



THE RIVER OF COLUMBUS
BIBLE INSTITUTE

STUDENT HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO RCBI

2024 / 2025

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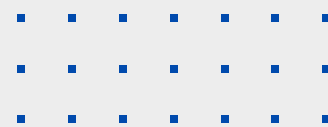
Introduction



The River of Columbus Bible Institute (RCBI) was established to equip men and women to be victorious in every area of life. It is our desire to produce men and women of God who are knowledgeable in the Word of God, strong in faith principles, compassionate to the needs of others, and as bold as a lion!

In this handbook you will find more information about the school, the courses offered, the vision, and more. If you are asking yourself, "Is this for me?", let the vision and information from this handbook speak to your heart and stir a desire in you to follow the plan of God for your life!

Vision



The River of Columbus Bible Institute was birthed out of a desire to train men and women in the heart of revival to see transformation in this generation. It is where the Word of God and the Holy Spirit come together to produce life and equip all for the call of God on their lives in their homes, community, secular work, and ministry.

The school is for everyone who hungers for more of God and for those who feel called to ministry. This school will strengthen your relationship with the Lord and give you a new perspective in reaching others with God's life-changing love and power.

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding"

- Colossians 1:16



Faculty & Staff



PASTOR MIKE CHILDS
PRESIDENT &
SENIOR PASTOR

The River of Columbus Bible Institute is dedicated to training believers how to live, minister, and flow in the anointing. The Word will challenge those of you attending the Institute to find clarity in your calling, and be changed by the awesome presence of God. Not just for the full-time minister, but for all of God's people who are hungry for more. Whether you are a housewife or an aspiring evangelist, RCBI will deepen your relationship and experience in the Lord, and provide you with a new perspective on how to reach others with God's life-changing power.

You can be saturated in the Word and the Spirit of God at The River of Columbus Bible Institute. It is the place where you will be empowered to reach your high calling and set your world on fire with revival.



PASTOR KYM CHILDS
VICE PRESIDENT &
SENIOR PASTOR

There are many Bible training facilities in the world, but so many of them major on giving their students a mere head knowledge of the Bible rather than encouraging their students to come to know the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in a real and living way. God wants to raise you up to do great things for Him. RCBI will help to prepare you to do great things for God. We look forward to seeing you grow and change and then go out into the world in power and victory!



PASTOR SAM COLEY
EXECUTIVE
PASTOR & DEAN

As you will discover, The River of Columbus Bible Institute is not a traditional Bible school. It is a Holy Ghost training center, birthed specifically for those whose strongest desire is to know Christ and to make Him known. A place where men and women of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences could gather together to study and experience the glory of God. Jump in, give your all, and be the mighty world changer for Heaven you were called to be!

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.”
- Proverbs 19:20



Programs of Study 2024-2025

MINISTRY PROGRAM

Our Ministry Program was created as a training ground for those who sense a call into the Five-Fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Persons enrolled in the two-year program can train for ministry, pursue an intense study of the Bible, enhance their presentation skills, gain a deeper understanding of the things of God, be equipped with practical knowledge for the ministry, and obtain invaluable instruction on Faith, the Holy Spirit, Bible Prophecy and other theological areas. Mentorship and hands-on experiences will be incorporated as required electives to enhance the training experience.

At 30 credit hours, a student will achieve a Certificate of Biblical Studies. Persons enrolled in this program who have completed 30 credit hours in person and met all elective requirements will receive a Certificate of Biblical Studies with Ministry Honors. At 60 credit hours and having met all elective requirements, the student will be awarded an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies with Ministry Honors.

STUDY PROGRAM

The River of Columbus Bible Institute is designed for those who would like to pursue an in-depth study of the Bible and experience the glory of God. The Study program is intended for all believers who want a deeper understanding of the Bible and how to apply it to their daily lives. Electives such as outreach, volunteering, and church attendance for example are not required in this program.

Persons enrolled in this program will attend the course in person and must successfully pass the course exam to receive credit. Students who live outside a 60-mile radius of campus may take courses online and their exam is due at the same scheduled time as in-person students. At 30 credit hours, a student will achieve a Certificate of Biblical Studies. Upon completing 60 hours, the student will be awarded an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies.

Students may achieve Ministry Honors by completing the additional electives within one academic year. Students have 5 years, from the start of their first credit achieved, to complete all options.

AUDIT

Auditing a class entails taking a course for information purposes solely, not for a grade or credit. Courses can be audited at any time, in-person or online at the student's convenience. They are not required to take tests or meet other program objectives, therefore they are not eligible for the certifications or two-year associate's degree. Students will complete the audit application and specify which courses they would like to audit. All first and second-year courses are available.

Timetable & Academic School Year 2024-2025

**Each course is 3 credit hours.

One course is taught each month and will be taught in person over a 3-day period: Thursday 6-9 pm, Friday 6-9 pm, and Saturday 8 am-12 pm. All courses will be taught at The River of Columbus Church. There will be two break months each academic year without courses or exams.

T R A C K B

Dates	Courses
August 29-31	Christian Lifestyle
September 26-28	Leadership
October 24-26	Faith 1 & 2
November 21-23	Book of Acts
December	No Courses
January 23-25	Evangelism
February 20-22	Hermeneutics & Homiletics
March 27-29	Discipleship
April 24-26	Eschatology
May 29-31	Call of God
June 26-28	Stewardship
July	Graduation Ceremony

Track A will be offered for the 2025-2026 school year.



School Requirements

The River of Columbus Bible Institute is for every believer who wants to grow in the plan of God for their lives, and we believe that this is accessible to everyone. We expect dedication and perseverance from students that set the year aside for devotion to God and to be equipped. We believe that with this attitude, an atmosphere is created in which God can work, and because of that, there will be a great transformation in the life of the student.

The student does not have to have pre-education or a certain level of knowledge.

Students must be at least 16 years old. If they are under 18 then they need written permission from their parents or guardian.

These are the further requirements for enrollment:

- The student needs to submit our application form.
- The student must be a born-again Christian.
- If the student is NOT a member of The River of Columbus Church, they must submit a Senior Pastor referral letter with their application.
- The student must pay the one-time, non-refundable enrollment fee before starting the academic year.
- The student must be motivated to follow the curriculum, attend courses and finish the program.
- The student maintains a strong moral Christian character and shows adherence to The River of Columbus Bible Institute code of conduct.

What the Students Can Expect From the Teachers

The teachers shall share the Word of God in purity. They will proclaim the Word; reproving, rebuking, and exhorting, with all long-suffering and teaching. Teachers stay yielded to the Holy Spirit and will follow the Holy Spirit in the lessons.

Confidentiality

Your personal information will be kept secure and will not be shared with third parties. If the student gives permission then it could be shared. (e.g. someone in pastoral care contacting the student in their own church).

Absences

If the student cannot attend one of the evenings or one of the classes, they will need to email the Dean at least one hour before the beginning of the class. If a student misses a class it is their responsibility to reach out for materials.

We strongly encourage in-person lectures to ensure proper education. Missed courses and exams must be completed virtually within a week of the original course date. If a student misses a course without a valid excuse approved by the Dean it will affect their grade for that month's course.

The grading system:

1 absence: 10% deduction of grade

2 absences: 15% deduction of grade

3 absences: 20% deduction of grade

If a student misses one or more classes for a course they have until Wednesday of the next week to attend them online.

“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” - Hebrews 10:25

Examinations

There will be an exam at the end of each monthly course that will be due by the Wednesday of the next week. (e.g. In August courses are from the 24th - the 26th, therefore the exam that month will be due by 11:59 pm on August 30th.)

The assigned reading for each month is expected to be completed by the start of the course.

The student must achieve a 70% or higher grade to pass the course exam. They will have one remediation opportunity per course that requires the student to take the course virtually and successfully complete the exam within one week of the original course date.

Elective Requirements for Ministry Honors

Outside of courses and exams, there are different activities that the student is required to attend, and they fall within the lesson materials. These are crucial for the development of the student, for his/her character, to apply in a practical way what they have been learning in class. Other requirements for activities are as follows:

- Faithfully attend each Sunday morning service at your own church. The student must attend 70% or more of the services during the school year.
- A year one student must volunteer in their home church for at least one service a month (e.g. Wed., Sun., Conferences). Year two students are expected to volunteer for at least two services a month.
- Participate in 8 River Outreach Team outings during the school year.
- Attendance sheets will be available at The Information Desk of each River Church service for the student to sign.
- Students who are not members of The River Church must turn in attendance sheets documenting Sunday attendance and volunteer participation, signed by their Senior Pastor.
- Additional electives will be announced at a later date.

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. - Luke 16:10

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be decided by each month's instructor.

Grade Summary

- The student is required to achieve a 70% grade or higher to successfully complete each month's course.
- That grade is the result of the exam and any extra credit or deductions that apply to that month.

Graduation

The student will need to successfully complete all courses for that academic year to graduate. In addition, the student is required to meet all attendance, volunteer, and outreach requirements.

At that time the student will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the school year. This certificate is not recognized as a legal diploma (e.g. high school diploma).

If a student successfully completes all requirements for the One-Year and Two-Year programs, RCBI will confer an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies for religious purposes.

Liability

The River of Columbus Church and The River of Columbus Bible Institute is not responsible or liable for lost or damaged belongings on school/church premises.

Disclaimer

The River of Columbus Bible Institute offers church-related training courses and degrees that are not transferable as academic degree programs to colleges and universities accredited by agencies recognized by the United State Department of Education (USDE). Please contact our office if you have further questions.



Contact Information



706-940-3178



contact@theriverofcolumbus.com



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Meeting with Teachers/Dean

The teachers and the dean are available for prayer, questions and answers, and counseling. It is preferred to schedule a meeting with the Dean, and they can direct you accordingly.



Financial Information



The application fee is a one-time, non-refundable, \$50 at the time you submit your application. That fee will go towards your tuition cost.

Tuition costs are \$1,500 per student per year. This is a one-time, non-refundable fee paid prior to the start of the academic year. If you have difficulty paying this on time, please reach out to our office for other options. Students will have required reading during the year, and the materials are the student's responsibility to purchase.

The estimated total cost of books per academic year and a cap and gown for graduation is \$200.

*Students who have been active members of The River of Columbus Church are eligible to receive a scholarship. The scholarship is worth \$750 and must be reapplied for each year. You can apply for the scholarship on your application by selecting you regularly attend.

Referral Scholarship - Students will be awarded a 10% reduction of their tuition for every prospective student who lists their name on the application and is accepted into the program.

Audited courses are \$150 per student per course.

We believe that money should never be an obstacle to fulfilling the call of God on your life. If you have any concerns, please reach out to the Dean to discuss further.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:19



Code of Conduct

1 We love God.

The students maintain a strong personal relationship with God.

2 We love people.

The student is part of a healthy local church and active within it and is submitted under pastoral authority.

3 We are excellent.

The student needs to do their best to get the most out of the lessons, as unto God and not people.

The student needs to be on time for each lesson.

The student needs to be professional, behave respectably, and dress in accordance with a Christian leader.

4 We live pure and holy.

The student needs to act impeccably, to other students of the opposite sex.

The student will devote themselves to a Christian Lifestyle, and this means he/she will refrain from drugs, alcohol, cheating, lying, stealing, sexual relationships outside of marriage, and other actions that compromise purity and holiness.

Course Descriptions

The Anointing

The student will learn that the anointing is present to heal, deliver, set free, and set ablaze anyone who is hungry and desperate enough to be used by God.

Authority of the Believer

As believers, we have authority that some of us may not be aware of. We may even be walking in it and not knowing it. This course is to help us open God's word on the subject of "Authority" so that as believers we may not only live out our God-given authority but also begin to see God's perfect plan unfold in our lives on a daily basis.

Old/New Testament Survey

The student will obtain a general knowledge of the theme and contents of each Old & New Testament book and gain an understanding of the meaning and significance of the historical events and messages of the Bible.

Bible Doctrines

In this course, we will take time to study the subjects of what we believe and understand why we believe them. We will also begin to build a solid foundation on the biblical truths that our doctrine is built upon, as well as expose false doctrines concerning what we believe.

12 Pillars of Faith

There are foundational truths in God's Word that, as Holy Ghost-filled believers, we must truly comprehend and grasp to be foundational truths, thereby making them pillars of our faith. There are twelve pillars this course will expound on.

Course Descriptions

Gifts of the Spirit

This is a study course on the Gifts of the Spirit according to 1 Corinthians 12. The student will learn who the gifts are from, who the gifts are for, and what their purpose is, according to the Bible.

Submission to Authority

The student will realize the importance of submission and authority in their daily walk of faith and learn how to be prepared to submit to authority while learning how to walk in God-given authority.

Healing

The focus of this course is in two different areas: 1) To show from the scripture that it is God's will to heal all today. 2) To bring clarity to certain Bible passages where misconceptions about healing exist.

Worship as a Lifestyle

This course will give the student a thorough understanding of the foundation, purpose, and practice of worship in the believer's life. Emphasis will be placed on worship as a lifestyle for the believer, discovering how man's entire existence is tied to living in and depending upon God's presence.

Church History

The purpose of this course is to help the student become familiar with the periods of Church history, important leaders, significant issues, great movements, and the characteristics of the True Church. Emphasis will be given to the Pentecostal/Charismatic movements that have arisen since the book of Acts, and have continued throughout history to the present day.

Course Descriptions

Book of Acts

This course will give you an understanding of The Book of Acts with an emphasis on The Work of the Holy Spirit throughout.

Faith

An understanding of the different types of Faith that are required to enable the student to minister in a way that will not only impact their lives but most importantly, the lives of others.

Eschatology

Eschatology is the branch of theology that deals with the final consummation of all things. We will cover such subject matters as the rapture, the tribulation, judgment, and the life to come.

Leadership

This course will develop a biblical foundation for leadership. Students will discover servant leadership principles that will help them to develop leadership qualities in their lives and in others.

Call of God

This class places strong importance on the Call of God on your life and how God equips you. There will be a detailed look at the Five-Fold ministry and how it functions in the local church, as well as an emphasis on how a call to the secular workplace or home is a ministry.

Hermeneutics & Homiletics

This course is designed to give the student instruction on how to properly study and share The Word of God. Students will gain confidence in his/her ability and in the ability of the Holy Spirit to help him/her in their calling. There will be an emphasis on communication skills ranging from one-on-one discussions and teaching Bible studies to preaching the Word in a variety of settings.

Course Descriptions

Christian Lifestyle

This course will help the student develop strong spiritual and biblical discernment of what a true Christian lifestyle looks like. The emphasis will be on purity and holiness in life, ministry and conduct as a believer. We will study how the Gifts of the Spirit and especially the fruit of the Spirit cancel the works of the flesh.

School of Evangelism

The student will learn the importance of missions, soul-winning, outreach, and crusades in ministry. The student will understand scriptural references, study previous examples, and be equipped to lead others to Christ.

Stewardship

This course will familiarize the student with many scriptures that pertain to finances and stewardship. A foundation is given for personal life as well as equipping with truths needed for preaching on stewardship and giving in ministry.

Discipleship

The student will learn about the importance of helping others grow in Christ and be equipped with effective strategies to do so. They will learn how to disciple and how to make disciples personally and in their ministry.