

OVERVIEW OF THE *Christian Ministry Program*

Welcome to Calvary University and to the Christian Ministry Program. Every degree-seeking undergrad student and certain master's degree-seeking students need to fulfill a certain number of Christian Ministry credits in order to graduate.

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY PROGRAM?

The Christian Ministry Program is a program designed to record and monitor each student's Christian Ministry in a church, Christian organization, or personally developed ministry. Every student is encouraged to prayerfully choose their Christian Ministry within certain guidelines. Your ministry should provide ministry experience in either evangelism, a local church/ministry organization, or in your academic major. We encourage you to use your Christian Ministries to explore areas that you sense God is leading you.

WHY DO WE HAVE A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY PROGRAM?

- 1. Our accreditation association, Association of Biblical Higher Education, requires it.**
- 2. Involvement in ministry is a vital part of your training and maturing process.**
- 3. To help you in your personal life and to further God's Kingdom!** Our desire is that your Christian Ministries will help prepare you for a life of future service, help you build a resume of ministry experience, and help you confirm (or decide) your academic major. We pray that your ministries will be used by the LORD to strengthen His kingdom.
- 4. It is how Jesus disciplined His disciples.** Jesus spent time with several of His followers, teaching them by following Him in ministry. He called them, empowered them, and sent them out to minister. Jesus also questioned and gently corrected the disciples when needed. Our prayer is that God will use local churches, pastors, ministries, and faculty, staff, and fellow students to give you the best discipleship training experience possible.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY PROGRAM?

- 1. Early College and Dual-Enrolled students** enrolled in a degree program or certificate program will complete the same Christian Ministry of that undergraduate program
- 2. Undergraduate students** will need to complete the following Christian Ministry credits and Debriefing Interviews for graduation.
 - 4-year degree** – 7 CM credits with 4 Debriefing Interviews
 - 2-year degree** - 3 CM credits with 2 Debriefing Interviews
 - 1-year certificate** - 1 CM credit with one Debriefing Interview

- 3. Graduate students in the following programs** will need to complete Christian Ministry credit requirements and Debriefing Interviews for graduation.
MA in Bible and Theology (36 Credit Hours), 2 CM credits with 1 Debriefing Interview
MA in Biblical Counseling (51 Credit Hours), 3 CM credits with 2 Debriefing Interviews
MDiv in Pastoral Ministry (75 Credit Hours), 4 CM credits with 2 Debriefing Interviews
5-year BA and MDiv in Pastoral Ministry, 8 CM credits and 4 Debriefing Interviews

TRANSFER CREDITS

For every 15 credits transferred into Calvary, the number of Christian Ministry credits needed to complete a degree and graduate will be reduced by 1. Credits from classes taken at another institution and transferred into Calvary while studying at Calvary will be treated as transfer credits and may also reduce their required CM credits.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETING A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?

- 1. Register for Christian Ministry.** Register online or just ask the registrar's personnel to register you for Christian Ministry (there is no fee for a Christian Ministry Credit).
- 2. Attend two church services per week:** (Morning Worship, Sunday School, Bible Study, Youth or College Group, etc. (Haystack, a missionary prayer group that meets on campus, can count as one of these services)).
- 3. Complete a Christian Ministry "Church Search" verification form.** Verify that you have been attending two church services per week and will continue to do so throughout the rest of the semester. The form also asks for some general information and includes a short self-evaluation section. You can turn in this form before or during your Debriefing Interview. The form can be filled out on paper or online at calvary.edu/christian-ministries.
- 4. Complete a debriefing interview.** Toward the middle of the semester, you will meet with the Christian Ministry Director for a Debriefing Interview. You will be given information on how to fulfill the rest of your Christian Ministry requirements for graduation. For on-campus students, there will be signup sheets outside the director's office that is located in the East Education building (Room 112, first office on left as you enter the building). If you are an online or off-campus student, you can meet with the director by phone or in person (your choice).

HOW DOES ONE FULFILL THE REST OF THEIR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES?

- 1. Prayerfully seek what the LORD would have you do for your Christian Ministry.**
- 2. Register for Christian Ministry.** Register online or just ask the registrar's personnel to register you for Christian Ministry (there is no fee for a Christian Ministry Credit).
- 3. Faithfully serve in the ministry that God has led you to do for the semester.** To fulfill your requirements for receiving credit you need to attend 2 churches services per week and have a minimum total of 24 hours in ministry per semester (ideally 2 or more hours per week for at least 12 weeks). Ministries completed in the summer can be applied to either the Spring or Fall semester.

4. **Fill out a Christian Ministry and Church Attendance Verification form.** The form can be filled out on paper or online at calvary.edu/christian-ministries.
5. **Complete a debriefing interview.** You will need to have a Debriefing Interview for approximately half of your required Christian Ministries. This is when you meet with the Christian Ministry Director for 20 to 30 minutes to review your ministry. For the Christian Ministries that you are not required to do a Debriefing Interview you may still request to meet for one. Just sign up for it or email us and let us know you would like to meet with the director.

WHAT CAN YOU COUNT AS MINISTRY TIME?

Time spent in prayer and preparation for your ministry as well as time spent with people to whom you are ministering. If you play for a service or sing in a service etc., you count the whole time of that service. If you minister in a church service or teach a Sunday school class that hour counts as a ministry hour and also as a service that you attended.

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HOW YOU CAN GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY EXPERIENCE?

Fulfilling your Christian Ministry responsibilities gives you the opportunity to have a personal, God-directed training program. It can give you experiences in fields of ministry that will better prepare you for God's purpose for your life.

The practical training received through your participation in the Christian Ministry program can be vital to your understanding of God's call upon your life. It can also help you put into practice what you are learning in the classroom.

Blessings!

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