

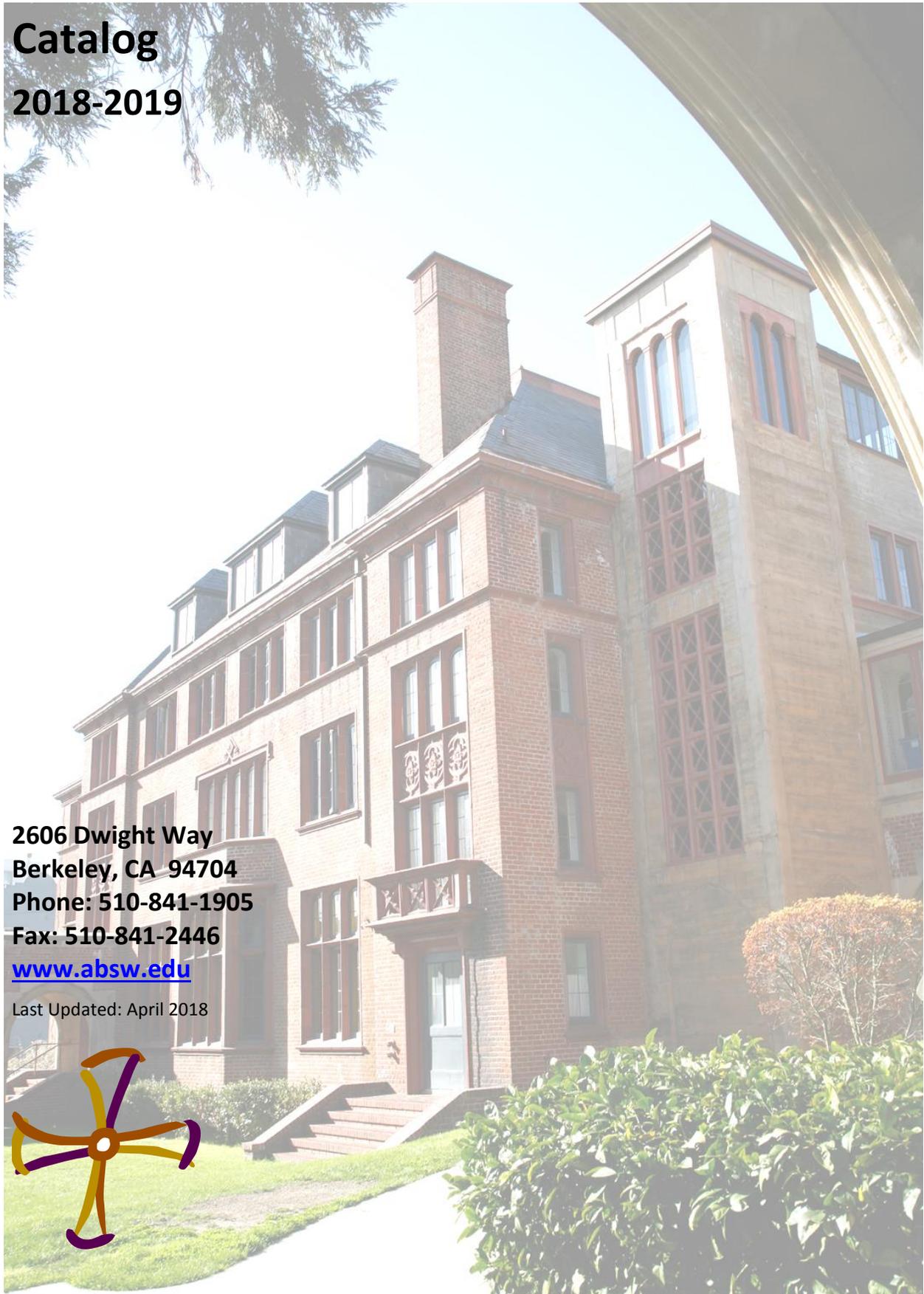
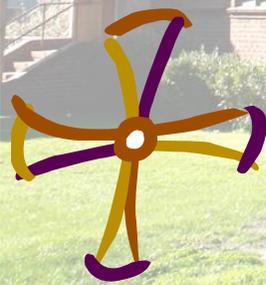
American Baptist Seminary of the West

Catalog

2018-2019

2606 Dwight Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
Phone: 510-841-1905
Fax: 510-841-2446
www.absw.edu

Last Updated: April 2018



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Academic and Administrative Calendar 2018 - 2019

FALL 2018

August 20-31	General Registration Fall Semester 2018
August 27-31	New Student Orientation Week (ABSW & GTU)
September 1-14	Late Registration Fall Semester 2018
September 3	Labor Day: Administrative holiday/Library closed
September 4	Instruction begins for Fall Semester 2018
October 22-26	Reading Week
November 5-16	Early Registration for Intersession 2019 & Spring Semester 2019
November 22-23	Thanksgiving: Academic and Administrative holiday/Library closed
December 14	Fall Semester 2018 ends
Dec 25	Christmas: Administrative holiday/Library closed
January 1	New Year's: Administrative holiday/Library closed

INTER-SESSION 2019

January 2-25	Intersession 2019 (General Registration prior to first day of class)
January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Academic and Administrative holiday/Library closed

SPRING 2019

January 14-25	General Registration for Spring Semester 2019
January 28	Instruction begins for Spring Semester 2019
January 26-February 8	Late Registration Spring Semester 2019
February 18	President's Day: Academic, Administrative holiday/Library closed
March 25-29	Spring Recess (Reading Week)
April 8-19	Early Registration for Summer 2016/Fall Semester 2016
April 19	Good Friday: Academic and Administrative holiday/Library closed
April 21	Easter: Library Closed
May 17	Spring Semester 2019 ends
May 27	Memorial Day: Administrative holiday/Library closed
June 1-July 31	Summer Session
July 4	Independence Day Observed: Administrative holiday/Library closed

MISSION OF ABSW

ABSW is a laboratory for building communities of Christian hope, justice and reconciliation.

Our mission is fulfilled in partnership with the American Baptist Churches, USA and the Graduate Theological Union. We gladly welcome and actively recruit students from more than 22 other Christian traditions.

Our mission is supported by a faculty that is representative of the constituencies we serve, competent in scholarship, skilled in teaching, experienced in ministry, and dedicated to the work of the Christian church.

HISTORY OF ABSW

A charter member of the Graduate Theological Union (1962), The American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW) was founded in 1871 and is the center of Baptist ecumenical theological education in the far western United States. The seminary is affiliated denominationally with the American Baptist Churches in the USA. ABSW admits students from a variety of denominational traditions and unites national and international relationships with over a century of Baptist-related theological education.

ABSW traces its lineage to the 1871 Charter of California College. As one of California's earliest colleges, the school was first located in Vacaville and then moved to Oakland in 1887. In 1912 California College relocated in Berkeley, changing its name to Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. Three years later this school merged with the Pacific Coast Baptist Theological Seminary, which had begun instruction in 1890 at the First Baptist Church of Oakland and had moved to Berkeley in 1904.

From 1915 to 1968 the school carried the name Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. In 1968 the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School joined with California Baptist Theological Seminary, which had been founded in 1944 at Temple Baptist Church in Los Angeles and was moved to Covina in 1951. The new two-campus institution was

renamed American Baptist Seminary of the West. In 1974 the Covina faculty joined the faculty in Berkeley, where together they could share in the resources of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU).

Today, as a member of the GTU, ABSW offers its students a myriad of resources through the largest partnership of seminaries and graduate schools in the United States. Currently, ABSW boasts an enrollment of students from over 22 denominations. Consequently, ABSW students may take advantage of the strength of ecumenical as well as interdisciplinary religious thought, study, and practice at home and through cross-registration at other GTU seminaries. In addition, ABSW students have access to one of the finest theological libraries in the world, an uncommonly large faculty of distinguished scholars, and the resources of the University of California, Berkeley. Through the GTU, students can pursue ABSW degrees as well as the PhD and MA.

ABOUT ABSW

ABSW's programs manifest its vision and mission. The seminary offers a Master of Divinity (with the option of taking up to 50% of the course work in Korean; accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)), a Masters in Community Leadership (ATS accredited), and also participates with the GTU in offering a Master of Arts and PhD degrees in cooperation with the eight member schools (all fully ATS and WASC accredited degrees), and its own Doctor of Ministry program (with English and Korean tracks; ATS accredited).

The curriculums involve students in an interdisciplinary approach to biblical, historical, theological, and social–psychological disciplines covering a variety of religious and cultural orientations integrated with the arts of preaching, worship, teaching, and pastoral care. Core courses in these disciplines are taught by ABSW faculty, while students are encouraged to take elective courses offered by the faculties of the other seven GTU seminaries, the GTU centers, and UC Berkeley in addition to the ABSW faculty. GTU students may also take courses at Holy Names University (including the HNU affiliate, the Sophia Center) and at Mills College. Experience in the context of ministry is an integral part of the core curriculums.

The ABSW student-body is comprised of both full-time and part-time students. Many commute from off-campus residences, and many maintain daytime employment while enrolled at the seminary. The seminary therefore schedules classes during evening hours as well as during the daytime. The curriculum likewise is flexible to accommodate part-time and evening commuter students as well as resident and full-time students. Our student body is comprised of men and women who represent diversity in cultural and ethnic backgrounds, age, denomination affiliation and theological thought.

ABSW Location and Facilities

The ABSW campus is located on the south side of the University of California campus in Berkeley, California. ABSW campus buildings house faculty and administrative offices, several classrooms, a student lounge and study area, a chapel, and student/faculty apartments. Across the University campus to the North (a twenty-minute walk) are located the GTU library and administrative offices, as well as campus buildings of several other GTU-related seminaries. The ABSW campus is handicapped-accessible.

Campus Visit

Applicants are strongly urged to arrange for a personal visit to campus. The selection of an educational institution is an important decision. A personal visit and tour of the campus is by far the best way for a prospective student both to evaluate ABSW and to demonstrate to the seminary his or her serious interest in the school. This visit can be scheduled with an email, telephone call, or letter to the Office of Admissions.

Email: admissions@absw.edu; Telephone: 510.841.1905 x229
ABSW Office of Admissions
2606 Dwight Way
Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

The Graduate Theological Union (GTU)

The GTU is an educational consortium, established for a two-fold purpose: to offer programs of study leading to graduate degrees in theology and to function as an instrument of collaboration and cooperation among its member schools and institutes. Presently the GTU is comprised of six Protestant and two Roman Catholic seminaries and a variety of centers, institutes, and programs. ABSW is a founding member of the GTU and has been a fully participating school since the GTU was formed in 1962. ABSW shares resources, including cross-registration and library services, with the GTU.

The ABSW—GTU Connection

Each seminary within the GTU admits its own students, designs its own professional programs, and grants its own professional degrees. All cooperative programs between seminaries are developed and carried out through the Union. Through this cooperative arrangement, an ABSW student is eligible to register in virtually all courses offered by the eight participating seminaries and various centers and affiliates. The faculties of the various member schools constitute the faculty of the consortium that is the Graduate Theological Union.

The GTU offers PhD programs. All eight member schools of the GTU (including ABSW) offer a common MA program in cooperation with the GTU. Persons interested in these programs should write to the Admissions Office of the GTU, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709, (510)649-2400 or go online to www.gtu.edu.

The ABSW—University of California Connection

The physical proximity of the University of California gives the students easy access to the UC resources available on an open exchange basis to students and faculty of the GTU schools. In addition to the considerable variety of cultural events offered week by week through this distinguished university, complimentary library privileges are extended to students at ABSW and the other member seminaries. Furthermore, with certain restrictions, degree students may cross-register into courses in the Graduate Division and in the College of Letters and Sciences of the University. Such courses, while they appear on the ABSW transcript with the regular

UC denotation, do not automatically fulfill unit requirements for ABSW degrees. Inquire at the ABSW Registrar's Office for authorization and procedural details since pre-registration is required.

The ABSW—Holy Names University and Mills College Connection

Students may be able to enhance their ABSW/GTU education with classes taken at Holy Names University (including the HNU affiliate, the Sophia Center) and Mills College, both in Oakland, California. Interested students are encouraged to work closely with his/her academic advisor to ensure course selections that both meet program goals and strengthen the educational experience.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

The GTU has a common library which serves the needs of students and faculty of all participating schools. The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library has absorbed and organized the library resources of its participating member schools, and now provides members of the GTU community ready access to more than 700,000 holdings in theology and religion, including 450,000 volumes, more than 1200 periodical subscriptions, and 292,000 microforms, audio visual materials, and a growing number of online resources. It is one of the largest and most diverse of theological collections in the United States.

The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, acclaimed for its architectural design, provides a bright and pleasant study space for students and faculty. Art shows and other exhibits add to the beauty of the space and to the contemplative environment.

In addition to the resources of the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, faculty and students of schools affiliated with the GTU are granted complimentary borrowing privileges at the libraries of the University of California. The UC library collection includes extensive holdings in theological and philosophical literature; and its four million books in addition to countless periodicals, documents, maps, recordings, newspapers, microfilms, and other materials make it the third largest academic library in the United States.

ABSW DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master of Divinity

Definition

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is the basic professional degree program designed to help prepare men and women for church ministry, chaplaincies or other specialized ministries. It meets the ordination requirements of numerous denominations including the American Baptist Churches USA and the Progressive National Baptists. It also provides an appropriate background for further graduate study in theology and religion.

The MDiv program is designed for persons who have completed an accredited undergraduate Bachelor of Arts or Science degree. At least three years of full-time course enrollment, for a total of 78 semester units, is required to complete the degree. The full-time course load is a minimum of 9 to 12 units (normally three to four semester long courses). Students may enroll on a part-time basis, thereby extending the length of time for completion of the degree for a maximum of six years.

Objectives

The MDiv program seeks to integrate the disciplines of biblical studies, theology and ethics, and church history with the arts of ministry such as preaching, pastoral care, worship, education, evangelism, and administration. This is accomplished in large part through the interdisciplinary colloquia held in all three years of the program.

The contextualization program requires that students relate their theoretical training to a variety of ministry contexts as they develop their professional ministry skills. Three years of contextual work are required.

Throughout the MDiv curriculum, and especially in the contextual work, efforts are made to help prepare students to minister within the plurality of cultures that increasingly comprise modern society.

Participation in classes, context groups, and corporate worship together nourishes the intellectual and spiritual growth necessary for effective Christian ministry.

Students are encouraged to study not only with ABSW faculty, but also with faculty of other member schools of the GTU, which fosters a solid denominational identity with knowledge and appreciation of various traditions of ecumenical Christianity and other faith groups.

Requirements

MDiv students are expected to take all core requirements with ABSW faculty. Electives can be taken with ABSW faculty or other GTU-related faculty. Overall, a minimum of 45 units of the 78 required for completion of the degree must be taken from ABSW faculty except by written permission of the Dean. Students who transfer to ABSW from other accredited seminaries may transfer in a maximum of 50 units provided the grade obtained was B- or better (further details can be found in the Transfer Policy on page 22).

Core Requirements – 45 Units – These courses are taken with ABSW faculty except by written permission of the Academic Dean. Normally Junior Colloquium, Theological Writing, and Using Biblical Languages are taken in the first year of study; Middler Colloquium and Congregational Care are taken in the second year; and the Mentor Year, Constructive Theology and Church Leadership are completed in year three.

Junior Colloquium (A year-long interdisciplinary course in Church History, Old Testament, Theology, and Congregational Studies)

Old Testament	3.0	Fall Semester
Church History	3.0	Fall Semester
Congregational Studies	3.0	Spring Semester
Theology	3.0	Spring Semester

Middler Colloquium (A year-long interdisciplinary course in Preaching, New Testament, and the Arts of Ministry which includes a 9 month placement in an approved ministry setting)

New Testament Gospels and Preaching	3.0	Fall Semester
Contextual Placement	3.0	Fall Semester
Pauline Letters and Arts of Ministry	3.0	Spring Semester
Contextual Placement	3.0	Spring Semester

Mentor Year Project (A year-long course during which each student, benefitting from a consultative relationship with an appropriate mentor from the community and ABSW faculty, researches, plans, develops and implements a specialized ministerial project)

Mentor Project I	3.0	Fall Semester
Mentor Project II	3.0	Spring Semester

Other Core Requirements

Using Biblical Languages	3.0
Constructive Theology	3.0
Congregational Care	3.0
Church Leadership	3.0
Theological Writing	3.0

Total Core Requirement Units 45.0

Elective Requirements In Specified Areas -24 Units – Elective courses in the following disciplines can be taken from ABSW or other GTU-related faculty.

Old Testament	3.0
New Testament	3.0
Theology	3.0
Ethics	3.0
Church History	3.0
Christian Education	3.0

Two additional electives in Practice of Ministry or Functional Theology 6.0

Total Elective Requirement units 24.0

Open Electives – 9 units – These courses are electives of the student’s choosing and may be taken from ABSW or other GTU-related faculty or at UC Berkeley. Denominationally required courses in history and polity fit here.

Denominationally required course	
Or Open Elective	3.0
Open Elective	3.0
Open Elective	3.0
Total Open Elective units	9.0
<i>Total MDiv units</i>	78.0

Masters in Community Leadership

Definition

The Masters in Community Leadership (MCL) is a basic professional degree program designed to help prepare men and women for church and community service in ordained and non-ordained capacities. There are three different concentrations available. All three concentrations offer a breadth of theological training in addition to a particular specialization.

Objectives

The MCL program is designed for persons who have completed an accredited undergraduate bachelor of arts or science degree. At least two years of full-time course enrollment, for a total of 48 semester units, is required to complete the degree. The full-time course load is 9-12 units per semester. Students may enroll on a part-time basis, thereby extending the length of time for completion of the degree to a maximum of four years.

Concentrations

Worship: this concentration provides opportunity for students to receive a theological education with a focus on worship. The program will be of interest

to church musicians, ministers of music, pastors of small churches, and lay worship leaders.

Social Ministries: this concentration is focused on providing the basic skills needed in creating and maintaining a non-profit organization that seeks to minister to particular social concerns. The MCL Social Ministries curricular electives include: *Non-profit as Prophet; How to Create and Sustain Social Ministries; Morality in Social Life; How to Lead Almost Anything*.

Spirituality and the Workplace: this concentration has been created to provide professionals the opportunity to receive a breadth of theological training that will prepare them to work more holistically with their clients or supplement their work as lay leaders in local congregations.

Requirements

MCL students are expected to take all core requirements with ABSW faculty. Electives can be taken with ABSW, GTU or UC Berkeley related faculty. Overall, a minimum of 30 units of the 48 required for completion of the degree must be taken from ABSW faculty, except by written permission of the Dean.

Core Requirements – 30 Units – These courses are taken by ABSW faculty except by written permission of the Academic Dean.

Old Testament	3.0
New Testament	3.0
Church History	3.0
Theology	3.0
Ethics	3.0
Internship	6.0
Constructive Theology	3.0
Theological Writing	3.0

Required Electives – 12 Units – required Elective courses may be taken from ABSW or GTU or UC Berkeley related faculty. These courses are determined by the concentration in which the student is enrolled, with the assistance of a faculty advisor.

The MA student is required to affiliate with a member school, or a participating academic center or institute. The primary academic base for the MA is the school of affiliation, chosen according to study interests and/or denominational ties. Students select a specific academic field or Area of Study as the focus of their MA work. At present students can choose to affiliate with ABSW for the MA degree in biblical studies, biblical languages, historical studies, homiletics, liturgical studies, systematic theology, religion and psychology, and interreligious study.

The Common MA is a two-year degree program requiring a total of fourteen 3-unit academic courses plus six units of thesis work. All MA students are required to demonstrate proficiency in at least one modern foreign language early in the second year of residence. Non-native speakers of English may, with permission, certify English as their second language.

Requirements

Detailed requirements for the Common MA program can be found on the GTU website: www.gtu.edu

Common MA applicants should request all application materials and additional information from:

The GTU Admissions Office
2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94709

Concurrent MDiv/MA Degrees

Students may also opt to do the MDiv and the Common MA degrees concurrently. Students who select this option are allowed to share one year of full-time course work (24 units) in common between the two degrees for a total of 102 units. This is the equivalent to at least four years of full-time course work (24 to 27 units per year), or a student may enroll on a part-time basis, thereby extending the length of time for completion of the concurrent degrees for a maximum of seven years. As with the concurrent MDiv/MCL degree, the particulars for this option must be worked out with the student's faculty advisor.

Doctor of Ministry Degree

Definition

ABSW's Doctor of Ministry in Public Theology is an interdisciplinary advanced degree designed to enhance the practice of ministry in urban multi-cultural settings for persons who hold the MDiv degree or an equivalent, have 3 years or more of ministry experience, and are currently involved in ministry.

Objectives

ABSW's DMin program centered in the Bay Area, utilizing the rich resources of the Bay Area, trains pastors and ministers, men and women, for leadership in the church or community ministries of the 21st century who are:

Rooted in Prophetic Preaching
Committed to and skilled in Urban Ministry
Equipped for Transformational Leadership

Requirements

The program requirements consist of the equivalence of one year of course work (8-3 unit courses) plus the completion of a dissertation. The course and dissertation requirements are outlined below.

Course work

2 Methods courses 6 units

Seminar: Critical Interpretation & Project Dev I

Seminar: Critical Interpretation & Project Dev II

Leadership in Urban Communities 3 units

Advanced Electives (student selects emphasis) 15 units

Dissertation 6 units

Total 30 units

Course work will be taken in a combination of intensive and hybrid formats. Intensives will be taken either in a 5 consecutive day format (January and Summer) or in Friday evening/Saturday intensives once a month throughout a semester. Hybrid courses combine 20 hours of classroom interaction with 20 hours of online communication. This program offers two cohort options: 1) English-speaking cohort and 2) Korean-speaking cohort. Financial aid is available.

The program will culminate in the writing of a dissertation. The dissertation committee shall consist of one advisor and one at-large committee member to be selected by the student in consultation with his/her advisor. The dissertation proposal should be submitted by the end of the student's second year of matriculation. Normally, the dissertation work will be completed within a period of eighteen months. An oral defense of the dissertation will be required.

The DMin typically requires no less than three years or more than six years for completion.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Policies and Procedures

Printed information is available in the Registrar's Office regarding such matters as standards of satisfactory academic progress and course grading, substitution of core course requirements, grievance procedures, etc. This information is published in the *ABSW Admissions, Registration and Academic Life Policies and Procedures Handbook*, which is available online at www.absw.edu, or by requesting a copy from the Registrar.

American Baptist Seminary of the West informs students of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. This Act, with which the institution intends to comply fully, was designed to protect the privacy of education records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Students also have the right to file complaints with the Family Policy Compliance Office concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the Act.

Local policy explains in detail the procedures to be used by the institution for compliance with the provisions of the Act. Copies of the policy can be found in the Registrar's Office. The policy is also printed in the *ABSW Admissions, Registration, and Academic Life Policies and Procedures Handbook*.

Faculty Advisors

Each student who is enrolled in a degree program is assigned a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors assist students in making their way through the curricular requirements, in selecting courses that best fit students' needs and interests, and in clarifying academic policies and procedures. Regularly scheduled appointments are made by students with faculty advisors at designated times during orientation week just preceding the start of the fall semester, and again near the end of fall semester. Students are required to consult with their faculty advisor each semester before registering for courses. Other appointments, at mutually agreed upon times, may take place throughout the academic year.

ADMISSIONS

While ABSW has a formal relationship with the American Baptist Churches USA, the seminary encourages applicants from other Christian denominations and traditions. It is the policy of ABSW not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, physical disability, sexual orientation, and/or national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, student activities, employment or admission policies, in the administration of its grant and loan programs, or in any other school-administered programs. This policy complies with requirements of the Internal Revenue Service Procedure 321-1, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments as amended and enforced by the Department of Health & Human Services.

For application materials, please visit www.absw.edu or email, call, or write to the ABSW Admissions Office:

Email: admissions@absw.edu; Telephone: 510.841.1905 x229

ABSW Admissions Office

2606 Dwight Way

Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

MDiv/MCL Admissions Process

Admissions Requirements

Applicants to the MDiv and MCL programs should possess an accredited BA or BS degree and have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher (on a 4 point scale). Students admitted to an ABSW degree program, whose undergraduate GPA is below the normal requirement of 2.5 (on a 4 point scale) or its equivalent, may be placed on academic probation during their first year of course work until they have completed at least six courses (or 18 units) with a GPA of not less than 2.5. Students in other academic circumstances should contact the Admissions Office to learn whether exceptions can be made.

The application process for the MDiv and MCL degree programs includes the submission of:

1. Completed application form
2. Non-refundable application fee
3. Personal statement (questions are provided in application form)
4. Two academic references*
5. One pastoral/ministerial reference
6. Official transcripts of all academic work beyond high school

International Students additionally submit:

7. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) minimum score 550 written/213 computer-based/or 79 internet based
8. I-20 Request Form & Certificate of Finances

* Applicants who have been out of the college or graduate school for over five years may instead request references from two business or professional persons.

Background Check Policy

ABSW partners with churches and local agencies to provide a thorough educational setting that is both theoretical and practical. For the sake of our mission and the larger mission of the Church, ABSW is committed to strengthening congregations and agencies in becoming safe places and to being a safe place itself for all students, staff, faculty, and associated individuals. In order to best fulfill these commitments,

each applicant shall be required to submit a signed release form authorizing ABSW and any third party selected by ABSW to perform a background check. Admittance to a degree program will be conditional until such background check is completed.

Application Deadlines

Completed applications will be considered at any time prior to four weeks before the start of a semester.

Application materials are valid for 2 years before enrollment. All documents submitted become the property of ABSW and are subject to the rules of confidentiality and privacy outlined in the Buckley amendment passed by the U.S. Congress in 1987.

Common MA Admissions Process

The admission process for the Common MA degree offered jointly with the GTU is processed by the GTU Admissions office. When applying, you will be asked to choose your seminary of affiliation. Please contact the ABSW Office of Admissions to determine if ABSW is a good fit for you.

Application materials can be requested from the GTU Admissions Office:

Email: gtuadm@gtu.edu; Telephone: 510.649.2460 or 800.826.4488

The GTU Admissions Office

2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94709

Doctor of Ministry Admissions Process

Admissions Requirements

DMin applicants should possess an earned accredited Master of Divinity degree or equivalent with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher (on a 4 point scale). Exceptions may be made for students in other academic circumstances, which will be determined during the admissions process. Applicants should also have a minimum of three years of ministry experience and present engagement in ministry, and must submit a completed application as follows:

1. Completed application form
2. Non–refundable application fee
3. Personal statement (questions are provided in application form)
4. Two academic references*
5. One ordained church official reference (pastor, denominational leader, etc.)
6. Official transcripts of all academic work beyond high school

International Students additionally submit:

7. I-20 Request Form & Certification of Finances
8. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) minimum score 550 written/213 computer-based/or 79 internet based. English-speaking cohort only.

* Applicants who have been out of the college or graduate school for over five years may instead request references from two business or professional persons.

Application Priority Deadlines

January Cohort: November 1

June/July Cohort: April 15

Prospective students are encouraged to submit their applications by the priority deadlines listed above in order to receive consideration for institutional grants.

Application materials are valid for 2 years before enrollment. All documents submitted become the property of ABSW and are subject to the rules of confidentiality and privacy outlined in the Buckley amendment passed by the U.S. Congress in 1987.

Transfer Students

Students from accredited theological schools who wish to become candidates for the MDiv and MCL degrees with advanced standing must meet the regular admission requirements. No grade less than B– may be transferred for credit. To receive an MDiv or MCL degree, a minimum of 28 units of work must be completed at ABSW.

For information on MA transfer credit, refer to the GTU MA Program Handbook available on the [GTU website](#) or by contacting the GTU admissions office: gtuadm@gtu.edu; Telephone: 510.649.2460 or 800.826.4488

Unclassified Students

Unclassified students are persons not enrolled in an ABSW degree program who are taking courses for audit or for credit under special circumstances, such as continuing education (non-CEU) or enrollment in a degree program from another school outside of GTU. To enroll as an unclassified student, please contact the ABSW Admissions Office:

Email: admissions@absw.edu; Telephone: 510.841.1905 x229

ABSW Admissions Office
2606 Dwight Way
Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

The dean and faculty of ABSW determine which classes will be offered for CEU credit each year and the amount of credit to be given. Special rules apply. Contact the Registrar.

International Students

Applications from citizens of other countries are encouraged; however, prospective international students should be aware that extremely limited opportunities for employment and financial assistance are available to them and should thus arrange for financial support from their denominations or other others in their home country and in the USA.

In addition to the regular admission requirements, international students who are not native speakers of English will be required to submit a minimum score of 550 written, 213 computer-based, or 79 internet-based on the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language).

International students seeking admission must submit all necessary materials for the school to issue an I-20 form. This includes a Certification of Finances form, other pertinent financial information, and dependent information (if applicable). After receiving an I-20 form students are responsible for obtaining their own student visas to enter the United States and for compliance with all pertinent requirements of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Students Eligible for VA Benefits

The ABSW Registrar is the certifying official for Veterans Benefits. Students with previous graduate level coursework/training in the program to be pursued will be evaluated upon enrollment and given appropriate credit. Evaluation will be based upon review of academic transcripts. Credit allowed will be recorded in enrollment records, and the length of the program shortened proportionately. In addition, the student and the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be notified. (Note: all prior graduate level coursework and training not used to satisfy another degree will be evaluated.) Upon completion of the course of study a degree will be conferred. Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress as described in the *Admissions, Registration, and Academic Life Policies and Procedures Handbook*.

HOUSING

ABSW has campus housing in the form of 1, 2, and 3-bedroom apartments. Apartments are located on campus within walking distance of the local shopping district, University of California, GTU schools, and public transit. ABSW housing units are managed by an independent company; students who wish to live in housing must contact the management company directly. Please note that campus housing is at a premium, and prospective students interested in housing are encouraged to contact the management company by the end of April (for a fall semester start). ABSW students can also inquire about student housing at sister GTU schools. All contact persons are listed on our website at <http://www.absw.edu/current-students/current-student-services/housing/>.

TUITION AND FEES 2018-2019

Tuition is set annually by the Board of Trustees of the American Baptist Seminary of the West. While the trustees are committed to keeping tuition affordable, students should plan for annual increases in tuition and fees.

The following tuition and fee schedule applies to the 2018-19 academic year.

Master of Divinity/Masters in Community Leadership/Certificate Programs

- Tuition for full time MDiv students is \$18,200 (based on 26 units for the academic year)
- Tuition for full time MCL or Certificate students is \$16,800 (based on 24 units for year)
- Cost per unit is \$700.00

Fees (in addition to tuition):

Student Association Fee	\$15 per semester
Education Fees	\$250 (fall and spring semesters)
Application Fee	\$40 – Domestic—paid once during admissions process \$80 – International—paid once during admissions process
MDiv Assessment Fee (MDiv only)	\$50 – paid in first semester
Internship Assessment Fee (MDiv/MCL)	\$65 – paid in first semester
Graduation Fee	\$200 – paid in last semester
Lost Access Key Fee	\$20 – per circumstance
Transcript Fee	\$10 – per requested copy

Master of Arts (ABSW/GTU) (tuition rates are for 2018-2019)

For additional MA fees see Graduate Theological Union catalog or GTU website at www.gtu.edu

GTU Common MA (first two years)	\$733 per credit
MA continuing relations fee (after two years)	\$4,400 per semester

Doctor of Ministry

- DMin degree is a total of thirty (30) units
- For the 2018-19 academic year, each three (3) unit DMin course is \$1746. Cost per unit is \$582.

Fees (in addition to tuition):

Education Fee	\$150 – Paid per term
Continuing Fee (after 30 units)	\$750 – per January and June term
Graduation Fee	\$200 – Paid in last semester

Auditor Fee/Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Cost per course unit	\$150
1.5 Unit Course	\$225
3.0 Unit Course	\$450

Other Financial Considerations

All bills are due and payable at time of enrollment. All financial obligations must be met or arranged for prior to enrollment in the next semester. Grades are issued, degrees conferred, and transcripts issued only after all accounts are settled. ABSW accepts e-check, check, money orders, and cash or credit card payments. Master-level degree students must enroll in minimally six units per semester to be eligible to apply for financial aid.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Students enrolled in nine (9) or more units each semester are required to have health insurance and must provide proof of health insurance to the ABSW Registrar's Office.

FINANCIAL AID

American Baptist Seminary of the West is committed to providing theological education to all students at the most reasonable cost possible. Sources of financial assistance to students include ABSW tuition scholarships, denominational grants, and federal financial aid. ABSW also participates in the VA Yellow Ribbon Program.

Students must be in good standing and maintain a GPA of 2.5 to receive financial assistance. Students who are placed on probation will be denied Federal Direct Loans until the probation has been removed. Students should refer to the *ABSW Financial Aid Handbook* for additional information regarding Financial Aid policies.

ABSW Scholarships/Grants

Students are evaluated for and awarded ABSW tuition scholarships and grants at the time of their admission. Eligibility requirements:

- Students must be enrolled in either the MDiv, MCL, Common MA, or DMIN programs (concurrent programs are eligible)
- Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress (cumulative GPA above 2.5)
- Students must be enrolled at least half-time to receive financial aid (MDIV, MCL and MA students: 6 units per semester, DMIN students: 3 units per semester)

If students wish to appeal for additional scholarship funding, appeals must be issued in writing to the Financial Aid Committee. Contact the Director of Admissions for more information.

Seminarian Support Program

In addition to tuition aid grants, by working through the American Baptist Home Missions Societies in Valley Forge, PA, American Baptist students who have been members of an American Baptist church for a minimum of one year have the opportunity to make their own requests for direct scholarship aid from any member congregation or ABC organization.

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies can match funds raised by students on a dollar for dollar basis up to \$1000 per student per year (which would provide a potential total of \$2,000 per student in addition to the usual ABSW tuition grant). The exact amount can vary from year to year, based on the number of students who apply for SSP monies. Continuing ABC students who are carrying 9 to 12 units for the MDiv degree are eligible for these matching funds. New students beginning the MDiv program have an August 1 deadline for fall semester and a January 1 deadline for spring semester. Payments are sent directly to the seminaries to be credited to each student's account.

VA Yellow Ribbon Program

The American Baptist Seminary of the West will participate in the VA Yellow Ribbon Program during the 2018-2019 Academic Year. The seminary has agreed to provide a tuition scholarship of 50% to a maximum of 3 qualifying veterans during the 2018-2019 Academic Year.

Students will be considered to receive the Yellow Ribbon Award on a first come first serve basis. Students who are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program must submit a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the Chief Financial Officer. The priority deadline is August 1. Students will receive notification from the American Baptist Seminary of the West if they are selected to receive the Yellow Ribbon Award.

Federal Direct Loans

Domestic Students who want to apply for federal direct loans must complete the FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FASFA form may be submitted online by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov. The ABSW school code is G01120.

More information about federal financial aid can be found in the *ABSW Financial Aid Handbook*.

General Information

All bills are due and payable at the time of registration. Payment plans are available upon approval by the Chief Financial Officer. All financial obligations must be met or arranged for prior to enrollment in the next semester. Grades are issued, degrees conferred and transcripts issued only after all accounts are settled.

Students who answer God's call to the Christian ministry make a serious commitment of their time, talents and finances. The seminary shares the conviction of the Association of Theological Schools that the individual student must pull together many resources to cover the cost of seminary education: personal savings and assets, summer employment, part-time employment, scholarships from home churches and other organizations and family assistance (parents and spouse).

FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Regular Faculty

ABSW has a Regular Full-time Faculty of six members:

Ronald D. Burris—B.A., University of California; M.A., Fuller Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union—Associate Professor of Church History

Jennifer W. Davidson—B.A., Eastern University; M.Div., Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union—Associate Professor of Worship and Director of Chapel

LeAnn Snow Flesher—B.A., University of Minnesota; M.Div., Bethel Theological Seminary; M.Phil., Ph.D., Drew University--Professor of Biblical Interpretation, Vice President of Academics, and Dean of the Faculty

Nancy Hall—B.A., San Diego State University; M.Div., American Baptist Seminary of the West; D.Min., San Francisco Theological Seminary—Associate Professor of Ministry and Congregational Music, and Director of Contextual Education

Valerie Miles-Tribble—B.S., Hampton University; MPH, University Californian Berkeley; M.Div., American Baptist Seminary of the West; D.Min., San Francisco Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Walden University School of Management, Leadership, and Organizational Change—Associate Professor of Ministerial Leadership and Practical Theology

Sangyil (Sam) Park—B.Th., M.Th., Methodist Theological Seminary in Korea; M.Div., Drew University; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union—Professor of Preaching and Director of the D. Min. Program

ABSW has one Regular Part-time Faculty Members:

Peter Yuichi Clark—B.A., Baylor University; M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Emory University—Professor of Pastoral Care

Visiting Faculty

Donna Allen—B.S., Seton Hall University; M.Div., Vanderbilt Divinity School; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University—Visiting Professor of Preaching and New Testament

Michael Burch—B.A., UC Davis; M.Div., American Baptist Seminary of the West; Ph.D. candidate, Brown University--Visiting Professor of New Testament

Liliana Da Valle-M.Div., Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; D.Min., Andover Newton Theological School; DBA, Candidate, Walden University-Visiting Professor of Ministerial Leadership

Horacio R. Da Valle—M.Div., Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; D. Min., Andover Newton Theological School; Th.D. (Candidate), Graduate Theological Union—Visiting Professor of Theology

James Grandison III—B.S., University California, Davis; M.T.S., Boston University; Th.M., Boston University; Ph.D. Candidate, University of Konstanz--Visiting Professor of Theology and Ethics

Youngil Kim—B.Th., Methodist Theological Seminary, Seoul; M.Div., The Graduate Seminary at Philips University; D.Min., Drew University; Ph.D., Graduate School at Loyola University of Chicago—Visiting Professor of Ethics and Society

Jeff Kunkel - B.A., University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; M.Div., Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; widely published writer, literary website: JeffKunkel.org—Visiting Professor of Theological Writing

César Melgar – B.A., DeVry Institute of Technology; M.A., Northern Theological Seminary; M.A., Wheaton College; Ph.D. Candidate, Graduate Theological Union – Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies

Eric Sias—B.A., University of Texas, Austin; M.A., Yale Divinity; Ph.D Student, Graduate Theological Union – Visiting Professor of Biblical Studies

Robert A. Wilkins—B.A., University of Southern California; M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary; Certificate, Executive Program for Non-profit Leaders, Stanford Graduate

School of Business; D.Min., Candidate, San Francisco Theological Seminary—Visiting Professor of Community Leadership and Practical Theology

Faculty Emeriti

Eldon G. Ernst—B.A., Linfield College; B.D., Colgate Rochester Divinity School; M.A., Ph.D., Yale University—Distinguished Senior Professor of American Church History

Eduardo Font—B.A., California Baptist College; M.A., University of California at Riverside; M. Div., International Theological Baptist Seminary; Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles—Professor Emeritus of Hispanic Studies

Keith Russell—B.A., Sioux Falls College; B.D., Colgate Rochester Divinity School; M.S.T., D.Min., New York Theological Seminary—Professor of Pastoral Theology

J. Alfred Smith Sr.—B.S., Western Baptist College; B.D., M.Th., Missouri School of Religion; M.Th., American Baptist Seminary of the West; D.Min., Golden Gate Theological Seminary—Distinguished Senior Professor of Preaching and Church Ministries

Administration

James E. Brenneman – President/CEO

LeAnn Snow Flesher – Vice President of Academics, and Dean of the Faculty

Deann Hays – Vice President and CFO

Staff

Gary Cooper, Superintendent of Plant and Facilities

Carolyn Matthews, Executive Assistant to President and Vice President

Regina Pridgeon, Director of Business Administration

Alan Roselius, Maintenance Technician

Anna Song, Registrar and Director of Student Services

Meagan Wood, Director of Admissions

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