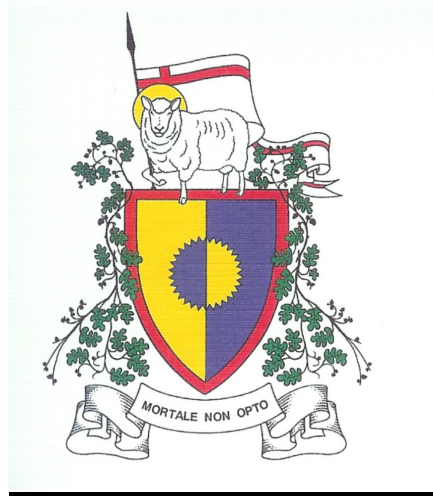


NCI University & Theological Seminary



Doctor 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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Doctor of Theology

Th.D - Distance-Learning Degree Program

Ministry leadership in the 21st Century presents tremendous challenges for even the most experienced leaders.

Leaders 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.

Effective 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.

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.

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM DESIGN

The program leading to the Doctor of Theology degree is designed for those who are capable of doing research at the highest level, and who plan to use their research in the teaching ministry of the church, missions and training organizations, and other parachurch or Kingdom-focused endeavors.

Christian-school administrators, church and pastoral ministry leaders, missionary trainers and equippers all have the opportunity to demonstrate a unique spiritual dimension of involvement in education not found in the public school and tertiary training domain. Their unique task is to teach the truth of the written Word of God. Their goal is to produce not only educated and informed minds but to bring societal transformation through changed lives centered upon God and His Word.

This degree program is primarily built around the capabilities of the student who can study and complete significant research as an independent person to achieve such a goal, and bring much needed transformation to society through the divinely given gifts required for effective education and training based upon the foundation of God's unchanging and irrevocable Word..

The Doctor of Theology distance-learning program offered by NCI University & Theological Seminary has four component modules as its core structure. It is designed to allow additional textual study units to be incorporated should a candidate be in need of specific areas of support to enable the completion of the research paper and dissertation.

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

This program has been designed to enable pastors, professional Christian educators, missionaries, and Christian ministry leaders, and others with appropriate theological qualifications who upon completion should be able to:

- Demonstrate a high level of understanding of the comprehensive nature and scope of Christian theology and the interrelatedness of various theological disciplines
- Acquire specialized and in-depth knowledge in a particular discipline of theological learning through guided research, and to demonstrate a high degree of informed, critical theological awareness in the chosen field of study
- Identify current theological concerns, trends and cultural issues within the global Christian and academic communities
- Demonstrate the ability for independent research and inquiry into contemporary theological questions and the application of appropriate methods and skills in research
- Demonstrate evidence of a growing mastery of relevant bibliographical resources required for research in a contemporary high-tech world
- Demonstrate the ability to articulate and communicate clearly the results of theological research through the preparation and presentation of a substantial and well ordered dissertation
- Demonstrate an understanding of theological study as an on-going quest for greater and deeper insight, understanding, and effective practice that results in transformed living

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Theology degree distance-learning program provided by NCI University & Theological Seminary requires the candidate to earn 48 semester credit hour points beyond a recognized graduate level degree award in either theology, divinity, or a related subject.

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

- Module 1 - General Studies, Language rectification courses (if needed) and Research Preparation track (12 credit hours)
- Module 2 – Development of Hypothesis for Dissertation with Specified reading and Guided research track (12 credit hours)
- Module 3 – Theological studies and Tutorial internship track (12 credit hours)
- Module 4 – Ministry Praxis 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 only from the completion of Module 1.

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Th.D. applicant must hold the M.Div. or M.A. degree or its academic equivalent from a recognized graduate school, and have a working knowledge of Biblical languages.

Applicants may be required to make up deficiencies in basic requirements. Applicants must have an academic record that shows promise of success in doctoral studies.

All candidates must show evidence of consistent Christian character, ability and acceptability in Christian ministry, and commitment to the primacy of the divinely authoritative, inerrant Written Word of God that are interpreted within the framework of Evangelical and Pentecostal theology.

When the candidate has made the decision to proceed further, it is recommended that a Distance-learning 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 Doctor 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 potential.

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY TRANSFER CREDITS & RPL UNITS

Students enrolling in the graduate degree level programs may be allowed to transfer up to 12 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.

The required credit hours for Advanced Standing status may be transferred into the program by RPL (Recognized Prior Learning) credit units from an approved alternate institute or accredited program.

DOCTOR OF 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 Master degree award level. This includes transfer credits allowed as Advanced Standing status.
- 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 "B-" 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.
- Complete dissertation and submit for review prior to entering final phase of submission development
- Have all financial and academic requirements satisfied 30 days before desired graduation event and release of academic transcript documentation.

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM PATHWAY

Students in the Doctor of Theology distance-learning degree program will be required to do all their course modules 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): All students are required to read two (2) specified textual study units with written assignments (2 x 3 credit units).
- Unit B (3 credits): All students are required to read specified texts and complete a guided research project, which must be completed prior to completing the Unit C in these modules. Students will normally read 1000 - 1500 pages for 1 x 3 credit unit.
- Unit C (3 credits): All students are required to prepare and conduct a small group teaching tutorial class on an agreed subject with submitted written report. Generally the project report required for this unit is 25-30 pages for 3 credit units.

Module 4 is the Ministry intervention praxis, with research, guided reading and dissertation (more details to follow later).

MODULE 1 GENERAL STUDIES & RESEARCH PREPARATION TRACK (12 CREDIT HOURS)

The NCIU Doctor of Theology 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 such additional courses required if there is clear need of supportive study as recommended in the Letter of Assessment & Offer.

All students are required to complete two nominated textual study units on the process of preparation and completion for graduate level research papers in religious and theological studies. If the student has already completed this textual study module and this is verified by transcript evidence, or presentation of previously submitted academic work, they will be exempt from this requirement.

Some students, who have been granted Advanced Standing status through RPL credit units validated by the institution in the Letter of Assessment & Offer, may also be exempted from this first module.

MODULE 2 SPECIFIED READING AND GUIDED RESEARCH TRACK (12 CREDIT HOURS)

The module is designed to have the student

- Firstly, to develop their hypothesis by way of a draft proposal of the ministry intervention praxis and subsequent dissertation, and have this approved by the appointed adjunct-tutor
- Secondly, the student will be assigned a number of specified text units for guided reading and research by the adjunct-tutor, to explore the parameters of the proposed ministry intervention praxis and dissertation
- Thirdly, the student will be encouraged in the research process to establish appropriate journaling and recording procedures to give substantiated documentary proof of the praxis when completed.
- Lastly, the student will be guided in their research and reading to establish specific times for waiting upon God to develop creative inspiration and revelation for their final two stages.

MODULE 3 THEOLOGICAL STUDIES & INTERNSHIP TRACK (12 CREDIT HOURS)

This module requires the student to complete a series of study units related to the nominated hypothesis subject. The selection of texts will depend entirely upon the subject being covered by the student, and acceptable available texts in the marketplace.

The student will be encouraged to prepare their dissertation as a draft document and work in close liaison with the assigned Adjunct-Professor.

The student will be directed where applicable to prepare the draft document as a teaching manual to use as a field trial proposal, and become part of the finished dissertation. This field manual is an

important phase in the dissertation and will supply the student with empirical evidence of the value of their material to the wider body of Christ.

It is recommended that the student work in conjunction with their local church leadership to field test the manual by teaching and disciple-making others during a 12 week period with reporting of academic development, pedagogical processes, interpersonal relationships and transformational progress.

Other subject areas will be considered through consultation with the faculty appointed mentor and adjunct-professor.

MODULE 4 MINISTRY PRAXIS AND DISSERTATION TRACK (12 CREDITS)

The fourth and final component of the Doctor of Theology degree program is ministry intervention praxis (practical field project) and a dissertation on the praxis.

The Doctor of Theology praxis and dissertation normally requires six months of advanced preparation and another six months following approval to complete the module project.

Twelve units of a dissertation, maximum 120,000 words, on a topic selected in consultation with the student's academic advisor, must be completed and approved by one internal and one external examiner.

The criteria of acceptability for this dissertation are, in order of weight,

- (1) Significant research in and contribution to the field of study,
- (2) In-depth knowledge of the area of research, and usefulness to Christian communities
- (3) Clear, concise presentation according to proper grammar, style, and academic format.

Note: A previously written work which has already been awarded academic credit will not be accepted. After the completion of the first three course modules, the student has one year to submit a dissertation without a continuation fee being imposed, unless prior arrangement is made in writing through the institution.

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

- Research and development of Christian ministry training programs
- Writing, research and publication of timely Christian literature, often translated into many foreign national languages
- Training church members to provide pastoral care for those needing social care
- Establishment of early-child care and education development programs involving children with disabilities
- Creation of training and development programs for those needing spiritual healing and wholeness
- The development of church-planting programs that target specified cultural and or ethnic groups amongst others
- Creating structures for the disciple-making of new converts and church members
- Development and establishment of Christian marriage enrichment programs, including pre-marriage courses, and "alone after marriage" courses.

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.

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.

In the Doctor of Theology program, all dissertations are required to be graded by two professors, and the student may be called upon to give an oral defense if the issue is considered "outside the norms" and is breaking new ground, or warrants the benefit of the student being able to make presentation of specific aspects of the submission.

Obviously as a distance learning institution, the additional costs to the student may be significant and this pathway is not normally recommended. Any such oral defense and presentation will take place in Lake Worth Florida, USA unless alternative location is accepted by mutual agreement.

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.

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.

DOCTOR 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 specified period of time.

- For the Doctor of Theology degree at NCI University & Theological Seminary, this period has been set at five 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.

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY CONCLUSION

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

As a distance-learning degree program, the Doctor 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. The ThD is the foundational degree program for teaching at a seminary, college or university.

The Doctor of Theology, the highest theological degree offered by NCIU, prepares students for a vocation in theological teaching and scholarship by:

- equipping them with the essential tools for high-level scholarship,
- guiding them in a major research project in the area of their major concentration, and supporting the development of teaching skills

Based upon the experiences and testimonies of previous graduates and their continuing influence, NCIU is able to declare that such graduates are of great benefit to the Christian Church worldwide.

Students who complete this degree program should be able to make significant contribution to the Body of Christ and leave behind a lasting legacy that continues to extend the Kingdom of God, until the Lord Himself returns.

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Or go direct to our website www.newcovenant.edu and download the Degree Application Form

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