

CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND MINISTRY

The Christian Formation and Ministry Department offers two M.A. degrees in applied ministry fields of Christian Formation and Ministry and Outdoor and Adventure Leadership. The purpose of the degree is to develop academically grounded, spiritually maturing, and practically skilled leaders who minister the Gospel and build up God's people in a constantly changing world. We seek to nurture wisdom and compassion in students who are becoming...

Academically grounded in that they...

- Articulate a biblical, theological, historical, and philosophical perspective of formation and ministry.
- Identify a theoretical framework for ministry context analysis.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the educational, spiritual, and ministry practices by which people mature in Christ.

Spiritually maturing in that they...

- Demonstrate a life of discipleship and spiritual growth as the foundation of effective ministry.
- Identify one's gifts and calling, responding to areas of strength and challenge in preparation for serving the needs of the church and the world.
- Respect every person, valuing the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and traditions within the church.

Practically skilled in that they...

- Minister and teach effectively, integrating theory and scripture into creative practice with integrity, humility, and grace.
- Serve collaboratively and compassionately, balancing the needs of others with adequate self-care.
- Demonstrate the necessary skills of a ministry practitioner/scholar: critical analysis; oral communication; written communication; program evaluation.

Faculty

Chair, Associate Professor Laura Barwegen

Graduate Program Coordinator, Price-LeBar Professor of Christian Formation & Ministry David Setran

Associate Professors Barrett McRay, Tom Schwanda

Visiting Assistant Professor Mimi Larson

Director of HoneyRock, Assistant Professor Rob Ribbe

HoneyRock Graduate Program and Global Initiatives Manager, Adjunct Instructor Muhia Karianjahi

Instructor and Internship Coordinator Daniel Haase

Programs

- Christian Formation and Ministry, MA (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/graduate/christian-formation-ministry/christian-formation-ministry-ma>)
- Outdoor and Adventure Leadership, MA (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/graduate/christian-formation-ministry/outdoor-adventure-leadership-ma>)

Courses

Christian Formation and Ministry Courses

CFM 512. Bible in Ministry. (2 Credits)

This course acquaints students with the formative nature and power of Scripture. It explores the principles and practices of using Scripture in ministry through reading, study, devotion, and meditation in personal, small groups and teaching, and related ministries of the church.

CFM 513. History and Philosophy of Ministry. (4 Credits)

Helps students become more informed and effective ministers through the analysis of ministry and educational philosophies that have guided the church throughout its history. Provides a framework within which to formulate a biblically and historically informed philosophy of ministry.

CFM 514. Ministry in Culture. (2 Credits)

Explores foundational cultural issues from a Christian, socio-cultural perspective. Provides opportunities for students to cultivate theory and practice of ministry in the multicultural American society, as well as the Church around the world.

CFM 516. Teaching for Transformation. (4 Credits)

Promotes Christian growth through educational planning and evaluation. Methods of teaching, curriculum design, and character of the teacher are considered.

CFM 517. Developmental Theory and Spiritual Formation. (2 Credits)

An introduction to biblical, historical, and theological understandings of the nature of persons and the integration of relevant psychological and sociological understandings of human development. In addition, students will be encouraged to consider the application of these foundations to the contemporary work of Christian formation and ministry.

CFM 518. Research Methods for Ministry. (2 Credits)

An introduction to the theory and practice of research methodologies as they relate to Christian formation and ministry.

CFM 521. Personal Spiritual Formation. (2 Credits)

An introduction to personal spiritual formation, including spiritual health and the practice of spiritual disciplines. Includes an off-site weekend retreat.

CFM 522. History and Traditions of Spiritual Formation. (2 Credits)

This course traces some of the dominant themes of Christian spirituality. Through biblical, theological, and historical study, we will examine how various individuals and movements have experienced and sought to nurture their relationship with the Triune God. Particular attention is paid to developing the skills of discernment for reading these primary sources.

CFM 523. Ministry Leadership and Organization. (4 Credits)

Introduction to issues of ministry leadership, including organizational theory, ethics, conflict management, and personal concerns for integrity and spiritual health.

CFM 525. Camp Ministry in Global Context. (4 Credits)

This course explores the theory and practice of doing ministry in diverse cultural contexts in the United States and globally. Students cultivate active cultural sensitivity through tools that include taking an inventory, conducting an ethnographic study, and partnering with a Christian camp ministry from a different geo-cultural context.

CFM 532. Discipleship. (2 Credits)

This course examines the biblical and historical models and principles for the life-long process of making disciples in a changing culture. Built on the foundation of spiritual formation and mentoring, students will be challenged to grow as disciples so that they might also equip and encourage others to grow in following Jesus.

CFM 533. Prayer. (2 Credits)

Provides a theory-based examination of prayer, especially within the historic evangelical faith.

CFM 534. Care and Counsel in Ministry. (2 Credits)

An introduction to the basic concepts and skills involved in care and counsel within ministry contexts including an overview of the historic ministry of soul care, biblical foundations for care in ministry, major categories of human suffering, and rudimentary person-to-person helping skills. This course is designed to enable those in ministry to help individuals and families understand and deal with contemporary issues—e.g., divorce, grief, suicide, conflict, etc.

CFM 535. Advanced Curriculum Development for Ministry. (2 Credits)

This course focuses on advanced curriculum design and development for ministry purposes, and the roles of learning environments and experiences in facilitating spiritual growth. Includes practical components integral to these issues.

CFM 536. Worship & Spirituality. (4 Credits)

See C E 345.

CFM 542. Ministry Research & Evaluation. (2 Credits)

See C E 462.

CFM 545. Student Development Leadership and Organization. (4 Credits)

An introduction and overview of the administration and organization of College Student Affairs with an emphasis on its historical and philosophical foundations, its basic documents and leadership strategies and issues. Staff selection, training, supervision, policy development, and program implementation and evaluation are addressed.

CFM 546. Facilitating Collegiate Learning. (4 Credits)

The college student experience must be built upon learning opportunities throughout the entire systems (i.e., academic and social) and within all facets of higher education. No department or entity is exempt from the opportunities to impact student learning and development. This course is designed to explore and equip students for these opportunities via understanding the student learning paradigm and its application to higher education practice.

CFM 547. Philosophy of Ministry. (2 Credits)

This course helps students become more informed and effective ministers through the analysis of key ministry and educational philosophies. Provides a framework within which to formulate a biblically, theologically, and philosophically informed philosophy of ministry.

CFM 548. Program Planning and Leadership. (2 Credits)

This course studies the process of developing outdoor and adventure based programs which will align with the mission, vision and values of an organization and serve the identified target groups in a meaningful way. As part of this course, students will build on their philosophy of ministry by developing, implementing and evaluating programs in real ministry settings. Co-requisite: CFM 547.

CFM 564. Challenge Course Leadership. (4 Credits)

This course applies theories and principles of leadership, spiritual development and experiential education to challenge programming specifically utilizing ropes courses, team initiatives, climbing, and other outdoor adventure activities. Students will apply learning by developing, leading and evaluating short term (1/2-day to 3-day) adventure education experiences for a variety of groups. This course is offered as an intensive at HoneyRock. Prerequisite: CFM 661.

CFM 565. Temporary Communities and the Church. (4 Credits)

This course explores the mission and nature of the Church and how the temporary system can serve its renewal and development. Students examine historical and theological expressions for the church, including the church/parachurch dynamic. They study biblical principles and the practices of renewal, hospitality, and service.

CFM 611. Ministry with Families. (2 Credits)

An examination of the nature of marital and family relationships in preparation for students in ministry to understand these dynamics in their own families, in the families of those to whom they minister, and the impact of these on their ability to be effective ministers. The course concludes with a consideration of church as the family of God.

CFM 612. Ministry with Children and Families. (4 Credits)

This course examines the nature of family relationships and the spirituality of children in light of biblical, theological, and developmental perspectives. The course is intended to equip ministry students to understand these dynamics in their own families, in the families of those to whom they minister, and the impact of these on their ability to be effective ministers. The course also includes a consideration of church as the family of God.

CFM 613. Ministry with Children and Families. (2 Credits)

This course examines the nature of family relationships and the spirituality of children in light of biblical, theological, and developmental perspectives. The course is intended to equip ministry students to understand these dynamics in their own families, in the families of those to whom they minister, and the impact of these on their ability to be effective ministers. The course also includes a consideration of church as the family of God.

CFM 621. Ministry with Children. (4 Credits)

Examines the nature and spirituality of children in light of biblical, theological, and developmental perspectives. Analyzes current ministry practices in light of cultural trends. Also focuses on the faith experiences of children.

CFM 631. Youth Ministry. (4 Credits)

Introduces students to biblical foundations, developmental and socio-cultural theories and research, historical and contemporary practice, and philosophy of youth ministry.

CFM 641. College & Young Adult Ministry. (4 Credits)

Explores the theories and practices of ministry directed toward college students and young adults. Emphasizes the developmental and cultural dynamics of the young adult years and the practical implications of a biblical philosophy of discipleship for identity development, character education, worldview construction, and spiritual formation. The course is relevant for anyone ministering to college students and/or young adults in the local church or in a college/university context.

CFM 651. Adult Ministries. (2 Credits)

Examines the principles and methods of adult ministry in the church with particular attention given to non-formal education. Explores the nature of defining, developing, and evaluating educational experiences in non-formal settings with an eye for their unique ministry contributions.

CFM 661. Foundations of Experiential Education. (4 Credits)

This course introduces the principles and practices of experiential education in outdoor settings. Students will apply principles of experiential learning, spiritual development and leadership to outdoor programs utilizing group processes, adventure courses, and a wilderness expedition.

CFM 662. Theology and Practice of Outdoor Adventure Leadership. (4 Credits)

This course is the foundational overview of the Outdoor Adventure Leadership Concentration of the Wheaton Graduate School. It is designed to equip students personally, spiritually and communally for a life of leadership and ministry in outdoor related ministries by helping students to develop personal vision, ministry skills, interpersonal competence, and a ministry philosophy. This course is offered in a modular format at HoneyRock.

CFM 663. Organizational Leadership and Staff Development in Outdoor Ministry. (4 Credits)

The outdoor and adventure ministry context is an excellent laboratory for equipping leaders for the church and society worldwide. This course is designed to help students develop principles and competencies to enhance their own leadership practice and to cultivate an approach to ministry that facilitates leadership development in those who serve and are served in the adventure ministry setting. Additionally, students will learn principles for effective organizational leadership. Students will design and evaluate leadership development programs in an outdoor ministry setting as part of this course. Offered in a modular format at HoneyRock.

CFM 664. Wilderness Programming and Leadership. (4 Credits)

This course emphasizes the uniqueness of the wilderness classroom and teaches students to utilize extensive wilderness expeditions to draw others to Christ and develop them into whole and effective people. The course covers program models and planning processes, various outdoor and leadership skills needed for wilderness ministry, and how God uses silence, creation, and group problem-solving to develop disciples. It is offered almost entirely in the wilderness classroom and as an extended expedition during multiple times and at multiple sites each year. This course is offered through HoneyRock.

CFM 683. Integrative Seminar. (0 Credits)

Integrates the various courses of the CFM program into a unified whole. The Integrative Seminar fosters reflection on the academic, spiritual, and practical aspects of the degree while also assisting in plans for future growth and development in these areas. Includes a summative case study evaluation. Prerequisite: All CFM core courses must be completed or in process.

CFM 691. Concentration Mentoring Group. (0 Credits)

Within each concentration of the CFM masters program, students will meet in a small mentoring group to discuss their academic progress, spiritual formation, and development of practical ministry skills. Taken every semester, repeatable.

CFM 692. Creative Project. (2 Credits)

Prerequisite: Dept. approval of student's Final Project Proposal.

CFM 693. Ministry Practicum. (0 Credits)

Provides students the opportunity to participate in a ministry context, integrating the theories learned in the classroom with the practices of ministry. Includes a summative assignment in which students consider the links between ministry principles, personal formation, and practical skills.

CFM 694. Current Issues in Christian Formation and Ministry. (2 or 4 Credits)

Provides opportunity for advanced students to study collectively some topic or concept in greater depth, or to explore a specialized topic and its relationship to an understanding and practice of Christian Formation and Ministry. Topics will vary and will be determined by department faculty members.

CFM 695. Independent Study. (1 to 4 Credits)

Focuses on field or library research according to individual interests and competencies in Christian Formation and Ministry.

CFM 696. Internship. (2 to 4 Credits)

Provides advanced students the opportunity to have a better understanding of ministry theory and practice by working and studying alongside a competent, authorized professional in Christian ministry. Includes a summative paper or reflection and analysis of the learning that occurred and its significance for future ministry (due after the internship). Prerequisite: Internship application approval.

CFM 698. Applied Thesis/Thesis. (2 Credits)

Prerequisite: Dept. approval of student's Final Project Proposal.

CFM 699. Final Project Continuation. (0 Credits)