

The Pre-Seminary program consists of a curriculum which is designed to meet entrance requirements for graduate or professional studies in Seventh-day Adventist or other seminaries or graduate schools. This is a pre-professional program, not a major, and as such does not lead to a bachelor's degree.

Taken in combination with a major of the student's choosing, the Pre-Seminary track provides a foundation upon which to build the skills and knowledge essential to the Christian ministry; the Religious Studies major which is offered by the Divinity School is particularly compatible. Pre-Seminary students are encouraged to work closely with their assigned pre-seminary advisor in the Divinity School as well as their regular major program advisor. In addition, we highly recommend that Pre-Seminary students, who wish to enhance their pastoral skills on the undergraduate level, include in their program some or all of the "practices package" of professional courses as listed below.

Students who are following the Pre-Seminary curriculum should apply no later than the fall quarter of their senior year for the Divinity School's endorsement in their quest for denominational employment. Any such recommendation will form part of the student's "portfolio" prepared for senior interviews with prospective employers during the winter quarter. In addition, students may be required to complete a prescribed battery of tests. These are planned, along with a counseling session, to help students evaluate themselves and their call to the ministry. Each application is considered by the faculty of the department, and a letter of response is inserted in the student's portfolio.

The Pre-Seminary curriculum consists of a sequence of required and recommended courses. For more information, see below and the reverse side of this sheet. Also, please contact the Divinity School (contact information is located on page 2 of this handout).

REQUIREMENTS (47 UNITS) 25 upper-division *Grades of "C" or better required. Courses may not need to be completed in order listed. For course prerequisites, consult 2013-2014 Undergraduate Bulletin available at www.lasierra.edu/bulletin.*

FALL WINTER SPRING

BIBLICAL STUDIES (16 units)

- RELB 206 Sacred Texts: The Old Testament Scriptures (4)
- RELB 207 Sacred Texts: The New Testament Scriptures (4)
- RELB 406 Sacred Texts: Theory and Practice of Old Testament Interpretation (4)
- RELB 407 Sacred Texts: Theory and Practice of New Testament Interpretation (4)

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HISTORICAL STUDIES (12 units)

- RELH 254 Ellen G. White and the Church (4)
- RELH 483 History of Seventh-day Adventism (3-4)
- Select 4 units in one of the following:
 - RELH 445 History of Christianity I: Formation (4)
 - RELH 446 History of Christianity II: Reformation (4)
 - RELH 447 History of Christianity III: Transformation (4)
 - RELH 495 Reformation Lands Tour (3-4)

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PASTORAL MINISTRY (7 units)

- RELP 101 Introduction to Ministry I (1)
- RELP 102 Introduction to Ministry II (1)
- RELP 361 Homiletics (4)
- RELP 374 Externship (1-3)

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THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (12 units)

- RELT 255 Theology I: Faith Seeking Understanding (4)
- RELT 355 Theology II: God and Creation (4)
- RELT 455 Theology III: Reconciliation and Consummation (4)

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Select **24** units in the following cognate areas

- RELL 281 Beginning Greek I (3)
- RELL 282 Beginning Greek II (3)
- RELL 283 Beginning Greek III (3)
- RELL 381 Intermediate Greek I (3)
- RELL 382 Intermediate Greek II (3)
- RELL 383 Intermediate Greek III (3)
- RELL 481 Basic Hebrew I (3)
- RELL 482 Basic Hebrew II (3)

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Recommended cognates include the following:

- PSYC 104 General Psychology (4)
- RELH 447 History of Christianity III: Transformation (4)
- RELH 446 History of Christianity II: Reformation (4) or RELH 495 Reformation Lands Tour (3-4)

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Recommended Practices Package:

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| RELP 345 Spiritual Formation (2-4) | RELP 415 Youth Ministry and the Local Church (2-4) | _____ | _____ |
| RELP 349 Principles of Christian Worship (4) | RELP 436 Pastoral Counseling (4) | _____ | _____ |
| RELP 362 Homiletics II (4) | RELP 465 Principles and Practice of Evangelism (4) | _____ | _____ |
| RELP 374 Externship (1-3) | RELM 464 Theology of Mission (2-4) | _____ | _____ |
| RELP 397 Proseminar in Ministerial Studies (1-4) | RELT 464 Religious Development and Nurture (2-4) | _____ | _____ |

PRE-DIVINITY

Pre-Professional Program

The La Sierra University HMS Richards Divinity School, a theological school within the system of Seventh-day Adventist higher education, seeks to integrate believing, thinking, and acting through teaching, scholarship, dialogue, and service, preparing Christian leaders for effective ministries in the church, academy, and world in which we live. The Pre-Seminary program prepares students for ministry as well as for seminary or graduate education in ministry, and may be pursued along with any desired major.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS: The completion of the pre-ministerial track, in conjunction with a baccalaureate degree in a major of one's choice, qualifies the graduate for acceptance into professional programs such as seminary or graduate school. With competition strong for the limited openings in the traditional pastoral ministry, the completion of such professional training on the graduate level is an increasing requisite for successful placement. With additional education, ministers can specialize in hospital chaplaincy, or focus on teaching (with educational credentials), youth ministry, administration, or other specialized ministries.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies provides a particularly compatible complement to the Pre-Ministry track.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: The successful completion of a graduate or professional degree is an increasing pattern in the preparation for pastoral ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Ordination typically follows a period of successful ministry thereafter.

JOB OUTLOOK: Openings in the traditional pastoral ministry are limited, although opportunities continue to arise especially for those who have completed graduate/professional training. Alternatives include youth counseling, family relations, secondary teaching, and various chaplaincy careers.

SALARY: According to the California Career Resource Network, Clergy earned an average annual wage of \$56,520 in the state of California during 2012. Most earned salaries ranging between \$22,170 and \$95,220. According to the Southeastern California Conference, Bible workers may earn \$600-\$1,200 every two weeks, depending on the duties assigned by the individual church.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites

La Sierra University

www.lasierra.edu

HMS Richards Divinity School

www.lasierra.edu/divinity

Faculty

Dean

Friedbert Ninow, Ph.D.

Associate Dean

V. Bailey Gillespie, Ph.D.

Advisors

Kent Bramlett, Ph.D.

Bailey Gillespie, Ph.D.

Kendra Haloviak Valentine, Ph.D.

Maury Jackson, D.Min.

John Jones, Ph.D.

Wonil Kim, Ph.D.

Contact Information

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Professional Organizations

Ministerial Department

General Conference of

Seventh-day Adventist

6840 Eastern Avenue, NW

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Academic Advising

Center for Student Academic Success

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