overview

Sioux Falls Seminary offers a number of options for making theological education more affordable, accessible, and relevant. In addition to monthly tuition and the Kairos Project track, blended degree programs, partnership programs, equivalency, and exemption are helping bring theological education to those God has called to participate in his kingdom mission.

blended degree programs

In partnership with undergraduate institutions, Sioux Falls Seminary offers blended degree programs wherein students can complete a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in a shortened period of time.

Ideal candidates typically:

- Articulate a call to ministry that has been confirmed by others;
- Have a desire to be or are already involved in a ministry context;
- Seek to complete undergraduate and graduate degree programs;
- Have completed fewer than 90 credits at the undergraduate level and have the opportunity to speak into the focus of the remaining portion of undergraduate work.

How It Works

After acceptance, students register for the sophomore year (and following years) of undergraduate work while working alongside a mentor team from the seminary through the Kairos Leadership Certificate program.

Mentor teams help students be intentional about which courses and experiences to engage in order to gain as much traction as possible toward the master’s degree.

Current Partners and Programs

Dakota Wesleyan University
- BA/MDiv (5 years)
- BA/MACL (4 years)

Tabor College
- BA/MDiv in 5 years
- BA/MACL in 4 years

partnership programs

Sioux Falls Seminary believes theological education works best when it integrates with and utilizes learning and formational experiences from kingdom-minded partners. A number of different opportunities are available to students at the non-degree, certificate, master’s, and doctoral levels.

Doctoral Level

Unless otherwise noted, all Doctor of Ministry partnership programs have the following components:

- Three integrative intensives (Foundations Seminar, Biblical and Theological Reflection, and Research Seminar). These courses typically occur during Kairos Project intensive weeks.
- Two Directed Learning Experiences, designed by the student in conversation with their supervisor. These are built around the partner’s educational program and the student’s doctoral project.
- A final project/thesis.

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Master’s Level
Within the Kairos Project philosophy, programs offered by partners become learning resources that can be integrated into various degree program outcomes. As partnerships develop, Sioux Falls Seminary creates either an approved adapted assignments document or a specialized partnership track for each partner.

An approved adapted assignment document shows exactly where the assignments or work from a partner’s program ties into the seminary’s curriculum, helping students and mentor teams easily find places to integrate the partner’s curriculum.

Graduate Certificate Level
Sioux Falls Seminary offers a 20 credit-hour graduate certificate partnership model that is outcome-based. Through a partnership program and under the direction of a Sioux Falls Seminary led mentor team, students complete four program outcomes. At this level, the outcomes function like directed learning experiences.

Non-Degree Certificate Level
Partnerships at the non-degree certificate level are created with organizations that Sioux Falls Seminary fully supports their work. These partnerships help recognize that good non-degree level theological education happens outside of the seminary and flows from the church. Students work with the seminary and a partner to complete a non-degree certificate of completion. In this model, students participate in a partner’s program and interact with a Sioux Falls Seminary Kairos Advisor throughout the process.

Partners
Partnership opportunities are available with a number of different institutions, covering many different areas of study and emphasis, including discipleship, spiritual transformation, missional theology, missional leadership, pastoral psychoanalysis, and worship leadership. A few partners include:
- Taylor Seminary
- VantagePoint
- The Transforming Center
- Kingswell
- Brookhaven Institute (BIPACT)
- Ethos - North American Baptists
- Emmanuel Academies
- Canadian Baptist Seminary
- Shift115 Worship Collective

degree equivalency
Students who have not completed baccalaureate degrees, but who are able to demonstrate through other means that they possess the qualities and skills necessary to complete graduate level work and a readiness for ministry, may be admitted to the seminary on the basis of equivalency. Equivalency does not grant a bachelor’s degree, but merely shows that the person possesses similar understanding, skills, and knowledge as someone with a degree. Equivalency allows the seminary to extend the benefits of seminary education to those who can benefit from it, but who have not had the opportunity and advantage of obtaining a formal baccalaureate degree. There is no set standard or profile that exists for equivalency. All submissions are examined on a case-by-case basis. In addition to the standard application materials, an applicant may show evidence of equivalency by submitting at least three of the following:
- Official results from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) with a score at the 50th percentile or better.
- A transcript showing completion of at least 60 credit hours of undergraduate work from an accredited school with a GPA of 2.5 or higher or a transcript showing completion of at least 30 credit hours of undergraduate work from an accredited school with a GPA of 3.75 or higher.
- Documentation of an interview with a faculty member with the faculty member’s full approval.
- Documentation showing completion of a 2- or 3-credit Sioux Falls Seminary course with a grade of B or better.
- A research paper of at least 20 pages, to be evaluated by faculty as acceptable for graduate work or three short papers (3 pages in length), expository, narrative, analytical, to be evaluated by faculty as acceptable for graduate work.
- A portfolio or resume which gives evidence of the person’s life experience, including work experience and training, involvement in the life of the church, and personal experiences and development.

Applicants are encouraged to submit additional evidence if it can help demonstrate or support experiences which may be considered for equivalency. Students are not guaranteed admission merely upon submission of materials, but only after evaluation and approval by the Admissions Committee. The committee reserves the right to ask for additional material before making a decision.

degree exemption
Undergraduate degree exemption is ideal for those who do not meet the requirements for equivalency but still show the potential for ministry and aptitude for graduate level work. A limited number of students may be considered for certain programs. Applicants follow the same application process as those applying for equivalency.