

COURSE OF STUDY BASICS

Under the GBHEM Division of Ordained Ministry, Course of Study is The United Methodist Church's theological education program designed for licensed local pastors and those certified for ordained ministry. At Saint Paul School of Theology, the COS School prepares pastoral leaders for local church ministry. This year-round experience teaches foundational classes that expose students to both theory and application. At Saint Paul COS, we offer all 20 courses multiple times a year in a flexible format so you can complete your educational requirements on your terms.

CLASS ELEMENTS

COS school classes have a standardized class and assignment structure for clarity and flexibility. Saint Paul COS offers them synchronously online.

15 Contact Hours

2-hour virtual orientation, hours of online lectures, and 6-hour class day online. Contact hours may vary.

2 Required Readings

Carefully selected textbooks on major thoughts.

1 Growing Leadership Portfolio

Three assignments to analyze texts, reflect on leadership, and plan a practical ministry project.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

20 Courses

Each is offered at least twice per year on different days, so you can take more than one class per term.

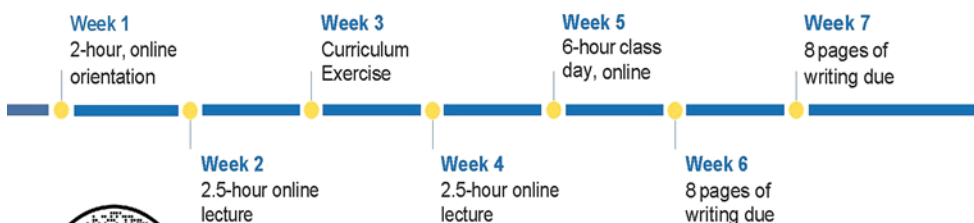
4 Areas of Study

Bible, Theology, Congregational Life, and Pastoral Identity.

\$375 Per Course

\$7,500 total program tuition

CLASS STRUCTURE



Learn more at www.spst.edu/cos

CLASS SCHEDULES for 2026/2027

Course of Study School at Saint Paul School of Theology

All classes online

You may take more than one class each semester. Each color represents a different class session/day.

The courses, dates, and modules are subject to change. Please consult the latest schedule on the website, the registration in Populi, and/or the [Syllabus](#) on BrightSpace.

SAINT PAUL - COURSE OF STUDY - 6 WEEK INTENSIVE - ONLINE - SUMMER 2026 - 15 classes/4 sessions						
Course (& Session)	ZOOM Intro 2 hrs	LECTURE (zoom) 2.5 hrs	LECTURE (zoom) 2.5 hrs	ZOOM CLASS 6 hrs	Assignment(s) Due	Assignment(s) Due
121, 321, 421, 521 - M1	MONDAY 7/6	MON 7/13	MON 7/20	MON 7/27	MON 8/3	MON 8/10
122, 222, 322, 522 - T1	TUESDAY 7/7	TUE 7/14	TUE 7/21	TUE 7/28	TUE 8/4	TUE 8/11
123, 223, 323 - W1	WEDNESDAY 7/8	WED 7/15	WED 7/22	WED 7/29	WED 8/5	WED 8/12
124, 324, 424, 524 - Th1	THURSDAY 7/9	THU 7/16	THU 7/23	THU 8/30	THU 8/6	THU 8/13

SESSIONS are as follows: M1 is MONDAYS Starting in WEEK 1 & meeting/due dates are MONDAYS.
T1 - TUESDAYS 1; W1 - WEDNESDAYS 1; TH1 - THURSDAYS 1.

SEE SCHEDULE ON SYLLABUS, BRIGHTSPACE, OR WEBSITE FOR EXACT TIMES/DATES

SAINT PAUL - COURSE OF STUDY - ONLINE - FALL 2026 - 14 classes/4 sessions							
Course (& Session)	ZOOM Intro	LECTURE	Curriculum Exercise	LECTURE	ZOOM CLASS	Assignment(s) Due	Assignment(s) Due
121, 321, 421, 521 - M1	MONDAY 10/5	MON 10/12	week 10/19	MON 10/26	MON 11/2	MON 11/09	MON 11/16
122, 322, 422, 522 - T1	TUESDAY 10/6	TUE 10/13	week 10/19	TUE 10/27	TUE 11/3	TUE 11/10	TUE 11/17
123, 323, 523 - W1	WEDNESDAY 10/7	WED 10/14	week 10/19	WED 10/28	WED 11/4	WED 11/11	WED 11/18
124, 224, 524 - Th1	THURSDAY 10/8	THU 10/15	week 10/19	THU 10/29	THU 11/5	THU 11/12	THU 11/19

SEE SCHEDULE ON SYLLABUS, BRIGHTSPACE, OR WEBSITE FOR EXACT TIMES/DATES

SAINT PAUL - COURSE OF STUDY - 6 WEEKS INTENSIVE - ONLINE - WINTER 2027 - 12 classes/2 sessions (draft)						
Course (& Session)	ZOOM Intro	LECTURE	LECTURE	ZOOM CLASS	Assignment(s) Due	Assignment(s) Due
122, 124, 222, 224, 422, 424-T1	TUESDAY 1/19	TUE 1/26	TUE 2/2	TUE 2/09	TUE 2/16	TUE 2/23
221, 321, 323, 423, 521, 523-Th1	THURSDAY 1/21	THU 1/28	THU 2/4	THU 2/11	THU 2/18	THU 2/25

SEE SCHEDULE ON SYLLABUS, BRIGHTSPACE, OR WEBSITE FOR EXACT TIMES/DATES

SAINT PAUL - COURSE OF STUDY - ONLINE - SPRING 2027 - 12 classes / 4 session (draft)							
Course (& Session)	ZOOM Intro	LECTURE	Curriculum Exercise	LECTURE	ZOOM CLASS	Assignment(s) Due	Assignment(s) Due
121, 221, 421 - M1	MONDAY 4/5	MON 4/12	week 4/19	MON 4/26	MON 5/3	MON 5/10	MON 5/17
122, 222, 322 - T1	TUESDAY 4/6	TUE 4/13	week 4/19	TUE 4/27	TUE 5/4	TUE 5/11	TUE 5/18
223, 423, 523 - W1	WEDNESDAY 4/7	WED 4/14	week 4/19	WED 4/28	WED 5/5	WED 5/12	WED 5/19
324, 424, 524 - Th1	THURSDAY 4/8	THU 4/15	week 4/19	THU 4/29	THU 5/6	THU 5/13	THU 5/20

SEE SCHEDULE ON SYLLABUS, BRIGHTSPACE, OR WEBSITE FOR EXACT TIMES/DATES

Course of Study School at Saint Paul School of Theology

Course of Study is the United Methodist Church's (UMC) theological education program designed for licensed local pastors and those certified for ordained ministry. At Saint Paul School of Theology, under the direction of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), as per the Book of Discipline of the UMC, the Course of Study School (COS) prepares pastoral leaders for local church ministry. This year-round experience teaches foundational classes that expose students to both theory and application. At Saint Paul, we offer all twenty courses multiple times a year in a flexible format to help you complete your educational requirements. The COS School is a part of the larger Christian community of Saint Paul School of Theology.

Saint Paul COS School – 7 Week Online Class Format:

Saint Paul Course of Study classes follow this weekly format:

- Week One: A 2 hour introductory class is held via Zoom.
- Week Two: A 2.5 hour lecture via Zoom.
- Week Three: Curriculum Exercise
- Week Four: A second 2.5 hour lecture follows
- Week Five: A 6 hour class meeting via Zoom.
- Week Six: First 6 to 8-page paper due
- Week Seven: Second and Third 3 to 5-page papers due

Admissions:

Saint Paul COS School has instituted an online [admissions form](#). Answer the pertinent questions, and you will be uploaded to our Populi student management system. The registrar and help desk will be notified so that new login credentials can be provided to you.

Saint Paul COS School Email:

Course of Study students are an important part of our greater seminary family. As a Course of Study student at Saint Paul, you will receive a spst.edu email that will allow access to Microsoft Office 365. Your login credentials will be issued to you within a week after admission.

Class Registration and Fees:

Class registration opens 2 months before the semester and closes 3 weeks before class starts. There is a 6 student class minimum, 20 max. Detailed schedules are available on our website. 14 to 20 classes are offered during the summer, and then again throughout the year in fall, winter, and spring. You will register online through Populi. You will receive an automatic email requesting approval from your DS and LPR. \$75.00 non-refundable per-class registration is due at once, followed by \$300.00 tuition per class. Pay online or by check. Check with your Conference, District, or Church for scholarship support.

BrightSpace and Populi:

BrightSpace is our (new) online class and learning platform and is used by all Saint Paul students. Students access BrightSpace with spst.edu email login credentials & password. BrightSpace is critical: the syllabus, booklist, assignments, and various other modules are here, along with due dates, grading, and attendance. You can NOT register for class in BrightSpace; you must register in Populi. Populi is our student management platform. Inside Populi, you can register for classes, pay your invoiced bill using a credit card or checking account, and locate receipts and unofficial transcripts.

Saint Paul COS School – Library and Books:

As a student, you have library access. This is via a physical library on our campuses, and many online libraries that are afforded to all seminary and COS students. COS required books may be available.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline (paragraphs 310 through 320 for COS) provides guidelines to Local Licensed Pastors to begin their UMC COS journey.

Some of the basics include:

- Make initial contact with an elder or deacon in your local parish.
- Read *The Christian as Minister*.
- Visit with your District Superintendent (DS).
- Contact your board of ordained ministry to help with the discernment process.
- If affirmed and a setting is available, you may be appointed to part-time or full-time ministry.
- Attend licensing school facilitated by your annual conference's board of ordained ministry.
- Request your seven-digit PID number from GBHEM. cosregistrar@gbhem.org.
 - ✚ Register to attend COS School. New to Saint Paul COS, submit the admission form.
 - ✚ Receive login credentials to access Populi, so you may register yourself in class(es).
 - ✚ After registering, use your credentials to access your class page inside Brightspace.
 - ✚ Locate the Syllabus in BrightSpace, which includes your booklist and assignments.

Completed the COS program?

You may be interested in the Advanced COS / MACM Degree:

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) degree is ideal for part-time ministers, lay leaders, and community leaders seeking to broaden competencies to serve diverse populations. Additionally, persons interested in the Advanced Course of Study (ACOS), or preparing for Deacon Ordination in the United Methodist Church, would benefit from this degree. The MACM is a two-year, 38-credit hour professional master's degree program created to prepare you to explore and experience fully the ways God is calling you to minister to the church, and to the world. This would include United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity, along with Evangelism, Worship, Mission, and electives. Please contact our Seminary's Executive Director of Admissions, Shannon Hancock, at Shannon.Hancock@spst.edu or 913-253-5084. She will be able to explain this degree in more detail, explain the seminary admission process, and discuss any fees involved. You may also want to contact our Regional Director of COS, Lucas.Endicott@spst.edu.

- Saint Paul students can pursue the United Methodist courses in two ways:
 - As a degree seeking student pursuing the [MACM degree UM Studies Specialization](#) which is a 38-credit hour degree program, or
 - As a non-degree seeking student, taking the courses independently, resulting in an ACOS certificate.

Course of Study School at Saint Paul School of Theology—Adjunct Instructors 2026/27

Adjuncts are subject to change based on availability.

Consult the GBHEM Handbook and syllabi for detailed course descriptions, goals, and outcomes.

Rev. Mark Statler



MDiv;
Biblical Interpretation, Intro to Bible;
Missouri Conference;
Extension Ministry in MO Conference.

COS 121- Bible I: Introduction: Inspiration, formation, and function of the canon. Development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with scripture. Importance of the Bible as a witness to the life & faith of ancient Israel & earliest Christianity.

Rev. Dr. Tiffany A. Nagel Monroe



DMin, Church Leadership Excellence;
Theological Heritage;
Oklahoma Conference;
Sr. Pastor, Edmond First UMC.

COS 122 – Theological Heritage I: Introduction: Theological reflection in Wesleyan tradition. Basic terms, tasks, & methods of Christian theology. Classical themes will be defined. Provides foundation for historical & theological study.

Rev. Dr. Derrek Belase



DMin;
Leadership Development, Discipleship;
Oklahoma Conference;
Exec Director Connectional Ministry.

COS 123— Formation and Discipline: Theological core practices of personal & congregational formation, discipleship. Basis for Wesleyan emphasis on spiritual disciplines is to practice them as means of grace.

Rev. H. Eduardo Bousson



EdD, Interdisciplinary Leadership;
Leadership Studies;
Great Plains Conference;
GBHEM- Director of Schools, Universities.

COS 124- Transformative Leadership: Forms students' identity as a pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, the UMC, & the world.

Dr. Brendon Benz



PhD, Hebrew Bible, Ancient Near East
History, Religion, Theology;
Associate Professor of History at
William Jewell College.

COS 221 – Bible II: Torah, and Israel's History: Interpret critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of Israel. Earliest Covenants, to the Exodus, to the rise of the monarchy, and to other events up to the 8th-century prophets.

Dr. Samantha Miller



Ph.D.;
Theology, Early Church History;
Assoc. Professor Whitworth University

COS 222 – Theological Heritage II: Early Church: History and theology of the Church through the first five centuries. Students will reflect on significant individuals, events, and the articulation of the Christian faith during this period.

Rev. Dr. Phyliss Provost-Saas



DMin, Pastoral Counseling;
Worship and Sacraments;
Great Plains Conference;
Winfield Grandview UMC, Kansas.

COS 223 – Worship and Sacraments: Examines worship within the UMC, including liturgy, sacraments, & special services. Attention is given to the pastor's role & duties as a leader in worship.

Rev. Steve Jones



MDiv; JD;
UM Polity, Gospels, Social Justice;
Missouri Conference;
Pastor 1st UMC in Maryville, MO.

COS 224 – Polity and Administration: Develops students' competency as administrators in a UM congregation. Focus is given to United Methodist polity & discipline.

Dr. Jill Nelson



PhD, Biblical Interpretation;
New Testament;
Adjunct Professor, TCU & SPST.

COS 321- Bible III: Gospels: Focuses on the content and message of the Gospels, as well as the theological perspectives of Gospel writers. Practice of exegesis will be emphasized.

Dr. Kyle Butler



PhD, Systematic Theology;
Theological Heritage, Social Outreach;
Exec Dir. LifeBridge at Kirkwood UMC.

COS 322 –Theological Heritage III: Medieval through the Reformation: Major movements beginning with the split between Eastern and Western forms of Christianity, through the Reformation. Reflect on individuals, events, and developments.

Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez



MDiv, Dmin;
Congregational Care;
Rio Texas Conference
VP Pastoral Care Methodist Healthcare

Rev. Tino Herrera



MDiv, DMin Candidate;
Congregational Care, Justice;
Great Plains Conference;
Sr. Pastor Trinity UMC, Kansas City, MO

COS 323— Congregational Care: Practices of responsible congregational caregiving. Care and organization of such in a variety of settings, using boundaries and sensitivity.

Rev. Adam L. Mustoe



MDiv;
Preaching and Communications;
Missouri Conference;
First UMC Kearney, MO.

COS 324 – Preaching: Preaching the gospel from the Old and New Testaments. Articulate a theology of proclamation, evaluate sermons, and exegete biblical passages.

Rev. Dr. Choongho Kwon



DMin, Biblical Interpretation;
Biblical Interpretation & Preaching;
Missouri Conference;
Sr. Pastor, First UMC Kirksville, MO.

COS 421 –Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom Literature: Examines the history of God's Word through Israel's prophets, selected Psalms, & literature passages. Exegete biblical literature.

Rev. Dr. Henry "Hal" Knight, III



PhD, Theological Studies;
Wesleyan Studies, Evangelism;
Emeritus Professor at Saint Paul School.

Rev. Trista Soendker Nicholson



MDiv; PhD Candidate;
Wesleyan Theology, History, Polity;
Missouri Conference;

COS 422 – Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement: Covers significant individuals, decisive events, & theology of the Methodist movement. Using grace, faith, & holiness to understand Wesleyan heritage & identity.

Dr. Lucas Endicott



EdD – Doctor of Education;
Mission, Service, Justice;
Missouri Conference.
COS Director, MO Conf Missions.

COS 423 – Mission: Introduces the theology of mission, the pastor's role in leading congregations as agents of God's redemption. Examine unjust social realities and the Christian response.

Rev. Mark Davies



Ph.D. – Social Ethics;
Social, Ecological Ethics & Responsibility
Oklahoma Conference;
Executive Director LEAD at GBHEM.

COS 424 – Ethics: Biblical & theological bases for Christian behavior, emphasizing pastoral skills for moral leadership in congregations and community. Use of Social Principles of UMC as a resource for ethical reflection & action.

Rev. Dr. Israel Kamudzandu



PhD; New Testament, Biblical Interpretation, Hermeneutics, Justice; UMC Elder; Professor Saint Paul School of Theology.

Rev. Zhenya Gurina-Rodriguez, PhD.



PhD, New Testament, Early Christianity; Hebrew Bible & New Testament; Central Texas Conference; Assoc Pastor First UMC Fort Worth, TX.

COS 521- Bible V: Acts, Epistles, and Revelation: Context of these writings, & theological emphases. Acts, Revelation, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and 1 John are covered. Students will exegete this biblical literature.

Rev. Dr. Aaron Stauffer



PhD, Theology and Ethics; Social Ethics, Ecumenical Studies; Assoc. Director-Online Learning.

Rev. Kim Jenne



MDiv; Director of Connectional Ministries; Missouri Conference.

COS 522 – Theology in the Contemporary Church: Covers significant individuals, movements, developments from 19th century, including ecumenism and process theology.

Rev. Carlos Ramirez



MATS, New Testament; Congregation Vitality, Hispanic Ministry; Oklahoma Conference; Sr. Minister Southern Hills UMC.

COS 523 –Evangelism: Introduces the theology & practices as an expression of the mission of God. Interpret Wesleyan heritage. Reflect/implement strategies by congregation.

Rev. Yvi Martin



MDiv; Preaching, Mission, Teaching; Missouri Conference; Lead Pastor Platte Woods UMC, MO.

Rev. Kate Walker



MDiv; Facilitator, Discernment, Formation; Texas Conference; Pastor Grace Heights, Houston, TX.

COS 524 - Theological Reflection on the Practice of Ministry: Capstone to the student’s basic COS. Focus on integration of the biblical, theological, & practical aspects of ministry. Articulate a Trinitarian theology. State the mission of the Church & relation to pastoral ministry.

Course of Study School at Saint Paul Administration



Dr. Lucas Endicott

Regional Director of Course of Study School At Saint Paul School of Theology; EdD – Doctor of Education, Mission, Service and Justice, Missouri Conference. Lucas.endicott@spst.edu



Jennifer M. Smith

Registrar of the Course of Study School At Saint Paul School of Theology; Coordinator to the CFO and the VPAAD At Saint Paul School of Theology; Jennifer.smith@spst.edu 913-253-5051



www.spst.edu/COS

Social Media Connections:

<https://www.facebook.com/spst1958>

<https://www.instagram.com/spst1958/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/school/spst1958>

<https://www.youtube.com/saintpaulschooloftheology>

If mailing a CHECK, please send it directly to our Bank at the following address, and make sure your name, semester/term & class are listed on the check:

Saint Paul School at Commerce Bank

GROUP 1

P. O. Box 843740

Kansas City, MO 64184-3740

COS School Administrative and Business Office:

Saint Paul School of Theology

COS School

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