

## **CERTIFICATES**

Masters students who wish to concentrate their studies in a particular area may pursue a certificate in Biblical Studies, Black Church Studies, History, Theology, and Ethics, Military Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care, or Sexual and Gender Justice. These certificates may be taken alongside the M.Div., M.A.T.M. and M.T.S. degrees or on their own.

Brite cooperates with TCU graduate departments and schools in offering a Women and Gender Studies Certificate Program. This program is currently open to Brite Th.M. and Ph.D. students and to others on a case-by-case basis. To earn the Certificate, students must complete twelve hours of course work: BRIT 90003: Graduate Colloquium in Feminist Methodology and Theory, and three additional Brite courses approved for the program. For further details, contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

### **Certificate requirements**

1. Current masters degree program students interested in also pursuing a certificate in Biblical Studies, Black Church Studies, History, Theology, and Ethics, Military Chaplaincy, or Sexual and Gender Justice may obtain an application form from the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs after completion of six hours of coursework in the relevant area(s). Degree program students interested in pursuing the Pastoral Care certificate may obtain an application after 9 semester hours of PTPC courses taught by at least two permanent faculty members in PTPC. Criteria for admission and continuance in the Pastoral Care certificate include: a minimum 3.25 overall GPA, and in each PTPC course, a minimum B+ grade and demonstrated competence in pastoral care practice. Decisions regarding admission to any certificate will be made by faculty in the area in consultation with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
2. Fifteen semester hours of credit (the six concentrated certificates open to masters students) must be completed with a grade point average of at least 2.50, based on a four-point grading system with the exception of the Pastoral Care certificate which requires at least a grade point average of 3.25.
3. All entering students are required to participate in orientation sessions conducted prior to the beginning of classes in the fall and spring semesters.
4. All entering students are required to attend a Seminar on Healthy Boundaries. Students who do not complete this requirement will be subject to the cancellation of their registration.
5. Normally, transfer credit will not count toward a certificate.
6. Students who give evidence of special deficiencies may be required to do remedial work in the areas of their deficiencies.
7. Students may be withdrawn from individual courses for lack of academic progress upon the recommendation of the faculty member and with the approval of the Dean. Students may be dismissed from the Divinity School at the discretion of the Dean or Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at such times as it is clearly demonstrated that the student is not interested in, or making, acceptable academic progress.
8. All certificate requirements must be completed within five years from the date of the earliest credit counted toward the degree. Extensions may be granted in extraordinary circumstances by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs after consultation with the appropriate degree program committee. Additional course work may be required.

### **Biblical Studies**

A certificate in Biblical Studies is available to students who seek to deepen their engagement with historical and contemporary Biblical scholarship to enhance their preparation for ministry or to prepare for further graduate study in Biblical Studies.

#### **Certificate Courses – 15 hours**

- A. Either HEBI 60003 or NETE 60003 (degree program students will take this course as part of their basic theological studies requirement).

- B. Either HEBI 70013 Biblical Hebrew I and HEBI 75033 Biblical Hebrew II **OR** NETE 70013 Basics of Biblical Greek and NETE 75013 Biblical Greek II.
- C. Six hours of advanced coursework in Hebrew Bible, Jewish Studies, and/or New Testament.

### **Black Church Studies**

A certificate in Black Church Studies is available to (1) seminarians of all races interested in shaping their ministerial preparation and theological reflection to be inclusive of a wider knowledge of, deeper appreciation for, and increased sensitivity to the issues and exigencies of Black life within American Christianity; and (2) individuals interested in preparing for ministry within a Black church context and/or tradition as leaders (pastors, preachers, lay leaders, chaplains, pastoral counselors, campus ministers, etc.).

#### **Certificate Courses - 15 hours**

- A. RECU 70003 Introduction to Black Church Traditions and Culture. This course should be taken in the first year of study.
- B. Four three-hour courses in Black Church Studies chosen with reference to vocational goals and in consultation with the Black Church Studies director.

Note: M.Div. students pursuing this certificate in conjunction with their degree may count RECU 65053 African-American Experiences and Perspectives in Social Ethics to satisfy **both** the three-hour Basic Theological Studies Requirement in area C.4. (Theology and Ethics) **or** the second half of the Contextualization requirement in area E **and** three hours of the concentration in Black Church Studies

### **History, Theology, and Ethics**

A certificate in History, Theology and Ethics is available to students who seek to deepen their engagement with one or more of these fields to enhance their preparation for ministry or to prepare for further graduate study.

**Certificate Courses** – 15 hours of coursework in History, Theology, and/or Ethics (degree program students may count six hours of Basic Theological Studies coursework in History, Theology, and/or Ethics toward the fifteen hours of coursework required for the certificate).

### **Military Chaplaincy**

A certificate in Military Chaplaincy provides the Chaplain Candidate of any branch of the United States Armed Forces with an academic and practical foundation rooted in the progressive theological traditions of excellence, faithfulness, respect for religious and spiritual variety, and service to all people. The core commitments that Brite's Military Chaplaincy Concentration embodies are to free and diverse religious expression, and to "provide or perform" for the spiritual needs of all service members, their families, and dependents.

Those interested in this concentration should be aware that in order to serve as a Chaplain in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, eligible candidates must fulfill the current requirements of the respective Services.

#### **Certificate Courses – 15 hours**

- A. PTPC 60003 The Ministry of Pastoral Care (M.Div. students pursuing the certificate in conjunction with their degree may also count this course toward their basic theological studies requirement).
- B. Three hours of coursework in military chaplaincy.
- C. Nine hours of additional coursework in Pastoral Care or courses related to war and peace.

Note: M.Div. students pursuing this concentration can negotiate with the Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry to coordinate the Supervised Ministry requirement (6 semester hours in basic theological studies) with a candidate's Military Chaplaincy Training Program in one of the Services.

### **Pastoral Care**

A certificate in Pastoral Care is available for (1) individuals interested in local church ministry with a pastoral care focus; and (2) M.Div. students interested in preparing for ministry as pastoral care specialists (chaplains, pastoral counselors, campus ministers, etc.). If accepted into the concentration, the individual will be assigned an advisor from among the PTPC faculty.

PTPC 60003 The Ministry of Pastoral Care is a required course for all M.Div. students in Practical Theology and also meets a Pastoral Care Concentration requirement.

#### **Certificate Courses - 15 hours**

- A. PTPC 60003 The Ministry of Pastoral Care (M.Div. students pursuing the certificate in conjunction with their degree may also count this course toward their basic theological studies requirement).
- B. PTPC 75023 Short-Term Pastoral Counseling or PTPC 75043 Pastoral Conversation and Collaboration. Students in the certificate are strongly encouraged to take both courses and may apply one of these courses to the additional courses outlined in C below.
- C. Two additional PTPC courses to be chosen with reference to vocational goals and in consultation with the student's advisor.
- D. Hospital-based Clinical Pastoral Education (PTPC 75053). Clinical Pastoral Education programs may be completed at any training center accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. CPE offers students first-hand experience in ministry to individuals and families confronting illness, surgery, dying, grief, etc. (see PTPC 75053). Students entering a CPE program must register prior to the course at Brite Divinity School.

### **Sexual and Gender Justice**

A certificate in Sexual and Gender Justice is available to those students who seek a critical engagement with issues of gender and sexual justice to enhance ministry contexts in the church and wider community or who intend to pursue further graduate study focusing on sexual and gender justice.

**Certificate Courses** – 15 hours of coursework in any discipline with a primary focus on sexual and/or gender justice (degree program students may, with the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, count three hours of coursework in the certificate toward the second half of the Contextualization requirement in the M.Div. program or the Cultural/Global Studies requirement in the M.T.S. and M.A.T.M. programs).