

## Doctor of Applied Intercultural Studies

The AGTS Doctor of Applied Intercultural Studies (DAIS) program (formerly known as the Doctor of Missiology program) has risen to serve these leaders by:

- Enhancing missionary practice and resources
- Preparing participants to teach missiology at any level
- Building foundations for training missionaries overseas
- Equipping leaders for compassion ministries

The DAIS recognizes the priority of the Holy Spirit's person and power in accomplishing the mission of God (*Missio Dei*) and creates an environment in which students can experience the kind of learning that connects them more deeply to the Spirit's work in mission and allows them to focus their program on specific application of their learning in the field.

The AGTS Doctor of Applied Intercultural Studies consists of 48 credits earned in 11 modules and a professional project, and is built around several components:

- *Pentecostal perspective*: Distinctive emphasis on Spirit-empowered mission in a global context.
- *Lifestyle fit*: Relocating to Springfield is not necessary; in fact, the DAIS requires only five visits to AGTS over the course of the program.
- *Cohort experience*: Learning and growth occur through the bonds formed with other career missionaries in a diverse small group setting.
- *Modular convenience*: Courses are

taught in two, one-week blocks scheduled back-to-back allowing two classes on one airfare.

- *Contextualized study*: Area studies, special study with an approved educational provider and/or tutelage offer field-based training.

**Curricular Design.** Following a sequence of core classes, the DAIS offers tracks in Missiological Studies (MS) and Christian Relief and Development (RD), in addition to elective courses, and culminates in the writing of a professional project.

**Program Goals.** The Doctor of Applied Intercultural Studies program will provide students with:

- a deepening biblical and theological understanding of *Missio Dei* and the kingdom of God;
- a distinctively Pentecostal theology of intercultural ministry;
- an understanding of the historical development of the Christian movement and the participant's role in the contemporary world;
- the ability to discern the Holy Spirit's direction in the fulfillment of the mission of God in diverse cultural settings and to contextualize effective expressions of the Gospel;
- an emphasis on the priorities of evangelism, church planting, leadership formation, and compassion ministries;
- a continuing commitment to personal spiritual formation and growth as a member of God's missionary people;
- a working knowledge of the close relationship between the local church and missions; and
- a scholarly contribution to the understanding and practice of

intercultural ministry through the completion of a DAIS major applied project that integrates theoretical and empirical disciplines important to a specific ministry.

**Program Schedule.** A modular format requires five trips to AGTS over three years (all in July and December). Two courses are taken during each two-week session. Participants earn their 48 credits in:

- 5 Core courses
- 3 Track courses (Missiological Studies or Christian Relief and Development)
- 3 Elective courses
- Project

All modular 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/ 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.

To enhance research opportunities and

community development, the modules will be scheduled back-to-back. In addition to the course modules the student will be required to attend one Value Added Week (VAW) during the program. VAW elements include student research presentations with peer critique, onsite interviews with a mentor and guidance Committee, peer and faculty interaction, and video conferencing with field experts during study. A final four credits are earned through the satisfactory completion and oral defense of the project.

### Admission Requirements

1. *Academic:* An MA in an appropriate theological or missiological discipline from an acceptable school with a minimum GPA of 3.0 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. In exceptional cases, this requirement may be substituted by petition. When a request for language waiver is submitted, the Admissions Committee may require six credits of relevant studies in the applicant's area of research. This will be implemented 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).

7. *Technology*: Acceptable computer and Internet competencies.

**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.

**Application Procedure.** To apply for admission:

1. Complete the application online with a \$75 non-refundable application fee (\$15 for readmissions), a recent photograph, academic writing sample, and evidence of second language competency (e.g., language school transcript).
2. Request that official transcripts of all post-secondary institutions attended be sent to the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Office at AGTS.
3. Distribute academic, ministerial and personal recommendation forms and request those filling them out to return these documents within ten days to the AGTS Intercultural Doctoral Studies Office.
4. Request that written documentation of administrative approval be sent to the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Office. Email is acceptable.

**Application Deadline.** Individuals desiring admittance into the program should have their completed application files submitted no later than May 1 for consideration in the July cohort and October 1 for the December cohort. Under extenuating circumstances these deadlines

may be extended.

### **Acceptance into the Doctor of Applied Intercultural Studies Program.**

Applicants will be evaluated by the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Committee and referred to the Admissions Committee for consideration. Subsequently, they will be notified in writing regarding the status of their acceptance into the DAIS program.

### **DAIS Academic Policies and Procedures**

**Academic Status.** Participants will remain in good academic standing in the DAIS Program if they maintain a 3.0 grade point average, meet all financial obligations to the seminary, and conduct their personal lives with spiritual, moral and professional integrity, maintaining fitness for ministry. The administration reserves the right to dismiss any participant whose integrity in any of these areas is deemed unacceptable.

**Incomplete Grades.** Students are expected to complete all course work in a timely fashion as specified by the instructor in the course syllabus. A grade of "IP" (In Process) will be issued if the professor's due date falls after the AGTS semester ending date. Due dates of doctoral modular courses are at the discretion of the professor but will be considered IP until the first day of the next module or set of modules. A grade of failure may be issued if the work is not submitted by the first day of the next module(s) unless the student has requested an extension. If the student requests additional time, an incomplete "I" grade may be given at the discretion of the instructor for a 90-day extension. In the event the instructor grants a grade of incomplete, he or she will have the option of lowering the final grade for the course one letter grade lower than it would

have been had the work been submitted on time. A grade of failure may be issued if the work is not submitted before the expiration of the 90-day extension. [Exception: Doctoral participants in the Project phase.] No student will be permitted to begin credit courses in a new semester if carrying more than two IP or I courses.

**Probation and Dismissal.** A student making one "C" in the four core courses is placed on probation and should retake the course. A student will be dismissed upon making two "C's."

### Graduation Requirements

1. Satisfactory completion of all DAIS Program requirements. This includes completion of 48 credits of course work (20 from Core courses, 12 from Track courses, 12 from Elective courses, and 4 from the Project phase) and one Value-Added Week.
2. Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0, including no more than one C.
3. Be in good standing at the Seminary (*see Academic Status*).
4. Have passed the DAIS Qualifying Examination.
5. Complete an acceptable and approved DAIS Project.
6. Make an acceptable oral defense of the DAIS Project.
7. Students are required to register for graduation as follows: Those who wish to graduate in the fall semester of the same year must submit a graduation application on the student portal by October 31. Those who wish to graduate in the spring or summer semester must submit their graduation application on the student portal by January 30 of the same year. Those who miss these

deadlines will have to wait until the following October to file for graduation.

8. Receive approval to graduate from the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Committee and Seminary Academic Council.
9. Attend the Commencement exercises.

**Professional Project.** Participants write a professional project that reflects on the practice of ministry in their context.

**Program Duration.** A typical DAIS participant will finish the program in approximately four years.

**Transfer Credits.** An individual may transfer in a total of eight doctoral credits. Individual appeals for transfer credits will be evaluated based upon the following considerations:

1. Transfer credits must be from appropriately accredited institutions or those recognized by an approved foreign accrediting body.
2. Student must have earned a passing grade of "B" or higher (3.0 on a 4.0 scale).
3. Transfer credits must be relevant to the DAIS program.
4. Recent time frame of courses taken will be reviewed. Extenuating circumstances of the participant will be considered (*e.g., missionary in a situation that makes it difficult to take courses in a timely fashion.*)

To request transfer credit, official transcripts must be reviewed by the Office of Seminary Registration before consideration for doctoral

credit will be given. *(Any exception to the standard policy must be recommended by the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Committee and approved by the Seminary Academic Council.)*

*Note: The transfer of credits does not waive or change the Program Fee.*

### **Courses Open to Unclassified**

**Doctoral-Level Students.** A limited number of non-degree, post-MA persons who are not pursuing a DAIS degree at AGTS may be allowed to take DAIS courses if they satisfy admission requirements for the DAIS program. Contact the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Office for more information.

**Audit Policy.** Graduates of AGTS doctoral programs are eligible for one free master or doctoral-level audit (3-4 credits) per academic year, on a space-available basis. There is a \$90 processing fee.

## **Doctor of Applied Intercultural Studies Program Design**

### **Core Courses (20 credits)**

**MSS 901: Core 1 - Leaders in a Global Context (4 cr.)** Orients participants to the unique dynamics and requirements of Doctor of Applied 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; and guide participants in self-reflection considering their ministries and global issues.

**MHT 902: Core 2 - Missio Dei and the Contemporary World (4 cr.)** Examines *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.

### **MCC 903: Core 3 - Intercultural Communication and Missions Anthropology (4 cr.)**

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.

### **MCC 904: Core 4 - Theological Issues, Contextualization and Area Studies (4 cr.)**

Enables 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.

### **MSS 905: Core 5 - Methods of Missiological Research (4 cr.)**

Introduces 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, research methodology, findings and conclusions. Development of a research design, bibliography and database for missiological research will be emphasized

### **Track Courses (12 credits)**

Following their Core courses, DAIS students will choose between two tracks: Missiological Studies or Christian Relief and Development. Each track involves 12 credits (three courses) of study in a specialized area.

### **Missiological Studies Track**

#### **MHT 910: The History of Christianity in Missiological Perspective (4 cr.)**

Studies selected missiological paradigms throughout the expansion of Christianity from Pentecost to the present. Writings of mission theorists will be studied for understanding the advance or decline at key historical junctures, as well as the assessing of current missiology.

#### **MCC 911: Missiological Engagement with World Religions (4 cr.)**

**Examines** the process of engaging followers of other religions with the purpose of facilitating effective communication of the gospel. Representatives serving in diverse religious contexts explore unique opportunities and challenges presented by various historical and contemporary religious environments.

**MSS 912: Evangelizing, Discipling and Church Planting (4 cr.)** Explores biblical principles, contemporary models, and effective strategies for evangelizing non-believers, discipling converts and planting healthy churches. Global challenges of the urban context and assimilation will be considered. Case studies will be examined.

### **Christian Relief and Development Track**

#### **MCC 920: Biblical Perspectives on Issues of Social Justice (4 cr.)**

Investigates biblical perspectives on social

justice and the formulation of a scriptural foundation for the Church's response to human suffering with holistic ministries. Special attention will be given to racial injustice and global poverty. *A prerequisite for Relief and Development Track.*

#### **MSS 921: Relief and Development in Mission: Theories and Strategies (4 cr.)**

Facilitates the articulation of a Christian response to global relief and development. Classical and modern theories of economic development and poverty eradication will be examined from a Christian perspective. Community development within a Christian worldview will be informed by the role of the developer on a personal, local, regional and global level.

#### **MSS 922: Contemporary Social Issues in Mission (4 cr.)**

Identifies the major global issues of injustice that impact women, children and minority people groups, such as human sexual trafficking, children at risk and human rights abuses. It will explore issues that impact on development such as AIDS and other international health crises, urbanization trends, global economic threats, wars and refugees and environmental issues. It will provide a critical overview of best practice interventions by international agencies and Christian relief and development organizations who address these global issues of social injustice.

### **Elective Courses (12 credits)**

Students will select three classes from the available Elective courses to deepen their study of specific topics. One elective course in Area Studies is required.

#### **MSS 900: Special Studies: Tutelage (4 cr.)**

A track elective taken under the tutelage

of an assigned professor of record. *(In order to take this course the student must secure the approval of his or her program advisor.)*

**MCC 929: Encountering Non-Christian Religions (4 cr.)** Focuses on the biblical and theological understanding of non-Christian religions. Participants will examine critical issues facing the church considering biblical teaching and current conflicting ideas and theories in pluralistic societies. Attention will be given to diversity, truth and salvation in religions.

**MSS 930: Alternative Approaches to Education (4 cr.)** Analyzes the principles of traditional and nontraditional education, both formal and informal, with emphasis given to ministry formation. Selected educational systems such as theological education by extension (TEE), distance education, in-service training, will be evaluated as to contextual suitability and effectiveness. Participants will engage in creative application of the principles presented and innovative modes of delivery systems.

**MSS 931: Leading the Christian Non-Profit Organization (4 cr.)** The critical role of the faith-based organization (FBO) has been universally acknowledged by the development community in its war on poverty. This course will trace the FBO's road to recognition in both the United States and internationally and examine the unique contribution of the FBO in community development. It will explore international legislation governing the establishment of non-governmental organizations' (NGO's) legal requirements for registration and identify the financial management and project reporting requirements that are expected of an accountable and transparent organization. It will further provide the

student with the skills to create a community development profile, strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats (SWOT) analysis and strategic plan to assist a church community to mobilize for action. Finally the student will be prepared in the skills of creating a viable business plan and the identification of potential funding resources for FBO activities.

**MCC 932: Contextualized Leadership Training (4 cr.)** Facilitates leadership development vision by analyzing leadership selection processes, authority patterns and spiritual formation in a particular setting. Participants will be encouraged to develop culturally appropriate principles, strategies and methods of leadership training including church-based, institutional and non-formal approaches. Emphasis will be given to designing resources and building team concepts for long-term reproducible models.

**MSS 933: HIV/AIDS in a Global Context (4 cr.)** Explores the global HIV/AIDS pandemic from various perspectives. It will look at the medical issues that the disease raises and its contribution to global poverty. It will explore the political, economic, social and security issues that its spread has created in Africa, and project future trajectories for the spread of the disease. The course will also attempt to formulate a Christian perspective on the proposed role of the church to prevent the spread of the pandemic, to provide services to minimize its affects and to minister to those infected and affected by the disease. The underlying assumption of these strategies will be to create interventions that are sustainable and community-based and have as their focal point the centrality of the local church in the areas that are most affected.

**MSS 934: Contemporary Missions:**



**Issues and Strategies (4 cr.)** Studies current issues and strategies in missions. Topics such as collaboration, short-term and career commitments, non-residential missions, the “business as missions” movement, theological education, training church leaders/planters, missionary lifestyle, interfaith dialogue and holism/international development will be considered.

**MSS 935: Area Studies Elective (required) (4 cr.)** Studies a particular area or region of the world. May be taken as a seminar, tutorial or through course work in government-approved universities around the world. *(In order to take this required elective course, the student must petition and secure the approval of his or her program advisor.)*

**MSS 939: Special Studies with an Approved Educational Provider (4 cr.)** A track elective taken with an approved educational provider that facilitates the development of competencies germane to the major applied research project. *(In order to take this course, the student must secure the approval of his or her program advisor.)*

### **Project Course (4 credits)**

**MCC 999: Project Development (4 cr.)** 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. *All participants working on the project phase will maintain a continued registration in the program.*

### **Qualifying Exam**

The qualifying examination is intended to demonstrate an acceptable level of competency in missiology and the ability to

apply the literature to a set of circumstances. The student is required to submit to the qualifying exam within a three-year period of the start of his or her first course and is eligible to take the examination upon successful completion of the following core courses:

- Core 1 – Leaders in a Global Context
- Core 2 – *Missio Dei* and the Contemporary World
- Core 3 – Intercultural Communication and Missions Anthropology
- Core 4 – Theological Issues, Contextualization and Area Studies

A list of recommended readings to support competencies developed in the core courses will be provided at the beginning of the program.

The qualifying examination is composed of two exams. One exam is based on the missiological content and disciplines of study introduced in the core courses MS/MSS 901 *Leaders in a Global Context* and MH/MHT 902 *Missio Dei and the Contemporary World*; the second is based on MC/MCC 903 *Intercultural Communication and Missions Anthropology* and MC/MCC 904 *Theological Issues, Contextualization and Area Studies*. Each exam will be comprised of two questions. One question will be selected from two summative questions developed and approved by the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Committee, one for each core course; and the second question will be a context specific question selected by the committee from questions submitted by the student.

The student will submit to the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Committee two summative context-specific questions for each exam (a total of four questions, one for each core



course listed above) which seek to integrate and apply the content of the courses to the student's specific missional environment. If the questions are not approved, they will be returned to the student with suggestions for resubmission. If approved, the committee will select one question for each exam. The questions for each of the two exams will be sent electronically to a preapproved proctor.

The student will plan with the proctor to schedule and take the exams in an appropriate context on a computer that is not connected to the Internet and contains no files related to the exams. For each exam the proctor will present the two selected questions to the student who will write a response to each. Each exam should be minimally 2000 words (1000 words per question<sup>1</sup>) referencing the appropriate literature (author only, bibliographic reference not required). Four hours will be allowed for each exam. The two exams are to be taken within a two-week period. Upon completion of each exam the proctor will email the student's response in electronic format to the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Committee, retain one copy as a backup and provide one copy to the student (e.g. by email, thumb drive). Each exam will be graded by a specialist in the field and by a generalist according to the following classifications: Superior, Satisfactory, Marginal or Unsatisfactory. Any grade of unsatisfactory by either grader or marginal by both will require retesting in that discipline/course. A marginal or unsatisfactory score by either grader on the retest will result in disqualification from the program.

<sup>1</sup> The average exam response is between 2800 and 3800 words (1400-1900 words per question).

### **Project Prospectus**

At the conclusion of Core 5, Methods of Intercultural and Missiological Research, a formal project prospectus must be presented to and approved by the Intercultural Doctoral Studies Committee. The prospectus should include project title, a problem statement or thesis, research questions or hypothesis, an annotated bibliography of literature related to the research, methodology to be employed, a description of how track, elective, and 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 project. A draft prospectus must be presented at the "Project Design Seminar" during a "Value-Added Week" for peer and faculty critique. With the successful completion of the qualifying exam and the approval of the project prospectus, the student will be assigned a guidance committee comprised of the project coordinator, a content-specialist advisor, and an outside reader whose research expertise is directly related to the projected research identified in the prospectus to develop the study program.

### **Project**

A research project advances knowledge in the field of study and enables the participant to integrate and apply his or her learning in an intercultural ministry context. Upon the completion, acceptance, and successful oral defense of a written project which makes a scholarly contribution to the discipline and practice of intercultural ministry, four credits will be recorded on the transcript.