

Table of Contents

Meet the Faculty	2
A Brief History of VBC	3
Faculty Statement	4
Purpose, Philosophy and Objectives of Education	4
Statement of Faith	6
Accreditation & Authorization	7
Spiritual Life & Mentor Program	7
Student Code of Conduct	8
Academic Programs	10
Practical Application Courses	10
Degree and Certificate Programs:	
Year 1: Certificate of Biblical Studies	11
Year 2: Associate of Theology Degree	12
Year 3: Advanced Ministry Diploma	13
Year 4: Bachelor of Theology	14
Degree Emphasis	15
Practicum & Internship	15
Distance Learning	16
Admission & Administration	16
Student Life	18
Campus Facilities & Housing	19
Fees & Expenses	19
How to Get Started & Frequently Asked Questions	20
Contact Information	21
Application For Enrollment	23

Meet the Vision Bible College Faculty

Rev. Benje B. Graves - President: Rev. Graves has been an evangelist, author, musician, and director of Lifeline Ministries for sixteen years. His travels throughout the northwestern U.S. and Canada have given him a solid overview of the church and ministry. Having led thousands to Christ, Benje brings tremendous passion and depth to VBC. Many Churches and individuals utilize his written and audio materials for training on discipleship and outreach. He also Pastors at Vision Bible Church. Benje holds a B.Th. from Lifeline Discipleship Center, which is now VBC.

Rev. Donald Bertelsen - Dean: Don is the Senior Pastor at The Oregon Trail Church of God, a vital and rapidly growing congregation in Caldwell, Idaho. Rev. Bertelsen has been pastoring for the past fourteen years and brings a wealth of practical experience in local church ministry to VBC. His passion for teaching and the Word of God is a tremendous asset to the program. The Bertelsen family consists of Don, his wife Renee, and their three children. Don holds a B.A. in Pastoral Ministry & Bible from Mid-America Bible College.

Rev. Ernest Salmond - Vice-President—Student Services: Ernest is head of administration for Lifeline Ministries & VBC where he has served for the past four years. He is also an overseer with Lifeline Ministries and a Pastor at Vision Bible Church. His love for God's Word and passion for the hurting add a vital dimension to the training here at VBC. The Salmond family consists of Ernest, his wife Shannon, and their four children. Ernest holds an Advanced Ministry Diploma from Lifeline Discipleship Center, now VBC.

Rev. Derrick Farrell - Director of Student Services: Derrick is the one you will most likely talk to if you phone the office. He is currently on his fourth year towards a Bachelor of Theology. Derrick works full time for the college as Director of Student services. He is also an Associate Pastor at Vision Bible Church where he and his wife Heather are in charge of the youth program.

Heather Farrell - Office Administrator: Heather keeps everything running smoothly around here. She works full time as the Office Administrator for Vision Bible College, Vision Bible Church, and Lifeline Ministries. Heather leads the youth program at Vision Bible Church along with Pastor Derrick Farrell. She is now on her fourth year towards a Bachelor of Theology.

Renee Bertelsen - Music & Worship: Renee is currently the music and worship director for the Oregon Trail Church of God. Her passion for music and for the worship of Jesus Christ are evident in her life and teaching. Music is a major focus here and Renee brings diversity and depth to the musical instruction at VBC. As mentioned above, the Bertelsen family consists of Don, Renee, and their three children. She holds a B.A. in Advanced Staff Ministry from Mid-America Bible College.

Robert L. Rogers - Faculty Advisor: Bob is currently a professor of mechanical engineering at the Oregon Institute of Technology. He received his Bachelors degree from the California Maritime academy and his Masters degree from Stanford University. An educator since 1974, Bob brings a wealth of educational experience and wisdom to the VBC Program.

Neal Rusco - Faculty Advisor: Neal has been an educator for many years. He received his B.A. from Friends University and His Masters degree from The Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia. Neal currently teaches at Vallivue High School here in Idaho and together with his wife Deloras, heads the Christian Education department at Vision Bible Church.

A Brief History of Vision Bible College

We greatly appreciate your interest in Vision Bible College (VBC). It would be impossible to share about the history of VBC without sharing about what God has done through Lifeline Ministries. This is what makes it possible for us to provide a program that is based so deeply on practical experience as well as provides us with faculty and instructors who have a deep passion for serving Jesus.

In 1984 the Lord built this ministry around the simple yet profound reality that people need Jesus. Our goal from the beginning has been to go to the hungry ones and see them filled with the life of Christ. We began with a strong commitment to training Christian Leaders that would be highly educated and passionately dedicated to practical real-life ministry application. Through the years our desire to reach lives for Jesus has led us to minister in many different ways. We have held countless services, crusades, and concerts in churches, auditoriums, camps, parks, prisons and juvenile detention centers, to the poor in wealth and in spirit, to people with AIDS, and to folks without a place to call home, in shopping malls, on street corners, and have experience ministering virtually anywhere that you can find people who need Jesus or need to know Him better. Over the past 17 years there have been thousands led to Jesus through Lifeline Ministries. While our traveling area has been primarily the western U.S. and Canada, our publishing, recording, music, and Internet ministries are continuing to expand around the world.

We continually endeavor to expand the cause of Christ in this world through any means available. Some of the ministries of Lifeline include: Lifeline - the Music of Benje & Michele Graves, the Lifeline Evangelistic Teams, the Lifeline Recording Studio, the Lifeline Newsletter and CD/Tape of the Month, several Discipleship Ministries and Curriculums, the Lifeline Discipleship House of Boston, MA, Over The Edge Ministries of Vancouver, WA, the oversight of the Montana Light and Power Youth Ministry, the Lifeline Ministries Nigeria Outreach, and of course, Vision Bible College located in Marsing, Idaho, U.S.A..

In 1992 the Lord began to impress upon us the great need in the Body of Christ for a formal training program with a solid theological curriculum balanced with a strong emphasis on real-life ministry application. We saw a need for an educational program that featured a focus on personal growth and practical ministry as well as the ability to earn an Associates or Bachelors Degree in Theology. There are excellent organizations such as YWAM with strong discipleship and missions programs, and many traditional Bible Colleges who focus purely on classroom learning and degrees. Our goal is to balance these two approaches to produce a well-rounded training experience. Many of our students come simply to earn the One-Year ministry Diploma, and others continue for the full four years. VBC is at the forefront of providing excellent classroom instruction along with real-life experience through ministry trips and practical experience. With VBC you are not merely attending a college, you are becoming part of an effective ministry.

In addition to our vision to provide high-quality ministry training, we are also passionately dedicated to providing that training at the lowest possible cost. As you study this catalog you will see that ***Vision Bible College is offering college education of the highest quality for a fraction of the going rate.*** Our goal is that each student would graduate virtually debt-free. To that end we make every effort to keep costs down. Each member of our staff is involved in active ministry outside of the college. This not only eases the financial burden on the school but provides instructors who are keenly aware of practical ministry issues. We also work hard to provide innovative housing options and financial packages that make a quality college education available to virtually anyone who is serious about ministry training.

Whether you feel called to full-time ministry or you simply want to be challenged to grow closer to the Lord, we are confident that Vision Bible College has the program to equip you to fulfill the call of God in your life. I truly hope that you will pray and consider VBC. If we can help you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

Because He lives!

Benje B. Graves - President

Faculty Statement

The faculty of VBC is made up of dedicated, experienced individuals who have given their lives to ministry and to the furthering of the Gospel. Each VBC instructor and administrator is here to enable others to effectively minister within the Kingdom of God. Most of our instructors are involved in full-time ministry apart from their college responsibilities which gives a real-world aspect to their instruction. Lifeline Ministries, the college's parent ministry is an active evangelism, music, and teaching ministry that has been reaching the lost and training believers for 18 years. This opens up many opportunities for students to travel and be a part of a practical and powerful ministry.

Purpose, Philosophy, & Objectives

Our goal is to train Christians to be effective in ministry and in life. At VBC we believe that there are many areas of ministry training that cannot be adequately taught in a classroom. Roughly one-third of the VBC courses are practical application-based rather than classroom-oriented. This unique approach of designing classes within standard educational guidelines that involve the student in real-life ministry sets VBC apart from many other Bible colleges. A student graduating from VBC is qualified to take part in active ministry immediately, as they already have a wealth of practical experience. By balancing the classroom approach with practical experience, we are able to provide a learning experience that is not purely theoretical in nature, but practical toward effective Christian life and ministry.

In this day of disappearing moral absolutes, it is imperative that all Christians be reminded that the Bible, as the revelation of God's truth, must determine not only our doctrinal beliefs, but also our lifestyle. In a changing world, the Christian has an unchanging standard, The Word of God. The purpose of the VBC program is to strike a balance between knowledge and personal accountability in a effort to equip each student to develop a life of personal holiness and discipline exemplified in a lifestyle glorifying to God.

The objective of Vision Bible College (VBC) is to develop within the framework of the student's God-given gifts, personality, potential, and abilities; individuals who are articulate, knowledgeable, and of good Christian character. It is our conviction that many of today's Bible colleges and Christian Universities focus on intellectual and theoretical learning at the expense of character building and practical application. At VBC we have developed a well-rounded course of study that strikes a healthy balance between classroom instruction and real-life application. Most colleges have students complete core requirements first. Students often wait until the third or fourth year to receive practical training in their chosen calling or career. Often students get disenchanted working through core requirements and never get to courses that would expose them to their possible ministry choices. In stressing practical application, we believe the VBC program is a very effective way to be trained for ministry and more conducive to individual growth than a theory based program.

The primary purpose of a Christian, as established by Jesus, is to make disciples (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Through Christian education, the disciple is to be brought to "unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (**Ephesians 4:13 KJV**)

We believe classroom methods should be teacher directed as modeled by Paul (**Acts 19:8-10**), with the students acquiring knowledge through studying (**II Timothy 2:15**), researching (**John 5:39**), reasoning (**Acts 24:25**), relating (**Luke 24:27**), testifying and recording (**Luke 1:1-4, III John 12**).

Christian education must deal with the social and spiritual, as well as academic, dimensions of life. Thus, the academic programs of VBC are only a part of the educational process. Students are taught a Christian philosophy of life, to be armed "lest any man spoil (him) through philosophy and vain deceit" (**Colossians 3:8**).

It is the experience of many Christian workers that much of what is needed for successful ministry is "caught" rather than merely "taught." By being exposed to and involved in active and effective Christian ministry, students gain greater enthusiasm and catch a vision for what God is doing. This type of training was used by Jesus (**Matthew 4:19**) and Paul challenged early Christians to live by the example that they saw in him. (**1 Cor 11:1, II Thess. 3:7-9**). It is our conviction that "on the job" training is highly effective and essential to practical ministry. ***All of those on our teaching staff are currently involved in active ministry in a variety of areas and gifting.*** This brings to the school a distinct advantage in the ability to provide hands on discipleship and training. In addition, the student is able to draw on wisdom and experience that is fresh from the active ministries of people who are serving in those areas every day.

At VBC we are committed to remaining abreast of every development that will make our ministry training more effective. To this end VBC makes use of leading computer & online technology that provides students with a virtually unlimited library of resources for study. Extensive Bible study software is available for each student to use in our study lab.

VBC is a Bible based, Christ-centered institution dedicated to the teaching and training of Christians for the work of the ministry. The statements on the following page encompass our objectives within the scope of our vision:

Our purpose is that a graduate of VBC:

- Will be able to communicate the Word of God to others, intending to win them to Christ.
- Will be able to expound the Word of God in a systematic fashion, with his/her training in the analytical inductive methods and in the literal grammatical method of interpretation.
- Will demonstrate genuine concern for missionary work around the world with a special concern for the urban centers, as a missionary, volunteer, sponsor, or prayer partner.
- Will demonstrate Christian maturity with his/her commitment to Christ and His Church
- Will be able to continue a daily regular study of the Word of God as an autonomous learner, which is characteristic of servants of God.
- Will be able to present a well defined, biblically based, intellectually and rationally sound apologetic of their faith against other beliefs.
- Will know how to acquire knowledge.
- Will know how to apply knowledge that has been acquired as well as exhibit wisdom and walk in it.
- Will have an awareness of personal values.
- Will have a high level of mastery in the skills of communication.
- Will be able to cooperate and collaborate with others in studying, analyzing, formulating, and implementing solutions to problems.
- Will have awareness, concern, and a sense of responsibility regarding contemporary events, issues, and problems.
- Will have a love, loyalty, and responsibility to/for the local church as God's primary method for societal transformation and its development.

- Will know the voice of the Lord for his/her generation and articulate God's plan with anointed power and conviction.
- Will know their Spiritual Gifts and be knowledgeable in the place and function of these gifts both in their personal life and in the life of the Body of Christ.
- Will have gained the practical experience needed to begin and fulfill active and/or occupational ministry within their calling.

Statement of Faith

This is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of faith, but rather a guide to the doctrinal boundaries within which the College functions. Those who share our spiritual identity will be generally familiar with the following terms, and will be able to fill in what is lacking. However, if you desire clarification of any point, do not hesitate to inquire. We will be pleased to give you details of our stance upon any doctrinal position.

We Believe:

- That there is only one God, who has revealed Himself as our Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- In the absolute Lordship and deity of Christ, including His pre-existence, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection, and His eventual second coming.
- In the full spiritual authority, the reliability, and the divine inspiration of the Bible.
- That nothing can replace the importance of the local church in the program of God.
- That the great task of the Church is worldwide evangelism.
- That entrance into the Church comes only through the "new birth," which is brought about by genuine repentance of sin, confession of faith in Christ as the only Savior, and surrender to Him as Lord.
- That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is a present, essential component of effective Christian life and witness. And that by His indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life and to receive and use the gifts granted them by God in accordance with 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 13.
- That the church cannot effectively fulfill its mission apart from a Scriptural order of leadership. We accept that it is part of our responsibility to recognize those people and to assist in equipping them to fulfill their ministry.
- In the reality of Satan, and the kingdom of darkness over which he reigns. We believe also in the absolute triumph of Christ over the devil and all his works.
- That victorious Christian life is built upon a proper understanding and exercise of the spiritual authority conveyed to the believer by the gift of righteousness.
- In the resurrection of the dead at Christ's return, in the certainty of God's judgment, and in the inescapable result of that judgment foretold in the scriptures for the just and for the unjust.



Accreditation & Authorization

- Vision Bible College is accredited by the International Accreditation & Recognition Council (IARC). Due to our purely theological and ministry-based focus and intent, we are not seeking government-based accreditation. To do so would require us to compromise elements of the ministry training program to meet secular standards.
- Vision Bible College is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws to Idaho, U.S.A.
- VBC is registered with the Idaho State Board of Education in accordance with Section 33-2404, Idaho Code. (This does not imply that the State Board of Education has accredited or endorsed the courses of VBC, but that we have fulfilled the requirement to register with the Board.)
- The content of all VBC academic programs is of the highest quality, and the courses are developed and mentored by qualified instructors. Continued accreditation with ministry-based organizations will be pursued as necessary with the growth of the school.
- Vision Bible College is an affiliate of Lifeline Ministries, Inc., and as such, is a recognized non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service tax code.
- VBC is non-denominational. We are committed to providing a Bible-based education without denominational bias.

Spiritual Life & Mentor Program

The spiritual growth of students is of primary concern to the administration and faculty of VBC. Daily personal devotions are essential and students are required to keep a journal of these times. Devotional groups also meet regularly to promote corporate prayer, worship, and accountability. Administration, faculty, guest speakers, and other students will bring devotions to help make these times a highlight of student life at VBC.

Church attendance and participation are required of VBC students. Vision Bible Church is the home church of the college and all students are certainly welcome there. However, students are free to choose any Bible-believing church in the area as their home fellowship. Once a home Church is selected, students are expected to be an active participant.

One primary asset of Vision's program of study is that each student will be assigned his or her own faculty mentor. A mentor is assigned for the purpose of counsel, support, and oversight as the student pursues their education and ministry training at VBC.

VBC is a small school by design. It would be impossible to implement the personal and practical training approach at the level we feel is important with too large a student body. While there are many students in the distance learning program, at the campus we try to keep enrollment around 20 students. This allows for a great deal on one-on-one attention. It's another reason we have so much confidence in our students.

Student Code of Conduct

VBC is committed to a biblical standard of Christian conduct. Each student is expected to have experienced salvation by faith in Christ as the initial step in the Christian life. Each should also desire to grow spiritually into the image of Christ. The Holy Spirit makes us conscious of biblical demands for a holy life which fulfill both God's moral law and the high law of love. (**Matthew 22:37-39**; **Romans 13:8-10**; **Galatians 5:14**)

In striving to provide an environment conducive to spiritual growth and development, we desire as few rules as necessary, knowing that submission to rules alone does not make one spiritual. However, to live together in harmony and accomplish the purpose to which God calls us, some disciplines are needed in the training process that may not be required later on. Moral conviction and self-discipline are as important as academic excellence.

The conduct of students should reflect heart obedience to biblical principles. If God has clearly spoken on the subject, it is settled. Many situations, however, require applying biblical principles.

In trying to rightly divide the Word of Truth regarding the issue of conduct, the following questions will help students and staff apply biblical principles:

Is This Conduct:

- **I Thessalonians 5:22** - Abstaining from appearance of evil?
- **I Corinthians 6:12-20** - Beneficial to spiritual growth?
 - Placing me under its control?
 - Fleeing from temptation?
 - In accord with our bodies as the Temple of the Holy Spirit?
 - Glorifying to God?
- **I Corinthians 10:21-33** - Partaking of the table of Satan?
 - Building me up in the faith?
 - Taking into account the spiritual needs of others?
 - Contributing to my ability to witness to others?
- **II Corinthians 5:14-7:1** - Causing me to unequally yoked together with unbelievers?
 - Causing me to "touch the unclean thing"?
- **Hebrews 13:17** - In accord with the will of those in authority?
- **I John 2:15-17** - Causing me to "love the world"?

Christians must endeavor to avoid practices which cause a loss of sensitivity to the spiritual needs of the world and loss of physical, mental, or spiritual well-being. Students are expected to demonstrate loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ in every area of life. He is our example and each should discipline ourselves to conform to that which honors Him. (**I Peter 2:21**, **I Corinthians 9:27**)

Dress Codes:

The staff uses discretion in governing dress codes. It boils down to cleanliness and modesty. If the staff feels that a student's dress is immodest or offensive, that specific situation will be addressed. Please contact us if you have concerns about specific issues.

Attendance:

For resident study (i.e. classes, seminars), students are expected to attend all the classes for the subject(s) in which they are enrolled. Unexcused absence from more than 30% of the classes for a subject will result in forfeiture of all credits for that subject. An exception to the 70% rule may be made if the absences are due to acceptable reasons, and if the student is able to satisfy the requirements for that subject (e.g. by completing additional assignments and/or field work). Granting or refusing this privilege will be at the discretion of the faculty or mentor in consultation with the Dean.

The Dean will counsel students failing to maintain satisfactory attendance, and an attempt will be made to solve the problem. Continued unsatisfactory attendance will be sufficient grounds for dismissal from the College. Re-admission may be permitted if the student can show the Dean that the problem has been overcome.

Worship:

As mentioned in the Spiritual Life section, each student is expected to be active in a worshipping community. It is in the context of church life that issues of character change are to be faced and practical learning is to occur. Each student must maintain a journal of his or her church experience and Christian service.

Assignments:

Various assignments will be given to students, depending on the course in which the student is enrolled. Assignments may take the form of essays, questions to be answered, multiple-choice tests, field work, local church activities, etc. These will be closely delineated by the course syllabi and mentor relationship.

Note: Assignments will be required. Failure to complete satisfactorily any of those assignments may forfeit all credits for that particular subject. Some assignments may be optional, or may affect only a stated percentage of the grade.

Problems:

If a student comes into personal or financial difficulty, or if a problem develops concerning some aspect of the College, the student should consult with his/her faculty mentor immediately. Problems should not be allowed to grow until they become insurmountable. The faculty member should be consulted especially if the student is contemplating leaving the College. The VBC staff is ready and willing to do everything possible to insure that the student succeeds in their preparation for the ministry.

Differences:

Students are not expected to agree with everything that will be taught by the various courses. Students are, however, expected to treat the views of the faculty mentors with respect. If a disagreement arises about something that is being taught, the student should listen as openly as possible, giving due attention to anything that the Holy Spirit may be saying.

The student should not expect the Holy Spirit to speak to everyone in the same way, or lead everyone in the same direction. The Holy Spirit has a multifaceted plan to suit the extraordinary diversity that exists in the church. There is much that one can learn from others.

In assignments, the student will be free to express his/her own views, but at other times will be required to show an understanding of alternate view points and be able to express that differing opinion, even if it conflicts with the student's personal beliefs. It is important for the student to follow the instructions at all times in the preparation of assignments.

Visiting:

Visitors are welcome at the VBC campus but prior permission must be given by the Registrar if a visitor wishes to sit in on classroom instruction.

Questions:

Students are encouraged to ask questions during classroom discussions. However, if a student is challenging the validity of the subject matter, common courtesy dictates that a student should put their questions in writing to submit to their faculty mentor. Usually, the faculty mentor's response will need to be accepted (even if the response is in conflict with the student's stand). Though continuing dialogue is a part of the educational program, the student is encouraged to utilize their faculty mentor as a senior discipler assisting the student to develop fuller understanding, knowledge and wisdom.

Married Students:

Being married need not mean being separated from the activities of the College. Married couples are encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible. Married students living off campus have the same Church, classroom, and Christian service requirements as resident students. Sensitivity is used in assisting with special needs.

Agreement with the Student Code of Conduct and the Belief Statement:

Each student will be required to sign a statement of agreement on the application form indicating that they have read the present section of the catalog entitled the Student Code of Conduct, and the Statement of Beliefs, and that the student is in agreement.

Academic Programs

The Word of God and the knowledge of God are central to all Vision programs. Hebrews 4:12 states that the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit. Further, II Timothy 3: 16-17 indicates that the Word provides all we need for godly life and service. Our academic programs are meticulously designed to equip the minister of God for effective life-long service in the most expedient and cost effective format available.

Practical Application Courses (PA)

One of the distinctive elements of the VBC program is the practical application emphasis. Among the course descriptions you will find many marked as "PA" or "Practical Application". This indicates that the course involves some form of active ministry. For instance, students wishing to study ministry to youth, children, or adults in a camp setting are actually taken to a camp and allowed to observe and take part in that event, which counts toward a large part of the course requirements. The benevolence and missions course involves students actually working in our food bank and in various area missions, all of which counts toward the course credit. These are just two examples. Many of the courses involve participation in common local church ministries, such as youth and small groups. Others are based on personal growth in areas such as prayer and personal holiness. Our goal is that a student will earn at least one-third of the credits applied toward the Bachelors degree program through practical application-based classes. VBC has worked hard to create these dynamic and life-changing courses in keeping with accreditation guidelines, and students reap the benefit of a wealth of experience shared by the VBC faculty. PA courses still involve textbook study and an assessment through testing or a term paper, but the experience gained is the primary focus. VBC students graduate with a great deal of ministry experience and are ready immediately for active service with a level of practical knowledge seldom found in new college graduates. Even our distance learning students can take part as these classes encourage participation in local church and community ministry. It's a great way to earn college credit for active involvement in God's work.

Bachelor Programs

Year 1 - Certificate of Biblical Studies (30 Credits Total)

The student must choose 30 credits (10 courses) from the courses listed below. Courses can be chosen from the recommended, elective, and practical application courses.

Recommended Courses:	Credit Hours
BI 101 Encountering the Old Testament	(3)
BI 102 Encountering the New Testament	(3)
BI 107 The Bible: It's Origin and Intent	(3)
CC 100 The Christian Marriage	(3)
PA 100 God's Armorbearer	(3)
RS 101 Walking With Jesus	(3)
RS 102 Evangelism: What Did Jesus Do?	(3)
RS 108 Prayer Life	(3)

Elective Courses:	Credit Hours
BI 100 Hermeneutics: How to Study The Bible	(2)
ED 101 Introduction to Teaching	(3)
RS 103 Developing Spiritual Vision	(3)
RS 107 Introduction to Christian Theology	(3)

Practical Application Courses:	Credit Hours
PA 104 Introduction to Small Groups	(3)
PA 106 Leading Worship In The Local Church	(3)
PA 117 Songwriting for Ministry	(3)
PA 203 Small Group Ministry II	(3)
PA 205 Growing in Holiness	(3)
PA 209 Christian Education	(3)
PA 212 Benevolence & Local Missions	(3)
PA 215 Practical Preaching	(3)
PA 217 Ministry Administration	(3)
PA 218 Drama Ministry	(3)
PA 309 Youth Ministry	(3)

Year 2 - Associate of Theology Degree (60 Credits Total)

The student must choose 30 credits (10 courses) from the courses listed below in addition to the 30 credits already completed. Courses can be chosen from the recommended, elective, and practical application courses.

Recommended Courses:	Credit Hours
BI 205 Answers to Common Bible Questions	(3)
BI 208 Encountering the Book of Romans	(3)
CC 201 Introduction to Christian Counseling	(3)
RS 200 Church History I	(3)
RS 206 Christology	(3)
RS 208 Cults & World Religions	(3)
RS 210 Foundations in Genesis	(3)

Elective Courses:	Credit Hours
BI 100 Hermeneutics: How to Study The Bible	(3)
CC 202 Introduction to Counseling Youth	(3)
CC 218 Marriage & Family II	(3)
ED 101 Introduction to Teaching	(3)
RS 103 Developing Spiritual Vision	(3)
RS 107 Introduction to Christian Theology	(3)
RS 203 Soteriology: The Study of Salvation	(3)
RS 209 Faith Dynamics	(3)

Practical Application Courses:	Credit Hours
PA 104 Introduction to Small Groups	(3)
PA 106 Leading Worship In The Local Church	(3)
PA 117 Songwriting for Ministry	(3)
PA 203 Small Group Ministry II	(3)
PA 205 Growing in Holiness	(3)
PA 209 Christian Education	(3)
PA 212 Benevolence & Local Missions	(3)
PA 215 Practical Preaching	(3)
PA 217 Ministry Administration	(3)
PA 218 Drama Ministry	(3)
PA 309 Youth Ministry	(3)

Year 3 - Advanced Ministry Diploma (90 Credits Total)

The student must choose 30 credits (10 courses) from the courses listed below in addition to the 60 credits already completed. Courses can be chosen from the recommended, elective, and practical application courses.

Recommended Courses:		Credit Hours
BI 301	1st Corinthians: The Church vs. The World	(3)
BI 304	Encountering the Book of John	(3)
BI 306	Bible Evidence	(3)
RS 302	Apologetics	(3)
RS 304	Encountering World Missions	(3)

Elective Courses:		Credit Hours
CC 202	Introduction to Counseling Youth	(3)
CC 218	The Christian Family II	(3)
CC 301	Biblical Inner Healing	(3)
ED 301	Principles of Christian Education	(3)
RS 203	Soteriology: The Study of Salvation	(3)
RS 209	Faith Dynamics	(3)

Practical Application Courses:		Credit Hours
PA 104	Introduction to Small Groups	(3)
PA 106	Leading Worship In The Local Church	(3)
PA 117	Songwriting for Ministry	(3)
PA 203	Small Group Ministry II	(3)
PA 205	Growing in Holiness	(3)
PA 209	Christian Education	(3)
PA 212	Benevolence & Local Missions	(3)
PA 215	Practical Preaching	(3)
PA 217	Ministry Administration	(3)
PA 218	Drama Ministry	(3)
PA 309	Youth Ministry	(3)

Year 4 - Bachelor of Theological Studies (120 Credits Total)

The student must choose 30 credits (10 courses) from the courses listed below in addition to the 90 credits already completed. Courses can be chosen from the recommended, elective, and practical application courses.

Recommended Courses:		Credit Hours
BI 400	Advanced Hermeneutics	(3)
RS 401	Church History II	(3)

Elective Courses:		Credit Hours
CC 301	Biblical Inner Healing	(3)
CC 401	Pastoral Counseling	(3)
CC 402	Crisis Counseling	(3)
CC 403	Human Development	(3)
CC 404	The Dysfunctional Family	(3)
CC 408	Child & Adolescent Counseling	(3)
CC 410	Cross-Cultural Counseling	(3)
ED 301	Principles of Christian Education	(3)
ED 401	Philosophy of Christian Education	(3)
ED 402	Administration of Christian Schools	(3)
ED 403	Curriculum Development in Christian Education	(3)
ED 404	Ethics in Christian Education	(3)
RS 402	Church Leadership & Administration	(3)
RS 404	Church Growth	(3)

Practical Application Courses:		Credit Hours
PA 104	Introduction to Small Groups	(3)
PA 106	Leading Worship In The Local Church	(3)
PA 117	Songwriting for Ministry	(3)
PA 203	Small Group Ministry II	(3)
PA 205	Growing in Holiness	(3)
PA 209	Christian Education	(3)
PA 212	Benevolence & Local Missions	(3)
PA 215	Practical Preaching	(3)
PA 217	Ministry Administration	(3)
PA 218	Drama Ministry	(3)
PA 309	Youth Ministry	(3)

Degree Emphasis

You may choose to graduate with an emphasis in biblical Studies, Pastoral Ministry, Youth Ministry, Worship Ministry, or Christian Counseling. We will assist you in taking the correct PA and elective courses to insure your preparation in the area you choose. We will also help you to choose your internship experience accordingly.

Practicum & Internship

A Christian education is valuable only when used in the service of Christ. VBC provides numerous opportunities for Christian service. Participation is required and is a practical application of the spiritual training students receive in the classroom. These activities help prepare students for an effective life of Christian service and evangelism. The VBC staff consists of qualified people who are active in many different areas of ministry and can help you to grow through practical experience. Opportunities for active ministry are an integral part of the discipleship training and VBC students are encouraged to be involved in the following areas as their gifts and abilities allow:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| -Pastoral ministry | -Worship |
| -Small groups | -Christian Education |
| -Children's Ministries | -Youth Ministries |
| -Senior's Ministries | -Music or Drama |
| -Evangelism | -Benevolence & Visitation |
| -Christian Counseling | -Chaplaincy |
| -Woman's Ministries | -Preaching & Teaching Ministry |

Internships:

To complete the Bachelor of Theology Degree students must serve in an internship program. We are closely connected to a number of churches and ministries in the U.S. and Canada and can assist in securing an internship position in a number of areas. We do our best to place students in internship situations that closely fit their gifts and calling. This involves one summer of service in a ministry area that fits your desired degree goals.

Musical Ministries:

Lifeline Ministries has been actively involved with music ministry for sixteen years. The Lifeline music group has produced six music CD's and held thousands of concerts and services from which to draw experience from. Because VBC is closely affiliated with Lifeline and many of the staff work with that ministry, students with musical talent will find many ways in which to use their abilities. VBC will actively use students in worship teams and ensembles both at the College, Vision Community Church, and throughout the area. Students wishing to learn to play instruments can receive quality instruction in a variety of areas. Upon meeting certain criteria, VBC students also have access to Lifeline's recording studio, a 76 track high-end digital facility. VBC is a fantastic place for those seeking to be involved in music ministry.

Distance Learning

VBC offers one of the finest distance learning, or decentralized education, programs in existence today. The VBC distance learning program allows you to study at home in a self-paced program and be trained for ministry while you work in your local church or ministry.

Clearly, the campus experience is highly valuable for those who are able to attend, but for many people it is simply not possible to leave home and attend college. Those currently in full-time ministry or individuals with families who cannot leave their job may still receive quality instruction and access to our degree granting programs. The VBC distance learning program allows you to study at home in a self-paced program and be trained for ministry while you work in your local church. All of our courses are available in a self-study format. In addition, we are able to apply life-experience credit for worthy candidates. If you are at least 28 years of age and have significant life or ministry experience, you may be closer to a degree than you think!

Many colleges are now offering some form of distance learning. Many do so reluctantly fearing the loss of revenue if students choose not to attend their campus. To that end they offer only a few classes or the first year through correspondence. Virtually all colleges can see the handwriting on the wall. With the explosive growth of the internet and the ease of communication it provides, distance learning is becoming a powerful medium for higher education. This holds especially true for ministry training, where many people are in active ministry and to leave that valuable experience behind would be counter-productive.

By working with pastors and ministries in your area, we can generally provide valuable practical application as well. Here at VBC, distance learning is not an afterthought or a recruitment trick, it's a major focus of the program. Whether you would like to work toward a full degree or simply take a few classes in the field of your choice, Vision Bible College can help you achieve your goals. We will endeavor to help in any way we can. Distance learning takes self-discipline to be sure, but for those unable to attend the campus it is a valuable alternative.

All of the details in this catalog apply to distance students except where it deals specifically with campus and classroom issues. Distance Learners are not held to term schedules as campus students are. Distance learning students may start the program at any time and work at their own pace. Degree programs are the same for the campus and the distance learning program except that some courses marked (PA) are practical application courses that require a student to go on a trip or be here at the campus. Some distance learning students are able to take part in these trips and experiences but for those for whom this is not possible we substitute standard courses or practical ministry experience in their area. Many of the practical application-based courses are available for the distance learning students, and students are encouraged to take part in them for the sake of real ministry experience.

Admissions & Administration

Student Eligibility:

VBC is open to all who have a desire to grow in practical discipleship and/or be trained for a life of full-time ministry. It is not limited to a particular age group, but is open to all who are serious about growth in Christ and responsible enough to truly apply themselves.

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy:

Vision admits students of any race, religion, color, national, and ethnic origin, or sex to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national, or ethnic origin, or sex in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs. VBC does not discriminate in admission, or access to or treatment to employment in its program and activities in respect to those with impaired vision, hearing or physical mobility.

Admission Requirements:

Students must possess the following educational background:

- A High School Diploma or equivalent (GED) is required for the Bachelors program.

Transfer Students:

A student desiring to transfer from another university may apply for admission by submitting the forms provided. Official transcripts from all universities or institutions of learning attended following graduation from high school must be submitted. Such transcripts must indicate courses entered, in progress, or completed. Results of aptitude and other special tests taken and evidence of standing should also be indicated on the transcript. Vision welcomes transfer students with the desire to develop in their vocation.

Transfer of Credits:

VBC considers the acceptance of university or college credits from all schools who meet standard educational guidelines. VBC will review credits from acceptable schools and will transfer in as many credits as are comparable to our programs. Students wishing to transfer credits earned at VBC must contact the receiving institution as such transfer is done at their discretion.

Life Experience Credit:

Students who have significant work and ministry experience may receive Life Experience Credits for those years of service to God. To qualify, a student must be at least 28 years of age and provide documentation through a complete Life Experience Portfolio. Based on the information given by the student, VBC can award up to 30 credit hours for undergraduate and up to 25% of the credit requirements for graduate programs related life experiences. Life Experience credit may be earned from such sources as active ministry, military service, work, seminars, projects completed, etc., if applicable to a degree program.

Fees For Life Experience Credit:

There is a charge per each Life-Experience credit for administrative costs. This charge is \$20.00 per credit (bachelors level) awarded and \$30.00 per credit for graduate level. There is no charge for credits transferred from other seminaries, colleges, or universities. There is a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 for Life Experience evaluation to cover the administrative cost of translating Life Experience to academic credit. (This is not to be confused with the application fee, nor with tuition fees). **Regardless of the amount of credits transferred or allowed for life experience, 25% of any program must be completed directly through VBC for graduation.**

Transcripts:

The first transcript from Vision for each student is provided without charge, but each subsequent transcript is issued at a charge of \$10.00. Official transcripts are only issued directly to other institutions upon request. Transcripts will not be issued for a student who has failed to meet all of his financial obligations. It normally takes 4-6 weeks to process a transcript.

Course Papers:

Unless specified otherwise by the professors in individual courses, all course papers must be typewritten and in thesis form in conformity to the standards outlined by the instructor. A guide is available through the VBC Registrar's office.

Class Attendance:

Classroom attendance is necessary for the campus based program. However, for the distance learning program classroom attendance is not a key factor. It is strongly recommended that the student set a realistic schedule for completion of assignments.

Grading System:

A 4.0 grading system is in effect:

			Grading Scale	
A -	Superior	4 grade points	94.5-100 =	A
B -	Good	3 grade points	91.5-94 =	A-
C -	Average	2 grade points	88.5-91 =	B+
D -	Poor	1 grade point	85.5-88 =	B
F -	Failure	0 grade point	82.5-85 =	B-
I -	Incomplete	0 grade point	79.5-82 =	C+
V -	Audit	0 grade point	76.5-79 =	C
WP -	Withdrawn passing	0 grade point	73.5-76 =	C-
WF -	Withdrawn failing	0 grade point	70.5-73 =	D
			Below 70.5 =	F

Academic Probation:

Any undergraduate student who falls below the cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 will be placed on academic probation. When a student begins to perform at the minimum or higher grade-point average he/she will be taken off of academic probation. Graduate students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0.

Graduation:

To qualify for graduation, a student must:

- Gain the required number of credit points for each award
- Complete all assignments at a passing grade
- Satisfactorily complete any field assignments that may be required by a course
- Pay all outstanding fees

Termination:

The University has the right to terminate a student's enrollment on the following grounds:

- Failing grades in more than 25% of assignments
- Financial delinquency
- Conduct that is inconsistent with the philosophy and goals of the University

Every effort will be made to resolve the problem before termination of a student's enrollment takes effect.

Student Life

One of the greatest advantages offered to VBC students is the environment itself. With all of the Lifeline Ministry connections students have many opportunities to travel with the ministry teams. This year we have made ministry trips to San Diego, Las Vegas, Canada, Montana, and Washington. Locally, Vision Community Church and Lifeline Ministries offer many varied opportunities for the Lord to use and train students in an exciting, practical, environment. We care very much for one another. Simply put, this is a very fun and encouraging place in which to grow in the Lord.



Campus Facilities & Housing

One of our main goals is to provide a high quality ministry training program without creating an undue financial burden for the student. To this end, Vision Bible College shares a ten acre parcel of land with the headquarters of Lifeline Ministries where students are housed. Our facilities are simple but effective. We currently have several housing options available and are pacing our expansion at a reasonable rate in an effort to keep costs to a minimum. The classrooms, recreation area, prayer room, and computer study center are housed in the main building on Main Street in Marsing. This is an 11,000 sq. ft. building (about 1.5 miles from the Lifeline base and housing) where classes and activities are held.

Housing is provided through the use of RV's in the RV Park. We have several nice travel trailers and students sometimes bring their own which saves them money. We also house some single students with families from Vision Community Church and from the Oregon Trail Church of God. The cost depends on the situation and students are encouraged to contact us as soon as they know they will be attending to insure they receive the best possible housing options. Married students use either the RV park facilities or home rentals in the area. We work with each individual to best meet their housing needs.

The sense of community here is powerful. Recognizing that many students may wish to pursue degree programs that we do not offer here at VBC, we are working with area colleges to help those students achieve their goals while still taking part in the VBC community. We are within reasonable distance from Boise State University and ITT Technical Institute. Students can live here on campus while attending these other schools and may choose to take some Bible courses from here. This allows them all of the advantages of the Christian environment while pursuing their schooling.

Fees & Expenses

Tuition/Fees	Cost
On-Campus Tuition* (Per Credit Hour)	\$90.00
On-Campus Audit* (Per Credit Hour)	\$45.00
Distance Learning Tuition* (Per Credit Hour)	\$60.00
Distance Learning Audit* (Per Credit Hour)	\$30.00
Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$50.00
Life Experience Credit Application	\$50.00
Life Experience Credits (Per Credit Awarded)	\$20.00

*** Prices do not reflect cost of books & materials needed for each course.
Usually each course has 1-2 books ranging from \$10.00 - \$30.00.**

Financial Aid

We work hard to keep the cost down for all of our students and this leaves little room for financial aid beyond the matching scholarships. However, it is our desire that no student should miss out on this opportunity due to financial hardship. Students are encouraged to contact us with their needs and we will work to help them in any way we can. There are private individuals who believe strongly in this ministry and are willing to provide scholarships to serious students. This is handled on a case by case basis.

How to Get Started & Frequently Asked Questions

It's easy to procrastinate on education. Unfortunately this often leads to a weakening of our spiritual effectiveness and victory. We hope the following section of frequently asked questions (faq) will help you as you make decisions regarding your educational future. If you have questions that are not answered here please feel free to contact us.

Q: How do I get started?

A: Simply complete the registration form and mail it to us along with the \$50.00 registration fee. Once you are registered you can take as many or as few classes as you like. The VBC registrar will contact you to arrange the classes you desire to take. We will help those pursuing a full degree program to choose the required classes.

Q: Can I start at any time?

A: Yes, distance learning students can start at any time and work at their own pace. Just fill out the registration form and return it to us with the \$50.00 registration fee and we will contact you to help design a course of study that best meets your needs and goals.

Q: Is there financial aid available?

A: We don't offer direct financial aid though there is a discount available for full-time students (five classes or more). Our commitment to keeping costs down for everyone makes further financial aid impossible. Students wishing to make payments generally use a credit card. I think you will find our costs to be very low when compared to similar programs. Please see the enclosed financial information and feel free to contact us directly for more information.

Q: Can I get credit for my practical experience?

A: If you are 28 years of age or older and have ministry experience you may be eligible to receive credit for classes in those areas. In this case you may not have to take some classes. There is a 50.00 fee for evaluation of Life-application credit and a \$20.00 charge per credit hour for classes awarded.

Q: Does VBC accept credit or degree transfer from other colleges?

A: Like virtually all colleges, VBC deals with transfers on a college by college, class by class, basis. There are many colleges on our approved list and we are willing to review special circumstances and educational programs. In general we will accept credits from any college that meets standard educational requirements and when the classes match reasonably with those we offer. Please contact us for information about a specific college or university.

Q: Do other colleges accept VBC credits?

A: Many do. No college can guarantee credit transfer. If students intend on completing their degree somewhere else it is always wise to contact that college and ask about their credit transfer policies. This is true regardless of the college you attend.

Q: How does the program work? How are classes administered?

A: Class materials will be sent to you along with a course syllabus detailing required assignments and associated resources. These materials usually include textbooks, tests, and a student study guide. Many also include audio CD's. Some assignments require you to send in your papers for correction and grading. We are only a phone call or an e-mail away for any assistance you might need.

Q: How long does it take from the time I send in my registration to when I receive my materials?

A: About two to three weeks. If you are applying for life-experience credit it may take a little longer.

Q: Is there a time limit for completing my studies?

A: No. However, we highly recommend that you set goals for yourself if you are taking classes for credit. We will encourage you to keep up your studies throughout the process.

Q: What if I just want to take some classes but am not interested in a degree?

A: That's fine. This is known as taking courses for audit and is less expensive per credit hour.

Q: How do I obtain help?

A: At VBC we are very dedicated to personal service and ministry. We are available through our toll-free phone lines, E-mail, or regular mail. We are happy to help students with issues pertaining to their studies as well as any spiritual or ministry related issue. Vision Bible College is operated by Lifeline Ministries, a staff of highly experienced men and women of God who desire to help you grow in any way we can. Please feel free to call on us.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Vision Bible College
4920 Lifeline Drive
Marsing, ID 83639

Phone:

888-580-5384

Fax:

208-896-5307

Website:

www.VisionBibleCollege.com

Distance Learning or General Questions:

drfarrellvbc@gmail.com

On-Campus Questions:

Benje@VBCIdaho.com

Physical Address:

4920 Lifeline Drive
Marsing, ID 83639

Vision Bible College

Application for Enrollment

Please fill out this form and mail it along with your \$50.00 registration fee & picture to:

Vision Bible College, 4920 Lifeline Drive, Marsing, ID 83639

Select one: Distance Learning On-Campus

Main Information:

Name: _____ SSN: ____-____-____ Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____ Sex: M____ F____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (day) (____) _____ (evening) (____) _____
 Fax #: (____) _____ Email: _____

Degree Desired: (check both boxes – degree program and emphasis)

Associate of Biblical Studies Bachelor of Theological Studies
 With Emphasis in. . . (check below)

Preferred Emphasis:

Theology Pastoral Ministry Youth Ministry
 Chaplaincy Ministry Worship Ministry Business Management
 Women’s Ministry Christian Education Christian Counseling

General Information:

Single Married Divorced Widowed
 Military Service? Yes No Service Date: _____ Active Reserve? Yes
 Serve in a church position: Yes No Position: _____ How long: _____
 Name and address of Church you attend: _____
 Pastor’s Name: _____ Pastor’s Phone#: (____) _____

Academic History:

Copies of transcripts, if applicable, need to be enclosed with this application or sent for by the student. Student held transcripts are acceptable for evaluations, but official transcripts sent directly from former institutions are required for full admission.

High School: _____

Location: _____ Graduation Date: _____

College or Bible Institute: _____ Degree: _____

Location: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Graduate or professional school: _____ Degree: _____

Location: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Major: _____ Minor: _____

Academic Achievements / Honors: _____

Optional Information:

This information is for the purpose of reporting to the Federal Compliance Agencies only and will not be used for determining admissions status. Completion is voluntary.

Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____ M _____ F _____

____ Single ____ Married ____ Divorced ____ Widowed

Ethnic Origin: ____ Native Alaskan or Native American ____ Asian or Pacific Islander

____ Hispanic ____ Black, Non-Hispanic ____ White, Non-Hispanic ____ Unknown

References:

Please list the names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three references. One must be from your local church. The other two can be from your workplace or friends.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: (____) _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: (____) _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: (____) _____

Will you be attempting to transfer credits to Vision Bible College from another institution?

Yes* No

*If yes, you must have an official transcript sent to us directly from the institution you wish to transfer credits from.

I give Vision Bible College to contact any references listed in this application. I have also read the statement of faith and the code of conduct in the VBC Catalog and agree to abide by both.

Date: _____ Signature of Student: _____

- Please include your \$50.00 registration fee. You may now pay your registration fee online at: www.visionbiblecollege.com/registrationfee.htm.
- Please include your testimony of how you came to know the Lord and your future goals on a separate sheet.
- Please include a picture of yourself along with your application.

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Marsing, ID 83639
1-888-580-5384
www.VisionBibleCollege.com



