

Shepherd's College Application

Thank you for your interest in the Shepherd's College. Please copy/past your answers in an email or complete them here and send it to scott.j@sympatico.ca

Name in Full

Physical Address

Email Address

Best phone number

Age

Church now attending

Previous Bible College/university experience

Courses selected:

- Biblical Interpretation
- Greek Tutoring (class will proceed if there is enough interest).

Course time is set for Tuesdays, 7:30 pm. If you have difficulties with this time frame, please let me know *here*:

“I have read and agree to the standards and requirements documents (see attached pages)

“Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and Learning.”—Founding Purpose Statement of Harvard College, 1643.

The Shepherds College: Standards

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada July 2024

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I believe that there are few of these kinds of schools in existence today in North America. We continually hear of colleges struggling and closing, regardless of denominational affiliation.

I won't rehearse here the facts of the decline in Christianity in North America, but we are at a crisis, and much of this is due to **Biblical illiteracy**. Do we, or the people we lead, know Scripture? How do we compare in this with past generations?

Author Aaron Renn calls it Negative World in his book, Life in Negative World, but even he (and other academics I know personally) are too optimistic about our immediate recovery. Renn is correct, though, in pointing out that Christians are entering a time of marginalization. I don't pretend to know how that will look in real life, but it will mean the end of acceptance, approval, and accreditation of all of our institutions.

For the church, that will mean compliance or removal of tax-exemption and charitable status.

For education, it will mean the loss of accreditation and the right to grant degrees of any kind. Bonhoeffer's *Finkenwalde* seminary may serve as a model. Accrediting organisations, like the Association of Theological Schools will be pressured into demanding more progressive views from their member schools. Accreditation is a gatekeeper which, in a Christian-positive world is a good thing, but now accreditation will form barriers to unacceptable thought.

But we cannot afford to ignore Christian higher education!

Basic premises:

The future of education for pastors will be along these lines:

1. Christian education must begin with God and His Word. We do not reason and learn to God, but from Him. All knowledge presupposes the personal existence of the Triune God.
 - a. This is the first presupposition.
 - b. For this reason, this school will not be a research institution, but a teaching and training centre. In training pastors, not every opinion, theology, or viewpoint is to be valued.
2. Broadly Evangelical, that is, cross-denominational.
3. The emphases and teachings that are closing Bible schools everywhere will **not** be advanced at the Shepherds College. We will have to learn from the errors of others:
 - a. Egalitarianism. The school will be Complementarian. Although women ought to be educated to the highest degree possible, it must only be under the understanding that their education is not for pastoral ministries. Teachers in this program will be men.
 - b. LGBTQ tolerance. Sexual ethics will be taught and maintained.
 - c. CRT—Critical Race Theory which is antithetical to the Gospel.
 - d. Socialist, Communist, or Fascist economic and political theory.
 - e. Dispensationalist eschatology. Dispensationalists are welcome to enroll but these views will not be taught or promoted.

- f. Charismatic and Pentecostal theology. Again, enrollment is open to those holding to Continuationism, but the errors of these theologies will not be promoted.
 - g. Theological progressivism
 - h. Evolution of origins.
4. We seek competence over accreditation
 5. We reject Dispensationalism
 6. We teach Inerrancy and Infallibility of Scripture. Scriptural authority is paramount.
 7. We expect the student who completes a program to be skilled in the original Biblical languages, Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic
 8. Rejecting evolutionary philosophy and thinking in all its forms.
 9. Promoting a consistent Biblical worldview.

Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates *in planning*

Bachelor of Theology

Bachelor of Theology: awarded to students who complete a set number of courses with advanced standing. Advanced standing can include:

1. A diploma or bachelor's degree from another institution in any field.
2. Work experience.
3. Life experience.

A student applying for advanced standing will require 48 credit hours consisting of:

1. Bible survey
 - a. OT
 - b. NT
2. Life of Christ
3. Epistles
4. Interpretation
5. Systematic theology
6. Biblical theology
7. Preaching
8. Greek or Hebrew
9. Worldview Studies
10. Apologetics
11. Evangelism
12. Nouthetic Counselling

Shepherd's College Required Supplies

Current as of 16 July, 2024

Supplies: Technology and Texts

Please communicate with me if you have any questions

Required Technology

1. Laptop or desktop computer *with a camera and microphone*.
 - a. Unless you have a very good tablet, I have found that tablets and smartphones are inadequate, especially with the camera use.
 - b. Headphones and mic
 - c. Class time is “live” and each participant will be on screen. Parts of the on-screen time will be recorded. Select your background accordingly. There is an in-person component and students local to Hamilton, Ontario, are strongly encouraged to attend. A laptop, camera, and audio setup is still need for in-person students.
 - d. A valid email address.
 - i. Except for quick messages (SMS, Facebook), all communication should be sent to scott.j@sympatico.ca.
 - ii. There will be an online site avail to download slides and other files. The URL will be made available upon enrollment.
 - e. Internet access. If you have poor internet connections at home, consider making class time your coffee shop or library time.
2. Software for course is Logos.
 - a. The basic version can be downloaded [here](#) for free.
 - i. This program is an excellent tool for many of your personal study and teaching.
 - ii. **If you are wanting to purchase this software, please use this [link](#). It helps me a lot!**

Textbooks

I am giving you the Amazon links, but I would really appreciate it if you ordered my friends at [Reformed Book Services](#). They are a not-for-profit book seller in Brantford, Ontario. US students should not order from them due to shipping and customs costs.

1. [Grasping God's Word, fourth edition](#).
2. [Grasping God's Word Workbook](#)
3. [Expositional Preaching](#) A note on this title—this book is not so much about preaching as it is about understanding the text.

All of these are also available as software resources from [Logos](#).

Schedule

I will be sending a complete syllabus along with a schedule, but I am planning on a Tuesday evening format. After we know who is enrolling, I will set a firm time, but I am thinking of 7:30 EDT/EST. Each class will run two hours with a brief break in the middle. The course will run 14 sessions with a reading week in November.

Grades and coursework

1. My purpose is to help you grow in your knowledge and understanding. This will be accomplished by your readings, workbook assignments, and class presentations.
2. There will be no quizzes or tests.
3. There will live presentations, under 10 minutes in length. This will be explained during the class.
4. There are no term papers or essays.
5. Classroom participation, both online and live, is important. Missed classes can be viewed later but should not be the norm.
6. All your work, grades, and participation will be kept on file for your future education. *It is my plan to expand this project into a comprehensive Bible college equal to that of a university program.*
7. This program is not accredited with any agency nor is registered with the Ontario Ministry of Education. Do not assume that this work will be transferrable to another school.
8. You should expect to spend two hours per week in class and four hours per week outside of class doing assignments.
9. You may opt for a “no homework” option, but the fees remain the same.
10. Challenges—if you have a reading disability you are still welcome to participate. The main text is available on audio [here](#) for about the same price as the hardcover. The book by David Helm is available on an audio CD at Amazon.

Fees

I understand that this program, being unrecognised by accrediting bodies may seem like a financial risk to you. However, many hours of preparation and work have gone into the preparation of this course, and the fees should reflect that. *My pledge to you as your tutor is that this course will be at least as challenging as any standard Bible college or Bible institute course offering.* This first semester, however, I am not asking for fees up front, but rather on a weekly basis. There is therefore no contract. Please count the cost (time) when you commit.

Fees are fair but not free. This is a large time commitment for me and affects the ministries at Mountain View and are based on those realities.

1. For regular attendees of Mountain View there are no fees other than your textbooks.
2. For all others:
 - a. In Canada: \$25 Canadian currency; 14 weeks=\$350 plus your books/software
 - b. In the US. \$20 US currency; 14 weeks=\$280 plus your books/software.

There is no tax-deduction for these fees. Fees may be paid to me personally through Paypal, through my email address: scott.j@sympatico.ca

How to enroll

1. Please read through this document carefully, as well as the basic information sheet sent along with it.
2. Send an email to me at scott.j@sympatico.ca expressing your interest.
3. I will need your name, church currently attending, and any other prior education you have received at the Bible College level.
4. Please include days and times you are available for class, keeping in mind that we are in the Eastern time zone.