

## Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies (M.A.) Program

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Western Seminary offers the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies program for students seeking specialized, graduate, theological education. The M.A. in Intercultural Studies program endeavors to achieve the following objectives:

1. Cultivate skills in the efficient study and interpretation of Scripture.
2. Provide theoretical and practical skills in one area of focused intercultural specialization.
3. Promote growth in Christian maturity demonstrated through effective interpersonal relationships, some of which will be cross cultural.
4. Impart skills for those who desire further intercultural knowledge and skills.

The M.A. in Intercultural Studies is designed to prepare students for effective intercultural ministry in the U.S. and abroad. It provides adequate preparation for service as a bi-vocational or professional worker within an intercultural context. It also serves as an excellent degree program for those who want to expand their knowledge and skills of intercultural issues.

### M.A. IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES CORE OUTCOMES

In addition to the Seminary's general educational goals, the M.A. in Intercultural Studies program attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Be a person whose Christ-like character and dependence upon the Holy Spirit are worthy of being emulated, and whose integrity imparts credibility to his/her ministry.
2. Be a person who understands his/her role in the furthering of God's purposes around the world.
3. Be a person who experiences interdependency with other believers.
4. Be able to interpret and apply biblical texts using sound hermeneutical principles.
5. Be able to understand the interaction of culture and ministry.
6. Be a person committed to the centrality of worldwide mission in the individual Christian's life and in the Church's ministry in the world.
7. Be able to implement a biblically-based and culturally appropriate philosophy of ministry.
8. Be able to use the perspective of social communication as a framework for communicating God's truth clearly, accurately, and convincingly across cultural contexts.
9. Be able to undertake church planting and development, penetrating beyond existing church frontiers, innovating new strategies for new opportunities.
10. Know the historical tenets and contemporary significance of evangelical theology.
11. Know the major themes and developments of God's redemptive activity revealed in Scripture.
12. Be able to think biblically and critically so that various truth claims can be effectively evaluated.

13. Know the leading figures, movements, and events of mission and church history world wide.
14. Be a true life-long learner, building upon his/her seminary training.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Seminary given on pages 18-19, applicants for the M.A. program are expected to present an accredited baccalaureate degree (or its equivalent) with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale), including a breadth of liberal arts. Applicants who do not meet these general academic requirements may petition the Admissions Committee for consideration. A recommendation from the applicant's pastor and three personal recommendations regarding the applicant's Christian character and leadership potential also are required.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in Intercultural Studies degree is conferred upon the attainment of certain personal and academic requirements. In addition to the general seminary requirements outlined on pages 30-31, degree candidates must (1) give evidence of a genuine Christian character, orthodox belief, and conduct consistent with a God-given call to a position of leadership; (2) complete all courses in the prescribed M.A. in Intercultural Studies curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 overall.

### MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION OPTIONS

Within this degree are two tracks of study: Intercultural Ministry and Children and Youth at Risk. Each student completes a biblical/theological foundation core (30 hours) and intercultural specialization track (30 hours). Depending upon course availability, up to half of the degree program may be completed through extension studies while remaining in one's place of ministry.

A significant part of the MAIS program is a full-time, mentored internship lasting at least six months. While not necessarily located overseas, the internship always involves intercultural living, communication, and other activities typical of intercultural workers. Normally, the intern is responsible for raising his or her own financial support for this phase of the training.

Intercultural students may choose to begin their studies with the Graduate Studies Diploma in Intercultural Studies (one year or 30 hour program) or the Graduate Studies Certificate in Intercultural Studies (16 hour program). Please refer to pages 58-59 for additional information.



# Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies Core

## 30 CREDIT HOURS

**Spiritual Formation [6]**

**Biblical Studies [14]**

**Theological Studies [10]**

(specializations below)

### INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY TRACK

**Intercultural Studies [8]**

**Specialization Studies [8]**

**Restricted Electives [6]**

**Concentration Internship [8]**

(see this page for detail)

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK TRACK

**Intercultural Studies [8]**

**Specialization Studies [8]**

**Restricted Electives [6]**

**Concentration Internship [8]**

(see page 53 for detail)

**DEGREE TOTAL  
= 60 CREDIT HOURS**

## INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY TRACK

The program requires at least 60 semester hours of coursework:

### Spiritual formation studies: 6 hours

- SFS 501 Learning to Love God and Others ..... (2)
- SFS 502 Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines ..... (2)
- SFS 504 Growing into Ethical Maturity ..... (2)

### Biblical interpretation studies: 14 hours

- DBS 516 Survey of Learning to Interpret Scripture ..... (2)
- BLS 501 Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon ..... (4)
- BLS 502 Interpreting the Prophets to Gospels ..... (4)
- BLS 503 Interpreting Acts to Revelation ..... (4)

### Theological studies: 10 hours

- THS 501 Knowing the Triune God: Theology I ..... (4)
- THS 502 Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II ..... (4)
- THS 503 Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III ..... (2)

### Intercultural foundation studies: 8 hours

- DIS 501 Communicating Christ in Culture ..... (2)
- DIS 505 Biblical Theology of Mission ..... (2)
- DIS 506 Applied Cultural Analysis ..... (2)
- DIS 508 Applied Anthropology ..... (2)

### Intercultural specialization studies: 8 hours

*Restricted electives—Select 8 hours from among the following:*

- DIS 502 Perspectives on World Ministry ..... (3)
- DIS 516 Applied Linguistics ..... (2)
- DIS 520 History of Missions ..... (2)
- DIS 522 Starting and Developing Churches ..... (2)
- DIS 524 Foundations: At Risk Children/Youth ..... (2)
- DIS 526 Religions of the World ..... (2)
- DIS 553 History of Women in Missions ..... (2)
- DIS 562H Introduction to Islam ..... (2)
- DIS 570 Senior Project ..... (2)

### Restricted electives: 6 hours

*Choose from DIS or TSL electives: 6 hours*

### Concentration internship: 8 hours

- DIS 500 Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential ..... (2)
- DIS 534 Adapting Cross-Culturally ..... (2)
- DIS 531 Intercultural Ministry Internship ..... (4)

**Total: 60 hours**

*“The MA Intercultural Studies program is designed to prepare people for cross-cultural ministry in North America as well as overseas. Some students become trainers in local churches and mission pastors, while others have ministries, such as starting church planting movements, in radically different cultures overseas. Concentrations in At Risk Kids and Ethnic & Metropolitan Ministry, in addition to the Intercultural Ministry and TESOL tracks, allow a variety of options.”*

Dr. Mikel Neumann, Professor of Missiology

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK TRACK

Children and youth in North America and around the world are increasingly at risk with the rise in homelessness, gangs, the drug culture, child prostitution, child soldiers and orphans. Through a combination of counseling and intercultural courses, as well as strategic internship, the student will gain a foundation for and competence in this important ministry.

The program requires at least 60 semester hours of coursework:

### Spiritual formation studies: 6 hours

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| SFS 501 | Learning to Love God and Others .....             | (2) |
| SFS 502 | Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines ..... | (2) |
| SFS 504 | Growing into Ethical Maturity .....               | (2) |

### Biblical interpretation studies: 14 hours

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| DBS 516 | Survey of Learning to Interpret Scripture ..... | (2) |
| BLS 501 | Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon .....   | (4) |
| BLS 502 | Interpreting the Prophets to Gospels .....      | (4) |
| BLS 503 | Interpreting Acts to Revelation .....           | (4) |

### Theological studies: 10 hours

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| THS 501 | Knowing the Triune God: Theology I .....                  | (4) |
| THS 502 | Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II .....    | (4) |
| THS 503 | Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III ..... | (2) |

### Intercultural foundation studies: 8 hours

|         |                                       |     |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| DIS 501 | Communicating Christ in Culture ..... | (2) |
| DIS 505 | Biblical Theology of Mission .....    | (2) |
| DIS 506 | Applied Cultural Analysis .....       | (2) |
| DIS 508 | Applied Anthropology .....            | (2) |

### Specialization studies: 8 hours

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| DIS 524 | Foundations: Children/Youth at Risk ..... | (2) |
|---------|---|-----|

*Restricted electives—Select 6 hours from among the following:*

|          |   |     |
|----------|---|-----|
| CNS 507  | Human Life Span Development .....                                   | (3) |
| CNS 542  | Child Assessment and Treatment.....                                 | (1) |
| CNS 546  | Counseling Adolescents .....  | (1) |
| CNS 562J | Healing Children through Non-Directive Play.....                    | (2) |
| DIS 562G | Philosophy/Models: Children/Youth at Risk American<br>Context ..... | (2) |
| DIS 562J | Theological Issues of Children/Youth At Risk.....                   | (2) |
| DIS 562L | Intervention Strategies for Children/Youth At Risk .....            | (2) |
| DIS 562N | Church, Mission and Children/Youth At Risk.....                     | (2) |
| YMS 501  | Understanding Adolescent Development .....                          | (1) |

### Restricted electives: 6 hours

*Choose from DIS or TSL electives: 6 hours*

### Concentration internship: 8 hours

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| DIS 500 | Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential ..... | (2) |
| DIS 534 | Adapting Cross-Culturally .....                     | (2) |
| DIS 531 | Intercultural Ministry Internship .....             | (4) |

**Total: 60 hours**