



**HEAL THE
SICK** A FAITH AND HEALTH
PROGRAM AT WESLEY
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Online Health Minister Certificate - Frequently Asked Questions -

Q & A about the Online Health Minister Certificate Application

What information and items do I need before completing the online health minister certificate application?

You will need **basic demographic information** about yourself, current work/ministry setting, your faith/organizational leader, etc to complete the online application. You will need to **upload a statement** about why you want to become a health minister. You will need a **major credit card** to pay the non-refundable registration fee of \$25 via PayPal. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can create a PayPal account or simply pay via your credit card without a PayPal account.

I have never taken a course online. Is the online health minister certificate for me?

In the online application process, we will ask you if you have access to a computer and reliable connection to the internet. These are both pre-requisites for taking the certificate online. Online learning provides flexibility for students and their busy personal and professional lives. Additionally, online learning also requires that you commit yourself to self-scheduled blocks of time through the week to learn and complete classwork. Our goal is to create an online learning environment in which people can share, exchange ideas and resources, and growth together. Since we are not in the same physical space of classroom in the online environment, students and teachers will need share a common value and commitment to learning online. All will need to put in our best effort to create a community where we can all learning and be at our best in the virtual classroom online.

What is the cost of the health minister certificate and how did the seminary come to offer the certificate at the price listed?

This course based on credit hours for a similar course offered at the seminary would cost \$1500 per student. However, we offer the certificate at \$575 tuition rate because we believe it is a central part of living out our mission to equip people for this ministry in the world. The

seminary by offering the certificate at this price is demonstrating its commitment to its core mission and values. Scholarships help further reduce the costs of the certificate. Certificate tuitions and registration fees help our certificate offerings become sustainable. Certificate tuition helps us to pay our bills (certificate faculty stipends, ongoing online learning software costs, etc.). We try to balance how we are meeting our mission in real practical ways and how we can offer high quality educational offerings which are enriching and impactful. Through this certificate, we are preparing individuals to address pressing needs in congregations and communities.

I would like to apply for a scholarship. I see several scholarships listed. How do I apply for a scholarship?

We offer a few different scholarships. Our scholarships are made possible by several different educational partners – hospitals, denominations, foundations, Wesley Seminary, and others. Our partners have an active ongoing relationship with the seminary. We are always looking for new partners to build the capacity of this work and ministry. We offer scholarships to further reduce the tuition costs so that we can make this learning experience available to as many people as possible.

Q & A about the Health Minister Certificate

What is the background of some of the people who have taken the certificate in the past?

Social workers, public health staff, nurses, faith community nurses, pastors, chaplains, nursing professors, retirees, deaconesses, stay at home parents, artists, musicians, and anyone who has an interest in faith and health. We have had international students and students from all over the United States. People have come from rural, suburban, urban settings, or a mixture. The diversity of the people from all of these settings and backgrounds creates a wonderful online learning experience for everyone.

Is the online certificate synchronous or asynchronous? Do I have to be at my computer at a certain time and day each week to complete the weekly modules?

The certificate is asynchronous which means you can access the course material online 24 hours/ 7 days a week. This means you do not have to be at your computer at a specific time and day of week with others to engage in learning like you would in a physical classroom. Most of 10 weekly modules will have videos, readings, and a discussion board for a specific topic. In creating a cohesive online learning environment, we try to create realistic parameters for student participation. We do require that you are attentive to being mindful and engaged in learning together with others. For example, in the certificate's discussion boards, you will be required typically to post your answer to a discussion board question by Tuesday and reply to at least two other student posts by Thursday. Regularly offered certificate webinars are optional and do not require attendance. However, the webinars allow students the opportunity to ask questions and interact with each other and the certificate faculty. The webinars are great ways

to enhance learning. If you cannot attend the webinars, they are recorded and can be viewed later.

How long is orientation for the certificate? When is online orientation? How much time does it take to complete it?

Orientation is open for one week prior to the first certificate module. The entire orientation will take approximately 60-90 minutes to complete. It includes 2 short introductory videos about the certificate, a brief description of the modules, and background about the Heal the Sick program. The orientation helps people know what is expected of them and provides background information and tools that they will use in the online learning environment. A syllabus and schedule (due dates for assignments, required deadlines for discussion boards, etc.) for certificate is provided in the orientation. There are four assignments that need to be completed during the 10 week certificate. There are pre-course surveys also which measure participant knowledge and skill before the certificate. A post-course survey will measure any changes in any participant knowledge and skill as a result of being engaged with the certificate. There are other course requirements including surveys to complete during orientation.

How much time does each weekly module take for me to complete?

The health minister certificate follows a weekly schedule of releasing one module for per week over 10 weeks.

- Each weekly online module is paced for you to complete within the week.
- Each module is 1.5 hours-2.5 hours (A total of 22 contact hours for entire certificate)
- Each module will be released on Sunday morning.
- You are expected to complete all of the work (watching videos, reading, participating in discussion groups, etc.) within the week (Eastern Standard Time –EST). All 10 online modules must be completed for certificate completion.
- Each module builds upon the previous module. Skills and learning will grow as each new weekly module is added.
- Modules are in progressive order to help you start with a foundation in exploring faith and health language, definitions, and concepts to understanding health minister roles, structures, and models to specific knowledge and skill areas in health ministry

How is a student's performance graded in the certificate? What is a passing grade to earn the health minister certificate?

The certificate provides students with critical thinking and practical skills. Students explore the complex relationship between faith and health over the ten weeks. We evaluate student performance throughout the certificate. Students are expected to complete all four assignments spread throughout the certificate. We expect students to engage fully with each certificate module (10 modules). In our online learning platform, students can track their grades by clicking on the Grades. We encourage students to engage in the certificate

experience with a sense of being a lifelong learner. Grades are important and we believe lifelong learning is important too. The more you engage in the class the more you will learn. The following course work will be used to evaluate students:

- **Assignments (4) - 65%**
 - A student must receive a passing grade on all four course assignments
- **Participation in Weekly Course Modules- 35%**
 - Discussion Boards(Posting & Responding), Introductory Blog, Journal Entry 30%

Does the health minister certificate hours transfer to any Wesley Theological Seminary graduate degree?

Online certificate hours are not transferable to any Wesley Theological Seminary graduate degree.

What happens after the certificate is completed successfully?

The Heal the Sick offers a number of other opportunities for training and ways to connect with others who have graduated from the health minister certificate. We connect people to different supportive networks and offer webinars, advanced leadership training, and other capacity building opportunities for growing and sustaining health ministry long term.