

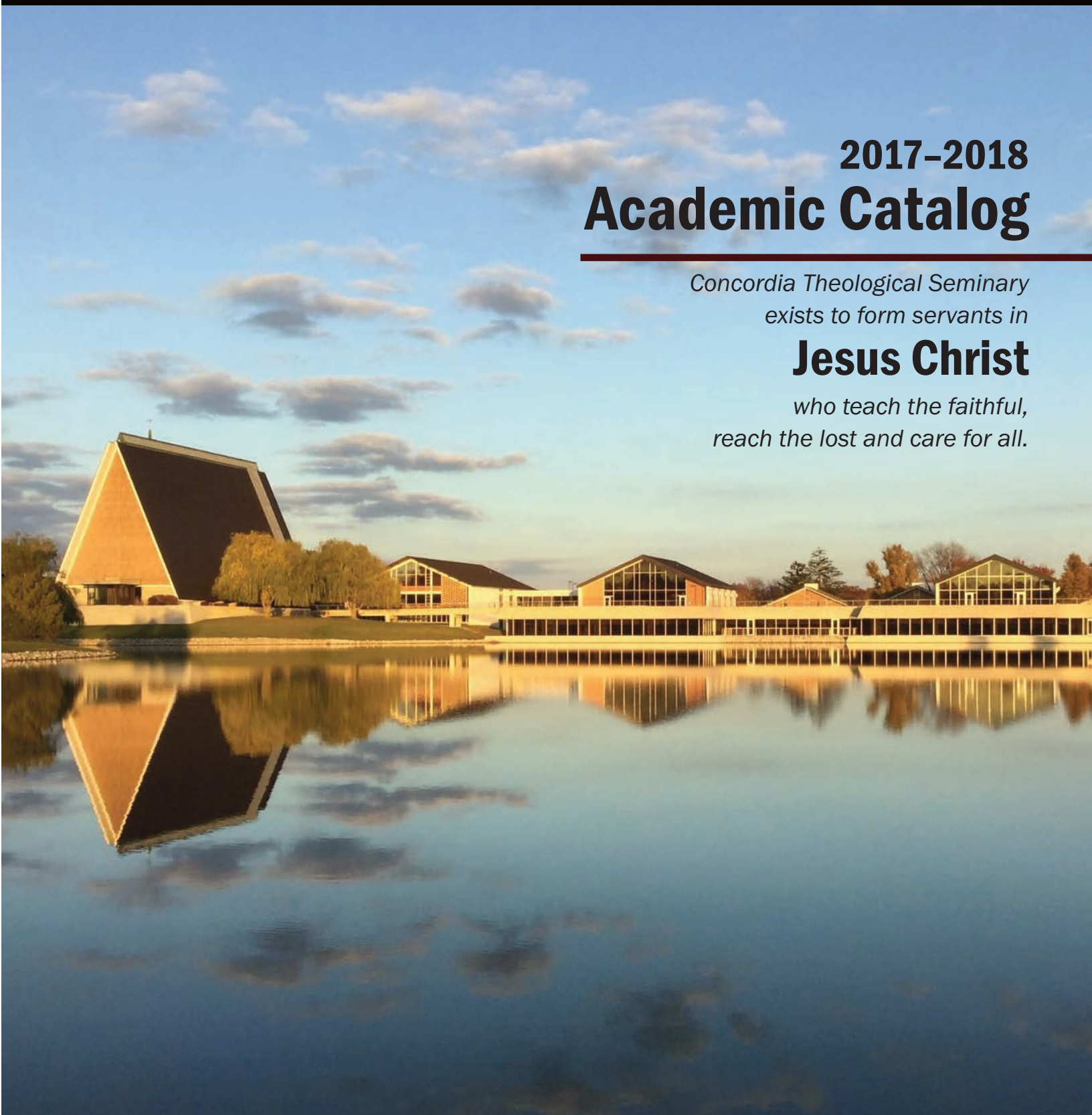
# 2017-2018 Academic Catalog

---

*Concordia Theological Seminary  
exists to form servants in*

**Jesus Christ**

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



## **Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.)**

### **Purpose**

The Master of Sacred Theology degree program provides the opportunity to acquire specialized knowledge in a chosen field of theological study and to gain and use the skills necessary for scholarly work and research in theology on an advanced level.

The S.T.M. degree program is suitable both for those who wish to advance their theological knowledge and understanding beyond the Master of Divinity degree and for those who wish to equip themselves for theological leadership in the Church.

### **The Student Learning Outcomes**

By completing the requirements of the S.T.M. degree program, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the nature and function of theology in a fuller and more effective manner than at the Master of Divinity level through the chosen field and focus of theological discipline.
2. Undertake independent theological research by formulating, developing and presenting an argument in a clear and convincing manner.
3. Use research languages that are appropriate to the chosen field of theological study—at least one of the biblical languages and one of the modern languages or Latin—to engage in scholarly research.
4. Write research articles that make scholarly contributions to the church.
5. Teach in ways that are Christ-centered, biblically-based, confessionally Lutheran and evangelically active.
6. Recognize that theological study concerns divine mysteries and demands a never-ending search for greater understanding and comprehension.
7. Pursue further graduate study at the doctoral level and/or to serve the church by teaching the faithful, reaching the lost and caring for all.

### **Admission Requirements**

Entry into this degree program requires the Master of Divinity degree or first graduate theological degree with a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale from an accredited seminary of the United States or an equivalent degree under a different educational system for those who are outside the United States.

### **Admission Procedures**

1. All prospective graduate students should write to the Office of Graduate Studies requesting an application form to begin the admission process. A \$35 non-refundable application fee should accompany the completed application form. Full-time graduate students on campus are subject to the same registration rules that apply to M.Div. students.
2. The applicant must submit official transcripts of all previous academic work beyond high school.
3. Three letters of recommendation are required from individuals who are able to evaluate the applicant's character, scholarly intent and ability.
4. Foreign applicants must also submit acceptable TOEFL scores to demonstrate their ability to work in the English language.

5. Since methods of recording grades and conferring degrees differ from country to country, foreign applicants must also submit details of their academic careers including official transcripts of academic work and copies of any degrees or diplomas held, together with some information about the institutions granting the degrees.

### **Degree Requirements**

1. Students must successfully complete a minimum of 27 quarter hours of course work 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.
2. Students will choose a major area from the following departments: Exegetical, Historical, Pastoral Ministry and Missions or Systematic.
  - a. Of the 27 quarter hours of course work, 18 hours shall be in the major field, and three hours in each of the three remaining areas.
  - b. Students who major in Exegetical, Systematic or Historical theology must take a minimum of 12 hours of course work in their major area at the 700 (S.T.M.) level. Of the remaining 15 hours, up to six hours may be on the 800 (D.Min.) or 900 (Ph.D.) level. D.Min. courses will be counted as Pastoral Ministry and Missions courses, while Ph.D. courses may be counted as one of the four departments' courses depending on the course content.
  - c. Students who major in the Pastoral Ministry and Missions Department must take a minimum of nine hours of course work in their major area at the 700 (S.T.M.) level. The student may enroll up to nine hours on the 800 (D.Min.) or 900 (Ph.D.) level.
  - d. Students who major in Exegetical theology may concentrate in either Old or New Testament. At least nine hours of course work are to be taken in the area of concentration. At least three hours of course work are to be from study of the other Testament.
  - e. Up to nine credit hours of course work may be transferred to a student's S.T.M. degree program. Courses taken more than four years prior to admittance to the program will be accepted at the discretion of the dean of Graduate Studies in consultation with the director of the S.T.M. Program.
  - f. A student's course requirements and the list of examinations to be taken are established for the duration of the program. Details regarding the completion of the examinations, the writing of the thesis and the fees due are determined by the catalog in effect when the student reaches each of those stages.
  - g. The S.T.M. manual is an official supplement to the catalog, and the requirements of the catalog are given further official specifications by the S.T.M. manual.
3. Students must write a thesis in their major field for six hours of S.T.M. credit.
4. Language requirements:
  - a. A reading knowledge of at least one biblical language is required of all S.T.M. students.
  - b. Students who major in Exegetical theology must demonstrate not only a reading but a working knowledge of the biblical language in the area of concentration.
  - c. Students majoring in Exegetical theology must pass the proficiency examination in Hebrew or Greek before enrolling in courses in the area of their biblical concentration.

- d. A reading knowledge of at least one modern foreign research language is also required of the regular (thesis option) S.T.M. students. The foreign language requirements assist students in their class work and in their thesis research. Students majoring in Systematic or Historical theology may substitute Latin for the modern foreign language if Latin is necessary for thesis work.
- e. Students may take no more than nine hours of course work before the foreign language and biblical language examinations are passed.
5. A written examination of three hours in length is required covering the student's major area. The exam shall be a comprehensive examination testing both the student's knowledge and interpretive skills. This examination tests the student both in the general area of the majoring department as well as in the more specific area of the student's planned thesis. The ratio of these two areas as well as the amount of books required to read are determined by the department chairmen who are authorized to write the exam. The student is advised to take this examination as soon as the thesis proposal is approved by the Committee on Graduate Studies. The exam must be completed at least three weeks before the end of the Fall Quarter, Winter Quarter or Summer Session and before the oral examination is taken. During the Spring Quarter, the exam must be completed before March 11. This exam must be passed at a performance level of at least B-. It may not be taken more than twice. A Directed Reading course (E796, H796, P796 or S796) may be taken to fulfill the written examination requirement.
6. Students must successfully pass an oral examination in the area of the thesis. This examination shall be conducted by the thesis advisor, the two thesis readers and the Director of the S.T.M. program who chairs the oral examination. The examination shall not exceed two hours.
7. Requirements for the S.T.M. degree must be completed within six years after the student's acceptance into the program. Students who do not complete the requirements within this prescribed time will be discontinued. The student who wishes to be reinstated may request this of the S.T.M. director. Reinstatement, if granted by the Committee on the Graduate Studies, is valid for two calendar years with a stipulation that the student earns six additional course hours at the 500 or 700 level. Ordinarily reinstatement may be made only once. Any additional reinstatement will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When the reinstatement is granted, a \$100 fee is charged per quarter including summer until the completion of the degree.
8. All requirements for the Master of Sacred Theology 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 Master of Sacred Theology degree MUST be completed on or before April 1 in order for the student to graduate or to be eligible to participate in the annual May Commencement.

Note: A Registration fee is assessed with all off-campus courses. The Graduation and Library processing fees are assessed when the student registers for RES 799.



**Thesis Requirements**

1. In keeping with the objectives of the S.T.M. degree, the thesis must demonstrate that the student has achieved the following:
  - a. Independent scholarly research with a penetrating analysis of key issues;
  - b. Ability to conduct scholarly research on the basis of modern language sources and tools;
  - c. Critical analysis and logical reasoning;
  - d. Ability to communicate clearly and accurately all scholarly findings;
  - e. In-depth interpretation of significant, relevant texts.
2. The thesis must be written in the student's major area of concentration. Six quarter hours of credit are granted for an accepted thesis. The style of the manuscript shall conform to latest edition (i.e. 8th, 2013) of Kate L. Turabian et al., *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Seventh Edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). The final bibliography may include only items cited within the thesis.
3. Thesis procedures:
  - a. Early in the program, students should begin planning for a thesis topic which must be in their major area. In this process students should consult with the chairman of the department in which they are majoring and with other faculty members whose interests and competence lie in the area of their research.
  - b. The student, in consultation with the chairman of the majoring department, selects a thesis advisor and one reader. This selection is to be approved by the director of the S.T.M. Program who will select a second reader.
  - c. Students, with their advisors formulate a thesis topic and develop a thesis proposal which is to include the following:
    - ◆ a working title for the thesis
    - ◆ a well-defined statement of the question to be researched
    - ◆ the present status of research
    - ◆ the goal of research
    - ◆ the method of research
    - ◆ a basic outline
    - ◆ an annotated bibliography of the 20 most relevant works
    - ◆ a time table toward completion
  - d. The department in which the student is majoring reviews and approves the thesis proposal. The director of the S.T.M. Program then reports the approval to the Committee on Graduate Studies. The student must have passed both the biblical and modern language requirements before asking the department through the director to approve the thesis proposal.
  - e. Upon completion of course work and the approval of the thesis proposal, students are qualified to register for RES 789, the first three thesis hours. They must register for RES 799 in the quarter immediately following, including summer. Grades for these two courses will be either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. Students will receive an Incomplete for their RES 799 until the thesis is approved and accepted.

**RES 787 S.T.M. THESIS WRITING**

This non-credit course consists of full-time S.T.M. work (research and writing). Registration for this course is reviewed on a quarter-by-quarter basis. A \$100 fee is charged per quarter.

**RES 789 S.T.M. THESIS HOURS**

**3 credits**

Students will be registered when they submit to the Committee on Graduate Studies their S.T.M. thesis proposal. The committee will withhold approval until this fee is paid.

**RES 799 S.T.M. THESIS HOURS**

**3 credits**

Students will be registered when they submit the final draft of their S.T.M. thesis. The director of the S.T.M. Program will not schedule an oral examination until this fee is paid.

- f. Students must submit a semi-final draft of the thesis that has a basic approval to the S.T.M. director, so that he in turn may distribute it to two readers for their basic approval. A minimum of two weeks must elapse between submission of this draft and the oral examination on the thesis. It is desirable that students periodically consult with their two readers and inform them of their progress in the research and writing of the thesis.
- g. Students are to apply for the oral examination on the thesis. This examination is conducted by the thesis advisor, the two readers and the director of the S.T.M. Program who chairs the oral examination. Students are not eligible to appear for their oral examination until the thesis has received approval by the advisor and the readers and the major written examination has been satisfactorily completed. Application for the oral examination must be made at least two weeks before the oral is to take place.
- h. Students are to deliver to the Office of Graduate Studies one final and corrected copy of the thesis, signed by the advisor and the two readers. This copy will be deposited in the library.

**Non-thesis Option Requirements**

This program requires the following procedures:

1. Students must petition the S.T.M. director for permission to enroll in the non-thesis option. This must be done when the student has completed nine hours of course work.
2. The non-thesis option requires a student to take an additional nine credit hours above the minimum of 27 credit hours of course work required in the thesis option. Of these 36 hours, at least 24 hours must be taken in the student's major and 12 hours must be spread over the three department areas outside of the student's major.
3. Students in the non-thesis option must take a minimum of 15 hours on the 700 (S.T.M.) level. A maximum of 12 hours from the 500 level, and a maximum of nine hours from the 800 (D.Min.) or 900 (Ph.D.) level may be taken.
4. Students in the non-thesis option must meet all of the other S.T.M. requirements except for the modern foreign research language requirement and a thesis.

**Sample Curriculum**

	<i>Qtr. 1</i>	<i>Qtr. 2</i>	<i>Qtr. 3</i>	<i>Qtr. 4</i>
<i>Regular STM (Thesis Option)</i>	Take 2 Classes (6 hours) ----- Pass Biblical Language Exam ----- Pass Modern Research Language Exam (3 hours possible)	Take 4 Classes (12 hours)	Take 1 or 2 Classes (3/6 hours) ----- Pass Major Comprehensive Exam with 796 <i>Directed Reading</i> (3 hours) ----- Register RES 789 (3 hours) to Write a Thesis Proposal	Register RES 799 (3 hours) to Write Semi-Final Draft, Pass Oral Examination and Submit the Final Draft -----
<i>Non-Thesis Option</i>	Take 3 Classes (9 hours) ----- Pass Biblical Language Exam	Take 3 Classes (9 hours)	Take 3 Classes (9 hours)	Take 2 Classes (6 hours) ----- Pass Major Comprehensive Exam with 796 <i>Directed Reading</i> (3 hours)