

MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES (MAICS)

Program Overview

The proposed Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies is designed to equip students both for careers in cross-cultural or multicultural environments and for ministries associated with spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in cultures other than one's own, including history and theology of mission, cultural anthropology, mission strategy, and social engagement studies among others. Its mission is to develop effective cross-cultural professionals who are competent communicators of Christ, sensitive to other cultures, and effective servant.

Program Objectives

1. Demonstrate an understanding of God, the gospel, oneself, and others in the context of intercultural perspectives.
2. Formulate a statement of philosophy/theology, with respect to living, ministering, and working in contexts or cultures different than the student's own.
3. Articulate a cross-cultural or international perspective with respect to professional training (e.g., in teaching, business, mission or development).
4. Produce written studies and reports manifesting their familiarity with the analytical and research tools available (particularly in the social sciences) and demonstrating their abilities to assess and adapt their objectives and activities to the cultural realities of their working environments.
5. Communicate a clear understanding of the dynamic nature of the gospel, the spiritual and cultural traits of a growing church, the deeply intertwined relationship between the gospel and culture in which God's self-revelation was given in culture, how it is now communicated across cultures, and how it is being faithfully lived out in appropriate contextualized acts of allegiance to the God of creation.
6. Manifest godliness of character, personal standards of integrity and morality, concern for human rights and justice, and a passion for the reconciliation of humanity with their Creator.
7. Offer an integrated learning approach which includes academic formation (theological engagement), spiritual formation (church involvement) and mission (community engagement).

Admission Requirements

The Admissions Committee will review all submitted information. Any student seeking admission to the MAICS program must possess an accredited Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent and a grade point average of 2.5 on all previous post-secondary credits to be admitted on other than a probationary status. Whenever deemed necessary, the Admissions Committee or the Admissions Office may also request an interview with the candidate for a final acceptance approval.

1. Application form.
2. Non-refundable application fee.
3. Official transcripts sealed and mailed directly to Reformed University of all college, university, or seminary records, showing all courses pursued, grades received, and degrees earned, and indicating a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent
4. A certified copy of the applicant's bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
5. Two letters of recommendation from the applicant's home church pastor or an ordained minister, a teacher or a college professor, and one other non-family person.

- An essay explaining the applicant's interest in pursuing education at Reformed University.

Components and Requirements

Course Requirement

The degree program requires satisfactory completion of 42 credit hours of the MAICS curriculum. The capstone course requires the completion of master thesis which integrates key theories and practical knowledge into a cogent and clear plan for intercultural ministry/leadership.

Course Distribution

Requirements for the MAICS include 42 hours of required courses over five semesters.

Institutional Requirement

Students planning to enroll in this degree program are required by the University to attend WS501 Institutional Chapel Service. Students will receive a Pass/Fail grade upon completion.

Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies Curriculum

First Semester Credits

1. ISBT 500	Biblical Theology and Interpretation	3
2. ISMC 510	Anthropology for Ministry	3
3. ISME 550	Teaching the Bible in Intercultural Settings	3

Second Semester

4. ISBT 501	Christian Theology	3
5. ISMC 513	Contextualization in the Global Setting	3
6. ISME 551	Church Planting and Development in the Postmodern Age	3

Third Semester

7. ISBT 502	Historical Theology	3
8. ISME 552	Ministry in an Urbanized Society	3
9. ISMC 554	World Christianity	3

Fourth Semester

10. ISMC 511	Intercultural Communications	3
11. ISMC 512	Christian Encounters with Other Religions	3
12. ISBT 503	Reformed Theology of Mission and Evangelism	3

Fifth Semester

13. ISTP 650	Research Methods	3
14. ISTP 651	Thesis	3

Total Credits **42**

Course Descriptions

(All courses are 3 credits unless otherwise noted.)

ISBT 500 **Biblical Theology and Interpretation**

This is a foundational course on biblical interpretation which will provide students with the basic exegetical tools required to interpret and appropriate the biblical text for intercultural studies. The student will learn to recognize and work with the different literary genres of the Bible and will gain an overview of various hermeneutical approaches to Scripture. In the process, the student will be introduced to various research tools, methods, resources and practical skills for interpretation of scripture in order to appropriate the Bible well in our contemporary context.

ISBT 501 Christian Theology

This course introduces the student to Christian theology. It begins with a study of the nature and necessity of doing theology in the contemporary world with primary attention given to the authority of God's self-disclosure in Scripture. The subject matter then shifts to consideration of the nature of the Triune God who has disclosed Himself to us, especially focusing on God's action in creation and providence.

ISBT 502 Historical Theology

History of the church from the Apostolic Fathers to the modern era with an emphasis on the development of doctrine. Highlights key thinkers in the patristic, medieval, Reformation and modern eras.

ISBT 503 Reformed Theology of Mission and Evangelism

This course presents and examines world missions from three perspectives: the Biblical theology of missions; the history of missions; and current trends, methods, and issues facing missions, which is rooted in Reformed theology.

ISMC 510 Anthropology for Ministry

The study provides students a theoretical and methodological "toolkit" for understanding human interactions in every setting. Students become a critical thinker, learning to address social problems and cultural analysis through theory, data, and practical solutions. Anthropological study provides training well suited for the 21st century: students will demonstrate the capacity to engage the world by being intellectually rigorous, yet globally compassionate and gain the relational and analytic tools for effective cross-cultural engagement, both in America and abroad.

ISMC 511 Intercultural Communications

A study of the principles, processes, and pitfalls of communicating from one culture to another, designed to assist the student in working effectively across cultures. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the worldview of both the source culture and the receptor culture, including a treatment of diverse perceptions, values, expressions, logic, and linguistic difficulties.

ISMC 512 Christian Encounters with Other Religions

In this course, students seek what is true and holy in the world's great religious traditions through encounter with diverse faith communities, with critical and constructive reflection

on their history, beliefs, morals, and ways of worship. These diverse traditions are brought into dialogue with Christian theology and with the students' own religious roots or philosophical views. A visit to a faith community is a requirement of this course. This course presents a comparative study of world religions, including but not limited to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam in terms of Christianity.

ISMC 513 Contextualization in the Global Setting

This course considers the process of communicating a Christian worldview in a manner that is faithful to Scriptures and relevant to the world's cultures. In part, this involves the process of exegeting or probing culture for spiritual themes. For this, this course explores the process of doing theology in a global context. Students must wrestle with issues of contextualization if they are equipped for gospel ministry in the diverse global context. Since the world has grown global, students must learn how to "do theology" from the perspective of global settings.

ISMC 554 World Christianity

This course explores the historical development and modern trends of Christianity among communities in the region of the world known as the Global South; it critically evaluates the symbolic systems, power structures, ideologies, values, and religious meanings at play in the Global South and Global North. Finally, this course examines the interaction between Christianity in the Global South and its Northern counterpart and articulate a vision for the global mission. For this, the body of Christ serves as the grounding framework of implementing world Christianity

ISME 550 Teaching the Bible in Intercultural Settings

This course investigates dynamics of crossing cultures during biblical times and draws conclusions for cross-cultural encounters today. Also, the course explores the nature of teaching, the Biblical model of instruction, curricular design, the learner's impact upon instruction, theories of practice, and methods of instruction, which is in intercultural contexts. The expositional process will receive special attention given that it undergirds the teaching process. This course centers on a biblical passage, describes the setting, and presents 'crosscultural insights and a practical 'crossing takeaway' for teaching the bible interculturally.

ISME 551 Church Planting and Development in the Postmodern Age

This course provides an introduction and systematic overview of the process of church planting and consequent congregational development and nurture in the postmodern age. Included are biblical and theological rationales for church planting as an evangelistic strategy from a missiological and contextually sensitive perspective, as well as an introduction to specific tools, methods, and resources needed for the effective development of new congregations. After looking at existing and emerging cultures, this course centers on demonstrating how to reach people within those cultures, especially those caught up in the postmodern culture.

ISME 552 Ministry in an Urbanized Society

This course will provide an overview of the various approaches to urban ministry found in Toronto with a particular focus on inner-city ministry with the poor and marginalized. Various urban ministry practitioners will be invited to present their ministry to the class, both churches based and parachurch and a number of site visits are planned. The goal of the course is to understand the issues involved in inner-city life, to discover what various ministries are doing in an urbanized society, to learn how to approach ministry in an urban context and to design more effective ministry with marginalized people. Students will learn how to evaluate their own communities and discover ways of reaching their neighborhoods.

ISTP 650 Research Methods

This course is designed to introduce student to the diverse field of intercultural studies with a focus on understanding intercultural competency from an international perspective. The first part of the course introduces key concepts and explores various perspectives in intercultural studies. Next, we will examine the development of intercultural instruments and models such as the IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory) and DMIS (Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity) and some examples of qualitative and quantitative research based on them. The latter half of the course will address international and institutional approaches to intercultural education, looking at a range of case studies and examples. Finally, we will examine the connections between intercultural competency and global citizenship, particularly in light of increasing internationalization in higher education. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to take a hands-on approach to learning and to examine their own beliefs and experiences of intercultural learning as they concurrently engage with scholarship in the field.

ISTP 651 Thesis

In this course students will engage in writing a research paper that integrates knowledge from all the courses in the program into a thesis statement for intercultural studies. In this master's thesis the student will identify key intercultural principles, models, or theories that have informed him or her in the formation of their own paradigm for intercultural ministry, to include communication, religious implications, societal and cultural issues related to effective ministry/leadership in a diverse world.

Faculty

Kim, Na Ryung

MA. Washington University of Virginia (2013-2016)

MA. Kyungsung University, Literature and Library Information Science (2006-2008)

BA. Kyungsung University, Library Science (1981-1985)

Instructors

Moon, Won Wook

D.Miss., Trinity Evangelical Divinity –School (1990)

S.T.M., Dallas Theological Seminary (1986)

M.Div., International School of Theology (1984)

B.E., Seoul National University, Korea (1970)

Yoo, Hee Duck

Ph.D, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary (2014)

Th.M. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2008)

M.Div, Liberty University (2006)

B.A, Teajeon Baptist Theological Seminary (2000)

Lee, Mun Gyu

D.Min, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (2017)

Th.M, Western Theological Seminary (2005)

M.Div, Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary (2001)

B.A, Soong Sil University, Seoul (1996)

Jeong, Kwang Duk

Th.D., Kampen University in Netherlands

Th.M., Calvin Theological Seminary

M.Div., Chongshin Theological Seminary, Seoul, Korea

B.A., Keimyung University, Taegu, Korea