

FAQs

What is the main purpose of the Antioch Waco Discipleship School?

The purpose of the Antioch Discipleship School is to provide you the opportunity to be transformed through encountering God, being discipled and making disciples and learning to fully live on mission in our city, nation and the nations of the earth. Throughout the school, you will deepen your walk with God, learn to walk in lifelong fruitfulness and discover your unique purpose.

The school is a combination of prayer, worship and teaching in a hands-on learning environment that allows you to not only be hearers of the Word, but doers.

For the last 30 years, we've served thousands of students in our Discipleship School. We have found the school to be catalytic in establishing Kingdom values and in empowering people to live fully fruitful lives for Jesus no matter their stage of life. We're grateful you would consider applying. We look forward to praying with you about your journey in the Antioch Discipleship School.

Requirements for entering the Discipleship School

Ultimately, you will get out of the experience what you are able to put into it. The staff will do everything in their power to develop and equip you, and we have found that personal ownership in this process is key for the school to be successful for you but you need to come into the school with a desire to grow in God.

The following list are some areas that we will be covering during your time. Please read over these goals to make sure they are consistent with your own desires as you enter the school.

Our expectations of you as a student is that you/we are committed to growing in the following areas:

- Personal devotional life, including personal Bible reading, worship and prayer
- Understanding of the nature of God, the Bible and identity in Christ
- Biblical character and integrity in every aspect of life
- Vulnerability
- Personal and relational wholeness
- Missional living
- Evangelism
- Disciple-making
- Biblical financial stewardship (diligent work, simple living and generous giving)
- Servant-leadership
- Global awareness
- Decision-making
- General alignment to the life and teachings of Jesus and the scriptures

And participation in the following:

- Able to consistently and fully attend class time
- Attend a Lifegroup
- Serve at a service on Sunday mornings
- Attend a service on Sunday mornings
- Participate in corporate prayer and fasts
- The end-of-class international outreach (2 weeks)
- Other outside-of-class assignments including Bible reading, scripture memory, book reading, videos, writing assignments, etc.

By signing up for the school, you are giving us – the staff and volunteer leaders – permission to help you and challenge you in these areas. We are not expecting perfection out of anyone but a desire to grow in each of the areas that are a part of the school. We are committed to your personal development as a disciple of Jesus and your fruitfulness in life, and we are here to serve and exhort you toward those ends. Jesus is our vision, and loving obedience to Him is the goal.

We will do weekly accountability and support for your growth during this time. The school is designed for men and women who desire to live a biblical lifestyle and desire to fulfill the expectations of the school. As you fill out the application, prayerfully make sure this is what you desire at this time in your journey with Jesus.

General questions

- **What are the dates of the schools?**
 - The Orientation Retreat is from Friday afternoon, Aug 23rd to Sunday morning, Aug 25th
 - Classes begin Monday, Aug 26th and go through the end of May 2020, roughly following Baylor's academic calendar when it comes to breaks
- **What days/times of the week do you meet?**

Monday and Thursday evenings from 6-10 p.m. in the fall; Monday evenings 6-10 p.m. in the spring plus all day Saturday, February 29th and Saturday, April 25th
- **Can I do the school with children?**

Children cannot participate in class, but we don't want that to prevent parents from doing the school. However, we provide free organized childcare on Monday evenings at the church offices from 5:45-10:15 p.m.
- **Are there other discipleship schools around the nation?**

Yes, the Antioch Waco website lists where our other churches are around the U.S. Most of those churches also have discipleship schools
- **Can I do the school for one semester?**

No, in order to complete ADS participation in the entire year is required.
- **I've only been a Christian for a short time, can I still enroll?**

Yes! We encourage you to apply for ADS if you desire to increase in the knowledge of God, deepen your walk with Jesus, and explore His will for your life.

- **I'm not from Waco, can I still enroll?**

Yes! We regularly have students apply from all over the world.

Questions regarding tuition and payment

- **What is the cost?**

\$2,200 per year. Full payment of tuition is due by the first day of class. These amounts do not cover the overseas portion of the schools, and cost of the outreach varies depending on the length and location of the outreach.

- **What does my tuition pay for?**

The students' tuition pays for books, facilities usage, retreats, bringing in speakers, staffing needs, school supplies, etc. Tuition does NOT cover the cost of the overseas outreach.

- **Can I raise support to pay for tuition and the overseas outreach?**

- You are welcome to solicit friends and families to sponsor you to help cover the cost of tuition, but those gifts would NOT be tax-deductible. Once you have been accepted into the school, information will be provided about where to send your tuition payment.
- How you pay for the outreach is up to you. You can raise support or pay for it some other way. But we do encourage students to work and contact friends and family in order to ask for prayer covering for the outreach and to possibly raise the necessary funds for the overseas outreach.

- **Can I work and go through the school?**

Yes, the school is primarily designed for people working full-time.

- **Are there scholarships?**

- No. The schools operate on a real-time cost budget therefore we don't have the ability to give scholarships.
- Finances should not be the reason not to apply to the school though. Many students have miraculously been provided for. Some things to consider:
 - What can I give up for a season (e.g. coffee) and set that money aside for the school?
 - Can I take on an extra job for a short duration to help pay for the school?
 - What can I give to someone else in need? Sounds counter-intuitive, but often giving unlocks the financial breakthrough we need (Malachi 3:8-10)
 - What can I sell in order to raise money for the school?
 - Are there friends/family willing to sponsor me? (gifts given to help cover tuition are NOT tax-deductible)

- **Can I do the school with debt?**

We highly recommend paying off debts first before putting the money toward ADS tuition. However, having debt does not disqualify you from doing the school.

Questions regarding the application process

- **How do I apply?**
The application is online at www.antiochwaco.com under Get Connected → Discipleship School.
- **What is the application deadline?** The deadline for applying for ADS is June 15th.
- **When will I know if I am accepted or not?** Someone from the training school staff will contact you within one month of receipt of your application to inform you of your status for entrance into the school.

Miscellaneous questions

- **Do you provide housing?**
We do not provide housing, but are happy to assist you in getting connected to potential housing leads if you are moving to Waco to do the school
- **Is it important that I attend Antioch Community Church if I am in the school?**
Yes. Being a part of our church and integrated into the life of the church is a key piece of our training program and is a requirement
- **Do you offer the school online?**
No. The training school is designed to be attended in person
- **I am not a U.S. citizen. Can I attend your school?**
Yes! We would love to have you, provided that your English is conversational, and that you can arrange for your own visa requirements. We are happy to supply a letter of invitation if needed. For visa purposes, you will be required to demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to do the school since you will not be in the U.S. on a work visa.
- **Where do you send people for the overseas outreach?**
It depends on a number of factors. Outreach destinations are decided by the training school staff. The goal of the outreach is to teach the student how to effectively share Jesus and start reproducing groups while in a different culture. Locations will be determined after the start of the fall semester.

Regarding the Church Planting School

- **What is the difference between the ADS and the church planting school?**
 - **ADS** – emphasis is placed on character development, biblical instruction and ministry training. During this school, you will practice spiritual disciplines, read the Bible, serve the church and hone your gifts for God's glory. ADS ends with an overseas outreach.
 - **The Church Planting School** – designed to equip people with the skills necessary to be effective global church planters. Heavy emphasis is placed on reading, church planting

simulations and case studies. Students will learn to, adapt, think and improvise in real settings.

- **If I want to join a church planting team, should I do ADS before I do the Church Planting School?**

Yes, students are required to go through the discipleship school first.

- **Is it expected that all ADS graduates will go on to the Church Planting School?**

Not necessarily, though we always recommend seeking the Lord about serving overseas for a season! ADS is a stand-alone school. If you want to grow in your walk with Jesus, be challenged in your character and learn how to live your life with greater purpose, ADS is for you!

Questions parent's ask

Is Antioch Discipleship School accredited?

No, its purpose is for discipleship within the context of the local church. While we value accredited institutions and encourage students to attend if they feel so inclined, accreditation is not the goal of ADS.

Can my student still be on my health insurance?

Yes. New laws require most health insurance companies to extend benefits to children up to the age of 26. If you need a letter of enrollment, please email dschool@antiochwaco.com.

Why do you have to raise support for the trips?

Students are given the opportunity to raise financial support for our trips, but no one is required to. We ask that our students work diligently to provide as much as they can themselves for the cost of the trip (2 Thessalonians 3:10). In addition, we have several class fundraisers to supplement the cost.

Throughout scripture, however, we see a model of other believers supporting mission work, including Jesus himself being supported financially by some of the women who followed him (Luke 8:1-3). At times, Paul worked to provide for his needs while on his missionary journeys (Acts 20:33-35, 1 Thessalonians 2:9, etc.) and at other times he was supported financially to be able to carry out his missionary work or exhorted others to give to others to support the work of the gospel (Philippians 4:10-20, Titus 3:13, 3 John 5-8, etc.). We find there are many people who have not had an opportunity to go to another nation themselves but are delighted to join in God's purposes through giving. We have no reservations in extending this opportunity when it is done so first in the context of hard work, diligence and simple living.

Why do you go overseas to share the gospel?

We go to foreign lands to tell people the good news of Jesus in response to Matthew 28:18-20 which says, "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" We believe every Christian has a responsibility to answer this call, whether "go" means across the street, across the country, or across the oceans. Often, we focus our attention on those who have never had an opportunity to hear the gospel. Most of these people are in foreign lands. This is in response to Romans 10:13-15 which says, "...for 'WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE

NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.' How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!'" Of course there is plenty of work to be done in America, which is where the majority of our time and effort is focused, but most Americans have at least had the opportunity to hear about salvation through Jesus Christ, unlike many "unreached" people in other nations.

Can you guarantee my student's safety?

No. We cannot guarantee anyone's safety whether in Waco, Dallas or Southeast Asia. We do, however, consider your child's safety as paramount. Therefore, we take every precaution in the preparation and execution of our trips. There are long term workers with our organization in every nation where we send training school teams with whom we are in constant contact both prior to and throughout our trips. These workers have lived in their nation anywhere from 1-20 years! In addition, we follow the state department travel warnings, and we register with the US embassy once we arrive at our destination. Students never travel alone on our trips, and we remain in contact with home base in Waco throughout the duration of our stay.