

Pilgrim Theological Seminary

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO WE ARE: Pilgrim Theological Seminary (PTS) is a new non-profit seminary which will open in September, 2014 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In addition, the seminary extends the opportunity for theological education to incarcerated men and women in state and federal prisons throughout the United States.

THE GOAL: PTS works to provide high-quality, affordable, and easily accessible theological higher education to those who desire to pursue advanced theological study. Primary purpose: prepare Christian leaders to serve the church and the world.

WHY: We have built our program upon the belief that the opportunity for quality, life-long theological education should be available to Christians everywhere. We believe that it is the right and duty of every individual to perfect their God given talents and to have access to the kind of education that will enable him or her to do so.

DEGREES: The seminary will initially offer three undergraduate degrees. These are:

Associate in Christian Studies = 60 credit hours total. 24 general edu., 24 theological studies, and 12 electives.

Bachelor in Christian Leadership = 126 credit hours total. 36 general edu., and 36 theological studies; transfer or complete an additional 30 hours in one of the following areas: Communication, Business, Christian Education, Criminal Justice, Legal Studies, or Community Development.

Bachelor of Pastoral Ministry = 126 credit hours total. No electives with a precise course listing online in these categories (previously called "certificates"): Psychology, Communication, American Society, Biblical Studies, Church History – Theology – Ethics, The Church in the World, plus Christian Caregiving and Counseling. Science and Math requirement = 9 credit hours.

Some of our online courses will be available this fall. The seminary's first graduate degree program, the Masters in Theological Studies, is scheduled to begin in 2015.

COST: PTS does not charge tuition, though we expect all students to donate. There is an application fee and a charge for examinations. These fees can be reduced or waived for the incarcerated community based upon need.

BOOKS: Textbooks are generally available (for purchase or rent) from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Half.com, and other retailers; some are customized e-books. Special arrangements are made for our incarcerated students, such as lecture transcripts mailed in.

ACCREDITATION DETAILS: As a new institution, the seminary is not yet eligible to seek accreditation. In the meantime, the seminary submits our study resources and exams for review to the National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS). Receiving a recommendation for college credit from the NCCRS not only validates the quality of our programs of study offered by the seminary but also benefits students who might wish to transfer seminary credit to other institutions prior to the seminary becoming fully accredited, a process which usually takes several years. About 1,200 accredited colleges and universities accept NCCRS recommended credits nationwide. Their website is nationalccs.org.

TRANSFER CREDITS: Credits are considered for transfer from a variety of sources, including nationally recognized exams like CLEP and DANTES and recommendations from NCCRS. Additionally, you may also transfer credits earned at other accredited colleges, universities, or seminaries for which you received a grade of C or better.

EXAMS: Each student ready to take an exam must find a proctor (excluding family members). The PTS Exam Center charges \$100 annually to be registered in the system, plus \$18 for each exam.

The topics on this document are a condensed version of the information found at www.pilgrimseminary.us.