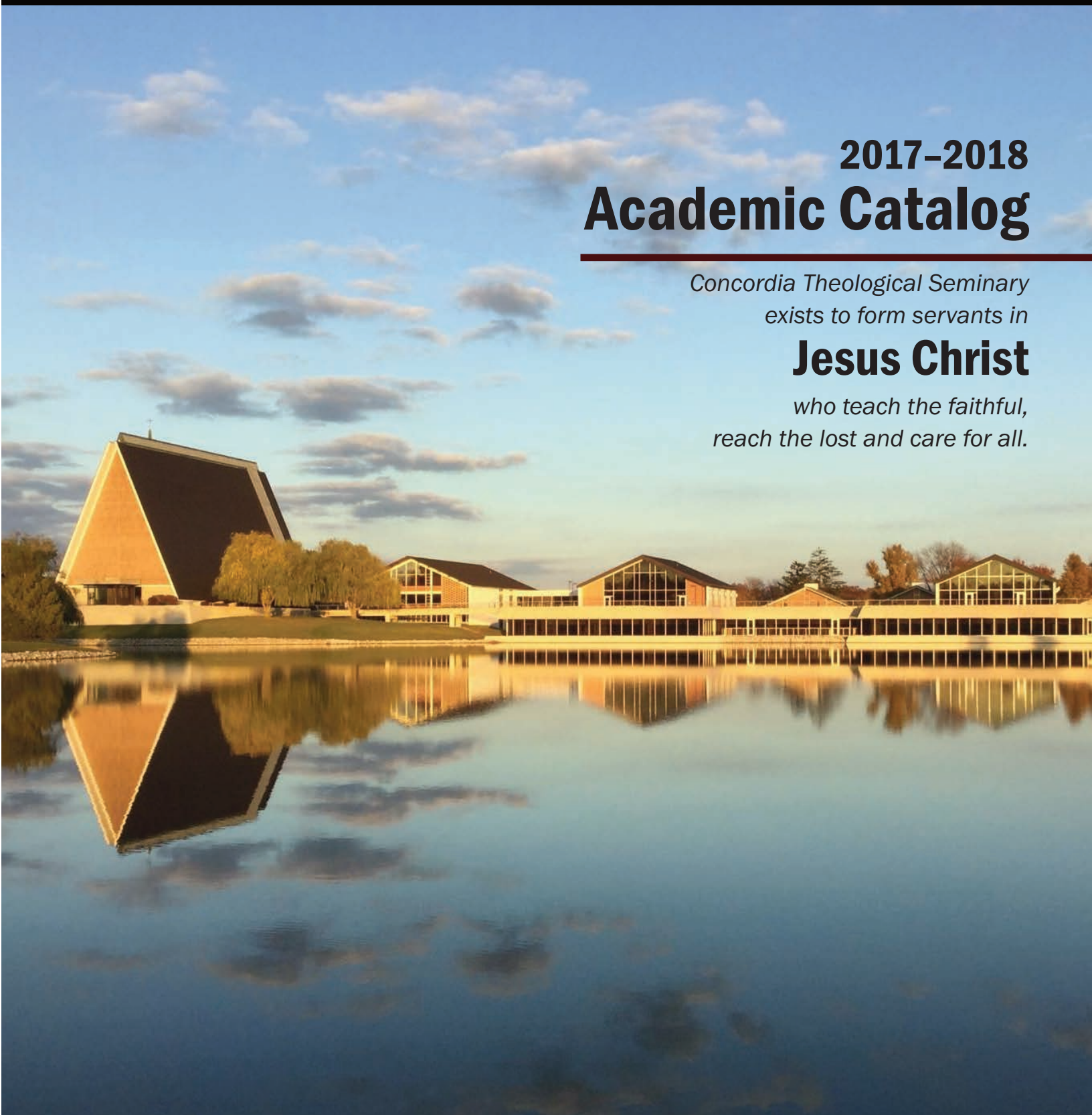


2017-2018 Academic Catalog

*Concordia Theological Seminary
exists to form servants in*

Jesus Christ

*who teach the faithful,
reach the lost and care for all.*



Deaconess Formation Programs

Concordia Theological Seminary offers two master's level degrees that provide in-depth theological education and equip capable women for service to the church as a deaconess.

Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies

- **Residential**
- **Distance**

Master of Arts

- **Leading to Deaconess Certification, Residential**

Students who complete either the Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies or the Master of Arts Leading to Deaconess Certification, and are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, may pursue deaconess certification in the LCMS.

The Student Learning Outcomes

By completing the requirements of the Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies or the Master of Arts, with a modified curriculum, Leading to Deaconess Certification degree programs, students will be able to:

1. Embody the mercy of Christ, as it is revealed in the Scriptures, in their service to the church.
2. Exemplify faithful participation in the liturgical life of the church as a devoted hearer of the Word and partaker of the Lord's Supper.
3. Respect and support the spiritual authority given to pastors for the public proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments.
4. Understand the deaconess vocation according to its roots in the Scriptures, the theological tradition of the church and the testimony of the Lutheran Confessions.
5. Articulate the Gospel of Christ as it relates to those especially in need of mercy in accordance with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
6. Foster strong bonds of fellowship between members of the body of Christ.
7. Lead the church in its service to the larger community and in so doing connect the community to the church.
8. Recognize and respond to human suffering in a manner that reflects Christ's compassion and care.

Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies (Distance)

Purpose

The M.A. in Deaconess Studies (Distance) Program seeks to honor women, who have experience serving in areas of human and spiritual care, by providing them with an opportunity to study theology at an advanced level and earn an M.A. in Deaconess Studies so that they may be certified as deaconesses. Delivered through a combination of innovative methods of online and on-campus classes, concurrent to applied learning activities under the supervision of a Pastor, students acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the deaconess vocation.

Admission Requirements

1. Entering students are required to have completed a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or the equivalent with a minimum GPA of 2.25 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Applicants must be a member, in good standing, of a congregation in The Lutheran Church—Missouri (LCMS), ordinarily for a minimum of two years prior to admission.
3. Entering students are required to have served at least five years in a work or volunteer capacity which included an element of spiritual care and/or human care (e.g., teaching, nursing, care ministry in a congregation), and will continue to serve in this or similar capacity throughout the course of their study.

Exception to These Admission Requirements

Deaconess Internship Option

The MA in Deaconess Studies (Distance) is ordinarily reserved for those students with human and spiritual care experience. Women seeking the deaconess vocation, who have less than five years of experience in human or spiritual care, and/or are not yet age 35 years and are unable to participate in residential study due to unique circumstances, may acquire experience by fulfilling both the practicum coursework and the required deaconess internship. Requests may be submitted in writing to the registrar and director of Deaconess Formation at the time of application.

Non-degree Option

Concordia Theological Seminary may choose, in special circumstances, to waive the requirement of a baccalaureate degree for admission to the Seminary. Applicants are 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.

For consideration by the Admission Committee, the applicant must:

1. Be at least 35 years of age at the time of admission.
2. 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) from a regionally accredited college or university as outlined on the next page.

Credit Hours

a. English (Composition, Literature)	6
b. Public Speaking*	2
c. Humanities (Art, Drama, Music)	9
d. Social Sciences (History, Sociology, Economics)	9
e. Science/Math	6
f. Additional Courses	28
Total	60

* Students enrolled in a Liberal Arts program incorporating public speaking in the general curriculum may apply for exemption from the speech requirement.

3. Arrange for official transcripts of all college or university work to be submitted to the Admission Office for evaluation.
4. 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.
5. Demonstrate reading comprehension and written communication skills. The applicant will read an article provided by the Deaconess Formation Department and submit a 500 word response essay.

Provisional Admission

A Provisional Admission may be granted to those applicants whose undergraduate GPA 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 provisional 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.

Admission Procedures

An applicant must submit the following for the admission process:

1. Submit an application for admission to the M.A.in Deaconess Studies degree program to the Admission Office.
2. Applicants should arrange to have official transcripts sent to the Admission Office by the registrar of the college/university/seminary they have attended.
3. Include a letter from their pastor as one of the three letters of recommendation submitted prior to admission.
4. 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. Applicants will be required to sign a waiver release.
5. 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.

Degree and Residence Requirements

Students must successfully complete 72 quarter hours of course work with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 on a 4.0 scale. At least 32 of the 72 quarter hours must be completed in residence during on-campus intensives.

M.A.in Deaconess Studies (Distance) Course Requirements 72 Hour Program

Exegetical Theology

EXT 110	Gospels I	4
EXT 112D	Gospels II: Pastoral and Missional Theology in Luke and Acts	4
EXT 212	Pauline Epistles	4
EXT 215D	The Books of Moses: The Beginning and the New Beginning	3
EXT 411I	Psalms	3

Historical Theology

HIT 126	History of the Deaconess Vocation in the Early Church	3
HIT 221D	History: The Church in Missiological Perspective	3
HIT 222	Diakonia and the Church in the Modern Era	3

Systematic Theology

SYT 143D	Lutheran Confessions: Introduction and Overview	3
SYT 243D	The Lutheran Confessions in Today’s World	3
SYT 290	Theology of Mercy	3
SYT 443	Theologia: The Means of Grace	3

Deaconess Courses

PMM 133	Heaven on Earth: The Worship of Lutherans Today	3
PMM 134A	Into All the World with Confession and Care I	1.5
PMM 134B	Into All the World with Confession and Care II	1.5
PMM 235	Diakonal Counseling	3
PMM 233D	Catechetics	3
PMM 301	Deaconess Internship	3
PMM 307	Deaconess Formation Forum	3
PMM 432	Theological Ethics	3
PMMP568A	Ministry to the Sick and Dying	1.5
PMMP568B	Ministry to the Sick and Dying	1.5
PMM 155D	Deaconess Practicum I (1st Fall)	2.5
PMM 155D	Deaconess Practicum I (1st Spring)	2
PMM 255D	Deaconess Practicum II (2nd Fall)	2.5
PMM 255D	Deaconess Practicum II (2nd Spring)	2

Total for Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies (Distance) 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, with an additional week of intensives scheduled at the time of graduation. The on-campus intensives will cover 35 of the 72 quarter hours.

Deaconess Field Practicum and Internship

Students in the M.A. Diaconess Studies (Distance) Program will engage as a deaconess intern in a practicum concurrent with seminary studies. Students will have the opportunity to develop their diakonal skills through online instruction and discussion of their field experiences with one another through participation in online practicum coursework led by a deaconess instructor.

Ordinarily, the practicum will take place within the congregation or social ministry where the student has been employed or volunteering. Each student's pastor or supervisor will be asked to mentor and assess the student's diakonal formation. In addition to the entrance interview, the student's mentor will perform a bi-annual evaluation of the student's progress in meeting the program student learning outcomes. Provided that these reports are satisfactory, the student will receive credit for deaconess internship of 3 quarter hours upon completion of their course of study. Failure to obtain a passing grade for Practicum shall result in dismissal of the student from the Seminary.

In those circumstances when a deaconess 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. A dismissed intern or student has a right of appeal as 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 understanding. This interview serves as an evaluation for certification by the faculty for service as a deaconess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Certification and Placement

Deaconess certification is granted by the faculty to LCMS member students who fulfill program requirements for the Master of Arts in Diaconess Studies and who display dedication and readiness for service as a deaconess. Ordinarily, having received her M.A. in Diaconess Studies and certification as a deaconess, the distance route student will receive her call and placement as an LCMS deaconess in the position in which she has been working.

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 Diaconess Formation or associate director of Diaconess Formation.

Deaconess students who wish to withdraw from the Seminary are requested to consult with the director of Diaconess Formation or associate director of Diaconess Formation 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.

Completion Requirement

Requirements for the M.A. in Diaconess Studies Program must be completed within 10 years of the student's admission into the program.

Advanced Standing and Transfer Credit

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 advance standing and/or transfer credit must still take the equivalent of at least one full-time academic year (32 credit hours) of work through on-campus courses.

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:

1. 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
2. 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 advance 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.