



Christian Academy
OF LOUISVILLE
ENGLISH STATION CAMPUS

School of Spiritual Formation - Overview

“Christ is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.” -Colossians 1:28

The School of Spiritual Formation (SSF) represents an advanced pathway for Christian Academy of Louisville high school students who desire a more rigorous and missional discipleship-to-leadership experience that is appropriate for secondary students. This unique pathway is not designed for students who may be exemplary in knowledge of the Bible, nor is it necessarily for the academically gifted. There are no weighted grades or honors courses in this distinct pathway.

The School of Spiritual Formation Mission is to equip and empower students through uniquely curated spiritual experiences and courses, in order to grow as spiritual leaders who bring the kingdom of God to their present and future callings.

This pathway will include four semester-long Bible courses with limited class sizes, like-minded cohorts, deeper discussions, and a focus on immediate and practical application through projects. These classes will be in addition to the main track of Bible classes that all Christian Academy high school students complete.

Students will engage in unique spiritual formation experiences like taking proactive leadership in the school, serving in missions, guided trips to colleges, special summit events, field work to regional sites of spiritual/educational significance, special visits from Christian college advisors, campus ministers, guest speakers, and networking opportunities with future ministry partners. Additional differentiated options are offered for upperclassmen including two elective Bible classes, an internship, or a college-level Bible course for college credit. To complete the program, students will present a cumulative portfolio of their pathway experience to a committee for approval, reflection, and celebration of their accomplishments. Upon approval, students will receive diploma and college transcript distinctions, along with special wearables at graduation. Throughout the pathway, students will meet with their assigned program advisor and participate in mentoring to guide their maturation in Christ and empowerment as a spiritual leader.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- School of Spiritual Formation Application
- Interview with director of the Spiritual Formation pathway
- Hold a minimum 3.0 GPA in Bible courses (when applicable)
- Demonstrate active participation in a local church
- A \$100 fee per year, and additional expenses for experiences and field work.

All Christian Academy students take eight semester-long Bible courses. In addition to these courses, students in the School of Spiritual Formation will complete four newly-developed semester-long core classes by the end of their Junior year. Although this pathway is not for the academically gifted, it is expected that students will maintain a minimum, cumulative 3.0 GPA in the regular Bible classes as well as the core classes in the School of Spiritual Formation. **New students to Christian Academy will be grandfathered into the program and will consult with the program director for their optimal plan.**

SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION CORE CLASSES:

1. **Growing Wise (one semester).** Is it possible for a teenager to be wise? This course will equip students with a biblical understanding of wisdom and empower them to order their lives by it. Students will examine, analyze, discuss, and apply key biblical texts, Christian doctrines, the Apostles Creed, and themes on wisdom from contemporary authors. Through seminar discussion, rich projects, a curated class trip to an Evangelical, Catholic, and Orthodox church, guest speakers, and memorization challenges, students will evaluate how we safely glean wisdom from the church and from worldly culture. Finally, students will synthesize and demonstrate their learning by creating and following a guide to wise teenage living in today's world. This course is only available for students in the School of Spiritual Formation. A \$50 fee is required for this course.
2. **Diving Deep Into Scripture (one semester).** Can teenagers really read the Bible deeply? This course will equip students with a deeper understanding of how to study the Bible and empower them to teach others to do so. Through guided practice, students will take on various roles in reading, studying, and discussing books from both the Old and New Testaments. As the course progresses, students will increasingly take more responsibility for the study until they are able to lead themselves independently. Through rigorous group studies, a curated class trip to Boyce College, guest speakers, and memorization challenges, students will improve their ability to read the scriptures deeply. Finally, students will synthesize their learning by leading others through a Bible study on a biblical book of their choosing. This course is only available for students in the School of Spiritual Formation. A \$50 fee is required for this course.
3. **Taking the Lead (one semester).** Are the teen years for following or leading? This course will equip students with a biblical understanding of Christian leadership and empower them to take the spiritual lead in the context of their daily lives, or wherever God is directing them. Students will examine, analyze, discuss, and apply key biblical texts, examples from historical leaders and contemporary books on leadership. Through seminar discussions, real-world projects, guest speakers, memorization challenges, and a curated class trip to the Gethsemane monastery, students will develop spiritual leadership over themselves and within their circles of influence. Finally, students will encounter and explore a spectrum of leadership opportunities available to them now and in the future. They will imagine and plan how they can find their place within it. This course is only available for students in the School of Spiritual Formation. A \$50 course fee is required, as well as a minimal charge for the additional field work.
4. **Embracing God's Mission (one semester).** Can teenagers really make a difference in our world? This course will equip students with a deep theological understanding of the kingdom of God and empower them to radically live it out in a broken world. Through seminar discussions on key biblical and contemporary texts, rich projects, a curated class trip to the National Underground

Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, guest speakers, and memorization challenges, students will formulate how the kingdom of God can bring truth, beauty, and goodness to the most broken places of our world: suffering/evil, racism, sexuality and gender. Finally, students will combine the skills they have developed in prior core classes to construct and enact a plan to make a difference in our world by bringing the kingdom of God into a specific place of brokenness. This course is only made available to students in the School of Spiritual Formation. A \$50 fee is required for this course, and an additional minimum cost to cover the field work.

These core classes ensure that all SSF pathway students are receiving a similar experience on vital spiritual topics.

DEEPER STUDY (one-semester course, only for upperclassmen):

The deeper study requirement is a place where students can begin a differentiated learning experience based on their skills, personal interests and goals. Students will complete a minimum of ONE of the deeper study opportunities listed below by the end of their Senior year.

1. **Two Semester-Long Bible Electives:** Students must complete two semester-long Bible electives by the end of their Senior year while maintaining a minimum, cumulative 3.0 GPA in those courses. Students looking to broaden their biblical knowledge into areas not covered during the main track or core courses should consider this option. Below are two examples of electives that Christian Academy will offer initially, with more options to come in the future:
 - a. **Advanced World Religions:** Aren't all religions the same? This semester-long Bible elective will provide a clear and engaging account of world religions by studying their origins, historical development, leadership, and basic doctrines as compared to the tenets of Christianity. Through respectful dialogues with world religions, rich projects, guest speakers, and cultural experiences students will demonstrate how to show Christ-like love to images of God who are outside of Christianity. All Christian Academy students are able to take this course, but students in the School of Spiritual Formation have priority.
 - b. **Book of Revelation:** What is the end of the world going to look like? This semester-long Bible elective will allow students to better grasp one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible through study and discussion of apocalyptic literature, prophecy, and the new heavens and new earth. Students will choose how to demonstrate their learning by creating their own contemporary apocalyptic account through writing, video, or artistic expression. Students will leave not only with a better understanding of what is to come, but with the hope to live out their faith in the victory Christians already have through Christ now. All Christian Academy students are able to take this course, but students in the School of Spiritual Formation have priority.
2. **Internship:** Students must successfully complete a one-semester internship. The internship must be pre-approved by a pathway advisor. A wide range of internships centered on the interests of the student will be considered: middle and high school Bible classes, church ministries such as missions and youth groups, local non-profits, etc. Highly recommended for students with a calling to full-time ministry.

3. **College-Level Bible Class:** Students will successfully complete a three-hour college level Bible course from an approved college or university (Boyce, Asbury, Cedarville, etc.) with a minimum 'B' grade. The course must be pre-approved by your pathway advisor. Students considering Bible college or further Biblical studies should consider this option.

EXPERIENCES: All students in the pathway will complete ALL the required experiences listed below:

- **Program Advisor Meetings:** For the first two years, advisor meetings will take place within the core classes. The advisor will provide basic, individual mentorship, and help guide students through the requirements of the program. After completing the core classes, students are assigned a completion advisor dependent on their choice of deeper study. This advisor will guide them through program completion.
- **Mission Experience:** During the core class "Growing Wise", students will learn about the required "mission experience". In coordination with their program advisor, students will be required to complete and reflect on at least one "mission experience." A mission experience can be joining the local mission club for a major event, going on a mission trip, or any other approved local mission experience. A reflection will be completed about the experience for inclusion in the final portfolio.
- **Servant Leadership Experience:** During the core class "Taking the Lead", students will learn about servant leadership. In coordination with their program advisor students will be required to have at least one "servant leadership experience" of their own initiative. Leadership experiences can be starting a small group Bible study, a club, a prayer group, leading a segment of chapel, etc. It is preferred that the experience take place at CAL, but with approval it can happen elsewhere. A reflection will be completed about the experience for inclusion in the final portfolio.
- **Summer Summit Event:** Students will be required to attend at least one Summer Summit Event OR a CASS mission trip (or other pre-approved alternative Christian experience). Summer Summits will be held over the summer break as an intensive, multi-day spiritual formation event that will be centered around a theme/book, fellowship, discussion, teaching, and worship.

FINAL PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION: Seniors are required to complete and present their "Final Portfolio" before a review committee for approval.

- The student's program advisor will ensure that the student has successfully completed all program requirements and maintains a satisfactory portfolio for presentation to the committee.
- Students will present the completion of all requirements to the committee for approval. Upon approval, the student will have successfully completed the Spiritual Formation Pathway distinction and can participate in the commissioning service and be awarded the graduation regalia.