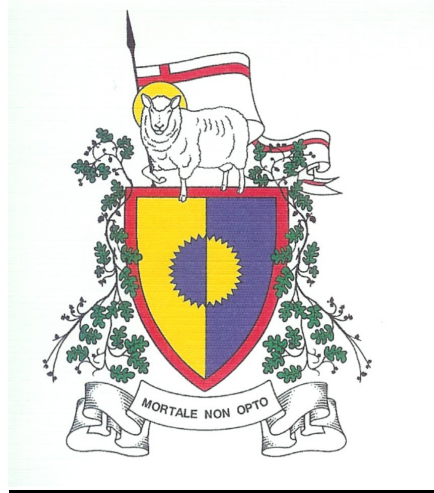


# NCI University & Theological Seminary



## Master of Arts in Bible & 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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# MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLE & THEOLOGY

## M.A. (Bib & Theol) Distance Learning Degree Program

Christian believers everywhere in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century are faced with a rapidly changing world. Recent studies reveal the erosion of trust amongst people of all ethnicities, both secular market-place leaders, as well as those representing the religious and Christian institutions that seek to serve the global communities.

The neglect of personal character and spiritual formation in Christian leaders has become revealed as a pivotal obstruction that must be rectified before the world can be reached in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Effective Christian leadership today demands a deeper level of reflection and stronger commitment to excellence in the practice of biblical lifestyle, witness and ministry.

At NCI University & Theological Seminary we are committed to developing Christian believers who are both biblically and theologically sound, spiritually vital, personally healthy, culturally aware, and professionally competent.

Our goals in simple terms are to reach the head, heart and hands of those who seek to enroll as students, in order they might become more effective in their chosen vocation as laborers in the Master's vineyard.

### M.A. (Bible & Theology) PURPOSE

The distance-learning Master of Arts (Bible & Theology) degree, provided by NCI University & Theological Seminary has been designed to provide emphases in Biblical Understanding and Exegesis, Old and New Testament Studies, Systematic Theology, Philosophy of Religion & Ethics, Spiritual Formation and Biblical Ministry Development.

This program has been developed specifically for those believers whose calling to Christian service is to serve in positions of leadership for which the Master of Divinity or other professional degrees are not normally required.

The MA (Bible & Theology) degree program has been specifically designed to provide:

- An understanding of Scriptures for students anticipating Christian ministries that would include church administrators, parachurch organization leadership, counselors, bi-vocational leaders and ministries, "tent-making" occupations in other cultures, nonprofessional religious leaders in the local church and others.
- A biblical background for those who are preparing for teaching in non-theological fields.
- An academic background for those who find the Master of Arts degree ample for a teaching position either at home or in a foreign country.
- A program of study for missionaries who have only a brief furlough time in which to pursue formal study of the Scriptures.
- Sustainable skills in specific ministries further developing your abilities and spiritual gifts and strengthening your areas of weakness.

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Students in the program are expected to develop an advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of biblical ministry, to show enhanced competencies in biblical understanding, applied theology and Christian character development, as well as the integration of these dimensions into the theologically reflective practice of Christian service. They are also expected to gain new knowledge about the practice of ministry, and to demonstrate continued measurable growth in personal spiritual maturity.

Recognizing that NCI University & Theological Seminary are committed to providing courses and programs that embrace change and transformation in the “head, heart and hands” of the believer, it is expected that as a result of this program the student will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the application of God's written word to the development of an identifiable Christian worldview that is lived out in daily life and ministry service
- Have a growing personal knowledge in light of biblical study, resulting in an increasingly intimate knowledge of and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ
- Demonstrate a biblical worldview shaped by the Word of God and a sense of historical and prophetic location within the Christian church and the world around us
- Be able to research and interpret the meaning of a passage of scripture according to its context, taking into consideration the historical, cultural, and theological context
- Demonstrate ability to research either the Old Testament or the New Testament using exegetical commentaries and certain tools designed for those with limited knowledge of Greek and Hebrew.
- Be able to dialogue with those who are outside of a biblically centered faith confidently and effectively, applying the knowledge of biblical doctrine to refute errors
- Demonstrate ability to explain to others interpretative differences in the most widely used Bible translations and paraphrases
- Be able to provide a reasoned and informed perspective on critical issues related to the Bible, such as issues prominent in critical scholarship and especially those that attract media attention
- Demonstrate ability through involvement in mentoring relationships with others by showing them how to develop their intimate knowledge of and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ
- Be able to articulate a clear theology/philosophy of Christian educational ministry in comparison to secular humanism
- Have an understanding and appreciation for the teaching-learning process, utilizing a broad range of ministry methods and resources in Christian education ministry
- Be able to plan, administrate, and evaluate an effective Christian educational ministry program at a basic level

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students enrolled in the MA (Bible & Theology) distance-learning degree program provided by NCI University & Theological Seminary are required to earn an additional 48 semester credit hours beyond a recognized Bachelor degree level award.

The program requires the student sequentially follow the four module pathway as specified:

- Module 1 - General Education, and Biblical Studies track (12 credit hours)
- Module 2 – Biblical Studies and Theology track (12 credit hours)

- Module 3 - Personal Spiritual Formation and Ministry development track (12 credit hours)
- Module 4 – Ministry Praxis, Guided reading, Research and Dissertation track (12 credit hours)

Note:

Students who enroll with sufficient RPL (Recognized Prior Learning) semester credit hour units that have already been assessed and validated by NCI University & Theological Seminary as being equivalent credit hour units, may be granted exemption from the completion of Module 1.

Under Florida Statute this assessment of RPL units is granted solely at the prerogative of the institution.

Determination is made of allowable transferable credit units when the student completes the required academic personal data that is verified with official transcript documentation.

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) ENTRANCE 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 a Bachelor degree award (124-136 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 to gain acceptance through "knowledge content" examinations, and/or alternative assessment based upon the validation of life-experience equivalency units.
- 5) 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.

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) TRANSFER CREDITS & RPL UNITS

Students enrolling in the graduate degree level programs may be allowed to transfer up to 50% semester credit hours total (including RPL units and validated life-experience etc). All graduate level courses in Biblical Studies, Missiology or Theology from accredited or recognized institutions will be evaluated in the assessment process.

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.

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 alternate institute or accredited program.

Alternatively, RPL credit units from approved programs and/or validated life-experience equivalency may provide the student with the prerequisite Advanced Standing status.

General distinction of "Biblical Studies and Biblical Theology options:

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

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

- Satisfactorily complete a total of 48 semester units as outlined in the curriculum beyond the Bachelor award level.
- 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.

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) PROGRAM PATHWAY

Students in the MA (Bible & Theology) distance-learning degree program will be required to do all their courses work in a prescribed sequence.

This curriculum consists of four modules as stipulated.

Modules 1, 2 & 3 - each has three component units (A,B,C) that target the head, heart, and hands:

- Unit A (6 credits): Students are required to complete two specified textual study units with written assignments based upon NCIU supplied study guides (2 x 3 credit hour units).
- Unit B (3 credits): Students are required to complete the Guided research and specified reading assignments of three (3) nominated texts which must be completed prior to completing the third study unit in the module. Students will normally read 900-1200 pages for 1 x 3 credit hour unit.
- Unit C (3 credits): A two-week intensive short course, or seminar of classroom interaction, including faculty presentation and peer discussion; or a course project which applies the reading and class work to the ministry setting. Generally the project is 20-30 pages for 3 credit hour units.

Note:

In some locations students may not be able to attend a recognized seminar or special classroom interaction program due to a variety of factors.

Where this is the case, and dialog has taken place between the student and adjunct professor, NCI University & Theological Seminary may give consent for a variation to the above being agreed to in writing. However, each case must be evaluated upon its own merits.

### MODULE 1 General Education & Biblical Studies (12 credit hours)

MA (Bible & Theology) studies within the General Education and Biblical Studies track seeks to accomplish those foundational objectives as stated in the "Program Objectives" above, while offering the student a variety of ministry study options and the flexibility to focus his or her learning in the most helpful way.

The student will be directed into the appropriate general education study units if necessary to meet prerequisites for admission to this program.

The student will also be directed to complete such specified reading and research units as necessary to formulate essential biblical studies, enhance theological understanding, and to create a framework for personal spiritual formation and ministry service development in format that can be passed on to others through the disciple-making process.

NCI University & Theological Seminary seeks to customize the specified textual study units in accordance with the personal objectives of the student, as detailed in their application.

## MODULE 2

### Biblical Studies and Theology (12 credit hours)

MA (Bible & Theology) studies within the Biblical Studies and Theology track seeks to accomplish those foundational objectives as stated in the "Program Objectives "above, while offering the student a variety of study options and the flexibility to focus his or her learning in the most helpful way.

The module will facilitate the student's understanding and knowledge through development of skills for sound biblical exegesis, the use of tools and methods for biblical research, and the building of a biblical worldview.

The student will also gain understanding of the major world religions, cults and sects.

In addition, the student will be encouraged to develop a balanced overview of the theology and philosophy of Christian education, and its role in building society, as well as understanding and developing skills in administration and functions of Christian organizations and education.

NCI University & Theological Seminary seeks to customize the specified textual study units in accordance with the personal objectives of the student, as detailed in their application so that the maximum benefit is gained from the program.

## MODULE 3

### PERSONAL SPIRITUAL FORMATION & MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT (12 credit hours)

Our lives have been described as a puzzle, and all the pieces are required to fit together to make a whole. When we combine our spiritual gifts, personality, passions, and experiences we will discover a picture which shows us how we can best serve the Lord with maximum effectiveness.

However, this personalized ministry profile cannot function fully without the development of intimate spirituality.

This module is designed to have the student

- Complete an analysis and inventory of these component attributes
- Introduce the student to the pursuit of an intimate walk with God that transcends all other earthly relationships
- Learn through the designated studies how to extend that relationship to significant others in their life and ministry sphere
- Become an incarnational message
- Learn essential leadership principles, skills and attributes
- Develop and apply the principles of mentoring and disciple-making

The faculty will direct the student in their guided reading units to

- Find the missing ingredients of their spirituality – "being rather than just doing"
- Focus on making these ingredients a permanent feature of their life and ministry development
- Enrich and deepen their personal spiritual formation building intimacy with God
- Create a journal and track their spiritual formation through the journal process

NCI University & Theological Seminary seeks to customize the specified textual study units in accordance with the personal objectives of the student, as detailed in their application so that the maximum benefit is gained from the program.

## MODULE 4 MINISTRY PRAXIS, READING, RESEARCH & DISSERTATION (12 credit hours)

The fourth and final component of the MA (Bible & Theology) degree program is the ministry intervention praxis (practical field project), accompanied by specific guided reading, research and a dissertation on the praxis.

The MA (Bible & Theology) praxis and dissertation normally requires six months of advanced preparation and another three - five months following approval to complete the module project.

Students at NCI University & Theological Seminary have carried out a wide range of ministry praxes, including

- training church members to provide pastoral care for those needing social care
- early-child care and education development programs involving children with disabilities
- training and development programs for those needing spiritual healing and wholeness
- creating structures for the disciple-making of new converts and church members
- the development of church planting programs that target specified cultural and or ethnic groups amongst others.

Students are encouraged to begin to explore ideas and to consult with their adjunct-tutor/mentor about ideas for ministry praxis and research early in their program.

Obviously in choosing their ministry praxis, students would be wise to recognize their own particular gifting and skills abilities, as well as the needs of the target group to whom they will minister.

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) 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 may involve:

- 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.

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) DISTANCE LEARNING

This degree program like all of the religious vocational degree award 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 specified reading plus the writing projects.

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 being part of the total NCIU program.

## M.A. (Bible & 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 specified period of time.

- For the Master of Arts (Bible & Theology) degree at NCI University & Theological Seminary, this period has been set at four years, without formal written extension.
- This period does not include credit earned elsewhere and applied to the degree, as transfer (RPL units) credits.
- The time limit for the written papers (research and guided reading) projects 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.

## M.A. (Bible & Theology) CONCLUSION

The proven design features incorporated into this M.A. (Bible & Theology) degree 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 degree program, the MA (Bible & 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 Application and Enrolment Application 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 Master of Arts (Bible & 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 potential.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION and APPLICATION ENROLMENT FORMS**

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Or go direct to our website and download the Degree Application Form

[www.newcovenant.edu](http://www.newcovenant.edu)

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