FELLOWSHIP
THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

2025/2026 Program Handbook
Diploma in Family Leadership Essentials

FELLOWSHIP THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
2025/2026 PROGRAM HANDBOOK

DIPLOMA IN FAMILY LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

Fellowship Theological Institute
PO Box 2041
Auburn, AL 36831

Email: info@fellowshipti.org
Website: www.fellowshipti.org

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Fellowship Theological Institute will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, or physical disability with respect to (1) student admissions, (2) exercise of student privileges, or (3) scholarship programs.

Fellowship Theological Institute maintains its constitutional and statutory right to make hiring, employment, and student admission and superintendence decisions on the basis of religion in order to accomplish its Christian mission.

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Introduction to
Fellowship Theological Institute

Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Our Mission
Fellowship Theological Institute exists to equip men to lead their families and churches well to the glory of God

Our Vision
Strong men, healthy families, sound churches

Our Core Values

- Efficiency balanced with effectiveness: Men need a core set of information and skills to be influential leaders at home and church. Lengthy seminary programs are admirable but are not always necessary.

- Historical theological convictions with modern-day application: Christians often miss the mark by interpreting the Bible through the lens of 21st-century American ideals, leading to progressive Christianity and liberal theology. We want to reverse that trend by helping men learn sound, historically accepted doctrine that applies to the various challenges of life today.

- Ministry training should not be cost-prohibitive: Today, families and churches are struggling due to a lack of male leadership. In addition, economic factors make it difficult for families to thrive. We desire to provide an affordable alternative to traditional seminary and Bible college programs to minimize the impact of the economy upon access to quality theological education.

- Community is the context for effective learning: Next to the Bible, the Church is God's greatest gift to Christians. Community is the context within which Christian education and growth occur, so we will prioritize a cohort-based model and regular interaction in our online coursework.

- Healthy homes are essential for sound churches: God created two institutions to create disciples: the family and the church. Both will suffer when either does not function at total capacity. Bold and gospel-fluent men are the key to success on both fronts.

- Fruitful ministry happens in churches of all sizes. Bigger is not necessarily better when it comes to church ministry. Size typically has very little to do with a church's Kingdom impact, and the men who serve and attend small churches need ministry training as much as those who belong to mega-churches.

Leadership

Jason Barker - Founder and Executive Director
Jason Barker has served the students of Fellowship Theological Institute since its inception in 2024. He brings over 25 years of pastoral and higher education administration and teaching experience to his work, helping to ensure that Fellowship's training programs are both academically rigorous and practically helpful, grounded in the needs of men, families, and local churches. He received his Bachelor of Arts from The University of West Florida and is a New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, earning a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry.

Ethan Dawe - Founder and President of the Board of Trustees
Ethan Dawe graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of South Alabama. In 2005, he founded Innovative Financial Solutions LLC, a financial and business consulting company offering a full range of investment, consulting services, estate planning, and financial products. In addition to his corporate experience, Ethan served as a lecturer for Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, currently teaches at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, and is a frequently requested guest lecturer for various other veterinary colleges and symposiums.

Board of Advisors
Fellowship Theological Institute is committed to enlisting and maintaining an advisory board of up to 10 men with extensive experience in ministry, business, or education to guide and support its mission. These advisors are chosen based on their expertise, leadership abilities, and commitment to theological education and spiritual formation. The ongoing collaboration with the Board of Advisors ensures that the Institute remains responsive to the needs of the church and society while maintaining the highest standards of excellence.

Statement of Faith

The school's doctrinal position aligns closely with the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. This historic confession emphasizes the sovereignty of God in salvation, the authority of Scripture, and the necessity of a regenerate church membership. The school adheres to the confession's teachings on the doctrines of grace, affirming that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone. By aligning with the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith, the school ensures its teachings and practices are firmly grounded in this rich theological heritage, fostering a community that values doctrinal precision, spiritual formation, and a commitment to living out the gospel in every aspect of life.

While the school firmly upholds the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith, it warmly welcomes students who hold other conservative doctrinal perspectives that share a commitment to the core tenets of Christianity, such as the authority of Scripture, the deity of Christ, and the necessity of personal faith and repentance. The school fosters an academic environment where respectful dialogue and theological exploration are encouraged, allowing students from various conservative evangelical backgrounds to grow and learn together. By engaging

with diverse perspectives within a shared commitment to the gospel, the school aims to enrich the educational experience, promote unity in essential beliefs, and prepare students for effective ministry and service.

Statement on Accreditation

Fellowship Theological Institute is not accredited by any accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. At this time, our leadership has determined that *not* pursuing accreditation is the correct course of action.

Although accreditation can provide certain benefits, including recognition and credibility in the broader academic community, earning accreditation is an extensive, labor-intensive process. Accordingly, we believe that the significant financial and administrative resources necessary for completing the accrediting process are better allocated to improving the quality of our training and increasing our ongoing support of our alumni and their churches.

That said, we remain open to pursuing accreditation in the future if doing so would best meet the needs of our students and graduates, and the standards of the accrediting body would not require that we compromise our unique identity, methods, and beliefs. We will always chase excellence.

Admissions

Admissions Requirements

Fellowship Theological Institute is a training and equipping ministry. Accordingly, all applicants must be born-again Christians, members of a local church, and committed to leading their homes and churches well. Each applicant must complete our admissions process to join one of our cohorts.

Admissions Process

We adhere to the following admissions process when considering candidates for acceptance into Fellowship Theological Institute. This process must be completed in full prior to acceptance and enrollment.

1. Complete your application through our website. You will receive a response to your inquiry within 2 business days with a decision.
2. If your application is approved, you will be officially accepted and enrolled in the next cohort when you agree to our Student Code of Conduct, sign your Tuition Agreement, and pay your Tuition Deposit.
3. If you do not complete the final steps, we will hold your spot in the cohort until 30 days prior to the start of the program, at which time a student on our waitlist will take your place. Your application and application fee will carry over to our next cohort if you so desire.

Transfer Policies

Due to the accelerated duration and cohort-based learning model of our program, we do not accept credits from other educational institutions. Upon your graduation from the Institute or your withdrawal from the program, at your request, we will issue a complementary transcript of your completed studies and earned credits. Additional transcripts will be issued at a cost of $10/transcript.

Academic Program

The Diploma in Family Leadership Essentials

The Diploma in Family Leadership Essentials program is a 12-month curriculum designed to equip men with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead as husbands and fathers in their homes and as volunteers at their local churches. The curriculum focuses on a base competency in biblical family dynamics, Bible study and interpretation, theology, spiritual disciplines, leadership, and disciple-making. Men who successfully complete the program will be well-versed in a variety of ministry-related disciplines and will be prepared to serve or to continue their theological training and preparation for ministry service.

Course assignments will include:

- Required Reading: Each course is focused on a single book, though additional free resources (articles, websites, etc.) may be required, as well.

- Interactive Lectures: Lectures are delivered once per month via Zoom.

- The Course Artifact: A series of 20-25 questions and one Integration/Application Essay (300-500 words) designed to measure student mastery of the reading and lecture content.

- Discussion Group Participation: Each month, students will meet via Zoom in small groups to discuss key questions from The Course Artifact.

- Artifact Review Call: Each student will have a one-on-one Zoom call with an instructor to review the prior session's Course Artifact.

Academic Calendar

Session	Topic	Month	Textbook	Lectures	Assignments	Assignment Due Date
1	Theological Foundations for Healthy Families	July 2025	God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation	July 19	Orientation Call	June 21
					Discussion Group	July 31
					Course Artifact	July 31
2	Biblical Manhood	Auguat 2025	The Masculine Mandate: God's Calling to Men	August 16	Artifact Review Call	August 15
					Discussion Group	August 31
					Course Artifact	August 31
3	Introduction to the Bible	September 2025	What's in the Bible: A Tour of Scripture from the Dust of Creation to the Glory of Revelation	September 20	Artifact Review Call	September 15
					Discussion Group	September 30
					Course Artifact	September 30
4	Principles of Bible Study 1	October 2025	Living by the Book	October 18	Artifact Review Call	October 15
					Discussion Group	October 30
					Course Artifact	October 30
5	Principles of Bible Study 2	November 2025	Living by the Book	November 15	Artifact Review Call	November 15
					Discussion Group	November 30
					Course Artifact	November 30
6	Introduction to Theology	December 2025	Christian Beliefs	December 20	Artifact Review Call	December 15
					Discussion Group	December 31
					Course Artifact	December 30
7	Spiritual Disciplines 1	January 2026	Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life	January 17	Artifact Review Call	January 15
					Discussion Group	January 31
					Course Artifact	January 31
8	Spiritual Disciplines 2	February 2026	Disciplines of a Godly Man	February 21	Artifact Review Call	February 15
					Discussion Group	February 28
					Discussion Group	February 28
9	Leadership 1	March 2026	Spiritual Leadership	March 21	Artifact Review Call	March 15
					Discussion Group	March 31
					Course Artifact	March 31
10	Leadership 2	April 2026	The Shepherd Leader at	April 18	Artifact Review Call	April 15

			Home		Discussion Group	April 30
					Course Artifact	April 30
11	Raising God-Honoring Children	May 2026	Family Driven Faith: Doing What It Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk with God	May 16	Artifact Review Call	May 15
					Discussion Group	Mary 31
					Course Artifact	May 31
12	Disciplemaking at Home	June 2026	Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms	June 20	Artifact Review Call	June 15
					Discussion Group	June 30
					Course Artifact	June 30

Course Descriptions

Course Title	Description
Theological Foundations for Healthy Families	A man's family is his primary ministry and earthly responsibility. It should come as no surprise, then, that the biblical idea of family has come under relentless attack in recent years. Combatting the progressive ideologies that undermine Christian homes requires that we clearly define how a godly family should function, establish a shared vision among husbands and wives, and then teach those standards to the next generation. This course explores those concepts and gives practical advice for creating a home that honors Christ.
Biblical Manhood	What does it mean to be a man? Today's culture gives us various definitions based on uninformed opinions, bad science, and progressive gender studies, but only one definition holds true: the biblical mandate for manhood. This course explores the theological underpinnings of manhood as well as the practical application of these age-old, biblically-centered principles.
Introduction to the Bible	The single, foundational text of the Christian faith remains our primary source of knowledge about God. Unfortunately, many Christians are only vaguely aware of its contents, having rarely read it themselves. Although not an exhaustive exploration of all 66 books, this course will explore the overarching story, main themes, common literary types,

	original contexts, and doctrinal teachings of the Holy Bible, helping students to know it and appreciate it more deeply.
Principles of Bible Study 1	The Bible is God's Word to his people, and the Holy Spirit helps us to understand it and apply it in our lives. However, that does not mean that serious study is not required! The Bible contains writings that are, at minimum, nearly 2,000 years old, and we must learn how to put ourselves into the original authors' contexts to understand what was written and how to live in light of it today. In this course, we will introduce a process for studying the Bible, including observing the text, reading it intelligently, and being aware of critically important elements.
Principles of Bible Study 2	In this follow-up to Principles of Biblical Study 1, students will build upon their knowledge of how to read and understand the Bible as they study how to interpret and apply it to life today.
Introduction to Theology	Many today view precise Christian doctrine as unnecessarily divisive. However, a faith that is built upon fuzzy doctrine is no faith at all, so Christians must understand what the Bible teaches and how to live according to it. Accordingly, in this course, students will explore twenty essential doctrinal beliefs that form the foundation of a rich and vibrant faith in God through Jesus Christ.
Spiritual Disciplines 1	In John 15, Jesus uses the illustration of a vine and its branches to remind his disciples of the vital connection between himself and his followers. We depend wholly on abiding in him, just how do we do that? Through daily busyness? In this course, students will explore the classic spiritual disciplines through which Christians pursue a thriving, Spirit-empowered life.
Spiritual Disciplines 2	As those called to lead their homes and serve in their churches, Christian men must focus on spiritual, practical, and personal growth. This course examines the character attributes and actions we must seek to develop in order to fulfill the leadership roles to which we are called.
Leadership 1	Leadership can be hard to define, but everyone knows when it's lacking at home, at work, or at church. A leadership vacuum exists in homes and churches today, and all kinds of influences seek to fill it. This course explores essential leadership practices that will help men influence the people around them for the good of God's Kingdom.

Online Education and Technical Requirements

Students will complete most of their coursework online and will need a personal computer with internet connectivity and high-speed internet to access the Institute's learning management system (Google Classroom). In the event of technical difficulties, only limited support is available, but all inquiries should be directed to the Executive Director.

Academic Policies

Grading Criteria

Grades of A - F on a 4.0 scale are earned based on the following criteria. While some students may feel that a grade of A or B should be given for meeting minimum requirements, this scale sets forth a higher standard for achieving such grades. All grades are final, and students may not negotiate for a higher grade. If a student believes his grade was calculated incorrectly, he may request that the instructor review it.

Percentage	Letter	Scale	Description
100% - 94%	A	4.0	Outstanding: Exceptional grasp of the material with evidence of intellectual insight and original thought.
93% - 90%	A-	3.7	
89% - 86%	B+	3.3	Good: Thorough grasp of the material with occasional errors and omissions. Assignments were done with careful attention to detail and clarity and with evidence of intellectual insight.
85% - 83%	B	3.0	
82% - 80%	B-	2.7	
79% - 76%	C+	2.3	Acceptable: The quality of the work was acceptable, meeting minimum standards, and student performance demonstrated basic comprehension of the material and attention to detail.
75% - 73%	C	2.0	
72% - 70%	C-	1.7	
69% - 66%	D+	1.3	Poor: Quality of work typically was not satisfactory, but overall was passing. Assigned work was not always done and when done was inadequate. The student generally demonstrated a weak grasp of the material, a lack of thoroughness, and substandard formulation of ideas.
65% - 63%	D	1.0	
62% - 60%	D-	.7	
59% and Below	F	0.0	Failing: Quality of the work was not adequate at all. A failing grade may be assigned for a variety of reasons, including failure to complete assignment requirements, inability to display comprehension of course material, or consistently unsatisfactory performance.

Lecture Attendance

Although most of the program is facilitated online, student attendance at lectures is mandatory. Generally, lectures will be given on Saturdays, but dates and times may change, subject to institutional needs. Any change to the lecture schedule will be communicated as far in advance as possible through email, course posting, and text messages.

A lecture absence may be considered an excused absence under the following conditions:

1. Student illness
2. Family emergency
3. Unavoidable change in work schedule

Please note that it is the student's responsibility to communicate the reason for his absence to the instructor. The student must notify the instructor of the reason for his absence within three days after the date of the lecture in order for the absence to be excused and a passing grade to be given for the assignment. The instructor is not required to seek out a reason for a student's absence and will issue the student a zero grade for the lecture assignment unless otherwise notified.

Late Work

Students should endeavor to complete the Course Artifacts by the due date specified in the assignment, as such dedication demonstrates their integrity and indicates readiness for leadership. Course Artifacts will be accepted late, however, with a 10% penalty per day up to a maximum of five days. Students are strongly encouraged to consider whether submitting incomplete work on time would earn a higher grade than submitting completed assignments late, as the 10% penalty will apply to the entire artifact.

In the event that extenuating circumstances (illness, family emergency, etc.) prevent the student from completing his assignments on time, he must contact the instructor within 3 days after the due date to be considered for a due date extension.

Graduation Requirements

To earn a diploma from Fellowship Theological Institute, a student must complete the required 12 credit hours of coursework with at least a C- in each course and a cumulative GPA of 1.7 or better. In addition, the student's financial account must be current and all outstanding fees paid prior to the graduation date.

Academic Honesty

Integrity of scholarship is to be maintained in an academic community, and academic work is to be completed by the student to whom it is assigned. Professors will exercise care in planning and supervising academic work, so you understand the boundaries of independent academic work. You are expected to complete courses in compliance with all the standards outlined in the Catalog and provided by your professors. No student shall attempt to receive a grade by means other than honest effort, including, but not limited to:

- Procuring, providing, or accepting unauthorized material containing questions/answers for an assignment,
- Completing an assignment for or by another student,
- Employing aids that the professor prohibits,
- Plagiarizing or copying the work of another person,
- Consistently failing to cite quoted material according to the standards expressed in the Institute's style guide (Chicago Manual of Style),
- Working with someone else when instructed to work independently,
- Altering graded assignments or examinations,
- Submitting substantially the same material in more than one course without permission,
- Utilizing Generative AI tools in a manner that violates the school's policy on Student Use of Generative AI Tools

If a student is suspected to have violated the above standards, the instructor will refer him to the Academic Review Board (ARB) for consideration. The ARB consists of members of the administration and Board of Advisors who are charged with adjudicating accusations of student misconduct. The ARB will contact the student and give him the opportunity to admit the wrongdoing or present his case for why he did not violate the Academic Honesty Policy. If he is found guilty of the accused violations, the ARB will apply the appropriate consequence, up to and including expulsion from the Institute.

Student Use of Generative AI Tools

Students may use generative artificial intelligence tools such as Grammarly, ChatGPT, or Copilot to assist them with completing their coursework in the following ways:

1. Checking their work for grammatical and spelling errors, correcting writing style and tone, and identifying potential instances of plagiarism

2. Creating outlines to assist with answering questions in the Course Artifact

3. Formulating a research strategy for answering a question

4. Brainstorming ideas

Students may not utilize such tools for the following purposes:

1. Complete automation and generation of full responses to questions

2. Plagiarism, or creating partial content to represent as original content

3. Violating the Academic Honesty policy in any way

If a student is suspected to have violated the above standards, the instructor will refer him to the Academic Review Board (ARB) for consideration. The ARB will contact the student and give him the opportunity to admit the wrongdoing or present his case for why he did not violate the Student Use of Generative AI Tools policy. If he is found guilty of the accused violations, the ARB will apply the appropriate consequence, up to and including expulsion from the Institute.

Tuition and Financial Aid

Tuition and Student Fees

Graduate Diploma of Church Ministry

Cost per Credit Hour	$300
Total Credit Hours	12
Total Cost of Program	$3,600

Tuition Payment Options

We understand the financial commitments associated with pursuing higher education. To facilitate smoother transactions and ensure financial ease for our students, we offer flexible payment plans. These payment plans are structured to accommodate diverse financial situations while ensuring the continuity of academic pursuits. Below are the outlined payment policies regarding payment plans:

Option	Discount	Payment Amount
Pay in Full	10%	$3,240
Trimester Payments	5%	3 payments of $1140
Monthly Payments	0%	12 payments of $300

Additional Student Fees and Costs

Application Fee	$25
Graduation Fee (diploma and transcript)	$25
Books (purchased on your own)	Approximately $300

Payment Policies

As stated above, Fellowship Theological Institute makes various payment options available to students. The following policies apply to all payment plans:

1. Prior to finalizing enrollment, students must select a payment option and sign their tuition agreement.

2. Invoices will be sent out the third week of each month and will be due on the 1st of each month

3. Late payments may be subject to a 10% late penalty.

4. Students who fall more than 30 days behind on their payments may have their access to the LMS and all coursework restricted until their account is brought current. Students who fall more than 60 days behind on their payments may be removed from their cohort.

5. When a student on the Pay in Full or Trimester tuition payment plan opts to withdraw or is removed from the program by the Institute's Academic Review Board, a prorated amount of the tuition already paid will be refunded to the student. Other special discounts or payment arrangements offered by Fellowship Theological Institute may include a different refund policy, which will supersede this standard one.

6. When a student on the Monthly payment plan opts to withdraw or is removed from the program by the Institute's Academic Review Board, no payments will be refunded.

Scholarships and Grants

Fellowship Theological Institute does not participate in federal, state, or military scholarship or grant programs that issue payment directly to schools. Limited scholarships for students are made available by our generous donors, so prospective students should ask about financial aid during the application and enrollment process.

Student Conduct

Code of Conduct

1. Each student is expected to be committed to a local church that gathers weekly for prayer, worship, and studying the Scriptures.

2. Students must maintain a healthy marriage, leadership over their children, and an ordered and tidy home.

3. Students are to be discerning and wise in how they use social media. That is, they are to be sober-minded, vigilant, gospel-centered, and biblical in all their online communication. Additionally, all social media profiles, bios, and pictures should faithfully represent Jesus Christ.

4. Students must abstain from viewing pornography or sexually explicit material.

5. Students who have the liberty to occasionally consume alcohol or tobacco shall do so with caution, both publicly and privately.

6. Students must abstain from illegal drugs in any form.

7. Students must abstain from all forms of dishonesty, deception, plagiarism, and cheating.

8. Students must maintain healthy and wise financial practices to prevent them from failing to meet their financial commitments, including tuition payments.

Code of Conduct Violations

Maintaining an academic community characterized by Christlikeness is of the highest importance. Students reported to have violated the Code of Conduct will be contacted by the Executive Director, informed of the accusation, and given the opportunity to address or refute the concern. The Academic Review Board may be consulted in the event of an allegation of serious or repeated misconduct. The administration will conduct a thorough investigation and inform the accused student of the results. If the student is found guilty, the administration will apply the appropriate consequence, up to and including expulsion from the Institute.