

School of Student Ministry

Wayne Whitaker, Dean

With the completion of the first year, the student will receive an Associate of Arts in Student Ministry. With the completion of the second year, the student will receive a Bachelor of Arts in Student Ministry.

First Year Students

1. Biblical Foundations for Student Ministry

For years, churches have focused on events or programs as the basis of Student Ministry. In fact, one will often hear church folk refer to their student ministry as the "Youth program". Youth pastors are often referred to as "youth directors". This course will explore the Biblical basis for youth ministry and the church's responsibility to disciple the next generation. It will illustrate that youth ministry, as a part of the Church as a whole, must adequately equip students to become Great Commission Christians. Suggested Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11-13; Deuteronomy 4:9; Deuteronomy 11:19; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 22:37-40

Class Dates:

February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Instructor: Wayne Whitaker

2. The Spiritual Life of the Student Minister

The Law of the Lid, a phrase used by John Maxwell, states that an organization will never rise above or move beyond the capabilities of its leadership. In other words, we can never give away something which we don't possess for ourselves. Perhaps nowhere is this truer than in the area of student ministry. Student ministries, inevitably, take on the personality of the student minister. This being the case, it is imperative that youth pastors incorporate tools in their own spiritual lives which will insure continued growth as well as consistent witness.

Suggested Topics: Daily habits (scripture study, prayer, personal worship); Accountability; Continuing Education; Scripture memory; Personal purity; Setting boundaries; Proper relationships with students; Proper relationships with members of the opposite sex; Conflict resolution; Time management.

Class Dates

April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Instructor: Wayne Whitaker

3. The Importance of a Team Approach in Student Ministry

While it is often self-assuring to be considered the Pied Piper of students, this approach to student ministry is ineffective and dangerous. A team approach that incorporates staff, parents, adult volunteers and student leaders is absolutely essential for an effective student ministry. In this course emphasis will be given to the following topics:

- identifying, recruiting, training and equipping adult volunteers to be effective and beneficial members of a student ministry team.
- creating boundaries that protect students and adults
- setting expectations on involvement and spiritual growth of volunteers
- developing a clear ministry vision and getting volunteers to “buy in”
- equipping adults for ministry to students

Class Dates:

August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Instructor: Wayne Whitaker

4. Developing Bible Studies That Speak to Students and Biblical Ethics for Students in the 21st Century.

Some student pastors feel inadequate when it comes to helping students understand and apply God’s Word to their lives. This need not be a daunting task...especially when one realizes that the Holy Spirit desires to help us with the job. This course will provide important methods, tools and approaches for developing and communicating messages which engage students and are applicable to their lives.

Suggested Topics: Isogenies vs. Exegesis; Context matters! Understanding the importance of author, audience, background and occasion; Bridging the contextual gap; Communicating simple truth; Give them something to do (concrete application). The development of Christian Character.

Class Dates: October 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Instructor: Wayne Whitaker

School of Student Ministry — Second Year

Six courses in the School of Biblical Studies