

# Commissioned Ministry Program Curricular Standards



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## PROLOGUE

The Concordia University System Church Work Program Standards shall specify the instructional and practical curricular requirements expected to be satisfactorily completed prior to qualification for first call or as preparation for seminary study.

## STANDARDS

1. The program teaches the canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
  - a. *Sola Scriptura*
  - b. Scripture Interprets Scripture
  - c. Christocentric focus
  
2. The program teaches the history and literature of the Old and New Testaments, their theological themes, and their relevance to the Christian life.
  - a. The chronology and contents of major events and figures.
  - b. The literary genres and features of the canonical books.
  - c. Law and Gospel / sin and grace.
  - d. The Bible's bearing on Christian living and the Church today.
  
3. The program presents the entirety of the *Book of Concord*, preparing students to believe, teach and confess its doctrine as set forth in Holy Scripture and confessed by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
  - a. The Apostolic, Nicene & Athanasian Creeds
  - b. The Small and Large Catechisms
  - c. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession and the Apology
  - d. The Smalcald Articles
  - e. The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
  - f. The Formula of Concord
  
4. The program teaches systematic and confessional theology as outlined in the Six Chief Parts of the Small and Large Catechisms and the Table of Duties.
  - a. The Ten Commandments, the Creeds and the Lord's Prayer
    - i. The Holy Trinity – Person and Work
    - ii. Ecclesiology (the Nature of the Church) and the Two Kingdoms
  - b. The Means of Grace
    - i. The Word of God
    - ii. Holy Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar
  - c. The Office of the Keys, Confession and Absolution

**THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

Ann Arbor, Michigan • Denver, Colorado • Irvine, California • Mequon, Wisconsin • Portland, Oregon •  
Rancho Cucamonga, California • River Forest, Illinois • St. Paul, Minnesota • Seward, Nebraska

- d. Creation, Humanity and Sin
  - e. Justification, Sanctification and Vocation
  - f. Eschatology (Last Things)
5. The program teaches the origin, development, and current standing of the Church on earth.
- a. The origin and history of the early Christian Church.
  - b. Divisions and denominations within and opposition outside the Church.
  - c. The history, mission, and ministry of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.
  - d. Understanding and responding to major world religions and movements.
6. The program prepares students academically, professionally, and spiritually for rostered ministry in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.
- a. The Call process and the church worker as a member of Synod
  - b. The interaction and polity of the Synod with the local ministry.
  - c. The rightful distinction and proper application of Law and Gospel in ministry.
  - d. Knowledge and skill formation unique to each ministry field.
  - e. Christian professionalism, ethics, and spiritual/personal wellbeing.
7. The program provides vocation-appropriate supervised pre-professional experiences to prepare church workers for service in their specific ministry fields.

Adopted by the CUS Board of Directors on September 1, 2024