

MISSIONS (MS)

MS 3328 Church Conflict and Church Growth (3 credit hours)

A study of strategies to address and avoid conflict in our churches. Additionally, the matter of church growth during and after conflict will be studied.

MS 3370 Introduction to Missions (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with an introduction to Christian missions. The course will emphasize how Southern Baptists fulfill the Great Commission.

MS 3405 Traditional Religions, World Religions, and Cults (3 credit hours)

A general survey of the major world religions and American cults. The course examines basic concepts in world religions and is designed to help students understand the basic beliefs in order to contextualize the message of the gospel in appropriate forms and lead followers of these religions to faith in Christ.

MS 3500 Leadership in Missions (3 credit hours)

This course provides a study of the nature of Christian leadership, primarily in the context of international missions. Substantial attention is given to various character qualities and leadership competencies necessary for effectiveness in cross-cultural ministry. This course deals with issues related to discipling and equipping new Christians for church leadership. It also deals with the processes and procedures related to advanced strategic planning and team ministry.

MS 6311 Church Planting (3 credit hours)

This is an introductory course in church planting. The goal is for each student to gain broad exposure to and a general understanding of church planting strategies, methods, and issues. Students will integrate theological, missiological, and anthropological church planting principles as they observe and evaluate existing models of church planting.

MS 6332 Strategies of Missions and Leadership Development (3 credit hours)

This course is a study of distinctive strategies for world evangelization. The instructor will emphasize application to current missions practice. Special attention will be given to the historical development of mission strategies and leadership development.

MS 6370 Introduction to Missions (3 credit hours)

An introductory study of Southern Baptist missions, with emphasis upon the preparation, life, and work of the cross-cultural missionary. The first part considers the call, qualifications, and appointment procedure. The second part deals with field adjustment of the missionary family on the foreign field. The third part surveys the traditional methods of missionary work and examines current innovative approaches. Primary attention is given to international missions, with additional attention being given to North American missions. Two major objectives are: to provide an adequate understanding of Southern Baptist missions and to encourage each Mid-America student toward a personal commitment to missions.

MS 6405 Traditional World Religions and Cults (3 credit hours)

A general survey of the major world religions and cults. The course examines basic beliefs in these religions and is designed to help students understand the basic concepts in order to contextualize the message of the Gospel in appropriate forms and lead followers of these religions to faith in Jesus Christ.

MS 6435 Pauline Theology and Missions (3 credit hours)

A study of the life of the Apostle Paul, including the missionary mandate of the local church according to Paul. Attention will be given to Luke's explanation of Paul's mission and theology, including Paul's understanding of the Gospel and the practical application for both evangelism and church planting.

MS 6460 History of Modern Missions (3 credit hours)

A study of missionary expansion during the modern missionary movement from the time of William Carey to the present. The course provides an outline of the significant developments in the history of the modern missions era. Particular emphasis is given to the unique way in which God calls, prepares, and uses chosen individuals in carrying out His redemptive plan for sharing the gospel with people groups throughout the world. Biographies of selected missionaries are featured to demonstrate missionary endeavor as it is seen through the eyes of those who have been involved in God's Kingdom purpose.

MS 6482 Missions Annotated Bibliography (3 credit hours)

A specialized bibliography course that involves a minimum of 5,000 pages of supervised reading and results in preparation of an annotated bibliography that is relevant to the missionary work that is being carried out on the assigned field. Students will read materials that normally are required in the third-year courses in the on-campus program as well as other specific materials designated by the missions department. Students may select other reading from materials found on the mission field. Sources must include a balance of materials that includes journals; people profiles, reports and field studies generated by missionaries and others on the field; and carefully selected internet sources. A typed report is to be prepared for each book or other source. The format will include the bibliographical entry, a statement of the author's purpose, the manner in which the author develops or organizes his topic and a critical evaluation of the effectiveness and relevance of the source for missionary ministry in the assigned field of service. The reviews are to be written in the format of the sample reading report distributed by the missions department. Finally, students must prepare an annotated bibliography that is relevant to the missionary work that is being carried out on the assigned field. All initial written assignments must be submitted to the missions department at least six months prior to expected graduation. Final corrected versions of all written assignments must be submitted to the missions department at least one month prior to the end of the term in which students are scheduled for completion of the on-field work and graduation from the Seminary (nine semester hours credit).

MS 6483 Missions Annotated Bibliography (3 credit hours)

A specialized bibliography course that involves a minimum of 5,000 pages of supervised reading and results in preparation of an annotated bibliography that is relevant to the missionary work that is being carried out on the assigned field. Students will read materials that normally are required in the third-year courses in the on-campus program as well as other specific materials designated by the missions department. Students may select other reading from materials found on the mission field. Sources must include a balance of materials that includes journals; people profiles, reports and field studies generated by missionaries and others on the field; and carefully selected internet sources. A typed report is to be prepared for each book or other source. The format will include the bibliographical entry, a statement of the author's purpose, the manner in which the author develops or organizes his topic and a critical evaluation of the effectiveness and relevance of the source for missionary ministry in the assigned field of service. The reviews are to be written in the format of the sample reading report distributed by the missions department. Finally, students must prepare an annotated bibliography that is relevant to the missionary work that is being carried out on the assigned field. All initial written assignments must be submitted to the missions department at least six months prior to expected graduation. Final corrected versions of all written assignments must be submitted to the missions department at least one month prior to the end of the term in which students are scheduled for completion of the on-field work and graduation from the Seminary (nine semester hours credit).

MS 6484 Missions Annotated Bibliography (3 credit hours)

A specialized bibliography course that involves a minimum of 5,000 pages of supervised reading and results in preparation of an annotated bibliography that is relevant to the missionary work that is being carried out on the assigned field. Students will read materials that normally are required in the third-year courses in the on-campus program as well as other specific materials designated by the missions department. Students may select other reading from materials found on the mission field. Sources must include a balance of materials that includes journals; people profiles, reports and field studies generated by missionaries and others on the field; and carefully selected internet sources. A typed report is to be prepared for each book or other source. The format will include the bibliographical entry, a statement of the author's purpose, the manner in which the author develops or organizes his topic and a critical evaluation of the effectiveness and relevance of the source for missionary ministry in the assigned field of service. The reviews are to be written in the format of the sample reading report distributed by the missions department. Finally, students must prepare an annotated bibliography that is relevant to the missionary work that is being carried out on the assigned field. All initial written assignments must be submitted to the missions department at least six months prior to expected graduation. Final corrected versions of all written assignments must be submitted to the missions department at least one month prior to the end of the term in which students are scheduled for completion of the on-field work and graduation from the Seminary (nine semester hours credit).

MS 6485 Missions Thesis 1 (9 credit hours)

A master-level thesis of at least 75 to 90 pages of text (plus an appropriate bibliography) that deals with significant selected aspects of the work that is being carried out on the assigned field. The primary purpose of the thesis is to draw together what the students have learned from the two years of field experience, from the study of the language and culture of the target people, from the reading and research that has been accomplished during that time, and to write a formal paper that makes a significant contribution of the work in the assigned mission area. The sections of the paper should encompass a study of the geographical, physical, and political environment, historical development, anthropological and religious features, and a specific strategy of evangelism, church planting, and leadership development relevant to the target people group. Each paper is to include a title page, contents page, approximately 75 to 90 pages of text and a bibliography of source materials pertaining to the topic. The research thesis is to be written in accordance with *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., by Kate Turabian (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). The paper must conform to the *Mid-America Guide for Form and Style*. The initial draft of the thesis must be submitted to the missions department at least six months prior to expected graduation. A corrected final copy must be submitted to the missions department at least one month prior to the end of the term in which students are scheduled for completion of the on-field work and graduation from the Seminary (MS 6485 counts as nine hours credit, and MS 6486 counts as six hours credit for a total of 15 semester hours credit).

MS 6486 Missions Thesis 2 (6 credit hours)

A master-level thesis of at least 75 to 90 pages of text (plus an appropriate bibliography) that deals with significant selected aspects of the work that is being carried out on the assigned field. The primary purpose of the thesis is to draw together what the students have learned from the two years of field experience, from the study of the language and culture of the target people, from the reading and research that has been accomplished during that time, and to write a formal paper that makes a significant contribution of the work in the assigned mission area. The sections of the paper should encompass a study of the geographical, physical, and political environment, historical development, anthropological and religious features, and a specific strategy of evangelism, church planting, and leadership development relevant to the target people group. Each paper is to include a title page, contents page, approximately 75 to 90 pages of text and a bibliography of source materials pertaining to the topic. The research thesis is to be written in accordance with *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., by Kate Turabian (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). The paper must conform to the *Mid-America Guide for Form and Style*. The initial draft of the thesis must be submitted to the missions department at least six months prior to expected graduation. A corrected final copy must be submitted to the missions department at least one month prior to the end of the term in which students are scheduled for completion of the on-field work and graduation from the Seminary (MS 6485 counts as nine hours credit, and MS 6486 counts as six hours credit for a total of 15 semester hours credit).

MS 6520 Anthropology and Worldview (3 credit hours)

An introduction to the basic concepts of cultural anthropology which have practical relevance to effective missionary communication of the Gospel in a culturally heterogeneous world. The course examines marriage, family, and kinship structures; authority and decision-making structures; status, role, and function; the life cycle and rites of passage; and other factors relevant to meaningful public confession of Christ and church membership in traditional societies. The section on worldview defines worldview and focuses on the nature and functions of worldview in human culture as well as the dynamics of worldview change. Major emphasis is given to the importance of worldview understanding to communicate the Gospel in a relevant fashion.

MS 6581 Missions Practicum 1 (3 credit hours)

The Missiology Practica (MS 6581 and MS 6582) seek to provide students with 40 hours of on-the-field training under a school authorized seasoned field missionary. The student will receive instruction by a missionary or ministry action coordinator that includes the following: observe and participate in ministry opportunities in a missions setting (church plant or ministry site), benefit from regular debriefing sessions, and learn best practices in accomplishing the core missionary task.

MS 6582 Missions Practicum 2 (3 credit hours)

The Missiology Practica (MS 6581 and MS 6582) seek to provide students with 40 hours of on-the-field training under a school authorized seasoned field missionary. The student will receive instruction by a missionary or ministry action coordinator that includes the following: observe and participate in ministry opportunities in a missions setting (church plant or ministry site), benefit from regular debriefing sessions, and learn best practices in accomplishing the core missionary task.

MS 6583 Church Planting Practicum 1 (3 credit hours)

A course designed for selected individuals who are committed to planting a new Baptist church in North America. The students will not meet in classroom format but will be involved in the practical exercise of a church start under the authority of a local church in cooperation with a Baptist association. Students will be accountable to the mentoring supervision of the pastor of the sponsoring church who will communicate with the professor of record regarding the student's activities and progress in the church start.

MS 6584 Church Planting Practicum 2 (3 credit hours)

A course designed for selected individuals who are committed to planting a new Baptist church in North America. The students will not meet in classroom format but will be involved in the practical exercise of a church start under the authority of a local church in cooperation with a Baptist association. Students will be accountable to the mentoring supervision of the pastor of the sponsoring church who will communicate with the professor of record regarding the student's activities and progress in the church start.

MS 6595 Missions Capstone Course (3 credit hours)

The purpose of the Missions Capstone course is to help the student to encapsulate in theory and practice the core elements of his or her studies in the field of missiology. The aim is to help the student to distill the curriculum into a biblically sound and practical ministry approach in a missions setting.

MS 9611 The History of Christian Missions (4 credit hours)

A comprehensive overview of the historical expansion of Christianity from a missionary perspective. The seminar differs from a church history seminar in that the focus is upon factors in the spread of Christianity with regard to the agents and methods involved rather than on the development of theology and the church councils.

MS 9621 Theology of Missions (4 credit hours)

A thorough examination of the theology of missions, beginning with the development of a biblical basis for a proper understanding of God's mission in the world and continuing through an analysis of historical perspectives on missions and concluding with the development of a biblically based contemporary theology of missions.

MS 9651 Strategy of Christian Missions (4 credit hours)

An investigation of the components of strategies for world evangelization. These components include planning, management, targeting specific people groups, maximizing the available resources, and analyzing methods to accomplish this task in a cross-cultural setting. Additional areas of investigation include the practicality and urgency of world evangelism, the principles and methods for the planting and development of indigenous churches, and contextualization on the mission field.

MS 9681 Contextualized Missionary Anthropology (4 credit hours)

A survey of significant aspects of cultural concepts and social organization that have practical relevance to effective missionary communication of the Gospel in a culturally heterogeneous world. Special attention is given to family structure, kinship webs, tribal authority, and decision-making within a communal society. This course is also a study of the phenomenon of traditional religions in the missionary context, examining the primary characteristics of traditional religious expressions such as animism, the spirit world, demon possession, magic, religious specialists, veneration of ancestors, and concepts of God, even in the more developed formal religions such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.