



WASHINGTON THEOLOGICAL UNION

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ACADEMIC DEAN

February 22, 2010

Dear WTU Student,

RE: Change in Course Credits

Over the last several years students have raised concerns about the two credit courses offered at the Washington Theological Union. Some felt that the work they were doing was equivalent to the work in three credit courses, others were bothered that they could not transfer in three credit courses, and still others found it slowed their progress. Some of our certificate programs were also less attractive because the two credit format was difficult to transfer into other graduate schools. We have heard these concerns and we have responded to them.

After some study, the faculty has approved a revision whereby most of our courses will be offered as three credit courses. We have kept some of the practicum and seminar classes at two credits, because those credits generally do not transfer and because they would have inflated the hours in the M.A.P.S. and the M.Div. degrees. We implemented the revisions so that they would have minimal impact on the overall credit hours required for each program. In some cases, these revisions will also result in students needing fewer courses to complete a program and thereby some reduction in transportation and other educational expenses; however, some students may find that they have a few additional credits as they complete the program.

This change affects each of our degrees and certificates and will affect both our current and our new students. For **new students** who will begin studies in the Fall 2010 semester, the new course/credit requirements are reflected in the degree and certificate descriptions now posted on the Union website in the Academic section. For **current students**, the impact on each student is unique and depends upon their academic progress. Current degree and certificate students who may have questions about the impact should consult their academic advisor or the Registrar for clarification.

These changes will make your degrees or certificates more portable and will enhance the competitiveness of WTU graduates who seek to pursue further studies. We are also working on an extended schedule that will allow students to better plan their programs, which will be ready in the coming months. Finally, we are increasing our online offerings in order to make it easier for students who are working, who have course conflicts, or are on a pastoral assignment to move through the program more quickly and conveniently. I hope you see that we are aggressively moving to better serve our students, and I invite you to let us know how we can continue to improve our programs.

Sincerely,

C. Colt Anderson, Ph.D.
Academic Vice President and Dean