



LSCU

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE PROGRAMS
THEOLOGY • MINISTRY • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE

*“You also, as living stones,
are being built up a spiritual house,
a holy priesthood, to offer up
spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.”*

1 PETER 2:5 (NKJV)

ACADEMIC CATALOG
2026 – 2027



LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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CATALOG EFFECTIVE DATE

This catalog is effective **May 7, 2026** and governs all academic policies, program requirements, tuition, fees, and institutional disclosures for the 2026–2027 academic year.

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CATALOG DISCLAIMER

This catalog supersedes all previous publications and represents the most current information regarding all aspects of Living Stones Christian University as of the effective date. The institution reserves the right to modify, amend, or discontinue any policy, procedure, program, or financial structure set forth herein without prior notice. However, the institution will endeavor to provide students with thirty (30) days' written notice of any material changes to tuition, fees, or graduation requirements. Students are bound by the policies and requirements in effect at the time of their enrollment.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Student in Christ,

It is with great joy and a deep sense of purpose that I welcome you to Living Stones Christian University. Our name is inspired by 1 Peter 2:5: “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” This passage reflects our commitment to equipping believers for faithful service and Christian leadership.

Living Stones Christian University was founded to provide biblically grounded theological education for men and women pursuing ministry, discipleship, and Christian leadership. We remain committed to the authority of Holy Scripture and the historic Christian faith while fostering spiritual growth, biblical understanding, and ministry preparation. Our programs are intentionally theological, ministerial, and ecclesiastical in nature. Through fully online education, we seek to strengthen your knowledge of God’s Word, encourage Christlike character, and prepare you for effective service within the Christian community. Whether you are preparing for ministry, missions, church leadership, or deeper theological study, our programs are designed to support your calling and spiritual development.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider whether Living Stones Christian University is the place where God is leading you to grow, learn, and prepare for service. May the Lord richly bless you as you pursue His purpose for your life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix', followed by a long horizontal line.

Dr. Felix Ibarra

Executive Rector, Living Stones Christian University



Welcome to Living Stones Christian University. Inspired by 1 Peter 2:5, our institution is committed to preparing believers for Christian leadership, ministry, and service through biblically grounded education centered on the authority of God's Word.

Living Stones Christian University provides accessible online theological education designed to support spiritual growth, biblical understanding, and academic development within a Christ-centered learning environment.

Our programs are intentionally religious and ministerial in nature, equipping students for faithful service within the Church and Christian community.

As a fully online institution, we seek to make quality Christian education available to students regardless of location or schedule while maintaining meaningful academic standards and a strong commitment to Christian character and servant leadership.

Thank you for considering Living Stones Christian University as part of your educational journey. We look forward to serving students who desire to grow in faith, knowledge, leadership, and commitment to Christ-centered service.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'C' followed by several loops and a final flourish.

Carlos C. Gonzalez

President, Living Stones Christian University

1.2 INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Living Stones Christian University is a nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institution operating exclusively under the religious exemption provisions of **Florida Statute §1005.06(1)(f)**. The institution is incorporated in the State of Florida as a nonprofit religious educational ministry and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of ordained ministers and Christian leaders.

The University offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs exclusively in the categories of Christian theology, Christian ministry, pastoral leadership, biblical studies, and related ecclesiastical disciplines. All programs are designed to prepare students for religious vocations as pastors, ministers, missionaries, and Christian leaders within the faith community.

All programs at Living Stones Christian University are delivered in a fully online format that integrates asynchronous coursework with optional synchronous virtual masterclasses and real-time interactive academic instruction where specified. Guided by biblical principles and a Christ-centered mission, the University seeks to cultivate spiritual growth, academic excellence, and servant leadership while preparing students to fulfill their God-given calling in ministry.

1.3 INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

Living Stones Christian University is led by ordained ministers and Christian leaders with active ministry experience and ecclesiastical affiliations, including ministerial service connections with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and Ministerio Internacional Roca Eterna. These ministry relationships reflect the spiritual background of the institution's leadership and its commitment to biblical doctrine, Christian discipleship, servant leadership, and Kingdom-centered ministry preparation. Such affiliations are ecclesiastical in nature and do not constitute institutional accreditation or governmental recognition.

Living Stones Christian University was established by a fellowship of ordained ministers, missionaries, and Christian leaders united by a shared commitment to advancing the Kingdom of God through Christ-centered theological education grounded in the authority of Holy Scripture and the historic Christian faith. Recognizing the growing need for accessible and biblically faithful ministerial training, the founders established the University to prepare men and women for Christian ministry, discipleship, leadership, and service in the Church and among the nations.

Drawing upon decades of combined experience in pastoral ministry, missionary service, discipleship, leadership development, and theological education, the institution was established as a ministry dedicated to equipping men and women of active religious conviction for Christian service. From its inception, the University has operated under the conviction that theological education is fundamentally an ecclesiastical ministry entrusted to the Church, and that religious institutions possess both the right and responsibility to prepare ministers according to their doctrinal convictions.

The name “Living Stones Christian University” is derived from 1 Peter 2:5, wherein believers are described as “living stones” being built into a spiritual house. All programs are delivered in a fully online format that combines asynchronous coursework with occasional synchronous virtual instruction. This educational model enables students from diverse geographic regions and ministry contexts to pursue biblically grounded theological education while maintaining vocational, ministry, family, and church responsibilities.

1.4 MISSION STATEMENT

Living Stones Christian University exists to glorify God and advance the Kingdom of God by equipping men and women of active religious conviction for vocational Christian ministry through rigorous theological education, spiritual formation, and practical ministry training, all conducted in faithful submission to the authority of Holy Scripture and in accordance with the historic Christian faith.

1.5 PURPOSE STATEMENT

The fundamental and singular purpose of Living Stones Christian University is to equip and prepare men and women with active religious convictions to serve as religious ministers and ministry leaders.

Our educational efforts are concentrated strictly in the categories of pastoral ministry, Christian theology, religious education, biblical studies, and church administration. The institution does not offer programs of a secular nature, nor does it prepare students to enter professions regulated by secular state licensure or commercial licensing agencies.

All curricula, pedagogy, and learning environments are systematically designed to foster growth in the Christian faith, cultivate ethical spiritual leadership, and expand service to the religious community, operating in strict adherence to the principles of the Christian faith and the foundations of the Word of God.

The theme verse of Living Stones Christian University is *"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"* (1 Peter 2:5).

1.6 STATEMENT OF FAITH

Living Stones Christian University is a Christ-centered religious institution committed to the authority of Holy Scripture and the historic Christian faith. The institution exists for the purpose of providing theological, ministerial, and ecclesiastical education grounded in biblical truth and devoted to the preparation of students for Christian service and ministry leadership.

The following Statement of Faith reflects the institution's foundational doctrinal convictions and serves as the theological framework for its educational mission, instructional programs, and institutional policies.

>> 1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. Scripture is the final authority for faith, doctrine, Christian living, and ministry practice.

>> 2. The Trinity

We believe in one eternal God, Creator of all things, who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal in deity, power, glory, and majesty.

>> 3. Jesus Christ

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, and future visible return in power and glory.

>> 4. Salvation

We believe that salvation is by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Humanity is separated from God because of sin, and redemption is found solely through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

>> 5. The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, regenerates believers, indwells and empowers Christians for holy living, spiritual growth, and effective ministry.

>> 6. The Church

We believe the Church is the Body of Christ, composed of all true believers, and is called to worship God, proclaim the Gospel, disciple believers, and serve the world in the name of Christ.

>> 7. Christian Life and Conduct

We believe Christians are called to live lives characterized by holiness, integrity, humility, love, compassion, and obedience to biblical principles. Believers are encouraged to pursue spiritual maturity and faithful participation in the life and mission of the Church.

>> 8. Christian Ministry and Education

We believe theological education and ministry preparation should remain rooted in biblical truth, spiritual formation, Christian character, and service to the Church and Christian community. The institution exists to equip students for Christian ministry, leadership, discipleship, teaching, and related religious vocations.

>> 9. The Return of Christ

We believe in the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of God's eternal kingdom according to the teachings of Scripture.

>> 10. Religious Mission

Living Stones Christian University operates exclusively for religious and ecclesiastical educational purposes. All academic programs, institutional activities, and policies are intended to support the institution's Christian mission and Statement of Faith.

This Statement of Faith serves as the doctrinal foundation of Living Stones Christian University and informs its educational philosophy, curriculum, governance, and community standards.

1.7 BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Living Stones Christian University is dedicated to teaching the truth of God's Word, which renews the mind, transforms the heart, and conforms believers to the image of Jesus Christ. Scripture declares, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom*" (Colossians 3:16), and it is from this biblical foundation that all learning and instruction proceed. Christian education is not merely the transmission of information to the intellect, but a spiritual and formative process that shapes the character, convictions, worldview, and conduct of each student.

The Apostle Paul exhorted believers to "*be transformed by the renewing of your mind*" (Romans 12:2) and taught that all wisdom and knowledge are ultimately found in Christ (Colossians 2:3). Therefore, Living Stones Christian University seeks to provide an education that honors God, advances His Kingdom, equips students for faithful Christian service, and prepares them to fulfill their divine calling in ministry, leadership, and discipleship.

The curriculum is intentionally designed to cultivate biblical wisdom, theological understanding, spiritual maturity, servant leadership, and Kingdom-centered living. As Paul wrote in Colossians 1:28, "*Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*"

1.8 RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION DISCLOSURE

Living Stones Christian University operates under the laws of the State of Florida and in accordance with the religious exemption provisions set forth in **Florida Statute §1005.06(1)(f)**.

The institution has received a Letter of Exemption from the Florida Commission for Independent Education (CIE) recognizing the University as a religious institution exempt from Commission jurisdiction pursuant to Florida Statute §1005.06(1)(f). Accordingly, Living Stones Christian University operates as a religious exempt institution and is not required to obtain licensure from the Commission for Independent Education for the religious and ecclesiastical programs it offers.

The programs and academic degrees awarded by the institution are strictly religious, theological, and ecclesiastical in nature. In accordance with Florida statutory requirements applicable to religious exempt institutions, all degree titles include the religious modifier “Christian” (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in Christian Theology; Master of Arts in Christian Ministry).

As a religious exempt institution, Living Stones Christian University does not hold accreditation recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), does not participate in Title IV federal student financial aid programs, and does not receive federal or state educational funding.

1.9 ACCREDITATION AND TRANSFERABILITY DISCLOSURE

Living Stones Christian University is a religious exempt institution and does not hold regional or national accreditation recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The University operates exclusively for religious and ecclesiastical educational purposes and does not participate in federal or state financial aid programs.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TRANSFERABILITY AND RECOGNITION

Because Living Stones Christian University is not accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the USDOE or CHEA:

- Students are not eligible for Title IV federal financial aid or state financial assistance programs.
- Credits earned at this institution may not transfer to other colleges, universities, seminaries, or educational institutions. Transferability is always at the sole discretion of the receiving institution.

- Degrees earned from this institution may not be recognized by certain employers, licensing agencies, governmental entities, or other institutions.
- Programs are designed primarily for religious, theological, and ecclesiastical purposes and are not intended to satisfy secular professional licensure requirements.

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to verify transfer policies with any intended receiving institution prior to enrollment.

1.10 INSTITUTIONAL DISCLOSURES (CONSUMER INFORMATION)

In accordance with Florida Statute §1005.04 regarding fair consumer practices, Living Stones Christian University provides the following institutional disclosures to all prospective and enrolled students:

- **(a)** The institution's religious mission, educational purpose, programs, curriculum, delivery format, and administrative operations are described throughout this catalog.
- **(b)** The institution's religious exempt status under Florida law is disclosed in Section 1.8.
- **(c)** Tuition, fees, payment obligations, cancellation policies, and student retention policies are described in Section 5.
- **(d)** Policies concerning the transferability and acceptance of academic credits are addressed in Sections 2.4 and 2.5.
- **(e)** The institution does not participate in Title IV federal student financial aid programs or state financial assistance programs.
- **(f)** The institution does not guarantee employment placement, professional licensure, or vocational advancement. See Section 7.6.
- **(g)** The institution's programs are religious and ecclesiastical in nature and are not designed to prepare students for state licensure or secular professional certification.
- **(h)** All institutional publications, promotional materials, and advertising are intended to be truthful, accurate, and not misleading.
- **(i)** The institution's refund and cancellation policies are published in Section 5.2.
- **(j)** Student grievance, complaint, and dispute resolution procedures are described in Sections 7.4 through 7.6.
- **(k)** Prior to enrollment or the collection of tuition or fees, prospective students are provided with disclosures regarding tuition and fees, refund policies, graduation requirements, academic standards, and other material institutional policies.

1.11 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, AND FACULTY

Board of Directors

Division		
Academic Leadership	 Felix Ibarra Executive Rector	 Betsy Arenas Provost
Executive Leadership	 Carlos C. Gonzalez President	 Olga Garcia Vice President for Institutional Development

Academic Leadership & Faculty Affairs	 Milka Barker Dean of Graduate Studies	 Wendy Arenas Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Academic Leadership & Faculty Affairs	 Cesar Martinez Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs	

Faculty

The faculty consists of ordained ministers, experienced missionaries, and Christian scholars with advanced degrees in theology, biblical studies, ministry, or related ecclesiastical disciplines. Faculty are selected on the basis of academic qualifications, ministerial experience, doctrinal alignment with the Statement of Faith, and demonstrated Christian character.

Faculty List / Faculty Qualifications

Faculty Member	Academic Qualifications	Granting Institution
Felix Ibarra	• Doctor of Theology • Master of Theological Studies • Bachelor of Theology • Bachelor's Degree in Family Counseling	REDIME Christian University (Florida) CELA International University (Florida) CELA International University (Florida) SAIRV University (Mexico)
Betsy Arenas	• Doctor of Theology • Master of Theological Studies • Bachelor of Theology • Bachelor's Degree in Family Counseling	REDIME Christian University (Florida) CELA International University (Florida) CELA International University (Florida) SAIRV University (Mexico)
Milka Barker	• Master of Divinity • Bachelor's Degree in Eng. Language	RAPITRE Seminary (Panama) University of Panama
Cesar Martinez	• Master of Theological Studies; Bachelor of Theology	REDIME Christian University (Florida)
Wendy Arenas	• Bachelor of Theology	REDIME Christian University (Florida)
Cristal Shailer	• Master of Theology • Bachelor of Theology	REDIME Christian University (Florida); SAIRV University (Mexico)
Sharon Valmon	• Master of Theology • Bachelor of Theology	REDIME Christian University (Florida)
Jose Ramos	• Master of Divinity • Bachelor of Theology	REDIME Christian University (Florida); RAPITRE Apostolic Seminary

Faculty members are selected based upon their academic preparation, ministry experience, Christian leadership background, and alignment with the institution's religious mission and Statement of Faith.

1.12 CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:

Living Stones Christian University

7901 4th St N, Suite 300

St. Petersburg, FL 33702

United States of America

Phone: +1 (727) 634-9795

Email:

- General Inquiries: info@livingstoneschristianuniversity.org
- Admissions: admissions@livingstoneschristianuniversity.org
- Registrar: registrar@livingstoneschristianuniversity.org
- Student Services: support@livingstoneschristianuniversity.org

Administrative Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, excluding holidays.

SECTION 2: ADMISSIONS

2.1 ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Undergraduate Admission Requirements

To be admitted to an undergraduate program, applicants must:

1. Possess a standard high school diploma or recognized equivalent (e.g., GED).
2. Submit a completed Application for Admission accompanied by the \$100.00 USD application fee.
3. Submit official transcripts from all prior postsecondary institutions, if any.
4. Submit a typed *Personal Statement of Faith and Vocational Purpose* (minimum 500 words).

5. Complete the institutional Admissions Evaluation Form.

Graduate Admission Requirements

To be admitted to a graduate program, applicants must:

6. Hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized institution.
7. Submit a completed Application for Admission accompanied by the \$100.00 USD application fee.
8. Submit official transcripts showing conferral of the bachelor's degree and any graduate-level work.
9. Submit a typed *Personal Statement of Faith and Vocational Purpose* (minimum 750 words).
10. Submit a Clergy Recommendation Form.
11. Complete the institutional Graduate Admissions Evaluation Form.

Application Fee Refundability: The \$100.00 application fee is refundable only if the applicant cancels in writing within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of payment and prior to final enrollment processing or the start of classes, whichever occurs first. After that period, the fee is non-refundable.

General Admission Policies

Admission is based upon evidence of saving faith in Jesus Christ, a demonstrated call to Christian ministry, academic preparedness, and alignment with the institution's Statement of Faith and standards of Christian character. The Office of Admissions reviews all completed application files, and applicants are generally notified of admissions decisions within five (5) calendar days following receipt of all required admissions materials.

Living Stones Christian University admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students, consistent with the institution's religious mission and doctrinal convictions.

2.2 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POLICIES

International applicants must satisfy the same admissions requirements applicable to domestic applicants and must additionally provide the following:

12. An official evaluation of non-U.S. academic credentials prepared by a recognized credential evaluation service.

13. Demonstrated proficiency in the primary language of instruction for the selected program (English or Spanish), if requested by the institution.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING VISA STATUS

Living Stones Christian University is a fully online institution and does not maintain a residential or physical instructional campus. The institution is not authorized to issue Form I-20 documentation and does not provide sponsorship for F-1 student visas. All international students complete their academic programs entirely through online education from their country of residence.

2.3 METHOD OF ASSESSING STUDENT ABILITY TO COMPLETE

In accordance with Florida Statute §1005.04(1)(b), Living Stones Christian University utilizes a comprehensive admissions evaluation process designed to assess each applicant's ability to successfully complete the selected program of study. The evaluation process includes:

14. **Educational Verification:** Verification of a high school diploma or recognized equivalent for undergraduate applicants, or a bachelor's degree or equivalent for graduate applicants.
15. **Academic Background Review:** Evaluation of official transcripts, prior academic performance, and educational history.
16. **Written Assessment:** Review of the applicant's Personal Statement of Faith and Vocational Purpose to evaluate written communication ability, theological understanding, and clarity of vocational ministry calling.
17. **Admissions Evaluation Form:** Completion of an institutional questionnaire to assess ministry objectives, Christian character, and alignment with the institution's mission and Statement of Faith.

If the institution determines that an applicant does not demonstrate reasonable preparedness or the ability to successfully complete the selected academic program, admission may be denied. In such instances, any refundable monies paid to the institution shall be refunded in accordance with the institution's published refund policies.

2.4 TRANSFER CREDIT POLICIES

The Registrar's Office evaluates transfer credits on an individual basis according to the following criteria:

- The coursework must originate from an institution that is either (a) accredited by an agency recognized by the US Department of Education or CHEA, (b) a religious exempt institution operating under Florida Statute §1005.06(1)(f) or similar state law, or (c) a theological seminary or bible college with a documented history of academic rigor.
- The course content, academic rigor, learning outcomes, and credit value must be substantially comparable to courses offered by Living Stones Christian University.
- A minimum grade of "C" (2.0 GPA equivalent) is required for undergraduate transfer credit consideration, and a minimum grade of "B" (3.0 GPA equivalent) is required for graduate-level transfer credit.
- Transfer credits must appropriately apply toward the student's declared program of study and degree requirements.
- The University reserves the right to require course descriptions, syllabi, catalogs, or additional documentation when evaluating transfer coursework.

Residency Requirement: Regardless of transfer credits accepted, all students must complete the minimum residency requirements specified in Section 8 (Graduation Requirements) for their respective program. Final determination regarding the acceptance and applicability of transfer credits rests solely with the Office of the Registrar and the Academic Administration.

2.5 STATEMENT REGARDING TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDITS

Notice Concerning the Transferability of Credits and Credentials

>

The acceptance of transfer credits is always the exclusive prerogative of the receiving institution. Credits earned at Living Stones Christian

University may not be accepted by other colleges, universities, or employers. No representation is made that credits or degrees earned here will be accepted for transfer or recognized for employment, promotion, or salary enhancement.

>

Students anticipating transfer are strongly urged to contact the receiving institution in advance.

SECTION 3: ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND REGISTRATION

3.1 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Living Stones Christian University operates on a three-term academic calendar consisting of Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. Academic terms are generally structured as follows:

Semester	Duration
Fall Semester	16 weeks (August – December)
Spring Semester	16 weeks (January – May)
Summer Semester	12 weeks (May – August)

Specific academic dates, registration periods, holidays, and term schedules are published annually through the institution's official academic calendar and website. Students may apply and enroll at the beginning of any academic term, subject to admissions deadlines and program availability.

3.2 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Initial Enrollment

Applicants who are granted admission receive an official notice of acceptance together with registration and enrollment instructions. Registration is conducted electronically through the institution's Learning Management System (LMS) and administrative enrollment process.

Continuing Enrollment

Continuing students complete course registration through the LMS during the designated registration period prior to each academic term. Late registration may be permitted at the discretion of the Office of the Registrar.

Adding and Dropping Courses

Courses may be added or dropped during the first seven (7) calendar days of the academic term without academic penalty or transcript notation. After this period, officially withdrawn courses will be recorded on the student's transcript with a grade of "W" (Withdrawal).

Prerequisites

Students are responsible for satisfying all prerequisite requirements listed within applicable course descriptions and program curricula as published in Section 10 of this catalog.

SECTION 4: ACADEMIC POLICIES

4.1 ACADEMIC POLICIES OVERVIEW

Living Stones Christian University maintains academic standards designed to promote intellectual development, theological competency, spiritual maturity, and faithful Christian character consistent with the institution's religious mission and Statement of Faith.

4.2 DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

All degree programs include:

18. **Core curriculum** of required courses.
19. **Elective courses** allowing exploration of specific interests.
20. **Culminating requirement** (comprehensive examination, thesis, ministry project, practicum, or capstone assignment, as determined by the specific program).

Specific requirements for each program are detailed in Section 9.

4.3 GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Quality Points	Standing
A	93 – 100	4.00	Excellent
A-	90 – 92	3.70	Excellent
B+	87 – 89	3.30	Good
B	83 – 86	3.00	Good
B-	80 – 82	2.70	Good
C+	77 – 79	2.30	Satisfactory
C	73 – 76	2.00	Satisfactory
C-	70 – 72	1.70	Marginal
D+	67 – 69	1.30	Below Standard
D	63 – 66	1.00	Below Standard
D-	60 – 62	0.70	Below Standard
F	59 and below	0.00	Failure
P	—	—	Pass (non-GPA)
I	—	—	Incomplete
W	—	—	Official Withdrawal
UW	—	—	Unofficial Withdrawal

Incomplete Grades: A grade of **I** may be granted at the instructor’s discretion for extenuating circumstances. The student must request it in writing and complete the work within thirty (30) calendar days after the semester ends. If not completed, the **I** converts to the grade earned based on completed work (potentially an **F**).

Graduate students must earn a minimum grade of “B-” in graduate-level coursework for the course to apply toward degree completion requirements unless otherwise specified by the program.

4.4 GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

- **Undergraduate Programs:** Minimum cumulative GPA of **2.0** required for graduation.
- **Graduate Programs:** Minimum cumulative GPA of **3.0** required for graduation.

Academic Honors (Undergraduate):

- Summa Cum Laude: 3.90 – 4.00
- Magna Cum Laude: 3.75 – 3.89
- Cum Laude: 3.50 – 3.74

Graduate students are not eligible for Latin honors.

4.5 SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

Qualitative Standard (GPA):

- Undergraduate: minimum cumulative 2.0
- Graduate: minimum cumulative 3.0

Quantitative Standard (Pace):

Students must complete at least **67%** of all attempted credit hours. Attempted hours include courses graded **W**, **I**, or **F**.

Maximum Time Frame:

Students must complete their degree within **150%** of the standard program length (e.g., a 4-year program must be completed within 6 years; a 2-year master's program within 3 years).

SAP is evaluated at the end of each semester. Failure to meet SAP results in the academic statuses described in Section 4.6.

4.6 ACADEMIC PROBATION AND DISMISSAL

Academic Warning (internal status, not on transcript)

A student who fails to meet SAP for the first time may be placed on Academic Warning for one semester.

Academic Probation (recorded on transcript)

If the student fails to meet SAP after the warning semester, or if the cumulative GPA falls below the minimum, the student is placed on Academic Probation. The student must achieve a semester GPA above the minimum during the probationary semester.

Removal from Probation

The student is removed from probation when the cumulative GPA meets or exceeds the minimum.

Academic Dismissal

A student on probation who fails to achieve a semester GPA above the minimum, or who fails to complete any courses successfully for two consecutive semesters, or

otherwise demonstrates an inability to make satisfactory academic progress, may be dismissed. Dismissed students may petition for readmission after one calendar year; readmission is not guaranteed.

4.7 WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may withdraw at any time by:

21. Submitting a written notice to the Registrar (postal mail or email). The withdrawal date is the date of receipt.
22. Satisfying all financial obligations.

Official Withdrawal (W): No academic penalty; not calculated in GPA.

Unofficial Withdrawal (UW): Assigned when a student ceases participation without notifying the institution. Attendance in online courses is measured through academically related activity within the LMS, including assignment submissions, participation in discussion forums, examinations, or other documented instructional engagement.

Refunds are calculated per Section 5.2.

4.8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

A Leave of Absence (LOA) may be requested for health, family emergency, ministerial deployment, or other extenuating circumstances.

- Written request to the Registrar.
- Granted for up to **one (1) semester**, renewable once (maximum two semesters total).
- Time on LOA does not count toward the maximum time frame.
- No tuition or fees assessed during the leave.

4.9 CREDIT HOUR SYSTEM

For online education courses, academic engagement may include, but is not limited to:

- Reading assignments
- Recorded or live instructional lectures
- Research and writing assignments
- Discussion forum participation
- Examinations and assessments
- Ministry projects or practicum activities

The institution utilizes academically appropriate learning activities designed to achieve the stated learning outcomes and credit hour expectations for each course.

4.10 METHOD OF STUDY

Living Stones Christian University delivers all instruction through a **fully online, asynchronous learning model** within the institution's Learning Management System (LMS). Select courses may include optional or required synchronous sessions (e.g., virtual masterclasses, oral defenses) as specified in the course syllabus. Students are notified of any synchronous requirements at the time of registration.

Instructional methods include:

- Pre-recorded video/audio lectures
- Assigned readings
- Written assignments, research papers, summaries
- Online discussion forums
- Examinations and assessments

Each course provides a detailed syllabus. Students are responsible for reviewing it and adhering to all requirements.

4.11 COURSE LOAD AND PROGRAM DURATION

Full-Time Status:

- Undergraduate: 12+ credits per semester
- Graduate: 9+ credits per semester

Part-Time Status:

- Undergraduate: ≤ 11 credits per semester
- Graduate: ≤ 8 credits per semester

Estimated Program Duration:

Program	Total Credits	Full-Time Duration	Part-Time Duration
B.A. in Christian Theology	120	4 years (8 semesters)	5–6 years
B.A. in Christian Ministry	120	4 years (8 semesters)	5–6 years
M.A. in Christian Theology	48	18–24 months (5–6 semesters)	up to 3 years

M.A. in Christian Ministry	48	18–24 months (5–6 semesters)	up to 3 years
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Part-time duration estimates assume an average of 6 credit hours per semester. Students must complete within 150% of the standard program length as detailed in Section 4.5.

Actual program completion time may vary depending upon course load, transfer credits, academic progress, and individual student circumstances.

4.12 ONLINE ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

Students enrolled in online education courses are expected to maintain regular academic engagement through participation in instructional activities within the LMS. Academically related activities may include submission of assignments, participation in discussion forums, completion of examinations, interaction with faculty, or other documented educational activities.

Unofficial Withdrawal for Non-Attendance:

A student who fails to submit any academically related activity for a period of fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days during an active term may be administratively withdrawn and assigned a grade of “UW” (Unofficial Withdrawal). The institution will make reasonable efforts to notify the student via email before processing the withdrawal.

SECTION 5: TUITION, FEES, AND FINANCIAL POLICIES

5.1 TUITION AND FEES

Category	Amount	Frequency	Refundable
Application and Registration Fee	\$100.00	One-time	Refundable only if canceled days of payment and prior to enrollment processing; non-refundable thereafter
Tuition – Undergraduate	\$25.00 per credit hour	Per semester	Prorated per Refund Policy
Tuition – Graduate	\$25.00 per credit hour	Per semester	Prorated per Refund Policy
Official Transcript Fee	\$15.00	Per request	Non-refundable

Graduation Fee	\$100.00	One-time, upon petition	Non-refundable
Technology Fee	\$50.00	Per semester	Non-refundable
Returned Payment Fee	\$35.00	Per occurrence	Non-refundable

Tuition and institutional fees are subject to change upon thirty (30) calendar days' written notice to enrolled students. Changes shall not apply retroactively to previously completed enrollment periods.

5.2 REFUND POLICY

In accordance with Florida Statute §1005.04(1)(f):

Cancellation Before Instruction Begins:

A full refund of all refundable tuition and fees (excluding the non-refundable application fee after the period described in 5.1) will be granted if cancellation occurs within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of payment and prior to final enrollment processing or the commencement of classes, whichever occurs first.

Withdrawal After Instruction Begins (Prorated Refund of Tuition Only):

Withdrawal During	Refund of Tuition
First week	90%
Second week	80%
Third week	70%
Fourth week	50%
Fifth week	40%
Sixth week	30%
After sixth week	0%

Non-refundable fees (Application after the initial period, Technology, Graduation, Transcript, Returned Payment) are not refunded under any circumstance. All withdrawal requests must be in writing. Refunds are issued within thirty (30) calendar days.

5.3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Institutional Assistance: Limited institutional aid may be available in cases of genuine hardship; contact Student Accounts.

Title IV Federal Student Aid: Living Stones Christian University **does not** participate in Title IV programs (Pell Grants, Direct Loans, etc.). Students are not eligible for FAFSA-based aid.

Private Loans: Students are solely responsible for securing private loans. The institution does not act as a lender.

5.4 PAYMENT POLICIES

Full payment is encouraged at registration. Semester payment plans may be arranged through Student Accounts, requiring credit card or automatic bank draft.

All accounts must be paid by the end of the semester. Students with outstanding balances cannot register for subsequent semesters, and transcripts will not be released. No degree or transcript is issued until all accounts are settled.

SECTION 6: VIRTUAL EDUCATION AND ONLINE LEARNING POLICIES

6.1 ONLINE EDUCATION DELIVERY METHOD

Living Stones Christian University is a fully online institution. Instruction is delivered primarily through asynchronous online learning within the institution's Learning Management System (LMS), supplemented by optional or required synchronous virtual instruction, masterclasses, or faculty interaction where specified in the course syllabus. No on-ground classes, residencies, or in-person instructional sessions are required.

6.2 LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

The LMS serves as the University's virtual campus and provides students with access to:

- Course syllabi and instructional materials
- Pre-recorded video and audio lectures
- Digital library and academic resources
- Discussion forums and student interaction tools
- Assignment submission portals
- Quizzes, examinations, and assessments
- Grade reports and academic advising
- Technical support services

New students are required to complete an online orientation module upon receiving LMS access credentials.

6.3 TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Hardware Requirements

- Desktop computer, laptop, or tablet with adequate processing capability
- Reliable high-speed internet connection (broadband recommended)
- Speakers or headphones
- Webcam and microphone (recommended for virtual meetings or synchronous sessions)

Software Requirements

- Current web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Edge)
- Word processing software capable of opening and saving .doc/.docx or .rtf files
- PDF reader
- Active email account

Technical Skills

Students are expected to possess basic computer literacy skills, including internet navigation, email communication, file upload/download procedures, and participation in online instructional activities.

6.4 PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Administrative Facilities

Living Stones Christian University operates primarily through virtual instructional delivery and does not maintain a traditional campus for in-person classroom instruction. The institution's administrative headquarters are located at:

7901 4th St N, Suite 300

St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

United States of America

Virtual Learning Environment

The University's primary educational environment is its secure virtual learning platform hosted through the LMS. All instructional delivery, student engagement, assessments, and academic communication are conducted online. Appropriate cybersecurity and data protection measures are maintained to safeguard student records, academic information, and personal data.

Because the institution does not maintain residential or instructional campus facilities for students, campus housing and campus crime statistics applicable to traditional residential institutions do not apply.

SECTION 7: STUDENT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

7.1 STUDENT CONDUCT POLICIES

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Christian ethics, the Holy Scriptures, the institution's Statement of Faith, and standards of respectful academic engagement within the online learning environment. Students are expected to demonstrate honesty, integrity, moral responsibility, spiritual maturity, and respect toward faculty, staff, and fellow students. The institution reserves the right to impose disciplinary measures, including suspension or dismissal, for conduct inconsistent with institutional policies or biblical standards of Christian conduct.

7.2 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Integrity of Scholarship

Living Stones Christian University is committed to academic honesty, intellectual integrity, and ethical Christian scholarship. Students are expected to complete all academic work with honesty, responsibility, and respect for the work of others.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Presenting another person's work, ideas, or language as one's own without appropriate acknowledgment or citation
- Improper paraphrasing or failure to provide proper attribution to sources
- Unauthorized collaboration on assignments or examinations
- Submitting substantially the same work for multiple courses without prior approval
- Falsification, fabrication, or misrepresentation of academic information
- Misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or other technologies in a manner inconsistent with course instructions or academic integrity standards

The use of AI-assisted technologies for research, editing, brainstorming, language support, or study assistance may be permitted when authorized by the instructor and properly disclosed where required. Students remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of all submitted work.

Violations of academic integrity standards may result in academic or disciplinary action, including assignment failure, course failure, academic probation, suspension, or dismissal, depending upon the severity and frequency of the violation.

7.3 STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Living Stones Christian University seeks to foster a Christ-centered academic community marked by integrity, mutual respect, spiritual maturity, servant leadership, and personal responsibility. Students are encouraged to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Christian values, biblical principles, and the institution's Statement of Faith.

The University encourages students to cultivate Christian character through ethical conduct, respectful communication, spiritual growth, and active participation in healthy Christian fellowship and ministry. Students are also encouraged to maintain involvement in a local church or faith community as part of their personal and spiritual development.

As a faith-based religious institution, Living Stones Christian University reserves the right to uphold standards of conduct reasonably consistent with its religious mission, biblical convictions, and educational objectives.

7.4 STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Living Stones Christian University encourages the informal resolution of concerns whenever possible through direct communication with the appropriate faculty member, staff member, or administrative office. When informal resolution is not satisfactory, students may submit a formal complaint in accordance with the following procedures:

23. **Formal Complaint Submission:** A formal complaint must be submitted electronically or in writing to the Office of Student Services within thirty (30) calendar days of the incident or matter giving rise to the complaint. The complaint should clearly describe the issue, relevant facts, supporting documentation (if applicable), and the desired resolution.
24. **Institutional Review and Response:** The Office of Student Services will review the complaint and provide a written response within thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of the complaint.
25. **Appeal to the Dean of Academic Affairs:** If the student is dissatisfied with the response, a written appeal may be submitted to the Dean of Academic Affairs within fifteen (15) calendar

days of the institutional response. The Dean will review the matter and issue a written decision within thirty (30) calendar days.

26. **Final Institutional Appeal:** A final written appeal may be submitted to the Office of the President within fifteen (15) calendar days following the Dean's decision. The President's decision shall be considered final and binding within the institution.

Students who have exhausted the institution's internal complaint procedures may contact the Florida Commission for Independent Education regarding questions related to the institution's religious exempt status or institutional operations:

Florida Commission for Independent Education

325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1414

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

United States of America

7.5 APPEALS PROCEDURES

Students may appeal certain academic or disciplinary decisions, including final course grades involving alleged grading errors or procedural irregularities, academic probation or dismissal decisions, and disciplinary sanctions.

27. **Submission of Appeal:** Appeals must be submitted electronically or in writing to the Dean of Academic Affairs within fifteen (15) calendar days of the decision being appealed. The appeal must clearly state the basis for the appeal and include any supporting documentation.
28. **Review Process:** The Dean may review the appeal independently or convene an Appeals Committee when deemed appropriate.
29. **Written Decision:** A written decision will ordinarily be issued within thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of the appeal.
30. **Final Institutional Review:** Students may request a final review by the President within fifteen (15) calendar days of the Dean's decision. The President's determination shall constitute the institution's final decision.

7.6 STUDENT SERVICES

Living Stones Christian University seeks to provide academic, spiritual, and administrative support services appropriate to its mission as a fully online Christian institution.

Academic Advising: Students are assigned academic advising support upon enrollment to assist with program planning, course sequencing, academic progress, and degree completion requirements.

Technical Support: Technical assistance related to the LMS and online instructional access is available during normal institutional business hours.

Library and Learning Resources: Students are provided access to digital theological and academic resources, including electronic books, journals, research materials, and online learning support tools.

Spiritual and Ministry Support: The institution encourages students to maintain active involvement in a local Christian church and to cultivate a lifestyle consistent with biblical principles, Christian character, and faithful service to the body of Christ.

Vocational Disclaimer: Living Stones Christian University does not guarantee employment placement, ministry appointment, hiring by any organization, professional licensure, or salary outcomes. Programs are designed primarily for religious, theological, ministerial, and ecclesiastical preparation. **NO EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT OR VOCATIONAL OUTCOME IS GUARANTEED, EXPRESSED, OR IMPLIED.**

7.7 PRIVACY AND STUDENT RECORDS POLICY (FERPA)

Living Stones Christian University seeks to maintain the privacy, confidentiality, and security of student educational records consistent with institutional policy and applicable privacy principles, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) where applicable. Students may request access to their educational records, request correction of inaccurate information, and authorize disclosures where appropriate.

The institution maintains reasonable administrative and technological safeguards to protect student information within its online systems and administrative operations.

Additional policies concerning student records, privacy practices, and records access procedures are published in the Student Handbook.

7.8 NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Living Stones Christian University admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students.

The institution does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship opportunities, or other institutionally administered programs, consistent with its religious mission.

As a religious exempt institution operating pursuant to its sincerely held religious beliefs, the University reserves the right to make employment, admissions, disciplinary, and conduct decisions consistent with its Statement of Faith and biblical convictions regarding Christian doctrine, ministry qualifications, marriage, sexuality, and Christian conduct.

SECTION 8: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

8.1 UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the conferral of the Bachelor of Arts in Christian Theology or the Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry, a student must:

31. Successfully complete a minimum of 120 semester credit hours.
32. Achieve a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0.
33. Satisfy all required core curriculum and elective course requirements for the selected degree program.
34. Successfully complete the program's required culminating academic requirement, which may include a comprehensive examination, senior thesis, ministry practicum, capstone project, or other approved academic assessment as designated by the program.
35. Complete a minimum of thirty (30) of the final thirty-six (36) semester credit hours through Living Stones Christian University (residency requirement).
36. Fulfill all financial obligations to the institution prior to graduation clearance and diploma issuance.
37. Remain in good standing with the institution's academic integrity, student conduct, and community standards policies.

8.2 GRADUATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the conferral of the Master of Arts in Christian Theology or the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, a student must:

38. Successfully complete a minimum of 48 semester credit hours.
39. Achieve a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0.

40. Satisfy all required core curriculum and elective course requirements for the selected graduate program.
41. Successfully complete the program's required culminating academic requirement, which may include a thesis with virtual oral presentation or defense, comprehensive examination, ministry project, capstone assignment, or other approved graduate-level assessment as designated by the program.
42. Complete a minimum of thirty-six (36) semester credit hours through Living Stones Christian University (residency requirement).
43. Fulfill all financial obligations to the institution prior to graduation clearance and diploma issuance.
44. Remain in good standing with the institution's academic integrity, student conduct, and community standards policies.

SECTION 9: PROGRAMS OF STUDY

9.1 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Living Stones Christian University offers the following degree programs:

Undergraduate Degree Programs

- Bachelor of Arts in Christian Theology (B.A.)
- Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry (B.A.)

Graduate Degree Programs

- Master of Arts in Christian Theology (M.A.)
- Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (M.A.)

All degree programs offered by Living Stones Christian University are religious, theological, and ecclesiastical in nature and are designed exclusively to prepare students for Christian ministry, biblical leadership, discipleship, theological education, ministry service, and related religious vocations.

Every degree title includes the religious modifier "Christian" in accordance with Florida Statute §1005.06(1)(f) governing religious exempt institutions.

All programs are delivered through fully online instruction utilizing asynchronous coursework supplemented by virtual instructional interaction where applicable.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The programs offered by Living Stones Christian University are strictly religious and ecclesiastical in nature and are not designed to prepare students for state-regulated professional licensure, governmental certification, or secular professional practice. Credits and degrees earned at the institution may not transfer to other institutions or be recognized by certain employers or licensing agencies. See Section 1.9.

9.2 BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY (B.A.)

120 Semester Credit Hours

Program Objective

The Bachelor of Arts in Christian Theology is designed to provide students with a comprehensive foundation in biblical studies, Christian doctrine, theological interpretation, church history, apologetics, and spiritual formation from a biblical and evangelical Christian perspective. The program prepares students for Christian ministry, teaching, discipleship, apologetics, church leadership, and advanced theological study.

Religious and Ministry Purpose

Graduates may pursue service in religious and ecclesiastical vocations including church ministry, biblical teaching, discipleship leadership, apologetics ministries, missions, Christian education, curriculum development, and related ministry settings consistent with the institution's religious mission.

Program Duration: Approximately 48 months (4 years) of full-time study.

Core Curriculum (90 Credits)

Code	Course	Credits
BBL 101	Old Testament Survey	3
BBL 102	New Testament Survey	3
BBL 201	Hermeneutics	3
BBL 202	Biblical Interpretation and Exegesis	3
BBL 301	Pentateuch	3
BBL 302	Historical Books	3
BBL 303	Poetic Books and Wisdom Literature	3
BBL 304	Major Prophets	3
BBL 305	Minor Prophets	3

BBL 401	Gospels and Life of Christ	3
BBL 402	Acts and Pauline Epistles	3
BBL 403	General Epistles and Revelation	3
THE 101	Introduction to Systematic Theology	3
THE 201	Theology I: Prolegomena, Bibliology, Theology Proper	3
THE 202	Theology II: Christology and Pneumatology	3
THE 301	Theology III: Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology	3
THE 302	Theology IV: Ecclesiology	3
THE 401	Theology V: Eschatology	3
THE 402	Theology VI: Applied Theology	3
HIS 201	Church History I	3
HIS 301	Church History II	3
APO 301	Christian Apologetics	3
MIN 101	Introduction to Christian Ministry	3
MIN 301	Evangelism and Missions	3
MIN 401	Homiletics: Principles of Preaching	3
PTH 201	Spiritual Formation	3
PTH 301	Ministerial and Spiritual Formation	3
PTH 401	Christian Ethics	3
CAP 490	Senior Theological Research Project	3

Electives (30 Credits) from general offerings.

9.3 BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (B.A.)

120 Semester Credit Hours

Program Objective

The Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry is designed to prepare students for practical Christian ministry through biblical studies, theology, pastoral ministry training, discipleship, leadership development, evangelism, and ministry administration within church and ministry contexts.

Religious and Ministry Purpose

Graduates may pursue service in religious vocations including pastoral ministry, missions, church leadership, discipleship ministries, youth ministry, worship ministry, church administration, Christian education, and other ministry-related service opportunities.

Program Duration: Approximately 48 months (4 years) of full-time study.

Core Curriculum (84 Credits)

Code	Course	Credits
BBL 101	Old Testament Survey	3
BBL 102	New Testament Survey	3
BBL 201	Hermeneutics	3
BBL 301	Pentateuch	3
BBL 401	Gospels and Life of Christ	3
BBL 402	Acts and Pauline Epistles	3
THE 101	Introduction to Systematic Theology	3
THE 201	Theology I: Prolegomena, Bibliology, Theology Proper	3
THE 202	Theology II: Christology and Pneumatology	3
THE 401	Theology V: Ecclesiology	3
MIN 101	Introduction to Christian Ministry	3
MIN 201	Church Administration	3
MIN 202	Christian Leadership	3
MIN 301	Evangelism and Missions	3
MIN 302	Pastoral & Biblical Principles	3
MIN 303	Worship and Liturgy	3
MIN 401	Homiletics	3
MIN 402	Pastoral Theology	3
MIN 403	Church Planting and Growth	3
MIN 404	Youth and Family Ministry	3
PTH 201	Spiritual Formation	3
PTH 301	Spiritual Leadership and Discipleship	3
PTH 302	Christian Ethics	3
HIS 201	Church History I	3
APO 301	Christian Apologetics	3
MIN 490	Ministerial Practicum	6

Electives (36 Credits) from general offerings, adjusted to reach 120 total credits.

9.4 MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY (M.A.)

48 Semester Credit Hours

Program Objective

The Master of Arts in Christian Theology provides advanced theological education in biblical interpretation, systematic theology, historical theology, apologetics, and theological research from a Christian worldview. The program is designed to strengthen

theological competency, ministry leadership, teaching preparation, and advanced academic study.

Religious and Ministry Purpose

Graduates may pursue religious vocations and ministry opportunities including biblical teaching, theological instruction, discipleship leadership, apologetics ministry, pastoral support roles, Christian research, and advanced theological education.

Program Duration

Approximately 18–24 months of full-time study.

Core Curriculum (36 Credits)

Code	Course	Credits
BBL 501	Advanced Hermeneutics	3
BBL 502	Biblical Theology	3
THE 501	Prolegomena, Bibliology, Theology Proper	3
THE 502	Christology and Pneumatology	3
THE 503	Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology	3
THE 504	Ecclesiology and Eschatology	3
HIS 501	Patristic and Medieval Theology	3
HIS 502	Reformation and Modern Theology	3
APO 501	Advanced Christian Apologetics	3
RES 501	Theological Research and Writing	3
—	Electives (2 courses)	6
RES 601	Master's Thesis	6

Total: 48 Credits

9.5 MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (M.A.)

48 Semester Credit Hours

Program Objective

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry is designed to develop spiritually mature Christian ministry leaders through advanced biblical, theological, pastoral, and leadership training integrated with practical ministry application.

Religious and Ministry Purpose

Graduates may pursue service opportunities in pastoral ministry, church leadership, discipleship ministries, missions, ministry administration, Christian ministries, and related ecclesiastical vocations.

Program Duration

Approximately 18–24 months of full-time study.

Core Curriculum (39 Credits)

Code	Course	Credits
BBL 501	Advanced Hermeneutics	3
BBL 502	Biblical Theology	3
THE 501	Prolegomena, Bibliology, Theology Proper	3
THE 502	Christology and Pneumatology	3
THE 503	Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology	3
THE 504	Ecclesiology and Eschatology	3
MIN 501	Advanced Pastoral Theology	3
MIN 502	Homiletics: Advanced Preaching	3
MIN 503	Pastoral & Biblical Principles	3
MIN 504	Church Administration and Leadership	3
MIN 505	Missions and Church Planting	3
ETH 501	Christian Ethics for Ministry	3
MIN 601	Ministerial Culminating Project	3

Electives (9 Credits) from graduate offerings. **Total: 48 Credits**

SECTION 10: COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(Representative course descriptions are provided below. The complete catalog contains the full listing of all courses and academic offerings.)

10.1 DEPARTMENT OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

BBL 101 – Old Testament Survey (3 Credits)

A comprehensive overview of the Old Testament, examining the historical background, literary structure, theological themes, and redemptive message of each book. Emphasis is placed on understanding God’s covenantal relationship with His people and the continuity of Scripture within the Christian faith tradition.

BBL 201 – Hermeneutics (3 Credits)

An introduction to the principles and methods of biblical interpretation, including grammatical-historical interpretation, literary analysis, contextual study, and the role of the Holy Spirit in illumination and application of Scripture.

BBL 501 – Advanced Hermeneutics (3 Credits) (Graduate)

Advanced study of biblical interpretation, including the history of hermeneutical methods, theological interpretation, genre analysis, and advanced exegetical methodology for graduate-level theological research and ministry application.

10.2 DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

THE 101 – Introduction to Systematic Theology (3 Credits)

An introductory study of Christian doctrine, including the nature, sources, organization, and development of systematic theology within the evangelical Christian tradition.

THE 302 – Theology IV: Ecclesiology and Eschatology (3 Credits)

A detailed study of the doctrine of the Church and the doctrine of last things, including church governance, ordinances, the mission of the Church, and major evangelical eschatological perspectives.

THE 504 – Ecclesiology and Eschatology (3 Credits) (Graduate)

Advanced theological study of the doctrine of the Church and the doctrine of last things, including church governance, ordinances, the mission of the Church, and major evangelical eschatological perspectives.

10.3 DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

MIN 101 – Introduction to Christian Ministry (3 Credits)

An overview of biblical ministry foundations, ministerial calling, servant leadership, discipleship, and practical ministry responsibilities within the local church context.

MIN 401 – Homiletics: Principles of Preaching (3 Credits)

A study of sermon preparation and delivery, including biblical exposition, sermon structure, communication principles, and practical preaching methods for ministry settings.

MIN 501 – Advanced Pastoral Theology (3 Credits) (Graduate)

Advanced examination of pastoral ministry responsibilities, including shepherding, spiritual leadership, pastoral care, church administration, discipleship, and ministry ethics.

10.4 DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PTH 201 – Spiritual Formation (3 Credits)

A study of biblical spiritual disciplines and Christian character development designed to encourage spiritual maturity, personal devotion, and faithful Christian living.

PTH 401 – Christian Ethics (3 Credits)

An examination of biblical ethics and moral decision-making from a Christian worldview, including contemporary ethical issues affecting ministry and Christian discipleship.

10.5 DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH HISTORY AND APOLOGETICS

HIS 201 – Church History I (3 Credits)

Survey of the historical development of the Christian Church from the apostolic era through the medieval period, emphasizing doctrinal development, major movements, and influential Christian leaders.

APO 301 – Christian Apologetics (3 Credits)

Introduction to the defense of the Christian faith, including biblical foundations for apologetics, responses to objections against Christianity, worldview analysis, and evangelistic engagement.

10.6 RESEARCH AND CULMINATING PROJECTS

RES 501 – Theological Research and Writing (3 Credits) (Graduate)

A graduate-level course on research methodologies, academic writing, and proper citation practices for theological and biblical studies. Required for all master's students prior to thesis or culminating project.

RES 601 – Master's Thesis (6 Credits) (Graduate)

Independent research and writing of a master's thesis under faculty supervision. Includes an online oral presentation and thesis defense.

MIN 601 – Ministerial Culminating Project (3 Credits) (Graduate)

A practical ministry project that integrates advanced learning with real-world ministry application. Includes a written report and virtual presentation.

CAP 490 – Senior Theological Research Project (3 Credits) (Undergraduate)

A capstone research project demonstrating theological competence and research skills. Required for B.A. in Christian Theology.

MIN 490 – Ministerial Practicum (6 Credits) (Undergraduate)

Supervised ministry experience in a local church or ministry setting, combined with reflective analysis and faculty evaluation. Required for B.A. in Christian Ministry.

SECTION 11: LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

11.1 CATALOG REVISION CLAUSE

This Academic Catalog supersedes all previous editions and institutional publications. Living Stones Christian University reserves the right to revise, modify, or discontinue policies, procedures, academic programs, tuition, fees, schedules, or other provisions contained in this catalog at its discretion.

Material changes affecting currently enrolled students will generally be communicated through official institutional communication channels and, when applicable, with reasonable advance notice (typically thirty (30) calendar days for changes to tuition, fees, or graduation requirements).

11.2 INSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS RESERVED STATEMENT

Living Stones Christian University operates as a religious educational institution and reserves all rights and protections afforded under the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Florida applicable to religious organizations and religious educational institutions.

The University maintains the right to establish faith-based educational standards, doctrinal requirements, codes of Christian conduct, and institutional policies consistent with its religious mission, Statement of Faith, and sincerely held biblical convictions.

Admissions, enrollment, employment, disciplinary decisions, and institutional policies may be administered in a manner consistent with the institution's religious beliefs and ecclesiastical purpose.

11.3 INDEX

A complete index is included in the full institutional catalog edition.

"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

— 1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV)

Living Stones Christian University

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St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

United States of America

Email: admissions@livingstoneschristianuniversity.org

Website: www.livingstoneschristianuniversity.org

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