

# Sangre de Cristo Seminary

(Sangre de Cristo School for Biblical Studies)



## Student Handbook

### 2026

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Westcliffe, Colorado 81252

719-838-2500

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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.

## Schedule

### Summer

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

### Spring

Spring credits are earned at a location agreeable to both the student and the seminary by prior agreement.

## 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 to 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, a Diploma in Biblical Studies; and three Certificate programs We believe that the best way to get the most out of our program is to attend classes live and in-person in our classroom in Westcliffe, Colorado. However, our classes are now being offered in a blended format (live in-person and simulcasted to online students via Zoom) to meet the needs of those who are unable to attend in person.

### Master of Divinity Degree

The Master of Divinity Degree is the core program of Sangre de Cristo Seminary. The objective of this M. Div. program is to train students to effectively teach, preach and skillfully minister using special tools to interpret and communicate the Scriptures. Graduates of this program are well-equipped to integrate exegetical skills, theological knowledge, and communication proficiency to minister the gospel. This M.Div. program requires 105 semester hours of credit for graduation. A bachelor’s degree is a prerequisite for admission into this program. This degree is typically completed in 3 years or less. A list of required courses and the sequence can be found in the Catalog.

## Diploma in Biblical Studies

The Diploma in Biblical Studies program is a mirror-image of the 105-semester hour M.Div. with the exception of a prerequisite degree. This diploma program is designed to prepare a “seasoned individual” who has significant ministerial, family or work experience. Recent high school graduates may be considered for acceptance into this program, but they must demonstrate the ability to produce work at a high academic level. It is recommended that prospective students complete a bachelor’s degree prior to entering the 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 paper is required to be written and submitted by the student to demonstrate their integration of theological and undergraduate learning.

## Certificate Programs

While students are encouraged to pursue a degree or diploma, occasionally a student desires an abbreviated program. In order to meet the needs of these students, our certificate programs have been packaged to allow completion of a program with fewer credits and in a shorter amount of time. They focus upon the areas of Biblical Language, Christian Ministry, and Applied Exegesis, Hermeneutics, and Homiletics. Here are brief descriptions of these certificates:

- **Certificate in Christian Ministry – 33 Credits in 7 Months** - To earn this certificate, students will complete all of the courses in the summer semester and all course (except biblical languages) in the fall semester. Through earning this certificate, students gain general exposure to several major theological disciplines of the Christian Faith. Coursework includes:
  - **Summer Semester** - 17 Credits in Biblical, Historical, Pastoral, and Systematic Theology
  - **Fall Semester** – 16 Credits in Biblical and Exegetical Theology
  - **Note:** Refer to annual seminary schedule for exact course offerings for each year.
- **Certificate in Biblical Languages – 32 Credits in 16 Months** – To earn this certificate, students will complete both the Essentials in Hebrew and Essentials in Greek courses. Additionally, students will complete the Spring Exegesis Project (using the language they learn first). Students will also complete a fall semester of Hebrew or Greek Exegesis (also using the language they learned first). Finally, 2 of the following 3 classes must be taken: Applied Exegesis, Hermeneutics, or Homiletics. Through earning this certificate, students should gain enough mastery of the original Hebrew and Greek to satisfy a minimum ordination standard.
- Coursework includes:
  - **Fall Semester 1** – 10 Credits of Essentials in Hebrew OR Greek, 2 Credits of Applied Exegesis, Hermeneutics, OR Homiletics.
  - **Spring Semester** – 3 Credits of Spring Exegesis, 3 Credits of Spring Teaching or Preaching.
  - **Fall Semester 2** – 10 Credits of Essentials in Hebrew OR Greek, 2 Credits of Applied Exegesis, Hermeneutics, OR Homiletics, and 2 Credits of Hebrew or Greek Exegesis.
  - **Note:** For Hebrew emphasis, begin this cycle in an even-numbered year. For Greek emphasis, begin this cycle in an odd-numbered year.

## Admission, Tuition & Fees

### Tuition

**Full-time** (12 – 18 credit hours)

\$275.00 per semester hour

**Part-time**

\$275.00 per semester hour

**Audit**

\$160.00 per semester hour

**Spring Exegesis and Ministry**

\$275.00 per semester hour.

The community service discount does not apply to Spring semester courses.

### Work-Study Scholarship

Work-Study 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 to three hours per week in service to the seminary community. One hour per week in fulfillment of a community task should be accomplished throughout the semester. One hour may be spent in the cultivation of non-profit support. If these tasks are performed satisfactorily, a 50% tuition scholarship will be applied as a scholarship 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 opt not to perform a community service job or who are dropped from the program due to unsatisfactory performance will be responsible for paying full tuition.

### Books

Each student is responsible for purchasing, finding or downloading their own textbooks. One might be wise to budget \$200 to \$250 per semester for textbook expenses. 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. Take care in the identification of the appropriate “edition” of the required textbook.

### 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, prospective students should 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 from: (1) the student’s pastor or a minister who knows the applicant; (2) a present or former school-official or employer who can attest to the applicant’s academic and/or employment skills; and (3) 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.

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. (In 2025 the seminary is in the process of renewing this agreement.)

### **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.

### **Student/Staff Spouse and/or child course participation**

Spouses or children of full-time students may take courses without charge. Declaration of spousal participation in courses (for credit, audit or observer) is required prior to the start of any class with the President and Course Instructor.

### **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**

\$250.00/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:

Wattage x hours used per month x 15 cents/1000 = 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 ¼ the cost of rent. There will also be an additional ¼ 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**

### **Policy of Mutual Respect and Encouragement**

The Board of SdCS is committed to healthy relationships among the seminary community. Please see Academic Catalog for this.

## **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 found 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 Facilities

Laundry facilities are available to students and are located in the rear of the seminary lodge. The cost of the seminary 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 water faucets off when not in use. 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 permitted 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 unwelcome noises.
  - C) Disturbing garbage receptacles.
  - D) Voiding in unacceptable areas.
  - E) Frightening or injuring people.
  - F) Entering buildings other than their personal 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.