



Certificate Program in Rural Leadership and Ministry

Revised Cost and Schedule July 2019

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: **Biblical Studies, Leadership Training, and Ministry Skills**.
- 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 and Year Two - Annual Cost

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

Year Three Cost

Tuition	\$2,000 (Individual Mentor Stipends)
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Cohort #01 2020 – 2022 Course Schedule (Subject to Revision)

January 2020 – December 2020

January 2021 – December 2021

Session 1 Jan – Feb 2020	Program and Mentorship Orientation Understanding Context <i>(Contextual & cultural analysis; networking, outreach)</i> (3)	Session 7 Jan – Feb 2021	Rural Pastoral Leadership & Practice <i>(w/ focus on socio-cultural and multi-cultural ministry)</i> (3)
Session 2 Mar – Apr 2020	Spiritual Formation <i>(Call and character for rural ministry)</i> (3) Psalms (2)	Session 8 Mar – Apr 2021	Christian Faith (3) Children, Youth & Adults in Rural Ministry <i>(w/ focus on equipping leaders)</i> (2)
Session 3 May – June 2020	Bible Interpretation (3)	Session 9 May – June 2021	Pentateuch (3)
Session 4 July – Aug 2020	Contemporary Issues in Ministry (2) Counseling & Emotional Health (3)	Session 10 July – Aug 2021	Romans (3)
Session 5 Sept – Oct 2020	Preaching & Teaching (3)	Session 11 Sept – Oct 2021	Local/Regional Evangelism & Discipleship <i>(w/ focus on equipping leaders)</i> (3)
Session 6 Nov – Dec 2020	Gospels & Acts (3)	Session 12 Nov – Dec 2021	Missional Churches <i>(With focus on congregation vitality; stepping into mission; why church matters)</i> (2)

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 the second half of Year Two and in Year Three each student will be in an internship program guided by their assigned mentor.

Questions? Contact our Church Ministries team! Jim Hodgson or Rick Weinert