

Doctor of Philosophy in Missiology (Ph.D. Miss.)

Introduction

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. Miss.) in Missiology is the highest academic degree in the theory and practice of missions. The Ph.D. Miss. Program integrates biblical-confessional theology with a study of the social contexts in which theological reflection and Christian witness take place. Missiology, as a discipline, is rooted in theology, which forms the foundational understanding of the message and meaning of the Gospel. It also includes research and reflection on the various languages, world religious belief systems, cultures and customs so that the Gospel may be faithfully communicated in all of its truth and power.

Purpose

The Ph.D. Miss. Program is a research degree program that is designed to prepare students for mission leadership in academia or the field. It is appropriate for candidates who have significant mission and ministry experience and who have a demonstrated ability to conduct and reflect critically upon research, writing and the practice of missiology.

Vision

The vision for the Ph.D. Miss. Program at Concordia Theological Seminary focuses on providing instruction and an environment that result in observable student mastery of the missiological aptitudes of informed investigation, clear articulation of ideas and research findings, and the ability to integrate missiological theory and practice for the purpose of applying theological truth to the various contexts of today's world.

Student Learning Outcomes

By completing the requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. Miss.) in Missiology Degree Program, students will be able to:

1. Understand the missiological nature of the Christian faith, the missionary character of the Church and the individual believer's place in the mission of God.
2. Articulate a coherent missiological perspective that is informed by the Scriptures and the confessional heritage of the Lutheran Church.
3. Address a missiological subject from a multidisciplinary perspective.
4. Analyze and discern specific missiological problems and formulate answers through independent research and reflection.
5. Contribute to missiology a pioneering missiological issue through effective academic writing that is based on a thorough study, conducted either through field and/or library research.
6. Articulate distinctive characteristics of a non-Christian religion and formulate a Christian response.
7. Be competent to teach others through various methodologies.

The Ph.D. in Missiology Degree Program is suitable for theological educators, mission executives, field missionaries, church planters, pastors and international church leaders from around the world who are in other ways active in the ministry of missions.

Admission Requirements

1. Entry into this degree program requires the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited seminary, with a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. Those without a degree but with substantial missiological training and experience may be admitted at the discretion of the Graduate Studies Committee.
2. Applicants should have at least three years of full-time experience in cross-cultural ministry or evangelism. The Graduate Studies Committee may determine exceptions.
3. Applicants should possess a working knowledge of a field language in which they will do ministry and research.
4. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to demonstrate a working ability in the English language by means of an acceptable TOEFL score or by means of some other standard English examination.

Admission Procedures

All prospective Ph.D. Miss. students should contact the Office of Graduate Studies for the required application materials. The application will require the following:

1. A completed Ph.D. Miss. application form, including a \$35 non-refundable application fee.
2. Official transcripts of all previous academic and professional training beyond high school.
3. Five letters of recommendation from persons able to evaluate the applicant's scholarly ability, professional competence and personal character. Please use the forms provided with the application.
4. A personal interview with the Director of the Ph.D. Miss. Program or another member of the Ph.D. faculty will usually be required. In certain circumstances it may be waived at the discretion of the Director.

Degree Requirements

1. Students will successfully complete a minimum of 60 quarter hours with a cumulative GPA of no less than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Individual courses will be regarded as successfully completed only when a grade of B- or better is received. The 60 hours will have the following structure:

<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>Quarter Hours</u>
Core required courses	30 hours
Core electives	9 hours
Concentration electives	9 hours
Comprehensive Examination	3 hours
Dissertation.....	9 hours

2. Students may attend full or part-time. Attending full-time in residence while completing course work is preferred. However, students, such as those who are full-time church workers, may also be allowed to complete course work by taking intensives. All students must submit a plan for program completion to the Director of the program for approval during their first quarter of studies.

3. Students must successfully complete the four-part preliminary (competency) examination. This examination may be taken after the completion of 21 core credits in the subject areas of the Study of the Word and the Study of the World.
4. Students will choose an area of concentration from one of the following:
 - a. Missionary Communication: Urban, Suburban, Rural
 - b. Evangelism, Church Planting and Growth
 - c. Islam
 - d. Leadership Formation and Management for Missions
 - e. Confessional Theology for the Church in Mission
5. Students must successfully complete the written and oral comprehensive (qualifying) examination after the completion of at least 45 quarter hours, including the entire 39 quarter hours of the core curriculum. At the discretion of the Director of the Ph.D. Miss. Program and the Dean of Graduate Studies students may be given a second opportunity to take the qualifying exams or any part of them.

DMS 990 PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION 3 credits

The Comprehensive (Qualifying) Examination in the Doctor of Philosophy in Missiology Program at Concordia Theological Seminary is designed and administered for the purpose of nurturing within her students the highest integrity in missiological theory and practice. Specifically, the purpose of the Comprehensive Examination is to assess student achievement of an integrational mastery of missiological theory and practice sufficient for candidacy in the Doctor of Philosophy in Missiology Program. The Comprehensive Examination in missiological theory and practice is carried out under the Ph.D. Miss. Program objectives and is concerned with assessing student mastery of the missiological aptitudes of: informed investigation, clear articulation, faithful re-formation and holistic integration through the use of both the written and oral portions of the examination. Three credit hours are given for the examination, billed at the regular tuition rate.

6. A dissertation proposal concerning a specific missiological problem or challenge must be submitted to a Ph.D. Dissertation Committee through the program director for approval.
7. Students must complete and successfully defend a doctoral dissertation which demonstrates the following competencies:
 - a. Ability to engage in independent missiological research;
 - b. Ability to critically analyze evidence, whether textual or contextual, relevant to the student's dissertation topic;
 - c. Ability to formulate a meaningful and coherent missiological response to the problem or challenge described in the dissertation;
 - d. Ability to communicate clearly and accurately one's missiological research and conclusions.

DMS 998 PH.D. DISSERTATION

Nine credit hours are given for the dissertation, billed at the regular tuition rate. These hours will be registered after the dissertation proposal has been approved.

DMS 999 PH.D. DISSERTATION CONTINUATION

If students do not complete their dissertation within 12 months from the acceptance of the proposal, a continuation fee equivalent to three credits will be charged each year of extension. Continuation will not be assessed for years waived under item 8. below.

Note: The Graduation and Library Processing fees are assessed when the student registers for DMS 998.

8. Requirements for the Ph.D. Miss. degree should be completed within six years of the student's matriculation in the program. When calculating the six-year total, the Graduate Studies Committee, upon formal request, may waive the years of life and mission service in a field situation where scholarly activity is difficult.
9. If the requirements are not completed within this prescribed time, candidates may be reinstated with the approval of the Graduate Studies Committee for an additional two years if they earn six additional course hours at the 900 level. Any additional reinstatement will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must be submitted in writing to the Graduate Studies Committee for approval.

All requirements for the Ph.D. Miss. degree **MUST** be completed two weeks before the end of the Fall Quarter, Winter Quarter or Summer Session. During the Spring Quarter, all requirements for the Ph.D. Miss. degree **MUST** be completed on or before April 15 in order for the student to graduate or to be eligible to participate in the annual May Commencement.

Transfer Credits

Credits may be transferred into the Ph.D. Miss. Program with the approval of the Program Director. Requests must be submitted in writing to the Office of Graduate Studies. Concordia Theological Seminary adheres to the ATS guidelines regarding the number and type of credit hours that may be transferred in.

Financial Aid

All students will be eligible to apply for tuition assistance. Details are available through the Graduate Studies Office.

Teaching Opportunities

Developing communication and teaching skills is one of the key aspects of the Concordia Theological Seminary Ph.D. in Missiology Program. Teaching opportunities are provided regularly in the normal course activity for most classes. For additional information on these opportunities, please contact the Director of the Ph.D. Miss. Program.