

Theology and Religious Studies With the Pastoral Ministry Concentration Bachelor of Arts 2025-2026

General Areas of Service:

A degree in Theology and Religious Studies with the Pastoral Ministry Concentration provides students with a wide range of skills in both theology and leadership. Most students earning this degree enter pastoral as ministerial interns. Other graduates use it as the basis for pursuing more specialized careers in secondary education, advanced graduate work, chaplaincy, or even law.

Professional Training:

An undergraduate degree in Theology and Religious Studies qualifies students to be hired as ministerial interns and for entry into the Master of Divinity program in the SDA Theological Seminary, which is the standard educational background for Adventist clergy. Students who are hired as interns typically spend one to two years working in a local church after graduation, before being sponsored to the Seminary for two years. Students not receiving an internship are responsible for pursuing their own seminary education following graduation.

Job Outlook:

The prospect of future employment as a minister in the SDA denomination is very promising! With an aging pastoral workforce in North America, there is a growing need for new ministers. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings:

The annual wage for SDA ministers depends on years of service and location. An entry-level salary can range from \$40,000 to an ordained senior pastor level at \$78,000 per year. (See www.bls.gov)

Note:

Exit Exams: Theology and Religious Studies majors must successfully complete a Senior Comprehensive Examination to graduate. Students taking the Pastoral Ministry concentration are also required to take a Greek and Hebrew exit exam prior to graduation. Students who pass at appropriate levels may not need to take the full Biblical language sequence if they attend the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Minor: Theology and Religious Studies majors are required to take a minor. Due to the highly structured nature of the degree, students pursuing the Pastoral Ministry concentration are encouraged to select the Biblical Languages minor. This minor gives students the greatest amount of flexibility in arranging their class schedule and thus graduating within four years.

Internship Program: Majors pursuing the Pastoral Ministry Concentration must complete an internship approved by the School of Theology. Those anticipating pastoral work in the Seventh-day Adventist Church must participate in the three-quarter internship program operated jointly between the School of Theology and the Upper Columbia Conference. A ten-week summer internship program with the North Pacific Union Conference is highly recommended. More details about this program can be found in the School of Theology Handbook.

Endorsement Process: Majors who want to receive a recommendation for denominational hiring need to gain Endorsement by a two-step process described in the School of Theology Handbook, which is described in the School of Theology Handbook.

ACA - Adventist Colleges Abroad summer programs are available for Hebrew in Jerusalem. Contact the School of Theology for more information.

Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 192 cr
GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS: 77-85 cr. [See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details](#)
The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a bachelor's degree in Theology and Religious Studies with Pastoral Ministry Concentration.

All B.A. degrees require a minor Cognates are listed in *italic*

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Admin Building
(509) 527-2194

Websites

[School of Theology](#)
[Walla Walla University](#)
[Academic Bulletin](#)

Faculty

Chair
[Carl P Cosaert](#)

Advisors
[Tiago Arrais](#)
[Carl P. Cosaert](#)
[Brant Berglin](#)
[Paul Dybdahl](#)
[Mathilde Frey](#)
[Pedrito Maynard-Reid](#)

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Intr. to Faith & Ministry (RELP 131)	4
Introduction to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
General Studies	4
Science Sequence (BIOL 105)	4
PE Course	1
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Exploring the New Testament (RELB 231)	4
Math Course (MATH 105)	4
Introduction to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
Science Sequence (BIOL 105)	4
PE Course	1
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Messages of the Old Testament (RELB 111)	4
GS Electives	4
Fundamental of Speech (SPCH 101)	4
Social Sciences GS	4
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
History of Christianity (HIST 254)	4
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
Humanities	3
Bib. Prch: Found. (RELP 281)	2
Greek I (GREK 231)	4
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
History of Adventism (RELH 457)	3
Systematic of Theology I (RELT 456)	3
Religious History Cognate	4
Public Evangelism I (RELP 492)	1
Tpc: Grief & Loss (RELP 400)	2
Comm. Eng. Church (SERV 305)	2
Electives	1
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Minor Electives	8
Greek II (GREK 331)	4
Electives	4
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Junior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Minor Electives	6
Church & Personal Ministry (RELP 336)	2
Hebrew I (HEBR 331)	4
Bible Studies Elective	4
Pastoral Internship (RELP 385)	0
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Revelation (RELB 313)	4
Bib. Prch.: Expos. (RELP 382)	2
Hebrew I (HEBR 331)	4
Community Engage. For Churches (SERV 305)	2
Electives	4
Pastoral Internship (RELP 385)	0
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
World Religions (RELH 303)	4
Pentateuch (RELB 302)	4
Hebrew II (HEBR 332)	4
General Studies	4
Pastoral Internship (RELP 385)	0
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Senior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Pastoral Care (RELP 482)	2
Medieval and Renaissance History (HIST 437)	4
Systematic Theology I (RELT 456)	4
Minor Electives	6
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
History of Adventism (RELH 457)	3
Systematic Theology II (RELT 457)	4
Church Leadership (RELP 485)	2
Public Evangelism I (RELP 492)	1
Electives	6
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Seminar Bible Hermeneutics (RELB 496)	4
Christian Ethics (RELT 348)	4
Public Evang. II (RELP 493)	1
<i>Tpcs: Grief and Loss</i> (RELP 400)	2
Minor Electives	2
Prophetic Inspiration (RELT 417)	3
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16