



Spurgeon College

Christian Life & Worldview Program FAQs

What is the Christian Life & Worldview Program?

The Christian Life & Worldview program equips every residential Spurgeon College student with experience in practicing biblical spiritual disciplines. The rhythms and requirements of the CLW program form students in Christlikeness now and provide them with practical tools for a lifetime of consistent growth in godliness. Students complete the CLW program in community with their residential Spurgeon College Cohort, partaking in regular gatherings on campus to receive instruction and encouragement in practicing biblical spiritual disciplines.

Why does Spurgeon College have a Christian Life & Worldview Program?

A common distinction has been made between *education* and *formation*. *Education* is what you learn and know—things you are taught. *Formation* is what you practice and do.¹ The goal of the CLW program is to help Spurgeon College students make the important connection between what they know about God and how they will habitually seek Him throughout their life through biblical spiritual disciplines. Whether students are training to serve the Lord in local church ministry, the marketplace, or the mission field, the Christian Life & Worldview program provides students valuable experience in spiritually forming practices aimed at deepening their walk with Christ for all of life.

What are Biblical spiritual disciplines?

Biblical spiritual disciplines are “habits of devotion and experiential Christianity that have been practiced by the people of God since biblical times,” namely “Bible intake, prayer, worship, evangelism, service, stewardship, fasting, silence and solitude, journaling, learning.”² Each semester (fall and spring), the Spurgeon College Cohorts will focus on instruction and growth in *one* spiritual discipline.

Who is enrolled in the Christian Life & Worldview Program?

Every member of a residential Spurgeon College Cohort (Accelerate, Fusion, Marketplace, Ministry) will be automatically enrolled in the Christian Life & Worldview program, and *only* students who are members of a residential Spurgeon College Cohort may participate in the CLW program. Members of the residential Spurgeon College Cohorts will be automatically enrolled in the semesterly Christian Life & Worldview course each semester they are enrolled at Spurgeon College. All

¹ See, for instance: Justin Whitmel Earley, *The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction* (Downers Grove, IVP: 2023), “Introduction.”

² Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Revised and Updated ed. (Colorado Springs, CO: Nav Press, 2014), 4, 7.

members of Spurgeon College Cohorts are residential, degree-seeking students (associate's or bachelor's).

If I'm a main campus student, living off-campus, am I exempt from the CLW program?

No. Every member of a residential Spurgeon College Cohort, whether they live in on-campus housing or not, is a participant in the Christian Life & Worldview program through the Spurgeon College Cohorts. Students with extenuating life circumstances (work, geography, etc.) or non-traditional college life situations (marriage, children, full-time work, ministry experience) can apply for an exemption from Spurgeon College's chapel requirement or the Christian Life & Worldview program through the [Exemption Request Form](#).

What do students earn for completion of the Christian Life & Worldview Program?

Depending on the duration of their enrollment at Spurgeon College, students will have the opportunity to earn 1 of 3 Christian Life & Worldview certificates:

Christian Life & Worldview Certificate: 12 Credits

- Granted to the student who completes 12 credits of CLW courses (4 semesters)
- Students who enroll at Spurgeon College with 60+ hours of college-level credit will be enrolled in the CLW Certificate.

Intermediate Christian Life & Worldview Certificate: 18 Credits

- Granted to the student who completes 18 credits of CLW courses (6 semesters)
- Students who enroll at Spurgeon College with 30-59 hours of college-level credit will be enrolled in the Intermediate CLW Certificate.

Advanced Christian Life & Worldview Certificate: 24 Credits

- Granted to the student who completes 24 credits of CLW courses (8 semesters)
- Students who enroll at Spurgeon College with less than 30 hours of college-level credit will be enrolled in the Advanced CLW Certificate.

How does a student complete his or her CLW course requirements?

Students will complete their CLW course requirements by attending various cohort events throughout the semester and the submission of a brief reflection at the end of the semester. Gathering and reflection requirements are summarized below:

1. Spurgeon College Weekender

Students will attend the Weekender, a two-day event hosted on the Friday and Saturday before the start of the semester (fall and spring), with a morning and afternoon session each day focused on that semester's focus spiritual discipline. At the weekender, students will develop a semester-long plan for practice and growth in that semester's focus spiritual discipline.

2. Spurgeon College Cohort Gatherings

Students will attend their cohort's regular gathering on campus, once a month on Monday morning 10am – 11am (4 gatherings per semester), checking in through the iAttended app. Students will participate in discussions and activities related to that semester's focus spiritual discipline and submit updated progress reports on their semesterly spiritual discipline plan.

3. Chapel

Students will fulfill their chapel requirement for the semester, checking in and out through the iAttended app.

4. Final Reflection

Students will submit a final reflection at the end of the semester through Canvas.

How much homework will there be in the CLW program?

During the Weekender event at the beginning of each semester, students will develop a semester-long plan for practice and growth in that semester's focus spiritual discipline. At monthly gatherings, students will turn in updated progress reports on their semesterly spiritual discipline plan. Likewise, students will submit a final reflection at the end of the semester.

If I have a question about my CLW course, who do I contact?

Students' Spurgeon College Cohort Director will serve as the course instructor for their semesterly CLW course. Students can message their instructor through Canvas or send an email directly to their Cohort Director's MBTS email for questions about the course.

Do my semesterly CLW courses affect my GPA for my bachelor's or associate degree program?

No. CLW courses are graded on a pass/fail basis, and a student's Christian Life & Worldview courses are not calculated as part of their degree program's GPA.

What if I can't attend one of my required cohort gatherings or chapel?

Christian Life & Worldview courses are graded on a pass/fail basis (80% = pass). Attendance at the Weekender, Chapel, and regular Cohort gatherings are all calculated into a student's CLW grade for the semester. Students *may be* able to make up missed cohort gathering attendance through a makeup assignment, at the discretion of their cohort director. Additionally, residential Spurgeon College students have a chapel attendance requirement as listed in the Spurgeon College Student Handbook. Students who are concerned about their ability to complete their chapel and cohort requirements can apply for an exemption through the [Exemption Request Form](#).

What is the tuition cost of the Christian Life & Worldview courses?

The CLW program is free for every Spurgeon College student. No additional expenses will be added to a student's billing, and there will be no required purchases for CLW courses.

Does my semesterly CLW course impact my credit hour load?

No. CLW courses do not add to a student's credit hour load for purposes of financial aid, full-time/part-time status, or athletics eligibility. CLW courses are certificate-level courses, not college-level courses.

Are Christian Life & Worldview courses transferable to other schools?

Christian Life & Worldview courses are not equivalent to college level courses and may not be used to substitute undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral degree requirements, either at Spurgeon College or other accredited institutions.