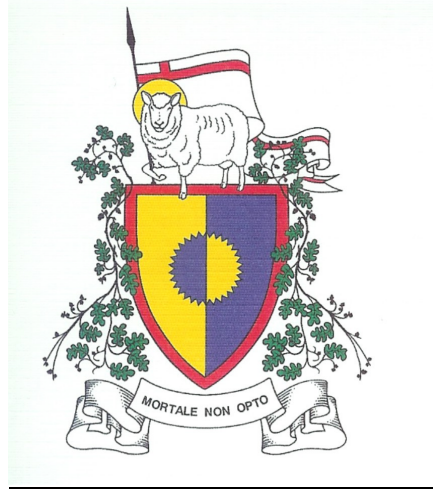


NCI University & Theological Seminary



Master of Divinity

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 Divinity

M. Div Distance-Learning Degree

The Master of Divinity degree is one of the well-known academic awards for those seeking a professional degree in theological education. It is offered by NCI University & Theological Seminary as a graduate theological degree for those who seek to serve as the pastors, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and other leaders of the church of Jesus Christ.

Christian leaders in the 21st Century are faced with a rapidly changing world, and recent studies reveal the erosion of trust amongst both secular market-place leaders, as well as those representing the religious and Christian institutions that seek to serve our 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 Christian ministry.

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

MASTER OF DIVINITY PURPOSE

The Master of Divinity program of NCI University & Theological Seminary is designed to provide a strong foundation in Biblical Studies and Theological understanding. It will also strengthen and undergird the practice of biblical Christian ministry in the areas of church planting and missions for those currently engaged in positions of ministerial or missions leadership.

It is a requirement for admission to this program that a candidate preferably holds a recognized undergraduate award in Biblical Studies, Divinity, Theology, Missions or other related subjects.

The course of study will broaden the historical perspective, deepen the theological reflection, and develop the professional skill of both pastoral and mission leaders to a high degree of competence and excellence, at the same time it will prepare them to take major roles in leadership development and strategic expansion of the Kingdom in their chosen sphere of service.

Students in the program are expected to develop an advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of ministry, to show enhanced competencies in pastoral analysis and ministerial skills, as well as the integration of these dimensions into the theologically reflective practice of ministry. They are also expected to gain new knowledge about the practice of ministry, and to demonstrate continued measurable growth in personal spiritual maturity.

The program is designed for students with academic ability that gives promise of excellence in ministry. The design structure allows students to continue their present ministry functions while pursuing this distance-learning Master of Divinity degree program without major disruption to their current vocational pursuit.

MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Master of Divinity (M Div) is a professional degree designed for men and women who have a Bachelor's degree and are serving on a church staff or in other ministry positions. Students develop competencies in Bible, church history, doctrine, spiritual formation, as well as servant leadership skills required for local church ministry.

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.

The curriculum may be completed in three years of full-time studies, although many distance-learning students take longer due to family, church, and job responsibilities.

- Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of the nature and content of the Bible, a working methodology for biblical study and interpretation, and a clear formulation and personal integration of the student's own understanding of the message of the Bible.
- Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of the central doctrines of Christianity and of the historical models that have been used to articulate and apply them. Students will be able to formulate theological and ethical concepts in light of the written Word of God and to apply these concepts in contemporary life situations.
- Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of Christian ministry service founded on biblical mandates, informed by Christian history and be relevant to contemporary circumstances.
- Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the process of spiritual formation and its personal application.
- Graduates will understand the redemptive mission of the Christ to this present world, applying balanced theological understanding through culturally relevant lifestyle.
- Graduates will demonstrate understanding of the purposes of the Kingdom of God to the contemporary church and their specific ministry context.
- Graduates will demonstrate appropriate competencies as ministry servant leaders.
- Graduates will demonstrate a commitment to a lifelong, intentional process of personal spiritual development and professional growth.

NCI University & Theological Seminary are providing this degree program as an essential tool to equip servant leaders for making disciples worldwide by developing in them an accurate knowledge of the Word of God, the skills necessary to communicate the Gospel effectively, and character worthy of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ for the leading of the church.

MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 72 semester credit hour distance-learning program provided by NCI University & Theological Seminary requires the student sequentially follow the six (6) module pathway as specified:

- Module 1 - General Studies track (12 credit hours)
- Module 2 - Biblical Studies track (12 credit hours)
- Module 3 - Theological Studies track (12 credit hours)
- Module 4 - Personal Spiritual Formation and Ministry Development track (12 credit hours)
- Module 5 - Leadership Development track (12 credit hours)
- Module 6 – Ministry Praxis, 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 Modules 1 & 2.

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.

MASTER OF DIVINITY 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 (120-136 semester credit hours) or equivalent academic credits by composite diplomas and/or RPL units from accredited or recognized institutions.
- 3) All students seeking to enroll in this program should have completed both Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek to intermediate stage, with supportive transcript evidence.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Standard testamentary evidences including transcript documentation are required for verification of all credit hours and admission as Advanced Standing status student. Full details of verification details are listed in the NCIU Degree Application Information forms.

MASTER OF DIVINITY TRANSFER CREDITS & RPL UNITS

Students enrolling in the graduate degree level programs may be allowed to transfer up to twenty-four (24) 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.

MASTER OF DIVINITY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

- Satisfactorily complete a total of 72 semester units as outlined in the curriculum beyond the Bachelor award level.
- Complete at least 36 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 five 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.

MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM PATHWAY

Students in the Master of Divinity distance-learning degree program will be required to do all their course works in a prescribed sequence.

This curriculum consists of six modules as stipulated.

Modules 1, 2, 3, 4 - each have three component units (A,B,C) that target the head, heart, and hands:

- Unit A: Specified textual study assignment based on designated text nominated by the institution, with written assignment (2 x 3 credit units).
- Unit B: Guided research and specified reading assignments of three nominated texts which must be completed prior to completing the third unit in the module. Students will normally read 900-1200 pages for 1 x 3 credit unit.
- Unit C: A short-term intensive 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 units.
- Students who have not completed both Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek to intermediate level, may be required to complete these units at external institutions, or take alternative study 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, NCIU & TS 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 STUDIES TRACK (12 credit hours)

The Master of Divinity program within the General Studies track seeks to accomplish those foundational objectives as stated 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 a specified reading and research program to formulate essential theological standards, and to create a framework of understanding in form of a study manual that can be passed on to others through the discipling 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 TRACK (12 credit hours)

The Master of Divinity program within the Biblical Studies track seeks to build upon those foundational objectives as stated above, and provides additional courses in Old & New Testament Survey, Church History, Biblical languages, Biblical archeology, and exegesis insights through study of the Gospels and Epistles.

The student will be directed into a specified reading and research program to formulate essential theological standards, and to create a framework of understanding in form of a study manual that can be passed on to others through the discipling 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 3 THEOLOGICAL STUDIES TRACK (12 credit hours)

The Master of Divinity program within the Theological Studies track seeks to build upon the Foundational and Biblical Studies modules, and provides additional courses in Biblical Theology, Pastoral Theology as well as Systematic and Applied Theology.

Courses are also offered in the Theology of Missions, Understanding World Religions, Cults and Sects.

Whereas Biblical theology examines the roles and relations of passages in the unfolding plan of salvation, Systematic theology approaches the themes of the Scriptures as a completed whole.

The old maxim is true that what you believe determines how you think, what you do, where you go, and who you become.

It is the reward or consequence of having developed a balanced theology that can be readily exported because it functions effectively in your own life.

MODULE 4

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

Our lives have been described as being like a puzzle. The pieces 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.

The module is designed to have the student

- Firstly, to complete an analysis and inventory of these component attributes.
- Secondly, the course is designed to introduce the student to the pursuit of an intimate walk with God that transcends all other earthly relationships.
- Thirdly, the student will learn through the designated studies how to extend that relationship to significant others in their life and ministry sphere
- Fourthly, to enable the student to become an incarnational message.

The faculty will direct the student in their guided reading units to find the missing ingredients of their spirituality, and to focus on making them a permanent feature of their life and ministry development.

The student will be required to create a journal and track their spiritual formation through the journal process, which shall be viewed by the adjunct professor.

MODULE 5

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRACK (12 credit hours)

Jesus is unarguably the greatest leader the world has ever seen. His three years of public ministry in an obscure and troublesome corner of the Roman Empire, not only irrevocably changed Roman civilization, but every other civilization that has emerged since then.

Yet Jesus Himself spoke very little about leadership directly, and even less about how to attain it.

Many of today's church leaders that are deemed "successful" base their philosophy of ministry leadership upon Moses, David, Nehemiah, and even Paul, or the early church fathers. All of these have much to teach us, and we need to carefully examine what fits, when, where and how.

It would seem however, in today's professional world of commercial conquest and blurred boundaries, that few actually base their leadership style on the public ministry of Jesus, the Servant King. Yet the world is crying out for a leadership that lives what it preaches and preaches what it lives.

This module requires the student to complete two textual study units, plus read a series of texts that will require the development of a field manual to be used in discipling and training others during a 12 week period with reporting of interpersonal relationships and progress.

MODULE 6

MINISTRY PRAXIS, RESEARCH PROJECT and DISSERTATION TRACK (12 credit hours)

The sixth and final component of the Master of Divinity degree program is ministry intervention praxis (practical field project) and a dissertation on the praxis.

The Master of Divinity praxis, Research project and Dissertation normally requires six months of advanced preparation and another three 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 discipling 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 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.

MASTER OF DIVINITY 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.

MASTER OF DIVINITY CONCLUSION

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

As a distance-learning degree program, the Master of Divinity 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 Divinity 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 www.newcovenant.edu and download the Degree Application Form. Select Menu Tab "Application Forms", and then

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