

Character Mentoring Program

The Basics

As part of the Master of Biblical Studies degree, the Character Mentoring Program is intended to help the student mature in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ by reflecting on topics that address key issues of spiritual growth and holiness.

The Character Mentor must be a person who is considered spiritually mature and must be somewhat older than the student and/or a believer much longer than the student.

The Character Mentor may be the same person as the student's Ministry Mentor or a different person.

At a minimum, the student must meet with their Character Mentor every two months to review the topics of discussion, giving the mentor the opportunity to speak into the character growth of the student. The minimum number of mentoring meetings is 18 over the three year period.

Spiritual maturity and pressing character issues will determine the speed at which the student and their character mentor complete the discussion of each topic. Some issues will take more time to deal with than others, depending on the student.

The student must also mentor someone else following the topic list given below. The student will meet with the person they are mentoring a total of 18 times over the three year period.

The resources for each topic are required reading for the student. This resource list along with the complete Character Mentoring Manual will be available in July 2018.

The Topics of Discussion

Section One:

- Who are you?
- Your Redemption Story
- Your Personality
- Your Marriage
- Your Parenting
- Your Idolatry
- Your Theology
- Your Fight

Section Two:

- Your Study/Meditation
- Your Prayers
- Your Confession
- Your Rest & Recreation
- Your Sexual Temptation
- Your Money Temptations
- Your Power Temptations
- Your Conflicts

Program Design

The Character Mentoring Program consists of 6 credit hours divided into two 3 credit sections.

Section One (3 credits) begins the month of the first class the student attends and extends for the following 18 months. **Section Two (3 credits)** begins 18 months after the first class the student attends and extends for the subsequent 18 months.

For each section:

1. The student and Character Mentor will schedule and meet at least nine times during the 18 month period. While there are only eight topics to be covered in each section, the discussion of some of the topics may extend beyond one session.
2. After completing the reading for and discussion of each of the eight mentoring topics, the student will submit a reflection paper (1-2 pages) to the Graduate Program Mentoring Director that outlines what they are learning from their conversations with their mentor. This paper must include a description of the character issues discussed and a reflection on what they have learned from the reading/resource assignments and from their mentor. This paper must also outline the plan of action they will implement for continuing their character development.
3. At the conclusion of each section, following the nine mentoring sessions, the Character Mentor will complete a report for the Graduate Program Mentoring Director that reflects the progress of the student in their character development.
4. At the conclusion of each section, the student will complete a 1-2 page reflection report discussing what they are learning about mentoring through their relationship with their mentee.

Mentoring Meetings

While face-to-face meetings are preferable, video calling tools such as Skype or Facetime are suitable. Phone calls are acceptable but interaction only through texting will not satisfactorily accomplish the goals of mentoring.

Grading

1. The nine reflection papers for each section will receive a grade which indicates the seriousness of the student in addressing areas of concern and the thoroughness of their plan for growth.
2. The report of the Character Mentor at the end of each of the two sections will be considered in the final grading of each section.