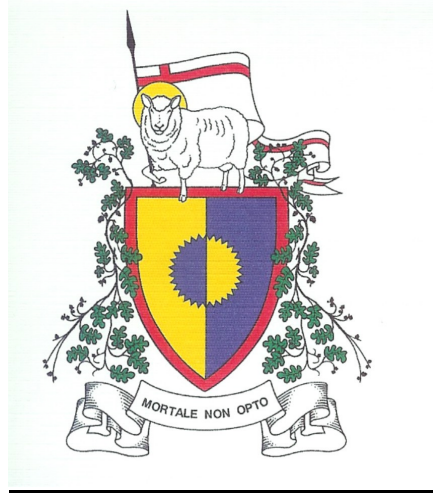


NCI University & Theological Seminary



Doctor of Religious Education

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 Religious Education

D. R. E. Distance-learning Degree Program

The essential difference between secular and Christian education is the underlying foundation of the dependence upon the Written Word of God.

The U.S. and European university systems have their roots in religious education, and from the Middle Ages through the 19th century, theology dominated the university curriculum.

Today however, religious studies are one among many of the Humanities' disciplines, and theology has migrated to specialist college divinity schools and seminaries. Nevertheless, religious studies and theology departments of secular universities continue to support religious scholarship and professional development in religious ministry without clear biblical distinctive.

Forces and pressures arising out of the contemporary cultural situation demand revolutionary changes in thought and action, particularly in the education system of our societies if there is to be any radical transformation of the nations and people groups.

Effective leadership in Christian Education today demands a deeper level of reflection and stronger commitment to excellence in the practice of bibliocentric 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, and become Jesus with skin on to all they meet and embrace.

DOCTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM PURPOSE

NCI University & Theological Seminary's Doctor of Religious Education (D.R.E.) is designed to offer students a curriculum with a solid foundation in Christian education leadership, research, and the study of current trends and issues, while customizing each student's program of study to meet their individual professional and personal goals.

This distance learning degree program has been designed to provide doctoral and continuing professional development programs to Christian education practitioners. The program prepares practicing Christian professionals in the field of education to be at the forefront of their industry. The degree is distinguished by its accessibility to learners, flexibility in programs and operation, and creativity in outlook.

The Doctor of Religious Education program promotes academic standards of quality, consistent with excellence in professional practice, and embraces diversity among learners and faculty. With the option of five concentration areas within the field of education, the program was developed to meet and exceed the development needs of Christian professionals in the areas of Religious Educational

Leadership, Higher Education, Christian Social Services, Distance Education and Instructional Technology, and Special Education.

The program is designed to prepare Christian professionals in the field of Religious Education for new challenges, opportunities, and increased responsibility. This objective is accomplished by combining an outstanding curriculum developed by specialists with the flexibility of working at individual pace in your own location.

The menu-driven approach to the Doctor of Religious Education offers students more flexible curriculum choices and instructional delivery options. Students increase expertise in their chosen concentration, and supplement that area of study with an additional concentration, or with electives from the multiple disciplines provided.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

Enrollment in the Doctor of Religious Education (D.R.E.) does not guarantee certification or licensure at the local, regional, or state level. Students seeking certification/licensure should contact the Department of Education in the state in question to confirm appropriate statutory certification or licensure requirements. This degree program has not been designed as a qualification for public school system professionals, but specifically for Christian schools, bible colleges and ministry training institutions.

DOCTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the doctoral programs in Religious Education of NCI University & Theological Seminary is to mentor men and women with evident gifts of leadership and teaching in mind and character in order to nurture the faith and maturity of children, youth, and adults. As a result of being a participant in this doctoral degree program, it is expected that the student will-

- Demonstrate an understanding of the necessity of establishing strong biblical foundations and practicing spiritual disciplines, as well as enjoying a growing relationship with God.
- Demonstrate, from an evangelical Christian framework, an understanding of biblical and theological principles and research procedures derived from a wide breadth of scholarly research and in-depth personal Bible study
- Exhibit the ability to think from the perspective of a Biblical worldview – demonstrating competence in processes of integration of theological and social science data in light of educational issues/concerns to inform educational theory development and practice.
- Graduates will demonstrate sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity through the building of bridges, as well as developing networks of relationships, and communicating the Gospel of the Kingdom in localized context.
- Demonstrate writing skills to communicate with both academic audiences, and students seeking to increase their knowledge and understanding of relevant subjects.
- Graduates will demonstrate knowledge, critical thinking, and analysis and application skills in order to foster individual and social transformation through Christian ministry.
- Demonstrate competency in the practice of Christian educational ministry from an integrative perspective (theology, philosophy, inter-cultural studies and social sciences) as displayed in both written and oral communication.
- Demonstrate enhanced competence as a professional education faculty member in teaching suitable for higher education and other formal and informal settings, in effective course design, in providing educational leadership in curriculum development.

DOCTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 48 semester credit hour distance-learning program provided by NCI University & Theological Seminary requires the student sequentially follow the four module pathway as specified:

- Module 1 – Foundational studies in Bible & Theology, and Spiritual formation track (12 credit hours)
- Module 2 – Core competencies in Religious Education, Teaching and Learning: Integrated Approach to Christian Education; Framework for Teachers, Educators, Administrators and Educational Ministry Development track (12 credit hours)
- Module 3 – Concentration & Electives; Religious Educational Leadership, Higher Education, Christian Social Services, Distance Education & Instructional Technology, and Special Education 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 from the completion of Module 1.

DOCTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students entering the Doctor of Religious Education distance-learning degree program of the seminary must normally hold a graduate degree (MA, M.Div, M.Rel.Ed. or equivalent) from accredited or recognized institutions.

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 the information concerning their goals and dreams for the future.

The required 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.

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 their passion to follow Christ and serve His Kingdom in our contemporary world through consistent Christian character, ability and acceptability in Christian ministry.

The applicant should also demonstrate a commitment to the primacy of the divinely authoritative, inerrant Written Word of God, and be prepared to embrace not just the traditions of theological thinking of their own denomination, but also be willing to explore other areas of faith and practice 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 Religious Education 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.

DOCTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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, Christian Ministry, Christian Pastoral Counseling, 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 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM PATHWAY

Students in the Doctor of Religious Education distance-learning degree program will be required to do all of their course work in a prescribed sequence.

This curriculum consists of four modules as stipulated. Modules 1, 2 & 3 - 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 crs).
- Unit B: Guided research and specified reading assignments which must be completed prior to completing the third unit in the module. Students will normally read 1,500 pages for 1 x 3 crs.
- Unit C: A one- or two-week 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 crs.

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

Bible and Theology Foundational studies & Spiritual Formation track (12 credit hrs)

Doctor of Religious Education studies within the Foundational Studies in Bible & Theology, and Spiritual Formation 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

Core Competencies; Teaching & Learning; Framework for Teachers, Educators, Administrators and Educational Ministry Development track (12 credit hrs)

The module is designed to have the student

- Firstly, to enhance their understanding of Christian education
- Secondly, the course is designed to enable the determine the most effective pathway to implement Christian education
- Thirdly, the student will learn through the designated studies the distinctive purpose of God in Christian education, and gain understanding of current trends in education

- Fourthly, to enable the student to become an incarnational message and effective team leader in a pluralistic and multicultural society

MODULE 3

Concentration & Electives: Religious Educational Leadership, Higher Education, Christian Social Services, Distance Education & Instructional Technology, and Special Education track (12 credit hours)

Based on the ministry focus defined by the student in their application, the faculty will direct the student in their guided reading units to extend their knowledge and enhance their skills through the nomination of specified reading texts, and practical ministry internships to focus on making them a permanent feature of their life and ministry development.

This module also requires the student to read a series of texts that will require the development of a field manual to be used in mentoring other emerging teachers and educators during a 12 week period with reporting of interpersonal relationships and progress.

This module may also require the student to participate in external training and equipping courses validated by the institution that focus on the technologies and skills required for IT development and management within the educational framework

MODULE 4

Ministry Praxis and Dissertation track (12 credits)

The fourth and final component of the Doctor of Religious Education degree program is the practical field project and a dissertation on the praxis.

The Doctor of Religious Education praxis and dissertation normally requires six months of advanced preparation and another two – four months following approval to complete the module project.

Students at NCI University & Theological Seminary have carried out a wide range of ministry praxes, including but not restricted to

- Development of education programs for emerging nationals in isolated communities
- Development of training and education programs for children with special needs
- Training church members to provide pastoral care for parents and care-givers of those with special needs children
- 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.

DOCTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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.

In the Doctor of Religious Education 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.

DOCTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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.

DOCTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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 Religious Education 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 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONCLUSION

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

As a distance-learning degree program, the Doctor of Religious Education 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 D.R.E. provides a good foundation for those seeking to build their spiritual vocation in the education, training and equipping of those called to Christian service.

The Doctor of Religious Education degree, the highest education award offered by NCIU, prepares students for a vocation in Christian education, teaching and administration:

- equipping them with the essential tools for high-level education,
- 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.

We welcome your inquiry into this exciting opportunity to enlarge your leadership capacity and further develop your potential.

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

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