphrase of another's work without giving credit to the original source
- The first instance of a student turning in partial or total work that the student has used in a previous or current course without permission from the instructor (a.k.a. self-plagiarism)
- Most of the work is unoriginal or comes from published sources, even if properly cited, indicating a lack of original thought or effort.

Possible Consequences

- The student receives no credit for the assignment to emphasize the seriousness of the offense.
- The student is referred to the Writing Lab for assistance with understanding the proper citation of resources and the importance of academic integrity.
- The student receives a failing grade for the course to emphasize the importance of upholding academic integrity and personal responsibility.

NOTE: Should a student submit a second assignment containing Tier-2 Plagiarism, they may be subject to Tier-3 consequences.

Tier-3 Plagiarism

Tier-3 Plagiarism involves significant instances of copying or submitting someone else's work as one's own. Highlands College considers this a critical breach of academic integrity that requires more severe consequences. The following is a list of actions that are regarded as Tier-3 Plagiarism:

- Engaging in Tier-2 Plagiarism more than once in one or more courses
- Copying and pasting (both direct and mosaic plagiarism) of entire paragraphs or works presented as the student's own work.
- Second instance (or more) that student has turned in partial or total work that student has used in a previous or current course without permission from instructor (a.k.a. self-plagiarism)
- Submitting content from another source as one's own work. This would include collusion which involves working with others without permission, which can include sharing or copying work from others and presenting it as one's own. This would also include contract cheating that involves paying or enlisting someone else to complete academic work.

Possible Consequences

- The student receives no credit for the assignment to emphasize the seriousness of the offense.
- The student receives a failing grade for the course to emphasize the importance of upholding academic integrity and personal responsibility.
- The student receives a permanent notation attached to their transcript to serve as a reminder of the incident and its impact on their academic record.

The Use of Artificial Intelligence

Highlands College entrusts students with the ethical responsibility of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a manner that enhances their intellectual and academic abilities. AI should supplement, not replace, personal effort and active engagement in the learning process. It is important to remember that human work comes before and after AI work, ensuring that AI serves as a tool to augment abilities, not substitute for intellectual contributions. When an assignment is flagged, instructors will follow a trust-centered review process to determine whether AI was used appropriately. Students will always be given an opportunity to explain their writing process before any next steps are taken. If concerns remain after review, the student may be referred to the HC Writing Lab for further evaluation and support. This approach is designed to uphold integrity while fostering a life-giving, developmental process where a student's character and competency can be strengthened.

Developmental Process

Highlands College follows a developmental process to help students recognize if or when they have misused AI in the completion of course assignments. When AI use is unclear or appears inappropriate, the Department Chair and, when needed, the HC Writing Lab will help determine whether misuse occurred and what developmental steps or academic consequences are appropriate. The developmental process aims to equip students with knowledge about the acceptable uses of AI that they can apply toward the successful completion of future assignments. Students should take care and foresight when using AI, as it may constitute a violation of academic integrity. Questions about AI use on assignments should be directed to course instructors for clarification.

Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may refer to any computer-based system or algorithm that exhibits intelligent behavior by analyzing data, making decisions, or performing tasks that would typically require human intelligence. Highlands College treats AI assistance in the same manner as collaboration with other people. Students may talk about ideas with people, as well as AI assistants. However, all submitted academic work must be produced by the students. An assignment should only include either original content written by the student or properly cited source content. Students are expected to be transparent about their use of AI and to follow any assignment-specific guidelines provided by instructors. AI must support learning rather than replace a student's original work.

To promote student development and ethical AI usage, the following guidelines are outlined:

- **Faculty Guidance:** Highlands College students are permitted to use AI technologies under the supervision and guidance of their course instructors. Instructors often provide specific instructions, guidelines, or restrictions regarding the use of AI with assignments.
- **Approval Process:** When using AI technologies for assignments, projects, or research, students must adhere to the specific requirements set forth by the course instructor. Any deviation from these requirements without prior authorization may result in academic consequences.
- **Faculty Discretion:** Instructors can review, evaluate, and modify students' usage of AI technologies to ensure compliance with academic standards and ethical considerations. Instructors may provide additional guidance, recommend alternative approaches, or impose limitations.
- **Academic Integrity:** Students are responsible for upholding the principles of academic integrity when using AI technologies. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of dishonesty in relation to AI usage is an issue of academic integrity. Proper attribution of any AI-generated content or output is required.

Inappropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence

The following examples illustrate the inappropriate use of AI and its potential consequences:

- **Plagiarism:** The submission of AI-generated content as one's own original work without proper attribution or acknowledgment, including submissions that are substantially or entirely produced by AI rather than by the student.
- **Unfair Advantage:** Using AI technologies to gain an unfair advantage over other students.
- **False Information:** Using AI to fabricate sources, citations, or information.

AI Detection Tools

Highlands College uses AI-detection tools only as an initial screening aid, not as evidence of misconduct. These tools have known limitations and may produce false positives. AI indicators are never treated as proof on their own. Direct communication with the student remains the primary means of determining authorship.

Consequences

When AI indicators appear in a submitted assignment, instructors will follow a review process rather than applying automatic penalties. AI-detection scores are used only as a screening tool and are not considered evidence by themselves. If a submission shows a high AI indicator, the student will be asked to disclose how they used AI to complete the assignment. The student's explanation, along with a review of the assignment submission, will determine whether misuse occurred.

- If no misuse is found, the assignment is graded normally.
- If possible misuse is indicated, the student is referred to the HC Writing Lab for evaluation and support.
- If the Writing Lab confirms misuse occurred, appropriate academic consequences are assigned based on the situation. Consequences may include required revisions, academic penalties, or other actions determined by the Writing Lab and the department chair.

This process ensures fairness, clarity, and an opportunity for students to explain their writing process before any consequence is assigned.

Academic Progress



Student Classification

Students at Highlands College are classified based on cumulative academic years. Students who experience an interruption in their academic progress (e.g., taking a leave of absence) upon return will resume their previous classification.

Residency	Classification
First-Year	Freshman
Second-Year	Sophomore
Third-Year	Junior
Fourth-Year and above	Senior

Academic Standing

Students must maintain an overall cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 to remain in good academic standing.

Transfer Credits

Highlands College evaluates courses and degrees for possible transfer of credit, preferably from accredited institutions. Transfer credit may be awarded for coursework in Foundational, Biblical, and Theological Studies, and may also apply to major, minor, and elective requirements as determined by the Transfer Committee.

Eligible coursework must demonstrate a reasonable parallel in scope and content to current Highlands College offerings, as determined by academic review. Credit will only be accepted for undergraduate courses in which applicants have earned a grade of C or better. Although transfer credit hours count toward graduation requirements, they are not included in the Highlands College GPA calculation and do not reduce tuition costs.

All transfer credit evaluations are conducted by the Transfer Committee and may include review of transcripts, GPA, course descriptions, and relevant experience. Final determinations regarding credit hours, degree applicability, and residency requirements are made by the Education Collaborative. For details or results of an evaluation, students should contact the Registrar.

Credit for Previous Coursework at Highlands College

Students may seek to return to Highlands College after a break in enrollment and be readmitted. Highlands College will review the student's prior coursework to determine if the coursework is acceptable for degree completion.

The Registrar will review the student's prior coursework according to the following guidelines.

- The syllabi for each course are substantially comparable.
- The student earned a grade of C or better in the course.



Course Registration

The Registrar enrolls students in courses before the start of each semester. Students are encouraged to contact the Registrar with questions or concerns regarding the registration process and the scheduling of classes. It is the student's responsibility to verify the accuracy of their schedule before the start of each term. If a schedule change is necessary after the beginning of the term, any absences occurring before the change will count as absences in that class.

Full-time tuition covers 12 to 18 credit hours. Students must seek permission to take more than the maximum credit hours in a semester or less than 12 credit hours. Students must have an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above to be eligible for an overload of up to 21 credit hours and an overall cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above to be eligible for an overload of up to 24 credit hours. Occasionally, courses may be canceled due to insufficient enrollment or unforeseen circumstances. In such cases, students may be eligible for a refund, or an appropriate alternative course may be offered.

Course Drop or Add

At the beginning of each semester, there is a short time period for students to request adjustments to their class schedules. Students can locate the course drop/add deadline dates on the Academic Calendar. Students who want to drop/add a course during this window must contact the Registrar. Financial adjustments may be necessary. Students should carefully consider dropping or adding a course. The decision should be made in consultation with Student Accounts and the Registrar. Dropping scheduled courses may extend the student's anticipated date of graduation.

Course Withdrawal

If a student withdraws from a course after the course drop/add deadline for each semester, then the student is ineligible for a tuition refund. No financial adjustments will be made. Students can locate the dates for the course withdrawal deadline on the Academic Calendar. Students can obtain course withdrawal forms from the Registrar. Students must continue to attend class until they return the completed course withdrawal form to the Registrar. Students who withdraw will receive a grade of "W." After the course withdrawal deadline, students cannot withdraw from a course and will remain enrolled until the course's end date.

Leave of Absence

Students who need to interrupt their studies temporarily for medical, personal, or employment reasons may request a Leave of Absence. A leave of absence permits the student to cease attendance for a specified time and not have to apply for readmission. Students may request a leave of absence at any time and may be granted a leave of absence for one or two semesters. However, when the leave of absence ends and the student returns, they must still meet all admission requirements. A student can request an Emergency Leave of Absence after the term withdrawal deadline for physical or mental health reasons or any other personal or family emergency up to the remainder of the term or semester. If a student requests a Leave of Absence after the Withdrawal deadline, the student will remain in the course unless an Emergency Leave of Absence is approved.

Students on academic probation who are approved to take a leave of absence will remain on academic probation when they return. Students requesting a leave of absence before the course withdrawal deadline may receive a grade of "W." A student who requires an absence of more than two semesters must withdraw from the College and apply for readmission when the student seeks to resume their studies.

Students should contact the Registrar to submit a leave of absence. Students must submit a \$250 fee with their request for a leave of absence. Approval for a leave of absence is not automatic. The Academic Review Committee must approve all leave of absence requests. Decisions are final and are not subject to appeal. A student who does not receive approval for a leave of absence must notify the Registrar of their intent to stay enrolled or withdraw from the College within seven days. If the student does not notify the College, they will automatically be withdrawn.

Course Incomplete

Students who cannot complete coursework by the last day of class due to unavoidable circumstances such as personal illness/injury or family emergencies may appeal to their instructor for a temporary course grade of "I." The authority to grant an incomplete lies entirely with the instructor. Denial of the request for an incomplete may include, but is not limited to, the student's inability to earn a passing grade with completion of the remaining requirements and an insufficient reason for the request. Students must initiate the request for an incomplete directly to the instructor by the last day of class.

Based on the circumstances, the instructor will establish a new deadline for completing the remaining coursework. The instructor may grant up to two weeks beyond the last day of the term. The instructor will post a final grade within one week from the deadline established for the incomplete. The GPA is unaffected by the incomplete until a final grade is posted after the deadline.

Grade Appeal

Course assignment grade appeals must be addressed before the end of the term. If a student disagrees with a course assignment grade, the student should follow this procedure.

- Meet with the course instructor to discuss the disagreement by the last day of class.
- If the student does not receive a satisfactory explanation or resolution of the grade in question, the student may then submit a written request for review to the appropriate department Chair by the last day of class.
- The department Chair may then choose to meet with the instructor, the student, or both before making a decision. The decision is final and is not subject to appeal.

Co-Curricular Appeal

Co-curricular requirements are graded on a pass/fail basis and must be successfully completed to meet graduation requirements. If a student does not meet the standard for a co-curricular requirement, the student may be offered a retake opportunity. All co-curricular retakes carry a \$100 fee. Appeals related to co-curricular participation should be submitted in writing to the Co-Curricular Review Committee. The Committee's decision is final and not subject to further appeal.

Co-Curricular Repeat

Students who fail to meet required co-curricular expectations due to non-attendance, lack of engagement, or incomplete participation will be required to repeat the applicable co-curricular requirement through approved makeup opportunities. A student may repeat an individual co-curricular requirement only once (for a total of two attempts). Under exceptional circumstances, and upon approval, a student may be allowed to repeat a co-curricular requirement a second time (for a total of three attempts).

There is a \$100 Co-Curricular Repeat Fee for each required repeat. Fees must be satisfied prior to completion of the repeat requirement. Failure to complete required co-curricular repeat opportunities may result in additional action, including withholding of registration, graduation eligibility, or review for co-curricular dismissal.

Grade Dispute

If a student identifies an error in a course assignment grade or wishes to dispute a course grade after the end of the term, the following procedures and time limits apply.

- The student's request should identify the rationale for the requested review and explain why they did not raise the issue during the course.
- The student should request to meet with the course instructor to discuss the assigned course grade and present supporting evidence to the course instructor no later than two weeks after the last day of the term.
- If the student does not receive a satisfactory explanation or resolution of the course grade in question, the student may then submit a written request for review to the appropriate department Chair within one week after the instructor's decision.

The department Chair may then choose to meet with the instructor, the student, or both before making a decision. The decision is final and is not subject to appeal. If the department Chair is also the course instructor, the student may appeal in writing to the Academic Review Committee.

Course Repeat

Students who earn a final grade of "F" or "FA" in any course or a final grade below a "C" in a student's coursework will be required to repeat the course. A student may repeat an individual course only once (for a total of two attempts). Under exceptional circumstances, and upon approval, a student may be allowed to repeat a course for a second time (for a total of 3 attempts). There is a \$300 Course Repeat Fee.

Both course instances will appear on the student's transcript, and the student's GPA calculation will include the original grade earned in that course. Highlands College offers a Grade Forgiveness Policy which may be used a maximum of four (4) times, only once for any course, which allows a student to use the forgiveness for four different courses. In this instance, the transcript will show both the original grade and the course repeat grade, but only the grade points and credit hours earned in the repeated courses will be counted toward degree completion and averaged into the student's GPA.

Summer Course Policy

Attendance: Attendance requirements are determined by the course faculty and outlined in the course syllabus. Students are expected to meet all required instructional components unless the course faculty grants prior approval for an absence.

Refunds: Students must officially drop a summer course at least one week prior to the start date to be eligible for a refund.

Additional Fees: Additional fees may apply; details will be published as determined.

Housing: Limited housing may be available for select summer courses, subject to approval.

Course Registration: Summer course registration is permitted during the registration period established by the college and may close due to enrollment capacity, course readiness, or administrative timelines.

Cost: Costs may vary depending on course requirements.

Course Availability: Course offerings in the summer are limited and may vary each year, including format, location, and delivery method.

Applicability of Catalog Policies: All academic and student policies outlined in this Catalog apply to summer enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Voluntary Participation: Enrollment in summer courses is voluntary and designed to provide students with additional opportunities for academic progress or enrichment.

Residency Requirement: Completion of summer coursework may not reduce or replace the residency or co-curricular requirements at Highlands College unless explicitly approved as part of a program requirement.

Academic Probation

If a student's overall cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 at the end of any semester, the student is placed on academic probation. Academic Probation status automatically disqualifies the student from graduation until the student returns to good academic standing.

Students on academic probation are allowed one semester to raise their overall cumulative GPA to a minimum of 2.0. Students may attempt to improve their overall cumulative GPA by repeating any course wherein they did not attain the required minimum grade and/or were awarded a grade of "F" or "FA" by completing new coursework or any combination of the above. Such students should seek counsel from the Registrar to maximize the opportunity to return to good standing.

Withdrawal from Highlands College

A withdrawal occurs when a student formally requests separation or is administratively separated from Highlands College and is no longer considered an active student. Upon the effective date of withdrawal, whether at the conclusion of a term/semester or on a specified date, the student forfeits access to active student services, including academic resources, housing, campus engagement, and institutional off-campus events.

Student enrollment automatically renews each semester until one of the following events occurs.

- Graduation
- Withdrawal
- Academic or disciplinary dismissal
- Expulsion
- Non-payment of tuition or fees
- Prolonged curricular or co-curricular non-attendance and inactivity exceeding 14 days
- A Leave of Absence non-return

A student who decides to withdraw from Highlands College must submit a Highlands College Withdrawal Request to the Registrar. Students can obtain forms from the Registrar. A withdrawal review conversation with the Registrar is strongly encouraged before the request is processed.

Students can locate the dates for the course withdrawal deadline on the Academic Calendar. Students who want to withdraw from the College before this deadline must contact the Registrar. There may be financial adjustments or consequences.

Highlands College Withdrawal Requests submitted after the course withdrawal deadline will be reviewed and processed before the next semester starts. Requests after this deadline may carry financial and/or academic consequences.

Student Rights



Student Rights & Responsibilities

Highlands College affirms that every student is created in the image of God and is called into a community of truth, grace, learning, and formation. In order to foster a flourishing academic and spiritual environment, the College sets forth in writing general notice of student rights and responsibilities.

This section provides a summary of guiding principles for student life. Students are responsible for reviewing the most current edition of the Student Handbook, which contains the authoritative and comprehensive statement of policies, standards of conduct, and procedural guidelines. Because institutional needs and regulatory expectations may change, Highlands College reserves the right to revise policies in a manner consistent with its mission and accrediting standards. This summary is not exhaustive.

Highlands College is committed to administering its policies fairly, consistently, and in accordance with applicable law, biblical principles, and accreditation expectations.

Student Community Covenant

Christian community is both a gift and a sacred trust. Students voluntarily enter into a shared commitment to live in a manner worthy of Christ, honoring God, one another, and the testimony of the College. The Community Covenant is located in the MyHC Student Handbook.

Student Rights

Within the framework of Highlands College's Christian mission and doctrinal commitments, students are afforded the following rights:

- **Expression:** Students may respectfully express ideas, convictions, and concerns in ways that promote thoughtful dialogue and Christian charity, consistent with Highlands College's mission, values, Statement of Faith, and community standards.
- **Association:** Students may participate in recognized student organizations and campus activities that align with institutional policies and faith commitments.
- **Access:** Students have reasonable access to faculty, academic resources, student services, and campus facilities necessary for educational and spiritual development.
- **Safe and Respectful Environment:** Students have the right to learn and live in an environment characterized by dignity, mutual respect, and biblical integrity. The College seeks to provide an environment free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or coercion.
- **Fair and Equitable Process:** Students are entitled to disciplinary procedures that are clearly communicated and equitably administered. In cases of alleged misconduct, students will receive notice of the alleged violation and an opportunity to respond. Institutional processes are guided by principles of truth, impartiality, restoration, and accountability, consistent with biblical teaching and accreditation standards.
- **Grievance Process:** Students may pursue established grievance procedures to address academic or non-academic concerns. Grievances will be reviewed in a timely, orderly, and impartial manner in accordance with published policy. Highlands College is committed to addressing complaints of harassment or discrimination promptly and equitably through established grievance procedures. While the College does not receive federal funding and is therefore not subject to all federal regulatory frameworks, it is committed to addressing concerns related to sexual misconduct, harassment, and interpersonal violence in a manner consistent with biblical principles, fairness, and widely recognized standards of institutional responsibility.



- **Personal and Spiritual Growth:** Students are supported in their intellectual, spiritual, relational, and vocational development through mentoring, discipleship, and academic engagement.
- **Quality Education and Academic Integrity:** Students have the right to instruction that reflects academic rigor, doctrinal faithfulness, and integrity. Academic expectations, grading standards, and program requirements will be clearly communicated.
- **Service to Church and Community:** Students are encouraged and supported in opportunities to serve the Church and the broader community as an expression of Christian calling and leadership formation.

Due Process and Disciplinary Procedures

Discipline is the responsibility of every member of the community. Self-discipline is the highest form of discipline, which links inextricably with a growing Christian lifestyle. However, when an individual does not execute self-discipline, discipline becomes the responsibility of the college community. The College believes that discipline, when necessary, should reflect both justice and redemption.

Disciplinary processes are designed to:

- Provide clear notice of alleged violations
- Offer a meaningful opportunity for the student to respond
- Ensure review by appropriate and impartial institutional representatives
- Communicate decisions and, where applicable, available appeal procedures

Sanctions are determined based on the nature and severity of the conduct and the student's prior disciplinary history. Whenever possible, corrective measures aim at restoration and spiritual growth. However, in order to protect the integrity and safety of the community, sanctions may include warning, probation, suspension, dismissal or expulsion from the College, and, in extraordinary circumstances and in accordance with published institutional policy, revocation of academic degrees.

Disciplinary and grievance procedures are detailed in the Student Handbook and are administered in a manner consistent with accreditation expectations for fairness, transparency, and institutional integrity.

Student Responsibilities

Christian freedom is joined with Christian responsibility. By enrolling in Highlands College, students voluntarily accept the responsibility to uphold:

- **The Community Covenant**
- The standards and expectations outlined in the Student Handbook
- The academic policies described in this Catalog
- The behavioral and ethical commitments consistent with the College's mission

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects spiritual maturity, personal integrity, and respect for others. When behavior is contrary to institutional standards, Highlands College reserves the right to enforce appropriate disciplinary measures consistent with written policy. In all matters, Highlands College seeks to balance grace and truth, accountability and compassion, always aiming toward reconciliation where possible and the protection of the community where necessary.

Dismissal

Students on academic probation have one semester to bring their overall cumulative GPA to a minimum of 2.0. Students who are unsuccessful in earning a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 2.0 after their probationary semester are subject to academic dismissal. Students subject to academic dismissal will have their records reviewed by the Academic Review Committee. Students can submit a written statement for the Academic Review Committee's consideration but are not required to do so.

The Academic Review Committee will decide the student's status, even if the student voluntarily withdraws from the College. The decision of the Academic Review Committee is final and is not subject to appeal. The Academic Review Committee will decide on one of two possible outcomes. The Academic Review Committee may dismiss a student. The student's transcript will reflect the dismissal. Academic dismissal does not absolve the student of their financial obligation to the College, including rent due for any months remaining on a student housing agreement. Dismissed students may apply for readmission to the College following a minimum of one year from the date of dismissal.

The Academic Review Committee may allow a student to continue on academic probation. These students have a second semester to earn an overall cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. If a student does not earn an overall cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 by the end of the second semester of academic probation, the student may be subject to immediate academic dismissal without further review.

Students who voluntarily withdraw from the College before being permitted to continue on academic probation are eligible to apply for readmission at any time. If accepted for readmission, however, the student will automatically be returned to academic probation status. If the readmitted student does not earn an overall cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 by the end of the first semester, the student may be subject to immediate academic dismissal without further review.

Students may not use voluntary withdrawal to evade dismissal. Students who voluntarily withdraw from the College before the Academic Review Committee ruling for dismissal will have their dismissed status reflected in their academic record and will not be eligible to apply for readmission until at least one year after the dismissal.

The College reserves the right to withdraw a student for cause at any time. The Judicial Process section of the Student Handbook in MyHC details policies for non-academic dismissals.

Co-Curricular Dismissal

Students who demonstrate ongoing non-attendance, lack of engagement, or failure to complete required co-curricular components may be subject to co-curricular dismissal.

Students will be provided opportunities to complete approved retake or makeup activities in accordance with the co-curricular retake policy. Continued failure to meet expectations may result in review by the Co-Curricular Review Committee. Students may submit a written statement for the committee's consideration, but are not required to do so. The committee may dismiss a student for repeated failure to meet co-curricular requirements.

Co-curricular dismissal may affect enrollment and graduation eligibility and does not absolve the student of financial obligations to the College. Decisions of the committee are final and not subject to appeal. Dismissed students may apply for readmission after a period determined by Highlands College.

Amnesty Policy

Philosophy

The College Amnesty Policy is designed to allow a student who has committed a violation of the Student Community Covenant to approach the Spiritual Development Team and/or an appointed HC team member, to confess their fault and submit to a restoration process. We recognize that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict and lead an individual to repentance in response to the gift of God's grace and mercy.

By taking responsibility for their inappropriate behavior before it comes to the attention of the Judicial Committee, the student not only voluntarily submits to accountability and enters a restoration process, but they may also avoid any possible disciplinary sanctions that they otherwise would have been subject to and instead receive redemptive mercy.

Eligibility

Amnesty is available to a student one time each academic year in their Highlands College career. Amnesty is available only when a student self-reports the incident before it is reported, discovered, or under investigation. The student must not currently be on disciplinary probation for a prior Community Covenant violation. A level 3 violation may not be eligible for amnesty. HC has the right to decline amnesty based on the nature and severity of the violation, especially in situations involving student safety and/or criminal misconduct.

Procedure

The student is to initiate contact with the Spiritual Development Department. An in-office personal appointment is strongly preferred, but in approved situations, a phone call or email may be acceptable. If a team member or student leader issues a time deadline (usually 24 hours), failure to meet that schedule could render the student's subsequent application ineligible.

In a meeting with a representative of the Spiritual Development Department, the student will discuss, agree upon, and sign a Discipleship Agreement. The contract will establish all conditions and future responsibilities involving the amnesty process.

The student must fulfill all conditions and responsibilities stated in the Discipleship Agreement. Failure to do so will subject the student to Judicial Committee review and all applicable disciplinary sanctions.

Appeals

All appeals must be made in writing and sent directly to the Vice President of Spiritual Development. Appeals must be made within fourteen (14) days of the initial decision. The Vice President of Spiritual Development will provide the details of the appeal to the Executive Leadership of the College. The decision of the Executive Leadership is final, and there is no subsequent hearing or appeal.



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Course Descriptions



Each course is identified by a four-letter prefix and a three-digit number. The letters represent the field of study. The first digit will be 1, 2, 3, or 4 to indicate the course is a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior-level course, respectively.

Biblical Studies (BIBL)

BIBL 101 - Introducing the Bible

3 Credit Hours

Provides a study of the doctrine of the Bible through an introduction to the attributes of Scripture. Explores the authority, inspiration, inerrancy, and infallibility of the Bible, the history of doctrinal development, and scriptural support for the views proposed. Students will have the opportunity to articulate and defend each doctrine's theological relevance, its effect on their view of the Bible, and its application to ministry leadership.

BIBL 105 - Interpreting the Bible

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the practical and theological aspects of interpreting the Bible. Explains the background on the formation, transmission, and translation of the Bible. Provides reliable strategies for understanding and applying Scripture. Explains the importance of historical and literary context using various tools and approaches in establishing a hermeneutic to determine the original meaning and contemporary application.

BIBL 212 - Understanding the Old Testament

3 Credit Hours

Examines the redemptive story of the Bible from Genesis to Malachi, emphasizing how that story shapes the Christian worldview and informs life decisions. Students will have the opportunity to study the Old Testament as the story of God, His calling of people into a relationship with Him and each other into a community.

Prerequisite(s): BIBL 101, BIBL 105

BIBL 215 - Exploring the Bible in History and Culture

3 Credit Hours

Introduces students to the historical and cultural influence of the Bible through an immersive learning experience in Washington, D.C. Emphasizes the development, transmission, and impact of Scripture through guided museum tours, national site visits, and classroom instruction. Cultivates biblical literacy and encourages reflection on the relevance of the Bible in both ancient and modern contexts.

Prerequisite(s): BIBL 101, BIBL 105

BIBL 222 - Understanding the New Testament

3 Credit Hours

Examines the redemptive story of the Bible from Matthew to Revelation, emphasizing how that story shapes the Christian's worldview and informs life decisions. Students will have the opportunity to study the New Testament as the story of God, His calling of people into a relationship with Him and each other into a community.

Prerequisite(s): BIBL 101, BIBL 105



BIBL 324 - Revealing Christ in the Gospels

3 Credit Hours

Examines the life and teachings of Christ in the four Gospels. Provides background information, key themes, and the unique contributions found within each Gospel. Students will have the opportunity to examine Jesus' perspective of God's kingdom, His role within it, and His invitation for believers' participation.

Prerequisite(s): BIBL 101, BIBL 105, BIBL 212, BIBL 222

BIBL 326 - Encountering the Holy Spirit in Acts

3 Credit Hours

Examines the work of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts. Explores the methods used by the early church for missions, evangelism, and discipleship. Identifies major Lukan themes developed through key texts, including those describing the ministries of Peter, Paul, and Barnabas.

Prerequisite(s): BIBL 101, BIBL 105, BIBL 212, BIBL 222, BIBL 324

Business Leadership (BUSI)

BUSI 205 - Introduction to Business Concepts

3 Credit Hours

Provides an introduction to fundamental business concepts and principles tailored to the unique needs of nonprofit organizations. Introduces business best practices relevant to the operation and management of nonprofits with a particular focus on churches, religious organizations, and other faith-based entities.

BUSI 215 - Organizational Behavior

3 Credit Hours

Explores the human side of organizations—what people need and desire at work, how they use their time, talent, and energy for collective ends, and how they can work together effectively for the greater good. Identifies best organizational practices for leading teams and organizations. Students will have an opportunity to demonstrate the interpersonal skills required to lead diverse groups and organizations effectively.

Prerequisite(s): PMIN 101

BUSI 225 - Introduction to Financial Accounting

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the fundamentals of financial accounting, including how to prepare a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, analyze financial statements, and calculate and interpret critical ratios. Emphasizes the importance of financial data in decision-making. Reviews budget preparation, fundraising, and fiscal responsibility.

Prerequisite(s): MATH 103

BUSI 305 - Design Thinking and Innovation

3 Credit Hours

Explores the principles of entrepreneurship and innovation, including idea generation, business planning, and risk assessment. Introduces design thinking principles and innovative problem-solving tools to solve challenges and guide strategy.

Prerequisite(s): BUSI 205, BUSI 215, BUSI 225

BUSI 315 - Corporate and Social Responsibility

3 Credit Hours

Identifies legal issues relevant to business operations, contracts, and employment law. Examines the legal

environment in which nonprofits operate. Explores ethical dilemmas and the social responsibilities to customers, employees, investors, and society. Prerequisite(s): THEO 312

BUSI 325 - Christian Business Principles

3 Credit Hours

Explores the theological and philosophical foundations that inform Christian engagement in the marketplace. Students will evaluate how Scripture shapes leadership, organizational culture, decision-making, and vocational purpose. This course equips students to integrate faith with professional excellence while viewing business as a platform for service, influence, and kingdom impact.

BUSI 405 - Kingdom Economics

3 Credit Hours

Analyzes economic systems, resource allocation, and financial stewardship through a biblical worldview. Students will examine microeconomic and macroeconomic principles alongside themes such as generosity, justice, human dignity, and long-term societal impact. Special attention is given to how Christian leaders can leverage economic insight to strengthen communities, support mission efforts, and lead organizations responsibly within a global economy.

BUSI 415 - Business Law

3 Credit Hours

Provides an overview of the legal environment affecting business operations. Topics include contracts, liability, employment law, regulatory compliance, intellectual property, and organizational structures. Students will develop the ability to recognize legal risks and make sound decisions while applying biblical ethics to issues of fairness, accountability, and organizational responsibility.

BUSI 425 - Intermediate Financial Accounting

3 Credit Hours

Building upon introductory accounting concepts, this course focuses on the preparation, analysis, and interpretation of complex financial information. The course emphasizes accuracy, transparency, and stewardship, preparing students to utilize financial data for strategic decision-making and organizational health.

BUSI 435 - Impact and Legacy

3 Credit Hours

Challenges students to consider the long-term influence of their leadership, vocation, and organizational contributions. Through the study of legacy-driven leadership, values-based decision-making, and generational impact, students will develop a framework for building organizations that endure beyond immediate success. Biblical models of faithfulness, multiplication, and stewardship will guide students in defining the lasting difference they are called to make.

BUSI 465 - Ministry Capstone

2 Credit Hours

Synthesizes program coursework with real-world expectations in planning, collaboration, execution, and evaluation. Provides an opportunity to demonstrate program competencies through a culminating capstone project that showcases professional ability, creativity, and readiness for ministry placement or employment.



Communication (COMM)

COMM 107 - Speaking and Presenting Skills

3 Credit Hours

Examines the established principles and cultivates the practices of effective verbal and nonverbal oral communication. Explains the methods used to research, prepare, and deliver speeches in various contexts. Explores and evaluates informative, persuasive, and special occasion public speaking.

COMM 215 - The Art of Listening and Responding

3 Credit Hours

Presents the theories and practice of verbal and nonverbal communication with a focus on interpersonal relationships. Emphasizes the improvement of interpersonal skills and improvements in communication competence in everyday social exchanges.

Core (CORE)

CORE 101 - Freshman Seminar

3 Credit Hours

Introduces new students to an array of faculty from different disciplines that focus on issues central to the educational mission of Highlands College. Explores topics such as faith, identity, vocation, character, and responsible action. Promotes an awareness of the goals of Christian higher education as it relates to student growth and commitment to lifelong learning.

CORE 103 - First-Year Writing

3 Credit Hours

Introduces reading and writing with an emphasis placed on critical thinking and the Christian's responsibility to use language logically, effectively, and ethically. Identifies personal writing assumptions, approaches, and techniques while utilizing the six steps in the writing process. Teaches the formatting principles of the Modern Language Association. Strengthens research skills and the synthesis of information from many types of scholarly resources. Introduces new writing concepts using different rhetorical strategies to assist students in writing and speaking professionally and with authority in ministry.

CORE 201 - Critical Thinking and Decision Making

3 Credit Hours

Introduces students to the fundamental skills of critical thinking and decision-making. Applies a question-based approach to strengthen students' ability to analyze arguments, evaluate evidence, and make sound judgments. Develops students' ability to apply critical thinking skills to academic, ministry, and everyday contexts.

CORE 204 - Money Management and Budgeting

3 Credit Hours

Provides an overview of personal financial planning that involves budgeting, saving, investments, retirement, and savings plans. Identifies methods by which students can begin practicing sound financial habits. Investigates biblical principles of financial stewardship.

Prerequisite(s): Math 103

Family Ministry (FMLY)

FMLY 101 - Family Ministry Foundations

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the principles, vision, and mission of Family Ministry from birth to early adolescence. Explains the vital role of Family Ministry in the lives of children, families and the broader mission of the local church. Surveys the biblical foundation of contemporary approaches and offers students the opportunity to grow in their appreciation and commitment to this ministry area.

FMLY 202 - Family Ministry Models

3 Credit Hours

Provides contemporary methods of effective family ministry in the local church. Surveys the planning and evaluating of weekend services, classroom management of different age groups, and implementing various ministry initiatives. Students will have the opportunity to integrate biblical principles and perspectives into the planning and implementation of ministry activities in Family Ministry.

FMLY 204 - Family Ministry Strategies

3 Credit Hours

Provides strategies to engage the entire family. Examines the essential role of the Family Ministry Leader in the retention of families within the local church. Surveys opportunities to engage parents and guardians by leveraging unique moments, milestones, and conversations. Identifies resources for families across various social, cultural, and life-cycle issues.

FMLY 212 - Departmental Operations and Administration

3 Credit Hours

Provides the processes, skills, and systems necessary for building and maintaining the operations of Family Ministry. Identifies resources and solutions for processes and problems. Develops skills in planning, budgeting, communicating, and administering while applying biblical, ethical, and professional standards to daily operations and decision-making. Explains communication and collaboration across departments and how to advocate to the broader church.

FMLY 305 - Discipleship and Child Development

3 Credit Hours

Explores effective discipleship strategies for children, considering child cognitive and emotional developmental theories and practices. Examines the Bible's approach toward child discipleship, spiritual formation, and relational transformation. Identifies best practices and evaluation strategies for discipling children and equipping families through the local church ministry.

FMLY 321 - Child Learning and Curriculum I

3 Credit Hours

Explains the foundational approaches to effective curriculum and child learning development for classrooms from early childhood until early adolescence. Compares and contrasts different models, methods, and guiding principles for curriculum design and development. Identifies best practices and evaluates strategies to ensure the curriculum is biblically accurate, generationally relevant, developmentally appropriate, and theologically sound.

FMLY 345 - Safeguarding Ministry

3 Credit Hours

Provides policies and procedures to create a safe environment for all minors. Evaluates existing protections and risk management strategies for the local church. Surveys protocols for crisis response, reporting, screening, and training for the unique safety needs of next generation ministry. Students will have the opportunity to research, evaluate, and apply policies for safety in ministry contexts.

FMLY 422 - Child Learning and Curriculum II

3 Credit Hours

Applies critical thinking skills with relevant research, developmental understanding, and knowledge of biblical truth to teach the Bible to children. Explains appropriate active-learning techniques and creative communication methods to refine teaching skills and adapt current resources. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with peers to design, evaluate, and present a Bible lesson for children.

Prerequisite(s): FMLY 321

FMLY 465 - Ministry Capstone

2 Credit Hours

Synthesizes program coursework with real-world expectations in planning, collaboration, execution, and evaluation. Provides an opportunity to demonstrate program competencies through a culminating capstone project that showcases professional ability, creativity, and readiness for ministry placement or employment.

Global Ministry (GLBL)

GLBL 101 - Understanding Poverty

3 Credit Hours

Explores the biblical understanding of poverty as the breakdown of relationships with God, self, others, and creation. Guides students in identifying how fear, shame, pride, and control shape personal and communal poverty, and how the Gospel restores what has been broken. Through the study of historical poverty responses and contemporary ministry practices, students develop discernment to distinguish between human solutions and biblical restoration. The course cultivates an informed, compassionate perspective that prepares students to engage poverty with dignity, theological depth, and practical wisdom.

GLBL 202 - Global Missions

3 Credit Hours

Surveys God's mission for the ministry leader in reaching the world and examines the theological, historical, and cultural foundations of global missions. Explores key concepts such as the Missio Dei, unreached people groups, and gospel access while tracing major movements in missions history and the contemporary global climate. Develops cultural intelligence and equips students to articulate and contextualize the gospel within guilt/innocence, shame/honor, and fear/power cultures. Guides students in designing outcome-based mission strategies and discerning their role in advancing the Great Commission.

GLBL 204 - Local Strategies

3 Credit Hours

Explores the biblical vision and leadership responsibility of the local Church in engaging its surrounding community. Develops students' ability to think strategically about

outreach by applying sustainable development principles, outcomes-based design, and asset-driven community assessment. Through collaborative team efforts and a real-world SERVE initiative, students learn to plan projects, engage communities, mobilize volunteers, steward partnerships, and evaluate outreach effectiveness. The course emphasizes navigating the transition into informed outreach leadership, cultivating fruitfulness and faithful stewardship grounded in thoughtful strategy and measurable impact.

GLBL 243 - Personal Evangelism

3 Credit Hours

Explores the unique skillset of one-on-one evangelism, emphasizing gospel witness as a relational, Spirit-led lifestyle rooted in love, discernment, and patient partnership with God's work in others. Rather than training for corporate or momentary evangelism, this course prepares students for long-term, personal engagement and gospel-sharing in postmodern audiences and cross-cultural contexts. Through studying structured conversation-skill development, historical evangelism strategies, and authentic storytelling grounded in the names and attributes of God, students learn to communicate the Gospel with theological clarity, emotional intelligence, and individual sensitivity. The course emphasizes continued presence, compassionate persistence, relational depth, and the responsibility to multiply faithful evangelism in others.

GLBL 307 - Ministry Finance Fundamentals

3 Credit Hours

Explores the processes, skills, and knowledge necessary for building and maintaining the operations of an outreach ministry. Identifies organizational and individual resources and solutions for financial processes, problems, and pastoring. Develops skills in planning, budgeting, grant-writing, administering, and innovating within a budget while applying biblical, ethical, and professional standards of financial stewards.

GLBL 322 - Ministry in Complex Culture

3 Credit Hours

Investigates current issues in culture, the church, and global ministry populations. Analyzes conversations on these issues, barriers to engaging with individuals and populations involved, and how to best adapt ministry initiatives to reach these communities. Deepens understanding of cultural inequalities, biblical perspective on these issues, and the practical applications for how Christians and the Church should respond in a way that honors God and best serves people long term. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 105

GLBL 344 - Holistic Discipleship Ministry

3 Credit Hours

Examines the principles, paradigms, and boundaries necessary for developing a long-term discipleship ministry with members from all areas of God's kingdom. Establishes biblical foundations for cultivating relationships, growing patience, developing resiliency, resourcing individuals, celebrating progress, encouraging accountability, and recognizing the interconnectedness of one's overall spiritual growth and health.

GLBL 405 - Navigating Organizational Partnerships

3 Credit Hours

Explores key principles and methods of strategically finding, choosing, and navigating partnerships, collaborating with organizations, and developing relationships with local community agencies. Refines the ministry leader's communication, presentation, and professional practices to establish clear expectations, assess partnership efficacy, safeguard the church, and advocate for the ministry with compelling confidence. Students will have the opportunity to learn practical tools for sharing inspiring stories, contacting donors, and mobilizing the local church.

GLBL 465 - Ministry Capstone

2 Credit Hours

Synthesizes program coursework with real-world expectations in planning, collaboration, execution, and evaluation. Provides an opportunity to demonstrate program competencies through a culminating capstone project that showcases professional ability, creativity, and readiness for ministry placement or employment.

History (HIST)

HIST 105 - The Legacy of Christianity

3 Credit Hours

Examines major periods, key figures, and practices from the history of the church. Provides students with the opportunity to gain historical research skills and apply the lessons of Christian history to contemporary issues in Christian ministry. Critiques church creeds, various heresies, and historical church councils to discover their contemporary relevance.

Live Production (PROD)

PROD 101 - Live Production Foundations

3 Credit Hours

Identifies the foundational principles of audio, video, lighting, acoustics, and software elements within live church production. Explains how each of these areas supports and empowers the other while gaining hands-on experience through practical assignments and projects. Collaborates with current practitioners to gain industry knowledge and experience.

PROD 203 - Production Technologies

3 Credit Hours

Explores the technologies required to effectively produce live events, from hardware to software applications. Demonstrates common practices in live church production venues, permanent and temporary.

PROD 212 - Live Video Production

3 Credit Hours

Introduces video fundamentals, including analog and digital technology, video signal analysis, and the evolution of the technology. Students will learn digital camera operation, basic shooting and lighting techniques, and basic editing and exporting.
Prerequisite(s): PROD 101

PROD 232 - Lighting for Worship

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the fundamentals of stage lighting, including the history of lighting, illumination, lighting equipment, projection principles, color, elementary electricity, and light

controls (digital and analog).

Prerequisite(s): PROD 101

PROD 302 - Church Audio

3 Credit Hours

Introduces students to basic principles of the behavior of sound in ministry environments, with an emphasis on signal flow, acoustics, sound reinforcement setups and installation, signal processing, as well as microphone selection and placement. Includes setting up sound systems and mixing live music.

Prerequisite(s): PROD 101

PROD 312 - Advanced Live Video Production

3 Credit Hours

Analyzes the equipment involved in video production. Exposes the student to the professional function of the video positions.

Prerequisite(s): PROD 212

PROD 322 - Audio Reinforcement

3 Credit Hours

Develops students' skills in live sound reinforcement for the church, including assembling sound systems, setting stages for music production, and managing assets vital to the discipline of sound reinforcement. Emphasizes sound system design for live worship environments and the demonstration of skill in operating a live sound system.

Prerequisite(s): PROD 302

PROD 332 - Lighting Practices

3 Credit Hours

Develops the artistic and practical skills necessary to effectively and esthetically light live productions. Explores the creative application and best practices of lighting designs in worship settings. Prerequisite(s): PROD 232

PROD 411 - Producing Live Events

3 Credit Hours

Applies the theory and practice in planning, directing, and producing various video productions, emphasizing skill development and production techniques.

PROD 465 - Ministry Capstone

2 Credit Hours

Synthesizes program coursework with real-world expectations in planning, collaboration, execution, and evaluation. Provides an opportunity to demonstrate program competencies through a culminating capstone project that showcases professional ability, creativity, and readiness for ministry placement or employment.

Mathematics (MATH)

MATH 103 - Topics in Mathematics

3 Credit Hours

Explores the theology of mathematics and how mathematic principles reflect the nature and character of God. Applies mathematic principles in personal and ministry contexts. Explains how to use basic math skills to approach problems in a critical and analytical manner.



Media & Design (MDES)

MDES 101 - Creative Foundations

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the core skills and understanding required to excel in media and design. Builds a foundation for idea generation, creative vocabulary, and clear communication. Introduces strategies for creative problem-solving through principles, examples, critique, and reflection. Explores collaboration and creative roles within a team-based environment, preparing students to engage projects with curiosity, discipline, and purpose.

MDES 212 - Introduction to Graphic Design

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the field of graphic design. Explores the principles of design and how to use design software to create visual compositions for print and digital media. Investigates research and analysis of target audiences and application of design principles to create effective designs.

MDES 222 - Photography Principles

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the art and science of photography. Demonstrates digital camera usage and editing software to create compelling images. Applies photography principles such as composition and lighting. Explores ministry applications, photographic aesthetics, and image critique.

MDES 232 - Introduction to Filmmaking

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the fundamentals of video production and visual storytelling. Students gain hands-on experience planning shoots, operating cameras, composing images, shaping light, recording and designing sound, and editing sequences. Builds technical proficiency to effectively communicate ideas through video through practical assignments, critique, and peer feedback.

MDES 312 - Digital Media

3 Credit Hours

Introduces students to the principles of digital media production by integrating photography, video, and graphics. Emphasizes practical techniques for creating cohesive visual content, focusing on applications in Christian ministry communication.

Prerequisite(s): MDES 101, MDES 212, MDES 222, MDES 232

MDES 316 - Advanced Graphic Design

3 Credit Hours

Explores the development of brand identity systems and layout design for both print and digital platforms. Students will apply advanced techniques in typography, color, and imagery.

Prerequisite(s): MDES 101, MDES 212, MDES 222

MDES 332 - Video Postproduction

3 Credit Hours

Explores post-production as a meaning-making discipline. Integrates biblical examples with advanced practice in editing, color grading, motion graphics, and audio design. Develops editorial decision-making through hands-on projects and critical analysis, equipping students to shape raw footage into compelling narratives for strategic ministry communication.

Prerequisite(s): MDES 222, MDES 232

MDES 336 - The Art of Storytelling

3 Credit Hours

Examines storytelling as a craft that shapes meaning and worldview. Explores structure, character, conflict, theme, and visual language across media formats. Develops skills to prepare students to create stories that support spiritual formation and ministry communication.

MDES 338 - Advanced Video Production

3 Credit Hours

Explains advanced techniques for producing professional-quality video content. Demonstrates how to plan and execute complex video projects, including multi-camera shoots and special effects, using non-linear editing software. Explores how to effectively manage and lead a video production team, including delegating tasks and communicating with a team.

Prerequisite(s): MDES 232, MDES 332

MDES 436 - Content Writing and Editing

3 Credit Hours

Promotes effective writing skills in a variety of digital formats. Demonstrates the skills to grab attention and draw an audience in with transitions, word choice, voice, rhythm, and paragraph structure. Explores creating content for a social media brand strategy, writing an executive brief, or developing an email campaign with the right content, for the right audience, at the right time.

MDES 465 - Ministry Capstone

2 Credit Hours

Synthesizes program coursework with real-world expectations in planning, collaboration, execution, and evaluation. Provides an opportunity to demonstrate program competencies through a culminating capstone project that showcases professional ability, creativity, and readiness for ministry placement or employment.

Pastoral Ministry (PSTR)

PSTR 101 - Pastoral Ministry Foundations

3 Credit Hours

Introduces the foundational skills of pastoral leadership and explains how they can be used in a local church. Compares systems and processes for continual growth as a pastor and ministry leader. Provides the opportunity to develop a course of action to incorporate these skills and systems into pastoral ministry.

PSTR 204 - Essential Skills of Pastoral Leadership

3 Credit Hours

Defines the essential skills and mentalities needed to be in church leadership at a local church. Explains the key principles of church leadership that allow for a healthy leader, staff, and church congregation. Identifies character traits needed to be an influential and effective church leader throughout conversations, transitions, conflict, and change.

PSTR 214 - Organizational Leadership

3 Credit Hours

Explains the components of organizational leadership within the local church. Explores the organizational structure of a local church and compares the different levels that an organization scales and structure changes. Provides the opportunity to gain knowledge of the layers of a team within a local church and then apply that knowledge to build these specific layers.

PSTR 224 - Church Management Systems

3 Credit Hours

Dissects the different church management systems that are used for first-time guests and volunteer assimilation. Explores the insights given through data and metrics to make decisions. Examines the systems and processes used to lead a church congregation and church staff. Provides the opportunity to develop an assimilation system for church congregation and church staff.

PSTR 331 - Strategy and Innovation

3 Credit Hours

Categorizes the skills needed for pastors and ministry leaders to be strategic thinkers. Examines the system of goal setting and planning with an emphasis on innovation within a church plant setting. Explains the reasoning for data-based decisions for strategic leadership. Provides opportunities to utilize data to evaluate results and make decisions.

PSTR 465 - Ministry Capstone

2 Credit Hours

Synthesizes program coursework with real-world expectations in planning, collaboration, execution, and evaluation. Provides an opportunity to demonstrate program competencies through a culminating capstone project that showcases professional ability, creativity, and readiness for ministry placement or employment.

Practical Ministry (PMIN)

PMIN 101 - Personal Leadership

3 Credit Hours

Introduces biblical leadership through the lens of character, calling, and the mission of God. Explores spiritual disciplines, theology of work, and personal development essential for ministry. Engages in personal reflection and practical application to form Christ-centered leadership habits. Provides opportunities to articulate a personal sense of calling, develop spiritual rhythms, and evaluate leadership potential through biblical models and contemporary tools.

PMIN 201 - Church Structures

3 Credit Hours

Explores how local churches are designed, structured, and launched. Analyzes the relationship between strategy, structure, leadership, and culture in a church context. Offers opportunities to design organizational charts, create assimilation systems, and develop leadership structures that support a healthy church launch and growth process. Emphasizes real-world application through project-based learning and ministry modeling.

PMIN 301 - Church Practices

3 Credit Hours

Explores the biblical, theological, and practical foundations of church practices, including baptism, communion, weddings, funerals, child dedications, and care for the sick. Examines historical development, contemporary applications, and pastoral responsibilities in conducting these ceremonies. Develops skills for planning and officiating ceremonies with theological depth, spiritual awareness, and pastoral sensitivity.

PMIN 323 - Foundations of Pastoral Care

3 Credit Hours

Defines the frequently experienced pastoral care scenarios as seen throughout the local church. Provides the skills needed to appropriately address these scenarios and lead through them with a biblical and practical understanding. Explains the foundational principles of pastoral care. Develops a plan of action to execute the skills of pastoral care.

PMIN 335 - Culture-Driven Team Building

3 Credit Hours

Reviews biblical perspectives and practices for servant leadership, pastoring diverse teams, growing a sphere of influence, navigating conflict, embracing change, and cultivating a culture of humility, innovation, accountability, and spiritual growth. Explores the ministry leader's vital role in the local church's mission and how to effectively build and structure teams and collaborate with senior leadership and across departments to achieve the common goal of transforming lives and communities for Christ.

PMIN 341 - Evangelism and Discipleship

3 Credit Hours

Explores the principles of evangelism within the context of a local church and the subsequent discipleship of believers. Analyzes the biblical and theological framework for evangelism with the goal of creating disciples of Jesus Christ. Provides opportunities to evangelize and create disciples within a given ministry context and assess the effectiveness of execution.

PMIN 402 - Effective Preaching

3 Credit Hours

Explores the different styles of preaching and provides opportunities to present the different styles. Examines the structures and systems for preaching to multiple audiences. Analyzes the art and science of effective preaching through the principle of homiletics for expository preaching.

PMIN 424 - Advanced Topics of Pastoral Care

3 Credit Hours

Compares and contrasts the types of pastoral care scenarios and topics that are found throughout culture and the local church. Provides a biblical foundation for addressing these topics. Investigates the different pastoral care programs found within the local church and explores how to develop comprehensive pastoral care within a local church. Prerequisite(s): PMIN 323

PMIN 465 - Readiness for Ministry

1 Credit Hour

Develops personal and professional competencies essential for healthy ministry leadership. Integrates research-based assessments to evaluate work ethic, initiative, professionalism, organization, communication, and teamwork, which are areas consistently identified by employers as gaps for new graduates. Engages with ministry-specific applications of emotional intelligence, self-leadership, collaboration, and personal excellence. Provides an opportunity to build a Ministry Readiness Portfolio that strengthens credibility, dependability, and long-term effectiveness in diverse ministry contexts.



Psychology (PSYC)

PSYC 105 - Principles of Identity and Social Behavior

3 Credit Hours

Analyzes topics such as culture, socialization, social groups, social institutions, stratification, sex, gender, and race. Identifies how sociology and the Christian faith are intertwined and how sociological theories have application in a ministry context. Identifies the importance of the sociological imagination to provide a greater understanding of life circumstances. Explores the three basic sociological theories and how those can apply to almost all social phenomena.

Sociology (SOCI)

SOCI 204 - Marriage and Family Life

3 Credit Hours

Explores how today's Christians find a mate within a faith that esteems marriage but in a world that depreciates it. Surveys marriage tendencies around the globe and examines current trends in marriages and families. Provides a basis from which to build an understanding of marriage and the family from a biblical worldview. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 105

Student Ministry (SDNT)

SDNT 101 - Student Ministry Foundations

3 Credit Hours

Explains the biblical and theological foundations and historical development of student ministry in the United States, including key movements, influential figures, and foundational ministry pillars. Articulates a Christ-centered heart for the next generation, grounded in God's love and the Church's call to disciple and shepherd students. Examines the contemporary landscape of student ministry by reflecting on past and present trends while discerning and anticipating how God may be leading and shaping the future of ministry for reaching the next generation.

SDNT 202 - Student Ministry Models

3 Credit Hours

Examines contemporary models and strategies of student ministry within the local church. Students will analyze current and historical ministry models, evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and identify trends shaping the Christian landscape. The course also surveys key strategic approaches to planning, implementing, and assessing student ministry initiatives and their impact on discipleship. Students will develop a context specific ministry strategy and integrate biblical principles into their ministry philosophy and practice. Prerequisite(s): SDNT 101

SDNT 303 - Cultural Competency in Student Ministry

3 Credit Hours

Equips ministry leaders to understand and engage today's rapidly changing student culture with clarity and biblical wisdom. This course examines the key influences on the current youth/student generation - including digital habits, family dynamics, identity formation, and social pressures - while providing practical tools for interpreting cultural trends and building meaningful connections with students and parents. By the end, students will be able to apply culturally aware, Christ-centered strategies that make their student ministry relevant, relational, and effective in today's world. Prerequisite(s): SDNT 101, SDNT 202

SDNT 404 - Student Ministry Curriculum Design

3 Credit Hours

Explores the foundation elements of studying, creating, and implementing a Biblically sound and transformative curriculum within a student ministry in a local church and beyond. Equips students with the tools needed to measure curriculum effectiveness and short- and long-term outcomes for the purpose of making disciples and fulfilling the Great Commission in student ministry. Prerequisite(s): SDNT 101, SDNT 202, SDNT 303

SDNT 465 - Capstone Course

1 Credit Hour

Synthesizes program coursework with real-world expectations in planning, collaboration, execution, and evaluation. Provides an opportunity to demonstrate program competencies through a culminating capstone project that showcases professional ability, creativity, and readiness for ministry placement or employment.

Theological Studies (THEO)

THEO 121 - Living the Spiritual Disciplines

3 Credit Hours

Provides the biblical and theological foundation for the practice of spiritual disciplines with special attention to Jesus's example. Explains how to integrate the spiritual disciplines. Equips students to lead others in the practice of the spiritual disciplines. Students will have an opportunity to appreciate the work of God in their lives through the practice of each spiritual discipline during their time in the course.

THEO 203 - Exploring Christian Beliefs

3 Credit Hours

Explains key theological themes within the Bible, noting significant contributions from major theologians on each major theme. Provides an overview of the following doctrines: God, Humanity, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, the Church, and the Future. Students will have an opportunity to discover key theological terms, relevant biblical passages, and influential theologians.

THEO 212 - Shaping the Christian Mind

3 Credit Hours

Explains essential elements of a Christian worldview. Provides the biblical basis for a Christian worldview formation. Compares and contrasts other major worldviews encountered in American culture and abroad. Examines contemporary challenges to Christianity and evaluates responses to them. Develops an appreciation for the importance of Christian worldview to effective gospel ministry. Prerequisite(s): THEO 203

THEO 312 - Navigating Moral Choices

3 Credit Hours

Provides theological and moral foundations for decision-making and a moral vision of the Christian life. Identifies standards for biblically informed moral practice. Surveys major issues, themes, and questions in Christian ethics. Explains how the Christian worldview and biblical themes address contemporary moral issues. Evaluates contemporary moral issues by the standards of biblical teaching.

THEO 324 - Engaging with the Mission of God

3 Credit Hours

Examines the theological foundations for the mission of God (Missio Dei). Students will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the vital role of the local church in advancing the Great Commission by exploring the biblical and theological themes, methodological approaches, and contemporary issues related to the mission of the Church. Prerequisite(s): THEO 203, THEO 212

THEO 338 - The Theology of C.S. Lewis

3 Credit Hours

Provides an overview of the life and theology of C.S. Lewis. Examines his theology on topics including but not limited to the Trinity, morality, problem of evil, nature of friendship, virtue, epistemology, miracles, spiritual warfare, soteriology, and eschatology. Analyzes how to meaningfully answer objections to the Christian faith. Surveys Lewis's fiction and non-fiction writings to identify sound reasons to believe in Christianity.

Prerequisite(s): THEO 203, THEO 212, THEO 312

Worship Ministry (WSHP)

WSHP 101 - Biblical Foundations of Worship

3 Credit Hours

Explores the biblical foundations of worship and identifies where worship is represented throughout scripture. Explains how worship is used in the local church. Describes the historical and cultural context of worship in the Old and New Testament, including the practices of ancient Israel and the early church. Discovers the theological basis of worship as found in scripture.

WSHP 201 - Music Theory for the Church

3 Credit Hours

Identifies the different areas of music theory. Applies the areas of music theory to a worship environment. Introduces the number system and emphasizes how the number system is used in a live worship experience. Identifies the skills needed to perform a worship experience using the number system, ear training, harmony, and melody.

WSHP 203 - Songwriting for the Church

3 Credit Hours

Explores the theology and biblical basis for writing and composing worship songs. Identifies the theological structure for current worship songs. Compares and contrasts theological accuracy and integrity of worship songs in contemporary worship. Provides the opportunity to write, compose, and present a theologically accurate worship song.

WSHP 212 - Worship Platform Development

3 Credit Hours

Identifies the techniques needed for worship experiences, including music directing, building a moment, sharing a testimony or ministry moment, rehearsal, and navigating team dynamics. Suggests a system for using the worship platform techniques. Applies the skills in a live environment needed to execute a worship experience.

Prerequisite(s): WSHP 101, WSHP 201, PROD 101

WSHP 303 - Worship Ministry Leadership

3 Credit Hours

Examines the role and responsibilities of those in worship ministry within a local church setting. Explores the dynamics of building a worship team while identifying the core attributes of a healthy worship leader. Defines

characteristics of healthy worship teams and includes insight into creating a healthy worship team culture.

WSHP 305 - Creating Worship Environments

3 Credit Hours

Examines how systems help to create excellent worship environments. Analyzes the creative process when developing worship environments while brainstorming, ideating, and innovating for future experiences. Applies a creative process for a worship environment using church management software. Inspects how to give and receive feedback when presenting a worship experience.

WSHP 325 - Voice Study

3 Credit Hours

Explains the different elements and functions of the voice. Compares and contrasts how the elements of the voice support one another. Identifies techniques for vocal care to maintain vocal health and prevent injury. Explores the skills of pitch, tone, and control dynamics to craft the skill of worship leadership.

WSHP 335 - Instrument Study

3 Credit Hours

Explores the different instruments used during a worship experience. Inspects the various chords, scales, and systems used to play these instruments. Summarizes how these instruments play a part in creating a worship environment. Applies chords, scales, and the number system as a musical system to follow when a part of a worship team.

WSHP 341 - Live Music Technologies

3 Credit Hours

Identifies the differences between the various music technology systems and software. Explains the skills needed to be proficient in the various music technology systems. Compares and contrasts the benefits and downfalls of music software.

WSHP 426 - Advanced Vocal Techniques

3 Credit Hours

Applies advanced vocal techniques to enhance breath control, tone, resonance, cadence, blending, and vocal range. Explores the collaboration with other musicians and provides the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to establish vocal roles, create harmonies, and work as a part of a team.

Prerequisite(s): WSHP 325

WSHP 436 - Advanced Instrument Techniques

3 Credit Hours

Applies advanced instrument techniques and knowledge of music theory to elevate skills on a chosen instrument. Explores how to select, arrange, and execute music for a worship experience. Examines how to lead a team while operating a selected instrument proficiently.

Prerequisite(s): WSHP 335

WSHP 465 - Ministry Capstone

2 Credit Hours

Synthesizes program coursework with real-world expectations in planning, collaboration, execution, and evaluation. Provides an opportunity to demonstrate program competencies through a culminating capstone project that showcases professional ability, creativity, and readiness for ministry placement or employment.

