

Northwest Undergrad Programs

Christian Foundations Program Overview

Northwest's Christian Foundations Program consists of 10 outcomes, each worth 3 credit hours. Outcomes are similar to 3-credit courses. We call them outcomes instead of courses because we want you to think of them differently than a course. We're all used to courses that focus on a specific topic and are completed by doing assignments related to that topic. Outcomes are different in that they are holistic and integrated. The learning context is real life, the goal is demonstrated competence in a collection of related competencies that may span across multiple topics, and those competencies address not only knowledge and skill, but also character and behaviour. Knowledge of your faith and being able to share it are both important, but our behaviour and character is how people experience us, and through us, God. As Christians, our way of being eclipses anything else that comes out of our mouths.

Christian Foundations Program Outcomes

Outcome descriptions are written as statement of what you will be able to do upon successful completion of the program. They summarize what your mentor team is looking for in you to declare you competent in that outcome.

All Christian Foundations Program students who successfully complete the following 10 outcomes will earn a 1 year, 30-credit hour Certificate in Christian Foundations.

101: BE PREPARED

Learners are aware of their strengths, weaknesses, advantages, and disadvantages and approach them in constructive ways. They capably manage their schedules and have the reading, writing, and research skills essential for growth and excellence in their ministry contexts.

102. KNOW THE GOSPEL

Learners describe how the gospel applies to and transforms their contexts. Who they are, what they believe, and what they do is shaped by the Gospel. They can share the gospel message with people in confident, clear, and relatable ways.

103: KNOW GOD

Learners have a committed relationship with the one God Christians worship, who is revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are connected with and are shaped by this present and active God in their everyday lives and they help other people to do the same.

104: STUDY THE BIBLE

Learners know the major themes, narratives, events, and people of the Bible, regularly read the Bible, and can interpret what they read. They apply scripture to their personal contexts, are formed by their engagements with scripture, and share scriptural truths with Christians and non-Christians.

105. BE A DISCIPLE

Learners recognize why it is important for every Christian to be connected with and lead by Jesus in all areas of their lives and can explain how this connection and leading happens. Their personal growth and ability to influence other people is formed by a genuine relationship with Jesus.

106: BE IN COMMUNITY

Learners grasp the biblical and theological meaning of "church", are connected with and intentionally serve those they identify as their churches, and identify signs of healthy and unhealthy community in their lives. The churches they serve and worship in are an essential part of their worship of God and growth as disciples of Jesus.

107. BE RELATIONAL

Learners perceive the interconnectedness of loving God and loving one's neighbour as oneself in their context. God's love shapes how they care for themselves and how they approach their relationships with God and other people in and beyond their own age, stage, and style of life.

108. CONSISTENTLY WORSHIP GOD

Learners identify and describe expressions of worship in and outside the church and regularly practice formative worship disciplines (e.g., Sabbath). They know how to worship God in their contexts in ways that honour God, deepen their relationships with God, and shape their identities, thoughts, and actions.

109: KNOW YOUR CONTEXT

Learners know the key aspects of a worldview and can compare and contrast major worldviews to determine what they believe to be true about their lives and the world they live in. Their personal beliefs and actions align with a Christian way of living and they thoughtfully represent their beliefs to people who hold perspectives similar to and different from their own.

110: KNOW WHO YOU ARE

Learners are conscious of how their identities can be formed in and outside the church and they can discern what and who predominantly shapes their identities. They intentionally focus their senses and expressions of identity on God's presence and work in their lives, as well as their worship, service, and relationships in their church communities.

Christian Foundations Program Schedule

In September, you'll attend a 4-day orientation retreat near Vancouver, BC, where you can get to know your program leaders, mentors, Northwest faculty, and other students in the program. After that, your week will consist of:

- Two 1.5 hour weekly online classes taught by Northwest faculty
- Meetings with your mentors
- Minimum 10 hours working in your ministry context
- Opportunities to hang out online with other students, and
- Completing assignments designed to help you develop and demonstrate competence.

One of the unique things about Northwest's CBTE programs is that assignments are easily customized by your mentor team to suit your learning needs and context. Yes, you'll read books and do written work, but many of your assignments will be practical application of what you're learning, assessed by your mentor team. Remember, the goal is demonstrated competence, and the best way to do that is to practice real-life assignments.

Your program will wrap up with another 4-day retreat in May where you'll be able to hang out in person again with mentors and fellow students, reflect on what you've learned, and look ahead to what's next for you. Then you'll have until the end of May to finish up any incomplete assignments and demonstrate the competencies you have achieved.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees for the Christian Foundations Program in 2024-25 is \$8150, payable in two installments¹. The first is due in September, and the second is due in January.

This price covers the cost of your program tuition, mentors, seminars, retreats, and digital library access. In addition to the program tuition, you will be responsible for the costs of additional books and travel to each of the two retreats.

¹ Students serving in church or ministries affiliated with the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada may be eligible for tuition discounts. Contact Northwest at programinfo@nbseminary.ca to learn if you are eligible.