

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN RURAL LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY

REVISED COST AND SCHEDULE

PURPOSE

This certificate program is designed to provide **foundational preparation and in-ministry training and mentorship to current lay and church leaders** who will provide pastoral leadership in rural town and country churches.

RATIONALE

Most rural or town and country churches are unable to afford a seminary graduate with student debt. Many denominations are uncertain how to assist their smaller, rural churches in finding pastoral leadership. In cooperation with mission agencies and denominational leaders, we believe that Oak Hills Christian College is in a position to service this need.

TARGET STUDENT PROFILE

Non-traditional age (over 25) mid-career or late-career 'finishers' who are prepared for a new phase in ministry; current lay leaders in the Church; prior college experience or life experience. Students with a desire to obtain the education needed to serve in ministry. Men and women identified by church leaders to have a desire to serve in rural ministry.

PROGRAM

- 48 credit program includes 2 years of course work followed by a one year internship.
- Students will be assigned an experienced pastor/teacher as a mentor throughout the program.
- Courses scheduled in two month blocks in a **hybrid online course format**.
- Online coursework, facilitated video-conferenced class time, and occasional face-to-face time on site.
- Courses require study of approximately 10-12 hours/week.
- Sessions arranged across two 6-month terms each year allowing students to seek financial aid.
- Courses will come from three areas: **Ministry Skills, Biblical Studies and Leadership Training**.
- Students with a desire to continue beyond the certificate program will have available options for associate and bachelor level degrees through Oak Hills.
- All coursework will be designed to meet current collegiate level educational standards.

YEAR ONE & YEAR TWO ANNUAL COST

Tuition: \$5,400 annually (\$225/credit) **Books:** \$500 (Estimate)

YEAR THREE COST

Tuition: \$2,000 (Individual Mentor Stipends)

COHORT #2 (2022-2024)

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Revision)

January 2022 - December 2022

SPRING SEMESTER:	Mentorship	(1)
Jan – Feb 2022	Program and Mentorship Orientation Understanding Context (<i>Contextual & cultural analysis; networking, outreach</i>) Bible Interpretation	(3)
Mar – Apr 2022	Psalms	(2)
May – June 2022	Spiritual Formation (<i>Call and character for rural ministry</i>)	(3)
FALL SEMESTER:	Mentorship	(1)
July – Aug 2022	Contemporary Issues in Ministry Counseling & Emotional Health	(2)
Sept – Oct 2022	Preaching & Teaching	(3)
Nov – Dec 2022	Gospels & Acts	(3)

January 2023 - December 2023

SPRING SEMESTER:	Mentorship	(1)
Jan – Feb 2023	Rural Pastoral Leadership & Practice (<i>with focus on sociocultural and multi-cultural ministry</i>)	(3)
Mar – Apr 2023	Christian Faith Children, Youth & Adults in Rural Ministry (<i>with focus on equipping leaders</i>)	(3)
May – June 2023	Pentateuch	(3)
FALL SEMESTER:	Mentorship	(1)
July – Aug 2023	Local/Regional Evangelism & Discipleship (<i>with focus on equipping leaders</i>)	(3)
Sept – Oct 2023	Romans	(3)
Nov – Dec 2023	Missional Churches (<i>with focus on congregation vitality; stepping into mission; why church matters</i>)	(2)

January 2024 - December 2024

Internship	(3)
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MENTORSHIP AND INTERNSHIP

In both year one and year two there will be one credit of mentorship each semester whereby each student maintains monthly contact with an assigned seasoned pastor/leader. In year three each student will be in an internship program.