

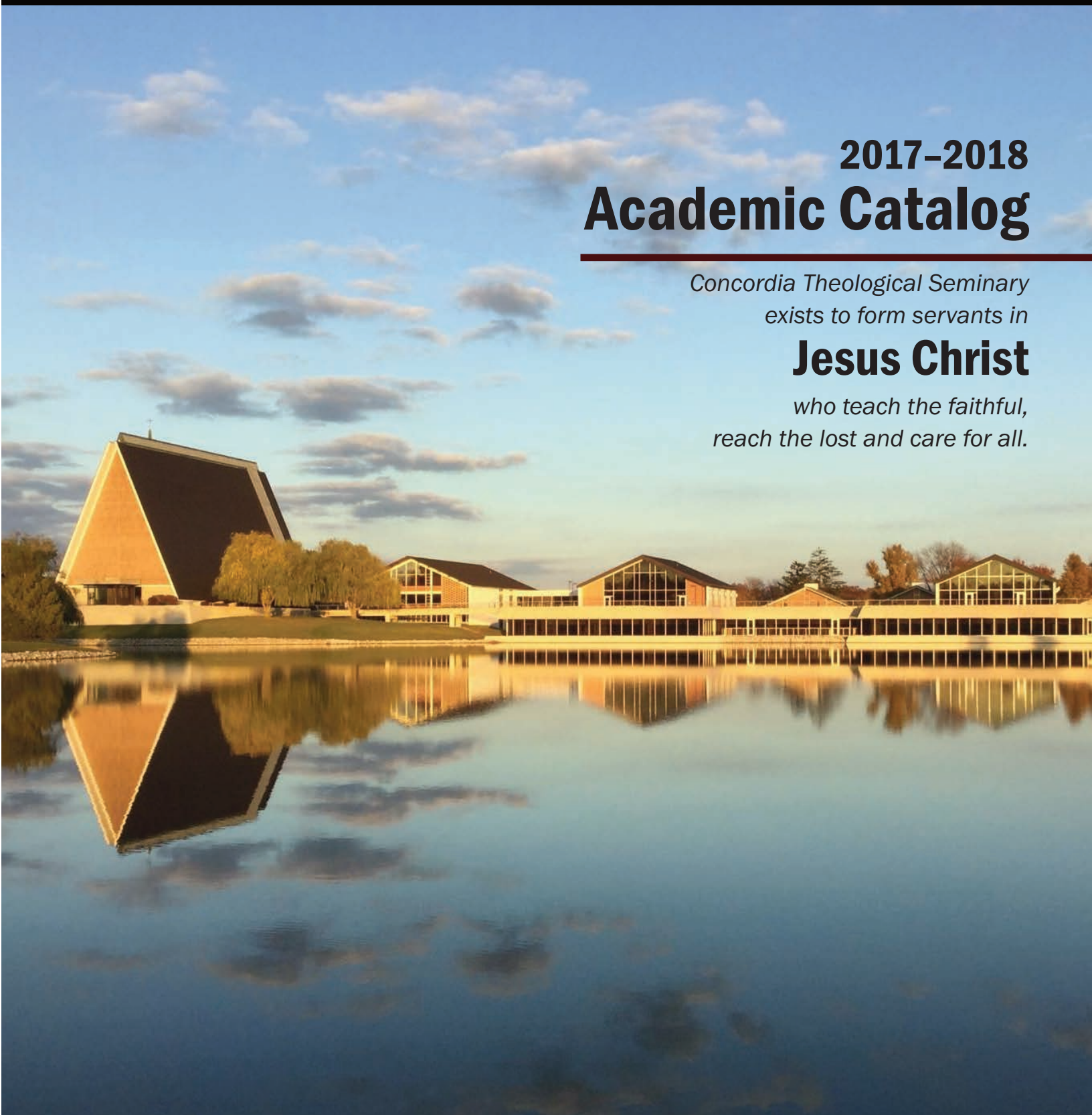
# 2017-2018 Academic Catalog

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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.*



## **Alternate Routes to Ordination**

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### **Rationale**

A need has existed and continues to exist in the LCMS to provide theological education programs alternative to the traditional four-year M.Div. Program. Such routes are available to men who demonstrate circumstances exceptional enough to warrant that they not be required to complete the M.Div. Program in order to be certified for a call into the pastoral ministry of the LCMS. As in the case with the M.Div. Program, these programs will focus on the spiritual, academic and personal development of the students. Unlike the M.Div. Program, no academic professional degree will be granted. However, upon successful completion of the program, a certificate will be granted.

### **Admission Requirements**

Candidates for admission shall be male and shall be:

1. Graduates of the Synod's colleges and universities, whose names appear on the roster of the Synod as commissioned ministers of the Synod, and who have at least eight (8) years of successful experience as commissioned ministers of the Synod and are communicant members in good standing of a congregation of the Synod, or;
2. Communicant members in good standing of a synodical congregation who are ordinarily at least 35 years of age at the time of application, ordinarily have accumulated at least ten (10) years of significant experience directly related to Word and Sacrament ministry (elder, lector, evangelism caller, Bible class teacher, etc.) in a Missouri Synod setting, and have ordinarily successfully completed at least sixty (60) semester hours of college-level course work.
3. Men licensed by their district presidents to perform functions belonging to the pastoral office.

All candidates will demonstrate spiritual, emotional, aptitudinal, social and cultural qualifications to serve as a pastor as identified in Scripture (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1); if married, have a spouse who is a communicant member in good standing of a synodical congregation and who offers spousal support and understanding of each partner's respective role and involvement in ministry.

### **Admission Procedures**

The process for application and admission to Concordia Theological Seminary normally takes from 6-12 months prior to enrollment. An applicant must submit the following documents for the admission process:

1. An application for admission to the Alternate Route (A.R.) Program.
2. A recommendation from the applicant's pastor (form provided with application).
3. Four personal recommendations (forms provided with application).
4. Information listing the ten (10) years of significant church experience (elder, lector, evangelism caller, Bible class teacher, etc.) in a Missouri Synod setting.
5. Applicants should arrange to have official transcripts sent to the Admission Office by the Registrar of the college(s) they have attended.
6. Applicants should contact their district president to schedule the district interview. It is the responsibility of the District Interview Committee to arrange this interview. The results of the interview will be forwarded to the Seminary's Admission Office.
7. Applicants whose undergraduate cumulative grade point average (GPA) is below 2.75 are required to complete the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test and have the

- scores forwarded to the Seminary for consideration as part of their application for admission. Those applicants who already have a master's, doctorate or equivalent degree are not required to take the GRE. GRE test scores beyond five years will not be accepted. GRE Information Bulletins can be obtained from the Admission Office or at any college Registrar's Office. The GRE is also available by computer at many locations.
8. Applicants are required to undergo a criminal background check prior to admission. Protect My Ministry, an agency contracted by the LCMS will be used. The Admission Office will submit this on the applicant's behalf. Applicant will be required to sign a waiver release.
  9. Applicants will complete and return the Confirmation of Admission form after a letter of acceptance is received. Confirming the offer of admission indicates the intention to enroll at CTSFW for the term you were admitted. Accepting your admission allows the Seminary to prepare more effectively for your arrival.

### **Entry-level Competency**

All incoming Alternate Route students will need to demonstrate that they possess entry-level competence in Old Testament and New Testament content. Students may demonstrate that they possess entry-level competence in each of the listed areas in one of two ways:

1. By taking and passing a competency exam administered by the Registrar's Office.
2. By taking and passing the pre-seminary online course offered by the Seminary. These courses must be taken no more than four years prior to the student's matriculation date into the program.

All incoming A.R. students who enter with Greek language skills are required to take the applicable competency exam. Students who have shown competency in Greek will substitute two, three credit hour exegetical courses for the Elementary Greek required course.

All incoming A.R. students are required to take the Christian Doctrine exam in order to assess their understanding of Lutheran theology.

### **Residence and Curriculum Requirements**

Course and residency requirements are established by the Synod and approved by the faculty and include:

#### **Residence**

1. For commissioned ministers, not less than six (6) full-time quarters in residence.
2. For laity, not less than seven (7) full-time quarters in residence.

#### **Course and Professional Work**

For commissioned ministers and laity a program load of ninety-two (92) quarter hours of course work, six (6) quarters of fieldwork, and a one (1) year vicarage, three (3) quarter hours, are required.

**Required Courses**

Courses	Credit
<i>Exegetical Theology</i>	
Elementary Greek .....	6
Gospels I .....	4
Gospels II .....	4
Pentateuch I .....	3
Pentateuch II .....	3
Pauline Epistles .....	4
Major Prophets .....	4
Greek Readings (4 quarters) .....	4
 <i>Historical Theology</i>	
Church History III .....	3
Church History IV .....	3
 <i>Systematic Theology</i>	
Lutheran Confessions I .....	2
Lutheran Confessions II .....	2
Lutheran Confessions III .....	2
Dogmatics I .....	4
Dogmatics II .....	3
Dogmatics III .....	4
Theologia I: Baptism .....	3
Theologia II: Preaching .....	3
Theologia III: Lord's Supper .....	3
 <i>Pastoral Ministry and Missions</i>	
Liturgics I .....	3
Liturgics II .....	3
Homiletics I .....	4
Homiletics II .....	4
Confessing Christ in Today's World .....	3
Catechetics .....	3
Pastoral Theology I .....	4
Pastoral Theology II .....	4
Bibliography & Technology .....	0
Field Education(6 quartes) .....	0
Vicarage .....	3
 Total for Alternate Route.....	 95

**Modules**

Each student is required to take four modules while on campus. These modules cover specific, practical areas of pastoral ministry in four categories: specialized ministries; specialized pastoral care; evangelism and outreach; other topics. A minimum of one module from each category is required. Modules will ordinarily involve four contact hours. No credit will be given for modules, nor will any tuition or fees be charged. Student attendance is required, but there are no reading assignments. Pass/fail grades only will be given.

**Administrative Procedures**

Students in the A.R. Program will be subject to the same high academic, interpersonal and ministerial standards of students in the M.Div. Program. They will have access to personal and family counseling, and be subject to pastoral assessment throughout their program.

**Credentials**

No academic degree is offered. A certificate will be awarded upon successful completion of the program.

**Alternate Routes Program—M.A. Relationship**

Students who complete the A.R. Program, may at the same time fulfill the requirements for the Master of Arts (M.A.) program. However, the requirements for each program are considered separately when evaluating the transcripts of the student, either for the M.A. or the A.R. Program. A.R. students need to apply and be admitted to the M.A. Program.

**Alternate Routes Program—M.Div. Relationship**

Students who complete the on-campus A.R. Program and, after spending time in the parish (normally a minimum of three [3] years), desire to return to the Seminary in order to complete the requirements for the M.Div. degree, are granted some flexibility in their program. They need to make up the difference between the M.Div. level hours that they have already completed and the total number required for the M.Div. degree (currently 139). Specific course requirements are waived. However, credit totals within each department must be maintained to ensure a well-rounded education.