

Perkins COSS provides excellent and contextually relevant theological education for United Methodist local pastors in a welcoming and supportive community.

The Course of Study is a program of The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church, in partnership with and administered by Perkins School of Theology. It provides a basic theological education, as prescribed by the United Methodist Book of Discipline (par. 1421.3d), to licensed United Methodist local pastors. The Basic Course of Study is a 20-course curriculum required of all licensed United Methodist local pastors who are not enrolled in a seminary degree program.

Community life and worship is integral to the program. Students participate in cultural heritage programs, student council, fellowship events and a graduation celebration, as well as daily devotionals and chapel service. Students also have access to resources including the Bridwell Library, an on-site academic resources advisor, technology specialist, and a chaplain.

SUMMER: The summer Regional Course of Study School at Perkins is offered in a hybrid format with both face-to-face and online learning for full-time and part-time local pastors. Courses are offered in two sessions, and students may enroll in two courses per session. Perkins offers all 20 courses in English and 16 of the 20 courses in Spanish, and all worship and community life events are bilingual.

Each class includes:

Week 1: 10 hours of in-person learning

Week 2: 5 hours of learning in online class

Week 3: 5 hours of learning in online class

FALL & SPRING: Starting in February of 2020, the Regional COS School will offer two courses in the spring semester and two courses in the fall semester at Perkins.

Start Your Journey

Visit our website and apply online:
www.smu.edu/coss

Contact Us

Regional Course of Study School

Perkins School of Theology

P.O. Box 750133

Dallas, TX 75275-0133

214-768-2265

coss@smu.edu

Rev. Paul Barton, Ph.D.

Director

pbarton@smu.edu

214-768-2768

Melissa Hernandez Probus

Assistant Director

mhernandezprobus@smu.edu

214-768-2265

Follow us on Facebook:

facebook.com/COSSPerkins



Regional Course
of Study School

Extension Schools

The Regional Course of Study School at Perkins oversees three extension schools that offer courses for part-time local pastors only.

Texas Annual Conference Extension

Classes are offered on second Saturdays in spring (March-May) and fall (September-November). Six courses are offered each semester.

Contact: Rev. Stephanie Scott
903-262-0304
revsteph1952@gmail.com

North Texas Annual Conference Extension

Classes are offered in spring and fall. Visit the North Texas Conference website at ntcumc.org/board-of-ordained-ministry/licensed-ministry/course-of-study

Contact: Rev. Cassie Wade
214-763-8084
cassiewade@gmail.com

Arkansas Annual Conference Extension

Classes are offered three Saturdays each spring and fall semester, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Students can take one class per semester.

Contact: Rev. Judith (J.J.) Whitney
501-450-3801
whitney@hendrix.edu

Satellite Schools

Satellite schools are administered directly by Perkins Regional Course of Study School and offer courses semi-annually for part-time local pastors.

Satellite School for the Western Jurisdiction

Classes are offered in Spanish for local pastors primarily in the Western Jurisdiction. Part-time Spanish-speaking local pastors beyond the Western Jurisdiction are also welcome. Classes are offered in a hybrid format, with 10 hours online and 10 hours of face-to-face class time on a weekend.

More information: smu.edu/coss/wjsatellite

Satellite School at McMurry University

Classes meet once a month on Saturday for three months in the spring and fall.

Contact: Rev. John Miller
millerjb@mcm.edu

Satellite for the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

Classes are offered in the spring and fall for members of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and indigenous pastors beyond the conference. Applications from beyond these constituencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Classes begin in spring 2020.

Contact: Rev. David Wilson
DWilson@OIMC.org

Advanced Course of Study

The purpose of the advanced studies program is to fulfill requirements for both probationary and full membership in an annual conference (where an annual conference permits a non-seminary route). The advanced studies are not a requisite for serving as a local pastor or as an associate member. Educational credentials for local pastors comprise the successful completion of the five-year basic program. Advanced studies are designed for persons seeking probationary membership and commissioning toward ordained ministry.

The Book of Discipline requires that local pastors seeking probationary membership and commissioning complete 32 credit hours of graduate theological study or its equivalent. Advanced studies at Perkins offer the equivalent courses. These courses do not offer academic credit but do offer credit toward attainment of the 32-hour advanced program. Persons seeking academic credit may apply for admission to Perkins degree programs. Advanced Course of Studies courses may be taken during the academic year or during Perkins summer Regional Course of Study School.

"More than a program, we are a community."