

Midwest Ministry Training

Academic Training Detail

OVERVIEW

In order to earn the Certificate of Endorsement of Preaching Ministry and the Certificate of Endorsement of Associate Ministry from Midwest, students must satisfactorily complete twenty courses of study. The Certificate of Endorsement of Bible Knowledge requires satisfactory completion of five courses of study. Courses, taught by highly qualified teachers, are academically rigorous and require the student to listen to lectures, engage in classroom discussion, read numerous books, complete assignments, write papers, and take tests. Courses focus

BIBLE READING

The Bible is the main “textbook” for all classes. While students will read and interact with a wide variety of textbooks and lecture materials, everything is subservient to the Bible and intended to help the student understand the Bible, study the Bible, and apply the Bible to life as he trains for ministry in the local church.

Part of the academic requirement of Midwest’s training program is to read through (or listen to) the Bible one time each year of involvement with Midwest. Some Bible reading may be done in conjunction with classes the student is taking. However, the entire Bible must be read each year of the student’s training.

Students will receive a document to keep track of their Bible reading. This must be signed and submitted to Midwest leadership each year of their training. Students cannot be a candidate for receiving the Certificate of Endorsement of Preaching Ministry or the Certificate of Endorsement of Associate Ministry without meeting this requirement.

MODE OF COURSE OFFERING

Classes are generally offered online over a 15-week period according to the following method.

- At the beginning of the class, students will receive a syllabus outlining all requirements for the class (watching recorded lectures and other materials, textbook reading, assignments).
- Students will meet online in real time with the teacher one time per week for 90 minutes. During this time, students and the teacher will discuss course content, have a question-and-answer time, follow up on assignments, etc.

- Tests (if required) will be proctored by an approved individual.
- The teacher and students may interact at other times in writing, by phone, or by online meeting.

While this is the general approach to classes, the specifics of this method may be modified as needed.

All assignments and tests are graded, and students will be given grades for each course. Students must pass each course with a minimum of a 75% in order to fulfill the academic training requirements of Midwest.

COURSE SCHEDULES

Course Schedule for the Certificate of Endorsement of Preaching Ministry

The following schedule assumes a two-year training schedule (though the expectation is that many students will spread this out over three or four years). Courses are offered over roughly 15 week periods.

Year 1, Term A

- From Eternity to Eternity I
- Interpreting the Bible I
- Introduction to Preaching
- Systematic Theology I
- Ministry in the Local Church: Preaching Ministry Focus

Year 1, Term B

- From Eternity to Eternity II
- Interpreting the Bible II
- Intermediate Bible Lesson Planning
- Systematic Theology II
- Living Wisely

Year 2, Term A

- Gospels I
- Acts of the Apostles
- Timothy & Titus
- Intermediate Preaching
- Church History

Year 2, Term B

- Gospels II
- Romans
- Christian Apologetics

- Restoration History
- Advanced Preaching

Course Schedule for the Certificate of Endorsement of Associate Ministry

The following schedule assumes a two-year training schedule (though the expectation is that many students will spread this out over three or four years). Courses are offered over roughly 15 week periods. The following schedule assumes a two-year length of training.

Year 1, Term A

- From Eternity to Eternity I
- Interpreting the Bible I
- Introduction to Preaching (men only) or Teaching the Bible to Women and Children (women only)
- Systematic Theology I
- Ministry in the Local Church: Associate Ministry Focus

Year 1, Term B

- From Eternity to Eternity II
- Interpreting the Bible II
- Intermediate Bible Lesson Planning
- Systematic Theology II
- Living Wisely

Year 2, Term A

- Gospels I
- Acts of the Apostles
- Timothy & Titus
- Advanced Bible Lesson Planning
- Church History

Year 2, Term B

- Gospels II
- Romans
- Christian Apologetics
- Restoration History
- Writing Bible Teaching Curriculum

Course Schedule for the Certificate of Endorsement of Bible Knowledge

The Certificate of Endorsement of Bible Knowledge is earned in completing five classes.

Required classes are From Eternity to Eternity I & II and Interpreting the Bible I. Students may choose two of any Bible or theology courses or Interpreting the Bible II.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Acts of the Apostles

A verse-by-verse study of the book of Acts. Gives special attention to basic doctrines of the Christian faith (especially related to the plan of salvation) and how independent Christian churches seek to follow the pattern for the church as set forth in the New Testament (with focus on the book of Acts).

Advanced Bible Lesson Planning

Refines the student's ability to write and deliver Bible lessons for target audiences. Covers planning series of lessons and creating an overall Bible teaching plan for a target audience.

Advanced Preaching

Focuses on crafting sermons with excellence and giving a polished delivery. Also discusses how to plan series of messages and how to construct a preaching plan in the life of the church.

Church History

A survey of church history from the end of the book of Acts to the present.

Christian Apologetics

Covers how to defend the faith with a focus on Genesis 1-11. The course includes a trip to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in Petersburg, KY.

From Eternity to Eternity I

A detailed survey of the Old Testament that covers the history and geography of the Old Testament and includes an introduction to each book of the Old Testament.

From Eternity to Eternity II

A detailed survey of the history of the intertestamental period with focus on how the world was shaped for the coming of Christ and a detailed survey of the New Testament that covers the history and geography of the New Testament and includes an introduction to each book of the New Testament.

Gospels I

A detailed survey of the first half of the chronological life of Christ.

Gospels II

A detailed survey of the second half of the chronological life of Christ.

Intermediate Bible Lesson Planning

Covers planning and delivering Bible lessons on topics for target audiences, discusses teaching the various genres of material in the Bible, and how to teach creatively.

Intermediate Preaching

Focuses on aspects of sermon delivery and introduces the student to topical preaching and discusses preaching various genres of material found in the Bible.

Interpreting the Bible I

An introduction to the fundamental tools of the historical-grammatical method of interpreting the Bible including an introduction to using tools available for the study of words in the original languages. The course includes significant practice of the basic tools of interpreting the Bible.

Interpreting the Bible II

An introduction to interpreting the various genres of material found in the Bible as well as an introduction to drawing appropriate applications from the Bible. The course gives special attention to understanding and applying Biblical teaching to a controversial issue (e.g., the role of women in the church, abortion, the “woke” agenda, etc.). The student will give significant practice to the skill of interpreting the Bible.

Introduction to Preaching

An introduction to the task of how to prepare an expository sermon and the basics of sermon delivery. This course is for men only.

Living Wisely

Covers living according to God’s wisdom with special focus on marriage, the family, and personal finances. Special focus is given to wisdom for life as taught in Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Ministry in the Local Church: Associate Ministry Focus

The core of the course, shared with Ministry in the Local Church: Preaching Ministry Focus, covers how the local church is organized and how it functions. A major unit of the course focuses on the life and work of an associate minister in the local church (specific type of associate ministry is tailored to the individual student).

Ministry in the Local Church: Preaching Ministry Focus

The core of the course, shared with Ministry in the Local Church: Associate Ministry Focus, covers how the local church is organized and how it functions. A major unit of the course focuses on the life and work of the preaching minister in the local church. This unit of the course is for men only.

Restoration History

A survey of the American Restoration Movement from its beginning to the present day. Focuses on what Christians may learn from this history and how to advance the movement.

Romans

A verse-by-verse study of the book of Romans.

Systematic Theology I

An introduction to the study of theology in general and a study of Bibliology, Theology Proper, Angelology, Anthropology, Christology, and Pneumatology.

Systematic Theology II

A detailed study of Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology.

Teaching the Bible to Women and Children

This course covers how to prepare and deliver a Bible lesson for an intended audience of women and children. This course is for women only.

Timothy & Titus

A verse-by-verse study of the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus.

Writing Bible Teaching Curriculum

Examines and evaluates various available Bible curricula and how to best use them and also equip others to use them (ex. evaluating and using a VBS curriculum or evaluating and using a Sunday School curriculum). Also focuses on writing curriculum for a target audience.

TEACHERS

One value of Midwest is that seasoned ministers are the teachers in the program. Teachers who teach Midwest courses are those who have significant ministry experience and who are well qualified to teach the required classes of Midwest.

Essential qualifications for teachers are as follows:

- Have the kind of character appropriate to a minister. First Timothy 6:11 says, “But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.” See also 1 Timothy 4:12.
- Ability to retain the standard of sound words and who guard the treasure (the sound teaching) entrusted to them. Second Timothy 1:13-14 says, “Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, though the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.” Similarly, see 2 Timothy 3:14-17.
- Ability to contend earnestly for the faith. Jude 1:3 says, “Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to

you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.”

- Faithful men who are able to teach others. Second Timothy 2:2 says, “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
- Ability to exhort in sound doctrine and refute those which contradict. Titus 1:9 says, “Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.” Similarly, see 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

These are the essential qualifications for teaching in Midwest. Other factors, such as possessing a masters degree or a doctorate degree, may be helpful and even advantageous to the role of a teacher in Midwest. However, these things are of secondary consideration and are not required to be a teacher in Midwest.