

5.5 Distance Education

Providence Theological Seminary offers four fully accredited degrees in which students may take up to one year (30 hours) of studies by Distance Education: the Master of Arts degrees in Counselling, Counselling Psychology, and Educational Studies and in the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) degree. Given the number of alternative course delivery methods offered by the Seminary it is possible that students in some programs will not need to relocate to complete the above stated degrees.

Students wishing to complete a degree by Distance Education are encouraged to consult with their faculty advisor and the Registrar's Office to plan their course of study. Careful planning is the key to finishing these programs in a timely fashion.

5.5.1 Distance Education Programs

Master of Arts in Counselling (Distance Education)

The counselling program's objective is to thoroughly equip individuals to confidently and competently integrate their Christian faith with professional standards and practices.

Counsellor training at Providence balances the cultivation of knowledge, practical skill, and professional formation, all in the context of a Christ-centered spiritual growth and mental, emotional, and relational healing. Up to one half of this degree program (30 hours) can be taken by Distance Education, as defined in 5.5.2 below.

See 5.2.1 for all entrance and program requirements.

Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology (Distance Education)

The counselling program's objective is to thoroughly equip individuals to confidently and competently integrate their Christian faith with professional standards and practices.

Counsellor training at Providence balances the cultivation of knowledge, practical skill, and professional formation, all in the context of a Christ-centered spiritual growth and mental, emotional, and relational healing.

In addition to the preparation of the two-year program, the M.A. in Counselling Psychology degree offers the student the opportunity to further specialize in Counselling Psychology or in Marriage and Family studies, while offering the opportunity to gain invaluable additional supervised counselling experience. Up to one third of this degree program (30 hours) can be taken by Distance Education, as defined in 5.5.2 below.

See 5.2.2 for all entrance and program requirements.

Master of Arts in Educational Studies (Distance Education)

The Master of Arts in Educational Studies (by Distance Education) is for those who are training for professional ministry positions within church or parachurch organizations (other than ordained, pastoral positions). Majors include Educational Ministries, Student Development, TESOL, TTESOL, or Youth Ministry Studies. Up to one half of this degree program (30 hours) can be taken by Distance Education, as defined in 5.5.2 below.

See 5.2.3 for all entrance and program requirements.

Master of Arts (Christian Studies) (Distance Education)

The Master of Arts (Christian Studies) program is designed to improve the students' ability to serve Jesus Christ in the church and the world in a lay (or possibly parachurch) ministry. It seeks to enable them to be more effective disciples of Christ, in all spheres of their lives. The program aims to provide students with the following:

- an opportunity to develop basic skills for studying the English Bible, both for personal spiritual development

and for lay ministry.

- an opportunity to reflect theologically upon their own faith and upon their situation in the world, enabling them to be more effective disciples of Christ.
- an opportunity for serious study of the Bible, and of Theology, in order to improve their knowledge of God's Word and their ability to articulate their Christian faith and to work out its implications for Christian living.
- an opportunity to gain practical knowledge that will improve their ministry in areas of personal strength and interest.

Up to one half of this program (30 hours) can be taken by Distance Education, as defined in 5.5.2 below.

See 5.2.6 for all entrance and program requirements.

5.5.2 Distance Education Courses

Providence Theological Seminary offers a number of courses that can be taken at remote locations. These courses are taught on a graduate level and expect graduate level work. They are limited to those who have a recognized undergraduate degree. Distance Education courses are listed below in two categories: Online courses and Independent Study courses.

Please note: The number of Distance Education courses that can be used for credit toward a degree is limited for all students.

For students enrolled in regular Seminary programs: In two-year programs, only 3 Distance Education courses may be taken. In three-year programs, only 5 Distance Education courses may be taken.

For students enrolled in Distance Education programs (see 5.5.1 for available programs): Only 10 Distance Education courses may be taken. Of these 10 courses, a maximum of 3 (in two-year programs) or 5 (in three-year programs) may be Independent Study courses. The balance must be Online or eProv courses. The Seminary Faculty encourages students in Distance Education programs to take as many online or eProv courses as possible.

For Distance Education courses not offered by Providence Seminary, students must secure permission to apply such a course to a Providence program before enrolling in the course.

Online Courses

Online courses are offered on a semestral basis (either September to December, January to April, or May to July). Current and future online course offerings, including syllabi, can be found on the Seminary website at www.providenceseminary.ca. The quality of our online education program is important, therefore Providence online courses have class enrollment limit of fifteen students. Smaller class sizes ensure a high degree of interactivity, and enhance the overall educational experience of students. Registration for online courses requires full payment and must be made online at www.providenceseminary.ca. Access to the online databases of the Providence Library is available for the duration of the course. Textbooks may also be required and can be purchased from the Providence Bookstore. All online courses are delivered through a web-based platform provided by edtek Services (www.edtekonline.org).

eProv

Some Seminary courses are available through our eProv delivery method. eProv provides an interactive, live two-way video classroom experience that enables you to take Providence classes from your home, office, or study location. It is a fully interactive classroom experience that you can take part in from almost anywhere, with just a computer and an internet access. You can see into the classroom and hear what's going on. Everyone in the class can see and hear you. And you can see everyone else who's part of an eProv class, no matter where they are. A simple idea — but not an easy one to pull off. Recent developments in video transmission, in camera technology, and in videoconferencing services have come together to bring this within reach. This

would also not be possible without the support of the Government of Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure program, and the Buller Foundation. Registration information and future and current course offerings can be found on the Seminary website at www.providenceseminary.ca.

Independent Study Courses

Independent Study courses can be taken at any time during the year. Please see 6.7.2 for the list of available courses. Independent Studies are courses with little or no face-to-face contact with the professor. Textbooks, audio tapes, CDs or DVDs may be required and can be purchased from the Providence Bookstore. The Seminary provides access to the library online databases for Independent Study courses.

To take an Independent Study Course you should submit the "Directed / Independent Study Application" to the Registrar's Office two to four weeks before you want to begin the course. Course syllabi are available from the course instructor. You will be notified once your application has been approved, and full payment will be required before registration can occur. Students have four months from the date of registration to complete the course. In addition, up to four one-month extensions may be obtained at a cost of \$100 each. Each extension must be requested in writing no later than one week prior to the due date in effect at that time.

5.5.3 Other Course Delivery Methods

Directed Study Courses

Some courses can be taken by Directed Study upon special arrangement between a professor and a student. It may be a course listed in the catalogue (such as a Guided Readings or Independent Research course) or it may be a specially designed course. In contrast to Independent Study courses, personal contact between the professor and the student is expected in Directed Study courses. There is no limit to the number of Directed Study courses that can be used for credit toward a degree program, but they are subject to instructor approval and availability. Advanced Counselling Practica can be taken as Directed Studies in cases where the student has access to a qualified local supervisor.

To take a Directed Study Course you should submit the "Directed / Independent Study Application" to the Registrar's Office two to four weeks before you want to begin the course. Course syllabi are available from the course instructor. You will be notified once your application has been approved, and full payment will be required before registration can occur. Students have four months from the date of registration to complete the course. In addition, up to four one-month extensions may be obtained at a cost of \$100 each. Each extension must be requested in writing no later than one week prior to the due date in effect at that time.

Modular Courses

Many Seminary courses are available in condensed (Modular) format. One-week Intersession courses are available in October, November, January and March. A summer session is also available, including a variety of one-week modular courses, a four-week Introductory Greek or Hebrew intensive (6 hours), and a four-week TESOL intensive (15 hours). Modular courses typically require some combination of advance reading or preparation, assignments and class participation during the course, and follow up assignments completed after the module has concluded. There is no limit to the number of module courses that can be used for credit toward a degree program. Registration information and future and current course offerings can be found on the Seminary website at www.providenceseminary.ca.