

Online Seminary Programs

How can someone sensing God's call to ordained ministry receive the training they need without quitting their job and relocating to a distant city to attend seminary? How can a busy pastor gain new insights for ministry, deepen their knowledge, and earn an accredited graduate theological degree from an American Baptist-related seminary without leaving his/her place of ministry? The ABC/NYS Committee on Ministry encourages individuals with questions like these to consider the online programs offered by two ABC seminaries.

Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University's **Openseminary** blended online seminary degree program enables students from across the country and around the world to earn a **Master of Theological Studies degree in just three years without relocating**. The program requires 2 week-long residencies per year at Palmer in suburban Philadelphia. Palmer's program is built around the goal of strengthening local churches by increasing the theological knowledge and ministry effectiveness of men and women, including laypersons, who are (or have been) active in ministry. Thus, the churches of which student-learners are a part reap benefits throughout the program. Each of the program's six, 21-week modules focuses on a particular local church practice: Doing Theology in Context, Leading and Building Community, Communicating the Gospel, Leading People in the Presence of God, Missional Service, and Spiritual Formation. Learners are divided into cohort study groups of three to five members. A Palmer professor oversees the entire process. During the weeklong residency, learners will encounter and interact with a thoughtful ministry practitioner, usually a pastor, selected based on his or her demonstrated ability to integrate theory and practice in the area being studied. For more information about Palmer Seminary's MTS degree, go to: <http://www.palmerseminary.edu/programs/masters-programs/mts-openseminary>

Central Baptist Theological Seminary believes that theological education should be available to everyone, everywhere, at all times. It should not be limited only to prescribed locations, set times, or narrow modes of delivery. Theological education should also utilize the latest tools in shaping knowledge and competence in ministry. For this reason, Central Seminary has created **ACCESS**, an online learning environment that allows students to learn in and for a new era.

Central offers an **MDiv (Master of Divinity)** of 75 credits and the **MA (Theological Studies)** of 48 credits to online learners. **Students may take most of their classes in an online format**, but some courses are residential at Central's campus in suburban Kansas City, or one of its centers (Milwaukee and Murfreesboro). For the MDiv and the MA, 24 hours (8 courses) are required in residence. All other courses can be taken online. Central utilizes MOODLE (<http://moodle.cbts.edu>) an open source program developed specifically for delivering online education. For more information about Central Baptist Seminary's online Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree programs, go to: <http://www.cbts.edu/students/current-students/online-education/>

A complete listing of American Baptist-related seminaries, with a link to each institution, can be found online at: [http://www.abc-usa.org/what we believe/abc-organizations/](http://www.abc-usa.org/what_we_believe/abc-organizations/)