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.

PER SEMESTER COST (4 SEMESTERS + INTERNSHIP)
($250 per credit x 12 credits + $75 Tech Fee = $3075)

TOTAL PROGRAM COST
$12,300 + Textbooks

COHORT #3 (2024-2026) COURSE SCHEDULE *(Subject to Revision)*

January 2024 - December 2024

		Credits
SPRING SEMESTER:	Mentorship	(1)
Jan – Feb 2024	Program & Mentorship Orientation	
	Understanding Context	(3)
Mar – Apr 2024	Psalms	(2)
	Spiritual Formation	(3)
May – June 2024	Bible Interpretation	(3)
FALL SEMESTER:	Mentorship	(1)
July – Aug 2024	Counseling & Emotional Health	(3)
	Contemporary Issues in Ministry	(2)
Sept – Oct 2024	Preaching & Teaching	(3)
Nov – Dec 2024	Gospels & Acts	(3)

January 2025 – December 2025

SPRING SEMESTER:	Mentorship	(1)
Jan – Feb 2025	Rural Pastoral Leadership & Practice	(3)
Mar – Apr 2025	Christian Faith	(3)
	Children, Youth, & Adults in Rural Ministry	(2)
May – June 2025	Pentateuch	(3)
FALL SEMESTER:	Mentorship	(1)
July – Aug 2025	Local/Regional Evangelism & Discipleship	(3)
Sept – Oct 2025	Romans	(3)
Nov – Dec 2025	Missional Churches	(2)

January 2026 – December 2026

	Internship	(3)

Total Credits = 48

MENTORSHIP AND INTERNSHIP
In both Year One and Year Two there will be a one credit mentorship throughout the year whereby each student maintains monthly contact with an assigned seasoned pastor/leader. In Year Three each student will be in an internship program guided by their assigned mentor.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS
Dr. Rick Weinert & Jim Hodgson

OAK HILLS Christian College

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