

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES, D.I.S.

Overview

Objectives

The Doctor of Intercultural Studies (<https://www.biola.edu/degrees/g/doctor-of-intercultural-studies/>) is a practitioner's degree designed to enhance people, partnerships and publications that advance the missions enterprise in scholarship, spirituality, service, and sacrifice through the critical strategizing of three cross-disciplines: church history, theology, and the social sciences. The program's goal is to promote the development of teachers, missions administrators and consultants, Bible translators, church multipliers, curriculum developers, community developers, member care professionals, and business persons who will be able to conduct cross-cultural ministries with greater conviction, clarity, competence, and compassion, without compromising the sacred Scriptures.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Doctor of Intercultural Studies, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of important theories and theorists relevant to one's research area and/or ministry context (ULO 1).
2. Construct new applied understandings explaining how the student can improve vocational engagement outcomes (ULO 1).
3. Demonstrate a mastery of important theoretical constructs in missiology applied to the student's vocational engagement (ULO 2).
4. Discuss and analyze the integration of one's faith commitments, theological understandings, and pertinent educational convictions (ULO 3).
5. Exemplify rigorous scholarship accompanied by Christ-honoring professionalism in all scholarly activities (ULO 3).

Each Program Learning Outcome (PLO) listed above references at least one of the University Learning Outcomes (ULO 1, 2, 3), which may be found in the General Information section (<http://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/#UniversityLearningOutcomes>) of this catalog.

Program Requirements

Program Requirements

The D.I.S. program requires 40 credits past the master's degree, of which 6 credits are normally devoted to the capstone project, including ISCL 880 and ISCL 881.

The 34-credit coursework component of the program comprises 13 credits of theological and missiological foundations, 12 credits of missiology/intercultural studies courses, and 9 credits of research methods courses. Students are encouraged to integrate each module into their capstone project.

A faculty advisor will guide each student in planning a program of courses to serve his or her ministry needs. Each student is expected to choose courses most appropriate to their research interest and will select a mentor from the graduate faculty to guide his or her capstone project. Admission into the graduate program of the Talbot School of Theology does not guarantee completion of the doctoral degree.

Delivery System

Full-time students can complete all required coursework in four semesters, with an additional year generally devoted to the capstone project. Part-time students usually complete coursework in three years.

Time Limit for Degree Completion

All course and academic requirements for the D.I.S. degree must be completed within seven years, beginning on the date of the student's first registration. Petitions for extension beyond seven years will be considered on a case-by-case basis for students who may need extensive time on the field.

Withdrawal and Re-Admission Procedures

A student who must drop out of school or is planning to return to field service must go through the formal withdrawal process. To return to active status the student should contact the program director and file a re-admission form with the admissions office.

Leave of Absence

Inactive students are those who have requested and been granted Leave of Absence from the program. A Leave of Absence may be granted upon petition for change of status if there is deemed sufficient reason for interrupting the program and intention to return to the program.

A Leave of Absence must be renewed by petition each semester and may not exceed two consecutive semesters. A Leave of Absence longer than two semesters will require withdrawal from the program and a petition for re-admission if the student later wishes to regain active status. Each leave of absence must receive the approval of the student's program advisor and the Dean of the school. Students on leave are required to register for ISCL 893 each term.

Oral Interview

If needed, an oral interview with a faculty committee may be held to evaluate a student's progress and potential for successful completion of the doctoral program. The interview is scheduled after at least one substantial piece of written work demonstrating the student's skill in research writing. The result of the interview will determine the student's status within the program.

Vocational Experience and Language Requirement

All students must complete a minimum of three years of practical ministry experience in a cross-cultural (or multi-cultural) setting. It is assumed that the student will acquire fluency in a second language before or during this vocational service and that this language will be the language of field research.

Admission to Candidacy

Official candidacy for the doctorate signifies an advanced stage in the student's progress and is characterized by self-directed research and

preparation of a capstone project under the direction of a faculty advisor. In order to be admitted to candidacy the student must have:

1. Completed the field ministry requirement
2. Received approval of the dissertation proposal by the Doctoral Committee

Upon reaching candidacy, a student usually registers for a total of 6 Capstone Project credits (including Project Proposal) prior to graduation.

Capstone

The 40 credit hour D.I.S. program normally includes 34 hours of coursework followed by six credit hours of research, of which three are Capstone Project Proposal and three are the Capstone Project. Students who have completed 40 credit hours or more of coursework before reaching the capstone project phase of their program must still write a research proposal and complete a capstone project. If doctoral candidates have not defended their dissertations by the time all required dissertation credits are completed, they must enroll continuously in ISCL 880 for 1 credit each semester until the successful defense of the dissertation.

The capstone project is generally based upon research conducted in the field of ministry and must demonstrate high attainment in applied scholarship related to professional missiology. The project proposal must be approved by the candidate's advisory committee prior to the beginning of the student's field research.

Final Oral Examination

The final examination is an oral defense of the dissertation before the doctoral committee and other invited professionals.

Graduation Requirements

All students must defend a capstone project and complete all required coursework with a minimum 3.0 GPA to qualify for graduation. Also, students must meet with their department advisor and contact a graduate academic records and degree specialist one year prior to graduation to declare intent to graduate. (See Graduate Graduation Check description in Admission, Enrollment and Graduation Requirements section (<http://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/admission-enrollment-graduation-requirements/#GraduatePrograms>)).

Curriculum Requirements

D.I.S. students may take hybrid courses, which includes both on-campus courses and online courses, to complete their program.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundational Missiology and Intercultural Studies Courses		
ISCL 700	Orientation to Graduate Intercultural Studies	1
Select two of the following:		6
ISAN 761	Culture and Transformation	
ISCL 709	Intercultural Communication	
ISCL 742	History of the World Christian Movement	
ISCL 765	Cross-Cultural Leadership	
Biblical/Theological Studies Courses		
Select two of the following:		6

ISCL 722	Spiritual Conflicts in Cross-Cultural Context	
or ISCL 724	Issues in Spiritual Warfare	
ISCL 744	Narrative in Scripture and Teaching	
ISCL 751	Theology of Mission	
ISCL 752	Acts: Biblical and Missiological	
Bible/Theology elective		
Missiological Specialization Courses		
Select four of the following (without duplicating above):		12
ISAN 721	Anthropological Theory in Practice	
or ISCL 853	Theoretical Issues in Cross-Cultural Engagement	
ISAN 731	Culture, Cognition and World View	
or ISCL 711	Dynamics of the Religious Experience	
ISAN 751	Social Anthropology	
or ISCL 702	Social Organization	
ISAN 761	Culture and Transformation	
ISCL 703	Curriculum Design for Intercultural Contexts	
ISCL 727	Principles of Church Multiplication	
ISCL 732	Church Planting Models and Strategies	
ISCL 735	Principles of Church Growth	
ISCL 742	History of the World Christian Movement	
ISCL 744	Narrative in Scripture and Teaching	
ISCL 750	Issues in Contextualization/Cross-Cultural Theology	
ISCL 765	Cross-Cultural Leadership	
ISCL 801	Method and Theory in Cross-Cultural Studies	
ISCL Tutorial or Elective		
Research Courses		
ISCL 803	Qualitative Research	3
ISCL 872	Foundations of Doctoral Research	3
ISCL 879	Research Design	3
Capstone Courses		
ISCL 880	Doctoral Dissertation/Capstone Project	3
ISCL 881	Doctoral Dissertation/Capstone Project Proposal	3
Total Credits		40