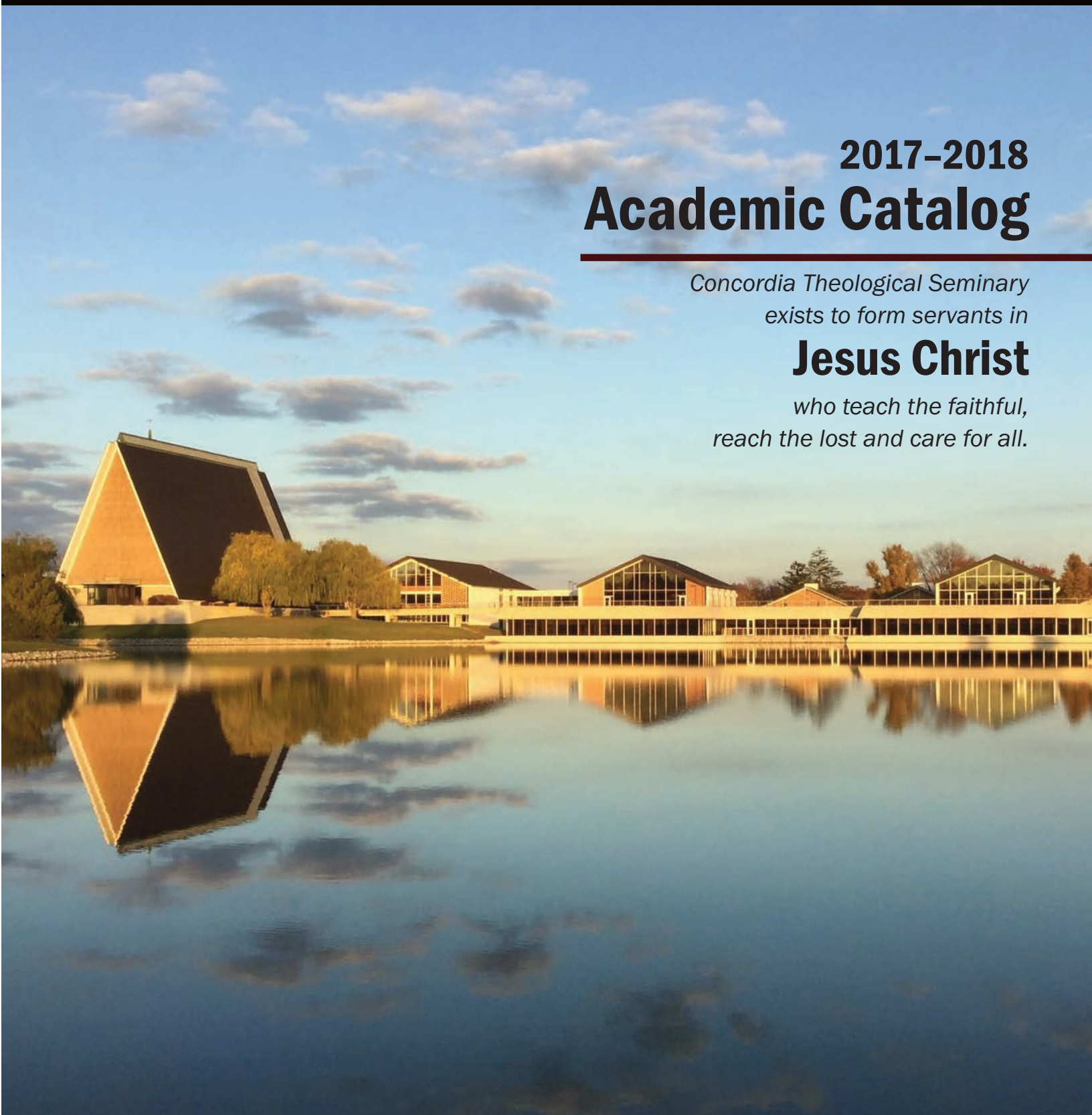


2017-2018 Academic Catalog

*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 Diaconess Studies (Residential)

Purpose

The Master of Arts in Diaconess Studies (Residential) prepares women for service to the church in the vocation of diaconess through a curriculum that includes rich theological education and formative practical experiences. Students who fulfill successfully the requirements of the M.A. in Diaconess Studies (Residential) may pursue Diaconess Certification in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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.

Exception to These 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 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 below.

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 Masters 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 (Residential) 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 Requirements

Students must successfully complete 72 quarter hours of course work with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale.

M.A. in Diaconess Studies (Residential) Course Requirements 72 Hour Program

Exegetical Theology

EXT 110	Gospels I	4
EXT 111	Gospels II	4
EXT 210	Pentateuch I	3
EXT 212	Pauline Epistles	4
EXT 411	Psalms	3

Historical Theology

HIT 120	Church History I	3
HIT 122	Church History III	3
HIT 125	History of the Office of Diaconess	3
HIT 220	Church History IV	3

Systematic Theology

SSYT 141	Lutheran Confessions I	2
SYT 241	Lutheran Confessions II	2
SYT 296	Theology of Mercy and Diaconal Care I	3
SYT 297	Theology of Mercy and Diaconal Care II	3
SYT 441	Lutheran Confessions III	2
SYT 443	Theologia: The Means of Grace	3

Diaconess Courses

PMM 130	Liturgics I	3
PMM 132	Confessing Christ in Today's World	3
PMM 233	Catechetics	3
PMM 235I	Diaconal Counseling	3
PMM 301	Diaconess Internship	3
PMM 307	Diaconal Formation Forum	3
PMM 308	Diaconal Seminar	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 151	Diaconess Field Education I	0
PMM 251	Diaconess Field Education II	0

RES 100	Bibliography & Technology	0
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<i>Total for Master of Arts in Diaconess Studies (Residential)</i>		<i>72</i>
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Diaconess Field Education

Diaconess students engage in field education concurrent to Seminary studies. Under the supervision of a pastor, students participate in the life of an assigned local congregation, leading women's Bible studies, teaching children and youth, visiting the sick and homebound, and/or engaging in congregational outreach. In addition they may take part in addressing the physical and spiritual needs of community neighbors through immigrant assistance, jail ministries, food banks, family shelters, residential care, literacy and sanctity of life organizations. Students gather weekly for classroom instruction and group discussion.

Deaconess Internship

Following completion of course work, deaconess students are assigned to a congregation, institution or the mission field in a deaconess internship position for a period of one year. This opportunity for application of studies and skills is overseen by the supervising pastor and the director of Deaconess Formation. Evaluations and periodic reviews provide guidance in the diakonal formation and professional development. Termination of an internship by the Seminary, or abandonment of an internship by an intern, shall result in dismissal of the intern from the Seminary. A dismissed intern has a right of appeal as specified in this catalog or in the Seminary's *Student Handbook*.

Theological 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.

Deaconess Certification and Placement Requirements

In addition to the academic requirements listed, students must successfully complete two years of field education for the 72 credit hour program, a deaconess internship, the Theological Interview and the post-internship Deaconess Formation Forum. Deaconess certification is granted by the faculty to LCMS students who fulfill these requirements and display dedication and readiness for service as a deaconess. Upon endorsement by the faculty, students are placed into their call by the Council of Presidents as the Synodical Board of Placement.

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 Formation or associate director of Deaconess Formation.

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

