



Central School of Ministry is a graduate-level ministry training ground uniquely created to educate and equip students for successful ministry.

A dynamic program likened to a trade school for ministry, CSM is for students of all ages and backgrounds committed to growing in knowledge and spiritual maturity while serving in real and relevant ways.

Over the course of three years, through class time, discussion boards, ministry practicum, and mentorship, students will engage in both learning and application with a cohort of their peers. CSM offers a tremendous catalyst for healthy growth and preparation for the now and next generation of effective ministry.

STUDENTS

Requirements

Attendance

- Students are expected to attend every session of each course.
- In case of an emergency, individual professors and/or the Dean will work with students to determine if it is possible to make up missed class time.

Practicum

- Students are expected to complete a 2-day/month minimum practicum in the ministry area of their choice each year.
- Second and third-year practicums are to include public teaching or preaching.
- The practicum must be authorized and approved by the CSM Dean and/or President.

Discussion Board

- Students are expected to participate in a graded 4x/year discussion board.

Mentoring

- Students will meet in person or by video monthly with their CSM-provided or approved mentor.

Capstone Project

- At the completion of the three-year course cycle, each student will be required to submit an acceptable personal philosophy of ministry statement to the Dean.



Cost

Tuition for one year (three blocks of four courses plus four online discussion boards) is \$1000. Tuition for an individual course is \$400/course. Tuition is due prior to the start of the first class in the yearly block or the individual course.

Included in tuition:

- Instruction
- Technology fees
- Continental breakfast Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- Catered lunch Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

NOT included in tuition costs:

- Assigned books and other course materials
- Transportation costs
- Housing (a discounted rate is negotiated with the Holiday Inn Express, 1933 Holly St, Blair, NE; see website for additional options)
- Other meals

Courses & Dates

Year 1

- Block A: Sept. 10-14, 2023
 - Old Testament Survey
 - Hermeneutics: Inductive Study Methods
 - Yeshiva: The Inerrancy of Scripture
- Block B: Nov. 12-16, 2023
 - Introduction to Practical Ministry
 - Hermeneutics: Inductive Study Methods
- Block C: April 14-18, 2024
 - Spiritual Formation
 - Hermeneutics: Inductive Study Methods
- Online Discussions: October, January, February, March

Year 2

- Block A: Sept. 15-19, 2024
 - Christian Leadership & Ethics
 - Hermeneutics: New Testament Book Study
- Block B: Nov. 10-14, 2024
 - New Testament Survey
 - Hermeneutics: New Testament Book Study
- Block C: Mar. 30 – Apr. 3, 2025
 - Ministry Care & Pastoral Counseling
 - Hermeneutics: New Testament Book Study
- Online Discussions: October, January, February, April/May



Year 3

- Block A: Sept. 14-18, 2025
 - Homiletics
 - Hermeneutics: Systematic Theology
- Block B: Nov 9-13, 2025
 - Doctrine & Theology
 - Hermeneutics: Systematic Theology
- Block C: Apr. 12-16, 2026
 - Apologetics
 - Hermeneutics: Systematic Theology
- Online Discussions: October, January, February, March
- Block D: Israel Trip (Dates and Cost TBD)
 - Israel Preparation and Trip (Not included in tuition)

Location

Central School of Ministry uses the facilities at Reach Church in Blair, Nebraska.
13121 CR 16, Blair, NE 68008, 402-426-5592, www.reachchurchne.org

Grading

Students will receive a letter grade upon the completion of each course using the following scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% =B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 0-59%=F. Values will be assigned as: A=4.0, B=3.0, C= 2.0, D= 1.0, F. 0

Students who drop below a 2.5 GPA will be required to meet with their mentor and the Dean to consider whether continuing in the program is recommended.

Graduation

Non-Ordination Program

Successful completion of all courses results in the awarding of a Certificate of Ministry commensurate with an accredited Master of Ministry program. CSM is not yet accredited.

Ordination/Certification Program

For students pursuing ordination and certification, this option provides an opportunity to answer typical ordination questions as part of the program and defend those answers in preparation for an ordination panel. The Central School of Ministry is coordinated with and supported by the ordination and certification process of the Evangelical Church, but the program scope would acceptable preparation for other similar denominations.



Typical Block Schedule

	Sunday	Monday-Wednesday	Thursday
Continental Breakfast		7:15 – 8:00 Reach Café	
Class		8:00 – 12:00 Reach Commons	
Lunch		12:00 – 1:00 Reach Café	
Chapel		1:00 – 1:45 Worship Center	
Class		2:00 – 5:00 Reach Commons	
Group time	6:30-8:00 (Sun-Tues) Reach Café	6:30-8:00 (W)	

CSM Administration & Trustees

Dean - Jennifer Brown, MS, MAEd

President – Pastor Andrew Anderson, MMin

Trustees – Russell Siemer, Mark Zanotto, Steve Doolin

COURSES

Year 1:

Introduction to Practical Ministry

This course places an emphasis on gaining a greater understanding of the origin of Christian ministry in addition to best practices in realizing God’s unique call on each minister and ministry. It will explore the key biblical mandates and foundational priorities established in scripture for ministry in the church and community. Students will look at practical ministry from the lens of the local church as well as beyond the bricks and mortar of the traditional view of ministry. The final project will be developing and presenting a personal philosophy of ministry.

Old Testament Survey

This course combines a basic introduction to the canonical Old Testament with a study of hermeneutics. In the introduction emphasis, items of a critical nature such as authorship, dating, audience, and purpose will be considered. However, the primary focus will be on a study of the contents of the canonical text, its cultural background, history, chronology, and geography, including a brief synopsis of each book and its relationship with the New Testament.



In the Hebrew language section, emphasis will be on the basic alphabet and online tools and programs for exhaustive word study.

Spiritual Formation

This course is an examination of how the Christian faith is developed in the life of a person intellectually, emotionally, and behaviorally through spiritual disciplines, prayer, and the biblical nature of calling, ministry, and character. The focus will be on discipleship and spiritual formation both personally and within the context of the local church. Students will discuss the importance of knowing God for spiritual growth and emotional well-being as well as effective ministry to hurting people. Personal assignments will be assigned for the purpose of integrating the material into one's life.

Hermeneutics Year 1: Inductive Study Methods

Each course will include a hermeneutics portion focused on learning and practicing inductive study methods.

Year 2

Christian Leadership & Ethics

This course studies the essential character qualities of effective biblical servant leader-teachers, and the principles for ethical influence, communication, instruction, problem-solving, conflict resolution, and decision-making. Effective stewardship of kingdom resources, volunteer management, and ministry growth will be discussed. Case studies will be considered to aid students in applying leadership and ethics in making decisions.

New Testament Survey

This course on the canonical New Testament combines a brief survey with a basic introduction while introducing the Greek language. In the survey aspect, the content and structure of each book will be considered as well as its cultural background and relationship to the Old Testament. In the introduction emphasis, items of a critical nature such as authorship, dating, audience, and purpose will be considered. In the inductive study approach to scriptures, selected passages will be studied from the various literary genres and basic hermeneutical principles reviewed. In the Greek language introduction, the alphabet and study help along with grammar analysis for exegesis will be presented.

Ministry Care & Pastoral Counseling

This course examines Biblical and professional practices to care for yourself and others. Stewardship and soul care are keys to healthy ministry for any Christian leader. Students will examine the health of their financial and sabbath practices and discover the importance of prioritizing those areas for successful ministry to others. Students will also discuss the role of wisdom in the Biblical and practical context. Additionally, licensed counselors will provide valuable practical tips for working with others, as well as key concerns that signify a need for professional counseling.



Hermeneutics Year 2: Book Studies

Each course will include a hermeneutics portion focused on a study of a New Testament book.

Year 3

Homiletics

This course explores preaching theologically sound sermons using the Bible in culture and context with integrity and authenticity. The basics of sermon preparation, delivery, and evaluation will be explored as you develop and present one complete sermon and learn the tools and systems to develop more.

Doctrine & Theology

This course is a survey of the major doctrines in Christian theology and their relationship to each other. Both historical and contemporary doctrines of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, scripture, salvation, sanctification, and the sacraments will be included. This course will draw from a high view of scripture as the inerrant Word of God and authority for our lives.

Apologetics

In this course, students will learn foundational theological and practical skills to engage with the questions, doubts, and skepticism of unbelievers and believers. Modern-day topics will be included for students to discuss how to best reach today's culture with the truth of God's word and answer their difficult questions.

Hermeneutics Year 3: Systematic Theology

Each course will include a hermeneutics portion focused on a topic for a systematic theology study.

INSTRUCTORS

Course Components

Pework

Pework assignments should consist of one to three books to be read or one research paper to be completed prior to the course that will prepare students for the course. *These assignments will be graded and count toward their final grade.* If you choose books, the students should write a reflection paper and/or have specific questions to answer related to the book content. In these assignments, please strive to encourage the students to think independently in addition to using the material they have read or researched.



Essentials

In developing your coursework, please consider the following: If you met someone who had a Master of Ministry, what knowledge or understanding would you expect them to possess in this area of study? How is your class going to help them obtain that? How does this class help them develop or explore their character, competency, or calling? Additionally, how are you going to help them learn to continue growing, developing, and training in this area on their own over the coming years?

Final Projects/Exams

All courses should include a graded final project or exam to provide students the opportunity to display competency in the area.

Grading

All classes are graded on total points which are converted to a percentage. Grades are assigned on the following scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% =B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 0-59%=F. Values will be assigned as: A=4.0, B=3.0, C= 2.0, D= 1.0, F. 0

Pework should be included in the grade, but no more than 25% of the total grade.

Grades should be submitted to the Dean within 10 days of class completion, according to the schedule below. With approval from the Dean, instructors have the option of making their final project due after the completion of the class. In those situations, the final grade due date will be adjusted accordingly.

Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
7:15 – 8:00 Reach Café		Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast
8:00 – Noon Commons		Class Time	Class Time	Class Time	Class Time
12:00 – 1:00 Reach Café		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00 – 1:45 TBD		Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	
2:00 – 5:00 Commons		Class Time	Class Time	Class Time	
6:30-8:00 TBD	Group time	Group time	Group time	Reach Kids & Reach Youth	

Instructors are responsible for the highlighted blocks of class time except for a one-hour block on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for the Hermeneutics portion. Prior to the course schedule development, the dean will work with the instructor to determine the best time for Hermeneutics. Breaks during class blocks will be given at the discretion of the instructor.



Thursday morning will be used for presentations, testing. This time can also be used for additional teaching when necessary.

Instructors are invited to Sunday group time to be introduced and become acquainted with students. Instructors will have input on the use of other group time, but attendance is optional.

Courses & Dates

Year 1

- **Block A: Sept. 10-14, 2023**
Syllabus due to Dean 7/16, to students 7/30; grades due 9/24
Materials to be copied for students due to Dean by 9/1
 - Old Testament Survey
 - Hermeneutics: Inductive Study Methods
- **Block B: Nov. 12-16, 2023**
Syllabus due to Dean 9/17, to students 10/1; grades due 11/28
Materials to be copied for students due to Dean by 11/2
 - Introduction to Practical Ministry
 - Hermeneutics: Inductive Study Methods
- **Block C: April 14-18, 2024**
Syllabus due to Dean 2/18, to students 3/3; grades due 4/28
Materials to be copied for students due to Dean by 11/2
 - Spiritual Formation (CE)
 - Hermeneutics: Inductive Study Methods
- **Online Discussions Questions**
 - **A1** posted Oct. 1, due Oct. 15 *Question due to dean 9/15, grades due 10/25*
 - **A2** posted Jan. 10, due Jan. 25 *Question due to dean 12/15, grades due 2/5*
 - **A3** posted Feb. 10, due Feb. 25 *Question due to dean 1/20, grades due 3/10*
 - **A4** posted Mar. 10, due Mar. 25 *Question due to dean 2/20, grades due 4/10*

Year 2

- **Block A: Sept. 15-19, 2024**
Syllabus due to Dean 7/21, to students 8/4; grades due 9/29
 - Christian Leadership & Ethics
 - Hermeneutics: New Testament Book Study
- **Block B: Nov. 10-14, 2024**
Syllabus due to Dean 9/15, to students 9/29; grades due 11/26
 - New Testament Survey
 - Hermeneutics: New Testament Book Study
- **Block C: Mar. 30 – Apr. 3, 2025**
Syllabus due to Dean 2/2, to students 2/16; grades due 4/13
 - Ministry Care & Pastoral Counseling
 - Hermeneutics: New Testament Book Study



- Online Discussions
 - B1 posted Oct. 1, due Oct. 15 *Question due to dean 9/15, grades due 10/25*
 - B2 posted Jan. 10, due Jan. 25 *Question due to dean 12/15, grades due 2/5*
 - B3 posted Feb. 10, due Feb. 25 *Question due to dean 1/20, grades due 3/10*
 - B4 posted Apr. 25, due May 5 *Question due to dean 4/5, grades due 5/10*

Year 3

- Block A: Sept. 14-18, 2025
Syllabus due to Dean 7/20, to students 8/3; grades due 9/28
 - Homiletics
 - Hermeneutics: Systematic Theology
- Block B: Nov 9-13, 2025
Syllabus due to Dean 9/14, to students 9/28; grades due 11/25
 - Doctrine & Theology
 - Hermeneutics: Systematic Theology
- Block C: Apr. 12-16, 2026
Syllabus due to Dean 2/15, to students 3/1; grades due 4/26
 - Apologetics
 - Hermeneutics: Systematic Theology
- Block D: TBD
 - Optional Israel Preparation and Trip (Not included in tuition)
- Online Discussions
 - C1 posted Oct. 1, due Oct. 15 *Question due to dean 9/15, grades due 10/25*
 - C2 posted Jan. 10, due Jan. 25 *Question due to dean 12/15, grades due 2/5*
 - C3 posted Feb. 10, due Feb. 25 *Question due to dean 1/20, grades due 3/10*
 - C4 posted Mar. 10, due Mar. 25 *Question due to dean 2/20, grades due 4/10*