



Proposal for Course of Study of the Ministry & Higher Education Commission
Developed by a Collaborative Effort: The Committee on Approval, Courses Committee,
and Fully Approved Institutional Partners of the Global Methodist Church
March 2, 2026

Rationale:

The Global Methodist Church is committed to raising up clergy who are theologically grounded, spiritually mature, and practically equipped for ministry. We have multiple points of delivery for these formational and educational programs which intend to offer quality theological formation while also being pragmatically oriented to the ministry candidate. In particular, three exist: degreed (M.Div, M.A., etc), course of study, and in time, the GMC School of Ministry. In order to ensure well-formed and effective clergy, clear and consistent standards for the Course of Study program are essential.

Unlike accredited degree programs, whose academic and formational requirements are governed by external accrediting bodies, the Course of Study is a certificate program. While the Course of Study coursework may transfer into a degree program, it does not operate under the same formational accreditation structures. Therefore, it is essential that the Global Methodist Church establish and maintain clear standards to ensure that the formation of our clergy will occur across all approved Course of Study programs.

Accordingly, in collaboration with the Committee on Approval and Courses Committee of the Ministry and Higher Education Commission, along with the approved institutional partners as of the date above, we the Ministry and Higher Education Commission have approved the following standards...

Course of Study Standards

Implementation Timeline:

Required Measurements Effective Immediately for Newly Applying (Prospective) Schools
Required Measurements Effective 7.1.2027 for Schools Approved prior to March 2026

Academic Framework:

Course of Study Standards are based upon Association of Theological Schools Metrics

72 Total Required Hours Per Course (1/3 Faculty + 2/3 Student)

GMC Stipulated 24 Minimum Faculty Hours (1/3 of Total Time)

(In-person) Synchronous Online Class Meetings,
Faculty Led Seminars, Lectures, Discussions
(Online – Synchronous or Asynchronous) Video, Lectures, faculty guided discussions,
Synchronous Mentoring or Class Meetings

GMC Stipulated 48 Minimum Student Hours (2/3 of Total Time)

Required Readings, Written Assignments, Papers,
Reflection Journals, Fieldwork, Projects
Group Work, Presentations

Institutional Delivery:

Master Level content shall be required of all courses.

Courses may be Synchronous or Asynchronous.

Graded Courses shall be required including a grade demonstrating competency of content (or better) is required to be applied toward ordination. Competency shall be determined by each local Board of Ministry.

Courses shall be taught by instructors with a formal tie to the institution - faculty, adjunct, or instructor.

Finally, the Ministry and Higher Education Commission is exploring the possibility of having an objective seminary content assessment for ministry candidates prior to being approved for ordination. If agreed upon, we may reach out to our educational partners to consider a collaborative effort in helping us assemble this. The assessment would be administered by Annual Conference Boards of Ministry of our Global Methodist Church. If we move forward with this proposal, we will reach out to our educational partners later in 2026.