

# JACKSON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Academic Catalog*  
**2018-2019**



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## **ACCREDITATION**

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### **STATEMENT OF TRACS ACCREDITATION STATUS**

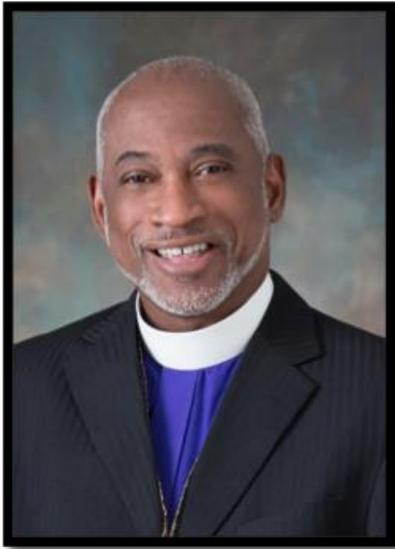
TRACS has a clear, multi-step process towards accreditation. The overall phases of the process are Application, Candidacy, and Accreditation. After successfully complying with the standards set forth in the TRACS Institutional Eligibility Requirements (IER), their assessment of an institution's accomplishments affords advancement for accreditation. The process takes approximately two years for an institution that is currently in operation. Jackson Theological Seminary is currently in the Application phase having accomplished the foundational requirements for Operational Authority, Organizational Structure, Publications and Policies, Educational Programs, Financial Services, Facilities, and Equipment, establishing a Library and Learning Services, a Faculty and Student Services.

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## **INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY**

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The Board of Trustees, President, administrators, staff and faculty of Jackson Theological seminary will operate with integrity, representing itself accurately and honestly to students, and the public. Furthermore, the institution will maintain honest and open communication with all accreditation, federal and states agencies and will abide by the policies and procedures set forth by each entity.



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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

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Greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees and welcome to the Jackson Theological Seminary Family!

This is an exciting time for the faculty, staff and especially the students of Jackson. We are entering a new era of educational and academic excellence that will prepare our students to render a higher quality of service to the church and the community. Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to values that promote the welfare and positive transformation of individuals, communities, and societies. The faculty, administration, and staff are committed to producing effective Christian leaders in pastoral and

ministerial service. The Jackson faculty excels in teaching and scholarship, sharing with students their passion for the wisdom and understanding of the Word of God, and it's a literal and practical application.

We value ethical conduct, the pursuit of truth and knowledge carried out in the spirit of intellectual freedom, diversity, and community engagement. Jackson is an educational institution that prepares students for service to the church and the community through transformative teaching and training.

Jackson Theological Seminary is on track to become a preeminent institution of higher learning that will serve the Arkansas region at a national level of quality. Offering a commitment to the needs, interests, and goals of our students, we have developed an outstanding curriculum that nurtures and promotes exceptional Christian ministry leadership.

Matriculation at Jackson Theological Seminary also cultivates an atmosphere to challenge us to be all that God intends. A unique balance of ministry preparation, leadership training, and spiritual enrichment awaits all who have fully committed to the call and charge of God on their lives.

**Bishop Michael L. Mitchell**

Chairman of the Board of Trustees



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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**

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In every generation, inspired people have come forth to meet the challenges of their day. We now face an era that is calling for a new level of Spirit-filled, scholarly leaders. The great Rev. Dr. Benjamin Mays once said that "if religion is to be respectable, challenging and increasingly helpful...we have no other choice than to concern ourselves more in the future with theological education among (our people) than we have in the past." That future calls to us today, and Jackson Theological Seminary is ready to answer. With your committed support, I believe we can help develop courageous change-agents for the pulpit and the public square, God being our helper. With a robust

student body, thoughtful academic rigor, engaging theological scholarship, and an intentional strategy to build the beloved community, we will make a difference in the lives of people and institutions in local and global theatres. Let us challenge each other to be excellent. As our staff and faculty work together with you to train Kingdom-minded leaders, there is no doubt that the Jackson experience will foster deep spiritual formation, integrity, and hunger to tell the old story of a Jesus and his love. Welcome to the next level of preparation in service to "God our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit our Comforter and humankind our family.

**Rev. Cecil L. Williams, Jr.**

President & CEO of Jackson Theological Seminary



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER (CAO)

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Greetings,

Since the days of pupils studying in the halls of the glorious library of Alexandria, to the first university in the world in Timbuktu, people of African descent have been excelling in scaffolding the pinnacle for higher education and demonstrating what striving for excellence looks like in the world. It is within this backdrop that Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) enters the fray, founded by members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.C.) with the sole purpose of educating both head and heart for the kingdom of God, having an ambitious goal of producing leading scholars and practitioners of the faith.

J.T.S. is one of the few seminaries in the world that while holding to an orthodox view of scripture, where we steadfastly believe the Holy Writ to be the infallible and inerrant word of God. Moreover, we also believe that the Bible and the institution of the church have been misused to oppress people all over the world including descendants of the African diaspora. Our goal is to teach students what truly "thus says the Lord" and as Booker T. Washington once said, "lift the veil of ignorance." The founders of the A.M.E.C. while standing firm on their fidelity to scripture went against the majority church's view that blacks and slaves should "stay in their place" and sought social, political, and economic uplift for blacks, the poor and disenfranchised everywhere. We seek to continue that legacy here at Jackson.

Furthermore, we intend to teach students that their ministry does not end at the benediction. In fact, that is where major ministry begins. Theologically and practically we draw heavily on both the Wesleyan and Richard Allen tradition of sound prophetic preaching plus strong spiritually-minded community outreach. Our students will learn how to both preach relevant, Christological, biblically based sermons, and also how to tackle social and systemic sins that exist today in our communities, all the while assisting and being an advocate for the "least of these."

J.T.S offers small classroom sizes, a new state of the art building, and highly-trained, accessible professors. Our instructors have experience pastoring churches, leading community outreach and nonprofit efforts. We are open to anyone regardless of denomination, race, socio-economic status, or physical ability. If you want to grow deeper in your knowledge of God, prepare yourself to lead a congregation, fine tune your skills as a pastor, or lay leader, Jackson Theological Seminary is the place for you. I cannot wait to meet you! Let's strive for excellence in head and heart together!!

Sincerely,

**Rev. Dr. Robert R.A. Turner**

Chief Academic Officer of Jackson Theological Seminary

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NAME	Position	EMAIL
BISHOP MICHAEL MITCHELL	Ex-Officio Chairman	<a href="mailto:bishopmitchell134@gmail.com">bishopmitchell134@gmail.com</a>
REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS	Ex-officio/ CEO Member	<a href="mailto:rev.cecilwilliamsjr@gmail.com">rev.cecilwilliamsjr@gmail.com</a>
REVEREND CHESTINE SIMS	Member	<a href="mailto:chestinesims@gmail.com">chestinesims@gmail.com</a>
REVEREND TRUMAN TOLEFREE	Vice-Chair	<a href="mailto:trumantolefree@att.net">trumantolefree@att.net</a>
MRS. TINA GRISSOM	Recording Secretary	<a href="mailto:grissomtina@gmail.com">grissomtina@gmail.com</a>
REVEREND JOHNNY KELLEY	Member	<a href="mailto:cjkelly@ipa.net">cjkelly@ipa.net</a>
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REVEREND GERALD PATTERSON	Member	<a href="mailto:gpatt002@aol.com">gpatt002@aol.com</a>
REVEREND ANGELA BREWSTER	Member	<a href="mailto:angelbrewster55@yahoo.com">angelbrewster55@yahoo.com</a>
REVEREND GREGORY C. NETTLES	Chaplain	<a href="mailto:gcnettles@yahoo.com">gcnettles@yahoo.com</a>
REVEREND CHARLENE BOONE	Member	<a href="mailto:cboone7145@aol.com">cboone7145@aol.com</a>
REVEREND KENT BROUGHTON	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Brohamk2000@yahoo.com">Brohamk2000@yahoo.com</a>
MR. CHARLES MOORE	Member	<a href="mailto:mrcemoore@yahoo.com">mrcemoore@yahoo.com</a>
REVEREND CLARENCE GUY	Parliamentarian	<a href="mailto:clareceguy@sbcglobal.net">clareceguy@sbcglobal.net</a>

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH

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Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) had its beginning with Shorter College in 1886 and shared many of Shorter's physical facilities and programs. The Seminary is named for the late Dr. Thomas Henry Jackson who served as President 1895-1900 and Dean of the Theological Department 1904 – 1912. Dr. Jackson is a graduate of Wilberforce University. He entered Wilberforce at the age of 14, graduating with the first class, in 1870. In 1865, he was converted and entered the active ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, thus serving 56 years.

Jackson Theological Seminary is owned and operated by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Seminary is a valid Servant of the Church. Since the first graduate, Reverend John March Murchison in 1903, the Seminary has been an effective guide to those aspiring to be useful and great. Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) played a major role in providing theological and religious education to clergy and lay students in the 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District. In order to more adequately serve its basic purpose of educating and training Christian Ministers and Lay Leaders, several Extension Centers were authorized in Arkansas and Oklahoma. At least 30 hours earned in the Extension Centers could be applied toward the 90-hour course providing other academic requirements were met.

JTS offered Bachelor and master's degrees for students who completed their Associate of Arts degree from Shorter College. While the school was not accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, the administration and faculty modeled the seminary after those that were accredited in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The leadership of JTS was recognized alternately as either the President or Dean of the seminary.

Some of the individuals who served as Deans during the period of 1960 to 2011 were:

- The Reverend J.M. Watkins
- The Reverend Rufus King Young, SR
- The Reverend Nathaniel Irving
- The Reverend Dr. Colin Lambert
- The Reverend James R. Hooper
- The Reverend Clarence H. Guy
- The Reverend Clarence V. Boyd, SR

Jackson Theological Seminary held classes and taught courses in theology, Christian education, pastoral leadership and preaching continuously from 1960 to 2010. In the spring of 2009, JTS entered into an off-campus distance learning partnership with Florida Center for Theological Studies. The Florida Center for Theological Studies was an accredited seminary and using tele-conferencing technology Jackson was able to offer students the opportunity to take graduate level courses from an accredited school. The partnership lasted four semesters and ended when Florida Center for Theological Studies merged with another school that discontinued the distance learning program. Jackson discontinued holding classes after the 2011 school year because of a need to focus more attention on Shorter College.

Any objective evaluation of its current status should include the primary concern of the original intent and historical mission. The African Methodist Episcopal Church decided to establish, maintain and develop an institution for the Theological Education of both Ministers and Laymen. The African Methodist Episcopal Church takes pride in the fact that it produces most of her leaders. JTS is a positive expression of the vision and determination to sustain this heritage in a relevant and responsible manner.

Seeing the need to provide a theological education to Clergy and Lay person, the 2<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, decided to reopen Jackson Theological Seminary and pursue Accreditation Status through TRACS, offering a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies and a Master of Divinity Degree. Under the leadership of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell, in June 2018 Jackson Theological Seminary opened its doors to a brand-new facility for the continued purpose of educating and preparing clergy and lay for ministry from a theological perspective. JTS is in the process of submitting its application for Accreditation.

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## **BIBLICAL FOUNDATION:**

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**We believe our faith statement of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Christian foundational faith.**

### **APOSTLE’S CREED**

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead; and buried. The third day he arose from the dead’ he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.”

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## **PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION**

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The seminary students and faculty seek to experience and examine theological training and thought formation centered on the exquisite grace of God, the example of Jesus Christ, and the excellent power of the Holy Spirit. Our philosophy of education emphasizes teaching and learning as an expression of social justice and liberation theology, tempered with service to community, and faith inspired by biblical, scriptural authority and historical Christian beliefs.

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## **STATEMENT OF ETHICAL VALUES**

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The ethical values and standards of Jackson Theological Seminary seek to exemplify the liberating ministry, the services of sacrifice, and the standards of justice and love of Jesus Christ in ministerial and pastoral Christian service. The seminary is committed to representing the moral, ethical traditions and standards espoused by the Holy Bible (Old and New Testaments) and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Enrollment in Jackson Theological Seminary constitutes a recognition and reverence for these ethical values and standards by all students.

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## **CORE VALUES**

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**Biblical/Scriptural Authority:** The extent to which the commandments and doctrines within the Old and New Testament scriptures are authoritative for human belief, conduct and destiny.

**Historical Faith:** Historical belief, trust, and loyalty of Christian Faith as described in the Old and New Testaments and through the Trinity - God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

**Academic Rigor:** Teach conceptual understanding, procedural skill, fluency, and application.

**Social Justice:** Teach concepts of fair and just relations between the individual and society. This is measured by the explicit and tacit terms for the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity, and *social* privileges. Micah 6:8..... what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Liberation:** The process to fight the ills of sin and exploitation through the relationship between *Christian theology* and political activism, economic justice, poverty, and human rights.

**Service Orientation:** The call to serve community, however, especially the least, the week, poor and the needy. Mark 10:43 .....but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,<sup>44</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

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## VISION

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A Global Academy, providing biblical foundations for Christian ministries that serve, transform and liberate communities.

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## MISSION

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Jackson Theological Seminary is an educational community preparing people for service to the local church and the broader community through transformative teaching and training. The faculty, administration and staff are committed to preparing students for effective Christian leadership in pastoral and ministerial service.

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## INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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- The seminary shall prepare students for careers and service in Christian Ministry for local church and global Christian ministry.
- The seminary shall promote and prepare academic and theological excellence and scholarship through teaching and training of students for the Bachelor of Arts Degree Completion and the Master of Divinity degree program.
- The seminary shall educate, encourage, and engage students from varied spiritual, ethnic, cultural, male/female and students with physical handicaps to encourage diversity and inclusiveness at the seminary.
- The seminary staff, faculty and Board of Trustees shall encourage solicitation of grants, aid, federal funding, research procedures and practices to establish and enhance funding and scholarship for deserving students.
- The seminary shall promote and encourage professional development of its faculty and staff to insure relevant, realistic and reliable instruction and training for all students.

- The seminary shall sponsor a wholistic, inclusive and involved teaching, training, and learning environment, where all are encouraged to participate, grow and develop in Christian faith and service.

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## **INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**

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### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS**

Jackson Theological Seminary has adopted procedures in compliance with the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act of 1974. To preserve strict confidentiality of records, the college does not permit access to or release of educational records or personal information, without the written consent of the student.

### **DISCRIMINATION FREE ENVIRONMENT**

Jackson Theological Seminary does not, in its admission or employment policies and practices, discriminate against individuals based on extrinsic factors such as ethnic or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, color, religion, handicap, or status as a veteran of Vietnam War era or as a disabled veteran. The college complies with applicable federal legislation and regulations regarding non-discrimination and equal employment opportunity. Jackson Theological Seminary also reaffirms the principle that its students, faculty, and staff have a right to be free from sexual discrimination in the form of sexual harassment by any member of the college community. Sexual harassment of students and employees at the college is unacceptable conduct, and it is also unlawful.

### **DISABILITY SERVICES**

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Jackson aspires to be an inclusive community. Striving for inclusion of all people is based upon Jackson's educational ideals. Our vision of good education involves community members learning about other members within an everyday context that mirrors the pluralistic world around us. This ideal applies equally to students of the Seminary who may have disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations. To this end, Jackson Seminary is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Academic Services Office offers a variety of services to Jackson students who have documented physical, mental, or learning disabilities:

- assistance with registration
- academic advising/counseling
- physical accommodations
- assistance with note-taking
- extended time
- large-print
- testing accommodations
- oral tests
- distraction-free environment

It is important for students with documented disabilities to identify themselves to the Academic Services Office and their respective professors prior to the beginning of the semester. This will allow arrangements to be made to assure student success and to meet individual needs. Examples of physical disabilities include mobility limitations, sight, hearing, etc. Professors will work individually with students who have learning disabilities.

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

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Jackson Theological Seminary complies with applicable federal and state legislation and regulations regarding nondiscriminatory admission and employment policies and practices by providing equal opportunity to all individuals without discrimination based on extrinsic factors such as ethnic or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, color, religion, political affiliation, disability, or status as a war veteran. It is, therefore, the institution's policy to accord fair and equitable treatment of every person, always. Jackson Theological Seminary will continue to maintain its policy of providing access to general education and Paraprofessional programs to all persons regardless of race, national origin, sex color, creed, and political persuasions. The College, however, recognizes its institutional responsibility to serve its community by making institutional resources available to assist in the cultural, economic, and spiritual development of the community.

## **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY**

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Notice is hereby given that Jackson Theological Seminary has adopted institutional procedures in compliance with the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act of 1974, assuring the right of a student to view his or her educational records upon request.

## **HARRASSMENT AND BULLYING**

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We prohibit harassment/bullying of one student by another student, professor, employee or third party for any reason ["protected class"] including, but not limited to: veteran status, uniform service member status or any other protected class under federal, state, or local law. Harassment of third parties by Jackson staff or students is also prohibited. Harassment/bullying thru all social media is also considered a part of this policy.

In Arkansas/Oklahoma, the following are protected classes: race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, disability, age (40 or over), ancestry, political affiliation or sexual orientation.

The purpose of this policy is not to regulate the morality of the Seminary. It is to ensure that in any environment, no student, professor or employee is harassed for any reason or in any manner. The conduct prohibited by this policy includes conduct in any form, including but not limited to e-mail, voicemail, chat rooms, Internet use or history, text messages, pictures, images, writings, words or gestures. While it is not easy to define precisely what harassment is, it includes slurs, epithets, threats, derogatory comments or visual depictions, unwelcome jokes, and teasing.

Any student that feels he/she is a victim of such harassment should immediately report the matter to the following member of management who has been designated to receive such complaints: Rev. Dr. Robert R.A. Turner (501) 492.8395 ext. 608) [rturner@jtseminary.org](mailto:rturner@jtseminary.org)

The Seminary will investigate all such reports as confidentially as possible. Adverse action will not be taken against a student because he/she, in good faith, reports or participates in the investigation of a violation of this policy. Violations of this policy are not permitted and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Seminary.

## **SEXUAL HARRASMENT**

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Jackson Theological seminary has a policy that prohibits sexual harassment or discrimination against any staff, faculty, and student of the college based on sex. Actions related to sexual harassment or discrimination based on sex are also prohibited by law, Section 703, Title VII of the Civil Right Act of 1963 and Title IX of the Educational Amendment Act of 1972.

Any member of the Jackson community who violates any of these Acts faces disciplinary action and potential legal consequences.

Sexual harassment is defined as an unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct. The following non-exhaustive list contains forms of sexual harassment:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is, explicitly or implicitly, made a term or condition of an individual's employment or classroom evaluation.
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting the status of the individual.

Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or classroom performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

Jackson Theological Seminary shall take necessary steps to maintain a college environment that is free of sexual harassment and discrimination based on sex through programs and workshops developed to prevent such acts. Members of the college are encouraged to report any violation of this policy against an individual on or outside the college campus to the appropriate college authority. Appropriate administrative departmental action(s) will be taken through either informal or formal procedures.

## **SMOKING, DRUGS, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO USE**

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The following expectations of employees and students are intended to protect the health, safety and well-being of all individuals associated with the Seminary:

- the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance or alcohol is prohibited on campus or at Seminary activities off-campus;
- the use of a controlled substance shall be permitted if use of the particular drug is permitted by law and has been authorized as a use for medicinal purposes;

- the Seminary prohibits the use of alcohol at all Seminary-sponsored student events, and on campus grounds, defined as Seminary-owned property and facilities, and including Seminary- owned student housing. The Seminary does not seek to regulate the personal use of alcohol or legal drugs off campus by faculty, students, and staff of legal drinking age.

Violations of the alcohol/drug policy may result in judicial action by the Seminary and/or criminal prosecution. To maintain a safe, clean, healthy and comfortable working environment for nonsmoking Faculty/Staff member and to ensure their right to clean air and to comply with applicable Arkansas OSHA laws and city ordinances, the North Little Rock City Council Enacted Ordinance 6288 dated 1/23/89. Smoking in the Seminary is prohibited.

## **STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

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Students are responsible for reading the information in the College catalog. They should understand the policies, rules, and regulations and know the organization of the institution.

## **WEAPON POLICY**

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It is the Policy of Jackson Theological Seminary that no weapons of any kind be allowed on the grounds or in the buildings of Jackson Theological Seminary premises except in the possession of law enforcement authorities/security officers specifically hired by Jackson Theological Seminary or Shorter College or individuals exempted by the CEO. This policy covers all weapons whether concealed or unconcealed, and whether on the person of the possessor, in a container or in any compartment of a vehicle.

This policy applies to persons who would otherwise be licensed to carry a concealed weapon under Arkansas law pursuant to Arkansas Act 226 of 2013. Jackson Theological Seminary administrative officials shall maintain appropriate signage and other notice on the campus in the buildings and on the grounds, pursuant to Arkansas Act 226 of 2013, and Arkansas Code 5-73-30(19) to give public notice that Jackson Theological Seminary has specifically elected to prohibit all firearms on its campus including persons who are licensed to carry concealed weapons. Per Arkansas Parking Lot Laws, all weapons in privately owned vehicles must always be kept in your locked personal vehicles and are stored in an appropriate locked device. This Policy was adopted by the Jackson Theological Seminary Board of Trustees June 2018. Any faculty, staff or student found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal.

## **ABOUT THE CAMPUS**

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Jackson Theological Seminary is located on the first floor of the 12th Episcopal District Headquarters Building, 520 North Locust Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jackson Theological Seminary is adjacent to Shorter College's campus. It is collocated in the 12th Episcopal District Headquarters building. The classrooms are located on both ends of the building. It is bounded by Interstate 30 on the west side, Vine Street on the east side, Broadway Street and the Alltel Arena on the south side, and Eighth Street on the north side. Jackson Theological Seminary is a private, faith-based, Seminary that includes a program for the Master of Divinity Program and the Bachelor of Art in Biblical Studies completion program. Sherman-Tyree Hall - the main building for administrative and instructional functions - is a two-story structure. The first floor contains administrative offices, the computer lab and classrooms. The second floor consists of classrooms, the adult education center, and the science laboratory. Each room has an adjacent office.

Jackson Theological Seminary currently utilized Shorter College's AW Young Library for learning and library resources. The library is equipped with a spacious, well-lit reading room, which contains carrels and study tables, two sizeable conference rooms, and two classrooms.

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## **ADMINISTRATION, STAFF & FACULTY**

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### **President & Chief Executive Officer**

Rev. Cecil Williams Jr.

[cwilliams@jtseminary.org](mailto:cwilliams@jtseminary.org)

### **Chief Academic Officer**

Dr. Robert R. A. Turner

[rturner@jtseminary.org](mailto:rturner@jtseminary.org)

### **Chief Financial Officer**

Mrs. Shelia Washington

[swashington@jtseminary.org](mailto:swashington@jtseminary.org)

### **Director of Admissions and Record**

Charles Frost, Sr.

[cfrost@jtseminary.org](mailto:cfrost@jtseminary.org)

### **Faculty (Master of Divinity)**

Daniel Johnson

[djohnson@jtseminary.org](mailto:djohnson@jtseminary.org)

### **Faculty (B.A. of Biblical Studies Program)**

Charlene Boone

[cboone@jtseminary.org](mailto:cboone@jtseminary.org)

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## **CAMPUS COMMUNICATIONS**

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### **EMAIL AND STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**

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The communication system at Jackson Theological Seminary is two-fold: school generated emails and Populi, which is the internal online Student Information System (SIS). Populi will be expanded to incorporate internal emails, sharing of documents (homework, forms, information, etc.) as soon as possible.

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## **CATALOG REQUIREMENTS**

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The Jackson Theological Seminary Catalog 2018-2019 provides information about the academic program of Jackson Theological Seminary. It also contains information concerning admissions, academic regulations and

requirements, services available to students, academic offerings, and a list of administrative officers, faculty, and staff of the college. Although courses listed in a curriculum are required, the suggested curricular plan for an academic program does not in any way indicate the length of time required for a student to finish degree requirements. While every effort has been made to ensure completeness and accuracy, changes may occur at any time in requirements, deadlines, fees, curricula, courses and course descriptions. For various reasons, such as insufficient enrollment or limited resources, courses may at times not be offered in the announcement semester. Consequently, students should work with the appropriate advisor in determining a schedule for any given academic session. It should be understood, therefore, that the information in this catalog is not in the nature of contractual obligation.

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## **CATALOG RESTRICTIONS**

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Students generally follow the academic program current at the time of their admission into Jackson Theological Seminary and may not follow those of earlier catalogs. Exceptions may apply where requirements are imposed by state agencies.

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## **ADMISSIONS POLICIES**

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Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to providing each student with the maximum opportunity to develop and learn. As such, we accept new students each semester for the Bachelor Completion program and the Master of Divinity program.

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## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

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Applicants of all religious, ethnic, gender, race and cultural backgrounds are welcome at Jackson Theological Seminary. Applicants are expected to maintain a level of academic competence that makes their seminary experience profitable.

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## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO STUDY**

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Students are required to have basic competence in computer skills, including familiarity with the Internet, email and word processing. In addition, students must be self-directed and able to organize their own structure for study and completion of assignments.

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## **ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES (BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES)**

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Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to providing each student with the maximum opportunity to develop and learn. As such, we accept new students each semester.

To be admitted to the Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies (degree completion program), prospective student must have the following:

- At least 60 hours of general education requirements completed from an accredited institution (must submit an official transcript of all work undertaken) Students from foreign institutions of collegiate standing may be admitted if they present satisfactory evidence of having completed studies equivalent to comparable institutions in the United States. A graduate of an unaccredited U.S. school may be admitted only as a Special Student.
- A completed application (\$50.00 application fee)
- Two letters of recommendation – one professional and one from the applicant’s pastor or denominational official.

The applicant is responsible for having the above documents sent. Final action upon the application for admission will not be made until all these documents have been submitted. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by the Admissions Office typically within two weeks of completing the application process.

## **ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES (MASTER OF DIVINITY)**

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Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to providing each student with the maximum opportunity to develop and learn. As such, we accept new students each semester.

- Students wishing to be admitted to the Master of Divinity program should hold the bachelor’s degree based upon the completion of work at an accredited institution. Students from foreign institutions of collegiate standing may be admitted if they present satisfactory evidence of having completed studies equivalent to comparable institutions in the United States. A graduate of an unaccredited U.S. school may be admitted only as a Special Student. Student must submit an official transcript of completed collegiate work.
- A completed application for admission (\$50.00 application fee)
- Two letters of recommendation – one professional and one from the applicant’s pastor or denominational official
- A 750-1,000 word writing sample on the subject, “What is the value of a theological education to me?” Included in the essay should be the motives for entering Christian ministry and those persons, influences and religious experiences that led to choosing a church-related vocation.

The applicant is responsible for having the above documents sent to the seminary. Final action upon the application for admission will not be made until all these documents have been submitted. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by the Admissions Office typically within two weeks of completing the application process.

### ***Readmission Procedures***

Students who have not been enrolled for over 12 months need to complete a readmission application, including providing requested documents and payment of a readmission fee.

To be eligible for the readmission process, a student must resume the program of study within three years of the last term in which work was done. After this three-year period, a new admissions application is required, including a new application form, updated letters of recommendation, and a letter describing plans and a schedule for completing the program of study. If the withdrawal was for health reasons, the student must

obtain clearance from a physician before registering and resuming the program of study. In readmission of students to Jackson, only course work done within five years that has earned a letter grade of C or better or a P grade will be considered for degree credit.

Students with unpaid balances or incomplete course work will not be considered for readmission until these issues are resolved. Readmission after withdrawal for medical reasons requires medical clearance by a physician.

## **TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY**

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### ***Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies***

The transfer student must meet the admission requirements of Jackson Theological Seminary. A student transferring is admitted to advanced standing in accordance with work completed, provided the college/seminary from which he/she comes is accredited by acceptable accrediting associations. The extent of credit allowed for prior work is determined in each case by the faculty person. Transfer students, like all others, are required to complete a minimum of thirty credit hours in residence.

Transfer credits will not substitute for the completion of the residency requirements. You may only be granted credit for courses with a grade of “C” or better. An official transcript needs to be submitted from each college or seminary school where credits were earned. Fifteen credit hours are the maximum number of transfer credits that are accepted. A transfer student must take the required courses at Jackson Theological Seminary, though a written appeal can be made for special consideration for courses taken at similar colleges and or theological institutions.

### ***Master of Divinity***

The transfer student must meet the admission requirements of Jackson Theological Seminary. A student transferring is admitted to advanced standing in accordance with work completed, provided the college/seminary from which he/she comes is accredited by acceptable accrediting associations. The extent of credit allowed for prior work is determined in each case by the faculty person. Transfer students, like all others, are required to complete a minimum of forty-two credit hours in residence.

Transfer credits will not substitute for the completion of the residency requirements. You may only be granted credit for courses with a grade of “C” or better. An official transcript needs to be submitted from each college or seminary school where credits were earned. Twenty-four hours credit hours are the maximum number of transfer credits that are accepted. A transfer student must take the required courses at Jackson Theological Seminary, though a written appeal can be made for special consideration for courses taken at similar colleges and or theological institutions.

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# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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## BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM

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To receive an effective education from Jackson Theological Seminary requires you to arrive prepared and ready to think out loud and share ideological information to aid in your growth. Class meetings involve discussions in a variety of formats, some experimental and perhaps unfamiliar. These wide-ranging structures support diverse forms of analysis and thinking; they also accommodate varied personalities and learning styles. In all settings, respond considerately and respectfully with your peers. When you disagree with or do not understand something please ask questions. Your peers' questions are as important as yours, so listen carefully.

There are seven critical requirements for graduation from the Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies degree. The student must:

1. Receive a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 in 60 credit hours of course work (total; of 120 credit hours after transferred credits). These hours be the Required Courses outlined in the Curriculum Requirements.
2. Fulfill all financial responsibilities.
3. Have an assessment of eligibility and recommendation by the Chief Academic Officer.
4. Complete a minimum of 24 residential credit hours through Jackson Theological Seminary.
5. Complete the required number of credit hours in each area.
6. Complete the Graduation Intent and Clearance Form.

Students can complete the program at the end of the spring semester. The commencement ceremony is held annually at the end of the spring semester.

### *Program Goals*

#### **Religious Heritage:**

The program shall provide structured opportunity to develop a comprehensive and discriminating understanding of the religious heritage of Christianity in general with focus on the African-American religious experience.

#### **Cultural Context:**

The program shall provide opportunity to develop an understanding of the cultural realities and structures within which the Christian church and the AME denomination lives and carries out its mission.

#### **Personal and Spiritual Formation:**

The program shall provide opportunities through which the student may grow in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness. Ministerial preparation includes concern with the development of capacities-intellectual and affective, individual and corporate, ecclesial and public-that are requisite to a life of pastoral leadership.

### **Ministerial and Public Leadership:**

The program shall provide theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministry. These activities should cultivate the capacity for leadership in both ecclesial and public contexts with emphasis on ministry within African-American communities.

### ***Program Learning Outcomes***

#### ***Bachelor of Arts (Biblical Studies) Completion Program Learning Outcomes***

*Upon completion of the course, students will be able to*

1. Identify main themes, concepts, key figures, and topics of critical biblical narratives.
2. Utilize various exegetical methods in studying the Bible including critical analysis, evaluation of biblical genres, prophetic interpretation for hermeneutical basics.
3. Identify the movements of God through the Israelite people as expressed throughout the biblical narratives.
4. Integrate and apply appropriate information from the biblical text to the current life context and propose relevant solutions to contemporary societal problems and comprehensive sound principles for Christian education.

### ***Program Plan of Study: 60 total credit hours***

#### **1st Semester: 12 total credit hours**

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Biblical Interpretation (3)  
Survey of Old Testament 1 (3)  
Survey of New Testament 1 (3)  
Christian Doctrine 1 (3)

**Intersession:** Elective Courses offered (6)

#### **2nd Semester: 12 total credit hours**

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Survey of Old Testament II (3)  
Survey of New Testament II (3)  
Christian Doctrine II (3)  
Introduction to Theology (3)

**Intersession:** Elective Courses offered (3)

#### **3rd Semester: 12 total credit hours**

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Survey of Old Testament III (3)  
Survey of New Testament III (3)  
Christian Doctrine III (3)

History of Christianity (3)

**Intersession:** Elective Course offered (3)

**4th Semester: 12 total credit hours**

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Christian Ethics (3)

Introduction to World Religions (3)

Philosophy of Religion (3)

Capstone Course: Statement of Faith (3)

**Course Descriptions:**

**BW2305 Biblical Interpretation** - The history of Biblical interpretation with emphasis on the Hebrew Scriptures from rabbinical exegesis and Philo's allegorical methodology. An extensive study of the hermeneutical approaches to understanding and interpreting the Old Testament for contemporary uses. **Three term hours**

**Texts:** *Biblical Interpretation: A Roadmap* by Sharon H. Ringe (Author), Frederick C. Tiffany, Abingdon Press (April 1, 1996), *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible* by E. Randolph Richards (Author), Brandon J. O'Brien, IVP Books; 1 edition (December 4, 2012)

**BW2341 Survey of the Old Testament I** – The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of the major writings of the First Testament and to develop their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures 4th Edition* by Michael D. Coogan (Author), Cynthia R. Chapman (Author), Oxford University Press; 4 edition (July 3, 2017)

**BW2342 Survey of the Old Testament II** – The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of the writings regarding the Torah and the History texts to develop their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures 4th Edition* by Michael D. Coogan (Author), Cynthia R. Chapman (Author), Oxford University Press; 4 edition (July 3, 2017)

**BW2343 Survey of the Old Testament III** – Utilizing the book of Job as a benchmark, students will explore the ethical question found prevalently in the Old Testament: “why do bad things happen to good people?” Students will relate the Job narrative to Israel's trajectory as a religious community of God-believers and make distinctions of faith and fellowship as it relates to ethical conduct in human struggle. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *On Job (God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent)* by Gustavo Gutierrez (Author), Matthew O'Connell (Translator), Orbis Books (July 1, 1987)

**BW2341 Survey of the New Testament I** – The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of the major Second Testament writings and to develop their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings 6th Edition* by Bart D. Ehrman, Oxford University Press; (June 26, 2015)

**BW2342 Survey of the New Testament II** – The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of the birth of the Church from the Acts of the Apostles, Romans and other Pauline Letters. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings 6th Edition* by Bart D. Ehrman, Oxford University Press; (June 26, 2015)

**BW2343 Survey of the New Testament III** – Students will put into context the Gospel and Pauline account of the Jesus movement and its impact on the governance of oppressed people of their time, as well as how these occurrences can apply in post-modernity and the rise of populism.

**Texts:** *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted* by Obery Hendricks (August 21, 2007)

**HT2301 History of Christianity** – A general historical overview of the formation of the Christian faith, the major denominations created, their relationship to each other and the original Gospel message

**Texts:** *Church History in Plain Language: Fourth Edition* by Bruce Shelley (Author), Thomas Nelson, (December 3, 2012)

**TH2301 Introduction to Theology** – Students will receive an understanding of what theology is in its wider context, the Wesleyan Trilateral and the major specific Protestant Christian creeds and notions that have shaped the faith. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *How to Think Theologically 3rd Edition* by Howard W. Stone (Author), James O. Duke (Author), Fortress Press (March 1, 2013)

**HT2321 Christian Doctrine I** - Basic doctrines and theologies that have shaped the Christian tradition. The course will survey the formation of the patristic, Byzantine, and medieval Western theological traditions. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Christian Theology Reader: An Introduction*, by Alister E. McGrath, Wiley-Blackwell; (2017)

**HT2332 Christian Doctrine II** - A continuation of the study of the basic doctrines and theologies that have shaped the Christian tradition of the Reformations up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Christian Theology Reader: An Introduction*, by Alister E. McGrath, Wiley-Blackwell; (2017); *The Christian Theology Reader 5th Edition*, by Alister E. McGrath, Wiley-Blackwell (October 17, 2016)

**HT2333 Christian Doctrine III** - A continuation of the study of the basic doctrines and theologies that have shaped the Christian tradition. The first part of the course will start with a summary of the Reformation era and its impact on the Modern and Post-Modern eras. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Christian Theology Reader: An Introduction*, by Alister E. McGrath, Wiley-Blackwell; (2017); *The Christian Theology Reader 5th Edition*, by Alister E. McGrath, Wiley-Blackwell (2016)

**HT2341 Introduction to World Religions** – An overview of world religious traditions and the global patterns of contemporary world religious as symbol systems and expressions of discrete, coherent, worldviews. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Introduction to World Religions, 3rd Edition* by Christopher Partridge (Editor)

**PH2345 Philosophy of Religion** - An examination of the major issues in the philosophy of religion including the knowledge of God, the problem of evil, life after death, religious language and experience, and the relationship of faith and reason. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Philosophy of Religion: Thinking About Faith (Contours of Christian Philosophy)*, 2nd Edition by C. Stephen Evans (Author), R. Zachary Manis (Author)

**TH2332 Christian Ethics** - An introduction to ethical inquiry from a Christian point of view through a comparison of liberal, neo-orthodox, postmodern, liberation, and other theologies, exploring their implications for the present as well as the question of their social and historical locations. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Ethics (Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Vol. 6)* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Author), Clifford J. Green (Editor)

### Electives

**CH2301 African American Church History** - The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the rudimentary tools necessary for a critical investigation of the role religion has played in the history of the African-America Experience. The intent of the course is to expose students to events, persons, and literary works related to the African-American Religious Experience. **Three term hours.**

**Texts and Resources:** Coogan, Michael David. *The new Oxford annotated Bible with the Apocrypha/ Deuterocanonical Books*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Oxford University Press, 2001. Lincoln, C. Eric and Lawrence H. Mamiya, *The Black Church in the African-American Experience*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1990. Whelchel, Jr, L. H. *The History and Heritage of African-American Churches: A Way Out of No Way*. St. Paul: Paragon House, 2011.

Cone, James H. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2015.

**PT2301 Church Administration** - The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the rudimentary tools necessary for a administration in the church. The intent of this course is to expose students to methods and tools to properly examine, equip and execute proper administration of today's church. **Three term hours.**

**Texts and Resources:** Coogan, Michael David. *The new Oxford annotated Bible with the Apocrypha/ Deuterocanonical books*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Oxford University Press, 2001.

Flake, Floyd H., *African American Church Management Handbook*. Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA, 2007.

**BW2346 Wisdom Literature** - The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of the writings in the Protestant Bible: *Job*, the *Psalms*, *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes*, *Song of Solomon* and including the Apocryphal books *The Book of Wisdom* and *Sirach*. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** Longman, Tremper III and Peter Enns (eds). *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings*. IVP Academic, (2008)

**BW2345 Pentateuch** - The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of the Hebrew Bible as listed in the Judeo-Christian tradition from *Genesis* to *Deuteronomy* with critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** Alexander, T. Desmond and David W. Baker (eds). *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. IVP Academic, (2003)

**BW2344 Apocalyptic Literature** - The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of the major writings of the Judeo-Christian Bible and the Pseudepigrapha in the tradition of revelatory Word of God to humanity. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** Collins, John J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Eerdmans, (2016)

**PT2302 Christian Ministry in Practice** - The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the basic tools necessary for serving a community in the church in a ministry. Information will be shared from the perspective of clergy and will also observe the vital role of laity in ministering to a variety of demographics.

**Three term hours.**

**Texts:** Proctor, Samuel D. and Gardner C. Taylor. *We Have This Ministry: The Heart of the Pastor's Vocation*. Judson Press, (1996); Savage, John S. *Listening and Caring Skills: A Guide for Group Leaders*. Abingdon Press, (1996); Wimberly, Edward P. *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: The Politics of Oppression and Empowerment*. The Pilgrim Press, (2006)

## **MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM**

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The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is a three- to five- year program of full-time study to prepare the student for professional ministry. As with all professional programs, this includes both the mastering of the academic materials and the acquisition of skills necessary for effective functioning within the profession. The program is also designed to accommodate the needs of the part-time student, particularly by offering online and evening classes. Students can complete the program two times per year – at the end of the fall semester and the end of the spring semester. The commencement ceremony is held annually at the end of the spring semester and both fall and spring graduates are invited to attend.

There are seven critical requirements for graduation from the Master of Divinity degree.

The student must:

1. Receive a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 in 84 credit hours of course work. These hours be the Required Courses outlined in the Curriculum Requirements.
2. Fulfill all financial responsibilities.
3. Have an assessment of eligibility and recommendation by the Chief Academic Officer.
4. Complete a minimum of 36 residential credit hours through Jackson Theological Seminary.
5. Complete the required number of credit hours in each area.
6. Complete the Graduation Intent and Clearance Form.

Students can complete the program at the end of the spring semester. The commencement ceremony is held annually at the end of the spring semester.

## ***Program Goals***

### **Religious Heritage:**

The program shall provide structured opportunity to develop a comprehensive and discriminating understanding of the religious heritage of Christianity in general with particular focus on the African-American religious experience.

### **Cultural Context:**

The program shall provide opportunity to develop an understanding of the cultural realities and structures within which the Christian church and the AME denomination lives and carries out its mission.

### **Personal and Spiritual Formation:**

The program shall provide opportunities through which the student may grow in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness. Ministerial preparation includes concern with the development of capacities-intellectual and affective, individual and corporate, ecclesial and public-that are requisite to a life of pastoral leadership.

### **Ministerial and Public Leadership:**

The program shall provide theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministry. These activities should cultivate the capacity for leadership in both ecclesial and public contexts with particular emphasis on ministry within African-American communities.

## ***Program Goals***

### ***Program Learning Outcomes***

#### ***Master of Divinity Program Learning Outcomes***

*Upon completion of the course, students will be able to*

1. Analyze passages of both the Old and New Testaments, demonstrating knowledge of the larger contexts of the passages and interpret the meanings of the passages in ministry settings.
2. Identify and engage diverse and overlapping cultural and social dynamics in various settings.
3. Describe, practice, and model spiritual and ethical practices and discernment that form and nurture one's own and others' faith.
4. Able to guide a community of faith in fulfilling its ministry and mission.
5. Integrate the variety of disciplines in theological education in a coherent articulation of one's own theology and approach to pastoral ministry.
6. Describe the development of Christian worship, doctrine, symbols, structures, and diversity of theological perspectives.

*Program Plan of Study: 84 total credit hours*

**First Semester: 12 credit hours**

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Old Testament (3 credit hours)  
Christian Theology I (3 credit hours)  
New Testament (3 credit hours)  
Spiritual Formation (3 credit hours)

**Second Semester: 12 credit hours**

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Hermeneutics (3 credit hours)  
Christian Theology II (3 credit hours)  
Church History 1 (3 credit hours)  
Biblical Criticism (3 credit hours)

**Intersession:** Elective/AME Track Course (3 credit hours)

**Third Semester: 12 credit hours**

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Greek 1 (3 credit hours)  
Introduction to Systematic Theology (3 credit hours)  
Church History II (3 credit hours)  
Critical Race Theory in the Bible (3 credit hours)

**Intersession:** Elective/AME Track Course (3 credit hours)

**Fourth Semester: 12 credit hours**

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Greek II (3 credit hours)  
Homiletics (3 credit hours)  
Christian Ethics (3 credit hours)  
Christianity in the Public Square (3 credit hours)

**Intersession:** Elective/AME Track Course (3 credit hours)

**Fifth Semester: 12 credit hours**

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Theology and Practice of Worship (3 credit Hours)  
Pastoral Care (3 Credit hours)  
Ministerial Ethics (3 credit hours)  
Prophetic Preaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (3 credit hours)

**Intersession:** Senior Project (3 Credit Hours)

**Sixth Semester: 12 credit hours**

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Effective Christian Education (3 credit hours)  
Church Administration (3 credit hours)  
Elective/AME Track Course (3 credit hours)  
Elective/AME Track Course (3 credit hours)

NOTE: Students must declare an emphasis after the fourth semester.

### *Course Descriptions and Suggested Text*

#### **A. Biblical Studies**

**BS 1 Old Testament I** - The study of the Old Testament based on modern biblical criticism of texts representative of the Pentateuch and Former Prophets with attention to historical, literary, and theological problems, and to exegetical method. The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of these biblical writings and to develop their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts.

**Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, 4th Edition* by Michael D. Coogan (Author), Cynthia R. Chapman (Author), Oxford University Press; (July 3, 2017)

**BS 2 Old Testament II** - The study of the Old Testament with texts and issues representative of the Latter Prophets and Writings with attention to historical, literary, and theological problems, and to exegetical method. The primary purpose of this course is to deepen students' knowledge and understanding of the writings of the Hebrew Bible, and to develop their competence in critically analyzing challenging texts. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, 4th Edition* by Michael D. Coogan (Author), Cynthia R. Chapman (Author), Oxford University Press; (July 3, 2017); *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: 2nd Edition* by Walter Brueggemann (Author), Bruce C. Birch (Author), Terence E. Fretheim (Author), David L. Petersen (Author), Publisher: Abingdon Press (September 1, 2005); *The Prophets* by Abraham J. Heschel (Author), Harper Perennial Modern Classics, (October 16, 2001); *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora*, Hugh R. Page, Jr. (Gen. Editor), Fortress Press, (2010)

**BS 3 New Testament I** - A historical and theological introduction to the New Testament with texts and issues representative of the Gospels and Acts with attention to historical, literary, and theological problems, and to exegetical method. The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of these biblical writings and to develop their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology* by M. Eugene Boring, Westminster John Knox Press; (October 13, 2012); *The New Interpreter's Bible: New Testament Survey*, by Fred Craddock and Eugene Boring, (April 1, 2006).

**BS 4 New Testament II** - A historical and literary introduction to the New Testament with texts and issues represented in the Epistles and Revelation with attention to historical, literary, and theological problems, and to exegetical method. The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the content of these biblical writings and to develop their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings 6th Edition* by Bart D. Ehrman, Oxford University Press; (June 26, 2015); *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted* by Obery Hendricks (August 21, 2007); *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and His Letters* by Michael J. Gorman, Eerdmans, (December 9, 2016)

**BS 5 Introduction to Hebrew** – Introduction to the syntax and pronunciation of Hebrew to allow students a functional grasp of identifying and reading Hebraic translations of the Bible, particularly the Old Testament. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Introduction to Hebrew: A Guide for Learning and Using Biblical Hebrew* by William Fullilove (Author), P & R Publishing (April 28, 2017), *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon: With an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic : Coded With the Numbering System from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* by Francis Brown (Author), S. R. Driver (Author), Charles A. Briggs (Author) Hendrickson Pub; Reprint edition (June 1, 1996)

**BS 6 Introduction to Greek** - Introduction to the syntax and pronunciation of Hebrew to allow students a functional grasp of identifying and reading Greek translations of the Bible, particularly the New Testament. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Coded with Strong's Concordance Numbers* by Joseph Thayer (Author), James Strong (Author); *Basics of Biblical Greek Workbook – Special Edition*, by William D. Mounce, Zondervan; Workbook edition (November 28, 2009)

## **B. Christian Historical Studies**

**CH 1 History of Christianity I** - The life and thought of the Christian church from the apostolic period to the Reformation. The course will focus on the persons, issues, and events that have shaped the central tradition of the church from the apostolic period to the Reformation. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church through the Dawn of the Reformation, Vol. 1*, Harper One, Gonzalez, Justo (2010)

**CH 2 History of Christianity II** - The life and thought of the Christian church from the Reformation to the present year. The course will focus on the persons, issues, and events that engage the Christian church from the Reformation to the present. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Story of Christianity: The Reformation to the Present Day, Vol. 2*, Harper One, Gonzalez, Justo, (2010)

**CH 7 Judeo-Christian Congregational Life** – A study of the biblical account of the three primary and ordained gatherings of believers in the Judeo-Christian faith: The Tabernacle, the Temple and the Church (with some discussion to Synagogue and its impact on Temple and Church life, polity and theology). **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** Coogan, Michael D., *The Oxford History of the Biblical World* (2001), *An Introduction to Early Judaism* by James C. Vanderkam Eerdmans (November 14, 2000)

**CH 8 The Prophets** – A specific view of the major and minor prophets, their contribution to the biblical narrative, their basic and distinctive theologies, missions and audiences. This course will address what it meant to be prophetic in the ancient near east juxtaposed to the post-modern iterations of prophetic speak. Three term hours.

**Texts:** *The Prophets* by Abraham J. Heschel (Author), Harper Perennial Modern Classics, (October 16, 2001)

**CH 3 Black Church History I** – Introduction to the complex beginnings of the African-American experience as a part of the Christian Church to include the Christian influence in ancient African countries through pre-Civil Rights Movement in the Americas of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Black Church in the African American Experience* Lincoln, C. Eric and Mamiya, Lawrence H. (1990)

**CH 4 Black Church History II** – A continuation of studying the complex nature of the African-American experience as a part of the Christian Church from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century through the present age. Some attention will be given to ethical challenges that have occurred with the rise of the “prosperity gospel” ideology in the Black Church. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Black Church in the African American Experience* Lincoln, C. Eric and Mamiya, Lawrence H. (1990); *Black Religion and Black Radicalism: An Interpretation of the Religious History of African Americans*, Wilmore, Gayraud S., Orbis Books, (1998)

**CH 5 A.M.E. Church History I** - A historical survey of the origin and development of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, including the life of its founder, Richard Allen, and its’ expansion throughout the United States and abroad. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Freedom’s Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers* by Richard S. Newman, NYU Press; (October 1, 2009); *History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church: Two Parts, in One Volume* (Classic Reprint), Forgotten Books (April 19, 2018) by Daniel A. Payne (Author)

**CH 6 A.M.E. Church History II** – A historical survey of Methodism beginnings in England and America, and the theological developments in Methodism from 1790 to 1935. The course will also examine Wesleyan theology and ecumenical Methodism today. Includes a study of the mission, organization and structure, theology, and practice of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Songs of Zion: The African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and South Africa* by James T. Campbell, The University of North Carolina Press; Revised edition (March 2, 1998), *African Methodism and Its Wesleyan Heritage: Reflections on AME*, by Dennis C. Dickerson (2009)

**CH 7 A.M.E. Polity** – The organization and function of decision making and acceptable conduct in the African Methodist Episcopal Church from a historical perspective and in present day practice. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* (current), *African Methodist Episcopal Church Polity* by Harold I. Bearden, *The Genius and Theory of Methodist Polity* by Henry McNeal Turner

### **C. Contextual Studies**

**CS 1 Christianity in the Public Square** - An introduction to ethical inquiry from a Christian point of view. The course examines selected past and present methods in moral theology, basic concepts and criteria developed in moral philosophy, and selected situations as opportunities for concrete application of Christian moral reflection. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Black Faith and Public Talk: Critical Essays on James H. Cone's Black Theology and Black Power* by Dwight N. Hopkins, Baylor University Press (August 1, 2007)

**CS 2 Critical Race Theory in the Bible** – How has race impacted religious communities in the Bible and how do they factor in the Church today? With a look at cultures in conflict in the biblical narrative, this course will draw parallels to those challenges to today’s complicated understanding of American race relations that are expressed in the name of God. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Critical Race Theory, Third Edition: An Introduction* (Critical America) by Richard Delgado (Author), Jean Stefancic (Author), NYU Press; (March 7, 2017)

**CS 3 Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century** – Students will address what it means to be a prophetic voice in one’s context through the general understanding of biblical prophets, post-modern prophetic voices. These will serve as a background for students to identify and craft sermons regarding areas that require God’s truth to speak to a current problem within a social community, government or within the Church.

**Three term hours**

**Texts:** *The Prophetic Imagination, 2nd Edition* by Walter Brueggemann, Fortress Press, (June 1, 2001); *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair* by Otis Moss III, Westminster John Knox Press (November 4, 2015); *Exodus Preaching: Crafting Sermons about Hope and Justice* by Kenyatta R. Gilbert, Abingdon Press (March 20, 2018); *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*, by Frank A. Thomas, Abingdon Press, (February 20, 2018)

**CS 4 Effective Christian Education** - An introduction to the church’s educational ministry. Attention is given to biblical/theological, psychological, and philosophical foundations of Christian education; to planning, administering, supervising, and evaluating of a local church program; and to ministry with children, youth, adults, the aging, and singles. Includes the unique characteristics of small membership churches, with attention given to their context, such as urban or rural. The course includes strategies for ministry with children, youth and adults; methods of recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers; and ways to use outside resources. A seminar examining a wide variety of curriculum resources for children, youth, and adults, and probing the questions, “What is a curriculum?” and “What purposes does a curriculum serve in the ministry and mission of the church?” Each student will write a curriculum resource for the educational ministry children, youth, and adults of a local church. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *A Theology for Christian Education* by James R. Estep (Author), Michael Anthony (Author), Greg Allison (Author), B&H Academic (September 15, 2008);

## **D. Theological Studies**

**TH 1 Introduction to Christian Theology 1** - The life and thought of the Christian church from the Reformation to the present year. The course will focus on the persons, issues, and events that engage the Christian church from the Reformation to the present. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Christian Theology: An Introduction, 6th edition* by Alister E. McGrath Wiley-Blackwell; (September 26, 2016)

**TH 2 Introduction to Christian Theology 2** - A continuation of the study of the basic doctrines and theologies that have shaped the Christian tradition. The second part of the course will start with the Reformation, Catholic and Protestant, and will conclude with certain nineteenth-century developments. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Christian Theology: An Introduction, 6th edition* by Alister E. McGrath Wiley-Blackwell; (September 26, 2016)

**TH 3 Systematic Theology** - The major Christian doctrines from revelation to eschatology, and the methods and insights of systematic theology, aimed at aiding the students in their own understanding of the content of the Christian faith. Includes an examination of the discipline and the construction of working Christian philosophies as it relates to theological studies, with attention to relevant religious problems, and the development of the student's critical skills. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology, 3rd Edition* by Daniel L. Migliore (Author), Eerdmans, (August 8, 2014); *Black Theology & Black Power*, October 31, 1997 by James H. Cone; *We Have Been Believers: An African American Systematic Theology, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition* by James H. Evans Jr. and Stephen G. Ray Jr. Fortress Press; (March 1, 2012)

**TH 4 Global Methodism** – The study of the intercontinental beginning and blossoming of Methodism, its historical impact and future survival. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *American Methodism: A Compact History* by Jean Miller Schmidt (Author), Russell E. Richey (Author), Kenneth E. Rowe (Author), Abingdon Press; Reprint edition (October 1, 2012)

**TH 5 Black Theology** – A study of contemporary North American "black theology," with special attention to both its characteristic features and its development of social ethics. Principal readings include works by James Cone, Dwight Hopkins, Katie Cannon, and Jacquelyn Grant. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Cut Loose Your Stammering Tongue: Black Theology in the Slave Narrative, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by Dwight Hopkin and George Cummings (eds.), (July 31, 2003); *God of the Oppressed* by James H. Cone, Orbis Books; (November 21, 1997); *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader*, Katie Cannon and Emile Townes (eds.), Westminster John Knox Press, (October 27, 2011)

## **II. Practical Ministry**

**PM 1 Hermeneutics** – Students will receive a general understanding of a variety of viewpoints from which to view the biblical text based on social, geographical, historical, cultural and theological locations. The core of the course will move students towards understanding their own lens of the Bible and to identify the experiences that have shaped it. **Three term hours**

**Texts:** *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary* Fortress Press; (June 1, 2007), *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora* Fortress Press (November 1, 2009); *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation* by Cain Hope Felder Fortress Press; (June 1, 1991)

**PM 2 Homiletics** - An introduction to preaching, focusing on the preparation of the sermon. Attention is given to the form, content, and style of the sermon; the liturgical and social context in which the sermon is preached; and the person of the preacher. The course surveys the value and various methods of developing programmed or structured preaching and the resources available for such preaching, including lectionary use, and denominational and civic calendars. the delivery of the sermon. Each student will plan a worship service according to the student's tradition and deliver three sermons during the course. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Homiletic: Moves and Structures* by David Buttrick (Author), Fortress Press, (March 1, 1987); *Preaching*, by Fred B. Craddock (Author) Abingdon Press; Anniversary edition (May 1, 2010), *The Certain Sound of the Trumpet: Crafting a Sermon of Authority*, by Samuel D. Proctor, (July 1, 1994); *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body, and Animation in Proclamation (Elements of Preaching)* by Teresa L. Fry Brown, Fortress Press (October 1, 2008)

**PM 3 Pastoral Care** - An introduction to the theory and practice of ministry to persons relating contemporary psycho-social model of helping, healing, and care to the church's historical concern for the care of persons. The course includes lectures, pastoral reports, role-play, audio-visual materials, and small group discussion, and offers the student an opportunity to grow both in personal awareness and pastoral competence. Basic principles and skills of pastoral counseling and their applications to pastoral situations including informal, crisis, grief, referral, marriage/family, ethical and spiritual issues. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Practice of Pastoral Care, Revised and Expanded Edition: A Postmodern Approach* by Carrie Doehring, Westminster John Knox Press; Revised and Expanded edition (January 2, 2015); *African American Pastoral Care: Revised Edition* by Edward P. Wimberly, Abingdon Press; (September 1, 2008); *Cultivating Wholeness: A Guide to Care and Counseling in Faith Communities* Kornfeld, Margaret, (2000)

**PM 4 Theology and Practice of Worship** – From a ministerial perspective, this course will address the intentional implementation of worship experiences, as well as the assumed and often unintended habits that have shaped how organized Christian communities execute and build sacred spaces to interact with God. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *We Have This Ministry: The Heart of the Pastor's Vocation* Proctor, Samuel DeWitt and Taylor, Gardner C., (1996); *Finding Words For Worship: A Guide For Leaders* by Ruth C. Duck, Westminster John Knox Press; (November 1, 1995)

**PM 5 Organizational Leadership** - A study of the nature and function of pastoral leadership in a local church setting with attention given to vision casting and implementation. Opportunities will be given for a study of literature in the field of effective local church leadership and for responses to case studies of effective local church pastors at work. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't*, Harper Business; (October 16, 2001) by Jim Collins; *The Unstuck Church: Equipping Churches to Experience Sustained Health* by Tony Morgan, Thomas Nelson Publishing (May 16, 2017)

**PM 6 Church Management and Administration** - Studies of the importance of effective administration in pastoral ministry with special attention to organization, budgeting, the use of time, the development of management skills, and group processes. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Data Driven Nonprofits* by Steve MacLaughlin, Saltire Press (August 3, 2016), *Church Finance: The Complete Guide to Managing Ministry Resources* by Michael E. Batts (Author), Richard R. Hammar (Author) Christianity Today International; (April 14, 2015), *African American Church Management Handbook* by Floyd H. Flake (Author), Elaine McCollins Flake (Author), Edwin C. Reed (Author), Judson Press (December 15, 2005)

**PM7-11 Ministerial Ethics** - Ethical reflection on the office of minister, with attention to the nature of the office, the character and action of the minister, and the responsibility of instructional church life upon ministerial morality. An examination of the ways in which society, culture, and personality are influenced by the church and how social structures and trends affect the church. An examination of the church as a social institution and the social structures, trends, and dynamics affecting contemporary life, local communities, and the mission of the church. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Ministerial Ethics an Etiquette* by Nolan Harmon; *Business Ethics in Biblical Perspective: A Comprehensive Introduction* by Michael Cafferky, IVP Academic (August 19, 2015)

**PM 8 Spiritual Formation** - A biblical, theological, historical and practical study of spiritual formation for Christian ministry. Students examine and engage in the spiritual disciplines foundational to a strong devotional life and Christian service. Emphasis is given to the relationship between personal, corporate and social spirituality, particularly the role of the spiritual guide in the development of spiritual formation in others. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** Foster, Richard J. & Smith, James Bryan. *Devotional Classics Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2005.

### **III. Program Electives**

**TH 8 The Theology of African Methodism** – Understanding the impact and idiosyncrasies of Methodism from the Black perspective, primarily in the African Methodist Episcopal Church but also in its close historical relationship to other Black Methodist movements. Three term hours

**Texts:** *Black Methodism Basic Beliefs* by G. Lovelace Champion (Author), H. A. Belin, Jr (1980)

**TH 9 Womanist Theology** - An exploration of the critique and vision brought to contemporary theology by Black women's perspectives represented in texts by feminist and womanist theologians, and in women's fiction and essays. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God Talk* by Delores S. Williams, Orbis Books; Anniversary Edition (November 1, 2013); *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader (Library of Theological Ethics)* by Katie Geneva Cannon (Editor), Emilie M. Townes (Editor), Angela D. Sims (Editor), Westminster John Knox Press (October 27, 2011); *I Found God in Me: A Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader* by Mitzi J. Smith; Cascade Books (February 5, 2015)

**CS 5 Applied Technology for Ministry** – This course will address the following questions: in the 21<sup>st</sup> century modalities of communication through technology, how do churches ethically implement impactful delivery of the Christian ministry to its direct community, potentially new partners and the world? What are the best practices that are in use in small to large congregational contexts? Students will design the best structure for the use of technology in their current context or context of choice. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Social Media Gospel: Sharing the Good News in New Ways Second Edition* by Meredith Gould (Author); *The Connected Church: A Social Media Communication Strategy Guide for Churches, Nonprofits and Individuals in Ministry* by Natchi Lazarus Create Space Independent Publishing Platform (February 7, 2017)

**CH 9 Comparative Religious Studies** - A study of world religious traditions and the global patterns of contemporary world religious as symbol systems and expressions of discrete, coherent, worldviews. The course examines the global context of the religions, including themes such as racial and gender equality, poverty and socioeconomic justice, the environment, and war and peace. The purpose of the course is to provide the student with the opportunity to examine and survey religions from Eastern traditions, trace the historical development of the religions, and look at the way they continue to influence billions of people today. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions* by Karen Armstrong, Anchor; Reprint edition (April 10, 2007)

**CH 9 The Genius of Black Preaching** – A historical timeline of the great African American preachers, the structure of some of their more notable sermons and the thesis of their major messages in order to ascertain principles that students will use to construct and deliver sermons of their own. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Preaching with Sacred Fire: An Anthology of African American Preaching from 1790 to the Present* by Simmons, Martha and Thomas, Frank, (2010), *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching* Apr 15, 2013 by Dr. Frank A Thomas; *Daughters of Thunder: Black Women Preachers and Their Sermons, 1850-1979*, October 10, 1997 by Bettye Collier-Thomas

**BS 7 Biblical Criticism** – A general overview of the various scholarly tools for biblical exegesis, to be put into practice with well-known and difficult texts. Three term hours.

**Texts:** *Handbook of Biblical Criticism, Fourth Edition* by Richard N. Soulen (Author), R. Kendall Soulen (Author), Westminster John Knox Press; 4th ed. edition (November 23, 2011); *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers* by Michael J. Gorman, Baker Academic; Revised, Expanded edition (September 1, 2010)

**BS 8 Advanced Greek** – A continuation of the introductory class that will include writing and speaking Greek, for the primary purpose of being able to interpret biblical documents written in the Greek translation. **Three term hours**

**Texts:** *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek: An Intermediate Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the New Testament* by Andreas J. Köstenberger (Author), Benjamin L Merkle (Author), Robert L. Plummer, B&H Academic (June 1, 2016)

**BS 9 Advanced Hebrew** – A continuation of the introductory class that will include writing and speaking Hebrew, for the primary purpose of being able to interpret biblical documents written in the Hebrew and Aramaic translations. **Three term hours.**

**Texts:** *Introduction to Hebrew: A Guide for Learning and Using Biblical Hebrew* by William Fullilove, P & R Publishing (April 28, 2017)

**Middler Project** – Students will identify an issue in the Church or the community and develop a thesis to address it using historical experiences that mirror the issue, their own experience with the issue, biblical principles that address the issue and established theological viewpoints that support the student's thesis. **Three term hours**

**Texts:** *The Dissertation Journey: A Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation Second Edition* by Carol M. Roberts Corwin; (August 23, 2010)

**Senior Project** - Students will develop their Middler Project thesis into a tangible, actionable project that is the culmination of the answers they derived from their thesis. This project must include a full write up on the materials, resources, timeline and personnel needed for initiating their project. The project objectives must be quantitatively or qualitatively measurable based on the students approach to implementation. Three term hours.

**Texts:** Research texts, thesis and topics will be determined by the students with advice and approval from faculty mentors.

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# ACADEMIC STANDARDS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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## COURSE LOAD

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Enrollment of at least 12 credit hours per semester is considered full-time for M.Div. students planning to graduate in three years. Anything short of 12 credit hours will constitute a part-time student. Students must receive permission from the Chief Academic Officer to enroll in more than 15 credit hours.

## CROSS REGISTRATION

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A student is permitted to cross-register with participating schools for no more than one course per semester and for no more than a total of 12 credit hours throughout the degree program. During the academic year, a student on academic probation is not permitted to cross-register. The permission of the relevant instructor is required when a student wishes to cross-register.

## INSTITUTIONAL GRADING SYSTEM (GRADING SCALE)

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Student proficiency is recorded in terms of the following symbols: *(per 3 credit hour class)*

GRADE	PERCENTAGE VALUE	CREDIT
A+	97-100	4.0
A	93 - 96	4.0
A-	90 - 92	3.7
B+	87 - 89	3.3
B	83 - 86	3.0
B-	80 - 82	2.7
C+	77 - 79	2.3
C	73 - 76	2.0
C-	70 - 72	1.7
D+	67 - 69	1.3
D	60 - 66	1.0
F	59 and below	

\*per 3 credit hour class

### Other Grades (do not affect GPA)

- P** Pass (not counted toward grade point average)
- T** Transfer Credit
- W** Withdrawal
- I** Incomplete
- X** Audit

## Credit Hours

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To earn one **credit hour**, a student must attend a class for one classroom **hour** (usually 50 minutes) per week for the whole semester (usually 16 weeks). Classes are offered in 1 - 3 **credit hour** increments, and sometimes larger amounts.

## **ACADEMIC HONORS**

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Academic honors are recognized at Jackson Theological Seminary during commencement for students who achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) according to the following standard:

Summa Cum Laude	(3.90 – 4.00)
Magna Cum Laude	(3.75 – 3.89)
Cum Laude	(3.50 – 3.74)

To earn honors, a student must complete at least 60 credit hours at Jackson Theological Seminary, and only courses taken at Jackson will be considered in the cumulative GPA calculation.

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To earn honors, a student must complete at least 60 credit hours at Jackson Theological Seminary, and only courses taken at Jackson will be considered in the cumulative GPA calculation.

## **INCOMPLETE WORK**

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In exceptional cases, such as illness or family emergency, a student may request an incomplete grade from an instructor no later than the last day of class. Thereafter, an incomplete must be requested from the Academic Dean. If approved, the instructor and Dean provide written acknowledgement and guidelines on an Incomplete Form and the form is sent to the Director of Administration and Records (DAR) to be entered in the official grading. Course work for an approved incomplete must be completed and submitted no later than 21 days after the last day of the session for BABS/M.Div. and special students. Students who fail to submit required course work by the deadline will receive the earned grade for the course. The instructor is required to submit the grade change upon receiving and grading the completed work from the student, and no later than 10 days after receipt of said work. An Incomplete is not considered as completed credit hours which may affect the student's scholarship status (when applicable). Students with at least one incomplete that are one semester old are placed on Registration Hold until the incomplete is resolved. Students on Registration Hold will have limited access in the student information system (SIS), including the inability to register for upcoming courses.

For intensive courses, such as those offered during the summer term, requests for an incomplete must be made directly to the instructor by the due date of the last class session for the course.

## **SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

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Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) is checked at the end of each semester. To meet the requirements of SAP, a Bachelors/MDiv student must achieve a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.

If a student fails to meet SAP requirements, the student will be placed on academic warning for the coming semester. If a student fails to meet satisfactory progress during the academic warning period, the student will be placed on academic probation.

Students on academic warning and/or academic probation may only take up to nine (9) credits per semester. Students on academic probation must work with the Director of Administration and Records (DAR) to develop an academic plan to meet satisfactory progress in an efficient and timely manner. In addition, probation students will be placed on registration hold and must consult with the registrar to have the classes approved and the hold released.

There are times in which a semester's worth of credits may not be enough to increase the cumulative GPA to a minimum 2.5. In these instances, so long as the student receives a minimum 2.5 GPA for the semester in which they are on academic warning or probation, the respective status will continue into the future semester until satisfactory academic progress is made.

Students that fail to meet the requirements of academic probation may be subject to suspension from the program and/or dismissal from the institution. Students who have been suspended from the program may appeal for re-entry at the beginning of the next semester. To appeal, the student must provide a written letter with evidence to the Chief Academic Officer that the problems causing the unsatisfactory progress have been resolved.

## **DROP ADD POLICY**

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Classes may be dropped during the first two weeks of the session. Intensives may be dropped up to the day before the start of the class. Dropped classes will not count against you in your cumulative grade point average. Please see the official Drop/Add Policy in the Finance Information section for complete details.

## **WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES**

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### ***Voluntary Withdraw***

Voluntary Withdrawal from Jackson Theological Seminary requires the submission of an official Notice of Intent to Withdraw to the Director of Administration and Records (DAR) from the student. Until an official withdrawal form has been submitted to the Registrar, the student is not considered officially withdrawn from the seminary, which may adversely affect the student's grade point average, academic standing, and financial aid or tuition refunds.

## **ACADEMIC CLASSIFICATIONS**

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The Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies and the Master of Divinity programs have the following categorizations based on their earned credits:

### **BABS**

Junior 60–83 credit hours

Senior 84+ credit hours

### **MDiv**

Freshman 1 – 29 credit hours

Junior 30 – 59 credit hours

Senior 60+ credit hours

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

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Students attendance for each course require consistency based on the frequency and venue from which it is offered. Some classes may meet or require out of class venues that have been approved by Jackson Theological Seminary. Each course syllabus provides the student with guidelines from the instructor for attendance.

## **ACADEMIC ADVISING & REGISTRATION**

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The Chief Academic Officer (CAO) will assign a faculty advisor to assist each student with their academic decisions as they matriculate their graduate and undergraduate experience. In addition, the Registrar's Office will work with students on registering for courses and monitoring degree audits.

Open registration occurs at the following times each year:

Fall semester registration	June
Spring semester registration	November
Summer term registration	April

The course schedule is published each semester via the website at [www.jtseminary.org](http://www.jtseminary.org). It provides information on all courses offered during that semester and important semester dates. If a student registers following the close of the open registration period, a Drop/Add form must be completed by the student. The Director of Administration and Records (DAR) will work with new students individually to register them for their first semester (no late fees will be assessed for the first semester). Following the first semester, students are responsible for registering themselves during the open registration period defined above. Tuition is due based on the agreed payment schedule.

## **ACADEMIC ETHICS**

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Jackson Theological Seminary trusts the students who enroll at Jackson to be honest seekers of truth and knowledge. This trust is extended to all students by other students and teachers and is manifested in a variety of forms.

### ***Student Rules of Conduct***

Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to providing educational opportunities that promote academic, professional and personal growth in students. Students are expected to behave as responsible members of

the Seminary community and to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Activities of academic dishonesty corrupt the process of acquiring the knowledge and developing the skills necessary for success in ministry; such activities are considered a violation of the Student Rules of Conduct and are therefore prohibited.

Students must be mindful that, although Jackson encourages cooperative and collaborative, rather than competitive, modes of learning, one's work must still be one's own, unless explicitly assigned to a group. Giving or receiving aid inappropriately on assignments and tests or plagiarizing by using another person's words or ideas without credit, constitutes a serious breach of our trust in one another and in the integrity of the search for truth.

### ***Plagiarism***

The use of another person's work as if it were one's own is deemed as plagiarism. If the work of another is used, acknowledgement of the original source must be made using a recognized referencing practice. If another's words are borrowed in whole or in part or merely recast in the student's own words, proper acknowledgement must be made.

### ***Penalties for Academic Dishonesty***

The minimum penalty for dishonesty in an interim paper or examination shall be a mark of zero. The minimum penalty for dishonesty in a research paper or final examination shall be a grade of "F" for the course. For flagrant or repeated violation of academic integrity, additional penalties may be imposed through referral of the matter to the Office of the Academic Dean. The maximum penalty for academic dishonesty is dismissal from the Seminary. Those who believe they have witnessed violations of academic integrity should feel the obligation to speak about this to the suspected offender.

The witness should also feel obligated to report the suspected offender to the professor if the person fails to offer a satisfactory explanation and refuses to report him or herself.

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## **ACADEMIC & STUDENT SERVICES**

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### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

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Through the office of the Academic Dean we offer a host of student services for those enrolled in classes at Jackson Theological Seminary.

**Career Counseling:** Will be offered to students who have reached the Middler stage of the Master of Divinity Program and for those who have completed the first year of the Bachelor of Arts Completion Program. At this stage we do an assessment of where the student is educationally as well as vocationally, give a career assessment module and give career recommendation as well as potential placement in various areas of interest. Job posting will also be placed on Populi for all students. Moreover, shortly after admittance all students will receive one on one counseling from the staff at Jackson Theological Seminary

**Community Involvement Opportunities:** Through partnership with various non-profits in both the secular and faith community JTS will provide externships and or arrange volunteer opportunities. For those students

who are interested JTS can set up community service opportunities for any student who has reached the Middler level in the Master of Divinity program or completed one year in the bachelor's Completion Program. This also could potentially lead to job placements and therefore will be spoken about during the career counseling session as well.

**Student Leadership:** All students will have an opportunity to form governance organizations and develop mechanisms for self-governance. Also, their leadership can be utilized through our James Cone Black Liberation Symposium during the Juneteenth Celebration. Faculty advisors will be appointed after Students express interest and fulfill necessary paperwork to start a student organization.

### **Outreach, Spiritual Growth & Development:**

The Student Activity Board (SAB) exists to reach out to the campus and community by providing spiritual and meaningful scholarly engagements through alternative, diverse activities that foster growth, relationships and unity.

If you are interested in working as a SAB member this year, please contact the CAO for joining this organization. Members will plan and execute the events that will take place on campus and in the name of Jackson Theological Seminary. Members meet with other officers in the Student Involvement Offices. All members of the institution are welcome to come.

### **Popular Events**

- 12<sup>TH</sup> District Christian Education Congress
- 12<sup>th</sup> District Founders Day Celebration
- James Cone Black Liberation Symposium
- 12<sup>th</sup> District's Annual Conferences

## **STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

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Students must visit the Director of Admissions and Records' Office (DAR) to have their photo taken to obtain their Student ID. Students will need to bring an existing photo ID, such as a driver's license, with them for verification purposes. The DAR will have the ID validated in the system and will then provide the student with the Student ID. The Student ID card verifies their ability to access campus facilities and resources such as classrooms, library etc.

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

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### ***Student Government Association***

Students play a crucial role in the growth and development of Jackson. The Jackson Theological Seminary Student Senate (JTSSS) is the student government association of our institution. This organization is a voice for the student body in matters of concern to the seminary, and it provides opportunities to aid the administration wherever possible, work towards Christian unity in the student body, and influence positive change in the community. The purpose is to provide opportunities for student to have input on decisions made by the faculty, staff, administration and Board of Trustees. The student body elects' officers who work closely with the Administration in matters of interest to students. The JSSS provides as an avenue for students to voice their ideas concerning campus life in a Christ-like manner. The Student Senate is

comprised of elected student representatives from each class, and at least one student representative is appointed to the Board of Trustees. The Senate will be responsible for formulating and reviewing a Senate charter at the beginning of each semester. The Senate charter will be submitted annually to the Board of Trustees for ratification. The seminary encourages the JSSS to raise awareness on current events locally and worldwide.

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## **Parking**

Parking is provided for all seminary students in the designated parking slots in the front parking lot. Handicapped parking is available in the front parking lot as well.

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## **HEALTH SERVICES**

Jackson Theological Seminary will ensure that student/faculty/staff alike are notified of the availability of two Urgent Care Facilities near the Seminary: Baptist Health Urgent Care, 3530 Spring Hill Dr. North Little Rock, AR (4/2 Miles) or North Little Rock, AR MedExpress Urgent Care located at 5505 John F. Kennedy Blvd, North Little rock, AR (6.1 Miles) both centers are open 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, M-F.

Baptist is open 8:AM to 6 PM on Saturdays and MedExpress is open 8:00AM to 8:00 PM. All emergencies will be directed to Baptist Health Medical Center 3333 Spring Hill Dr. North Little Rock, Arkansas.

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## **LIBRARY SERVICES**

The library is a vital component in the education and research program of Jackson Theological Seminary. Jackson Theological Seminary's Library is cohoused in the Shorter College's Library. It provides bibliographic and physical access to recorded knowledge and information in support of learning, teaching, and research needs of seminary students, staff, faculty, and administrators. Jackson Theological Students will be allowed to share the Library housed on the Shorter College Campus. The Library comprises a unique collection emphasizing African American theological, historical, cultural, and biblical studies. The dedicated support staff provides a wide range of services and guidance for maximum use of the library's resources.

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## **CHARGES**

A fine is assessed for books overdue, payable at the time books are returned. Missing or damaged library volumes are billed directly to the student's account.

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## **LIBRARY AND CLASSROOM**

The purpose of the Jackson Theological Seminary Copyright Compliance Policy for the Library and the Classroom is to provide a summary of United States Copyright Law as it relates to the use of copyright protected works in the classroom and library at Jackson Theological Seminary. This policy covers copyright issues including but not limited to photocopying, traditional and online classrooms, print and electronic holdings, Interlibrary loans and document deliveries. This policy is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice. Specific rights are granted to students and faculty for their individual creative work. U.S. Copyright Act (Title 17, U.S. Code). Among the exclusive rights granted to "authors" are the rights to reproduce,

distribute, publicly perform and publicly display their works. These works may include books, magazines, journals, newsletters, maps, charts, photographs, other printed materials, and non- printed materials.

These rights provide copyright holders control over the use of their creations and an ability to benefit monetarily and otherwise, from the use of their works. Non-copyright holders, as determined by the law, must generally obtain copyright permission prior to using or reproducing that work. Exceptions in the Copyright Act are for certain academic uses; for example, permission is not required for actions such as reading or borrowing original literary works or photographs from a library collection. See Fair Use Provision (Copyright Act, Section 107). Under the Fair Use Provision, a reproduction of someone else's copyright-protected work is likely to be considered fair if it is used for one of the following purposes: criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship and research. If the reproduction is for one of these purposes, a determination as to whether the reproduction is fair use must be made based upon these four factors:

- Purpose and character of the use
- Nature of the copyright – protected work
- Amount and substantiality of work used
- Effect of the use on the market or potential market value of the work

To minimize the risk of copyright infringement, Jackson interprets the following as fair use of copyrighted works:

- Quotation of short passages in a scholarly or technical work for illustration or clarification of the author's observations.
- Spontaneous one-time use of reproduction of material for classroom use.
- Use in parody of short portions of the work itself.
- A summary of an address or article, which may include quotations of short passages.

If the use does not meet the above criteria and the work is protected by copyright, permission from the copyright holder or agent needs to be obtained.

Classroom Handouts fall into two categories; one that requires permission and one that does not. If the handout is spontaneous and a new work that permission could not be obtained in a timely manner, the work may be used without obtaining permission. If the handout is planned, repeated from semester to semester, or involves works that have existed long enough to obtain permission in advance; the work cannot be used without permission.

Copies of a publication that the Library owns may be placed on reserve in the library without obtaining copyright permission. However, the library cannot reproduce additional copies and place them on reserve for students to review, in either paper or electronic format, without obtaining copyright permission.

Photocopying by students is subject to a fair use analysis as well. Photocopying all the assignments from a book recommended for purchase by the professor, making multiple copies of articles or book chapters for distribution to classmates, or copying material from consumable workbooks, all require copyright permission.

Photocopying in the Jackson Library is permissible without obtaining permission from the copyright owner, under the following circumstances:

- Library user requests one copy of an article from a periodical or short excerpt of any other work.
- The reproduction must become the property of the library user.
- The library staff must have no reason to believe that the reproduction will be used for purposes other than private study, scholarship and research.
- The library must display: The Copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproduction of copyright material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction not be “used for any purposes other than private study, scholarship, or research.” If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of “fair use,” that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

Up to three reproductions of any unpublished work owned by the library may be made for preservation, security or for deposit for research use in another library or archives, including digital reproductions, of a published work that is lost, stolen, damaged, deteriorating or stored in an obsolete format.

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## **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES POLICY**

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### **RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

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Jackson Theological Seminary provides students, faculty and staff with access to technology resources. This includes but is not limited to computers, telephones, printers, fax machines, PDAs, digital cameras, copiers, TV/VCRs, DVD/CD-ROM, flash drives, video and audio cassettes, scanners and access to information via the Internet and the Seminary network. These technologies are intended for instructional, research, and administrative activities of the institution and are designed to facilitate communication and learning.

Members of the Jackson community, i.e., all employees, students and Board members, are expected to use technology in a manner consistent with state and federal laws, the mission of the Seminary and other official Seminary documents such as the policy and procedures of the Seminary, the Seminary Catalog, the Student Handbook, etc.

Users of the SEMINARY TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES agree to:

- Comply with all federal, state, other applicable laws, and Seminary policies and procedures
- Use resources responsibly
- Protect the integrity of the physical and software facilities
- Respect the rights and privacy of other users
- Respect data belonging to others
- Use only those technology resources that they are authorized to use and only in a manner and to the extent authorized
- Protect the integrity of their own user accounts

**Illegal activities** of any kind shall not be tolerated. Such activities include but are not limited to:

- Acquiring, uploading, downloading or possessing any material that is considered child pornography

- Harassment
- Libel
- Any act that violates copyright laws
- Unauthorized access to the network (“hacking”)
- Impersonating other individuals
- Creating, using or distributing virus programs or programs that attempt to scan or exploit network security and/or other vulnerabilities

### **Failure to Comply**

Violation of any of the Jackson Responsible Use of Technology Policies and Procedures may result in disciplinary action. Violators of these regulations may be ejected from Jackson owned or controlled property, and subject to criminal prosecution and/or Seminary discipline.

## **INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES**

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This Jackson Theological Seminary policy is intended to allow for the proper use of online computing and network resources and other electronic devices. Effective protection of individual users, equitable access, and proper management of those resources.

## **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

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The use of Jackson Theological Seminary’s online Computing resources and other electronic devices and access to the Online Learning System is a privilege, not a right. All Seminary students, faculty and staff are responsible for using these resources in an effective, ethical, and lawful manner. The Seminary’s Computing resources and other electronic devices (software and hardware) are to be used to advance the Seminary’s mission in an atmosphere that encourages access to knowledge and sharing of information. The Seminary provides many computing network resources for use by students, faculty, and staff. All are encouraged to use electronic mail, or e-mail and other social networks for Seminary related activities and to facilitate the efficient exchange of useful information. Access to emails and other social networks is accompanied by user responsibilities.

Users are expected to be ethical and responsible in their use. The use of the Seminary’s online resources for commercial purposes is permitted only by arrangement with the Seminary. This policy is to assure that the technology provided for the students, faculty and staff use is always available for everyone, and that no single individual will prevent, interrupt, or deter another individual from equal opportunity, nor violate another individual’s rights to the online use.

Throughout this policy, an “individual” refers to the Seminary’s students, faculty and staff. “Network” refers to the entire online learning system of the Seminary.

## **UNACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

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*Legal Use:*

a. Computing resources and other electronic devices and other electronic devices and other electronic devices may only be used for legal purposes. Examples of unacceptable purposes include, but are not limited to the following:

- i. Harassment of other users
- ii. Libeling or slandering other users
- iii. Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the Seminary or other users
- iv. Disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications
- v. Unauthorized copying of copyright-protected material
- vi. Sending, receiving or viewing inappropriate communications, i.e. Pornography, profanity, vulgarity etc.
- vii. Concealing or misrepresenting your name or affiliation in e-mail messages.

### ***Ethical Use***

a. Computing resources and other electronic devices and other electronic devices should be used in accordance with the ethical standards of the Seminary's community. Examples of unacceptable use (some of which may also have legal consequences) include, but are not limited to the following:

- i. Violation of network security, hacking, pirating, etc.
- ii. Setting up servers and software that are against the Seminary's policies or which invite an exceptional amount of network access traffic
- iii. Unauthorized use of computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers assigned to others
- iv. Use of computer communications in ways that unnecessarily impede the computing activities of others (such as randomly initiating interactive electronic communications or e-mail exchanges, overuse of interactive network utilities, etc.)
- v. Use of computing network for private business purposes unrelated to the mission of the Seminary
- vi. Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, copy/paste others works, etc.)
- vii. Violation of software agreements
- viii. Violation of network usage policies and regulations
- ix. Violation of another user's privacy
- x. Display or distribution of materials (text, audio, or video) which are obscene, sexist, or racist on any network location where it may be deemed offensive to other individuals
- xi. Use of profanity, obscenity, or other language that may be offensive to other individuals.

### ***Confidentiality***

a. The right to privacy of all individuals is also to be upheld. Jackson Theological Seminary will do everything within its power to protect the confidentiality of the network and its users. However, individuals must also do their part to assist in this process. Electronic data of any type on the network, including e-mail, is not confidential. While the Seminary does everything

in its power to keep data confidential, the Seminary cannot make guarantees. Individuals are expected to abide by the security restrictions on all systems and information to which they have access. All equipment and the data it contains are the property of Jackson Theological Seminary, but due to the nature of the Internet, no guarantees can be made.

### *Cooperative use*

- b. Computing resource users can facilitate computing at the Seminary in many ways by:
  - i. Regular deletion of unneeded files from one's accounts on Computing resources and other electronic devices
  - ii. Refraining from overuse of connect time, information storage space, printing, or processing capacity
  - iii. Refraining from overuse of interactive network utilities (Chat)
  - iv. Refraining from use of sounds and visuals which might be disruptive to others
  - v. Refraining from use of any computing resource in an irresponsible manner
  - vi. Refraining from initiating or forwarding e-mail "chain letters" or "broadcast" and spam messages.

### *Consequences*

- c. Violators of computing network use policies will be subject to disciplinary procedures of the Seminary. Violations of the policies described above for legal and ethical use of computing network will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner. Illegal acts involving computing network may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

### *Disclaimer*

- d. As part of the services available through Internet, the Seminary provides access to many conferences, lists, links and bulletin boards. Inadvertently, some of these lists may contain objectionable material and the Seminary is not to be held liable.

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## **TUITION AND FEES**

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### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES**

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- \$250 per credit hour
- Full time student minimum tuition costs: \$1800 (12 hours)
- Part time student maximum tuition costs: \$1350 (9 hours)
- \$150.00 fee will be charged to cover the following: Technology fee, Transcript fee (unlimited copies throughout school year, Administrative fees, Parking and Orientation.
- \$100 Graduation Fee

### **MASTER OF DIVINITY**

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- \$275 per credit hour

- Full time student minimum tuition costs: \$3300 (12 hours)
- Part time student maximum tuition costs: \$2475 (9 hours)
- A \$150.00 fee will be charged to cover the following: Technology fee, Transcript fee (unlimited copies throughout school year, Administrative fees, Parking and Orientation.
- \$100 Graduation fee

Members of the AME church are eligible for at \$25.00 per credit hour scholarship. Former Students of Jackson are eligible for \$25.00 discount off their tuition. Jackson Theological Seminary reserves the right to make adjustments to any fees as deemed necessary. All charges for the current semester are to be paid by the end of the first week of the term. In the event a student cannot pay his or her balance in full, a payment plan may be arranged with the Business Office. Please see the payment plan parameters below.

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## **PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

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Standard Plan – 3 payments per the schedule below:

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
1st Payment	50% due upon enrollment	1st Payment	50% due upon enrollment
2nd Payment	25% due by week 4	2nd Payment	25% due by week 4
3rd Payment	25% due by week 6	3rd Payment	25% due by week 6

Payment plans must be arranged with the Business Office prior to the first day of the semester and written confirmation must be in the student’s file. Payment plans are available for the Fall and Spring semesters only. Adjustments to payment plans to accommodate the student’s financial ability must be approved by the DAR and the CEO in writing. The student’s account balance must be paid in full before a student may register for the next semester.

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## **REFUND POLICY & SCHEDULE**

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BA students and MDIV students are eligible for refunds on funds paid to the school as follows:

1. Drop/withdrawal prior to the student’s attendance of classes in which they have registered.
2. *Drop/withdrawal after midterms will not receive a refund.* The funds could be held over and credited for another course date with an agreed upon return date. If the student does not return within that agreed upon time frame, the offer will be forfeited, and the funds will not be made available for courses in the future.