



RIVER  
COLLEGE

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

EQUIP. PREPARE. EMPOWER.

Physical Address:  
5654 Gerstner Memorial Drive,  
Lake Charles, LA 70607  
Mailing Address:  
PO Box 237, Lake Charles, LA 70602  
[www.rivercollege.org](http://www.rivercollege.org)

**AFFILIATION**

River College is an affiliate of The River Church, Lake Charles, Louisiana which are independent, 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit educational, evangelical and church organizations incorporated in the State of Louisiana, USA.

Mark Hankins Ministries, [www.markhankins.org](http://www.markhankins.org)

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# STATEMENT OF FAITH

**RIVER COLLEGE** considers the following statements to be true according to the infallible Word of the One true and living God.

**SCRIPTURES INSPIRED** All Scripture is verbally inspired by God as written in the original languages and is inerrant revelation of God to man. The Bible is the infallible authority for faith and conduct. II Timothy 3:16-17

**ONE TRUE GOD** The One True God is the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of the universe. He has further revealed Himself as a triune Being, manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I John 5:7, John 14:23, John 14:16

**THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** The Lord Jesus is 100% divine (Son of God) while simultaneously being 100% human (Son of Man). As God Incarnate, He is the express image of the Living God in human form. John 1:1,14, Luke 3:22, John 10:30

**ORIGINAL SIN / FALL OF MAN** Man was created good and upright in the image and likeness of God. The first man, Adam, through disobedience, fell from the grace of God and, thus, sin and death entered into the world. Adam's transgression incurred not only physical death for man, but also spiritual death which is eternal separation from God. Man's propensity to sin because of his sinful nature necessitates salvation from the power of sin and a Savior to provide that salvation. Genesis 3:7-24, Romans 5:12-19

**SALVATION OF MAN** Man's only hope of redemption and salvation from sin is through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. His blood is completely sufficient to deliver every person from the power and penalty of sin. Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 9:22

**BAPTISM IN WATER** Baptism by immersion in water is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent of their sins and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Romans 6:3-5, Matthew 28:18-20

**HOLY COMMUNION** The Lord's Supper, consisting of bread and a cup of the fruit of the vine, is a memorial of Jesus' suffering and death and a celebration of His resurrection to be enjoyed by all believers until He comes again. I Corinthians 11:23-26

**DIVINE HEALING** Divine healing is provided for in both Old and New Testaments and is integral to the Gospel. Isaiah 53:4-5, I Peter 2:24, James 5:14-15

**TITHE, OFFERINGS AND PROSPERITY** The giving of tithes and offerings is a commandment of the Word of God. Those who withhold their tithes and offerings are robbing God. God will rebuke the devourer for the giver and open up the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings. God delights to respond to giving with gracious provision. Malachi 3:8-12, Luke 6:38

**BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. Acts 1:4-5, Acts 2:1-4

**CHURCH AND ITS MISSION** The Church is the Body of Christ and is comprised of all believers. Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the Church's responsibility is: 1) to evangelize the world, and 2) to be a corporate body in which man may worship and glorify God. Luke 19:10, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Hebrews 10:25, Colossians 3:15-16

**EVER-INCREASING FAITH** Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God. God is a faith God and without faith it is impossible to please Him. Our faith should continually increase as we grow in spiritual understanding of God's Word. Christians are saved through faith, justified by faith, shall live by faith, and overcome the world by faith. Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 2:8, Romans 5:1, Romans 1:17, 1 John 5:4.

**THE BLESSED HOPE** All Christians who have died will one day rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air. Christians who have not yet died will be raptured or caught up with them, to be with the Lord. Then Christians of all ages will live with God forever. The scriptural truth of the Lord's soon return is "the blessed hope." Romans 8:23, I Corinthians 15:51-52, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Titus 2:13

**SECOND ADVENT AND MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST** The rapture of all Christians, which is our blessed hope, will be followed by the seven year tribulation period on the earth after which is the return of Christ (second advent) with the saints to reign on the earth for 1000 years. This millennial reign will bring the salvation of Israel as a nation

and the establishment of universal peace. Zechariah 14:5, Matthew 24:27,30, Revelation 1:7, 19:11-14, 20:1-6, Ezekiel 37:21,22, Zephaniah 3:19,20, Romans 11:26,27, Psalm 72:3-8, Isaiah 11:6-9, Micah 4:3,4

**THE FINAL JUDGEMENT** There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead, those who have died without accepting Christ's salvation, will be raised and judged according to the way they lived. Anyone whose name is not found written in the Book of Life (the recorded list of people who received Christ's forgiveness), together with the devil, his angels, the beast, and the false prophet, will be sent into everlasting punishment in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (sulfur), which is the second death. Matthew 25:46, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 19:20, 20:11-15, 21:8

**THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH** According to God's promise, we look for the new heavens and a new earth where righteousness will dwell and reign forever. II Peter 3:13, Revelation 21,22

# CLASSES OFFERED & TUITION

## CLASSES OFFERED

River College offers eighteen non-accredited classes strictly for the purpose of spiritual growth. These classes are designed to be completed in two years and are as follows:

1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR
In Christ Realities	The Holy Spirit & His Gifts
Principles of Faith	Divine Healing
Ministry of Helps	The Triumphant Church
Methods of Bible Study	Evangelism
Principles of Prayer	Praise and Worship
The Love of God	Discipleship 101
Authority of the Believer	Blood Covenant
Biblical Finances	Insights to the Book of Ephesians
Marriage & Family	Preaching and Teaching Lab

Classes are held on location on Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Each class term is four sessions and a current calendar of meeting dates can be obtained from [www.rivercollege.org](http://www.rivercollege.org). The class schedule is subject to change based on instructor availability. To enroll in class student must pay tuition for the class on the website.

## TUITION

Tuition for the entire school year is \$675, or \$75 per class. Students who choose to pay tuition monthly must make their payment one week prior to the start of the class. All payments and fees are to be made online at [www.rivercollege.org](http://www.rivercollege.org). Access to the current class notes will be made available only after tuition has been paid. Students should print or bring a digital copy of these notes with them to class.

## PARTIAL TUITION PAYMENTS

If tuition needs to be paid in payments or a student has received money from another towards tuition that is due, partial payments can be made online by clicking on the "Sponsor a Student" button. Enter your Gmail email used in the Google classroom when making a payment to receive credit for the payment.

## LATE FEE

A \$10 late fee will apply to all tuition payments made after the first night of class.

## REFUND POLICY

The refund policy for tuition paid will apply if the student formally withdraws in writing during a class in which they are currently enrolled. The percentages of the tuition that will be refunded when written withdrawal is received are as follows:

- before the first class 100% refund
- after the first class 75% refund
- after the second or third class 0% refund

Students terminated for unsatisfactory performance or behavior will not be entitled to any tuition refund.

# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

**IN CHRIST REALITIES** This class will focus on what happened in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, as well as who the believer is “in Christ”. Many Christians talk about what they are trying to be, what they need to be, and what they are going to be; but this course teaches who you are now and what you have now as a believer.

**PRINCIPLES OF FAITH** This class explains the concept of faith in God and His word. Emphasis is placed on scriptural ways to develop ever-increasing faith in God.

**MINISTRY OF HELPS** This class teaches us to understand the supernatural gift of helps and to learn the diversity of gifts involved in the helps ministry, as well as study the spiritual and physical attributes of a servant of God. It also serves as a review of some practical applications of the helps ministry in the local church.

**METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY** This class explores various tools and methods of Bible study, including book, character, word, and topical studies. Students are trained on a variety of book-based study aids and become familiarized with computer-based study tools.



**PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER & ACTS OF THE APOSTLES** This class presents the principles and purpose of prayer as outlined in the Bible. The teachings will include the different kinds of prayer, the function of prayer in our daily lives, and how to pray and seek God on a daily basis. The Acts portion of class is a study of the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit in the early New Testament Church and challenges students to expect the same powerful outpouring in these last days.

**THE LOVE OF GOD** This class teaches how to let the love of God dominate our lives rather than to allow our flesh or our unredeemed thinking to rule us.

**AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER** This class helps the student understand the authority that God has given them as a believer and challenges them to walk in that authority in their daily lives.

**BIBLICAL FINANCE & PERSONAL FINANCE** This class reveals God's plan of provision and abundance for His people. It emphasizes the need for faith and an understanding of the principles necessary to receive God's best.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY** This class will present the Biblical principles that are necessary in order to have a successful marriage and family life. This course will define the importance of harmony in the family unit as God's original plan.

## 2ND YEAR CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:

**THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS GIFTS** This class gives the student a working knowledge of the nine New Testament gifts of the Spirit as described in I Corinthians 12 and 14.

**DIVINE HEALING** This class reveals that physical healing has been provided for every believer in the redemptive work of Christ. Students will examine what the Bible says about God's will to heal "all," then take a look at God's methods of healing and discover common hindrances to receiving healing.

**THE TRIUMPHANT CHURCH** This class will explore the believer's position of victory and authority in Christ over all powers and principalities in this world. Students will study the wisdom of God concerning spiritual warfare and deliverance.

**PERSONAL EVANGELISM** This class examines the biblical principles of effective evangelism: the message, the mandate, the motivation, and the methods. The love that drove Christ to the cross, now drives us to the lost.

**PRAISE & WORSHIP** This class introduces the student to the art of leading worship and the worship leading team. Students will discover the full purpose of praise and worship and how it is to function in the individual and the congregation.

**DISCIPLESHIP** This class presents the need for discipleship in and through the local church. Establishing programs in which Christians can grow and mature should be interwoven in the very fabric of every church and its mission. Discipleship programs such as Life Groups, Sunday School, Youth and Children's Ministry will be discussed.

**BLOOD COVENANT** This class covers the significance of blood covenants in human history from the first blood covenant in Genesis to God's covenant with Abraham to Christ as the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.

**INSIGHTS TO EPHESIANS** Ephesians reveals the mystery of the Church as the Body of Christ, recreated in Christ Jesus to express Christ's fullness on earth. It also covers practical matters of relationships with other believers, our families, and employers.

**PREACHING & TEACHING THE WORD – LAB** This class helps students prepare and deliver sermons that will bring the Scriptures to life. This class provides practical help in creating a sermon outline, public speaking, and platform etiquette. This class will give practical guidelines designed to help students effectively teach the Word of God. It will focus on methods of presentation and delivery of thought for effective communication of the precepts and principles outlined in the Word of God.

### **CLASS COMPLETION**

Students are expected to fulfill the following to successfully complete classes at River College: attend all classes, read all assigned texts, obtain a passing grade by completing the final exam or by writing a paper, have regular church attendance and

devotion time, live in a manner pleasing to God, abide by college standards, and serve in the college and the church they attend.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY & TERM COMPLETION**

Upon completion of each class students must fill out an *Accountability and Term Completion Form* attesting to completing the above as part of their grade.

### **CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY – 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR**

A Certificate in Theology for first year students will be awarded to students who successfully complete all nine first year classes.

### **CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY – 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR**

A Certificate in Theology for second year students will be awarded to students who successfully complete all nine second year classes.

## **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### **NEW STUDENTS**

Applicants must have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, be 18 years old and have turned in an application. Students must also adhere to the Student Conduct guidelines and pay all tuition and fees in a timely manner to remain enrolled in classes.

### **GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

All students will receive an invitation to join Google classroom for River College. It will be used throughout the entire school and every student will need to have a Google email account to join the classroom.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **STANDARD OF CONDUCT**

A student whose personal conduct is a poor testimony for Christ, and who fails to live in accordance with the scriptural ideals of the College, will be spiritually counseled

and disciplined to such extent as the staff deems advisable. River College reserves the right to refuse admission, to put on disciplinary probation, or to dismiss any student whose personal conduct and/or attitude, in the judgement of the administration, are not consistent with the Christian spirit and standards which the College seeks to maintain.

### **PERSONAL HABITS**

Students are expected to abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs, both on and off campus. Students will also maintain behavior that exemplifies Christ remaining above reproach in relationships with others (same sex or opposite sex), avoiding all appearance of evil. Adultery, pornography, immorality and fornication are all grounds for dismissal.

### **DRESS CODE**

Students should be presentable when attending classes. Students should be well-groomed with clean attire that exhibit modesty and professionalism. Students who choose to wear provocative, offensive or sloppy attire will be asked to go home and change to appropriate attire.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

Regular and punctual attendance is essential to scholastic achievement and success in ministry. Students who are late or miss a class session will be required to listen to the recordings of what was missed. Missing three or more classes will result in an Incomplete grade for the class. Only under special circumstances will a student be able to pass a class with two absences.

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentages</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>
A	Superior	90-100	4.0
B	Excellent	80-89	3.0
C	Average	70-79	2.0
D	Below Average	60-69	1.0
F	Failing	0-59	0.0
W	Withdrawn*		0.0
I	Incomplete		0.0

Incomplete or Failing grade will result in a student having to retake the class.

### **MINISTRY PARTICIPATION**

Ministry Participation connects students to the local church and River College in serving as a Minister of Helps. Students gain valuable experience and help participate in fulfilling the vision for their church and River College. Ministry Participation is mandatory for the completion of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year certificates. The Accountability Sheets provided must be filled in completely and turned in at the end of each class period on test night. Failure to turn in an Accountability Sheet during test night will result in a letter grade lower final grade.

## **ENROLLMENT**

### **NEW STUDENTS**

Visit [www.rivercollege.org](http://www.rivercollege.org) and fill out an application. Submit your application and make a tuition payment to enroll.

### **RETURNING STUDENTS**

Visit [www.rivercollege.org](http://www.rivercollege.org) and make a tuition payment to enroll. Upon your return exemplary students will be chosen to serve as a Student Representative during the school year. These students will be notified by the college staff if they are selected for a duty.

### **BATTLE BUDDIES**

Returning students will also be asked to assist new students by pairing off as, Battle Buddies for the remainder of the school year. Your role as a Battle Buddy is one of discipleship. You will be responsible for assisting your fellow student with answers to their questions, prayer, accountability and encouragement throughout the year.

### **ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS**

All students must order the assigned books for class based on the current book list provided. Students must attend Orientation or listen to the recording if missed. Students must also fill out the *River College Student Handbook Acknowledgment Form* on page 13 of the Student Handbook and turn it in to college staff every school year.



## **Student Handbook Acknowledgment**

By enrolling in River College I acknowledge that I have read the Student Handbook, and am committed to following the rules and guidelines therein. I understand that River College exists to help me grow spiritually in my relationship with the Lord and in the knowledge of His Word. I recognize that graduating from River College does not provide me with a degree or college credits that are transferable to other colleges, universities or institutions. I will also notify River College staff in the event that I am struggling or unable to fulfill my commitment as a student, or if I believe I am unable to continue.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



1<sup>st</sup> Year

Class	Book	Author
1. In Christ Realities	Power of Identification With Christ	Mark Hankins
2. Principles of Faith	Spirit of Faith	Mark Hankins
3. Ministry of Helps	The Ministry of Helps: Revised Edition	Buddy Bell
4. Methods of Bible Study	How to Study the Word of God	Terry Lawson
5. Principles of Prayer & Acts	The Master is Calling	Lynne Hammond
6. The Love of God	1) The Greatest Thing in the World 2) Love: The Way To Victory	1) Henry Drummond 2) Kenneth E. Hagin
7. Authority of the Believer	The Believer's Authority	Kenneth E. Hagin
8. Biblical Finances	Family Finances	Joe McGee
9. Marriage and Family	Marriage on the Rock: God's Design for Your Dream Marriage	Jimmy Evans

2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Class	Book	Author
1. Holy Spirit and His Gifts	Holy Spirit and His Gifts	Kenneth E. Hagin
2. Divine Healing	God's Healing Word	Trina Hankins
3. The Triumphant Church	The Triumphant Church	Kenneth E. Hagin
4. Evangelism	A Call for the Christian	Chaz Stevenson
5. Praise and Worship	Exploring Worship	Bob Sorge
6. Discipleship 101	Disciples are Made not Born	Walter A. Henrichsen
7. Blood Covenant	The Bloodline of a Champion	Mark Hankins
8. Insight to the Book of Ephesians	Revolutionary Revelation	Mark Hankins
9. Preaching & Teaching Lab	Inductive Preaching: Helping People Listen Better	Ralph L. Lewis

(Schedules are subject to change due to instructor availability)