



ACADEMIC CATALOG

2027-2028

McGarvey College of the Bible

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Purpose and Philosophy

The purpose of McGarvey College of the Bible (MCOB) is twofold. We strive to provide quality biblical education to members of the churches of Christ worldwide through an online platform that accommodates students and facilitates the best possible learning experience. Our undergraduate classes are structured so that students can learn the Bible from Genesis through Revelation through a rigorous yet practical study of the scriptures at their own pace. Undergraduate classes are open to all members of the churches of Christ who seek to know the word of God more perfectly.

Secondly, we are dedicated to assisting churches of Christ worldwide by equipping ministers. Some preachers or men who desire to preach may enroll in our undergraduate program to lay a foundation for future studies. Preachers who have graduated from a school of preaching or an institution offering an undergraduate degree in biblical studies or the equivalent thereof, and who aspire to gain greater knowledge and capability in teaching the word of God, can enroll in one of our graduate programs. In this sense, we are unique. We offer a graduate school designed specifically for graduates of schools of preaching worldwide.

MCOB is dedicated to helping bi-vocational preachers continue their ministerial education. We recognize the need and desire of those limited by time restraints and location to learn in a college-level setting. Our schedule and online program are designed to meet these needs by offering a flexible study approach.

The philosophy guiding MCOB is wholly devoted to New Testament Christianity and the defense of holy scripture as the inspired word of God. Everything we intend to do is dedicated to

Christ, His word, and His church. We steadfastly promote the plea to return to New Testament Christianity through obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the gospel alone.

We believe that every generation needs “a voice crying in the wilderness” (Isaiah 40:3). We intend to be a “voice” for our generation and generations to come. Our voice will be heard through the work of our teachers and graduates worldwide as we are strengthened with might in our inner man by the Holy Spirit. We desire to call our world, our countries, our communities, our families, and when necessary, our congregations to faith, repentance, and obedience. Our plea is for a return to the “old paths” (Jeremiah 6:16). We believe in providing a truly distinctive school, not yielding to denominational doctrines or the men who teach them. We intend to conduct a school that says, “Here we stand, and we will stand immovable.” We hope to do so with great courage, enthusiasm, and strength that can come only from God.

Statement of Accreditation

MCOB receives no government funding. Our standing in the Lord’s church affirms our credentials and supports our work financially. We are determined and blessed not to seek any remuneration from the United States government. We are not bound by any of the rules they seek to impose upon educational institutions in general and Bible programs specifically. Our “rule book” is the Holy Bible. While we appreciate the government accrediting associations' intention to ensure that degrees granted are legitimate, our legitimacy comes from the work of our faculty, the students we train, and the good they do in the kingdom. Legitimacy of this nature is of the highest regard in our estimation and is sufficient for MCOB.

One of the many reasons MCOB does not seek government funding is the current threat such funding would pose to the truth of biblical teaching and training. As recently as 2021-22, the

117th Congress passed House Resolution 5 – a.k.a. “The Equality Act.” We fear this and other such future resolutions could be destructive to the nature of Christian education and accredited educational institutions as we know them. Our conviction is to avoid government regulations and resolutions that could hinder our ability to train gospel preachers effectively. Therefore, MCOB will not seek or accept any interference from any governing body that could have a detrimental effect on the stated purpose of MCOB.

Moreover, since MCOB does not charge its students for enrollment, tuition, or course-related fees, state accreditation is unnecessary. We are not, and will never be, a degree mill, preying upon its students for financial gain while offering diplomas scarcely worth the paper on which they are printed.

General Information

McGarvey College of the Bible offers undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees. Classes are conducted online, free of charge, and available during three semesters per year. Each course is distinctive in its approach to teaching New Testament Christianity while offering a balance of academic and practical learning. International students must be proficient in English and have access to a computer with Wi-Fi capabilities. English grammar and writing classes are available to international students when necessary.

Degree Programs

The curriculum at MCOB is designed for the student to advance through a study of every book in the Bible to a course study of ministerial essentials to an in-depth study of biblical doctrine,

languages, and theology, ultimately culminating in the student producing a scholarly contribution to his field of study with a formal written dissertation.

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies is designed to equip members of the Lord's church with greater knowledge of the word of God. Classes are open to men and women who have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Preachers, or men aspiring to preach, are encouraged to begin in this program if they have not completed an undergraduate program elsewhere. Transfer of credits from two-year preaching school programs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by MCOB.

Dual enrollment at MCOB may be available to high school students planning to attend a Christian college or university upon graduation. However, the student must confirm with the receiving institution that it will accept credits from MCOB upon enrollment at that institution.

To graduate from this program, the student must complete 30 Classes and 1 Comprehensive Exam, for a total of 124 semester hours. Students can move at their own pace. However, for those who are serious about advancing expeditiously to future programs at MCOB, a course load of 3 to 4 classes (12 to 16 hours) per semester is encouraged. Members of the churches of Christ can also audit any course being offered at any time, free of charge.

The curriculum for the BA in Biblical Studies consists of 15 Old Testament courses, 15 New Testament courses, and 1 comprehensive exam.

Old Testament (15 Classes)

- o OT 101 OT Introduction
- o OT 102 Pentateuch I (Genesis-Exodus)

- o OT 103 Pentateuch II (Leviticus-Numbers-Deuteronomy)
- o OT 104 Historical Books I (Joshua-Judges-Ruth)
- o OT 105 Historical Books II (1,2 Samuel-1,2 Kings, 1,2 Chronicles)
- o OT 206 Wisdom Literature I (Job-Psalms)
- o OT 207 Wisdom Literature II (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
- o OT 208 Isaiah
- o OT 209 Jeremiah
- o OT 210 Ezekiel
- o OT 311 Daniel
- o OT 312 Post-Exilic Historical Books (Esther-Ezra-Nehemiah)
- o OT 313 Hosea-Joel-Amos-Obadiah-Jonah
- o OT 314 Micah-Nahum-Habakkuk-Zephaniah
- o OT 315 Haggai-Zechariah-Malachi

New Testament (15 Classes)

- o NT 101 NT Introduction
- o NT 102 Matthew
- o NT 103 Mark
- o NT 104 Luke

- o NT 105 John
- o NT 206 Acts
- o NT 207 Romans
- o NT 208 1 Corinthians
- o NT 209 2 Corinthians
- o NT 210 Galatians-1,2 Thessalonians
- o NT 311 Ephesians-Colossians-Philippians-Philemon
- o NT 312 1,2 Timothy-Titus-James
- o NT 313 Hebrews
- o NT 314 1,2 Peter-1,2,3 John-Jude
- o NT 315 Revelation

Exams

- o CE 101 BA Comprehensive Exam (Capstone Class)

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Preaching students and church leaders who have completed MCOB's BA in Biblical Studies or a four-year program in Biblical Studies elsewhere are encouraged to enter the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program. In this program, the preaching student will find classes relevant to ministry. The MA in Christian Ministry consists of 14 Classes and 1 Comprehensive

Exam, totaling 45 semester hours. Students can continue to move at their own pace. However, for those who are serious about advancing expeditiously to future programs at MCOB, a course load of 2 to 3 classes (6 to 9 hours) per semester is encouraged. The curriculum is as follows:

- o MA 101 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Theology
- o MA 102 Church Growth and Personal Evangelism
- o MA 103 Christian Journalism
- o MA 104 Hermeneutics
- o MA 205 Homiletics
- o MA 206 Life and Work of the Preacher
- o MA 207 Christian Stewardship
- o MA 208 Pastoral Counseling
- o MA 309 Polemics in Christian Doctrine
- o MA 310 Systematic Theology
- o MA 311 Church History
- o MA 312 History of the Bible
- o MA 413 History of Biblical Interpretation
- o MA 414 History of the Restoration Movement

Exams

- o CE 201 MA Comprehensive Exam (Capstone Class)

Members of the churches of Christ can also audit any course being offered at any time, free of charge. Elders and church leaders, especially, can take advantage of the courses offered in this program.

Master of Arts in Christian Doctrine

Graduates of MCOB's BA in Biblical Studies or a four-year program in Biblical Studies elsewhere may choose to enter the Master of Arts in Christian Doctrine program. In this program, the student will find classes covering the major doctrines of the Bible. The MA in Christian Doctrine consists of 14 Classes and 1 Comprehensive Exam, totaling 45 semester hours. Students can continue to move at their own pace. However, for those who are serious about advancing expeditiously to future programs at MCOB, a course load of 2 to 3 classes (6 to 9 hours) per semester is encouraged. The core curriculum is as follows:

Required Courses (7 Classes)

- o MA 101 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Theology
- o TH 305 Biblical Doctrine of the Godhead
- o TH 306 Biblical Doctrine of Scripture
- o TH 407 Biblical Doctrine of Angels and Demons
- o TH 408 Biblical Doctrine of Man, Sin, and Salvation
- o TH 509 Biblical Doctrine of the Church
- o TH 510 Biblical Doctrine of Last Things

Electives (7 Classes to be Chosen by the Student)

- o MA 102 Church Growth and Personal Evangelism
- o MA 104 Hermeneutics
- o MA 205 Homiletics
- o MA 311 Church History
- o MA 312 History of the Bible
- o MA 413 History of Biblical Interpretation
- o MA 414 History of the Restoration Movement
- o TH 101 Old Testament Theology
- o TH 102 New Testament Theology
- o TH 203 Historical Theology
- o TH 204 Practical Theology

Exams

- o CE 201 MA Comprehensive Exam (Capstone Class)

Members of the churches of Christ can also audit any course being offered in this program.

Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree is an advanced degree offered to those who have completed the MA in Christian Ministry, MA in Christian Doctrine, or an equivalent master's

degree elsewhere. In this program, the preaching student will be challenged as he studies biblical doctrine, languages, theology, and writes a thesis. The M.Div. program consists of 16 Classes, 1 Comprehensive Exam, and 1 Thesis (3 semesters), totaling 60 semester hours. The comprehensive exam must be completed before the thesis can begin. Students are encouraged to move at their own pace. However, it is recommended that no more than two courses be taken per semester. The curriculum for the M.Div. is as follows:

- o TH 101 Old Testament Theology
- o TH 102 New Testament Theology
- o TH 203 Historical Theology
- o TH 204 Practical Theology
- o TH 305 Biblical Doctrine of the Godhead
- o TH 306 Biblical Doctrine of Scripture
- o TH 407 Biblical Doctrine of Angels and Demons
- o TH 408 Biblical Doctrine of Man, Sin, and Salvation
- o TH 509 Biblical Doctrine of the Church
- o TH 510 Biblical Doctrine of Last Things
- o BL 101 Hebrew Grammar I¹
- o BL 202 Hebrew Grammar II

¹ Requirements for Hebrew Grammar I, II and Greek Grammar I, II can be substituted by proficiency exams in those languages for students who have already taken them in previous programs.

- o BL 303 Hebrew Exegesis
- o BL 104 Greek Grammar I
- o BL 205 Greek Grammar II
- o BL 306 Greek Exegesis
- o MT 101 Thesis (Guided Research)
- o MT 202 Thesis (Guided Research)
- o MT 303 Thesis (Guided Research)

Exams

- o CE 301 MDIV Comprehensive Exam (Capstone Class)

Doctor of Theology

The Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) is the final degree offered at MCOB. The degree program is offered to graduates of the Master of Divinity from MCOB or an equivalent degree from an accepted institution. A detailed research proposal outlining the proposed study is required before admission into the program. The student must secure a willing supervisor from the MCOB faculty before formal admission. Application documents include transcripts from previous institutions, a motivation letter, and two letters of recommendation from leaders in the Lord's church or previous institutions of higher learning. A high level of English proficiency is necessary, especially for international students. The applicant must be proficient in the biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew) relevant to his research proposal.

Candidacy for the Th.D. will be evaluated from a written dissertation consisting of at least 30,000 words. An oral defense of the dissertation will be made to a committee selected by the college upon completion of the dissertation. Students should strive to complete the dissertation within 4 years of entering the program.

Library

MCOB provides students with access to a digital library comprising over 20,000 volumes on biblical studies. In addition to academic textbooks, research resources, and language tools, students can access periodicals, sermon books, debate books, church historical studies, and doctrinal studies.

General Regulations

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate students invited to enroll in MCOB's BA in Biblical Studies program must have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Applicants must be in good standing with a congregation of the churches of Christ. Two letters of recommendation from church leaders must be submitted with a completed enrollment form.

Graduate students invited to enroll in MCOB will be selected by the administration and faculty based on their proven capability in an undergraduate school of preaching or a Christian university equivalent from schools associated with the churches of Christ. Exceptions may be made for ministers with at least ten years of experience or exceptional potential to complete the program. Ministerial experience may be considered equivalent to undergraduate scholastic achievement in such cases.

To receive admission into MCOB's graduate program, graduates of a school of preaching or an undergraduate program must submit all transcripts to the Office of Admissions for review. In addition, prospective students must submit two letters of recommendation from the director, dean, or professor at the school from which they graduated, or from a church leader (preacher, elder, or professor in a biblical studies program).

Students will have thirteen weeks to complete all assignments each semester. Each class session will last three hours once per week, including two hours of instruction and one hour for in-class assignments. Completed assignments are to be posted on the Google Classroom platform for grading and record-keeping.

Non-Discrimination Policy

McGarvey College of the Bible admits students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally available to the school's students. It does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, or ethnic origin in its educational policies, scholarship and financial aid, or other school-administered programs.

Academic Probation and Dismissal

MCOB is a scholarship-based school. Enrollment is selective. No tuition is required for any student. If a student chooses not to attend or complete the assignments, the scholarship will be revoked, and the student will be dismissed from the program. The student will be responsible for returning the laptop granted from MCOB (if he has received one). Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 to remain in the program.

Should a student fail to meet the criteria set forth by MCOB for one semester, the student will be placed on academic probation. If the student fails to meet the requirements a second time,

the student will be dismissed from MCOB. The student may apply for re-entry to the program later, but readmission is not guaranteed.

Students selected for the program will be approved by the Selection Committee, which consists of the Board of Directors, the President, and the prospective student's Extension Coordinator.

Student Grievances and Appeals

No appeal or complaint shall be filed unless the complaining student has requested an informal meeting to resolve the grievance within fifteen calendar days following the occurrence giving rise to the grievance. The student requiring the meeting shall be available at the instructor's convenience.

If the issue is unresolved, the faculty member will request a hearing before an Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee shall conduct an inquiry into the complaint as it deems appropriate and shall have 15 working days to make a final decision on the matter. The decision will be communicated in writing directly to the parties involved. Each party has 5 working days after receiving the decision to accept it, reject it, or work out an alternative solution.

Should either party reject the Appeals Committee's decision, they may appeal to the President within five working days thereafter, who will render a final decision within five additional working days. An agreement among the parties involved may extend the time limits specified in the complaint procedures above, but, if so extended, the extension shall be in writing to all parties. All proceedings regarding complaints will be closed and confidential to protect the parties and MCOB.

General Regulations

Conduct consistent with Christian principles is required of all students and must align with the objectives of MCOB. If a student's behavior is proven to reflect poorly on the school, the student will be reprimanded in writing. If, after 30 days, there is no evidence of change, the student will be dismissed (unless earlier and more decisive action is called for as set out in these regulations). Any student who has been dismissed but has fully overcome or corrected the reasons for the dismissal may apply to re-enroll. To be readmitted, the student must again meet all the initial entrance requirements. All associated with MCOB (students and faculty alike) are expected to conduct themselves honestly and uprightly.

Grading

The following symbols are used on the students' permanent records for all courses in which they are enrolled after the initial registration and schedule adjustment period: A, B, C, D, F. These marks will remain on a student's permanent record and may be changed only if the original instructor certifies that an actual mistake was made in reporting or recording the grade.

The significance of the grade symbols is as follows: "A" denotes excellent comprehension of the subject and outstanding scholarship. "B" denotes good comprehension of the subject. "C" denotes acceptable comprehension. "D" denotes borderline understanding of the subject and does not represent satisfactory progress toward a degree. "F" denotes failure to gain an adequate comprehension of the subject.

Applying for Asterisks

An asterisk (*) following a letter grade denotes an exceptional, temporary grade. The allowance of an asterisk is solely the decision of the instructor. It is given only when, because of

illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control, the student has been unable to complete a portion of the coursework. The following rules must be observed:

1. Students should make every effort to complete assigned work within the semester and should not assume that an asterisk grade will be granted.
2. Students are expected to email their instructors as soon as problems occur and attempt to work through them during the semester.
3. Asterisk (*) grades are issued to allow students to complete a portion of the work of the course and are not a substitute for a withdrawal, the appropriate action for students who have not done any work.
4. Students may not request asterisk (*) grades in consecutive semesters.
5. Students may not request, nor may faculty issue, asterisk grades after all work in the class has been completed.
6. Asterisk (*) grades may be assigned only for "C," "D," or "F" grades.
7. Asterisk (*) grades of "C", "D", "F" cannot be changed to an "A" grade.
8. A "B" grade is the maximum grade adjustment.
9. Asterisk (*) grades of "C", "D", which have been officially recorded by the academic dean, may not be lowered by the instructor.
10. Asterisk (*) grades are to be given only for exceptional and documented hardship cases, such as illness or having to relocate within the semester.
11. The student has until Friday, 5 pm CST, of week five of the following semester to finish all remaining assignments. The instructor will report the grade change to the academic dean within the following week.
12. Following the period of grace, all asterisks (*) will be removed the day after semester grades are reported, leaving the student with the letter grade without the (*).

- a. An asterisk (*) grade must be requested between weeks 10–14 of the semester for which the grade is asked.
- b. Students should not assume that the submission of the request constitutes a granting of an asterisk grade.
- c. Issuing an asterisk grade assumes that all information on the request is accurate. Asterisks will be rescinded if it is later determined that the student's information was incorrect.
- d. Asterisk grade assignments are at the discretion of the course instructor.

Instructors are not required to participate in issuing (*) grades. Instructors maintain consistent practices within their courses, but they will differ among instructors and programs. The decision to issue an asterisk grade rests with the individual instructor.

Academic Calendar

B.A., M.A., and M.Div. classes meet once a week for thirteen weeks each semester. Instructors may choose to teach each class live or follow a hybrid format of recorded and live sessions. Each class consists of two hours of instruction and one hour for student assignments.

SPRING 2027

- January 3 Last Day to Enroll for Spring Semester
- January 10 Semester Begins
- January 17 Last Day to Drop/Add Courses
- April 10 Semester Ends
- April 17 Grades Due to Registrar

SUMMER 2027

- April 18 Last Day to Enroll for Summer Semester
- April 25 Semester Begins

May 2 Last Day to Drop/Add Courses
July 24 Semester Ends
July 31 Grades Due to Registrar

FALL 2027

August 15 Last Day to Enroll for Fall Semester
August 22 Semester Begins
August 29 Last Day to Drop/Add Courses
November 20 Semester Ends
November 27 Grades Due to Registrar

SPRING 2028

January 2 Last Day to Enroll for Spring Semester
January 9 Semester Begins
January 16 Last Day to Drop/Add Courses
April 8 Semester Ends
April 15 Grades Due to Registrar

SUMMER 2028

April 23 Last Day to Enroll for Summer Semester
April 30 Semester Begins
May 6 Last Day to Drop/Add Courses
July 29 Semester Ends
August 5 Grades Due to Registrar

FALL 2028

August 20 Last Day to Enroll for Fall Semester
August 27 Semester Begins
September 4 Last Day to Drop/Add Courses
November 25 Semester Ends
December 2 Grades Due to Registrar

Sharpening Iron: Student and Alumni Mentoring Program

The faculty at MCOB are both teachers and mentors to the student body. Every teacher is an experienced full-time minister. They seek to draw on their experience to foster healthy student-mentor relationships. MCOB believes that mentoring enhances one's life and work as a minister, with benefits including improved productivity, job satisfaction, longer tenure, enhanced leadership development, avoidance of burnout, and improved physical health.

Studies have shown that students mentored while in school also tend to grasp controversial issues in ministry, conflict management, and sermon preparation and delivery more effectively, which, in turn, helps prepare them for their work in ministry.

The faculty directs our mentoring program for students and alumni. They are available to help students with academic, ministerial, and personal issues and to provide resources through the "Sharpening Iron" mentoring program. Workshops for students and graduates are also conducted periodically. Through these workshops, peer mentoring can also occur. Students can use the mentoring forum through the Google Classroom platform.

Administration, Faculty, and Staff

The administration, faculty, and staff of McGarvey College of the Bible have been carefully selected and share in a singular vision to promote New Testament Christianity and produce faithful gospel preachers who will love the Lord, His word, His church, and the souls of their fellow man.

Board of Trustees

Mike Kiser, Sylacauga, Alabama (Chairman)

Ben Coxwell, Summerdale, Alabama (Secretary)

Billy Lambert, Summerdale, Alabama (Treasurer)

Faculty

Andrew D. Erwin, Ph.D., President and Professor

Joshua Seth Houston, Ph.D., Professor

Ben May, M.Div., Professor

Johnny O. Trail, D. Min., Professor

Joshua Aidoo, Coordinator, West Africa

Jackson Erwin, Coordinator, North America

Nixon Ochieng, Coordinator, East Africa



Our school namesake is John William (J.W.) McGarvey (1829-1911). Brother McGarvey was an outstanding educator at the College of the Bible in Lexington, Kentucky, and a prolific writer. He was known throughout the world as a tremendous student of the scriptures and a defender of their inspiration.

At McGarvey College of the Bible, students can expect to study his works as well as those of like-minded men of faith. Many of Brother McGarvey's books have remained in print for well over 100 years.

Just as brother McGarvey did, everyone associated with MCOB holds firmly to their conviction in the inspiration and authority of the Bible.