Purposes *of the Program:*

1. to give students a deeper knowledge of Islam/ Christianity

2. to give students greater knowledge of dialogue and of reconciliation

3. to enable students to assume positions of interfaith leadership in their local communities

4. to provide a foundation for future study of relations between Christianity and Islam

5. to provide students with a certificate that can lead toward a Master's degree

Washington Theological Consortium
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www.washtheocon.org

Member Institutions of the Washington Theological Consortium

Members:

- Capital Bible Seminary (Lanham, MD)
- The Catholic University of America, School of Theology and Religious Studies (D.C.)
- The Howard University School of Divinity (D.C.)
- John Leland Center for Theological Studies (Arlington, VA)
- Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (PA)
- The Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception At the Dominican House of Studies (D.C.)
- The Reformed Theological Seminary (McLean, VA)
- The School of Theology at Virginia Union University (Richmond, VA)
- Virginia Theological Seminary (Alexandria, VA)
- Washington Theological Union (D.C.)
- Wesley Theological Seminary (D.C.)

Associates and Affiliates:

- St. Paul's College *(Associate Member)*
- Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation *(Associate Member)*
- Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University *(Associate Member)*
- The Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences *(Affiliate Member)*
- Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington *(Affiliate Member)*

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Certificate in Muslim-Christian Dialogue

The 12-credit Certificate may be earned by students pursuing graduate degrees in Consortium Member Schools, but may also be earned by individuals seeking the Certificate alone. Please contact one of the Coordinators of the Certificate Program to ask questions and begin the enrollment process:

-Rev. Dr. Richard J. Jones, Al-Alwani Chair in Muslim—Christian Studies at the Washington Theological Consortium, rjones@washtheocon.org

-Ahmed Alwani, Dean of the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences, 571-223-0500 ext.. 405 or ahmedalwani@siss.edu

"It is obvious that Christians and Muslims will continue to differ on essential matters of faith. For this reason the purpose of theological dialogue will not be to prove that one side is right and the other wrong, but rather to explore respective positions in order to understand them better. If this is done many prejudices, built upon half-truths, will fall by the wayside."

Zainab Alwani

The Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences

Three Required Courses

Introduction to Christianity *or* **Introduction to Islam (3 credits).** Students should consult with Rev. John Crossin at the Consortium, or Dean Ahmed Alwani of the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences, in order to determine which course is required.

Interreligious Dialogue (3 credits), including how Christians and Muslims understand one another, the nature of religious conflict, processes of mediation, and conflict resolution.

Practical Issues between Muslims and Christians (3 credits). This course will examine three areas of shared concern between Muslim and Christian communities in the United States:

1. *Spiritual resources in our respective traditions to sustain individual believers during their transitions from birth to maturity to death*
2. *The responsibility of leaders in relation to the community of believers*
3. *Relations of the community of believers to society at large, including civic participation and bearing witness.*

"My hope is that this program will foster dialogue by the means of sincere exchange and research. Students can examine how each faith group keeps its vitality in this exciting and sometimes disturbing world. In an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding you will have the opportunity to explore the common grounds yet being welcomed to discuss social, cultural and practical differences."

Zeyneb Salim

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