

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I = Information Item R = Respond In Writing

Course Number: _____ **or Degree Plan(s):** BS in Christian Ministry

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TEC	AUAC/Grad	Provost
	Campus-Level Academic Review¹						
	Change to a Course Include signatures from all chairs/program directors for cross-listed courses. ¹						
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I	I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I	I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I	I	I
4.	Content (change of course outcomes)	A	A	A	I	I	A
5.	Number of credit hours	A	A	A	A	A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I	I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A	A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I	I	I
9.	Course restriction (e.g., majors only, junior standing)	A	A	A	A	A	A
10.	Level change (U to G or G to U)	A	A	A	A	A	A
11.	Cross list course	A	A	A	A	A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A	A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A	A	A
	Change to a Degree Plan						
14.	Educational Program — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A
15.	Educational Program — Adopt/revise admission requirements	A	A	A	A	A	A
16.	GPA — Revise program-required GPA	A	A	A	A	A	A
17.	Minor — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TEC	AUAC/Grad	Provost	Campus Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Full Review									
	Change to Catalog Information (for Campus)									
18.	General requirements for Bachelor's and Associate Degrees	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
19.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
20.	Requirements for graduating with honors	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
	Change to a Degree Plan									
21.	Educational Program — Add or Discontinue ²³	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
22.	Educational Program — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I
23.	Minor — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
24.	Minor — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	-	A	I
25.	Degree — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
26.	Degree — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I

		Dept./School	College	Dean	AUAC	Provost	UGEC	University Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Change to General Education Requirements for Undergraduates (System)									
27.	Change course outcomes of an included course	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
28.	Add or drop a required course from the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	A	A	I
29.	Add or drop a course from a menu within the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	-	A	I
30.	Comprehensive revision of General Education Requirements	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I

Notes

² Any change to a cross-listed course requires the signature of both department chairs or program directors overseeing the course to ensure that the courses stay in sync. This includes courses taught at other campuses (e.g. BIBL 101 and BIBO 101).

³ For undergraduate majors, a minimum of 30 hours is required. These programs must have a minimum of 6 elective hours, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible. Master's programs must include a minimum of 30 hours, and doctoral programs must include a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master's.

⁴ When a department/school or dean proposes closing a program, approval routing follows the typical process beginning with the department/school. An administrative proposal by the provost or senior vice president for academic affairs would follow the "provost-proposed" routing on the chart.

Updated 8/1/2023

Department/School(s)

Clifford A. Barbarick

April 3, 2024

Chair Signature

Date

Chair/Program Director Signature

Date

College Academic Council(s)

Christopher R. Hefner

4-15-24

Chair Signature

Date

Chair Signature

Date

Dean(s)

John H. Hefner

4-15-2024

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Teacher Education Council

Signature

Date

**Campus Academic Council:
Abilene Undergraduate or Abilene Graduate**

Signature

Date

Provost

Signature

Date

University General Education Council

Signature

Date

University Faculty

Abilene Faculty Senate Chair signature

Date

Dallas Faculty Council Chair signature

Date

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature

Date

President

Signature

Date

Application to Create a New Degree: Bachelor of Science in Christian Ministry

1. Program Identification

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Program title: | Bachelor of Science in Christian Ministry in Combination with Another Major |
| B. Degree type: | Bachelor of Science |
| C. Home department: | Department of Bible, Missions, and Ministry |
| D. Program developers and credentials: | Rodney Ashlock, PhD, John H. Boyles, PhD, and Cliff Barbarick, PhD |
| E. Where program will be offered and delivery method: | ACU Abilene campus (residential) |
| F. Proposed date of implementation: | Fall 2024 |

2. Program Overview

A. Outlook

1. Market Need

As fewer and fewer students are preparing for lives of professional ministry,¹ churches will need more lay leaders to offer biblically grounded and theologically nuanced teaching and leadership. This program addresses this growing need by preparing students for “bi-vocational” ministry. While we expect students in this program to pursue careers in the field of their other major, they will also receive the ministerial training to be spiritual leaders in their workplaces and faith communities.

The option to double-major with a DBMM program has long been available to students pursuing other BAs. Students pursuing another kind of bachelor’s degree, however, must complete a double-*degree* (including an additional 24 units) if they are interested in a DBMM major. This program removes obstacles for students pursuing a BS in another field, opening the possibility for them to double-major in a DBMM program.

2. Enrollment estimate

We currently have just under 100 majors in DBMM, and we aim to bring in 30 new majors each year even as prospective student interest in pursuing professional ministry wanes. This program may not add majors to our

¹ Cheryl Mann Bacon, “Why Fewer Students are Training to Be Preachers,” *The Christian Chronicle*, 1 June 2023, <https://christianchronicle.org/fewer-students-training-to-be-preachers/>

department (because double majors only “count” toward one of their selected majors), but it will contribute to maintaining healthy majors-only classes. Because students across the university take our classes to complete their general education requirements, we select certain sections to be “majors only,” allowing us to appropriately align our academic expectations for the different sections. Students in this program would be eligible for majors-only classes, even if they do not contribute to the total number of majors counted in our department.

Because of the arduous requirements of a double major, we do not expect a large number of students to choose this program. Below is a conservative estimate of enrollment over the next five years.

Year one: 3 total students (3 new students)

Year two: 6 total (3 new)

Year three: 10 total (4 new)

Year four: 15 total (5 new)

Year five: 17 total (5 new, 3 graduating)

3. Similar programs at other institutions

As outlined below in §4.D, this program will be distinctive among comparable institutions. Most do not offer a BS in Christian Ministry (or any BS degrees in religious studies). However, some institutions have programs in Christian ministry that require or strongly encourage a second major.

The closest analogues to this program are the various degree plans at Johnson University. At Johnson, every student earns a Bible and Theology major and then combines that with a second major. Similarly, Harding University offers two 30-hour majors that require a second major. In the Leadership & Ministry/Theological Studies program, students can choose between tracks in Ministry & Service, Scripture & Interpretation, Philosophy & Ethics, or Christian Doctrine. Lastly, Lipscomb University offers a BA in Mission, Ministry and Leadership that requires a second major. The description of the programs indicates that the degree “is designed to serve as a supplemental degree to whatever discipline you pursue. That way, you’ll be well-prepared to use your career as a ministry tool.”² This description echoes some of the goals we have for the BS in Christian Ministry. As noted above, ACU currently offers this kind of opportunity to students earning a BA in another field; adding the BS in Christian Ministry will make it possible to extend this same opportunity to students pursuing a BS in another field.

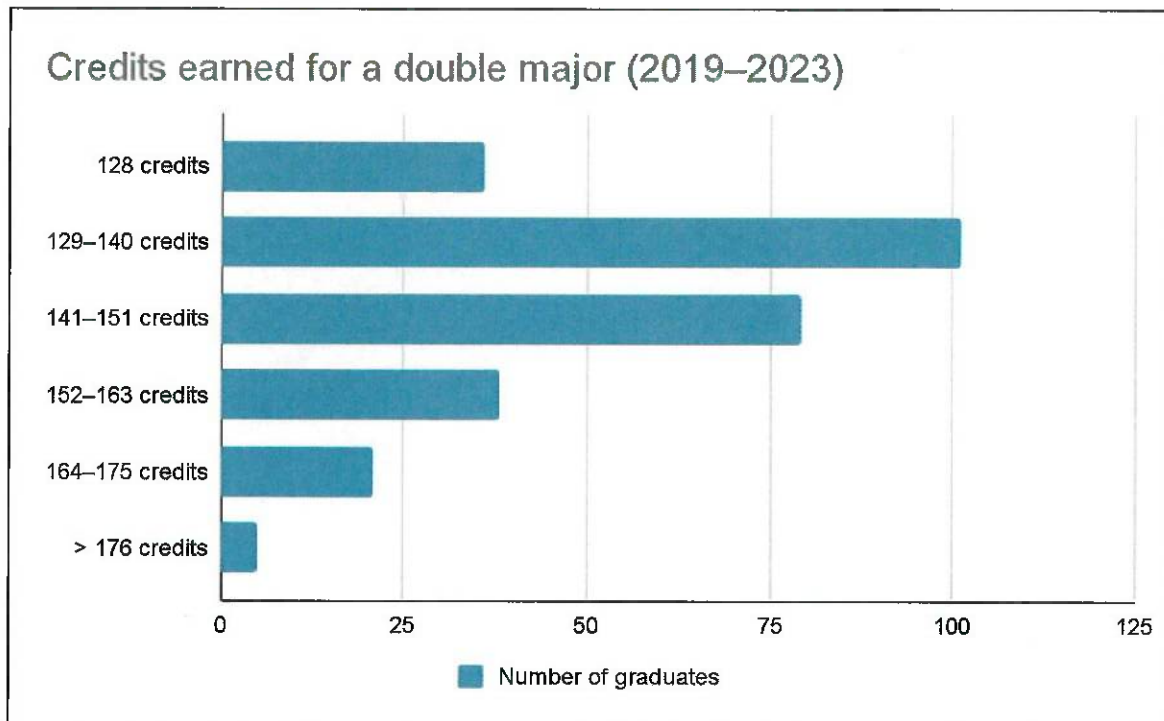
B. Curriculum Description

1. Program focus and value to students

² “Mission, Ministry and Leadership,” <https://www.lipscomb.edu/academics/programs/mission-ministry-and-leadership>.

The target audience for this program is a student who wants to be equipped more robustly to do the work of ministry but may not desire or feel convinced that they are called to professional ministry. By requiring a second major, this program supports these students by allowing them to pursue their primary career goals through their other major while also receiving the desired training in biblical, theology, and ministerial studies. By building the degree as a BS, we make it easier for students from a wide variety of BS programs at ACU to double major in Christian Ministry.

Even though the program curriculum in the BS in Christian Ministry streamlines the DBMM course requirements in order to allow for the required double major, it will still be common for students to need to complete more than 128 credits to finish the program. Typically, however, students who double major expect to earn more than 128 credits. In the past five years, 270 students have completed a double major at ACU.³ These students have earned an average of 143 credits (with a median of 140). The chart below shows the range of credits completed by these 270 students.



This data suggests that needing to complete more than 128 credits to earn the B.S. in Christian Ministry with a required second major will not inordinately burden students interested in a double major. Indeed, on average students will take an additional 12–15 credits to earn a double major.

³ The following institutional data was collected by J Rodriguez and shared with the DBMM Chair.

As it is built, the B.S. in Christian Ministry program includes 30 credits dedicated to the other major, along with 14 elective credits, for a total of 44 credits that students can use to complete the second major. The chart below lists other B.S. degrees offered at ACU that could be completed in conjunction with the B.S. in Christian Ministry while staying under the 143 credits that students average when completing a double major at ACU.

Other B.S. Degree	Required non-elective credits	Total credits for double major
Physics, Engineering Science Technology	34	128
Sociology	36	128
Criminal Justice	42	128
Communication Sciences and Disorders	43	128
Physics, Computational Physics	44	128
Communication, Communication Studies	45	129
Communication, Persuasion and Advocacy	45	129
Child and Family Services	45	129
Nutrition, Community Concentration	47	131
Communication, Corporate and Nonprofit	48	132
Social Work	48	132
Journalism, with Ministry as support field	49	133
Nutrition, Food Service	50	134
Multimedia, with Ministry as support field	52	136
Nutrition, Exercise Science	53	137
Psychology	53	137
Chemistry	53	137
Mathematics	56	140
Child and Family Services, Child Life	57	141

Kinesiology, Pre-Occupational Therapy	57	141
Kinesiology, Generalist	58	142
Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation Mngmt	58	142
Animal Health Professions Cooperative	59	143
DET, Game Development Concentration	60	144
DET, Virtual Production Concentration	60	144

Therefore, even though it may not be possible to efficiently combine *any* B.S. with the B.S. in Christian Ministry, we believe adding this program will create a new and viable option for students pursuing a variety of B.S. degrees at ACU to double-major in Christian Ministry.

2. Similar existing ACU programs

The most similar program is the Vocational Missions track in the BA in Ministry and Vocation offered through DBMM. This program requires students to combine training in biblical studies, theology, and ministry with a minor in another field. The BS in Christian Ministry is distinguished from the BA in Ministry and Vocation by requiring a second major (rather than a minor) and by its compatibility with other BS programs offered at ACU.

3. Estimate of new courses required for the program

The program will utilize existing courses offered by DBMM. No new courses need to be created.

C. Resource Estimates

1. Number of new faculty required

The new program will not require any new faculty hires. Since we do not expect the program to contribute to substantial growth in the number of DBMM majors (as noted above in §2.A.2), we will be able to support the program with our current faculty.

2. Estimated cost of equipment needs or facility renovation

As described below in §7.F, the program will not require any additional funding for equipment or facilities.

3. Disciplinary accreditation for the new program

This program will not require any outside disciplinary accreditation.

3. Program Details

A. Program description

The Bachelor of Science in Christian Ministry in Combination with a Second Major is designed for students who would like a robust education in the theological disciplines as well as in another area in the university. This degree is ideal for students who may want to be a lay leader in a church, who would like the option to have a career in an area other than ministry, who may not be sure whether they are called to professional ministry, and/or for those who simply want to pursue more knowledge in the Bible, theology, and the practice of ministry. The best combinations with this degree are other Bachelor of Science (BS) programs. Students who wish to combine a degree from the DBMM with a Bachelor of Arts program (BA) should consider double majoring with one of the BA degrees offered through the DBMM.

What makes this program ready to meet the needs of both students and churches is the core of the Bible major that is included as a requirement in the degree plan. Whereas a Bible minor allows a student absolute flexibility in choosing upper-level Bible courses, the BS requires students to take the basic curriculum shared across all current BA degrees in DBMM. This means, for example, that a student pursuing this program would be required to complete BIBL 320 and BIBM 439. Because these courses are limited to DBMM majors, non-Bible majors can only enroll when they request and receive permission. This rarely happens because of the rigorous expectations of these courses. BIBL 320 introduces a student to the tools of exegesis and hermeneutics, equipping them to be theologically responsible interpreters of the Bible. Then, BIBM 439 builds on BIBL 320 and trains students to apply the fruits of their study in an ecclesial teaching setting (such as an adult or youth group Bible class). These two courses, embedded in the sequence of the major program, prepare students to meet the needs of churches in ways that a Bible minor could not.

B. Program mission statement

Students who complete the BS in Christian Ministry in Combination with a Second Major will be well-positioned for a career in either ministry or their second major, to pursue graduate study at the seminary level, and/or to be a well-educated lay leader in their local congregation.

C. Program learning outcomes

Students who complete the BS in Christian Ministry in Combination with a Second Major will be able to:

1. Interpret the Christian scriptures from historical, literary, and theological perspectives.
2. Articulate a theological and historical understanding of the Christian tradition
3. Integrate biblical and theological understanding with practices and skills of ministry in diverse contexts
4. Integrate insights from the reflective practice of ministry into the vocational life of the student's other major area of study.

D. Admission requirements

Students may add this program so long as they are pursuing another major in a BS degree or another degree that is not a BA.

E. CIP code

Lay ministry 39.0705

4. Rationale and Need for Program

A. *Mission fit*

By providing training in biblical studies, theological thinking, and ministerial practice for students who are also pursuing a BS in another field, this degree directly supports ACU's mission to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. Students who complete this program will combine the expertise gained in their second major with ministerial training to be Christian leaders in their workplaces and churches. In this way, the program also addresses the first two pillars of the current strategic plan for ACU. Pillar One calls ACU to "be exceptional at teaching, mentoring and preparing students to make an impact in their chosen profession while exemplifying Christ in the workplace." While the named goals for this first pillar address how ACU will improve its academic programming and reputation, they do not address the goal to form students who will "exemplify Christ in the workplace." This program directly addresses that goal by providing advanced biblical, theological, and ministerial training to students who plan to serve in careers other than professional ministry. Additionally, Pillar Two of the strategic plan sets a goal to "ensure a minimum of 70% of graduating seniors can clearly articulate the relationship between their chosen career path and their faith" so that they can "be leaders who share Christ with others through their words and actions." This program would provide a curricular means of reaching that goal. As students complete courses preparing them for their chosen career path, they will also be taking courses equipping them with the theological and biblical foundation for meaningful reflection about how their career fits within their larger call to imitate Christ as they join God's work in the world.

B. *Employment demand and career possibilities*

We do not expect students who complete the BS in Christian Ministry to pursue primary careers in professional ministry. Instead, they will pursue career paths that flow from the other established BS programs. If immediately after graduation (or sometime later in their lives), students choose to pursue professional ministry, this program provides the foundation for them to do so. It can also provide the foundation for pursuing graduate degrees of various kinds in biblical studies, theological studies, or ministry.

If students choose to pursue employment in professional ministry, the Texas Workforce Commission projects a 17–18% increase in job opportunities (from 2020–2030) for those seeking work as clergy or other religious workers.⁴ Average salaries for clergy vary regionally across Texas from \$37,483 to \$56,108.⁵ Nationally, the median salary for clergy is \$55,550.⁶

⁴ Texas Wages and Employment Projections, <https://texaswages.com/Projections>. The SOC's for these types of jobs are 21-2011, 21-2021, and 21-2099.

⁵ Texas Wages and Employment Projections, <https://texaswages.com/WDAWages/WDAWagesDetails?soc=21-2011&wgeType=mean>

⁶ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes212011.htm>

C. Prospective student interest

This question is partially answered below in both §3.E and §6.H. We expect the program to appeal to both current and prospective students. The program will offer students currently pursuing a BS degree at ACU the opportunity to double major with a DBMM degree. Previously, this has not been an option, unless those students wanted to complete the extra units required to combine a BS with a BA. With that hurdle removed, current BS students interested in advanced biblical, theological, and ministerial training will now have the opportunity to pursue that interest. Anecdotal evidence indicates this option will immediately appeal to a handful of current students.

As outlined below, the ability to combine a B.S. with a double major in Christian Ministry will be a distinctive offering for prospective students. We hope this option will encourage these students to pursue their desired B.S. degree at ACU.

D. Disciplinary benchmarking

A survey of religious studies programs at Texas universities and other sister schools reveals that a BS in Christian Ministry would be a distinctive offering at ACU. Larger, private Christian universities commonly offer a single BA in Religion (TCU, Baylor) or Religious Studies (SMU). Smaller, more confessional Christian universities commonly offer multiple BA degrees. Houston Christian University, for example, offers BAs in Biblical Languages, Biblical Studies, or Christian Studies. Lubbock Christian University offers BAs in Biblical Text, Children's Ministry, Missions, and Youth Ministry.

Outside of Texas, both Harding University and Lipcomb University each offer six different BA degrees, some of which are specifically meant to be combined with a second major. Currently, the DBMM offerings are most like these two sister schools. We offer two different BAs, each of which has four different tracks. One of these degrees, the Vocational Missions track in the BA in Ministry and Vocation, requires students to minor in another discipline and includes enough elective hours that students can easily double major with another BA.

By adding a BS in Christian Ministry, ACU would have a distinctive degree that requires students to double major with another BS. The program would be most similar to the various degrees offered at Johnson University. At Johnson, all bachelor's degrees require a 33-credit "first major" in Bible and Theology. Then, students complete a "second major" of their choosing. By offering a BS in Christian Ministry that requires a second major, ACU will have a similar degree that can attract students interested in a robust foundation in theological training.

5. Curriculum

A. Degree plan

Christian Ministry Major Requirements

Bible (Upper-Level Bible Selections)

- [BIBL 320 - Introduction to Biblical Interpretation](#) Credit Hours: 3 *
- [BIBM 439 - Teaching and Learning for Spiritual Formation](#) Credit Hours: 3 * (writing-intensive course)

*Hours may also fulfill general education requirements and are not included in total major hours

Experiential Learning for Ministry

- Three credit hours from any three sections of [BIBM 201 - Ministry Workshop](#) Credit Hours: 1

Theology

(Choose one course)

- [BIBT 379 - The Church](#) or [BIBT 491 - Theology](#) - Credit Hours: 3

Church History

(Choose one course)

- [BIBH 380 - Survey of Church History](#) or [BIBH 432 - Story of Christian Spirituality](#) - Credit Hours: 3

Missions

(Choose one course)

- [BMIS 270 - Living the Mission](#) or [BMIS 420 - Gospel in a Multicultural World](#) - Credit Hours: 3

Upper-Level Bible Electives

- Any BGRK, BIBH, BIBL, BIBM, BIBP, BIBT, or BMIS 300–499 courses. These hours are non-duplicative. Credit Hours: 12

Capstone

- [BIBM 391 - Ministry in Context](#) Credit Hours: 3 (capstone course)
- [BIBM 429 - Field Education](#) Credit Hours: 2 (capstone course)
- [BIBM 491 - Senior Capstone Experience](#) Credit Hours: 1 (capstone course)

Total hours: 30

Electives

- Minimum - 44 Credit Hours

Total Program Hours: 74

Note: Because this degree aims to prepare a student for practical ministry within a community, it is expected that the student will complete two capstone sequences: one for Christian Ministry and one for their other major. For majors that require some form of fieldwork or internship, students are encouraged to combine that major requirement with the Field Education requirement (BIBM 429) that is part of the capstone sequence. The DBMM faculty are committed to helping students achieve that if possible.

Note: There is no automatic way to enforce the second major requirements. The Registrar's office has said it can be manually accomplished.

B. Courses

The chart below lists the various courses in the major along with the current faculty members who are credentialed to teach these courses (or who typically teach the courses).

Course Number	Rotation/Frequency	PLO	Credentialed Faculty
BIBL 101	Fall	1	Entire DBMM Faculty
BIBL 102	Spring	1	Entire DBMM Faculty
BIBL 211	Fall	1	Entire DBMM Faculty
BIBL 320	Fall and Spring	1	Drs. Barbarick, Boyles, and Hutson
BIBM 439 (Writing Intensive)	Fall and Spring	3	Drs. Heflin and Pittman
BIBT 379 or 491	Fall (379) and Spring (491)	2	Drs. East, McCracken, and Wertz
BIBM 201–202	Fall and Spring	3	Entire DBMM Faculty
Any BIBH 300–499	Fall and Spring	2	Drs. Childers, Gibson, Hutson, and Kneip
BMIS 270 or any BMIS 300–499 (except BMIS 391)	Fall and Spring	3	Drs. Flanders and Palafox
Any BGRK, BIBH, BIBL, BIBM, BIBP, BIBT, or BMIS 300–499	Fall and Spring	1, 2, or 3	As a whole, the DBMM Faculty covers the various areas of expertise in this menu of courses.
BIBM 391	Spring	3 and 4	Dr. Heflin
BIBM 429	Summer	3 and 4	Prof. Oglesby
BIBM 491 (Capstone)	Fall	3 and 4	Dr. Heflin

6. Assessment Plan

A. Curriculum map

The curriculum map below is complicated by the course menus in the degree plan. Most of the menus focus students on a limited set of courses that each address specific outcomes. For example, students can choose any upper-level BIBH to fulfill a degree requirement, and all of those classes support PLO 2. For the upper-level electives, however, students can choose courses from across different areas of study. This flexibility enhances the major but makes curricular sequencing complicated. These electives contribute toward students meeting the program outcomes, but, because students might enroll in different combinations of courses to fulfill the elective requirement, the outcome measures in the next section will focus on the other required courses.

Course Number	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4
BIBL 101	I			
BIBL 102	R			
BIBL 211	R			
BIBL 320	A			
Ministry workshops: BIBM 201–202			I	
Elective Menu: BGRK, BIBH, BIBL, BIBM, BIBP, BIBT, or BMIS 300–499	[R]	[I/R]	[I/R]	
Mission menu: BMIS 270 or any BMIS 300–499 (except BMIS 391)		R	I/A	
Theology menu: BIBT 379 or 491		A		
History menu: BIBH 300–499		A		
BIBM 439 (Writing Intensive)	R		A	
BIBM 391			R	I
BIBM 429			R	R
BIBM 491 (Capstone)			A	A

I = introductory R = reinforcing A = advanced

B. Outcome assessment measures

Timeline:

To assess our current degrees, DBMM rotates measurements on a three-year cycle. For example, in AY 2024–2025, we will assess outcomes measured in all courses with a BIBL prefix. Next year, will address all courses with BIBM/BMIS prefixes. The final year of the assessment cycle will focus on courses with BIBT/BIBH prefixes. In all cases, the initial assessment is completed by the faculty member teaching the course in which the measurement is deployed. Then, the chair and associate chair of the department review the assessment reports and prepare the annual report for the Dean’s office.

After every three-year assessment cycle, the department will form a subcommittee to review the annual assessment reports, consider adjustments that have already been made on the basis of those reports, and make recommendations to address any program-level outcomes that are not being met.

PLO 1: Interpret the Christian scriptures from historical, literary, and theological perspectives.

	Measure 1	Measure 2
Artifact	BIBL 211: Pre- and Post-Test	BIBL 320: Exegesis Paper/Project
Competency Target	70% on the post-test	2.5 out of 4 on rubric categories
Ideal Target	80% on the post-test	3.5 out of 4 on rubric categories

PLO 2: Articulate a theological and historical understanding of the Christian tradition.

	Measure 1	Measure 2
Artifact	BIBH 380: Final Exam Essay	BIBT 379: Book Reflection Paper
Competency Target	2.5 out of 4 on rubric categories	2.5 out of 4 on rubric categories
Ideal Target	3 out of 4 on rubric categories	3.5 out of 4 on rubric categories

or

or

Artifact	BIBH 432: Reflective Critical Essay	BIBT 491: Summative Final Paper
Competency Target	70% earn a C or better on the essay	2.5 out of 4 on rubric categories
Ideal Target	80% earn a C or better on the essay	3.5 out of 4 on rubric categories

PLO 3: Integrate biblical and theological understanding with practices and skills of ministry in diverse contexts.

	Measure 1	Measure 2
Artifact	BMIS 270: Philosophy of Mission	BIBM 439: Teaching Assignment
Competency Target	80/100 points on graded statement	2.5 out of 4 on rubric categories
Ideal Target	90/100 points on graded statement	3.5 out of 4 on rubric categories

or

Artifact	BMIS 420: Frost Activity Journal
Competency Target	Complete 5 activities and journal
Ideal Target	Complete 6 activities and journal

PLO 4: Integrate insights from the reflective practice of ministry into the vocational life of the student's other major area of study.

	Measure 1	Measure 2
Artifact	BIBM 429: Internship	BIBM 491: Internship report
Competency Target	80/100 on graded assignment	3 out of 4 on rubric categories
Ideal Target	90/100 on graded assignment	3.5 out of 4 on rubric categories

7. Required Institutional Support

A. Faculty requirements and availability

All of the courses for the BS in Christian Ministry are currently taught in regular rotation to meet the demands of the BA in Bible and Ministry and the BA in Ministry and Vocation. Because we are not expecting the BS in Christian Ministry to drastically increase the number of majors in our department, we will have the capacity to support the new major with our current course offerings. The new program will not immediately require any faculty hires.

B. Impact on existing programs

This degree will not directly compete with any other programs in the university. Because the degree requires a double major, interested students will not need to leave other programs to join this one.

Some students pursuing one of the BAs in DBMM may choose to switch to the BS in Christian Ministry. Such changes will not negatively affect the overall number of majors in our department, and they will increase our students' participation in other programs at the university.

Integrating the internship experience across both majors will require collaboration between DBMM and other departments across campus. DBMM is committed to helping students use the internship for their other major to count for the internship requirement in the B.S. in Christian Ministry. This will require, however, that students complete a DBMM-appropriate assignment as part of the internship with their other major, which will require logistical coordination between the two departments.

C. Program director

The program director will be the Chair of the Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry. Currently, the Chair is Cliff Barbarick, PhD.

D. Staff requirements

The new program will not require any additional staff. DBMM currently has a three-quarter-time Administrative Coordinator/Degree Plan Specialist who will be able to provide the needed support for the new program. If the workload for this staff person increases, the College of Biblical Studies has expressed willingness to move the position to full-time.

E. Library resources

The Stanley Theological Reading Room in the Brown Library amply supports the BA degrees in DBMM with print holdings and access to the appropriate electronic databases. The BS in Christian Ministry will rely on these same resources, and no new resources are required. Students will access all needed resources on site in the Stanley Theological Reading Room and electronically through the Brown Library website. The research methods class for the major (BIBL 320: Introduction to Biblical Interpretation) provides general instruction for using these resources.

F. Physical resources

The new program will not require any additional physical resources. Classroom space is the primary physical resource needed for the program, and it will share this space with the existing BA degrees in DBMM. Currently, the required courses in the degree have available seats for additional students in the majors-only sections. Therefore, the new program will not create pressure on our existing physical resources by requiring additional sections of existing courses.

G. Scholarships

Students in the BS in Christian Ministry will be eligible for the same scholarships currently offered to students in our two BAs. We do not plan to offer any additional scholarships at this point, though students in this program will also be majoring in another department that might have additional funding available. Also, since our expectation is that the new program will allow us to reverse the trend of declining enrollment in our programs and maintain our historical number of overall majors, the new program will not immediately require additional funding to support the scholarships currently being offered. These scholarships include:

- A \$2,000 scholarship for incoming students who declare a major offered by the Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry. This can be renewed for four years as long as the student remains a major in DBMM.
- Endowed scholarships available to current students and distributed based on need and eligibility. This past year, DBMM distributed roughly \$96,000 amount forty different students.

H. Recruiting

The BS in Christian Ministry directly serves students with a passion for ministry who, for a variety of reasons, want to pursue another BS at the university. Previously, BS students interested in ministerial training could earn a Bible minor, but double-majoring was prohibitive because of the additional units required to combine a BS with a BA. With the new program, BS students who want training beyond a Bible minor have the means to do so. This option could appeal to students on two similar but distinct paths:

- First, the program supports students whose primary passion is a career outside of professional ministry but who also want to be equipped to serve their churches as teachers or ministry leaders.
- Second, the program supports students whose primary passion is ministry but who want the stability of a career outside of professional ministry that will allow them to serve churches without needing a salary. Church plants or churches in marginalized communities depend on these kinds of “bi-vocational” church leaders.

The unique ability to combine various BS degrees with a double major in Christian Ministry makes ACU a distinctive choice for prospective students. We do not expect that additional recruiting will be required to support the degree. Instead, we hope that the addition of this degree will support ACU Admissions in the general recruiting of incoming freshmen.

I. Additional cost to deliver the program

The new program will not require any additional costs. DBMM has supported a larger number of student majors in the past with the current number of faculty and staff. In the short term, adding the expected number of new majors will not exceed our current departmental capacity.

Approvals

The proposal aligns with institutional policies and processes, and the campus is prepared to support the proposed program as presented.



March 3, 2024

Vice Provost

Date

The library has sufficient resources to support the program, or the comments below outline additional acquisitions required and their associated costs.



3/7/2024

Associate Dean of the Library

Date

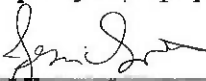
Comments, if needed:

We have developed a pro forma budget for the graduate program under consideration.

Associate Provost for Residential Graduate Programs

Date

This proposal connects the program's student learning outcomes, curriculum, and assessment plan completely and is prepared to begin assessment.



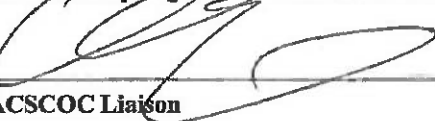
3.12.24

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date

Note: The assessment plan will use only the competency targets listed on pages 13-14; ideal targets are no longer required.

This proposal does not require additional review for institutional accreditation purposes, or I have worked with the faculty to gather the information necessary to notify SACSCOC or gain its approval.



3/7/24

SACSCOC Liaison

Date