

# Seattle Pacific Seminary

DEFINING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION THROUGH  
ACADEMY, ABBEY, AND APOSTOLATE



Master of Divinity

Master of Arts

Dual Degrees (MBA, MFT)

Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies



# Seattle Pacific Seminary

A century of tradition that is shaping the new millennium

Revival, reformation, reconciliation. More and more these words are challenging the way people think about what they need for preparing for ministry in the new millennium. The choices are often between graduate programs that face the ancient past without accounting for the clear and present needs of today or being solely concerned about the latest, greatest “new thing” without resourcing the richness of people and traditions that God has continued to use for the sake of the gospel from generation to generation.

At Seattle Pacific Seminary, we offer the best of both tradition and innovation. Here you'll find a center point in a turning world that provides the foundation for scholarly study, vocational exploration, and preparation for Christian leadership, be it in the classroom, congregation, or your community. This “center point” reaches deep into the ancient faith of the Church, is conversant with the fullness of a university campus and its disciplines, and is street-ready and hands-on in practical application for a calling to ministry, whether in the inner city or in the rural church.

## Our Distinctive Vision

Seattle Pacific Seminary integrates scholarship, spiritual edification, and service — concepts we call “Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate®.”



## Academy

Seattle Pacific Seminary is known for its rigorous yet supportive academic environment. Our faculty are outstanding scholars who value academic excellence and teaching that cultivates your theological formation and vocational development.

## Abbey

We stress accountable discipleship and provide opportunities for you to fellowship in Christian community. Our purpose is that you will be formed more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

## Apostolate

Seattle Pacific Seminary is an “Apostolate” — a place of sending forth. You will have opportunities for urban and multicultural experiences, and you will be prepared for professional service in a variety of contexts that are suitable to your calling.



“Unite the pair so long disjoined,  
knowledge and vital piety:  
learning and holiness combined.”

CHARLES WESLEY, 1780



# Multiple Options. One Philosophy.

Seattle Pacific Seminary offers multiple degree options (see page 5). All are built on the classical theological disciplines of Scripture, church history, theology, and ethics. Each is informed by the Seminary’s Wesleyan heritage that unites “knowledge and vital piety” as a means of engaging the culture with the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

## The Core Curriculum

Seattle Pacific Seminary’s graduate degree programs are based on a core curriculum that consists of three intensive introductory courses on the intersection of Christian formation and: 1) Discipleship, 2) Mission, and 3) Reconciliation (6 credits). In addition, you are required to take three courses of each in Bible, church history, and theology/ethics (27 credits), in conjunction with the Graduate Core Practicum (6 credits). You are also required to take a course in vocational discernment and discipleship (3 credits).

### Intensive Introductory Courses | 6 CREDITS

**Christian Formation in Discipleship: Acts of Piety** Introduces you to the spiritual practices associated with what John Wesley called “works of piety.” You will live in community for a week at SPU’s Camp Casey, a stunning retreat center on Whidbey Island, and engage in the academic study and practice of these acts of piety.

### Christian Formation in Mission: Acts of Mercy and Justice

Introduces you to the ministry practices associated with what John Wesley called “works of mercy.” You will be immersed in Seattle’s urban context, and visit churches and ministries that are addressing issues of systemic injustice, and creatively serving diverse communities.

### Christian Formation in Reconciliation: Social Holiness in Context

Introduces you to the art of practicing mutual soul care in the context of an accountability group that is intentionally diverse. This class, in conjunction with the accountability groups, helps you understand the foundational principles of Christian reconciliation and gain the practical wisdom needed to implement such groups in various ministry settings.

### Graduate Core Practicum | 6 CREDITS

The Graduate Core Practicum plays an essential role in helping integrate the “Academy” aspect of your theological study with the Seminary’s “Abbey” and “Apostolate” distinctives in your first year. You will connect your Core courses (i.e., Christian Scripture, Global Christian Heritage, and Theology/Ethics) with your spiritual formation as disciples of Jesus Christ and your vocational development as a Christian leader.

## Intensives feature island renewal, urban plunge, and multiethnic discipleship

You’ll participate in intensive courses at the beginning of each academic year, where you engage in a focused study on Christian formation in a nontraditional setting. In year one, you’ll live in community with your classmates and practice the “Acts of Piety” at SPU’s Camp Casey, located on beautiful Whidbey Island in Puget Sound. In year two, you’ll engage in the “Acts of Mercy and Justice” in the streets and shelters of Seattle. And in your third year, you’ll study Christian Reconciliation in an ecclesial setting.



## Seminary Programs

### Master of Divinity (MDiv) | 108 CREDITS

This degree incorporates knowledge of Christian heritage, understanding of cultural context, growth in spiritual depth and moral integrity, and capacity for ministerial and public leadership. This integrated program provides a breadth of exposure to the various theological fields of study, educating you for a comprehensive range of pastoral responsibilities and skills in ordained ministry. It is also the recommended first theological degree for admission to doctoral programs oriented to theological research and teaching.

### Master of Arts (MA) | 78 CREDITS

In addition to the 42-credit core courses that are the foundation of the degree, the Master of Arts degree brings the interdisciplinary insights and methods of the fine arts, business, and the social sciences into the study of theology and the practice of Christian ministry.

*Specializations include:*

### Christian Scripture

Designed to deepen your understanding and appropriation of the Bible as the church’s Scripture. You will study ancient texts within the Church’s larger canonical context: its foundational theology, ethics, and history of interpretation.

### Christian Studies

This self-designed degree is suited for students who have a personal interest in theological study, are engaged in congregational or parachurch ministries, or are considering further advanced academic study in theology.

### Christian Leadership

Combines rigorous study in the classical theological disciplines with the interdisciplinary study of leadership and organizations. You will also be prepared to serve in diverse settings and trained for various ministry leadership skills (e.g., preaching, pastoral care, and administrative leadership).

### Business and Applied Theology

Combines rigorous study in the classical theological disciplines with the interdisciplinary study of business administration and marketplace spirituality. You will be equipped to live a more integrated life of faith and mission as a manager, administrator, and/or leader in the marketplace or a Christian organization.

### Reconciliation and Intercultural Studies

This degree will prepare you to minister effectively in a diverse, global society. Rooted in God’s mission that the church should be an agent of reconciliation, this track explores the connections between cultural, theological, social, and missiological perspectives that promote reconciliation in a divided world.

### Asian American Ministry

Designed to equip Christian leaders to minister effectively in Asian American and multiethnic churches and communities by combining a core study of theology with a specialized study in race, culture, psychology, Christian reconciliation, and Asian American identity and context.

### Dual Degrees (MBA, MFT)

Together with SPU’s School of Business, Government, Economics, and School of Psychology, Family, and Community and Seattle Pacific Seminary offers these dual degrees:

- MBA / MA — Christian Studies
- MBA / MDiv
- MS in Marriage and Family Therapy / MA — Christian Studies
- MS in Marriage and Family Therapy / MDiv

Our dual-degree programs are configured to enable you to earn two advanced degrees in less time than it would take to earn the degrees separately.

### Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies (GCCS) | 25 CREDITS

The Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies (GCCS) equips you with an understanding of Christian formation, including the practices that nurture an ongoing life of discipleship and mission. The GCCS is a highly flexible program designed for students seeking vocational discernment or for anyone who simply desires to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith.



“Seattle Pacific Seminary trains the next generation of Christian leaders to engage the multicultural context of our world with the powerfully humble message of Jesus Christ. We dare to hope that our students will be sent out as intellectually stimulated, spiritually transformed, mission-focused servants of the gospel.”

DOUGLAS STRONG  
DEAN AND HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY PROFESSOR

## Faculty of Seattle Pacific Seminary.....

**Miriam Adeney**  
**Associate Professor of World Christian Studies**  
MA, Syracuse University; PhD, Washington State University

**Brian Bantum**  
**Associate Professor of Theology**  
MTS, PhD, Duke University

**Daniel Castelo**  
**Professor of Dogmatic and Constructive Theology**  
MDiv, Church of God Theological Seminary; PhD, Duke University

**Katherine Douglas**  
**Assistant Professor of Educational Ministry and Practical Theology**  
MDiv, PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary

**Robert R. Drovda**  
**Professor of Educational Ministry**  
MA, Wheaton Graduate School; PhD, Michigan State University

**Laura C.S. Holmes**  
**Associate Professor of New Testament and Associate Dean**  
MDiv, PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary

**Jeffrey Keuss**  
**Professor of Christian Ministry, Theology, and Culture**  
MDiv, Fuller Theological Seminary; PhD, University of Glasgow

**Sara M. Koenig**  
**Associate Professor of Biblical Studies**  
MDiv, PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary

**Douglas Koskela**  
**Professor of Theology**  
MDiv, Duke Divinity School; PhD, Southern Methodist University

**Michael D. Langford**  
**Associate Professor of Theology, Discipleship, and Ministry**  
MDiv, PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary

**J.J. Johnson Leese**  
**Assistant Professor of Christian Scripture**  
MDiv, Fuller Theological Seminary; PhD, University of Durham

**David Leong**  
**Associate Professor of Missiology**  
MA, Regent College; PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary

**Bo H. Lim**  
**Associate Professor of Old Testament**  
MDiv, PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

**Brenda Salter McNeil**  
**Associate Professor of Reconciliation Studies**  
MDiv, Fuller Theological Seminary; DMin, Palmer Theological Seminary

**David Nienhuis**  
**Professor of New Testament Studies**  
MDiv, Duke University Divinity School; PhD, University of Aberdeen

**Steve Perisho**  
**Theology/Philosophy Librarian**  
MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary; MLIS, Rutgers

**Matthew Sigler**  
**Assistant Professor of Wesleyan Theology**  
MA, Asbury Theological Seminary; PhD, Boston University

**Frank Spina**  
**Professor of Old Testament**  
MDiv, Asbury Theological Seminary; PhD, University of Michigan

**Richard B. Steele**  
**Professor of Moral and Historical Theology**  
MDiv, Yale Divinity School; PhD, Marquette University

**Douglas M. Strong**  
**Dean and Professor of the History of Christianity**  
MDiv, PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary

**Robert W. Wall**  
**The Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies**  
ThM, ThD, Dallas Theological Seminary

At Seattle Pacific Seminary, stretch your mind, grow in faith, and engage the culture with the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

## General Admissions Information

Women and men admitted to Seattle Pacific Seminary will demonstrate a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ, a commitment to the proclamation of the reign of God, an ability to succeed academically in master’s level work, and an emotional and spiritual readiness to undertake graduate theological study.

### Requirements for Admission

1. A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (4.0=A) in all undergraduate work. You must submit transcripts from all undergraduate institutions.
2. Two letters of recommendation: one from a clergy person, church staff person, or parachurch professional who will attest to your spiritual and vocational readiness for graduate theological study; and one from a former professor (or, with permission from the Seminary, from an employment supervisor) who will attest to your work ethic, your critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, and your academic preparedness for graduate theological study.
3. A typed personal statement, three to four pages long, which will serve to describe you as a Christian as well as provide an accurate indication of writing and grammatical skills. The statement should address career objectives, a narrative of personal Christian experience, rationale for seeking the degree and choosing to attend Seattle Pacific Seminary, and other insights you deem appropriate.
4. If English is not your first language, you must submit scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A minimum score of 550 on the paper-based test or 213 on the computer-based test is required.
5. If you are not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, you must provide an official confidential affidavit of financial support covering the first year of intended enrollment. Without this document, Seattle Pacific Seminary cannot issue an I-20 immigration form.

### Credit for prior coursework

If you wish to apply graduate-level coursework that you completed at a regionally accredited university, divinity school, or seminary into the MA or MDiv degree programs, you must provide applicable transcripts and/or syllabi with your application.

### Transferable credits

You may transfer up to 26 quarter credits from an ATS-accredited institution into the MA degree program and up to 36 quarter credits into the MDiv program. Each course will be considered on a case-by-case basis as to the fulfillment of specific curricular requirements. Work completed more than seven years before the date of transfer or courses passed below the grade of B (3.0) may not be accepted. In all cases, the final 36 MDiv credits or 26 MA credits will be taken at SPU.

### Admissions Process

**Send all application information to:**  
Graduate Admissions  
Seattle Pacific University  
3307 Third Avenue West, Suite 111  
Seattle, WA 98119-1922

**For admissions questions,** contact Seattle Pacific Seminary at 206-281-2342 or [seminary@spu.edu](mailto:seminary@spu.edu).

The Seattle Pacific Seminary Admissions Committee will evaluate each candidate on the basis of his or her application materials. The combination of previous coursework, academic achievement, professional experience, vocational preparedness, and personal goals will be used in evaluating each candidate.

About SPU

From our global, future-facing location, Seattle Pacific University equips resilient leaders. Compelled by Christian faith, the University prepares students to serve a world that needs their talents.



206-281-2342 | [seminary@spu.edu](mailto:seminary@spu.edu) | [spu.edu/seminary](http://spu.edu/seminary)

