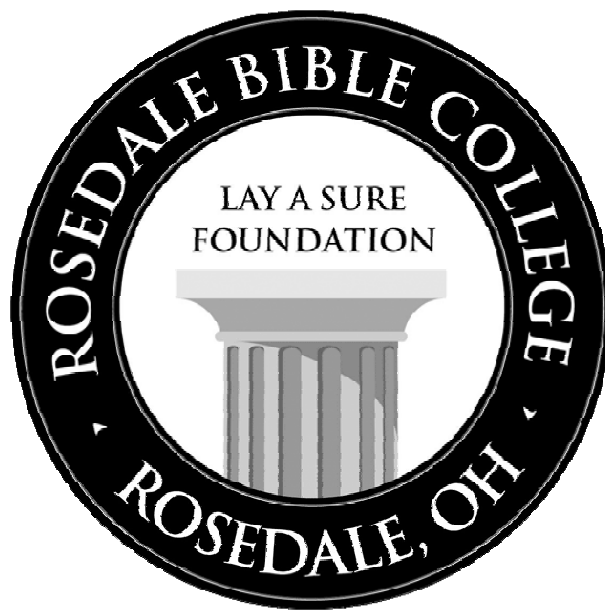


# **Ministry Formation Handbook**



**2006-2007**

**Rosedale Bible College  
2270 Rosedale Road  
Irwin, OH 43029**

# Ministry Formation

## Philosophy

We believe that serving and ministering to believers and unbelievers alike is an expression of authentic Christian faith as taught by Jesus. Christian education should, therefore, include opportunities to serve and minister to other people.

## Definition

Ministry Formation occurs as a student intentionally and deliberately ministers to others, both Christian and non-Christians alike, in the name of Christ. For the purpose of accountability required ministry hours can only be earned by participating in pre-approved ministry programs or by submitting a written request to the dean of students to count other ministry hours.

## Objectives of Ministry Formation

Students who fully participate in the Ministry Formation program will:

1. Apply their Christian faith in practical ways.
2. Grow spiritually.
3. Deepen their sensitivity to the needs of people.
4. Strengthen their commitment to service in the Kingdom of God.
5. Sharpen their gifts of leadership, initiative, and creativity.

## OPPORTUNITIES for ministry include, but are not limited to:

### 1. Church Planting

-- Assisting new church plants in Marysville or Urbana.

### 2. Senior Ministry

-- involves singing and visiting the elderly

### 3. Mechanicsburg Baptist Church

-- Assisting church staff with their community Kids' Club.

### 4. Worship Team Leadership

-- Preparing and leading people in worship

### 5. Children's Ministry

-- Teaching Sunday school or children's church in various local congregations.

### 6. Divorce Care Ministry

-- Providing care for children of divorced parents.

**7. Fusion**

-- High School youth ministry at Mechanicsburg Christian Fellowship.

**8. RBC Ministry Teams**

-- Chorale, Salt & Light Co., Drama Team, etc...

**9. Term-break ministry.**

-- Students are encouraged to consider serving in ministry during term breaks. See dean of students to have a ministry plan approved.

**10. Any other ministry that meets the criteria for Ministry Formation.**

-- See the dean of students to have a ministry approved.

**Ministry Formation requirements:**

Ministry Formation is an integral part of education at RBC. Students who choose to enroll at the college have also chosen to participate in the Ministry Formation program. Students need to complete 1 hour of service per credit to satisfy the Ministry Formation requirements (maximum of 6 hour/term required).

Ministry formation hours are earned as a student is involved in deliberately meeting the spiritual, social, or physical needs of people in the name of Christ.

In general, hours can only be counted if the ministry is included in the above list. However, students involved with other ministry opportunities that are planned and deliberate in nature may submit a written request to count ministry hours to the dean of students. Casual, informal, or spontaneous ministry, while valid and encouraged, cannot be counted towards the required hours.

During the academic year students need to log their ministry hours at the receptionist's office. Graduating students will need to submit a 300 word essay detailing their ministry formation experiences and how they have grown as a result of their service. This report is due during the term prior to graduation.

**Frequently Asked Questions;**

**How do I get involved?:**

During new student orientation, students will be given the details about how to get involved in particular ministry opportunities. The dean of students will appoint student leaders to coordinate the logistics of a particular ministry and provide sign-up sheets for students to indicate their interest in a particular ministry. Sign-up sheets will be located in the chapel lobby.

**How do I record my hours?**

There is a notebook located at the receptionist's desk where you can record your hours.

The receptionist will be available to answer any questions related to recording your hours.

**How many hours do I need to complete?**

Each student needs to complete 1 hour of ministry per credit hour attempted up to, but not exceeding, 6 hours per term. Hours should be completed within the term the classes are taken. However, students may accrue up to six hours of service to be applied to subsequent terms. Accrual is valid only in the academic year in which it was earned. Variations to this policy must be approved by the dean of students.

**Must I choose one ministry or can I be involved with several?**

We encourage long-term students (three terms or more) to identify and faithfully plug into one ministry if at all possible in order to more fully participate in a particular ministry and form life-changing relationships with the people they are serving. Ministry Formation assignments for short-term students (1-2 terms) will more likely be transient in nature. Students are encouraged to find a ministry opportunity that suits their interests and gifting, and may need to try a few options before settling on a regular ministry. Thus, students are not required to stick with just one ministry initially.

**What happens if I do not get my hours completed?**

Being involved in ministry is essential to your educational success at RBC. In order to graduate all ministry hours must be completed. Students who fall behind 12 or more hours will be placed on academic probation and will need to have a written plan approved by the dean of students prior to enrolling for additional classes.

**Why is ministry required at RBC?**

We believe that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). Jesus’ teaching and example demonstrate the importance of ministering to other people. A Bible college education is not complete if the student has not invested time serving other people.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Travel time may not be counted as ministry hours.
- **Any Ministry Formation issues not covered in written policy will be addressed by the dean of students in consultation with the academic dean.**
- Transfer students are expected to participate in Ministry Formation as stated. A request to transfer ministry hours to RBC will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- **Off-campus students who are ½ time or less are not required to participate in the Ministry Formation program.**

**Additional details related to Ministry Formation will be addressed during new student orientation.**

