
Distance Education Program Frequently Asked Questions



Graduate School of Theology and Ministry
Oral Roberts University

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1. ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT COURSES I SHOULD TAKE?

- All entering students should enroll in the following courses their first semester:
 - Beginning Fall 2021, new students will take PRFT 055 (1.5-2.0 credit hours) instead.
 - PRFT 056 Entry Level Assessment (online) (0.5 credit hours)
 - GTHE 517 Seminar in Theological Research (online) (3 credit hours)
- To enroll in additional courses, compare the current course schedule with your degree plan sheet and enroll in course(s) needed.
 - Course schedules available on [Class Pages](#) (see “Class Pages” below.)
 - Degree plan sheets available at <http://degreeplansheets.oru.edu/>
- Also see “First Semester” below.
- Students will be assigned an advisor right after the drop/add period, but they are welcome to discuss their questions with any professor in their degree program.

2. ADVANCED STANDING/TRANSFER CREDIT

See “Transfer Credit” below.

3. CAMPUS COMPONENT

3.1 DO ALL MY COURSES REQUIRE A VISIT TO THE ORU CAMPUS?

- Online courses do not require a visit to the ORU campus.
- Blended A and blended B courses each require an on-campus component of 2½ days. (See “Blended Courses” below for details.)

3.2 HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I HAVE TO COME TO CAMPUS?

- Blended courses require an on-campus component of 2½ days, along with a 7-week online component.
- Dates of the on-campus component of blended courses are included in the semester course schedules on Class Pages, and on the front page of blended course syllabi.
- Online courses are administered totally online—there is no on-campus component.

3.3 IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE ORU CAMPUS?

- Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to the ORU campus.
- Some hotels may provide complementary transportation from the airport to their facility.

3.4 WHERE DO I STAY DURING THE ON-CAMPUS VISIT? IS HOUSING PROVIDED?

- Students are responsible for providing their own housing.

- The following links list contact information for south Tulsa area lodging, with proximity to the ORU campus:
 - [Trip Advisor](#)
 - [Priceline](#)
 - [Expedia](#), and others
- Note: the Crowne Plaza Hotel, which was located directly across Lewis Avenue from ORU is no longer there.
- Distance students may also be able to stay on campus. For more information contact Kimberly Kite, the director of housing, at kkite@oru.edu

3.5 HOW CAN I FIND MY WAY AROUND CAMPUS? HOW DO I KNOW WHERE THINGS ARE?

- An ORU campus map is posted on [Class Pages](#).
- A map of the classrooms in CityPlex Towers, where Distance classes are held on the 21st floor, is also available on Class Pages.

3.6 WHEN AND WHERE DO MY BLENDED CLASSES MEET?

- Unless otherwise indicated, Distance courses are held on the 21st floor of the CityPlex Towers, located across 81st street from ORU. ([See ORU campus map](#)).
- Signs on the 21st floor of CityPlex Towers will direct you to the proper classroom. ([See floor map of 21st floor of CityPlex Towers](#))
- See “Course Information, Blended Courses” below for more details.

3.7 WHERE CAN I PARK WHEN ATTENDING BLENDED COURSES?

- Students should park in the East parking lot at the CityPlex Towers, or if the gate arms are up, inside the North fan lot parking area.
- Students will also receive a parking pass the first day of class.
- See map on Class Pages > New Students > [CityPlex](#).

3.8 WHAT TIME DO MY CLASSES BEGIN AND END?

- You will need to be at the [CityPlex Towers](#) in time to begin your class at 8:30 am on Monday morning for a Blended A course.
- Blended B courses begin on Wednesday with chapel at 10:50 a.m. (at Christ Chapel on the main ORU campus) in the fall and spring semesters.
- In the summer semester, blended B courses begin at 12:30 p.m. when students bring their lunches to the Modular/Orientation luncheon, in the Fenimore Alumni Room (2nd floor) in the Hammer Alumni-Student Center (see campus map).
- For Blended B courses, actual class time begins at 2:30 pm.

3.9 WHAT MATERIALS SHOULD I BRING TO CLASS FOR THE ON-CAMPUS INTENSIVE WEEK?

- Contact your course professors by email to get their recommendations.
- You can email them from the classlist area of the D2L course shell.
- Contact information should also be in the course syllabus.

3.10 WHAT IS THE DISTANCE LUNCHEON/ORIENTATION? WHEN AND WHERE IS IT HELD?

- The Distance Luncheon/Orientation is a required event for all students, held from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday of fall/spring blended on-campus intensive weeks.
- All students who are on campus attending blended courses meet in the Fenimore Alumni Room, on the second floor of the Hammer Alumni-Student Center (see campus map).
- Students bring their own lunches for a time of fellowship, followed by an orientation/informational meeting with Dr. Tim Ekblad, the director of the Distance Education Program.
- To see a list of restaurants on the ORU campus, go to <https://oru.sodexomyway.com/>.

4. CHAPEL

4.1 ARE CHAPEL SERVICES REQUIRED FOR MODULAR STUDENTS?

Distance students are required to attend the Wednesday chapel service during the on-campus intensive week during the spring and fall semesters.

4.2 WHEN AND WHERE ARE CHAPEL SERVICES HELD?

- Services are held in Christ Chapel from 10:50 a.m. to 12 noon (see [campus map](#)) during the fall and spring semesters.
- There are no chapel services in summer.

5. CLASS PAGES - GRAD THEOLOGY WEBSITE

WHAT IS "CLASS PAGES"? HOW DO I ACCESS IT?

- Class Pages is a website created exclusively for ORU Grad Theology students.
- It includes information on course schedules, graduation, and much more.
- To access: www.oru.edu >student hub> class pages > grad theology-modular

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

- Grad Theology Financial Aid help: 918.495.7089
- Grad Theology Modular Director, Dr. Tim Ekblad, tekblad@oru.edu
- Grad Theology Modular Office, Deborah Foster, defoster@oru.edu, or 918.495.6088
- Grad Theology Recruiter, Addy Lodoja, adlodoja@oru.edu or 918.495.6328.

- ORU International Office: Lisa Edwards, ledwards@oru.edu or 918.495.6529
- Grad Theology Program Coordinator, Distance Education & Assessment, Marlene Mankins, mmankins@oru.edu or 918.495.6096
- ORU Assistant Registrar, Christine Welden, cwelden@oru.edu or 918.495.6205.

7. COURSE INFORMATION – BLENDED COURSES

7.1 WHAT IS A BLENDED COURSE?

- A blended course “blends” a 7-week online component with a 2½ day on-campus component, held on the 21st floor of the CityPlex towers ([see campus map](#)).
- Blended courses are designated as “blended A” or “blended B.”
- Blended A courses begin with a 7-week online component, followed by a 2½ day on-campus component.
- Blended B courses begin with a 2½ day on-campus component, followed by a 7-week online component.
- On-campus dates are indicated on course syllabi and on the current course schedule.
- See specific details below for blended A and blended B courses.

7.2 WHAT IS THE BLENDED “A” COURSE FORMAT?

- A blended “A” course begins at the beginning of the semester with a 7-week online component on the Desire 2 Learn (D2L) course management system.
- At the end of the 7-week online component, students come to the ORU campus and attend class for 2½ days of the modular intensive week (see current course schedule and syllabi for dates).
- Students attend class from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, and 8:30-2:00 Wednesday.
 - Wednesday schedule for blended A classes, fall and spring:
 - 8:30 -10:50: class
 - 11:00-12 noon: chapel
 - 12:30-2:00: Modular/orientation luncheon
 - Wednesday schedule for blended A classes, summer:
 - 8:30 – 12 noon: class (no chapel)
 - 12:30-2:00: Modular/orientation luncheon

7.3 WHAT IS THE BLENDED “B” COURSE FORMAT?

- A blended “B” course begins mid-semester, with students coming to the ORU campus and attending class for 2½ days of the modular intensive week (see current course schedule and syllabi for dates).

- Students attend class from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday*, and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday.
 - *Wednesday schedule for blended B classes, fall and spring:
 - 11:00-12 noon: chapel (*see Christ Chapel location on ORU map*)
 - 12:30-2:00: Modular/orientation luncheon
 - 2:30-5:30: class
 - Wednesday schedule for blended B classes, summer:
 - No chapel
 - Schedule begins with Modular/lunch orientation, 12:30-2:00
 - 2:30-5:30: class
- After the on-campus component, students have a 7-week online component on the D2L course management system.
- Note: The D2L course shell for a blended B course will not be accessible to students until one week before the on-campus visit.

7.4 WHAT IS AN ONLINE COURSE?

- Graduate Theology online courses “meet” online for the entire semester. There is no on-campus component.
- All course information and instructions are found in the D2L course shell.
- Contact your course professor with questions.
- At times, a course may be offered both residentially and online in the same semester, so be sure to choose the proper CRN # and course section for the online course. (Residential courses usually have a section of 01 or 02; online courses have a section of W01, W01, etc.)
- Syllabi may be accessed before the semester begins at syllabi.oru.edu. Be sure to choose the correct syllabus indicated as “online.” (See SYLLABI section below.)

8. COURSE SCHEDULES

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED EACH SEMESTER?

Course schedules are posted on the grad theology Modular Class Pages website and at <https://oru.edu/academics/cotm/grad/grad-theology-student.php>

9. DEGREE PLAN SHEETS

HOW CAN I FIND MY DEGREE PLAN SHEET TO SEE WHAT COURSES I NEED TO TAKE?

- Degree plan sheets are available at <http://degreeplansheets.oru.edu/>
- Select academic year (fall/spring) and Theology & Ministry (Graduate)
- Students follow the degree plan of the academic year they entered the program.

10. DRESS CODE

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I COME TO CAMPUS? IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

- ORU does have a dress code for students, faculty, and staff.
- Please refer to the ORU student handbook at: <http://handbook.oru.edu/section-2/university-regulations/#dress-code>

11. E-MAIL, ORU

HOW DO I SET UP MY ORU EMAIL?

- Your acceptance letter from the graduate Admissions office should contain detailed instructions on how to set up your ORU email account.
- Please note that once you are accepted, only your ORU email will be used for all future correspondence with the school.
- If you need help, you may also contact ORU's I.T. department:
 - Phone: 918.495.6321
 - Email: studenthelpdesk@oru.edu
 - Twitter: @ORU_IT
 - Website: <http://it.oru.edu>

12. ENROLLMENT

12.1 HOW DO I ENROLL IN COURSES?

Students enroll in courses on [Vision](http://vision.oru.edu) (vision.oru.edu). After logging in, click on Registration Quick Links and then Registration.

12.2 HOW DO I KNOW WHAT COURSES TO TAKE?

See “Academic Advisement” above, and “First Semester” below.

13. FULL TIME STUDENT STATUS

HOW MANY HOURS MUST I ENROLL IN TO BE A FULL TIME STUDENT?

The full-time course load for master's level students in the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry is 9 hours in the fall and spring, and 6 hours in the summer.

14 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

WHAT PROCEDURES DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOLLOW WHEN COMING TO CAMPUS?

- On Wednesday of the campus intensive week (non-virtual), after the orientation luncheon, international students will meet with Lisa Edwards in the ORU International Office, GC 3½ E.

- You can contact her for more details and about what materials to bring at ledwards@oru.edu or 918.495.6529.

15. MODULAR INTENSIVE WEEK (ORU CAMPUS VISIT)

WHAT IS THE “MODULAR INTENSIVE WEEK?”

- The modular intensive week is the time when students enrolled in blended A and/or blended b courses come to ORU for the on-campus component of the course.
- The specific dates of the on-campus component are indicated on the course schedule and blended course syllabi of the current semester.
- Students may enroll in both a blended A and a blended B course, thus completing the on-campus component for both courses in one week.
- Students may also choose to enroll in only a blended A or a blended B course.
- Also see “Campus Visit” section above.

16. SYLLABI

16.1 WHERE DO I GET MY COURSE SYLLABI? WHEN ARE THEY AVAILABLE?

- Course syllabi are available on the ORU website at syllabi.oru.edu.
- Syllabi are posted online one to two months before a semester begins.

16.2 HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE THE RIGHT SYLLABUS?

- At times, a course may be offered both residentially and online or in the blended format in the same semester, so be sure to choose the correct syllabus for your course.

[GBIB-768 Epistle To The Hebrews - Foster, Christopher G](#)
[GBIB-911 Seminar in OT Theology - Ma, Wonsuk - Modular](#)
[GBIB-931 Spirit Hermeneutics - Lamp, Jeffrey S - Modular](#)
[GCSL-528 Christian Approaches to Coun. - Buker, William J](#)
[GCSL-528 Christian Approaches to Coun. - French, Haley R - Blended Format](#)
[GCSL-580 Professional Issues in Counsel - Richardson, Sandra K - Online](#)
[GCSL-631 Addiction in the Family Coun - Walker, Andrea C - Blended Format](#)
[GCSL-635 Human Growth and Development - Edwards, Teresa S](#)
[GCSL-635 Human Growth and Development - Edwards, Teresa S - Online](#)
[GCSL-640 Human Sexuality - Walker, Andrea C](#)
[GCSL-640 Human Sexuality - Walker, Andrea C - Blended Format](#)
[GCSL-643 Marital/Family Systems Theory - Buker, William J](#)
[GCSL-643 Marital/Family Systems Theory - Edwards, Teresa S - Blended Format](#)
[GCSL-644 Addiction in the Family Theory - STAFF - Online](#)
[GCSL-670 Psychopathology - Allen, Renee L - Blended Format](#)

- If there is no indication, the syllabus is for a residential course.
- Once you open the document, the syllabus itself will also indicate if it is for an online or blended course; again, no indication means it is for a residential course.
- It is critical that you access the proper syllabus for your course to ensure you order the correct textbooks and follow the assignments for your specific course.
- Online and blended courses are the designated delivery modalities for students in the Modular/Distance Education Program of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.

17. STUDENT HANDBOOK, ORU

DOES ORU HAVE A STUDENT HANDBOOK?

- The ORU Student Handbook is available at <http://handbook.oru.edu/>
- Although much of the information is geared toward undergraduate students, university information for all ORU students is also included.

18 TEXTBOOKS

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TEXTBOOKS I NEED FOR A COURSE?

- To find the required books for your course(s), refer to the course syllabi at syllabi.oru.edu (or go to www.oru.edu > student hub > course syllabi).
- You can also go to <https://www.bkstr.com/oralrobertsstore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials> and follow the screen prompts to order your course textbooks.

19. TRANSFER COURSES/ADVANCED STANDING CREDIT

HOW DO I KNOW IF I CAN GET CREDIT FOR COURSES I'VE ALREADY TAKEN?

- To apply for advanced standing and/or transfer credit, students must fill out an Application for Advanced Standing/Transfer Credit and submit it, along with other required documents, to gradtheoacademics@oru.edu.
- The application is available on the grad theology Class Pages website, or you can request one at gradtheoacademics@oru.edu. Complete instructions are included.

20 VISION

WHAT IS VISION?

- Vision is ORU's student enrollment and registration system, also used to set up ORU e-mail accounts, access grades and transcripts, update address information, etc.
- Follow instructions in your graduate Admissions acceptance letter on how to login and set up your account.
- Use your ORU single sign-on to log in.