Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana

M.A. in Deaconess Studies 2013–2014

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Concordia Theological Seminary exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.
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Concordia Theological Seminary
M.A. in Deaconess Studies

Women for whom full-time study at a post-graduate institution is not an option can still have access to theological training at the graduate level and potential certification as a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod deaconess through Concordia Theological Seminary’s M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program. The program, which received preliminary approval from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and was launched in September 2009, is delivered through a combination of electronic distance learning and on-campus intensives.

One of the founding pastors of CTS, Pastor Wilhelm Loehe, was committed to the training of deaconesses for service in the church through acts of mercy and charity. The CTS Deaconess Program continues Pastor Loehe’s longstanding tradition.

Even though the role of deaconess has existed since the days of the early church, many people are not aware of how deaconesses are trained to work within a congregation. The CTS distance degree includes a rigorous program of theological study, together with training in practical, diaconal skills. Students interact with faculty and fellow students and take part in campus activities through two-week intensives held on campus twice per year. All students also participate in fieldwork.

The full-time degree can be completed in 2 ½ years, but students may opt to take courses on a part-time basis. The curriculum is structured to take into account the experience and workload of the students, with nearly one-third of the credit hours based on activities relating to the student’s current job. The Director of the online program works with the students to provide advice and ensure that their workload is manageable.

The role of deaconess includes teaching the faith and assisting the pastor, especially in areas of human care such as shut-in visitation and ministering to women in need. This is an excellent outlet for women to use their gifts of caring to demonstrate the mercy of Christ. Whether in a congregation, in an institution or on the mission field, the deaconess perceives and responds to need with gentle helpfulness, expressing the compassion of Christ in a tender, nurturing way.

“My studies thus far have helped me see that the life I live in Christ is not my own. The identity of the deaconess is shaped by the incarnation and the gifts Christ gives us through His Holy Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The in-depth studies of this program have given me a deeper theological understanding of the Word and Sacraments which enables me to articulate even better the hope that lies inside me.”

Deaconess Pamela Boehle-Silva, Parish Nurse and graduate of the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program
In delivering the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program, CTS is drawing on a wealth of experience gained in carrying out distance learning pastoral training programs since the mid-1990s. “The approved online M.A. in Deaconess Studies demonstrates the commitment of the seminary to providing creative ways to teach deaconess students the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need for diakonal work in their specific context,” said CTS President, Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.

The role of deaconess includes teaching the faith and assisting the pastor, especially in areas of human care such as shut-in visitation and ministering to women in need. This is an excellent outlet for women to use their gifts of caring to demonstrate the mercy of Christ. Whether in a congregation, in an institution or on the mission field, the deaconess perceives and responds to need with gentle helpfulness, expressing the compassion of Christ in a tender, nurturing way.

We invite you to find out more about the M.A. in Deaconess Studies by visiting the CTS website at www.ctsfw.edu/Deaconess, emailing us at Deaconess@ctsfw.edu or calling Amy Rast, Associate Director of Deaconess Studies, at 260-452-2225.
What is a Deaconess?

*The Lutheran deaconess is an auxiliary office in which women are called and commissioned by the church to provide diaconal care with special emphasis in works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the faith, by which they guide others to the Word and Sacraments provided by the Office of the Public Ministry.*

The service of a deaconess finds expression in diverse settings and specializations as she shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ through acts of human care. She brings a uniquely feminine care, serving by using her skills and theological training to embody Christ’s incarnational care in the midst of suffering.
Is Online Learning for You?

The CTS M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program is designed for those students who:

a) do not have the time or ability to attend physical classes for a full academic quarter;
b) have a baccalaureate degree with a 2.25 G.P.A. or higher from an accredited undergraduate institution (although consideration may be given to mature students who do not have a baccalaureate degree);
c) are LCMS members;
d) have served at least five years in a congregation or institution where their work (either paid or voluntary) has included an element of spiritual care (e.g., parish nurse, care ministry in a congregation) and will continue to serve in this way throughout the course of their online study.

At CTS, the online courses are graduate-level, with the same content as the courses offered in the classroom. However, the way in which they are offered will be different. Rather than sitting in a classroom, students will learn individually from their home or place of work, receiving their instruction via the Internet through recorded sessions, short videos, online discussions and written material. Generally, students taking online courses will focus more on reading, writing and learning through projects and real experiences rather than listening and observing. These courses require focus, self-discipline, motivation and determination.

Skills
In particular, in order to be successful at online learning, students should have the following soft skills:

- Ability to work independently
- Self-motivation and self-discipline
- Ability to manage their time wisely
- Ability to communicate effectively in writing
- Comfortable asking for help if it is needed

CTS online courses are accessible to people with a wide range of experience using computers. At a minimum, students will need to be comfortable working on a computer and particularly with sending email and using the Internet. For example, students may be required to post messages to an electronic bulletin board and to prepare assignments and upload them to the course.

In particular, students need to be familiar with the following technology skills:

- Sending/receiving emails and attaching files to emails
- Opening or sending an email attachment
- Using an Internet browser
- Word processing, using software such as Microsoft Word
- Downloading files
- Saving files and locating saved files
- Creating new folders or directories
- Downloading and installing software programs
- Copying and pasting information between documents

Technology
Online students are required to have a computer and Internet access, with a broadband connection (a dial up connection will not be adequate). The computer may be in the student's home, but it may also be possible to utilize a computer at the student's workplace, providing permission is obtained from the relevant authorities. It is important that students have a quiet place to work without distractions and where they can listen to audio files.

Students will have access to online tutorials and during the course technical help and support will be available from CTS staff.
**Time**

Students must be prepared to spend a certain amount of time each week on their courses. A general rule of thumb is that a three-credit course will require around 10-15 hours per week, while a four-credit course generally requires around 15-20 hours per week. Generally, this will involve logging onto the course every weekday, as well as completing assignments offline. The time required will depend upon the background and ability of the student, as well as the type of course. Some students may require more or less time than others.

Students study together as a cohort. This means that there are set texts and lectures to read, view and discuss via the online discussion for each week. There are no set times when students have to be online, but generally it is best to read and view towards the beginning of each week and to participate in the online discussion later in the week.

**Travel**

Those enrolled in the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program as full-time students must be able to travel to Fort Wayne and spend two weeks on campus, twice per year, to take the intensive courses. These will take place in January and July each year. Following the intensive courses, students will generally have four weeks to complete and hand in their assignments. Breaks during the year will usually include one week at Thanksgiving, three weeks over Christmas, one week before the Winter Intensive, Good Friday and Easter Monday, and five weeks during the summer, split between the end of the Spring Quarter and the beginning of the Summer Intensive, and the end of the Summer Intensive and beginning of the Fall Quarter.

**Part-time Option**

Those students who find the full-time schedule to be difficult may choose to enroll as part-time students. Generally, part-time students will take two online courses and one, two-week intensive (two courses) per year. All students must complete the required courses within 10 years of starting the program.

**Assessment**

Courses will generally be assessed based on three factors: Student participation in discussions (online or face-to-face), student performance in quizzes and exams and grades on exercises, projects and assignments. Each course syllabus will list clearly the way in which the final grade will be assessed. In some cases students may be required to obtain a proctor for exams, but this will be explained by the course instructor.

**Mentor**

Each student’s parish pastor will be asked to act as her mentor and to oversee her work. The role of the mentor will involve answering urgent content-based inquiries, providing guidance on course work and acting as a discussant for topics that arise during the course. It is hoped that mentors will also allow students access to their libraries. Mentors will be paid a small honorarium for each course.
M.A. in Deaconess Studies Curriculum

An illustrative curriculum for full-time study is shown below. This illustrates how and when each class is usually offered, although this may vary from year to year depending upon the needs of the students. Each year the final curriculum is published and those who opt for part-time study can use it as a guide to the courses they can select from each year. The Appendix includes course descriptions and pre-requisites to aid this selection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **Summer**
| On Campus |
| EXT 110 Gospels I (4) | PMM 232 Pastoral Counseling (3) | PMM 253 Field Education Seminar II (2) |
| EXT 411 Psalms (3) | SYT 443 Theologia: The Means of Grace (3) | PMM 305 Deaconess Seminar (3) |
| PMM 153 Field Education Seminar I (1) | PMM 252 Field Education Seminar II (1) | |
| **Fall**
| Online |
| HIT 125 History of the Office of Deaconess (3) | EXT 112 Gospels II: Pastoral and Missional Theology in Luke and Acts (4) | |
| SYT 143 Lutheran Confessions: Introduction and Overview (3) | PMMP 568 Ministry to the Sick & Dying (3) | |
| PMM 152 Field Education – Deaconess Studies I (2) | PMM 252 Field Education II (2) | |
| **Winter**
| On Campus |
| EXT 212 Pauline Epistles (4) | PMM 260 Deaconess Practice (3) | |
| PMM 133 Heaven on Earth: The Worship of Lutherans Today (3) | PMM 432 Theological Ethics (3) | |
| PMM 252 Field Education Seminar II (1) | PMM 252 Field Education Seminar II (1) | |
| **Spring**
| Online |
| HIT 221 History: The Church in Missiological Perspective (3) | PMM 233 Catechetics (3) | |
| PMM 152 Field Education – Deaconess Studies I (2.5) | PMM 252 Field Education – Deaconess Studies II (2.5) | |
M.A. in Deaconess Studies
2013–2014 Academic Year

Courses offered to new students

**Summer Quarter 2013**
[On-Campus Intensives] (Tuition per credit hour: Academic courses = $524; Field Ed. = $80)

- July 6–7 & July 13–14: PMM 153 & PMM 253 Field Education Seminar I & II (1)
- July 8–12: EXT 110 Gospels I (4)
- July 15–19: EXT 411 Psalms (3)

**Fall Quarter 2013**
[Online Classes] (Tuition per credit hour: Academic courses = $548; Field Ed. = $80)

- Sept. 3–Oct. 25: HIT 125 History of the Office of Deaconess (3)
- Sept. 9–Dec. 20: PMM 152 & PMM 252 Field Education–Deaconess Studies I & II (2)

**Winter Quarter 2014**
[On-Campus Intensives] (Tuition per credit hour: Academic courses = $548; Field Ed. = $80)

- Jan. 25–26 & Feb. 1–2: PMM 153 & PMM 253 Field Education Seminar I & II (1)
- Jan. 27–Feb. 7: EXT 212 Pauline Epistles (4)
- Jan. 27–Feb. 7: PMM 133 Heaven on Earth: The Worship of Lutherans Today (3)

**Spring Quarter 2014**
[Online Classes] (Tuition per credit hour: Academic courses = $548; Field Ed. = $80)

- March 10–May 2: EXT 215 Books of Moses (3)
- March 17–June 28: PMM 152 Field Education–Deaconess Studies I (2.5)
- May 4–June 28: HIT 221 The Church in Missiological Perspective (3)

(Total credits are shown in parentheses after each course name.)
Cost of Attendance for the 2013–2014 Academic Year
M.A. in Deaconess Studies—Distance Learning
(Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer Budget)

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition</strong>*</td>
<td>13,700</td>
<td>Based on 25 credits for the academic year consisting of four quarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fees</strong></td>
<td>822</td>
<td>Includes Field Ed. fee of $80 per credit hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Books/supplies</strong></td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Room/board</strong></td>
<td>900</td>
<td>For two, two-week on-campus intensives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
<td>1,112</td>
<td>Travel to Fort Wayne for intensives (January and July)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Insurance</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Misc. personal</strong></td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>For example, broadband Internet connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loan Fees</strong>*</td>
<td>148</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total COA</strong></td>
<td>$19,382</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Tuition cost (no financial aid) is based on 25 credits for an academic year consisting of four quarters.

** Room and board for student during two-week intensives on-campus.

*** Estimated based on Federal Student Loan origination fee of 1%.

This program is eligible for Financial Aid which helps to cover some of the tuition fees. Students are assessed based on their FAFSA information.

Please visit the seminary website for further information on Financial Aid: www.ctsfw.edu/FinancialAid.
Appendix 1.

Academic Catalog Information

Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies

Purpose
The Deaconess Studies Program at Concordia Theological Seminary seeks to honor experienced women, who already serve in roles that involve diaconal work and spiritual care, by providing them with an opportunity to study theology at an advanced level and gain an M.A. so that they can be certified as deaconesses. The program is delivered through a combination of distance learning via electronic means and on-campus intensives. Innovative methods are used to teach courses online. Rather than simply seeking to duplicate the traditional classroom online, course creators look for creative ways to teach the deaconess student the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need for diaconal work in their specific context. Students will also have opportunities to interact with faculty and fellow students and take part in campus activities through twice yearly, two-week intensives held on campus.

Admission Requirements

- Entering students are required to have completed a Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution or the equivalent with a minimum G.P.A. of 2.25 on a 4.0 scale.
- Applicants must be a member of a congregation in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), ordinarily for a minimum of two years prior to admission.
- Entering students are required to have served at least five years in a congregation or institution where their work has included an element of spiritual care (e.g., parish nurse, care ministry in a congregation) and will continue to serve in this way throughout the course of their study.

Exception to Admission Requirements: Non-degree Option

Concordia Theological Seminary may choose, in special circumstances, to waive the requirement of a baccalaureate degree for admission to the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program. Successful applicants will be entering the seminary on a privileged basis and for that reason such admission is highly selective. The applicant must above all demonstrate to the Admission Committee that she has a reasonable probability of being able to perform successfully at the graduate level.

Applicants who do not have a baccalaureate degree must:

- be at least 35 years of age at the time of admission;
- have completed successfully a course of study from a regionally accredited college or university, such as:
  - an Associate’s degree; or
  - a nursing certification at the registered nurse level or above; or
  - academic courses within a baccalaureate program totaling a minimum of 60 credit hours, with a minimum grade of “C” (2.0 on a 4.0 scale);
- arrange for transcripts of all college or university work to be submitted to the Admission Office for evaluation;
- have passed the online Old Testament and New Testament exams (offered via the seminary website);
- demonstrate written communication skills and ability to conduct independent research by submitting a 500 word essay on the diakonal care needs of an individual who suffers from a specific mental or physical illness (the applicant may select the illness, but the essay must include evidence of independent research);
- include a letter of recommendation from an individual who is qualified to comment on the applicant’s academic capabilities (as one of the three required letters of recommendation).
Admission Procedure

1. An application for admission must be submitted, including a $35.00 non-refundable application fee, as well as answers for the Additional Questions for Distance Learning Applicant found on page 5 of application.

2. A recommendation from the applicant’s pastor is required. In addition to a written recommendation, a telephone interview will be held with each applicant’s pastor.

3. Two additional letters of recommendation must be submitted. One of the additional letters of recommendation must come from the applicant’s current job supervisor, if it is someone other than her pastor.

4. The applicant should arrange to have official transcripts sent to the Admission Office by the Registrar of the institution(s) previously attended.

5. Applicants are required to undergo a criminal background check prior to admission. Protect My Ministry, an agency contracted by the LCMS and recommended by the Synod’s Board for Pastoral Education, will be used. The Admission Department will submit this on the applicant’s behalf, but the applicant is responsible for the fee. The applicant will be required to sign a waiver release. [The background check fee is $7.00 and may be combined with the application fee in a check or money order for $42.00.]

6. Confirmation of Admission: After the applicant receives a letter of acceptance, a $250 tuition deposit indicates confirmation of the offer of admission and the intention to enroll at Concordia Theological Seminary. The tuition deposit deadline is 30 days after the acceptance of the application for admission. After receipt of the deposit, financial aid applications will be processed and registration will occur. Cancellations within six weeks of the first class are not refundable. Failure to make a tuition deposit by the deadline may result in the cancellation of the offer of admission, and scholarships and grants may be offered to other students.

Qualified Admission

A “Qualified Admission” may be granted to those applicants whose undergraduate G.P.A. is below 2.25, which may indicate that the applicant may be a marginal student and may not be prepared for the demands of the Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies Degree Program. This qualified admission will consist of the student completing at least three seminary courses. This probationary period will be lifted and full admission status will be granted if, at the completion of the three seminary courses, the student has earned a grade of “C” or higher in all three courses. This would then demonstrate the student’s ability to meet the basic expectations of the Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies Degree Program. However, if any of the three courses do not have a grade of “C” or higher, the student will be discontinued from the Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies Degree Program.
Degree and Residence Requirements

Students must successfully complete 72 quarter hours of course work with a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. At least 32 of the 72 quarter hours must be completed in residence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M.A. in Deaconess Studies Course Requirements</th>
<th>72 Hour Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exegetical Theology</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXT 110 Gospels I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXT 112 Gospels II: Pastoral and Missional Theology in Luke and Acts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXT 212 Pauline Epistles</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXT 215 The Books of Moses: The Beginning and the New Beginning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXT 411 Psalms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historical Theology</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIT 125 History of the Office of Deaconess</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIT 221 History: The Church in Missiological Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Systematic Theology</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SYT 143 Lutheran Confessionss: Introduction and Overview</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYT 243 The Lutheran Confessions in Today's World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYT 443 Theologia: The Means of Grace</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deaconess Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 133 Heaven on Earth: The Worship of Lutherans Today</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 232 Pastoral Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 233 Catechetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 260 Deaconess Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 301 Deaconess Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 305 Deaconess Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 432 Theological Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMMP568 Ministry to the Sick and Dying</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 152 Field Education–Deaconess Studies I</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 153 Field Education Seminar I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 252 Field Education–Deaconess Studies II</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMM 253 Field Education Seminar II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 72

Delivery of Courses

Courses will be taught online and in two intensive sessions on campus per year (two weeks), one each summer and one each winter. The on-campus intensives will cover 35 of the 72 required quarter hours.

Deaconess Field Education and Internship

Deaconess students will engage in field education concurrent with seminary studies. Ordinarily, this will take place within the congregation or institution where the student is employed. Each student’s pastor or supervisor will be asked to monitor and evaluate the student’s practical work. Students will have the opportunity to develop their diaconal skills by discussing their fieldwork and practical, focus topics with their fellow students through participation in online field education courses and on-campus field education seminars.
Ordinarily, an internship will not be required as the students in the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program will already have experience as a church worker and will continue to work in that position concurrently with studying. In addition to the entrance interview, the student’s pastor will be required to provide an annual report on the work, attitude and spiritual life of the student. Provided that these reports are satisfactory, the student will receive credit for internship of three quarter hours.

In those circumstances when an internship is required, termination of the internship by the seminary or abandonment of the internship by the intern shall result in dismissal of the intern from the seminary. For those students who do not require an internship, failure to obtain a passing grade for Field Education shall result in dismissal of the student from the seminary. A dismissed intern or student has any right of appeal specified in this catalog or in the seminary’s Student Handbook.

**Theological and Diakonal Interview**

Deaconess students will conclude their studies by engaging in a theological interview with two professors and one deaconess concerning theological and diakonal issues. This interview serves as an evaluation for certification as a deaconess in the LCMS.

**Certification and Placement**

Deaconess certification is granted by the faculty to students who fulfill program requirements for the Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies and who display dedication and readiness for service as a deaconess. Ordinarily, having received her M.A. and certification as a deaconess, the student will remain in the position in which she has been working throughout her studies and will not therefore be placed into a call by the Council of Presidents.

**Leave of Absence and Withdrawal from the Seminary**

Deaconess students may apply for a voluntary leave of absence from the seminary for a period of time not to exceed one calendar year. Applications are obtained at the Registrar’s Office. Such applications are approved by the Director of Deaconess Studies. Deaconess students who wish to withdraw from the seminary are requested to consult with their advisor and the Dean of Students. To be entitled to an honorable withdrawal from the seminary, students must have a satisfactory conduct record and must request withdrawal in writing to the Registrar’s Office.

**Advanced Standing and Transfer Credit Policy**

All advanced standing (based on undergraduate courses) and transfer credit (based on graduate courses) must be approved in advance of beginning the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program and will be determined by the Registrar in consultation with the Academic Dean, taking into account the content and level of each course. Students who wish to be considered for advanced standing or transfer credit must submit a detailed written request to the Registrar, including course descriptions from the institution at which they originally completed the course(s). Courses ordinarily must have been completed less than 10 years prior to the date that the student is to begin the program in order to be considered for advanced standing or transfer credit. Students in this program who have been granted advanced standing and/or transfer credit must still take the equivalent of at least one full-time academic year of work through on-campus courses (32 credit hours).

**Advanced Standing** Undergraduate course work in religion or theology completed at a regionally or ATS accredited educational institution may be eligible for advanced standing, either:

- without credit, in which case students will be exempted from some courses but the total number of academic credits required for the degree will not be reduced, or
- with credit, in which case the number of hours required for the degree will be reduced.

In either case, a maximum of nine quarter hours of advanced standing credit may be granted to applicants to the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program. Advanced standing will not be granted on the basis of vocational or other life experience.

**Transfer Credit** A maximum of 18 quarter hours of Master degree level course work in religion or theology completed at a regionally or ATS accredited educational institution may be transferred into the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program. If advanced standing credit is granted, the number of quarter hours that can be transferred will be reduced proportionately in order that no more than a total of 18 quarter hours in advanced standing and transfer credit will be granted.

**Completion Requirement**

Requirements for the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program must be completed within 10 years of the student’s admission into the program.
Course Descriptions

EXT 110   GOSPELS I  4 credits
Because of the centrality of Jesus Christ in the revelation of God, this will serve as a foundational course for the entire theological curriculum. After an introduction to Gospel literature as well as the history and practice of biblical interpretation, major portions of the Greek text of the Gospel of Matthew will be studied. Significant teachings such as the Nature of the Scriptures, Interpretation of the Old Testament, the Identity of Christ, the Kingdom of God, the Trinity and Baptism, the Apostolic Mission and Ministry, the Return of Christ, the Lord's Supper, Jesus' Death as Atonement and the Resurrection will be examined. Faithful interpretation of the Gospel of Matthew for teaching will be modeled in lectures and mentored in exegetical groups.

EXT 112   GOSPELS II: PASTORAL AND MISSIONAL THEOLOGY IN LUKE AND ACTS  4 credits
This course will focus on the centrality of Jesus Christ in the revelation of God in the Gospel of Luke and the significance of the mission of the apostles in the Book of Acts. The teaching and preaching of Jesus in the Gospel, the sermons of the apostles in Acts, the sacramental theology in Luke-Acts and the missional and diakonal ministry of the early Christians will be examined. Since Luke is the only Gospel with a companion work describing the life of the Church, themes unique to Luke will be emphasized. Topics such as the Nature of the Scriptures, Interpretation of the Old Testament, the Identity of Christ, the Kingdom of God, the Trinity and Baptism, the Apostolic Mission and Ministry, the Return of Christ, the Lord's Supper, Jesus' Death as Atonement and the Resurrection will be examined.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students. This course will be delivered as an online course and will be noted as EXTD 112 on the students' transcripts.

EXT 212   PAULINE EPISTLES  4 credits
After an introduction to the life of the Apostle Paul, major portions of the Greek text of Galatians and Romans will be studied. Important central teachings in the Greek text of Paul's other epistles will also be examined, such as the Person and Work of Christ, the Church, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the End Times and Pastoral Ministry. The importance of the Apostle Paul's teaching for the life of the church will be highlighted.


EXT 215   THE BOOKS OF MOSES: THE BEGINNING AND THE NEW BEGINNING  3 credits
After an introduction to the first five books of the Old Testament, major portions of Genesis will be studied because of its foundational role in all theology and the mission of the Church. Creation, Marriage, the Fall into Sin, the Promise of Salvation, the Presence of the Son with the Patriarchs and other biblical themes in Genesis will be examined. Portions of Exodus through Deuteronomy will also be studied because of their foundational role for the history of Israel and all theology. The Exodus, the Law, the Presence of the Son, the Tabernacle, Worship, Sacrifices, Purity, Forgiveness and other biblical themes in Exodus-Deuteronomy will be examined. Commentaries, sermons, liturgies and hymnody from the history of the Church that address Genesis through Deuteronomy will also be considered. Integration of the narratives of Genesis through Deuteronomy and teachings in the missional life of the Church today will be accented.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students. This course will be delivered as an online course and will be noted as EXTD 215 on the students' transcripts.

EXT 411   PSALMS  3 credits
The liturgical life of the Church and the devotional life of her pastors have been shaped and influenced by the Psalter. This course approaches the study of the Psalter from an interdisciplinary perspective by incorporating both exegetical and pastoral ministry concerns. Selected Psalms will be examined closely on the basis of the Hebrew text with specific attention not only to their grammatical issues but also to their theological content. The Psalms will also be examined as rich resources for the worshiping community and for the spiritual formation of ministers of the Word and Sacraments.

Prerequisites: The Books of Moses.
HIT 125  HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF DEACONESS  3 credits
A survey of the history of the Office of Deaconess. The course will study the origins, development and ministries of the deaconess with special emphasis on the deaconess vocation as a ministry of mercy and care. Special attention will be given to the description and activities of the deaconess in the early church to the 19th century revival of the office under Fliedner and Loehe and to the ministry of the deaconess in the 20th century.

Required course for Deaconess certification and M.A. in Deaconess Studies students. This course will be delivered as an online course for M.A. in Deaconess Studies students and will be noted as HITD 125 on the students’ transcripts.

HIT 221  THE CHURCH IN MISSIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE  3 credits
Beginning with a description of the Church in the 21st century, especially from the perspective of trends and challenges for world-wide missions, this course looks for historical connections with contemporary Christianity from the Reformation to the present day. Students will learn about the Reformation origins of major Protestant denominations as well as of modern Roman Catholicism, but also will consider the impact on the mission of the Church from broad historical developments like pietism, liberalism and ecumenism. Special attention will be paid to the modern missions movement that has seen the planting of Christianity around the globe and what this has meant for the church in America as well as abroad.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students. This course will be delivered as an online course and will be noted as HITD 221 on the students’ transcripts.

PMM 133  HEAVEN ON EARTH: THE WORSHIP OF LUTHERANS TODAY  3 credits
This course will acquaint the student with the biblical and confessional foundations of the Lutheran liturgy, the structure and components of the Divine Service and the daily office in Lutheran Service Book. Time will be spent in helping the student plan creative worship with special attention to the central motifs of the Christian calendar and the church’s hymnody. Attention will be given to the history and theology of the Church Year and Christian hymnody from biblical times, as well as the great treasury of contemporary hymnody.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students.

PMM 152  FIELD EDUCATION—DEACONESS STUDIES I  4.5 credits
Deaconess students will engage in field education (see information on page 12) concurrent with three academic quarters during the first half of their seminary studies. Case studies and issues based on situations encountered in their work will be shared and discussed with all students in the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program during weekly 1.5 hour online sessions.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students. This course will be delivered as an online course and will be noted as PMMD 152 on the students’ transcripts.

PMM 153  DEACONESS FIELD EDUCATION SEMINAR I  2 credits
Students in the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program will participate in two fieldwork seminar sessions on campus during the first half of their studies. The objective of these seminars is to encourage deaconess formation through the study and discussion of practical, focus topics such as the role of women within the Church, mercy, the devotional life of a deaconess, vocation and personal development. Relevant texts will be assigned to be read prior to each seminar. In addition, practical experience will be gained through visits to churches and institutions to spend time with working deaconesses.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students.

PMM 232  PASTORAL COUNSELING  3 credits
The course provides a biblical understanding of pastoral/diakonal counseling. In addition, students will learn how to apply biblical principles and practical wisdom for various care and counseling situations experienced in a congregational setting. A variety of topics are given consideration under the following units: general pastoral/diakonal care and counseling; crises and pastoral/diakonal care; premarital pastoral/diakonal care; and marriage and family pastoral/diakonal care.
PMM 233  CATECHETICS  3 credits
This course will examine the biblical and confessional foundations for catechesis in the Lutheran congregation and seek to assist students in acquiring skills and developing practices that are consistent with these foundations. Special attention will be given to the content and pattern of catechesis reflected in the Catechism of Martin Luther.

This course will be delivered as an online course for M.A. in Deaconess Studies students and will be noted as PMMD 233 on the students’ transcripts.

PMM 252  FIELD EDUCATION – DEACONESS STUDIES II  4.5 credits
Deaconess students will engage in field education (see information on page 12) concurrent with three quarters of the second year of their seminary studies. Weekly online discussions will continue to be held, building on the material presented and discussed in Field Education–Deaconess Studies I.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students.

Prerequisite: Field Education–Deaconess Studies I.

This course will be delivered as an online course and will be noted as PMMD 252 on the students’ transcripts.

PMM 253  DEACONESS FIELD EDUCATION SEMINAR II  4 credits
Students in the M.A. in Deaconess Studies Program will participate in two fieldwork seminar sessions on campus during the second half of their studies. The seminars will continue the work begun in Deaconess Field Education Seminar I, focusing on deaconess formation through the study and discussion of practical, focus topics and practical experience gained through visits to churches and institutions to spend time with working deaconesses.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students.

Prerequisite: Deaconess Field Education Seminar I.

PMM 260  DEACONESS PRACTICE  3 credits
This course seeks to launch the development of deaconess skills by surveying relevant topics in human and congregational care. Practical skills will be stressed and applied where possible while maintaining focus on the theological foundation of such care in deaconess service. Instills an understanding of and equipping for the roles and contributions of the auxiliary office of the Lutheran deaconess.

Enrollment limited to M.A.-Deaconess students.

PMM 301  DEACONESS INTERNSHIP  3 credits
See description of the internship program on page 12.

Enrollment limited to Deaconess Certification and M.A. in Deaconess Studies students.

PMM 305  DEACONESS SEMINAR  3 credits
The Deaconess Seminar will be taken by M.A. in Deaconess Studies students after they have completed successfully all other academic requirements for their degree. The seminar will focus on helping the students to reflect on their formation as deaconesses, and on assisting them to integrate the role of deaconess into their existing jobs. It will include student-led case studies and other exercises toward evaluating individual strengths and weaknesses. Students will develop an ongoing plan for addressing their weaknesses and capitalizing on their strengths in order to improve the effectiveness of their service.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students.

PMM 432  THEOLOGICAL ETHICS  3 credits
Theological ethics, understood from a distinctly Lutheran perspective, are contrasted with contemporary pluralistic approaches to ethics. The place of ethics is defined in relation to the doctrine of justification within a trinitarian framework. Key Lutheran themes such as the Law/Gospel distinction, two governments in relation to creation and redemption and vocation are put in conversation with current issues, especially those related to sexuality, marriage, beginning of life and end of life.
PMM P568  MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND DYING  3 credits
Creative ways are sought to minister to the sick and shut-in members of a congregation. Age differences and illness differences are examined in some detail. The use of Law and Gospel in the sickroom under differing circumstances form the core consideration for discussion. Establishing a theological basis and drawing upon various sources develop an understanding of the dynamics of the dying and bereavement process. Diakonal application will be stressed as well as support groups and agencies (i.e., hospice) available to assist the deaconess in her ministry to the dying and bereaved.

This course will be delivered as an online course for M.A. in Deaconess Studies students and will be noted as PMMPD 568 on the students’ transcripts.

SYT 143  THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW  3 credits
The study of the Book of Concord will examine the Augsburg Confession and its Apology, the Small and Large Catechisms, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise and the Formula of Concord. Emphasis will be on the basic teachings and issues which define the theology of the Lutheran Church in its historic context and in today’s world.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students. This course will be delivered as an online course and will be noted as SYTD 143 on the students’ transcripts.

SYT 243  THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS IN TODAY’S WORLD  3 credits
Teaching the Lutheran Confessions today requires an emphasis on the rich heritage of mature Lutheran theology in its historical context and its application to our contemporary world. This course will show the connection between the Confessions and catechesis, providing an appreciation of Luther’s contribution to the Book of Concord. It will also examine a selection of themes in the Lutheran Confessions such as predestination, Christology, justification by faith, church and ministry, infant baptism, the Lord’s Supper and Church and State.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students.

Prerequisite: The Lutheran Confessions: Introduction and Overview.

This course will be delivered as an online course and will be noted as SYTD 243 on the students’ transcripts.

SYT 443  THEOLOGIA: THE MEANS OF GRACE  3 credits
This course focuses on the Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper as the theological acts through which the life of the Church is constituted and sustained. Using the Scriptures, historic baptismal and eucharistic liturgies, baptismal catechesis and dogmatic elaboration, this course considers the way in which Christian identity is shaped through the concrete life of the Church. Thus, this course seeks to create an appreciation for the integration of all the theological disciplines—exegetical, historical, systematic and practical—in the ecclesial activities of hearing the Word, undergoing baptism and participating in the Lord’s Supper.

Enrollment limited to M.A. in Deaconess Studies students.