

**Approved By:** President

**Date Approved:** August 28, 2017

1. **Summary:** This policy establishes church membership, chapel attendance, and applied ministry requirements for students of the College.
2. **Rationale:** This policy is necessary to ensure consistent and appropriate implementation of chapel and ministry requirements for students.
3. **Entities Affected:** students
4. **Definitions:** Not applicable.
5. **Policy:** The Criswell College community does not assume the role of the local church, but rather intends to supplement that role. The College's campus programs, services, and procedures do not substitute for church functions or church membership. As an institution of higher learning, the College is committed to the educational and experiential development of those who are, and will be, church leaders, lay or otherwise.

### **Church Membership**

As church membership is one indicator of healthy spiritual development, all students are expected to identify with a local church body and to support its mission faithfully through membership, attendance, and participation within their first year at Criswell College.

### **Chapel**

Attendance at chapel is required for all degree-seeking students. Full-time undergraduate students and all housing students are expected to attend 16 out of 22 chapels (this allows for 1 discretionary absence every two weeks). Part-time undergraduate students and all graduate students are expected to attend 10 out of 22 chapels (this allows for 1 discretionary absence every week).

Undergraduate students with extenuating circumstances may file a petition with the Student Services Office to complete an approved number of their chapel requirements by listening to chapel sermons online. If approved, students must complete a listener guide with a signed statement that the sermon has been listened to in its entirety to receive credit.

Graduate students may choose to fulfill all or some of their requirements by listening to chapel sermons online. No petition is necessary for graduate students.

Reasons for petition may include:

- Full-time work circumstances. Petition must include a signed statement from your supervisor on company letterhead.
- Commuters who do not have class adjacent to chapel (Tuesday/Thursday classes beginning at 8 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.)

Petitions will not be accepted after the first week of class. No petition will be automatically approved and petitions are valid for one semester only. Students are encouraged to attend chapel until they are notified of their petition status.

### Applied Ministry Project

All full-time undergraduate and full-time graduate students must complete an Applied Ministry Project, non-academic credit course, in each semester for which they are registered full-time. Students must complete a minimum of sixteen hours of service each semester fulfill the course requirement. Applied Ministry Project grades are issued on a Credit (CR), Non-Credit (NC), and Exempt (EX) basis according to completion and reporting of hours of service.

### Mission Practicum

All students enrolled in a Bachelor’s program must complete EMS 417 International Mission Practicum or EMS 426 Domestic Mission Practicum. Financial support for these courses is to be raised by students.

For a student to be eligible to participate in a mission practicum of his or her choice, the following requirements must be met:

1. Good academic standing;
2. at least a junior;
3. completion of at least 30 credit hours at Criswell College; and
4. completion of THS 101 Spiritual Foundations and EMS 101 Personal Evangelism and their appropriate prerequisites.

### 6. Procedure:

- Implementation:** The Student Services Office and Academic Affairs Office are responsible for maintaining procedures for ministry requirements and exemptions that are consistent with this policy.
- Responsibility for Compliance:** Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Notification:** This policy will be posted on the College’s website and a summary of the policy will be published in the College’s *Student Handbook* and *Catalog*.

For the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research only:

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| Policy version: 2.0 | Policy number: 2.012 |
| Related policies:   |                      |

### Policy History

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| Version 1.0 | Not Available   |
| Version 2.0 | August 28, 2017 |