

OVERVIEW OF THE *Practical Christian Ministries Program*

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

WHAT IS THE PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES PROGRAM?

The Practical Christian Ministries Program is a program designed to record and monitor each student's ministry in a church, Christian organization, or personally developed ministry. Every student is encouraged to prayerfully choose their Practical Christian Ministries 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 Practical Christian Ministries to explore areas that you sense God is leading you.

WHY DO WE HAVE A PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES 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 Practical 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 PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN MINISTRY PROGRAM?

1. **Early College and Dual-Enrolled Students** enrolled in a degree program or certification program will complete the same Practical Christian Ministries requirements as all other undergraduate students.
2. **Undergraduate Students** will need to complete at least 1 Practical Christian Ministry per semester and 1 Debriefing Interview annually. Education and Business majors will use their senior year internship as their Practical Christian Ministry credit.

3. **Graduate students in the following programs** will need to complete Practical Christian Ministries credit requirements and Debriefing Interviews for graduation (see Practical Christian Ministries Handbook for specific details).

MA in Bible and Theology

MA in Biblical Counseling

MDiv

MS in Education (Elementary Education emphasis leading to licensure)

MS in Organization Development

ACCELERATED DEGREE OPTIONS:

5 Year BA in Bible & Theology and MDiv

5 Year BS in Biblical Counseling and MA in Biblical Counseling

5 Year BS in Business Administration and MS in Organization Development

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETING A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?

1. **You will be registered for Practical Christian Ministry when you register for your classes with your advisor.**
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 Practical Christian Ministry "Church/Ministry" form.** You will complete the Practical Christian Ministry "Church/Ministry" form via Canvas. You may use one semester to search for your church home. Every other semester will be used to complete your Practical Christian Ministry.
4. **Have your mentor complete the mentor form:** Your mentor will need to fill out the mentor form, preferably with you. It will help you and your mentor evaluate your time in the ministry of your choice. This will be done via Canvas each semester.
5. **Complete a Debriefing Interview.** You will debrief with the Practical Christian Ministries Director per your requirement:
Fall: **last name beginning with letter A-M**
Spring **last name beginning with letter N-Z**
You will need to schedule an interview at calendly.com/practicalchristianministries/meet or via the link on the Practical Christian Ministries page.

HOW DOES ONE FULFILL THE REST OF THEIR PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES?

1. **Prayerfully seek what the LORD would have you do for your Practical Christian Ministry.**
2. **You will be registered for Practical Christian Ministry when you register for your classes with your advisor.**
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

4. Complete a "Church/Ministry" form.
5. Have your mentor complete the mentor form, preferably with you on Canvas.
6. Complete a debriefing interview.

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.

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

Fulfilling your Practical Christian Ministries 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 Practical Christian Ministries 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!

Dawnita Phillips

Practical Christian Ministries Director, Calvary University

East Education Building, Room #112

dawnita.phillips@calvary.edu