

Bahá'í History, Texts, and Tenets Certificate Program

Program Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of and comparative perspective on Bahá'í beliefs, practices, history, sacred texts, organization, and of the development of Bahá'í beliefs and practices over time.
- Students will develop skills to become critical thinkers, expressed through writing, oral presentation, and public discourse in an interfaith context.
- Students will be transformed by their learning. They will be able to analyze ethical and social issues from a Bahá'í perspective; develop an evolving self-knowledge which includes an awareness of their own ethical values; deepen their familiarity with their own sources for personal renewal, encounters with beauty, and compassion towards self and others; and acquire a stronger desire to serve others.
- Students will develop skills to become change makers through the art of consultation and/or through the application of their knowledge to service.

Guiding Principles of the Wilmette Institute:

- Universal peace and justice will be established through the realization of the oneness of humanity and interconnectedness of the earth with all its inhabitants.
- Both science and religion are essential for sustainable development and prosperity of all.
- Systemic social problems require a holistic approach to discover lasting solutions.
- Scholarship does not begin and end with words but combines theory and praxis in study, consultation, action, and reflection.
- Sustainable social change requires the development of human capacity and inner, personal transformation for people to become protagonists of their own material and spiritual well-being.

Undergraduate and Graduate Credit Courses and the Certificate Program:

The Wilmette Institute partners with several higher education institutions to offer credit courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels in two areas of study: 1) Social Transformation and 2) Religious Studies (Baha'i History, Texts, and Tenets) . Currently, the Wilmette Institute partners with the Graduate Theological Union and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. The graduate certificate program is not yet accredited but if the participant is currently enrolled in an institution of higher learning, they may be able to

obtain credit, as some WI participants have done in the past. The Wilmette Institute can work with students to request approval from their institution of higher learning.

Bahá'í History, Texts, and Tenets (4 courses)

- Introduction to the Bahá'í Faith
- Bahá'í History
- Writings of Bahá'u'lláh
- Bahá'í Theology

Apply: The Wilmette Institute invites prospective students to apply for our first **graduate certificate program with full scholarship!** In this first iteration of the certificate programs, these initial pilot graduate level courses are being established to assist the Wilmette Institute fulfill the requirements for accreditation. Therefore, the Wilmette Institute is offering a full scholarship for select higher education learners interested in applying for enrollment who are committed to complete the program and provide meaningful feedback on each course.

Requirements: For persons wishing to apply for the graduate level certificate, a prior Bachelors degree is required. For the undergraduate level certificate, at least two years of undergraduate courses are required. It may be possible to obtain credit for the courses from your university; the Wilmette Institute can work with students to arrange it.

Benefits: Students will be able to work with dedicated and experienced faculty and like minded students in a participatory and engaging format. They will be afforded the opportunity to apply theory into practice by contributing to social discourse. Those who complete the program can use the certificate for professional and personal development. For more information, write: learn@wilmetteinstitute.org.