

**NEW MEXICO  
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY  
(NMSOM)  
2017-2018  
ACADEMIC CATALOG  
AND  
POLICY MANUAL**

New Mexico Ministry Network  
of the  
Assemblies of God

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[www.nmministry.net](http://www.nmministry.net)





Dear Student,

Welcome to the New Mexico School of Ministry, NMSOM. We are glad to have you as a student in this new ministry of our Network.

**God has placed a call upon your life to serve Him in ministry.**

Your calling may be as a full-time minister and pastor or as an equipped layperson. We are here as a Network and as a school to help you process the call of God upon your life and prepare yourself to fulfill that call. NMSOM exists to help you develop skills, talents and knowledge needed for effective ministry. Your own spiritual, physical, social and emotional disciplines will determine your future.

The Academic Catalog/Policy and Procedures Manual you now hold is the key component in your studies and educational process. It is important that you READ and FOLLOW all the Student Steps. Being fully prepared for each class is essential for receiving the maximum impact upon your life. In many ways the process of NMSOM will help you develop the disciplines you will need for ministry.

NMSOM instructors will invest in your life out of their experiences and knowledge. Classes are designed to be interactive in order to engage and stimulate your retention. I trust that you will find not only a friendly and yet challenging environment but a class that gives you practical and useful knowledge that will enable your ministry to expand and be fruitful.

***Thanks for joining the journey!***



In Service to Christ, Our Lord,

**Marcus W. McClain**  
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# PHILOSOPHY

## Equipping the Called for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ministry

### What is New Mexico School of Ministry (NMSOM)?

- NMSOM is a network sponsored and operated ministerial training program that enables individuals to complete the educational requirements of the fellowship for credentialing.
- NMSOM uniquely combines home study, classroom instruction, the student's relationship with a mentor, and active involvement in ministry to set ministerial formation.
- NMSOM seeks to provide the student with the highest quality instruction and resources possible in a practical and cost effective way.
- NMSOM gives educational direction, sets an atmosphere for the impartation of the Spirit, and guides the student's spiritual development to equip them for effective, full-time ministry.

### What are the Benefits of NMSOM?

1. Builds strong Biblical foundation
2. Establishes spiritual formation
3. Builds lasting relationships
4. Develops ministerial character, ethics, and integrity
5. Time measured and cost affordable
6. Academically accountable
7. Practical in structure
8. Flexible and expandable in format
9. Instills discipline of study, time, and lifestyle
10. Direct, hands-on involvement in ministerial training

### The NMSOM Experience

The New Mexico School of Ministry (NMSOM) is a vital support to the ministry of churches and pastors. Knowledge gleaned from the classroom experience becomes a valuable tool the Holy Spirit can use to further the purpose of God. Clergy and laypersons who understand not only "what to do" but "why to do it" will be far more effective than those who "just do it."

NMSOM integrates spiritual formation, relationship building, and academic achievement to provide a unique learning experience.

Students not only acquire knowledge necessary for obtaining ministerial credentials, but also develop character and skills essential for effective ministry.

### Statement of Purpose

The New Mexico School of Ministry (NMSOM) exists to provide training for those sensing a call to ministry, whether as credentialed ministers for the Assemblies of God, or as equipped laypersons within the local church. The school seeks to promote a unified purpose for ministry within the Fellowship, providing doctrinal and practical instruction based upon common core values and shared ministry goals.

The New Mexico School of Ministry (NMSOM) subscribes fully to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God and commits itself to proclaim and support the principles and polity of the Assemblies of God. Additionally, the school commits itself to provide training courses that meet network and General Council educational requirements for ministerial credentials.

### An Important Question: ***Is Bible College a better alternative?***

This is a question only the student and God can answer. God's will for your life may, or may not, include a formal educational experience. To determine the answer to this question, you should seek

wise counsel from your spiritual advisors and then submit the issue to God through prayer and study of God's Word.

Education can take a formal or non-formal route. A ministerial formal education is acquired through a college or seminary which issues a formal academic degree at the end of the process. A non-formal education is usually achieved outside of formally organized schools and results in a diploma or certificate.

NMSOM is a non-formal route designed to deliver the elementary and necessary levels of education required for the credentialing process of the Assemblies of God. However, NMSOM is not an inferior education when understood as to its purpose. Even though NMSOM follows a non-formal approach, it is based on sound educational principles and goals.

Optimally, NMSOM is designed to engage the student in the process of becoming a life-long learner. Professional ministry, such as being a pastor/teacher, generally leads one further and further along the quest for knowledge. Students who begin with NMSOM may one day seek more formal education to enhance and augment their educational experience.

**\*NOTE: COMPLETION OF NMSOM COURSES DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFY ONE FOR CREDENTIALING. APPLYING FOR CREDENTIALS IS A SEPARATE PROCESS.**

### **Guiding Principles**

NMSOM is a unique ministerial training opportunity operating in the Network and is guided by the following principles:

- NMSOM is **not** a college or university. Individuals who are able to attend college or seminary are strongly encouraged to attend an endorsed A/G college or seminary for the absolute best in ministerial training ([www.colleges.ag.org](http://www.colleges.ag.org)).
- NMSOM is **not** an accredited school. Students must not expect that the NMSOM courses will be accepted by any A/G college, Bible School, or other accredited college.
- NMSOM is **not** the same as Berean or Global University correspondence education. NMSOM satisfies the same credentialing requirements, but Global University students can earn college credit and a diploma. Berean offers students correspondence courses that can be taken at any time and at the student's own pace ([www.thenewberean.com](http://www.thenewberean.com)). NMSOM courses are only available at specific times.
- NMSOM is **not** the same as credentialing. NMSOM certainly helps applicants meet the educational requirements for credentialing. **Credentialing within our Fellowship is an altogether different process, with its own exams, paperwork, and interview.** Students interested in seeking credentials should contact the Network Executive Administrator's office for additional information.
- NMSOM is about helping those who want to grow in their understanding of the Bible and ministry. It provides the instruction, interaction, accountability, and relationships that are not available through correspondence courses.
- NMSOM is for those who need to complete their educational requirements for credentialing within the Assemblies of God.
- NMSOM is for laypersons who may not be interested in credentials or full-time ministry but who want to learn more about the Bible and improve their ability to serve Christ and their church.
- NMSOM is for credentialed ministers who want to improve their skills and participate in an outstanding continuing education process.
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### **Focused Learning**

NMSOM offers courses for those who are seeking ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God and for those who want to improve their abilities to minister or are interested in their own spiritual growth

and understanding of God's Word. All courses taken as part of the focused learning strategy will apply should the student ultimately decide to seek or upgrade Assemblies of God credentials.

## STUDENT POLICIES

Students are to sign-up **no less than three weeks prior** to the course they wish to take. The course must be paid for at the time of the registration. Registrations will be accepted in person at a NMSOM site, email, mail or fax. Students may pay for their course fee and tuition in person at a NMSOM site or on line at [www.nmministry.net](http://www.nmministry.net), using the secure give payment system.

Once a student registers, he/she will receive via email a **Text Overview** of approximately 50 – 60 questions. If a student does not have computer access, NMSOM will send a paper copy of the text overview via US mail. Please call the NMSOM office if you need a paper copy of the text overview.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of preparatory self-study in advance of the class session. Students are required to read the course textbook(s) and to complete the course text overview prior to class.

Students are to bring **one completed** copy of their assignments to class which to be used for the class room review and turned in for grading purposes. The text overviews can be typed or hand-written. Please write legibly; credit will not be given if the grader cannot read the responses. These must be completed when the student arrives for the class to receive credit.

Students must attend all class sessions, complete the required assignments, and successfully pass the course final exam in order to receive credit for the course. The final grade is calculated as follows: attendance, 20%, text overview, 40%, and final exam, 40%.

### Absences

Due to the limited amount of classroom time in the NMSOM ministry training program, it is imperative that students adjust their personal schedules to ensure that they are able to attend the Saturday sessions in their entirety. However, we all know that situations may arise making it impossible for a student to attend. To clarify the matter of student attendance and absences, the following policies have been developed and implemented.

- Students are allowed one absence per semester. If a student cannot attend a Saturday session, they should contact the Administrator to submit their overview and arrange to take the makeup exam. If a student should incur more than one absence in a semester, the student will need to make up the class the next time it is offered.
- If a student cannot attend a Saturday session, for any reason, the student can apply his/her unused tuition payment to any future course within one year of the original absence.

### Standards of Academic Integrity

Registration in the New Mexico School of Ministry (NMSOM) requires adherence to basic standards of academic integrity. Any violation of these standards may result in disciplinary action ranging from lowering a grade to dismissal from NMSOM, depending on the severity of the infraction. **In addition, a notation of the violation will be placed in the student's permanent file, which is reviewed by the credential committee and by the Presbytery, during the credential processing with the New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God.**

The following examples represent some basic types of behaviors that are unacceptable. (This is not an exhaustive list.)

1. *Submitting work done by someone else as your own.*
2. *Copying or paraphrasing someone else's essays, projects, text overviews, or other work and submitting it as your own. \*Completing your text overview in the classroom is not acceptable.*
3. *Obtaining or giving an unfair advantage by sharing completed text overviews. NMSOM is a Christian ministry development program serving to equip men and women to fulfill God's calling on their lives. Christian conduct and character are expected among students and faculty and should guide all written and verbal communication and assignments.*
4. *Students are expected to complete the required course assignments by their own efforts. While it is reasonable and beneficial for two or more students from the same family, church, or community to study together, it is essential that each student's work be his or her own endeavor. Students should not combine their study results to make a common line of thought that appears identical on multiple pre-class session text overviews. Situations of this nature will be brought to the attention of the school's administration and will be investigated to determine if discipline is warranted.*

## **STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **Structure**

Classes are conducted once a month, eight times a year, in a two-semester format. Courses are offered each month of the semester, one for each corresponding credential level (certified, licensed, and ordained). The classes take place on one Saturday of each month from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

It is critical that you plan ahead to arrive for class at the designated location by 8:00 am prepared and ready to learn. Bring all pre-class assignments, completed and ready for submission. Arriving late to the classroom causes the student to miss valuable information, and causes disruption for the class and the instructor.

### **Class Schedule, Saturday**

8:00 am	Check in and Group Session
8:30 am	Classroom - Instructor Teaching
9:30 am	Break
9:45 am	Classroom – Review Text Overview 1
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Classroom – Review Text Overview 2
11:45 am	Final Exam Review
12:00 pm	Final Exam
1:00 pm	Dismiss

Prior to class, each student is required to work through the course text and text overview. A minimum of ten hours of preparatory work is necessary. With the classroom time, students will have invested 16 hours or more per course.

The classroom instruction provides an overview of the material, practical applications, and opportunity for questions and discussion. Instructors use personal experience and a variety of teaching methods. Faculty members become natural mentors as they build relationships and share experiences with their students. Faculty advisors are available to provide accountability and guidance for students.

## Location

During the 2017-2018 academic year, NMSOM classes will be held at:

**Albuquerque Campus**  
4800 Tramway Ridge NE  
Albuquerque, NM

**Las Cruces Campus**  
1980 Spruce Ave  
Las Cruces, NM

**Native American Campus**  
100 Crownpoint Drive  
Crownpoint, NM

## Textbooks

NMSOM has partnered with Christianbook.com so that students may purchase books through their website at a discounted rate. Students are responsible to purchase their own books. We will provide a list of authors and isbs #s at enrollment. You may use the following link to order through Christianbook.com: [http://agsom.christianbook.com/apps/textbook\\_finder?p=1167881](http://agsom.christianbook.com/apps/textbook_finder?p=1167881)

Students may also purchase their book through used vendors such as Amazon as long as they are purchasing the correct version of the book. Some books are available in E-format as well.

## Grades

Grades are based on attendance, the text overview, and the final exam. Students receive a Course grade which is a weighted average based on 20% for attendance, 40% for the text overview, and 40% for the final exam. The following is the grade and GPA scale for NMSOM courses.

<b>Average</b>	0%	70%	72%	74%	75%	78%	82%	85%	88%	91%	93%	95%	98%
<b>Letter Grade</b>	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
<b>GPA</b>	0.00	0.67	1.00	1.33	1.67	2.00	2.33	2.67	3.00	3.33	3.67	4.00	4.00

## New Mexico School of Ministry Disclaimer

Classes offered by the New Mexico Network New Mexico School of Ministry meet the educational requirements for credentials with the Assemblies of God. However, participation and completion of the classes does not assure nor give advantage for the granting of credentials or give preference in the credentialing process.

The credentialing process must be followed as determined by the New Mexico Network. Final decisions to award credentials are made by the Assemblies of God General Council Credential Committee upon the recommendation of the Network Credential Committee. Persons desiring to be credentialed with the Assemblies of God should contact the New Mexico Network Executive Director's office for further information.

## **REGISTRATION**

### Enrollment

*Students are to sign-up **no less than three weeks prior** to the course they wish to take. The course must be paid for at the time of the registration. Registrations will be accepted in person at a NMSOM site, email, mail or fax. All enrollment forms may be found on the New Mexico Ministry Network website at [www.nmministry.net](http://www.nmministry.net), click on ministries tab, click on NMSOM, and pick your campus.*

*Students may pay for their course fee and tuition in person at a NMSOM site or online at [www.nmministry.net](http://www.nmministry.net), using the secure give payment system and follow the steps.*

Be certain to note the payment is for tuition so your account will be properly credited. Course materials will not be sent until all fees are paid in full.

## **STUDENT FEES**

- Registration is \$25 per credential level.
- Tuition is \$55 per course
- Textbook costs will vary depending on the book and the supplier and are the student's responsibility
- Fees are non-refundable.
- Tuition is transferable to another course for up to 1 year.

**There will be no exceptions to registration deadlines or payment requirements**

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact:  
Devonna Cummins at (505) 899-5399 or [dcummins@nmministry.net](mailto:dcummins@nmministry.net)