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ASSEMBLIES *of* GOD

THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
Evangel University

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Evangel University**

Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies

The Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies (MAIS) is a 48-credit degree designed to **form leaders with a thorough understanding** of God's mission for the Church and the **interpersonal and intercultural communication skills** essential for productive ministry in cross-cultural settings. The program helps students **integrate anthropology, psychology, sociology and theology** to inform the task of world evangelization and the planting and nurturing of the Church. It also trains missionaries and other cross-cultural workers for roles in theological education and the development of leaders.

Degree Components and Requirements

Applicants with a strong undergraduate program in religion may petition for Advanced Standing in the program, which could allow them to complete the program with 39 credits or approximately three semesters of study. See *MAIS Advanced Standing*.

For courses successfully completed as an undergraduate, a student may substitute an advanced course. See the *Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree for examples.*

MISSION OF GOD AND WORLD CHRISTIANITY (9 CREDITS)¹

BTH/MHT 501	The Mission of God in Biblical and Contemporary Contexts	3
HIS/MHT 556	World Christianity I	3
HIS/MHT 557	World Christianity II	3

BIBLE AND THEOLOGY (15 CREDITS)¹

BIB 532	Hermeneutics	3
BNT 530	New Testament Introduction * or BNT Book Study or BTH 532 NT Theology	3
BOT 530	Old Testament Introduction * or BOT Book Study or BTH 530 OT Theology	3
RES 531	Theological Research & Writing	3
THE xxx	Theology elective	3

MISSIONS (12 CREDITS)

MCC/MHT 642	Contextualized Theology	3
MCC/MHT 643	Anthropology and Communication in Theological Perspective	3
MHT 635	Pentecostal Theology of Leadership Development	3
<i>Choose one of the following:</i>		
MCC 556	Field Education Research Project ¹	3
MSS 641	Practicum in Intercultural Ministry I	3

ELECTIVES (12 CREDITS)

Electives in Global Missions	12
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* *Required course unless appropriate substitution approved by adviser.*

¹ See *Global Missions Department Field Education Research Manual*.

Concentrations (Optional)

Concentrations are not required. Students may pursue electives of their choice instead. If students desire a concentration, they will assume responsibility for taking the needed courses through their requirements and electives. These concentrations will not appear on the student degree audit since students often change them during the course of their studies. If the needed courses have been taken and brought to the attention of the Coordinator of Seminary Registration and Degree Audit, at graduation the concentration will appear on a student's transcript.

Students may choose from four concentrations in missions studies: Intercultural Studies, Global Missions, Member Care and Islamic Studies:

Intercultural Studies Concentration

This track consists of twelve credits of electives chosen from courses numbered with the prefixes MCC, MCC, MHT and MSS. It provides a solid academic basis for ministry in a missions context or for further missions studies at the doctoral level. A student in the MAIS who wishes to apply for AG credentials may take HIS 532 History and Polity of the Assemblies of God as a missions elective

Global Missions Concentration (GM)

The GM concentration permits students to pursue a significant portion of their degree outside the context of normal, on-campus studies, allowing them to live, learn and develop ministry skills in a cross-cultural setting (whether in a foreign country or in a cross-cultural setting in the United States). The experience is designed to guide the student in developing the cultural fluency necessary for effective ministry in today's globalized and multicultural world.

Students must complete **twelve credits** of graduate-level studies in an AGTS-approved institution which can be transferred back to fulfill the degree requirements at AGTS. The courses taken under the GM Special Studies Program may be **in fields of study other than Intercultural Studies**, but require the **prior** approval of the assigned AGTS mentor in consultation with the Dean of the Seminary.

In addition to classroom curriculum, the student is expected to be involved in the fullest possible range of campus, student life, and student ministry activities. The host culture(s) is to be experienced and learned through participation. The student will be encouraged to risk moving away from his or her cultural comfort zone to explore the adventure of getting into the "skin" of another culture. The GM student journal should reflect an intentional involvement in and engagement of the cross-cultural experience.

Member Care Concentration

PTH/MCC 561	Foundations for Family Ministries and Soul Care	3
PTH/MCC 565	Interpersonal Helping Techniques with Diverse Populations	3
	<i>Choose two of the following:</i>	6
PTH 610	Psychological Disorders and Addictive Behaviors	
PTH 615	Human Sexuality and Marriage Counseling	
PTH 618	Ministry in Trauma, Crisis and Grief Contexts	
PTH/MCC 654	Pentecostal Perspective on Justice, the Church and Society	

Islamic Studies Concentration

Islam is one of the world's fastest growing religions, with more than 1.4 billion adherents— more than one-fifth of the world's population. While Islam advances at an alarming rate, it remains resistant to the gospel. The Church must address this challenge. The Islamic Studies Concentration provides the opportunity to develop competencies essential for effective ministry to Muslims. Islamic Studies courses are taught in a modular format— usually one or two weeks—on the AGTS campus and at selected extension sites. Professors will be members of the AGTS faculty, Global Initiative and visiting professors of Islamics.

Required courses are:

MCC 545	Engaging Islam	3
MHT 649	Christian-Muslim Theological Issues	3
MSS 643	Church Planting in Muslim Contexts	3
<i>One of the following:</i>		3
MCC 552	Women in Islam	
MCC 553	Islam in the United States	
MCC 554	Folk Islam and Power Encounter	
MSS 641	Practicum in Intercultural Ministry I (<i>Practicum must be completed in Muslim context</i>)	

PRACTICUM

This is a cross-cultural practicum. Students who choose the Islamic Studies concentration must complete their practicum in a Muslim context. This practicum requires a pre-session orientation, a post-session assessment and an approved, supervised cross-cultural involvement. The practicum will usually be completed in a two to four week time frame and should normally be scheduled during the summer recess. An exception may be granted to allow the practicum to be scheduled during the course of a regular semester.

In addition to appointing an on-field supervisor, AGTS will assign an in-house mentor to prepare the student for the practicum, and facilitate the understanding and synthesizing of the experience. The student is required to keep a daily journal of experiences. This journal will be utilized in the writing of a reflection paper which the student will present in a final debriefing session at AGTS.

The length of time required for securing AGWM approvals, communicating with a mentor, getting immunizations and visas and raising funds for Global Missions participants affects the application deadlines for intercultural practicums (*see Resident Academic Calendar*). Late applications will be approved or denied at the discretion of the Global Missions Committee.

Prior to registering for the cross-cultural practicum, the student must have completed the following four courses: BTH/MHT 501, MHT 635, MCC/MHT 642 and MCC/MHT 643. For an exception, the student must petition the Global Missions Department.

MAIS Advanced Standing

Students who have earned a significant number of credits in religious studies from approved colleges and universities may request exemption from certain required courses in the MAIS degree program, thus granting them Advanced Standing. Life experience does not qualify for Advanced Standing. (*See Coordinator of Seminary Registration and Degree Audit for further details.*)

The following rules apply to MAIS Advanced Standing:

1. Advanced Standing cannot exceed nine credits.
2. Advanced Standing is considered for undergraduate courses with satisfactory parallel content, provided the equivalent collegiate courses are double the credit value of the Seminary's courses. A minimum grade of B is required and the student must be able to demonstrate competency in subject matter by presentation of an Advanced Standing Portfolio for each course for which Advanced Standing is desired. A fee of \$50 per course will be charged for each portfolio that is evaluated, regardless of whether or not the Advanced Standing is granted.
3. Advanced Standing must be requested prior to enrollment but no later than the end of the student's first semester of study at AGTS. Requests should be submitted to the Office of Seminary Registration and Degree Audit.
4. Partial course Advanced Standing will not be granted.
5. If the student later takes a course where Advanced Standing has been granted, the Advanced Standing would be nullified.

6. Advanced Standing may be granted for a course from "Bible and Theology," a "World Christianity" course and a "Missions Elective" course.
7. In an area where a student demonstrates competency but the criteria preclude Advanced Standing, a substitute course may be allowed if approved by the faculty adviser and the Dean.
8. All AGTS master programs must be completed within a 10-year time limit, which includes any undergraduate courses used for Advanced Standing and any graduate courses transferred in from other schools. See the AGTS Office of Seminary Registration and Degree Audit for more information.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the general requirements for graduation, the student must submit an acceptable student portfolio.

Distance Learning

A limited number of courses may be taken through directed research or distance learning.

Additional Course Offering Sites

AGTS has two additional course offering sites for the MAIS program: Continental Theological Seminary, Brussels, Belgium, and CINCEL, San Jose, Costa Rica. Both sites are approved for offering 4-6 courses toward the MAIS degree. For further information, contact the Office of Seminary Registration and Degree Audit.