

## Major in Biblical Studies

---

When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, he responded by saying: “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength [Deut. 6:5].’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’ [Lev. 19:18]. There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31). We are thus instructed by our Lord to love God with our *heads* by critical thinking and the academic study of the Bible, to love God with our *hearts* as passionate followers of Jesus Christ, and to love our neighbor with our *hands* by humble acts of Christian service in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Department of Biblical Studies strives to emphasize and integrate all three of these important dimensions of the Christian life.

The Word of God as revealed in the Bible is foundational to Christian faith and practice. The Department of Biblical Studies seeks to provide students with the tools necessary to understand and apply the Bible to the Christian life and develop a Christian worldview. There is an emphasis on the inductive method of Bible study involving the individual steps of observation (see the text), interpretation (understand the text), evaluation (weight the text), application (apply the text), and correlation (compare the text). Each of these steps is necessary in this particular order for “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). The ultimate goal of Bible study is to glorify God and be a blessing to others by putting the truth of God’s Word into actual practice in our thoughts, words, and deeds on a daily basis.

The Department of Biblical Studies offers courses in Biblical Studies proper (including both Old Testament or Hebrew Bible and New Testament), Christian Ministry, Church History, and Christian Theology. The two programs of study include an Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies (*60 hours*) and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies (*120 hours*). There are currently two concentrations including worship, music, and media ministry and youth ministry. A degree in the Department of Biblical Studies prepares individuals for a career in a variety of ministries in the Christian church, Christian education, the mission field, social work and services, media and technology, and chaplaincy work. A seminary track is also available for those who desire preparation for graduate school in ministry which includes a study of the original languages of the Bible.

### **Biblical Studies Program Goals:**

1. To learn how to effectively interpret the Bible on the basis of sound hermeneutical principles.
2. To be familiar with the background, literature, and theology of the Bible and the individual books of the Old and New Testaments.
3. To acquire the theory and skills necessary for the practice of Christian ministry.
4. To be acquainted with the salient features of the history of the Christian church.
5. To understand and articulate the major doctrines of the Christian faith.
6. To develop the capacity for critical thinking and theological reflection.
7. To foster intellectual curiosity, creativity, and a desire for lifelong learning.

## Major in Biblical Studies

---

### Biblical Studies Major Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree

Course ID	Course Name	Credits
BIBL 210	Pentateuch	3
BIBL 310	The Book of Romans	3
CHHS 320	The Church in Global Context	3
BIBL 200+	New Testament Electives	6
BIBL 200+	Old Testament Electives	6
CHHS/THEO	Church History or Theology Elective	3
BSCM EL	Biblical Studies / Christian Ministries Electives	6
BSCM 350	Internship	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>33</b>

### Concentration Options for the BA Degree with a Major in Biblical Studies

#### Worship, Music & Media Ministry Concentration Requirements

**Description:** Worship is central to the Christian faith and music is an important aspect of worship. Many of our students at Pillar College are worship leaders in the church and in other settings. There are conferences and workshops available for worship leaders. However, there is a lack of opportunity for a formal education at a Christian institution of higher education in worship arts and ministry. Many music departments at Christian schools do not focus on the practical aspects of leading contemporary worship in the local church.

Course ID	Course Name	Credits
BSCM 120	Biblical Foundations for Worship	3
BSCM 160	Music for Worship	3
BSCM 200	Media & Technology in Worship	3
BSCM 270	Leading Worship in a Church Setting	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

#### Youth Ministry Concentration Requirements

**Description:** The youth are the future of our churches. Most churches have a specialized ministry to young people. Most of youth ministry is learned simply by on the job training. There is a great need to supplement practical experience with formal classroom training in youth ministry at a Christian institution of higher education.

Course ID	Course Name	Credits
BSCM 255	Communication with Youth	3
BSCM 308	Youth and Family Counseling	3
BSCM 320	Foundations of Youth Ministry	3
BSCM 360	Strategies for Youth Ministry	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>