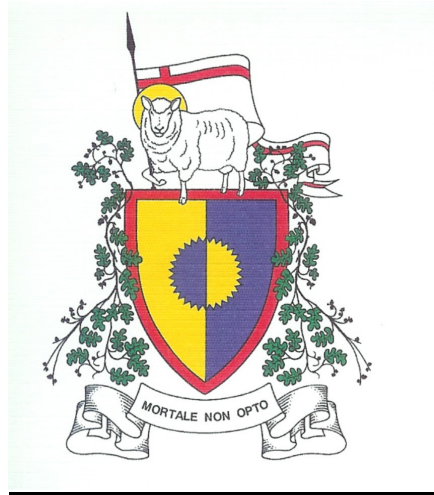


NCI University & Theological Seminary



Bachelor of Theology

DISTANCE LEARNING DEGREE PROGRAM

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As a global church we have come through some extraordinary times of change in every sphere of society in the last two millennia, but we are still called to the same mission with the same mandate –

"To Reach the Whole World with the Life Changing Power of the Resurrected Christ who Lives in Us through the Person of the Holy Spirit "

This means that as The Living Body of Christ, we need to be trained and equipped to utilize our head, our heart, and our hands in representing Him.

In other words, we must become "God With Skin On" to the world where we live!

NCIU seeks to train and equip men and women everywhere with relevant and culturally appropriate education to embrace these three areas.

Our specialty is the field of distance education through one-on-one mentored degree study programs to "polish the fine cutting edge" of those who see themselves as instruments in the hands of God.

"Learning without doing will hopefully increase your knowledge level - but learning that requires knowledge being applied, will translate into a vocational skill resource that can be more easily replicated again and again through faithful learners."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION and APPLICATION ENROLMENT FORMS

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Bachelor of Theology

BTh - Distance Learning Degree Program Outline

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY PURPOSE

The NCIU Bachelor of Theology distance-learning degree program purpose is to help students who are planning to invest their lives in church or mission vocations to achieve the desired level of knowledge through biblical and theological studies

This Bachelor of Theology degree program has been designed in response to the expressed needs of pastors, church workers, missionaries, intending missionaries, church planters, and church leadership associates wanting to equip themselves for the changing global environment of the 21st Century.

The Bachelor of Theology program requires the ability to use the principles of biblical interpretation to identify and evaluate basic elements of theological thought through systematic analysis of statements of truth, theologies, and doctrines of the Christian faith.

Graduates who earn a degree in Theology are capable of effective, culturally relevant ministry through academic study, ministerial training, and spiritual and professional formation.

The degree program exposes students to a wide range of new possibilities for church ministry and pastoral teaching, pastoral leadership and missiological endeavors. The strategic studies will empower them to meet the challenge of contextualizing the gospel in an increasingly urbanized, international, and highly "wired" techno-savvy global community.

In addition, this Bachelor's course will enable practitioners to pursue carefully focused coursework in areas such as church ministry, pastoral leadership or missiological study.

The course will culminate in a research-based writing project that draws upon the praxis objectives undertaken.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY OBJECTIVES

The program begins with a broad training in biblical studies and general theology so that students on completion of the Bachelor of Theology degree program should be able to:

- § Demonstrate a thorough general knowledge of the history, content and background of the Bible;
- § Demonstrate an ability to interpret the Bible using sound hermeneutical principles and Bible study tools;
- § Demonstrate an understanding of fundamentals of Christian doctrine and its relation to biblical study and contemporary lifestyle;
- § Demonstrate an understanding of the major sectors of Systematic Theology and its relation to contemporary lifestyle;

- § Demonstrate ability to complete exegesis of specified New Testament writings in original languages
- § Demonstrate competence to express a biblical world view;
- § Demonstrate competence in understanding of major world religions, cults, sects, and philosophies as well as their relationship to Christianity
- § Demonstrate understanding and practical competency in applied theology
- § Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of kingdom-focused living and incarnational servanthood to bring transformation to a given society
- § Develop a foundation on which graduate level studies and life-long learning can be pursued; and
- § Demonstrate growth in vital spiritual disciplines and devotional practices.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program provides a core foundation of biblical studies, theological understanding, and Near-Eastern languages (Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek) in Modules 1 & 2 of this program.

In Module 3 of the program, students get to delve more deeply into an agreed area of theological concentration and where practical, participate in an agreed field project to sharpen their functional skills under supervision.

All students will have the opportunity to complete three written papers which involves researching in the area of their concentration, integrating relevant coursework and research findings, reflecting on cross-cultural experience, and applying those findings to future service.

Students who have fulfilled equivalent courses to the prerequisite Modules 1 & 2 in their undergraduate degree studies at alternative approved institutions can be admitted to this program, but may be required to take specified elective units or complete challenge examinations to verify competency and secure exemption from retaking the same course or similar material.

Advice of this requirement will be provided in the NCIU Letter of Assessment & Offer supplied by the institution.

In the third module of the program, students get to delve more deeply into an agreed area of concentration and where practical, participate in an agreed field project to sharpen their functional skills under supervision.

All students will have the opportunity to complete three written papers which involves researching in the area of their concentration, integrating relevant coursework and research findings, reflecting on cross-cultural experience, and applying those findings to future service.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Applicants should normally hold a GED or High School Diploma, or approved alternative recognition in general education equivalents.
- 2) All students should hold either an Associate Degree award (60-70 semester credit hours) or equivalent academic credits by composite diplomas and/or RPL units from accredited or recognized institutions.

- 3) All students must complete the NCIU Degree Application Form, which requires the standard resume information concerning the student's academic history and background in ministry, as well as their goals and dreams for the future.

This information is vital to enable the faculty to build a picture of the student and their particular ministry focus, which of course is paramount to "customizing" the most suitable pathway to achieve the desired ministry objectives.

- 4) Provision is also made for mature students who do not have the prior academic qualifications can gain acceptance through "knowledge content" examinations, and/or alternative assessment based upon the validation of life-experience equivalency units.
- 5) Florida State legislation requires that all students enrolling in Arts Degree programs must complete or have earned 25% of the program in general education subjects. The required credit hours may be transferred into the program by RPL (Recognized Prior Learning) credit units from an approved institute or accredited program.
- 6) Alternatively, RPL credit units from other approved programs and/or validated life-experience equivalency may provide the student with the prerequisite Advanced Standing status.
- 7) Standard testamentary evidences including transcript documentation are required for verification of credit hours and admission as Advanced Standing status student. Full details of verification details are listed in the NCIU Degree Application Information forms.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY TRANSFER CREDITS & RPL UNITS

Students enrolling in the Bachelor of Theology degree level programs may be allowed to transfer up to 102 semester credit hours total (including RPL units by life-experience etc) under-graduate level courses in Biblical Studies, Missiology or Theology from an accredited or recognized institution into the program.

It is important to note that if students do not have earned semester credits in Biblical languages (Biblical Hebrew 3 credits, and N.T. Greek 3 credits) that they will be required to take additional 6 semester credits of course work to complete these requirements.

These credit courses will be an additional expense to the student beyond the standard tuition costs. Please note:

- (a) Transfer credit in the State of Florida is solely at the prerogative of the receiving institution (NCI University & Theological Seminary).
- (b) Transfer credit is based upon evaluation of official transcripts and other documentary evidences.

General distinction of "Biblical Studies and Biblical Theology options:

- ∅ Biblical Studies is normally the major direction we encourage for students who have not completed accredited courses in both Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek language studies up to intermediate level competency.
- ∅ Biblical Theology is the major we encourage for students who have already completed accredited courses in both Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek language studies up to intermediate level competency.

- ∅ The choice is normally resolved when the assessment is made and verification of academic transcripts and RPL credit units take place by NCI. Adjustments can be made when the student enrolls subsequently in a campus-based course to meet these criteria.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students enrolled in this program and wishing to graduate are required to

- Satisfactorily complete a total of 136 semester units as outlined in the curriculum.
- Complete at least 24 semester credit units taken at this institution.
- Obtain a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale with no grade below "C+" in all courses to be credited toward graduation.
- Complete the entire program with this institution within four years from commencement, unless special circumstances are approved in writing by the institution upon application.
- Successfully pass all written assignments for each study unit as detailed in the Unit Study Guide as supplied, and or complete any additional position papers assigned by the institution as replacement unit assignments.
- Comply with all academic demands for rectification: Students, who are placed on probation after the first 15 credits, are granted one semester in which to bring their academic work up to the required level for continuance in the program. A student cannot graduate while on probation.

Have all financial and academic requirements satisfied 30 days before desired graduation event and release of academic transcript documentation.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY CURRICULUM PATHWAY

The Bachelor of Theology program requires the successful completion of 136 semester credit hours learning in total. The total credit hours will also include any transferred credits by RPL or other approved institutional credit allowances.

The four modules in the curriculum, consists of study modules that have been designed to engage, increase and assess the student's capacities in affective, cognitive and psychomotor domains.

NCI have found through their experience, based on evaluation of academic requirements by church and mission practitioners, that these four components form the essential structure required to give a student a balanced foundation and functional framework to develop and render their best service in the Kingdom of God.

- Module One: Foundational Studies in Biblical Studies – 25% of required credit balance
- Module Two: Core Competencies in Theology - 25% of required credit balance,
- Module Three: Theological Concentration & Electives (Systematic Theology, Church History, Christian Ministry and Missiology) - 25% of required credit balance - 25% of required credit balance
- Module Four: Three written papers each of 5000 words on agreed subjects (9 credits) plus Specified reading and Guided research (3 credits) or pro-rated for balance requirements of 25% of required credits.

Advanced Standing status students can usually complete this degree in two years of full-time study, or they can pace the program over a longer period of part-time study depending upon their vocational and family demands.

There is a real measure of flexibility within the program to accommodate most vocational ministries, and NCIU will make a recommendation accordingly in their Letter of Assessment & Offer. However, NCIU also recognize that every student has individual factors that must be taken into account relative to their personal situation, and where necessary, the choice may be resolved with the Adjunct Tutor/Professor assigned as mentor to the student.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY MODULE GRADING & ASSESSMENT

Methods of Assessment

Assessment methods of Unit Assignments are shown in the individual unit guides. The accepted methods of assessment generally employed by NCIU are:

- Essays
- Examination papers
- Structured practical assessments
- Feasibility studies
- Report on projects
- Dissertation

All NCIU Unit Study Guides come complete with Written Assignment questions for the student.

In some cases, a practical project of applied theology is required due to the nature of the textual study text and special allowances are made to incorporate these into the overall grading and evaluation undertaken.

Grading Allocation

Full details of the NCIU Standardized Grading Allocation policy are detailed in the Student Handbook.

The Grading Allocation List shows the grade point percentages that can be allocated by the grader for each of the specific categories NCIU considers important in making adequate assessment of the submitted work.

Students, who fail to attain the minimum passing grade, will be asked to resubmit either the entire course, or the portion of the course needing remedy.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY DISTANCE LEARNING

This program like all of the religious vocational degree programs offered by NCI University & Theological Seminary is designed to be completed totally by Distance Learning.

Distance learning with NCIU includes correspondence courses, online courses, directed textual study courses, supervised practical field projects (under supervision of a recognized proctor) guided research and reading plus the writing project.

In some special study units, students may be required to attend a campus-based program for partial studies at a recognized and/or approved institution, with a credits earned becoming part of the total NCIU program.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY TIME LIMITS

In order to ensure that a degree, when granted, represents education that is current and reasonably focused (not acquired a little at a time over an unreasonably long period), all credit applied to the degree must be earned within a certain period of time.

- For the Bachelor of Theology degree at NCI University & Theological Seminary, this period has been set at four years, without formal written extension.
- This does not include credit earned elsewhere and applied to the degree, as transfer (RPL units) credits.
- The time limit for the writing (research papers) project is six- nine months.
- Written extension is normally granted when there are extenuating circumstances such as prolonged illness, family death, ministry disruption or financial disaster. The program does require concentrated discipline and application.
- If a student drops out or discontinues without written notification and agreement, they will be subject to an assessment revision for readmission, with subsequent increase in fees based on fee structure at that time, not original enrolment date.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY CONCLUSION

The proven design features incorporated into this curriculum should allow students to continue their present ministry functions while pursuing this distance learning degree program without major disruption to their vocation.

As a distance learning program the Bachelor of Theology degree study pathway can be completed entirely at the domicile location of the student. All studies and interaction with the mentor can be conducted through electronic means and email connections. Where necessary, the student can view special ministry class sessions via internet facilities or other electronic media.

When the candidate has made the decision to proceed further, it is recommended that a Degree Program Application and Enrolment form be completed and submitted to NCI University & Theological Seminary for evaluation.

When the evaluation and assessment process is completed, NCI University & Theological Seminary will supply the candidate with a formal Letter of Assessment & Offer detailing the institution's reply and recommended pathway to attain the Bachelor of Theology award.

Usually at this point, the candidate will wish to dialog with the faculty as to the nomination of specified text modules and off-campus tutorials that have been incorporated into the study pathway. NCI University & Theological Seminary seeks to exercise wisdom by being spiritually, culturally and politically sensitive in such matters.

The candidate is then asked to review the Letter of Assessment & Offer, and if agreeable, give written acceptance of the offer with their first installment payment for tuition. Tuition payment plans are provided in the Letter of Assessment & Offer.

We welcome your inquiry into this exciting opportunity to enlarge your leadership capacity and further develop your unique potential as an able student of the Word of God who is committed to service in the Master's Kingdom.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION and APPLICATION ENROLMENT FORMS

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