

Sangre de Cristo Seminary

(Sangre de Cristo School for Biblical Studies)



Student Handbook

2023

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Introduction:

Sangre de Cristo Seminary seeks to encourage students to grow in all areas of life. We want to encourage a strong family life for those who have families and we want to encourage single students to continue to grow and develop in their personal lives as well. This handbook is designed to provide information that will aid the students and their families in understanding how the seminary functions and to aid in creating a strong seminary community.

Class Schedule

Summer

Classes Monday - Friday:	8:30-9:35 a.m. 9:45-10:50 a.m.
Bible Study Course – Tuesdays	11:00-11:50 a.m.
Chapel – Wednesdays:	1:00 p.m. or as otherwise arranged.
Fellowship Meal -Tuesdays:	6:00 p.m.

Fall

M. T. Th. and F.: 8:00-9:05 a.m., and 1:00-2:05 p.m.: Essentials of Biblical Greek or Hebrew
M. and Th. 9:15-10:05: Hermeneutics, Homiletics or Applied Exegesis.
T. and F.: 8:00 – 9:05 a.m.: Greek Exegesis
T. and F.: 9:15 – 10:05 a.m.: Hebrew Exegesis
W.: 8:00 – 8:50 a.m. and 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. Teaching, Preaching, Worship
Seminar. W.: 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Bible Survey

Worship

The worship of God is done throughout our daily lives. Students are encouraged to have daily devotions. Corporate worship is a necessary part of the Christian life and growth. Students are expected to attend services weekly. The seminary provides a chapel service each Sunday. Church services are also conducted throughout Custer County.

Oversight Program

Sangre de Cristo Seminary has an oversight (mentoring) program. Preparation for ministry requires more than classroom preparation. The purpose of this program is to encourage and guide students to grow spiritually and personally address topics that may not be covered in the classroom. It is also an opportunity for students to see some principals of “eldership” modeled. An additional goal of the oversight program is to involve the faculty and experienced students with the student body beyond the classroom and social gatherings.

Each student will be paired with an “overseer”, a faculty member or experienced student, who is involved in the Oversight Program. The two will meet monthly or as needed.

Academic Programs

Sangre de Cristo Seminary offers the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. It is a 105 credit-hour traditional ministerial degree. An academic prerequisite for this program is a college bachelor's degree. This program has a specific purpose of developing exegetical, theological and communication skills, and have been designed around the purpose of Sangre de Cristo Seminary.

We do accept some students into the M. Div. program who have not yet completed a college bachelor's degree; with expressed permission of the Seminary President. Upon graduation these students receive a Diploma in Biblical Studies. The diploma program is academically identical to the M. Div. degree program.

Master of Divinity

Our focal program is the 105 semester-hour Master of Divinity Degree (M. Div.). The objective of this M. Div. program is to train students to effectively teach and preach and to minister skillfully with the necessary tools to interpret the Scriptures. The list of required courses may be found in the catalog. With permission from the Seminary administration, certain elements of the program may be transferred in from other schools. Likewise, if a course is missed, up to six credit hours may be accepted through an approved self-study arrangement. Since this program is designed to prepare students to be in the gospel ministry, graduates of this program are well-equipped to integrate exegetical skill, theological knowledge, and communication proficiency.

Diploma in Biblical Studies

Although a college bachelor's degree is necessary to earn the M. Div., we do accept qualified non-college graduates into the program. These non-college graduates will earn a Diploma in Biblical Studies upon successful completion of the 105 credit-hour program.

The ideal Diploma in Biblical Studies candidate would be a "seasoned individual" who has significant secular or ministerial, family, or work experience. Recent high-school graduates may be accepted into the program; but they must be able to work at a high academic level. We recommend that prospective students complete a bachelor's degree prior to entering seminary.

The Diploma in Biblical Studies may be upgraded to a Master of Divinity degree upon the completion of a college bachelor's degree, the submission of an official transcript of the bachelor's degree, an application for the upgrade in writing, submission of applicable fees, and a written integration thesis approved by the advising instructor(s). The integration thesis is a paper written by the student to demonstrate their integration of theological and undergraduate learning.

Admission, Tuition & Fees

Tuition

Full-time (12 – 18 credit hours)

\$3,100.00 per semester

(\$1,550 per semester with community service)

Part-time

\$240.00 per semester hour

Audit

\$150.00 per semester hour

Spring Exegesis and Ministry

\$300.00 per Spring semester. The community service discount does not apply to Spring semester courses.

Community Service Scholarship

Community Service Scholarships are offered to full-time, in-person students in a degree program. To be eligible for this scholarship, students must dedicate themselves to two hours per week of community service. One hour per week in fulfillment of a community task should be accomplished throughout the semester. The second hour will be spent in the cultivation of non-profit support. If these tasks are performed satisfactorily, a 50% tuition scholarship will be applied as credit to their tuition. Tasks will be assigned at the beginning of each semester. This program is designed to keep fees and tuition costs low while yielding a greater sense of seminary community.

Students who do not elect to perform a community service job or who are dropped from the program due to unsatisfactory performance will be responsible to pay full tuition.

Books

\$175 - \$250 per semester (Approx.) Student are responsible to purchase, find or download their own texts. Students will be given a list of required texts before each semester begins. Students may find books from Amazon, Christian Book Distributors (Christianbook.com), Christian Education and Publication or through any other provider. Choosing to download a book onto a Kindle is an acceptable option.

Admissions

Sangre de Cristo teaches a seminary curriculum, which is designed for those with a college degree. The Seminary does not prescribe a particular pre-theological curriculum to be taken in college. We recommend a basic liberal arts education emphasizing English composition and literature, Philosophy, History, Foreign Language(s) and Natural and Social Sciences. The school assumes that students entering seminary shall be equipped with the basic skills in writing papers, grammatical construction, world history, and some public speaking ability. Students will be admitted who have not completed college, but such people must be strongly motivated to study diligently to do acceptable work. For every hour in class, students should anticipate two to four hours of additional preparation or assignments.

To enroll, students are to complete the Application for Admission. We require that students make a profession of Christian faith as summarized in the Apostles' Creed and be willing to test every issue of faith and life by the Scriptures. Full-time student applicants will also need to have three letters of recommendation submitted to the school. One of these letters should be from the student's pastor or a minister who knows the applicant. A second reference should be from a present or former school-official or employer who can attest to the applicant's academic and/or employment skills. The third reference can be someone who knows the applicant personally, such as a friend or family member.

The application of a student must be approved by two members of the Core Faculty prior to admission. If a student's application is denied for any reason, the applicant shall be notified in writing. That applicant may appeal such a decision to the entire Core Faculty and seek advice from the Core Faculty on what steps may be taken to be accepted. A member of the Core Faculty shall inform the applicant of the final decision and be available to counsel the applicant. The faculty member shall inform the denied applicant of schools to which he may apply, and where materials from those schools might be obtained. This School will admit and permit the use of facilities or privileges to any student without discrimination in any way based on sex, race, or ethnic background. Since the Scriptural, doctrinal, and ethical standards of this school would be compromised by an admission of students whose sexual orientation is directed toward members of their own gender the school discourages application for admission to anyone embracing a homosexual orientation. Application for admission from someone with such orientation may be considered following an interview with the Core Faculty, repentance before God and forsaking such a lifestyle. Applications for enrollment should be submitted at least thirty days before a student expects to commence classes. If one plans to be a part-time student for a summer course, an application is requested thirty days prior to the start of any class. Exceptions may be made to this policy if the classes are not filled. Those who have prior academic deficiencies should not let that discourage them from applying if they are presently motivated to diligently study God's Word.

We request that students make a profession of Christian faith as summarized in the Apostles' Creed and are willing to test every issue of faith and life by the Scriptures. This School will admit or permit the use of facilities or privileges to any student without discrimination in any way based on gender, race, or ethnic background.

Credit Transfer

A student who desires to transfer credits to this school must have an official transcript sent. Courses which have a grade of "C" or better and which are evaluated by the Administration as equivalent to courses in this school may be accepted in lieu of certain courses we offer. The student (and in cases of a veteran, the Veterans Administration) will be advised in writing of courses which have been accepted in transfer.

Financial Policy

Sangre de Cristo Seminary is a tax-exempt organization under IRC 501(c)(3) and, as required for tax-deductibility, maintains full control and ultimate discretion over all contributions for use in its ministry. The seminary strives to maintain the highest standards of integrity and accountability in every area of its ministry – including financial responsibility. The seminary financial records are annually reviewed by an independent accounting firm, the board of directors, and are open for review by interested parties.

Donations

The Seminary accepts donations from individuals and organizations. These contributions are tax-deductible insofar as they are permitted by law.

International Students

International students, those holding valid visas, may be considered for admission. Prospective international students must have English language proficiency prior to consideration. Inquiries are welcome, but are also subject to the requirements of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security.

Veterans

This school has been approved by the Colorado State Approving Agency for those eligible to receive VA benefits while a student here.

Transcripts

Students may have an unofficial copy of a transcript of their academic work done at this school at any time requested. An official transcript can also be sent to other institutions. A signed request by the student is needed for an official transcript to be sent to any other institution. A transcript will be issued only if the student has paid all outstanding debts to the Seminary.

Auditors

Classes may be audited without credit with the approval of the professor teaching the course and the Seminary President. The fee for auditing is published earlier in this document. Spouses of full-time students may audit courses without charge.

Full and Part-Time Students

Students are encouraged to start at the beginning of a Summer or Fall semester. Students continue until the Master of Divinity degree or Diploma requirements are met. A student may come as a part-time student for whatever courses desired during the Summer or Fall semesters. If a part-time student decides to become a full-time student, it will probably take three years from the time he begins a full program to complete the program for graduation. The student is not required to repeat classes previously completed; however, due to the structure and schedule of the curriculum, it is unlikely a student would be able to complete all the requirements for graduation in less than three years.

Attendance

As evidence of Christian maturity and stewardship, students must exhibit regular class attendance, appropriate levels of class participation, and completion of course requirements. Class attendance is expected. Permission for absence from class due to illness or other emergencies must be made in advance with the instructor. A student who is absent for 2/13ths or more of a course without permission of the Director or Core Faculty will be automatically dropped from the course. A student who is absent without permission for 2/13ths or more from half or more of the semester hours of the courses being taken will be disenrolled from the seminary. A student who is absent up to 4/13ths of a course with the permission of the Core Faculty may make up work that is missed. Such work must be completed within the semester of the absences. A student may be given permission for absences up to 4/13ths of a course for their own sickness or serious illness or death in their immediate family. If a student must be absent for more than 4/13ths of a class, even with permission, the course must be dropped and an "Incomplete" received as a grade. An unexcused absence is considered as absenting oneself without prior permission, regardless of the cause of absence, unless a student is physically unable to communicate with the school. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence. The individual student is responsible for obtaining any material missed due to his absence or late-arrival to class.

Class Standing & Grading

There are three classifications of full-time seminary students: Junior (first year), Middler (second year) and Senior (third year). Full-time students enter our program as Juniors. Upon completion of 34 semester hours with a grade average of "C" or above, a student becomes a Middler. After having completed 70 semester hours with a grade average of "C" or above, a student becomes a Senior.

Percentile and letter grade equivalents:

- A: 100 – 92
- B: 91 – 82
- C: 81 – 74
- D: 73 – 66
- F: 65 or below
- CR: Credit
- NC: No Credit
- I: Incomplete

Note: A plus after a letter grade indicates the highest two percentiles of that grade, and a minus indicates the lowest two percentiles. At the discretion of the teacher, pluses and minuses may be assigned. During a student's first year a "C" average or above must be maintained. During the second and third years a student's average must continue to be "C" or above for each semester to graduate. If any student's semester grades or progress are found to be unsatisfactory, a member of the Core Faculty will communicate with that student. If the Core Faculty deems so, a student whose grades or progress is unsatisfactory may be placed on probation for one semester. A student dismissed for unsatisfactory grades or progress may be readmitted after an absence of one year or more. A transfer student may have courses accepted by this institution which are equivalent to courses offered by this School and for which a "C" or above was earned. The instructor shall assign grades earned by each student at the conclusion of a course. For students to graduate with a particular degree or diploma, they must complete all the required courses.

Dropping Courses

A course may be dropped until it is 1/3 completed without appearing on one's transcript. After 1/3 of a course is completed, if the student drops a course, an "Incomplete" will appear on his transcript. If a student drops a course without administrative approval after 1/2 of the course is completed, it will appear on the transcript as an "F." Students who drop a course will receive a refund for whatever percentage of the course time remains.

Community Service, Fees, and Housing

Housing

Family Housing

\$465/month + propane: Cabin #1 and Family Cabin

\$405.00/month + propane: Library Apartment and A-Frame

Single Rooms

\$220.00/month

Heating

Apartment and cabin heating is primarily by propane and the cost of rent is figured by using propane to heat the dwelling. If you use electric space heaters let the administration know. If one uses space heaters an additional charge of \$45 per month will be added to the bill. Charges for electricity shall be calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{Wattage} \times \text{hours used per month} \times 15 \text{ cents}/1000 = \text{monthly cost}$$

Storage

If a student desires to store their possessions in their apartment/room while away from the seminary, the storage cost will be $\frac{1}{4}$ the cost of rent. There will also be an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ utility charge unless the space can be winterized. Turn down, but do not turn off heat when you leave in the winter. The administration must be notified of your intent before students leave campus. When a dwelling is used for storage no food of any kind may be left in the dwelling.

Cost to Run the Seminary

It costs approximately \$30,000 per student to cover annual seminary expenses. Students paying tuition, rent, utilities, and fees will recognize that they don't pay that much. The remaining expenses not covered by student fees must be covered through donations and through other means.

It is a priority of the board and administration of Sangre de Cristo Seminary to keep the overall cost of a seminary education affordable for the sake of each student. We believe that students appreciate that their cost of tuition, rent, utilities, and fees could be much more than they are.

Keeping this education affordable is a task that requires an effort that includes the larger Christian community. Students are encouraged to cultivate gifts directed to the ministry of Sangre de Cristo Seminary from the larger Christian community (home church, family, and friends). May God receive the glory for gifts which advance His kingdom.

Financial Aid

Please refer to the Sangre de Cristo Seminary Catalog for full descriptions of the types of financial aid that are currently available to students.

Lodging for Visitors and Part-time Students

Please make lodging requests in advance for visitors who wish to stay in seminary facilities.

Single Rooms

Daily: \$15/ person (\$5/child under age 18)

Weekly (5-7 days): \$60/person (\$25/child under age 18)

Apartments:

Daily: \$40 per day for up to two occupants. Add \$3 for each additional occupant.

Weekly: \$200 for up to two occupants. Add \$3/day for each additional occupant.

A Rental Agreement for full-time students renting seminary facilities is found on the last page of this handbook.

Community Information

Student Kitchen

The student kitchen provides a wonderful place for fellowship. Those who use the kitchen are asked to clean up after themselves right away. **Do not leave pots, pans, dishes and silverware unwashed before you leave the kitchen.**

Label food items and label food shelves and refrigerator shelves with the name of the student using the shelf.

Students who only use the kitchen on occasion are asked to do their part in cleaning up after themselves. The general rule is to leave it cleaner than when you used it. Do not use the dishwasher for individual dishwashing. The dishwasher is for large group use.

Mail

Incoming mail is usually picked up by the seminary staff or a representative and placed in the student distribution boxes. Outgoing mail may be placed in the mailbox on Horn Road. The best address for students to use is: 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe, CO 81252.

Telephone

Cell phone service is available on campus. If a student prefers to have landline phone service in their apartment they can inquire about such service through CenturyTel. Students are responsible for their own telephone costs.

Internet

The lodge and library have high speed internet and the password is available for students only. Please see the administration to obtain the password and under no circumstances are you to share that password.

Laundry

There is a laundry available to students in the back of the seminary lodge. The cost to use the laundry is included in your rent. Each semester a laundry schedule will be posted by the laundry coordinator. Label your detergents, soaps etc. with your name. Seminary paper towels and toilet paper are stored in the laundry room. These are for seminary kitchen, bathroom and visiting teacher's apartment not for individual use in your cabin or bedrooms.

Trash

Put your trash in the dumpster near the workshop.

Put cardboard in the greenish cardboard trailer. Fold or breakdown all boxes before putting them in the trailer.

Put larger metal items in the pile next to the workshop.

Put aluminum cans in the blue recycle trash can on the porch outside the kitchen door.

During the months April – October bears and other animals search the area for food. Any trash that has food items must not be left out available to animals.

Do NOT burn any trash outside.

Inquire about the fees for discarding tires, mattresses, computers, TVs, and appliances prior to placing them in the trash.

Library

Students and their families are encouraged to use the library and to check out books and videos. The procedures are posted in the library. This is a self-serve library. Please take care to check out and return books properly. The late fee for books will be charged to student's accounts (\$.25/day). Books not returned by the end of the semester will be charged to student accounts at the replacement cost. **The library is to be enjoyed by all, please be courteous of those studying. An adult must accompany children under the age of ten (10).**

Everyone as Campus Host

The Seminary will frequently have visitors come to campus. Students are asked to take time to speak to them and to ask if the visitors can use some assistance.

Fire Pits and Fire Safety

Students are welcome to use the fire pits. They are asked to build fires only in the existing fire pits. Please make sure there are no fire bans before building fires. Be sure to put your fire out completely before leaving the area.

Fire extinguishers are near all exits. Note where they are and in case of fire, try to put it out immediately. If the fire extinguisher does not work after pulling out the pin and pressing the trigger, hit it against something solid to loosen the powder. In case they are needed, water hoses and power generators are available near each well house.

Drive Safely

Please observe a speed limit of 10 mph on campus. Since there are many children in the area around the Seminary and Sky Ranch at Horn Creek: everyone is asked to use **extreme caution** while driving.

Quiet

After 10:00 P.M., quiet is to be maintained everywhere on campus: in the cabins and in all seminary buildings.

Use of Sky Ranch at Horn Creek Facilities

Sky Ranch at Horn Creek requires students and their family members to sign a liability waiver before using any Sky Ranch at Horn Creek Facility as well as pay \$10 for a background check. These waivers may be obtained at the Sky Ranch at Horn Creek main office. While using any of the camps facilities remember that Sky Ranch at Horn Creek guests have priority. The swimming pool and water slide may be used only when a lifeguard is on duty and the current camping group permits others to swim. Students may also use the recreation center when we have permission for use. Horseback riding and bowling are also available but the same fees apply to students as to the Sky Ranch at Horn Creek guests.

Conservation

Lights: Please turn off lights when not in use. If you are the last person leaving a room and the lights are on in that room, it is your responsibility to turn the lights off.

Water: Water is very precious. Please don't let water run unnecessarily. Turn off a water faucet if you are not using the water coming out of it. Please do not take long showers.

Trees

We thank the Lord of creation for our trees. You may use the trees for clothes lines and hammocks. Please do not hammer nails in the trees. We recommend tying ropes around the trees but you may use screw-hooks for clothes lines. Do take the screw-hooks out before you leave relocate from the seminary. Do not cut trees down without permission. Do not cut Christmas trees or use trees for target practice with either firearms, bows, or knives.

Hunting and Firearms

We thank the Lord of creation for our animals. Please do not hunt either small or large game on the seminary or rental properties around the seminary without permission from the Seminary President. There is plenty of hunting available on public lands with appropriate licensure and/or permitting. Students and family members who own firearms and ammunition must store them securely. Secure means that if someone came into your dwelling without your knowing they would not be able to use your firearm if it was found.

Pet Policy

Generally, students are not to have pets on campus or in campus rentals.

Exceptions may occasionally be made for a well-behaved pet. Permission must be granted by the seminary administration.

The following standards must be met for a pet to be allowed to stay on campus.

1. The pet cannot disturb or inconvenience neighbors in any way.
2. Owners will regularly clean up their pet's outdoor voiding areas.
3. Owners agree to prevent their pet from the following behaviors:
 - A) Damaging seminary or student property. Damage includes odor or stains. Damaging odors to carpets and other areas of buildings.
 - B) Making undue noises.
 - C) Disturbing garbage receptacles.
 - D) Voiding in unacceptable areas.
 - E) Frightening or injuring people.
 - F) Entering buildings other than their owner's home.
4. If a pet does not meet the standards, owners agree to repair and/or replace any property their pet damages and to remove their pet from campus if it cannot be trained to comply.
5. Before a pet owning student moves off campus the student agrees to:
 - A) Clean up any hair that their pet may have shed.
 - B) Take great care to permanently remove any pet odor from the cabin.
6. Students agree to remove their pets from the facility if asked by the administration for any reason.