

Grace College Akron



Faculty

Caleb Nichols, Director, M.A.

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James Margida, M.S.

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Ryan Rodeman, M.A.

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Rick Scavuzzo

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Akron Description

Students who desire a bachelor's degree in Biblical studies with a Ministry Leadership Concentration can attend the Grace College Akron location. Akron desires to fuel leaders for ministry who are skilled in using the gospel in their lives and community.

Program Mission and Goals

Grace College and Seminary is an evangelical Christian community of higher education which applies biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence, and preparing for service. Grace College offers a biblically-anchored, affordable, and accessible Christian education to college-age students in the Akron area.

1. Grace College Akron is committed to developing a foundational biblical literacy in all our majors including a basic understanding of biblical interpretation, knowledge of the biblical cultures and world, and familiarity with basic biblical characters, events, places, dates, and themes.
2. Grace College Akron is committed to developing workers and leaders that focus specifically on unique ministry contexts through our specializations by providing a foundational understanding and the essential skills needed for serving in both the local church and global ministry.
3. Grace College Akron is committed to developing a basic knowledge of Christianity, including the essential doctrines of the Christian faith and a specific understanding of the historical and theological development of those groups and movements that inform directly our evangelical foundation here at Grace.
4. Grace College Akron is committed to developing the entire person for effective ministry, including attention to the spiritual as well as professional development of the minister through intentional personal reflection, focused applied ministry engagement, and practical discipleship development.
5. Grace College Akron is committed to developing students by leading them through the personal experience of becoming a disciple, making disciples, and leading in ministry. This is the natural progression that a spiritual leader moves through. A faithful disciple of Jesus will make disciples and will begin leading those disciples spiritually.
6. Grace College Akron is committed to the full integration of biblical information, personal gifting, ministry context, and ministry teams for the purpose of doing effective ministry in the real world. All of these factors are important and must work together in harmony for the local and global church to thrive.

Program Purpose

Grace College Akron exists to provide postsecondary education that is affordable, accessible, and anchored in the Word of God. This program serves those who would like to receive a degree in the Akron area in a face-to-face format.

Grace College Akron exists to deliver hope and opportunity through education, providing a wide range of courses that students can utilize to assist in developmental growth and life transformation.

1. Demonstrate Knowledge - Learners completing the Biblical Studies with a Ministry Leadership Concentration degree will develop a foundational biblical literacy including a basic understanding

of biblical characters, events, places, dates, themes, cultures, interpretation, and the essential doctrines of the Christian faith.

2. Develop Ministry Skills - Learners completing the Biblical Studies with a Ministry Leadership Concentration degree will develop essentials skills needed for serving in both the local church and global ministry.
3. Engage in Mentoring Experiences - Learners completing the Biblical Studies with a Ministry Leadership Concentration degree will utilize practical and professional mentoring experiences to prepare for service and show compassion for others.

Schedule and Delivery Format/ Technology Requirements

The Biblical Studies with a Ministry Leadership Concentration degree contains courses offered on-site Monday through Friday. Additional online courses may be offered. All students will need regular access to a computer as classes are a hybrid of classroom, web-facilitation, and online learning. Information regarding the technology and user-skill requirements is available on the technology support page of the college's website.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for applicants to Grace College Akron are the same as those for applicants to Grace College, which include the student's high school transcript and ACT or SAT score (TOEFL for international students). Online applications are available on the institution's website. For additional information about admission requirements or course enrollment, please contact the staff at the Grace College School of Professional and Online Education at 888-249-0533 or email online@grace.edu.

Application Process

To be considered for acceptance into the Biblical Studies with a Ministry Leadership Concentration program, students must submit the application form for the bachelor's degree program to Grace College (<http://akron.grace.edu/admissions/apply-now>). An official transcript must accompany the application form if the student intends to transfer credits from another institution.

AKRON EDUCATION FACILITY

Akron Location

Ghent Road Building
754 Ghent Road
Akron, OH 44333

The Akron Education Team

In general, the first point-of-contact for questions, concerns, and needs should be Caleb Nichols. If this individual is unavailable or there is not satisfactory resolution, questions should then be directed to the Executive Dean.

Caleb Nichols - Site Director

Akron Location

Office Phone: (574) 372-5100 ext. 6221 or (330) 422-3150

Email: nicholc@grace.edu

Jodi Baker - Academic Support Coordinator

Winona Lake Campus

Office Phone: (574) 372-5100 ext. 6194

Email: bakerj@grace.edu

Tim Ziebarth - Executive Dean, Grace College School of Professional and Online Education

Winona Lake Campus

Office Phone: (574) 372-5100 ext. 6191

Email: tjziebarth@grace.edu

Handbook

Grace College Akron has a handbook that outlines its policies. This handbook is available from the Akron Site Director.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Grace College and Seminary is a private, not-for-profit, faith-based exempt organization as described in Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue code. In compliance with applicable federal and state laws, Grace College and Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in its administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs and activities, or in employment.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Notice of Nondiscrimination:

Carrie Yocum, Title IX Coordinator and VP of Administration and Compliance
Grace College and Seminary
McClain 102
200 Seminary Drive
Winona Lake, IN 46590
yocumca@grace.edu
574-372-5100 x6491

Inquiries may also be addressed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100.

Community Lifestyle Pledge

Students agree to show respect for the faith commitment that Grace practices and agree to abide by certain of the institution's community guidelines (avoidance of disrespecting others, sexual misconduct, illegal drugs, gambling, coarse or obscene language, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and such conduct) while on campus or engaged in Grace activities. The student understands that this extends to any advocacy initiatives in which the individual might participate while a Grace student.

Note about the Catalog

Each program at the institution maintains a catalog in which basic academic information related to the program's goals, expectations, admission, policies, accreditation, and other pertinent information is described. This applies to undergraduate, non-traditional (e.g., online, adult degree completion), graduate, and seminary programs.

Grace makes every attempt to provide information that, at the time of publication, most accurately describes the policies, procedures, and requirements of the institution and its individual programs. The provisions of the academic catalogs are, therefore, to be considered a guide and not to be regarded as a contract between any student and the institution. Course content and institutional policies governing admissions, tuition, and campus life are under constant review and revision. Grace reserves the right to change any statement contained within the catalog at any time and without prior notice including academic provisions, policies, or requirements (e.g., modifications to classes, fees, personnel, academic policies, and programs) and the right to withdraw or amend the content of any courses described in the catalogs as may be required or desirable by circumstances. Grace will, however, make every attempt to give students reasonable prior notice to changes in policies and other catalog content when possible and rarely implements policy changes during an academic year.

Courses of study for non-traditional, graduate, and seminary programs and check sheets for undergraduate students may undergo revisions; however, these are typically implemented in the fall of the new academic year.

All students are expected to be familiar with the catalog(s) associated with their selected program(s) of study with the understanding that policies and procedures of their selected program(s) may change from year-to-year. The current year's catalog should, in most situations, be considered the catalog applicable to the student.

Course Descriptions

In the following courses, students will be explorers (not just observers) in the study of the Bible. The goal is to become skilled in interpretation and wise in application. Courses will focus on breadth and depth of learning, so that students are capable of dealing with both specific and global issues in the text.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

BIB1050 Exploring the Bible

This course provides a survey of the biblical story in its progressive unfolding of the history of redemption within the framework of creation, fall, redemption, consummation. Attention is given to the literary, historical, cultural, and theological dimensions of Scripture as it offers a metanarrative or 'worldview-story.' Emphasis is placed on the unity of Scripture as it reaches its fullness and fulfillment in Christ, while at the same time recognizing key developments and differences between the various chapters of the biblical storyline. Three credit hours.

BIB2010 Scripture and Interpretation

Foundational principles of effective Bible study will be applied for personal study and small group Bible study leadership. Observational skills of the English text will be developed through hands-on activities and assignments. Hermeneutical principles will be applied to various biblical genres with the goal of

equipping the learner to interpret the text based on its historical/cultural and literary context. Application of the meaning of the text for spiritual formation will be emphasized as well. Three credit hours

BIB3300 Essential Doctrinal Themes

This course is designed to engage the student in the essential doctrines of the Christian Faith and to help them complete the desired transference from belief to conviction in their personal faith. The purpose of this class is to examine eight areas of theology in such a manner as to allow the learner to search the Scriptures so they can begin to articulate and defend what they believe about the Christian faith. Special attention will be given to helping the student grasp the historical doctrinal commitments of Grace College and Seminary by engaging students in class discussion around those commitments. Three credit hours.

FYE1010 Freshman Foundations

This course will help students discover their God-given strengths, navigate through current college issues, and help the student better understand what makes a Christian liberal arts education valuable. It will also introduce students to the value off-campus involvement and introduce students to prospective departments and faculty within the institution, assisting in the selection process of choosing a major and a career. This course is designed to make students' years at Grace the best experience possible. Three credit hours.

ECN3000 Consumer Economics

Consumer Economics is a course designed to prepare students to understand the economic system from a Biblical perspective and how it affects individuals as consumers, producers and citizens. Students will integrate knowledge, skills and practices required for management of resources in a technologically expanding global economy. Real world topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Core skills in decision making, problem solving, critical thinking, goal setting, management of multiple roles and using technology are integrated into the course content. Three credit hours.

PHI3010 Christianity and Critical Thinking

This course will critically examine the beliefs and presuppositions of philosophers and philosophies over the centuries and their impact on modern Christianity and the Christian Worldview. A critical examination will begin by utilizing the lens of Scripture as the basis of truth in evaluating these beliefs. The application of that examination will be centered on the reasons for God as well as the nature of suffering and evil as learners are encouraged to formulate a biblically sound Christian Worldview. Three credit hours.

COM1100 Public Speaking

The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the principles of public discourse and civic engagement. The focus will be on a practical background in recognizing, analyzing, and constructing arguments in the public sphere. Readings, class time, and assignments will focus on the skills and concepts necessary for successful application of the principles to a civic engagement project. Three credit hours, including lab.

ENG1100 Effective Writing

This course is designed to help you develop and hone the skills involved in clear and persuasive writing at the college level and beyond. While the primary focus of this course is scholarly writing, we will also explore other genres of writing important to civic life, such as the personal expressive narrative, rhetorical analysis, and opinion/editorial essay. Three credit hours.

PSY1200 Essentials of Behavioral Science

This introductory course in Behavioral Sciences provides an opportunity to learn about various behavioral science topics, concepts and real life applications. This course will survey multiple topics as they relate to relationships. Students will also be encouraged during this course to increase personal awareness of how cognitive and emotional factors influence behavior in a variety of social contexts. The focus of this course is on improving relationships in many different sectors of life. Three credit hours.

HIS1380 Contemporary America and the World

This course is a topical approach to the cultural history of the United States from the end of the Second World War to the present, with special emphasis on America's role in global affairs. Students will not only gain a broad understanding of America's place in recent world events but also a specialized knowledge of various relevant topics and their historical context. Topics covered in this class have included the Cold War, the 1960s, American evangelicalism, and terrorism. This is the department's general education course. Three credit hours.

HUM2000 Global Perspectives

The purpose of Global Perspectives is to encounter world cultures through literature, film, and dialogue. In this interdisciplinary course, students engage divergent outlooks from around the world, grappling with cultural differences and presuppositions. This course cultivates cultural competency, provides a framework for understanding God's heart for the nations, and prepares students for the Cross-Cultural Field Experience. Three credit hours.

HUM2100 Creative Arts and Culture

Through a global, thematic approach, this course explores the human phenomenon of creativity. Posing the question "Why creative arts?" this course focuses on exploring how culture and creativity reflect each other within the realm of visual and performing arts. Through themes of survival, religion, the state, and self, this course examines artists' roles within cultures, the way art is made or performed, how meaning is derived, and how art is used, kept or destroyed. Required experiential activities for engaging in visual and performing arts include such things as attending museum exhibits, concerts or theatrical productions. Three credit hours.

SCI2030 Faith, Science, and Reason

Faith, Science, and Reason is designed to assist the student in (1) demonstrating the scope and magnitude of science and mathematics; (2) why we study these subjects; (3) knowing the limitations of these subjects; (4) where the Christian fits and operates within the scientific paradigm; and (5) how a Christian can incorporate their faith and reason within the scientific enterprise and how to use it as a productive platform when communicating to those of different worldviews. Three credit hours.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

BBL2010 Understanding the Old Testament

An introduction to the Old Testament with special reference to background, historical setting, literary composition, theology and message. After successfully completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate a knowledge of background issues which introduce one to the study of various concepts of the Old Testament, the historical milieu of each Old Testament book studied, the purpose and general content of each Old Testament book studied, the use of the Old Testament in modern ministry, and the foundation the Old Testament provides for the New Testament. Three credit hours

BBL2020 Understanding the New Testament

This course introduces the New Testament with special reference to background, historical setting, literary composition, theology, and message. After successfully completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate a knowledge of background issues which introduce one to the study of various concepts of the New Testament, the historical milieu of each New Testament book studied, the purpose and general content of each New Testament book studied, the relationship between the New and Old Testaments, and the use of the New Testament in modern ministry. Three credit hours.

BIB2310 History of Christianity

Students will seek to discover what transpired in Christianity from the 1st century to modern times in order to understand what Christianity is in the present. They will identify the major events, personalities, and theological issues, both Western and non-Western, that shaped the development of Christianity. They will appreciate the challenges that the church faced as it matured in history, and they will gain perspective on the challenges still facing the church today. Prerequisite: BIB1050. This is an upper level course available to juniors and seniors. It is also offered at a graduate level. Three credit hours.

BBL3010 Defining Doctrines of the Christian Faith

Students will identify the central affirmations of Christianity that distinguish orthodoxy from heresy, heterodoxy, liberalism, and neo-orthodoxy. Students will be able to support each defining doctrine from Scripture. The role of creeds, church councils, and doctrinal statements in defining and preserving orthodoxy will be explored. Students will appreciate the diversity within Christian orthodoxy, while the central affirmations are preserved. Prerequisite: BIB1050. Three credit hours.

BBL3090 Spiritual Formation

Students will explore the various dynamics that converge to produce maturity in the life of a Christian. They will seek to construct a theory of spiritual formation based on a practical knowledge of God, a realistic awareness of self, a full-orbed understanding of pertinent scriptural insights, and a historical perspective of various approaches to spirituality. They will examine the necessity of the integration of the individual pursuit of spiritual maturity with the corporate dimension. The approach of the course will include practical application along with classroom discussion and outside research. Prerequisite: BIB 2010. Three credit hours.

MIS3220 Principles and Practice of Prayer

Students will examine the teaching of the Scriptures on the subject of prayer with a view to discovering the absolute necessity of a vital prayer experience in the life of the man or woman of God and in the life of the Church. Urgency, consistency, and effectiveness of prayer will all be discussed as well as practical guidance for fostering these. Significant time will be spent in the practice of prayer. Three credit hours.

BBL3140 Biblical Backgrounds

Students will seek to understand how people thought, communicated, and lived in the ancient world during the OT, NT and Intertestamental Periods. Special emphasis will be placed on key people groups and political, cultural, theological, and literary developments that form the background to the Bible. Students will learn to use insights from geography, cultural anthropology, archaeology, sociology, philosophy, politics, literature, and history for the interpretation of Scripture in light of the history and culture of the people to whom it was addressed. Three credit hours.

BBL4810 Senior Seminar (Leadership in Ministry)

This course is designed to facilitate senior level students in the application of theory to ministry practice. The learner will be challenged to integrate biblical/theological knowledge gained in a variety of courses together with specialized research that pertains to specific ministry issues. Three credit hours.

MLD 1000 Principles of Ministry Leadership

This course designed to equip students to serve effectively as ministry leaders in a variety of faith-based nonprofit contexts. The course provides an introductory and holistic overview of principles inherent to the practice of Christian ministry leadership. Researched based theories and models, organizational design, and leadership principles will be discussed and integrated within a framework of biblical, theological, organizational, and cultural perspectives. Three credit hours

MLD2700 Servant Leadership

Servant Leadership (MLD 2700) is designed to guide the student into embracing a Christ-centered approach to leadership by means of serving others, focusing on these three dynamics in the life and ministry of the servant leader: conviction, character and competence. Included in the course are opportunities to learn through reading, participating in discussions, involvement in an interactive video course by the instructor, interviewing a seasoned servant leader and hands on experience in serving in a current ministry. Three credit hours.

MLD3000 Nonprofit Financial Management

This course will introduce learners to the role of resource management found within nonprofit environments. Learners will interact with philanthropy, earned income strategies, governmental support, and financial management of such resources. Three credit hours.

MLD3300 Ministry: Outreach and Care

This course focuses on evangelism, missions, social involvement, pastoral care, and community. This course assists the student with helping others, planning, and resources. 3 credit hours.

MLD3400 Communication in Christian Ministry

This course will look into the importance of communication in leadership within Christian Ministry. Communication will be studied within the context of today's technological, strategic and ministerial developments. The course will deal with principles in "organizational communication" and "communicating in teams and networks." Focuses will be on the analysis of an organization of the student's choice and on the understanding and completion of communication needs within an organization. Three credit hours.

ICS3650 Intercultural Ministry

This course is an overview of intercultural missions in which students will discover the importance of cultural value systems, intercultural communication, contextualization, and cultural adaptation, and how these issues affect biblical ministry in intercultural and multicultural contexts. Future pastors, youth ministers, Christian counselors, and other Christian ministry personnel will become more effective in various intercultural situations by shaping their ministry to penetrate other cultures more deeply. Knowing how culture functions, the extent to which it shapes people, and how we are affected by our own culture keeps us from reading our cultural values into other contexts and into our interpretation of the Bible. It also guards against unknowingly imposing our cultural values on others. The course will not count toward the requirements of an undergraduate intercultural mission minor. Three credit hours.

BBL3000 Theological Systems

Students will explore the theological methods and presuppositions practiced by the diversity of theological systems. Students will seek answers to questions such as, how is presuppositional apologetics different from evidential apologetics. How is systematic theology different from biblical theology? How is dispensational theology different from covenant theology? How is reformed theology different from Armenian theology? How is progressive dispensationalism different from classic dispensationalism? Students will study the methods and presuppositions of leading theologians, from the Apostle Paul to the present. Prerequisite: BIB1050. This is an upper level course available to juniors and seniors. It is also offered at a graduate level. Three credit hours.

PHI3000 Apologetics in a Postmodern World

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introductory survey to the defense of the Christian worldview in its contemporary postmodern context. The course will cover areas such as: the biblical and theological justification for the apologetic task; issues surrounding apologetic methodology; strategies for effective presentation and argumentation; the development of a positive case for Christianity; common objections against the Christian worldview; and a critique of prevalent ideologies and worldviews. This course will address philosophical, historical, scientific, and cultural issues surrounding the defense of Christianity in the contemporary world. Three credit hours.

BIB3290 New Testament Exposition

Foundational principles of effective Bible study will be applied for personal study and small group Bible study leadership. Observational skills of the English text of the New Testament will be developed through hands-on activities and assignments. Hermeneutical principles will be applied to various biblical genres with the goal to equip the learner to interpret the text based on its historical/cultural and literary context. Application of the meaning of the text for spiritual formation will be emphasized as well. Prerequisites: BIB1050, BIB2010, and BBL2020. Three credit hours.

BIB3310 Old Testament Exposition

Foundational principles of effective Bible study will be applied for personal study and Bible study leadership. Observational skills of the English text of the Old Testament will be developed through hands-on activities and assignments. Hermeneutical principles will be applied to various biblical genres with the goal to equip the learner to interpret the text based on its historical/cultural and literary context. Application of the meaning of the text for spiritual formation will be emphasized as well. Prerequisites: BIB1050, BIB2010, and BBL2010. Three credit hours.

BIB4060 Expository Preaching and Teaching

This course combines both theory and practice. It introduces a functional methodology of organizing and developing the elements of a sermon. It examines issues of bridging exegesis and exposition as well as the application of biblical truth and the effective delivery to listeners. Approximately one-third of the course is devoted to a lab setting where lessons and sermons are video-recorded and critiqued. Prerequisites: COM1100, BIB1050 and BIB2010. Three credit hours

SOC 1100 Introduction to Sociology

An introductory study of humans functioning in society. Basic principles of sociology will be experienced including organization, structure, strata, and problems in American society. Emphasis will be placed on observational techniques that will help to develop a spirit of active participation in the world. Three credit hours.

MAT3200 Probability and Statistics

This is an introductory course in probability and statistics. Topics covered include probability theorems and models, statistical techniques, and practices for applying statistical techniques in the world around us. Prerequisites: 12 credit hours; Basic Algebra. Three credit hours.

MLD 2020 Ministry Leadership Seminar 1—Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

This course will introduce learners to the major issues involved in becoming a disciple of Jesus. Students will interact with classroom learning as well as real life ministry experience and mentoring relationships. Students will participate in 90 hours of ministry experience during the summer seminar. It is strongly suggested but not required that the students participate in a minimum of one ministry project during this time. Some ministry projects that would be ideal include mission's trips, church camps, bible camps and other similar activities. Students will turn in their hours to their professor on a weekly basis. Students will also participate in mentoring conversations based on the topics of the class. The student will meet with an approved mentor for a total of 8 hours during the time frame of the class. Six credit hours.

MLD 3020 Ministry Leadership Seminar 2—Making Disciples of Jesus

(Course design in progress)

Students will formulate the methodology, research best practices, interview ministry personnel, and defend the thesis. Six credit hours.

MLD 4020 Ministry Leadership Seminar 3—Leading in Ministry *(Course design in progress)*

Students will summarize results and make a presentation to a panel of church administration personnel who will evaluate the project on given criteria. Six credit hours.