Grace Theological Seminary Doctor of Missiology Degree  
Programs in English and Korean

The Nature of a Doctor of Missiology Degree at Grace

The Doctor of Missiology Degree at Grace is a broad degree with in-depth study in many areas of missiology. It is different in this way from a Ph.D. which is often shorter and more narrow in its focus. In general, a Ph.D. degree in the area of missiology prepares a person better for research and writing in the areas of the theory and issues of missiology and intercultural studies. The D.Miss. degree prepares a person better for relevant intercultural ministry on the ground with a blending of social research, applied Anthropology, and theology of mission. Both degrees are relevant for teaching at the graduate level, but the curriculums vary enough that the person inquiring needs to compare them to see how they meet the needs of the ministry for which they seek preparation.

Purposes of the Degree

The Doctor of Missiology Degree is intended to prepare individuals for positive and influential leadership, relationships of trust, and biblical ministry in intercultural contexts either in denominational or interdenominational structures through study and applied learning in the socio-cultural and theological disciplines of missiology. It provides students with expertise in intercultural issues and missiological strategies and paradigms for effective biblical ministry and for developing cultural intelligence for relevant problem solving in receptor cultures.

Primary learning goals and student outcomes

The following learning goals and student outcomes are based primarily on the six required courses and the Professional Research Project for the degree, however, elective courses will be offered to enhance the specified learning outcomes and
advance the achievement of the goals of the program. The process of assessment of these outcomes is clarified in a table at the end of this report.

Each course consists of extensive reading in the area of the course subject combined with a one-week intensive module of lecture and interaction. Students will exhibit a mastery of the various disciplines associated with the required courses in the program by writing an approved course project at the end of each course. This project will apply their mastery of the discipline to a case study of an existing problem, controversy, or quandary in a real-life context.

Final assessment of the student’s abilities and of the success of the program in preparing the student for intercultural ministry will be demonstrated in the Professional Research Project (dissertation) at the end of their program.

1. Students in the D.Miss. degree program will articulate an advanced understanding of the relationship of theological studies to missiology in course projects concerning cross-cultural morality and ethics, management of cross-cultural adjustment stress (Intentional Multicultural Ministry), cross-cultural relations and conflict management (Intercultural Communication), and world mission and New Testament strategies for mission (Mission Strategy, Theology of Mission, and Biblical Teamwork in Missions).

2. Students in the D.Miss. degree program will demonstrate a complex perception of cross-cultural leadership skills through written projects in the areas of contextualization of leadership and administration in mission (Principles of Contextualization) and of teamwork in intercultural settings (Teamwork and Leadership Training).

3. Students in the D.Miss. degree program will show evidence of an appreciation for and comprehension of the difficulties that values, beliefs, and assumptions cause in cross-cultural understanding and relationships in research papers dealing with intercultural communication and applied cultural anthropology for the respective courses.

4. Students in the D.Miss. degree program will demonstrate skills in the contextualization of communication, methods of ministry, and applications of biblical truth through written projects in the areas of contextualization and intercultural communication.

5. Students in the D.Miss. degree program will demonstrate an understanding of and skill in socio-anthropological research methods for understanding the people of a culture for more relevant ministry through the practice of applying and presenting these methods in class, by writing a research project proposal for the course in Methods of Social Research, and through the writing of an
approved Professional Research Project (dissertation) for the degree. The final project will comprehensively study a problem concerning ministry in a specified cultural context using appropriate methods of social research to uncover solutions for more effective intercultural mission ministry.

Professors and courses:

Thirteen Professors from various cultural backgrounds teach and facilitate courses and mentor and advise students in the Doctor of Missiology program. The curriculum includes the following required and elective courses. Additional, occasional electives not listed here.

- Cultural Anthropology
- Methods of Social Research
- Contextualization
- Biblical Teamwork in Missions
- Intercultural Communication
- Intentional Multicultural Ministry
- Mission Strategy / History of Missions
- Biblical Theology of World Mission
- Cultures of the NT / Cultures of the OT
- Gospel Centered Ministry
- World Religions / Religious Worldviews
- Current Theological Issues
- Ministry Leadership / Philosophy of Ministry
- Strengthening Spiritual Vitality
- Professional Research Project (Dissertation)

Director, Doctor of Missiology Studies

Thomas M. Stallter, Th.M., D.Miss.
Grace Theological Seminary
Director, Doctor of Missiology Studies
Executive Director, GTS Center for Korean Studies
stallttm@grace.edu