

Christian Alliance Ministries

Northwestern Theological Seminary

International Branch Seminary Program

"Celebrating 26-Years of Christian Service, 1980 -2006"

Frequently Asked Questions about the Northwestern Theological Seminary, Branch Seminary Program . . .

Is Northwestern Theological Seminary accredited?

Northwestern Theological Seminary has satisfied all requirements and has received full accreditation status with The American Accrediting Association of Theological Institutions. Also known as the A.A.A.T.I. Address: P.O. Box 8939 Rocky Mount, NC 27804 Phone: 1-(252)-451-0024

How does Northwestern Seminary differentiate itself from other traditional Theological Schools?

Primarily Northwestern offers a research base system of education. Northwestern Theological Seminary also utilizes a unique process for learning developed by our founder, Dr. Howard M. Sarkela, in early August of 1980. This process called "The analytical approach to applied education" is more than a teaching system and better termed as a contemporary process for learning and applying knowledge. Dr. Sarkela who has attended numerous colleges and universities found that the old system of education was greatly lacking in effectiveness and efficiency. He found that the archaic, yet still in practice, system of memorizing lists and cramming for examinations resulted in considerable loss of knowledge because of the fact that much which is memorized, through cramming, goes into our short term memory and may be quickly forgotten. As a result of this discovery he decided that there must be a better way whereby students can acquire knowledge and assimilate it while at the same time being better enabled to retrieve it for application in their lives and careers.

How much does the Branch Seminary program opportunity cost?

As part of our Branch Seminary program, Northwestern Theological Seminary offers both an Associate and a Bachelor Theology in Biblical Studies Degree Programs to International churches, and ministries who charter with our ministry at no cost. The Associate of Theology in Biblical Studies, but not the Bachelor Degree, is offered at no cost to qualifying U.S. Churches and ministries. These ministries are then allowed to charge a small tuition and keep 100% for the development of their ministry program. The branch seminary concept allows ministries to reach out to even the poorest student allowing him or her to receive theological education at a fraction of traditional seminary cost. In some cases you can get local sponsors from your own Church or other churches, Businessmen or acquaintances to fund those who are very poor and cannot come up with the fees. You can also introduce a scholarship program and identify sponsors for supporting deserving students. All that is required to start a Branch Seminary is a home or church to meet in for ONE evening per week. Supplies required are just Bibles, Paper and Pencils.

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How Difficult Are Northwestern Theological Seminary Branch Courses?

A NORTHWESTERN SEMINARY course has a different “feel” than a traditional College course. Many College courses ask you to read a textbook or more, write some papers and perform examinations and you are done. At NORTHWESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, we teach from an experiential learning, researched based model. The Northwestern Seminary Program is unique when compared to the traditional programs that are offered in many parts of the world. The curriculum is based entirely on the BIBLE and no other textbooks are required. One analyzes to learn the answers to specific questions for each study: 1. What is the Lord teaching me in this Scripture text? 2. How can I apply this information to my ministry of helping others? When we analyze by asking personal questions, we look for and find results, which are easily remembered. Basically, learning is simply questions and answers. The key is in asking the right questions.

What is the Syllabus and books recommended to complete the Branch Seminary program?

At Northwestern, we believe that the BIBLE is the “Ultimate” book of knowledge, which surpasses every other book of literary knowledge known to man in terms of theological education. You can expect to connect with the content available from the Bible and then learn by doing a number of smaller tasks and activities with the content throughout the course. You need to remember that the HOLY SPIRIT is your Guide, Director and Teacher in whatever you learn in the Branch seminary program. There is no “cramming the night before it’s due” at NORTHWESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. Learning is progressive and builds upon previous learning with activities or “experiences.” You will need to do a minimum of five to ten hours of home study per week.

What are your academic standards? Our academic standards are in keeping with our partner colleges as members of **The American Accrediting Association of Theological Institutions.**

Are credits transferable to other accredited Bible colleges? Yes, by registering to take a NORTHWESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY course, you may be able to transfer that courses credit to another Bible college. This is contingent upon the decision of the Bible College or Seminary that you are applying to.

Can I take an entire Degree program through NORTHWESTERN SEMINARY? Yes, Northwestern Theological Seminary offers the most time efficient and affordable way ever to receive your quality, theologically accredited, Associate of Theology in Biblical Studies degree while working at your own pace from two to four years at any of the Branch seminaries located near you.

Can I take just few courses? Of course! You are welcome to work at your own pace and complete as many assignments as you are able to in accord with your own schedule. This is the beauty of our branch seminary program.

How is NORTHWESTERN different than a correspondence school? Because of the simplicity of our, Basic Bible study, report writing curriculum, students may enroll at any time. Our students can interact with the material being studied and engage in a discussion with your Branch Seminary instructor and fellow students ONE evening each week. You will have regular weekly contact with your instructor and other students. Depending on how hard you work at home and how many hours you spend studying your Bible, it will take a minimum of 2, to a maximum of 4 years, to complete the 120 credit hour course of instruction.

Is there special computer software needed to study with NORTHWESTERN SEMINARY?

No. We design our courses so that even if you don't have a computer, you may still study and complete our courses. All that is required is: Pencils, Paper and Bibles.

Can we promote this Branch seminary through our Church cell groups?

Absolutely. You can promote the Branch seminary program through the Cell churches within your respective Churches or in alliance with other Churches and ministries. You can ask your Cell Church or Care cell leaders to take up the initiative to lead a branch seminary group each week. This should result in exponential growth in terms of reaching out to more potential students.

What are the other ministries developed under the leadership of Dr. Sarkela and Dr. Galloza?

The following ministries were established under the able guidance and visionary zeal of Dr. Howard Sarkela and Dr. Samuel Galloza:

1. Christian Alliance Ministries Worldwide
2. Northwestern Theological Seminary
3. Northwestern Christian University, Africa
4. The Theology Journal
5. The International Association of Christian Theologians
6. Prisoners for Christ, USA

Recently, we heard from reliable sources that you are establishing a full time Northwestern Christian University, is it true?

We just received wonderful news from Africa. Co-founders, National Director, Dr. Edward Ade in Ghana, West Africa and Christian Alliance Ministries President Dr. Howard M. Sarkela have opened the Northwestern Christian University in Ghana, Africa. Dr. Ade has also been approved to build a new building to house Northwestern Christian University on land donated to the ministry. This involves a joint VISION that both Dr. Ade and Dr Sarkela have to build a Bible City there. At the center of the City, will be our Northwestern Christian University and also a Government building that is part of the agreement with the Government there. Northwestern Christian University is chartered by Christian Alliance Ministries / Northwestern Theological Seminary.

Dr. Edward Ade has been appointed as the President of the University in Africa and Dr. Sarkela remains as the Presiding Pastor. This university will offer residential degree programs on campus to all citizens of the continent of Africa only. Please pray for the success and development of this new Christian University in Ghana, West Africa. We thank the Lord for all He is doing in the fulfillment of the VISION that He gave to Dr. Ade and Dr.Sarkela.

Contact Us

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“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses Entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”- 2 Timothy 2: 2