



## Frequently Asked Questions

What are some main benefits of BCSM?

- Learning and developing leadership and life skills.
- Serving in the local church.
- Low cost/Same degree from Northwest University.
- 3 free credits per semester.
- Highest level of accreditation.
- Qualifies for federal financial aid.
- Flexible schedule with online classes.
- Holistic learning environment.

What does it cost to be a part of BCSM?

- Tuition costs \$288/credit.
- Full time student per semester tuition is \$3,456.
- Site fee for program is \$1,300 per semester.
- Total for program for full year is \$9,512.

What if I don't want to be a pastor? Is this still for me? What degree programs are offered?

- Many people do this program because of the financial and life skills benefits along with the excellent education. There are many degree paths and careers that BCSM prepares students for aside from ministry.
- Degrees we currently offer:
  - Associate of Arts – General Studies
  - Associate In Ministry Leadership
  - Bachelor of Arts In Business Management
  - Bachelor of Arts In Ministry Leadership
  - Bachelor of Arts In Organizational Management
  - Bachelor of Arts In Psychology
  - Certificate In Ministry Leadership

What if I want to save some money, but I want a different degree than offered?

- You could do this program for two years and earn your AA and then transfer to a different university. If you did that and then transferred to NU in Kirkland, it would save you approx. \$60,000.

How do I apply for BCSM?

- There are three steps to the process:

How do I apply for BCSM? (continued)

- Fill out the BCSM application and turn in; including references.
- Fill out the CPP application to NU online and send in transcripts.
  - <https://www.northwestu.edu/cpp/apply>
- Apply for financial aid through [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
  - NU's school code is 003783

What will my internship look like?

- For a full time intern, you will be serving at the church 15 hours a week. Those hours include study hall, serving in ministry, and meetings.
- Weekly journal entry.
- Semester book report.
- Attending church weekly.

What if I have already completed some college and work full time, but want to finish my degree?

- If you have already completed some college, NU will do a degree audit to see what credits will transfer into this program. NU is really great about accepting prior credits!
- If you work full time and are already serving somewhere in our church, you could potentially be a volunteer intern. Volunteer interns do not need to keep the schedule that a full time intern would, but they would not receive the 3 free practicum credits for the internship.
- You could also be a part time intern, only doing part of the commitments of a full time intern and still receive the 3 free practicum credits. You would also need to be serving in the church already at some capacity.

Are my credits through this program transferable to Northwest University or any other college?

- Yes! Since this program is fully accredited all credits earned are transferable to other colleges.

I am worried about taking classes online. Wouldn't it be better to have a live instructor?

- This program is unique because it has the flexibility of online learning with much more support than a typical online degree program.
- You will have full access to NU's library system and support staff, the writing center, and 24/7 tutoring.
- In addition to that, this program is designed to help students stay on track with the internship providing structured study hall time and guidance from the program director.
- There is also potential for live instructor via web cam.

How is this program structured? Does it go through the summer?

- This program is on a semester schedule. However, each semester is divided into a section A and section B.
- Each section is 7 weeks long with a prep week in between. Each semester is 15 weeks total.
- The benefit is that you are only taking 2 classes at a time, each section; so you are able to concentrate on fewer subjects.

How is this program structured? Does it go through the summer? (continued)

- There is the ability to take summer classes, but it's not recommended. The summer is a great time to work and earn money to pay for the next year.
- The internship will not be active during summer or winter breaks.

Would I have a better experience on campus somewhere else? What is holistic learning?

- We are intentional about creating a great, social, and impactful environment at BCSM. We recognize that one of the great benefits of going to school on a campus somewhere is the social aspect. However, we feel like for the amount of money you can save and still get a great experience socially it is more than worth it!
- This program is designed to help students grow holistically. Not just academically, not just filing papers and stacking chairs for a church. The internship will include many facets of hands on ministry as well as many other life skills.
- In each section we will focus on a different life skill including: spiritual discipline, relationship building, financial training, and physical fitness. We will go through life skills that many people don't learn until they are forced to learn through difficult circumstances later in life.

What departments will I be able to intern in?

- We currently have 3 departments to intern in: Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Worship/Media Ministry.
- Level 1 interns will choose 2 of the 3 departments to serve and will rotate at the semester break.
- Level 2 interns will choose one department to serve in for the whole year and will have more opportunities to lead.

What if I have a troubled past or have dropped out of college before?

- Many people make bad choices when they are young and are still reaping the consequences from those mistakes, but this program does not rule out people based solely on their past. If you have been changed or have grown up since you made many mistakes, this program could be a good fit for you.