



Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies Summary

Basic admissions requirements:

In addition to the general admission requirements outlined in the Seminary catalog, applicants for the Ph.D in Intercultural Studies program must meet the following requirements:

1. *Academic:* An MA in an appropriate theological or missiological discipline from an acceptable school with a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
2. *Experience:* Not less than two years of appropriate intercultural ministry experience.
3. *English:* For applicants whose primary language is other than English, a TOEFL score of 585 or equivalent.
4. *Writing:* Submission and approval of a writing sample that demonstrates graduate-level research skills.
5. *Language:* Second language proficiency. The program requires research proficiency in English as the primary research language of the disciplines of intercultural studies and a second modern language in the field of the research topic. Additional ancient and modern languages may be required as needed for the completion of dissertation research. In exceptional cases, the second modern language requirement may be substituted by petition. When a request for language waiver is submitted, the committee may require six credits of relevant studies in the applicant's area of research. This will be implemented upon at the discretion of the committee in a case-by-case situation based on transcripts and experience.
6. *Endorsement:* Official approval of administrative superiors (e.g., missions board or agency if applicable).
7. *Technology:* Acceptable computer and internet competencies.

These are the minimal requirements. The admissions committee selects applicants with the strongest qualifications. Candidates who only meet minimal requirements in the above areas but are exceptional in others may be accepted. The overall combination of strengths that the applicant brings to the program is assessed in the admissions process.

Co-requisites:

In cases in which candidates for admission are considered to have insufficient background in biblical, theological or missiological disciplines, the seminary may require them to complete 15 credits of missiology foundation courses or 15 credits of theological foundation courses, *or both* as a co-requisite (**i.e. 15 credits of master's level study in Bible/Theology/ Christian Leadership and 15 credits of master's level missiology**).

First Year**First Semester**

Leaders in a Global Context	4 credits
Missio Dei and the Contemporary World.	4 credits

Second Semester

Intercultural Communication and Missions Anthropology. .	4 credits
Track Course.	4 credits

Second Year**First Semester**

Theological Issues, Contextualization & Area Studies . . .	4 credits
Methods of Missiological Research	4 credits
QUALIFYING EXAM	

Second Semester

Track Course.	4 credits
Track Course.	4 credits

Third Year**First Semester**

Track Elective Course.	4 credits
Elective Course.	4 credits

Second Semester

Areas Studies Elective Course.	4 credits
Dissertation Research Course	4 credits

Fourth Year**First Semester**

Dissertation Research Course	4 credits
Dissertation Research Course	4 credits

Second Semester

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM	
Dissertation	4 credits

Four credits are shown on the transcript when the project/dissertation is successfully completed and defended.

40 credits presented in 4 one to two week modules per year (2 modules in two to three weeks)

4 credits in an Area Studies Elective

12 credits of Dissertation Research Courses (Independent field driven research)

4 credits Dissertation

Leaders in a Global Context will be the program entrance course. The order in which other core courses are taken should be flexible, and the order of the matriculation of the Track and elective courses is flexible.

CORE COURSES: 20 credits

- Leaders in a Global Context*
- Missio Dei and the Contemporary World*
- Intercultural Communication and Missions Anthropology*
- Theological Issues, Contextualization, & Area Studies*
- Methods of Missiological Research*

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION**MISSIOLOGICAL STUDIES TRACK: 12 credits**

- The History of Christianity in Missiological Perspective*
- *Encountering Non-Christian Religions*
- *Evangelizing, Discipling, and Church Planting.*

RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT TRACK: 12 credits

- Biblical Perspectives on Issues of Social Justice*
- Relief and Development in Mission: Theories and Strategies*
- Contemporary Social Issues in Mission*

ELECTIVES: 12 credits

- Alternative Approaches to Education*
- *Leading the Non-Profit Organization*
- Contextualized Leadership Training*
- HIV/AIDS in Global and Local Contexts*
- Contemporary Missions: Issues and Strategies*
- Area Studies Elective (required)*
- Special Studies with an Approved Educational Provider*
- Special Studies: Tutelage*

DISSERTATION RESEARCH COURSES: 12 credits**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION****DISSERTATION: 4 credits**

- Dissertation Development and Oral Defense*

TOP FAQ's
Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies

1. Will I have to leave the field?

No. Convenient modules allow you to stay on the field.

2. When can I start?

Start dates are scheduled in each July and December beginning in 2009.

3. How long will it take to complete?

Normally four to five years.

4. How much will it cost?

The fee for the entire program is \$35,000 to be paid in fifteen equal installments over five years. The program fee covers tuition for 60 credit hours, dissertation fees and graduation fees. This fee does not cover the application fee, textbooks, costs of travel, housing and meals incurred while on campus, editing, directed research fees, continuation fees, extension fees or tuition for courses taken at other institutions. Because AGWM contributes significant economic resources to the program, AGWM and AGUSM appointed missionaries are eligible for a discounted fee of \$24,500. (Applicable for the 2009-2010 academic year and subject to change thereafter for new participants.)

5. Do I have to write a dissertation?

Yes

6. Can I choose some classes from the AGTS Doctor of Ministry Program?

Yes, on a limited basis, by petition.

7. Do I have to pass a qualifying and a comprehensive examination?

Yes, after completion of the Core classes a qualifying examination must be successfully completed in order to continue in the program. The focus of the exam is basic knowledge and competencies in the field of missiology. At the completion of all required course work a student will be deemed ready to sit for a comprehensive examination. This written examination is intended to determine competencies in the student's area of research interest for the dissertation process.

8. Is there a language requirement?

Yes. The program requires research proficiency in English as the primary research language of the disciplines of intercultural studies and a second modern language in the field of the research topic. Additional ancient and modern languages may be required as needed for the completion of dissertation research. In exceptional cases, this requirement may be substituted by petition. When a request for language waiver is submitted, the committee may require six credits of relevant studies in the applicant's area of research. This will be implemented upon at the discretion of the committee in a case-by-case situation based on transcripts and experience.

9. What's the difference between the Ph.D-ICS and the D.Miss. or D.Min.?

The Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies is a research degree designed to facilitate the development and academic certification of vocations in missiological and intercultural teaching and scholarship. The D.Miss. degree is designed specifically for professional missionaries, those involved in Intercultural Ministry, and/or Relief and Development, while the D.Min. offers concentrations in Leadership, Preaching, and Military Chaplaincy. Also, the D.Min. is a 30-hour program requiring an M.Div. (or its academic equivalent) for admission, while the D.Miss. is a 48-hour degree and the Ph.D. 60-hour degree requiring an M.Div. or MA in an appropriate field for admission with a minimum GPA of 3.0 D.Miss. and 3.5 Ph.D. on a 4.0 point scale.

10. What will the delivery system look like?

A modular format requires five trips to AGTS over three years (all in July and December). Two classes are taken during each two to three week session. Participants earn 60 credits in

- 5 Core classes
- 3 Track classes (Missiological Studies or Christian Relief and Development)
- 3 Elective classes
- 3 Dissertation Research Course
- Dissertation

11. How do the course modules work?

The majority of the course work (40 credits) would consist of one- to two- week resident modules held exclusively at the main campus of AGTS in Springfield. All courses consist of three components:

1. An on-site residential seminar presented by the professor of record for the subject that allows the student to engage in academic dialogue with the professor during class hours and presents the student with the opportunity to utilize the library research facilities after class hours.
2. Pre-residential seminar assignments that differ from course to course, but generally include pre-reading assignments, processing audio-visual or online resources, and/or engaging the student in online dialogues with his or her colleagues.
3. Post-residential seminar assignments that differ from course to course but that generally include the submission of a major research project and could also include online dialogue with colleagues on the assignment.

In order to enhance research opportunities and community development, the modules will be scheduled back-to-back with an additional week of value added elements including student research presentations with peer critique, onsite interviews with mentor and guidance committee, peer and faculty interaction, and video conferencing with field experts.

12. What are dissertation research courses?

In preparation for the dissertation the student will enroll in three four-credit dissertation research tutorial courses designed to facilitate the research required for the proposed dissertation. The dissertation proposal will identify where each dissertation research course corresponds within the research design of the proposal. The tutorials will focus either on a review of the literature to provide the theoretical or theological foundation for the proposed research or after a brief review of precedent literature, the substance of the tutorial will be the student's own primary research and analysis. For each course the student will present a research proposal to the assigned mentor for approval which includes research objectives, a literature review and research methodology. Once the proposal is approved, the student will execute the research and report the findings in a format similar to a dissertation. The content of the dissertation research courses should reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of intercultural studies.

13. Do I need to have the official approval of my administrative superiors (e.g., missions board or agency if applicable) to enroll in the Ph.D. program?

Yes.

14. Is it possible to transfer credit from other accredited doctoral programs?

Yes. An individual may transfer in a total of eight advanced standing doctoral credits. If the person holds an earned doctorate in a related field (e.g. Doctor of Ministry) a maximum of twelve credits may be transferred. To request advanced standing, official transcripts must be reviewed by the Registrar's Office before consideration for doctoral credit will be given.

For additional information contact:

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Appendix
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Program Comparison
Doctor of Missiology versus Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies

Component	D. Miss.	Ph.D. ICS
Purpose of Degree	Our purposes are precisely to prepare persons for denominational and interdenominational leadership roles in cross cultural ministries both in the United States of America as well as around the globe; to educate persons with specialized expertise in missiology and its cognate disciplines; and to train persons for research and teaching in those disciplines.	The Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies at AGTS facilitates the development and academic certification of vocations in missiological and intercultural teaching and scholarship by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing an environment and essential tools that enable research and theological reflection, • creating a unique learning experience customized to each student’s call, gifts and academic interest, • equipping missiologists for research, teaching and missional praxis in an increasing complex multicultural world, and • giving credible voice to scholar practitioner missionaries and national leaders before the academy and the Church.
Primary goals	They are modeled after those outlined in the ATS degree program standards, seeking to enrich the practice of missionaries serving with our denomination and other agencies through (1) mastery of missiological and cognate disciplines, (2) an advanced understanding of theological disciplines and their relationship to missiology, (3) enhanced ability to provide leadership in cross-cultural ministries, and the capacity to engage in research and teaching	The program seeks to contribute to the discipline of intercultural studies by enriching research, teaching and the practice of those involved in the field. To that end and in accordance with our commitment to provide the highest level of learning effectiveness and foster a robust culture of assessment, at the completion of the Ph.D. program, graduates will be able to achieve the following learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate a breadth of knowledge in theological and religious studies and other academic disciplines, and a comprehensive knowledge of the disciplines that comprise missiology and intercultural studies; • competently innovate, defend and critique scholarly work and missional practice for the benefit of the academy and the broader community of faith; • demonstrate ability to engage in original missiological intercultural research and writing that contribute to the discipline

		<p>and to their research context for the sake of their tradition, the Church and the academy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make decisions, live and serve according to revealed truth and the will of God in a continuing integrated commitment to learning, spiritual formation, and personal and professional growth; • demonstrate the ability to utilize research and theological/missiological reflection in specific contexts; and • commit to the vocation of theological, missiological and intercultural scholarship in its dimensions of teaching, learning, and research.
<p>Content</p>	<p>The content of this degree can be seen in the following curricular design. The D.Miss. curriculum has five primary components.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core courses to establish missiological and research competencies. 2. Two track options that will allow the participants to select the focus of their preparation. 3. Elective courses that expand areas relative to the practice of ministry. 4. A qualifying examination to determine missiological competencies. 5. A doctoral-level major applied research project that enables the participant to integrate and apply his or her learning in an intercultural ministry context. 	<p>The content of the Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies appears below in a curricular design comprised of eight primary components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core courses to establish missiological and research competencies. 2. A qualifying exam will be applied at the end of the first year of study to assess the student's foundational knowledge of the disciplines of missiology and intercultural studies in order to determine his or her ability to continue in the program. 3. Two track options that will allow the participants to select the general focus of their research. 4. Elective courses that expand areas relative to the research topic. 5. A comprehensive examination to determine research competencies. 6. Presentation and approval of a dissertation proposal. 7. Dissertation research courses to facilitate the application and implementation of research methodologies and the acquisition of the appropriate research data for the writing of the dissertation.

		<p>8. A research dissertation that advances knowledge in the field of study and enables the participant to integrate and apply his or her learning in an intercultural ministry context.</p>
<p>Curricular summary</p>	<p><i>CORE COURSES: 20 hours</i> -- (5 courses required of all students)</p> <p><i>Core 1 - Leaders in a Global Context</i> This course will orient participants to the unique dynamics and requirements of Doctor of Missiology education, highlighting issues that will impact their lives and ministries; provide an overview of the Tracks and courses, with special focus on missiological research; and guide participants in self reflection in light of their ministries and global issues.</p> <p><i>Core 2 - Missio Dei and the Contemporary World</i> An examination of Missio Dei from biblical and Pentecostal theological perspectives. This interdisciplinary study integrates theory and praxis, preparing the student to develop strategies for accomplishing the mission of God in diverse cultural milieus.</p> <p><i>Core 3 - Intercultural Communication and Missions Anthropology</i> Studies in the literature of intercultural communication, focusing on cultural contexts and barriers, with implications for Christian witness, lifestyle, and relationships. Cultural anthropological issues will be examined to determine their application to a Christian view of intercultural ministry and the discipline of missiology.</p>	<p><i>CORE COURSES: 20 credits</i> -- (5 courses required of all students)</p> <p><i>Core 1 - Leaders in a Global Context</i> This course will orient participants to the unique dynamics, the research process and the requirements of Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies education, highlighting issues that will impact their lives and ministries; provide an overview of the Tracks and courses, with special focus on missiological research; guide participants in missiological reflection in light of their ministries and global issues; and introduce the student to the process of developing a research dissertation.</p> <p><i>Core 2 - Missio Dei and the Contemporary World</i> An examination of <i>Missio Dei</i> from biblical and Pentecostal theological perspectives. This interdisciplinary study integrates theory and praxis, preparing the student to reflect theologically on missiological praxis and develop strategies for accomplishing the mission of God in diverse cultural milieus.</p> <p><i>Core 3 - Intercultural Communication and Missions Anthropology</i> Studies in the literature of intercultural communication, focusing on cultural contexts and barriers, with implications for Christian witness, lifestyle, and relationships. Cultural anthropological issues will be examined to determine their application to a Christian view of intercultural ministry.</p>

	<p><i>Core 4 - Theological Issues, Contextualization, and Area Studies</i> A course to enable students to respond to theological issues encountered in intercultural contexts, such as Trinitarian concerns, bibliology, local theologies, syncretism, and Pentecostalism. Students will work with personally relevant area-specific case studies, and principles of “doing theology” in another context will be analyzed.</p> <p><i>Core 5 - Methods of Missiological Research</i> An introduction to the approaches to research design and research methods employed in missiological research. The relationships among theological inquiry, socio-anthropological inquiry, and missions practice will be examined. Attention will be given to each of the major components of a major applied research project: problem, review of the literature, methodology, findings, and conclusions. Development of a research design, bibliography, and database for missiological research will be emphasized.</p>	<p><i>Core 4 - Theological Issues, Contextualization, and Area Studies</i> A course to enable students to respond to theological issues encountered in intercultural contexts, such as Trinitarian concerns, bibliology, local theologies, syncretism, and Pentecostalism. Students will work with personally relevant area-specific case studies, and the principles of “doing theology” in another context will be analyzed.</p> <p><i>Core 5 - Methods of Intercultural and Missiological Research</i> A course to prepare the student to develop his or her dissertation proposal and research tutorials. The relationships among theological inquiry, socio-anthropological inquiry, and missions praxis will be examined. Attention will be given to each of the major components of a dissertation proposal: problem formulation, review of the literature, research methodologies, presentation of findings, and conclusions. Development of a research design, bibliography, and database for intercultural research will be emphasized. The student will also develop the framework for three research tutorials that will inform the major components of his or her dissertation.</p>
	<p><i>THE QUALIFYING EXAM:</i></p> <p>The qualifying examination is composed of two exams. One exam based on the missiological content and disciplines of study introduced in the core courses <i>MSS 901 Leaders in a Global Context</i> and <i>MHT 902 Missio Dei and the Contemporary World</i>; the second on <i>MCC 903 Intercultural Comm. and Missions Anthropology</i> and <i>MCS 904 Theo. Issues, Contextualization and Area Studies</i>.</p>	<p><i>THE QUALIFYING EXAM:</i></p> <p>A qualifying exam will be required at the end of the first year of study to assess the student’s foundational knowledge of the disciplines of missiology and intercultural studies in order to determine his or her ability to continue in the program.</p>

	<p><i>TRACK AND ELECTIVE OPTIONS</i></p>	<p><i>TRACK AND ELECTIVE OPTIONS</i></p> <p>Track and elective courses in the Ph.D. program will be differentiated from the D. Miss. in the post-residential assignments in that these will be designed to directly contribute to the student's research topic.</p>
	<p><i>APPLIED PROJECT PROPOSAL</i></p> <p>At the conclusion of Core 5, Methods of Missiological Research, a formal project proposal must be presented to and approved by the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Program Committee. The proposal should include project title, a problem statement, a literature review related to the project, methodology to be employed, a description of how track and elective courses will be integrated in the research design, an explanation of how the findings will be reported, categories for the conclusions and recommendations, and a preliminary outline of the dissertation.</p> <p>With the successful completion of the qualifying exam and the approval of the project proposal, the student will be assigned a faculty mentor in order to develop the study program.</p>	<p><i>DISSERTATION PROPOSAL:</i></p> <p>At the conclusion of Core 5, Methods of Intercultural and Missiological Research, a formal dissertation proposal must be presented to and approved by the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Program Committee. The proposal should include dissertation title, a problem statement or thesis, research questions or hypothesis, a literature review related to the research, methodology to be employed, a description of how track, elective and dissertation research courses will be integrated in the research design, an explanation of how the findings will be reported, categories for the conclusions and recommendations, and a preliminary outline of the dissertation.</p> <p>With the successful completion of the qualifying exam and the approval of the dissertation proposal, the student will be assigned a guidance committee comprised of a faculty mentor and two faculty advisers whose research expertise is directly related to the projected research identified in the proposal in order to develop the study program.</p>
		<p><i>DISSERTATION RESEARCH COURSES:</i></p> <p>In preparation for the dissertation the student will enroll in three four-credit dissertation research tutorial courses designed to facilitate the research required for the proposed dissertation. The dissertation proposal will identify where each dissertation research course corresponds within the research design of the proposal. The tutorials will focus either on a review of the literature to provide the theoretical or theological foundation for the proposed research or after a brief review of</p>

		<p>precedent literature, the substance of the tutorial will be the student's own primary research and analysis. For each course the student will present a research proposal to the assigned mentor for approval which includes research objectives, a literature review and research methodology. Once the proposal is approved, the student will execute the research and report the findings in a format similar to a dissertation. The content of the dissertation research courses should reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of intercultural studies.</p>
		<p><i>COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (For Advancement to Candidacy)</i> The written comprehensive examination is intended to determine competencies in the student's area of research interest for the dissertation process. A student will be deemed ready to sit for the examination upon the completion of all required course work. A guide for the comprehensive exams will be developed by the faculty of the Global Missions Department (Ph.D. faculty) and distributed to all students. It will offer examples of questions that will assist the student in his or her exam preparation and provide a detailed description of the examination's procedure and policies. It is intended that there will be an ongoing assessment of the examination structure, including discussion of the number and range of the questions. To ensure objectivity in final grading, procedures will be in place to involve external examiners in cases where initial assessments are unclear. In the event of an unsuccessful examination, the student may have one retake. Upon successful completion of the comprehensive examination and all required course work, the student will advance to candidate status for the PhD in ICS and commence the writing of the dissertation.</p>
	<p><i>MAJOR APPLIED PROJECT</i></p> <p>Participants must complete the <i>Project</i> to receive the four hours of credit.</p>	<p><i>DISSERTATION</i></p> <p>A research dissertation advances knowledge in the field of study and enables the participant to integrate and apply his or her learning in an intercultural ministry context. Participants must complete the <i>Dissertation</i> to receive the four credits.</p>

	<p><i>Project</i></p> <p>Upon the completion, acceptance, and successful oral defense of a written major applied project which integrates theory and praxis and makes a scholarly contribution to the practice of intercultural ministry, four credits will be recorded on the transcript. <i>All participants working on the project phase will maintain a continued registration in the program.</i></p>	<p><i>Dissertation and Oral Defense</i></p> <p>Upon the completion, acceptance, and successful oral defense of a written dissertation which makes a scholarly contribution to the discipline and practice of intercultural ministry, four credits will be recorded on the transcript. <i>All participants working on the dissertation phase will maintain a continued registration in the program.</i></p>
<p>Duration and Location</p>	<p>The D.Miss. program will consist of 48 semester hours of credit, the equivalent of at least two years of full-time study. It will be completed in the course of at least three years through 11 modular sessions of 4 semester hours of credit. The majority of the course work (36 credits) would consist of pre-session work, one-week resident modules held exclusively at the main campus of AGTS in Springfield, and post-session work, and modules would be scheduled back-to-back (for two weeks) to reduce travel expenses. Another component of the course work (8 credits) could involve studies completed through directed research and doctoral-level study in a cooperating educational institution located near the student's field work or could be completed at the AGTS main campus. A final 4 credits would be earned by the satisfactory completion of the Project Workshop and the writing and oral defense of the major applied research project.</p>	<p>The Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies program will consist of 60 semester credits, the equivalent of at least two years of full-time study. It will be completed in the course of at least three years through 11 modular sessions of 4 semester credits and 3 four-credit dissertation research courses. The majority of the course work (40 credits) would consist of one- to two- week resident modules held exclusively at the main campus of AGTS in Springfield. All courses consist of three components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An on-site residential seminar presented by the professor of record for the subject that allows the student to engage in academic dialogue with the professor during class hours and presents the student with the opportunity to utilize the library research facilities after class hours. 2. Pre-residential seminar assignments that differ from course to course, but generally include pre-reading assignments, processing audio-visual or online resources, and/or engaging the student in online dialogues with his or her colleagues. 3. Post-residential seminar assignments that differ from course to course but that generally include the submission of a major research project and could also include online dialogue with colleagues on the assignment. <p>In order to enhance research opportunities and community development, the modules will be scheduled back-to-back with an</p>

		<p>additional week of value added elements including student research presentations with peer critique, onsite interviews with mentor and guidance committee, peer and faculty interaction, and video conferencing with field experts. Another component of the course work (8 credits) may involve studies completed through directed research and doctoral-level study in a cooperating educational institution located near the student's field work or at the AGTS main campus. As described above, an additional 12 credits of dissertation research tutorial courses will focus and develop the research for the dissertation. A final 4 credits would be earned through the satisfactory completion of the Dissertation Workshop and the writing and oral defense of the dissertation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Community Life & Research</p> <p>Student community life and research is promoted by the following: The intensity of the modular format creates an environment which produces deep and long-lasting relationships among students, and between students and faculty through a number of venues. Each day begins and ends with a time for worship, prayer, intercession, and reflection. Students and faculty also share common meals in a time of informal interaction and relationship building. A sense of community is further developed through means of interactive Internet forums and other media formats. In addition to the opportunities for relationship building throughout the week-long modules, faculty and administration also encourage students to spend time on campus prior to or immediately following modular courses in order to provide access to library resources for scholarly research and additional interaction with advisers.</p>
<p>Language Requirements and Research Skills</p>	<p>Admission to the program requires research proficiency in a second modern or field language and acceptable computer and Internet competencies</p>	<p>The program requires research proficiency in English as the primary research language of the disciplines of intercultural studies and a second modern language in the field of the research topic. Additional ancient and modern languages may be required as needed for the completion of dissertation research. Students must demonstrate acceptable computer and</p>

		Internet competencies. The coursework of the program will ensure that students develop competencies in the tools of theological and social science research methods that will be necessary for the completion of an acceptable research dissertation.
Admissions	<p>The admissions process for the D.Miss degree will follow standard AGTS procedures. The basic admissions requirements for the program shall be the possession of an ATS-approved M.Div. degree or its educational equivalent, or a master's degree in an appropriate theological or missiological discipline; a minimum grade point average in masters degree work of 3.0; not less than two years of appropriate intercultural ministry experience; a TOEFL score of 585 or equivalent for applicants whose primary language is other than English; research proficiency in a second language; submission and approval of a writing sample that demonstrates graduate-level research skills; and acceptable computer and internet competencies.</p> <p>Given that the seminary intends to offer a track in Christian community development within the D.Miss. program, the degree will be attractive to some Christian professionals who are working in development ministries within missionary contexts. Such professionals are often theologically astute, despite the lack of a formal theological degree. In determining what degrees qualify as the educational equivalent of an ATS-approved M.Div., the seminary would consider missionary personnel with graduate degrees in public health, psychology, development studies, medicine, and other relevant fields. There is an enormous potential benefit to missionary practice if the</p>	The admissions requirements for the Ph.D. are identical to the D. Miss. with the exception of the minimum grade point average in master's degree work of 3.5.

theological and missiological competencies of such professionals can be brought to a higher level. In cases in which the holder of a degree in cognate disciplines of missiology is considered to have educational credentials equivalent to the M.Div., but such candidates for admission are considered to have insufficient background in biblical, theological, or missiological disciplines, the seminary may require them to complete the missiology foundation courses (15 credits) specified in the Master of Arts in Intercultural Ministry program or the theological foundation courses (15 credits) specified in Master of Arts in Theological Studies **or both** as a co-requisite part of their D.Miss. program. The inclusion of such students would enhance the interdisciplinary nature of the program, contributing a variety of valid perspectives in the program and resulting in benefit for both clerical and lay member of the doctoral program.

In addition to these requirements, candidates for study in the program will require the approval of administrative superiors in their mission board, since travel permissions and often, mission-sponsored financial aid will be necessary for students to participate in the program.