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New Non-Degree Course of Study (NCOS)

Southwest (PLNU) Field

Student Guide

Welcome to the orientation guide for *students* of the new Non-Degree Course of Study program (NCOS). Here you will find the information concerning courses, registration, and other important matters.

*The SW Field's NCOS program will launch in January 2026.

*Please note that your primary contacts for this program are your "District Point Person" (appointed by your District Superintendent; see Appendix #1) and The Rev. Dr. Brad Kelle (bradkelle@pointloma.edu) - Dean of PLNU's Reuben Welch School of Theology and Christian Ministry and NCOS Program Director.

What Is the NCOS?

The NCOS is a new *non-degree* program developed by the Church of the Nazarene's USA-Canada Regional Office for meeting the educational requirements for ordination on your district through a non-degree option. It replaces the "Modular Course of Study." *Please note that different districts and fields throughout USA-Canada are operating the NCOS in different ways* (so you might hear something about the NCOS from someone who is somewhere else that is different than what we are doing here on PLNU's SW Field). Here in the SW Field, our District Superintendents have opted to have *one shared and unified NCOS program* for all ten English-speaking districts in the SW Field. This means that there will be one shared calendar of courses, with students from different SW Field districts enrolled together in the same course, with a course facilitator from one of our districts.

*One of the key goals of the USA-Canada Region with this program is uniformity of content and finances.

***Details of the NCOS:**

- 21 total courses (all courses have standardized, uniform, ready-made video content and assignments)
- Courses will be delivered, taken, and facilitated through PLNU's online learning platform called "Canvas"
- All courses are 8 weeks long, online, asynchronous (with no required live class sessions)
- The cost is \$175 per course (not counting required textbooks)
- PLNU's School of Theology serves as the administering body for the NCOS program, managing the courses, delivering the Canvas access, onboarding students and facilitators (including handling student tuition and facilitator pay), and working in

-*Follow the instructions for how to register on the webpage (look for a place to click to register):

- You will first select the session you need (for example, "Spring 2026 Quad 1")
- Then you will select the specific course in that quad for which you want to register
- You will then be prompted to pay for the course (\$175 per course not counting textbooks)

-Once you have registered and paid for the course:

--You will see a way to access the course *syllabus* in which you will find *the list of required textbooks* you need to purchase for the course

-You will see a discount link to use to purchase any of the required textbooks that are published by The Foundry at a reduced price. However, not all the required textbooks for NCOS courses are published by The Foundry. For those not published by The Foundry, you will need to go online and purchase the books from other places. Purchase all the books far enough in advance that you have time to receive them before the beginning of the course

--**You will receive an email from PLNU with steps for setting up your university email and student account. This is a vital step so be sure to complete it fully and promptly.

--You will receive instructions in your new PLNU email on how to log onto "Canvas" and find your course

-“Canvas” is PLNU’s online learning system that you will access and use to complete your course over the 8-week session

-*You will see a Canvas Orientation video that you can watch to learn how to use Canvas for your course.*

-Be sure to log onto your Canvas course in the week leading up to the beginning of your course so you are familiar with how everything works and are ready to begin your assignments and work on day one of the course

What Happens During/After My Course?

-Start your course on Canvas on the course start date.

-At the end of your course, you will receive a grade of “Credit” or “No Credit” (not a traditional letter grade) from your course facilitator. PLNU will maintain this grade record and provide it to your District Board of Ministry through your NCOS District Point Person.

Who Do I Ask?

-If you have questions about the NCOS program overall, email Dr. Brad Kelle, PLNU’s program director: bradkelle@pointloma.edu

-If you have questions about your progress in the program, which courses you should take, or your ordination requirements, contact your specific District Point Person (see Appendix 1 to find yours)

-If you have questions about your specific course while it is underway, contact your course facilitator

Appendix 2
Non-Degree Course of Study Repeating Calendar of Courses

NOTES:

- All 21 courses will be offered by PLNU every year
 - These will be offered across 3 semesters (spring, fall, summer) and 6 quads (2 quads per semester)
- Calendars with specific dates will be issued each year on the program webpage:
<https://www.pointloma.edu/nazarene-course-study-non-degree-program>
 - If a student takes 1 course per quad every quad, it will take a little over 3 years to complete all 21 courses

Repeating Course Calendar for Each Year Beginning in Each January:

- SPRING QUAD 1 (January to March):
 - NCOS Course #1 God's Holy Call on Women and Men to Ministry (NCS 0010)
 - NCOS Course #4 New Testament Scriptures and Theology (NCS 0040)
 - NCOS Course #5 The Mission, Ministry, and Identity of the Church of the Nazarene (NCS 0050)
 - NCOS Course #9 The Moral Shape of Christian Ministry (NCS 0090)
- SPRING QUAD 2 (March to May):
 - NCOS Course #6 Theology of Christian Holiness (NCS 0060)
 - NCOS Course #12 Christian Theology 1 (NCS 0120)
 - NCOS Course #15 The Missional Church (NCS 0150)
 - NCOS Course #18 Christian Ministry in Inter-Cultural Contexts (NCS 0180)
 - NCOS Course #21 Ordination Capstone (NCS 0210)
- SUMMER QUAD 1 (May to June):
 - NCOS Course #2 Biblical Literature and Scriptural Interpretation (NCS 0020)
 - NCOS Course #5 The Mission and Ministry of the Church of the Nazarene (NCS 0050)
 - NCOS Course #7 Introduction to Church History (NCS 0070)
 - NCOS Course #10 Christian Discipleship in a Postmodern Age (NCS 0100)
- SUMMER QUAD 2 (July to August):
 - NCOS Course #6 Theology of Christian Holiness (NCS 0060)
 - NCOS Course #13 Christian Theology 2 (NCS 0130)
 - NCOS Course #16 The Church in Worship (NCS 0160)
 - NCOS Course #19 Pastoral Care and Counseling (NCS 0190)
 - NCOS Course #21 Ordination Capstone (NCS 0210)
- FALL QUAD 1 (September to October)
 - NCOS Course #3 Old Testament Scriptures and Theology (NCS 0030)
 - NCOS Course #5 The Mission and Ministry of the Church of the Nazarene (NCS 0050)
 - NCOS Course #8 Celebration of Women in Ministry (NCS 0080)
 - NCOS Course #11 Transformational Leadership (NCS 0110)

Appendix 3
Non-Degree Course of Study Courses

1. God's Holy Call on Women and Men to Ministry	
<p>Course Description An exploration of the call to Christian ministry in light of the holy God who calls. This course provides the abilities to articulate the sacred nature of the call to ministry and to nurture that calling through intentional practices of the classical Christian disciplines.</p>	<p>Ability Statements Fulfilled CH4, CH5, CH6, CH7, CN4</p>
2. Biblical Literature and Scriptural Interpretation	
<p>Course Description This course equips students with the ability to exegete Christian Scripture for the sake of faithful proclamation and preaching. Attention will be given to the development of the canon, historical models of biblical interpretation, their application to contemporary cultural contexts, and a distinctly Wesleyan understanding of the function of Scripture in Christian life, theology, and ministry.</p>	<p>Ability Statements Fulfilled CN4, CN5, CN6</p>
3. Old Testament Scriptures and Theology	
<p>Course Description An exploration of the timeline of the Old Testament, its literary structure, and its theology. Special attention will be given to developing the ability to communicate the major turning points, figures, and the history of Israel.</p>	<p>Ability Statements Fulfilled CN1, CN2</p>
4. New Testament Scriptures and Theology	
<p>Course Description An exploration of the timeline of the New Testament, its literary structure, and its theology. Special attention will be given to the spread of the gospel as recorded in the New Testament and the forms of preaching and evangelism expressed therein.</p>	<p>Ability Statements Fulfilled CN3, CN4</p>

moral theologian. Drawing on the resources of the Wesleyan-holiness tradition, special attention is given to skills and insights for making complex moral decisions in Christian ministry.

CH1, CH2, CH3, CH8,
CP5, CX3

10. Christian Discipleship in a Pluralistic Age

Course Description

Taking into account the increasingly pluralistic nature of contemporary society, this course explores the ways Christian discipleship can thrive. Special attention will be given to the developmental realities of different age groups in developing an effective ministry of discipleship.

Ability Statements

Fulfilled
CP8, CP9, CP10, CP15

11. Transformational Leadership

Course Description

Leadership theory and theology will serve as the foundation of the fundamentals of leadership. Personal leadership styles and character development will be assessed. Leading teams, groups, other leaders, and organizations will be a progressive focus while also learning to use tools to cast vision, develop strategy and mission, and develop greater stewardship. Culture and change will also be considered in the context of a missional community. Upon completion, students will have knowledge of leadership with tools to guide organizations to transformational change and organizational health.

Ability Statements

Fulfilled
CH7, CP2, CP3

12. Christian Theology 1

Course Description

Exploration of theological sources and method, the doctrine of God, doctrine of the Trinity, Christology, pneumatology, and ecclesiology, and the Nazarene Articles of Faith around those doctrines. The course concludes with learning about the vital connection between theology and ministry

Ability Statements

Fulfilled
CN7, CN8

13. Christian Theology 2

Course Description

Ability Statements

Fulfilled
CN7, CN8

draw together hospitable engagement and inter-cultural understanding as the basis for evangelism and church planting.	
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19. Pastoral Care and Counseling

Course Description

An exploration of the developmental factors affecting Christian formation and pastoral care across the lifetime of persons. Emphasis will be placed on how pastoral care can be offered at the various stages of life. Short-term counseling and trauma awareness will also be explored.

Ability Statements

Fulfilled

CP5, CP6, CP16, CH7

20. Church Leadership and Administration

Course Description

This course will examine models of leadership and administration for the sake of faithful Christian ministry. It will include training in leadership and administrative skills and provide the ability to employ current models of organizational leadership and administration.

Ability Statements

Fulfilled

CP4, CP21, CP22

21. Ordination Capstone

Course Description

The Ordination Capstone Course will guide and assist the student in the development of a ministry handbook that will be a resource to them throughout their future ministry. Through the compilation of assignments and resources, supervised experiences and the completed demonstration of necessary competencies for vocational ministry, they will have developed a portfolio of theological, spiritual and personal reflection, as well as practical experience in the local context that will be a future resource for ministry.

Ability Statements

Fulfilled