Certificate in Ministry

Prospective Student Guide

Program Format

- Fall
- Winter
- Spring
- 10-week semesters
- 2 courses offered per semester
- Each course is $380. Financial aid available for those who qualify

Courses Offered

- Church History
- Theology
- Worship and Preaching
- Christian Education
- Pastoral Care
- PC(USA) Polity
- Ethics
- Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
- Introduction to New Testament

Course Information

- Credit/No Credit
- Not undergraduate or graduate
- cannot count towards master's degree
- 9-course sequence
- Complete any of the 7 courses within four years to earn a certificate

Learning Format

- 100% online
- Self-Paced
- Asynchronous
- Some faculty may offer some live zooms throughout the semester.

Completion Timeline

- 2 courses/Semester- About 1.5 years (4 semesters)
- 1 course/Semester- About 2.5 years (7 semesters)
- We recommend one course your first semester if you work full time

Before Classes Begin

- Microsoft Office
- Learning platform access included
- Login credentials sent before registration
- Syllabus and Reading available one week before semester begins.

Commissioned Ruling Elder: Our courses may satisfy the educational requirements for Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) preparation, depending on your presbytery.
Please note: Completing the Certificate in Ministry does not make someone a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Only a presbytery can authorize and commission an individual for that role. Austin Seminary provides the educational coursework but does not grant ecclesiastical titles or credentials.

Ready to Apply? Click Here to Begin Application