

Youth Ministry (YM)

Dekker

The Youth Ministry major is sponsored and taught by the Center for Youth Ministry Studies. Through a combination of course work and supervised field experience, the department seeks to develop biblical and theological depth, personal spiritual maturity, management and leadership skills, and the working knowledge needed to minister effectively to adolescents and their families.

Initial application to enroll in the Youth Ministry major is made upon completion of YM 1510 and YM 2710. Acceptance and advancement in the major are contingent upon academic performance and personal aptitude. Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher and a minimum grade of C in all prerequisite courses in order to enter as a Youth Ministry major.

Major requirements for the B.A. degree in Youth Ministry

Required semester hours

36 sh

Prerequisite and supporting courses

One Old Testament BTS course; one New Testament BTS course; one Theology BTS course.

Required core courses

YM 1510, 2410, 2710, 3010, 3020, 3910 (minimum of 2 sh), 4970, 4980, 4990

Electives

7 semester hours; suggested YM 2010, 3910, 4970

Notes and restrictions

All youth ministry majors will be required to complete two supervised youth ministry field experiences. The internship (YM 4970) must be either a full-time summer placement or part-time, nine month placement during the school year in a church, parachurch or community-service setting.

Minor requirements in Youth Ministry

Required semester hours

16 sh

Required core courses

YM 1510, 2410, 3010, 4980.

1510 Introduction to Youth Ministry (4 sh)

A survey of theoretical and developmental issues related to youth and youth ministry. Units will include biblical-theological basis for ministry, an overview of the theories of adolescent development and implications for youth ministry; and a survey of contemporary youth culture and suggested Christian responses. This course will also survey various developmental models for relational youth ministry.

2010 Introduction to Urban Youth Ministry (4 sh)

An introduction to field of urban youth ministry. Explores the basic foundations and issues, including psychological, sociological, political, economic and theological systems that impact youth ministry in an urban context. Emphasis on practical skills and knowledge

needed to be a leader in a church, para-church or community-based setting. Prerequisite: YM 1510.

2020 Introduction to Camping Ministry (4 sh)

An introduction to the field of Christian camping. This course will familiarize students with key issues present in Christian camping such as the history and philosophy of Christian camping, programming, administration and maintenance, risk management, staff recruitment, marketing development of campers and staff, evaluation and legal concerns. Prerequisite: YM 1510.

2410 Adolescent Development and Issues (4 sh)

This course provides an exploration of development theories as they relate to stages of change: physical, cognitive, social, moral and faith. These theories help us understand various issues faced in adolescence such as peer associations, family and personal identity, and specific adolescent disorders. This course will also deal with basic assessment, intervention, and referral strategies. Prerequisite: YM 1510.

2710 Youth Ministry Practicum (2 sh)

This experience includes the integration of theory, practice, and reflection in a supervised youth ministry situation. Students will volunteer five to eight hours a week in local churches or para-church organizations, in addition to regular class meetings. Co-requisite: YM 1510.

3010 Curriculum Development (4 sh)

This course addresses specific methods of designing, implementing and evaluating youth ministry curriculum and group processes. The learning experience will include a critical analysis of current curriculum as well as designing specialized curriculum for particular contexts. The student will be able to adapt and create effective youth ministry programs. Having taken an Old or New Testament course in an asset. Prerequisite: YM 1510, 2410, 2710.

3020 Discipleship Theory and Practice (4 sh)

This course aims to provide a comprehensive and practical experience in being a disciple, making disciples, and training disciples. It is intended to equip students to do person-context and church-context training. This course is taught in conjunction with North Park Seminary. Prerequisite: YM 1510.

3910 Topics in Youth Ministry (1-4 sh)

A selection of intensive courses taught by leaders in their respective fields. These courses are offered to North Park students for credit and are available as non-credit workshops for youth workers in service. When taken for credit each course includes preparatory reading and a summary paper and/or project. One course will be offered each semester in conjunction with North Park Theological Seminary. Options may include: Post-modernism and Youth Ministry; Ministering to Teenagers in Crisis; Urban Youth Ministry Issues; Spiritual Formation and the Youth Worker; Developing Student Leadership Teams; Involving and Developing Students for Mission and Service; College Student Ministries; Camping and Retreats; Worship and Youth Ministry

4910 Independent Study in Youth Ministry (1-4 sh)

This course allows students to work independently on projects in a field of study not offered in the curriculum. Consent of instructor required. Prerequisite: YM 1510.

4970 Internship in Youth Ministry (1-4 sh)

Youth ministry majors are required to serve in a key leadership role in a church, parachurch, camp, or community-service setting. The goal is practical, supervised experience combined with reflection and evaluation. It must be either a full-time summer placement

or part-time, nine-month placement during the school. Consent of instructor required. Please refer to the section in the catalog pertaining to internship requirements and guidelines. Student must be of third or fourth year standing. Prerequisite: YM 1510, 2510, 2710.

4980 Leadership and Management of Youth Ministry (4 sh)

This course delves into leadership and management issues in the field of youth ministry. Issues addressed include managing finances, managing risk, building a team ministry, and organizing time, office, events, and meetings. Student must be of 3rd or 4th year standing. Prerequisite: YM 1510, 2710, 3010, 3020.

4990 Fourth Year Seminar (4 sh)

Capstone course for youth ministry majors to integrate their experience and knowledge by focusing on a major research paper or project. Findings are presented through both seminar and written formats. Student must be of 4th year standing. Prerequisite: YM 1510, 2410, 2710, 3010, 3020, 4970.