

Associate Degree in Bible. (AB)

Department Head- Dr. Victor Cooper

Degree students must complete 20 courses totaling 60 credits.

10 Required courses. Five (5) with an OT (Old Testament) designation.

Five (5) with a NT (New Testament) designation.

10 electives. These may be any other courses offered by the Institute in any given school term.

More than five OT or NT courses may be taken.

A student completing an Associate in Bible (AB) degree will be competent to identify and comprehend the key religious teachings of the text, to aid in personal Bible study, conducting a home Bible study or a Sunday School class.

Associate Degree in Christian Ministry (ACM)

Department Head- Dr. Charles McCombs

Degree students must complete 20 courses totaling 60 credits.

12 Required courses. Four (4) with an OT (Old Testament) designation.

Four (4) with a NT (New Testament) designation.

Four (4) with a TH (Theology) designation.

8 electives. These may be any other courses offered by the Institute in any given school term.

More than five OT, NT, or TH courses may be taken.

The student completing the Associate in Christian Ministry (ACM) degree will be competent to teach effectively in a Sunday School class setting, home Bible study, small group ministry and to be a Sunday School superintendent among many possibilities.

Associate Degree in Theology (ATH)

Department Head- Dr. Tommy Simmons

Degree students must complete 20 courses totaling 60 credits.

7 Required courses. Seven (7) with the TH (Theology) designation.

13 electives. These may be any other courses offered by the Institute in any given school term.

More than seven TH courses may be taken.

The Associate degree in Theology (ATH) will equip the Bible student to begin to grasp the varied dimensions of Biblical doctrine so as to be able to communicate to the doubter, skeptic, and seeker the breath of God's plan of redemption. The student will have a stronger faith and a more reasoned answer for his or her faith.

Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies (BBS)

Department Head- Dr. Jim Scafidi

Degree students must complete 40 courses totaling 120 credits. Each course being 3.0 credits.

There is no time limit for completion of the degree.

10 total courses in each area of study:

10 in Old Testament (OT)

10 in New Testament (NT)

10 in Theology (TH)

10 Electives of choice (Can be in any area, OT, NT, TH, GS)

The focus of the Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies is to give the student a well-rounded Biblical education in each of the areas out-lined above. The student will have a good understanding of both the Old and New Testaments as well as a solid Theological foundation in understanding the primary doctrines of the Scripture.

The student will also have an opportunity to focus more intently in an area of study by selecting courses as electives that most interest the degree candidate.

It is imperative that the Bachelor's degree student keep in mind the following:

1. Attendance is very important to the Bachelor's Degree student.
2. Grades stay above failing (60 and above) in all courses.
3. Complete all assigned work as directed by the professors. The professors have full say and oversight of the class and are to be respected in their role as teacher.
4. Adhere to a Christ-like attitude and behavior in all classes at all times.
5. Keep track of their progress toward completing the degree by monitoring their progress as they are issued Grade Reports (GR's) throughout their academic career.
6. Maintain a godly attitude and behavior outside the Institute as a representative of SouthWest Florida Bible Institute (SWFBI).
7. Respect the other students in all classes as they may not be of the same denomination or at the same place in their Christian walk.

Upon completing the required course work the student will receive the Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies (BBS). This degree does not guarantee that they will be ordained into Christian ministry nor fully transferable to another school, institute, or seminary. (However, all courses are transferable to any school within the National Bible College Association of which SWFBI belongs as a member in good standing.) Students should meet with their pastor or denomination leader about what is expected of ordination or further schooling outside of SWFBI.

All SWFBI graduates that have previously and successfully obtained an Associate's degree will immediately have all 60 credits (20 courses) grandfathered into the SWFBI bachelor's degree program.

The Program of Study.

The SWFBI runs on a two semester, four quarters calendar year.

Both semester I and II have two quarters.

Semesters and Quarters are 9 weeks. Classes run 1.5 hours per class over the 9 weeks.

Example: a course may meet Monday night from 7:00PM-8:30PM (1.5 hours) for nine consecutive weeks. This equals 13.5 hours of classroom time. At the end of the 9 weeks there will be a one week break and then the second nine week quarter will start with new courses, times (AM or PM) and new day or evening of the week depending on the course.

This means that each Semester will offer the student the opportunity to attend a new course or courses every nine weeks. The registration form will show the courses, times, dates, days, and the professors for each course offered.

At the end of the first full year the student will have taken from 1 to 20 courses depending on their personal schedule and desires. Usually, students take between 1 to 3 courses per Quarter. Again, this is totally up to the student as to what they can fit into their own personal life schedule.

The student should declare in advance whether they are attempting the Associate degree (of which three separate degrees are offered) or the Bachelor's degree. This is because there are differing requirements for each and to declare ahead of time helps to plan their academic schedules. Associate students can go on to the Bachelor's degree with all courses previously earned at SWFBI grandfathered in.

A nine week, 13.5 hour Quarter allows students to enroll throughout the school year and begin their studies in August, October, January, and March. Also, the two Semesters give the student 27 hours of academic study for each two courses taken. This is very close to what a two semester Bible college offers.

SWFBI does not make promises that the Associate degree or Bachelor's degree will be fully transferable or accepted at other Bible colleges or Seminaries. However, some courses might be accepted. This also shows that the student is a serious candidate for further Biblical studies. Also, all SWFBI courses are transferable to any school within the National Bible College Association (NBCA) of which SWFBI is a member in good standing since October, 2016.

It is recommended that the student talk to his or her pastor or denomination head as to furthering their education for ministry and any ordination requirements.

All our courses are offered tuition free and none of the faculty or staff receive any pay for their time and efforts. We do so out of love for the Lord and His Word, the Holy Bible.

For further information please ask to meet with the president of SWFBI, Dr. James Scafidi and he will make arrangements to sit down with you and address any questions you may have.

Course Designations:

Course numbers after the designation indicate that the course is more challenging the higher the number.

OT= Old Testament.

NT= New Testament.

TH= Theology.

GS= General Studies. These courses are not specifically focused on one of the other three areas mentioned above though they may contain much in the way of theology, and Old or New Testament concepts. GS courses may be considered and “elective.”

Books: SWFBI does not sell or supply textbooks required by some of the professors. The student is responsible for purchasing his or her own textbooks.

Food or Drink: SWFBI understands that refreshments are at times necessary while a student is in class for more than an hour. However, if at all possible, please limit refreshments to water or other soft beverages. It is requested that food not be consumed during class time. This tends to create a distraction to other students.

If a student decides not to continue with a course, for whatever reason, please inform the professor that you will be dropping the course and/or inform the SWFBI office. It is helpful to know when a student drops, and if, possible the reason.

Grades: Those who are enrolled in the degree program (whether Bachelor or Associate) will receive their grades via email as soon as all grades are into the office. This may take more than a week so we ask your patience in this matter.

Please be respectful of other students when it comes to grades. Grading is a private matter and some students would prefer others not know their grades.

Visitors: We encourage students to bring a friend to sit in on one class and get a feel for the school. However, it is required of all visitors to fill out a registration form if they attend more than one class. This is for insurance purposes even if they do not intend to enroll as a student.

Website: Always check the Institute website for any up-dates, changes, and special announcements throughout the school year. www.swfbi.org

Email: info@swfbi.org

Phone: 941-625-3255

Graduation: Graduation for Associate and Bachelor degree candidates is usually held in early June. All graduating students should plan on being in attendance.

Cap & Gown: SWFBI does not supply cap and gown for students. These can be purchased on-line for a relatively inexpensive amount.

Women: White cap, white gown.

Men: Black cap, black gown.

The educational experience at SWFBI.

We know you are busy with jobs, home-life, ministry needs at your local church and we acknowledge that and commend you for the time you put in at SWFBI.

A Biblical education here at SWFBI is to encourage you to continue to dig deeper into the Bible and its related areas of study. This is to aid you in bringing what you learn back to your church, home fellowship, small group study, work place, and your personal walk with the Lord. A Biblical education is not meant to “puff up” but to “build up” the student in the most holy faith.

SWFBI is a non-denominational Institute. Our theology is Biblically based and not denominationally derived. If you observe our logo it contains three important words that summarize our theology. Inerrant. Infallible. Immutable. Those words describe our view of the Word- the Bible.

The professors are all highly trained in their area of expertise and endeavor to pass along that information to each student.

SWFBI is not here offer students a place to “showcase their knowledge” to others but to challenge and stretch the student to learn more than they thought possible.

It is a great blessing to see students, many who have not been in a school setting for years, find out that they can and indeed do succeed in their studies here a SWFBI.

With that said, please be aware that all our faculty and staff are not paid and do not collect a salary for their time teaching. For each hour in the classroom professors spend many more hours preparing the material. Respect, attention, and prayer for them is expected by all students. Know that the professors will be praying for each student and will do all they can to help the student to succeed.

There is a cost to maintaining SWFBI. To be tuition-free does cost something. The rent on the facility. The electricity, water, insurance, maintenance and more are not free. The Institute stays open because of generous Christians, brothers and sisters in the Lord, who give. We don't ask for money, for the Lord said, “Freely you have received; freely give.” Donations are always welcomed so that others may benefit from the Institute.

May you be enriched in your studies and may you find success in your area of ministry wherever the Lord may lead you. SWFBI has graduated quite a few men and women already in ministry. Others have plans to pursue further education, whether a masters or doctorate, and we hope to be of some small part on such a wonderful journey. Our prayer for you is that you will know just how wide, high, deep, and long is the love of Jesus for each and every student here at SWFBI.