

# HANDBOOK

365 Days in Mission  
(365m)

Diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry



**Nazarene Theological Seminary**

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## DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW

365 Days in Mission (365m) is a Diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry from *Nazarene Theological Seminary* which is a collaborative effort between participating universities, mission agencies, *Nazarene Theological Seminary*, and individuals desiring a “hands on” cross-cultural learning experience. Those who participate in this learning experience would include:

- University graduates who do not have a theology degree, who would like a cross-cultural learning experience that would enhance their profession, and which would also facilitate their understanding of ministry to people of another culture.
- University graduates who feel called into cross-cultural ministry as their primary profession and would like to use this opportunity as a bridge to a Master’s degree at NTS or would like to use this as a bridge to cross-cultural ministry.
- University graduates who are planning to pastor in the U.S. and would like to enhance cross-cultural skills for ministry in the U.S. These individuals could also apply credits toward the MDiv degree at NTS (see the NTS registrar for specific ways to integrate this into the MDiv degree).

365m is a combination of online courses, face to face seminars at Nazarene Theological Seminary with missiologists and mission leaders, and face to face mentoring with leading missionaries and local leaders who will work alongside participants to make the involvement in mission a learning experience.

365m is designed as follows:

Persons interested in 365m will need to submit an application for admission as a student at Nazarene Theological Seminary. The applications will be reviewed by admissions as well as the 365m advisory committee. All applicants will be advised of the committee’s action no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> (for participation beginning the following fall).



### Step One:

A two day orientation seminar six months before the program to help participants understand the dynamics of raising funds and other details related to preparing to travel to another country.

### Step Two:

A three week seminar/retreat which will focus on essential tools for living in a different culture, as well as giving a panoramic understanding of their role in a cross-cultural setting.

### Step Three:

A nine month learning internship experience in a cross-cultural setting.

### Step Four:

A three week exit seminar/retreat which will focus on synthesizing the experiences, reading and learning of the past ten months. This seminar will also focus on helping participants think through the next steps in their lives.

## SITES

The ministry sites will be selected on the basis of:

1. Availability of carefully selected mentors. An ideal setting will have the possibility of the following mentors:
  - Academic mentors will need to have a minimum of a Master's degree, preferably from NTS or other accredited seminaries.
  - Cultural mentors will be individuals native to the culture of ministry who would have similar qualifications as mentors in the NTS practicum.
  - Ministry mentors will be individuals or couples who have mission experience and who have a positive, healthy outlook on missions.
2. Availability of enough range of ministry for the participant to be able to fulfill the learning requirements of this program.
3. Agreement of the Mission Agency and/or the administration directly responsible for ministry in the proposed area.
4. Availability of the Internet for online course work (note that this could mean a central site that participants would go to once a week or periodically). In locations that are creative access, students will complete online courses as directed research classes.



## CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA/DEGREE<sup>1</sup>

365 Days in Mission is designed as a Diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry which consists of 24 credit hours. All participants in the program will be accepted with the understanding that they are intending to complete the full one year program of 24 credit hours. In the case of emergency or other unforeseen event in which the student cannot complete the full program, a Certificate in Cross-Cultural Ministries will be given if a student has completed a minimum of 15 semester hours consisting of 12 hours of course work and the completion of three hours of mentored ministry experience. The Diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry is designed to allow graduates to apply their credit toward other programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. For the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies, a student may apply the full program of 24 hours (or 15 hours if only the Certificate is earned) toward the completion of that degree. For the Master of Divinity degree, a portion of the courses may be applied toward program electives or an emphasis in Intercultural Ministry.

## COURSE OF STUDY

The Diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry is composed of 24 semester hours and can be completed in a single academic year.

- 6 hours of introductory courses offered in a module format at NTS
- 6 hours of Supervised Ministry/Intercultural Studies Practicum credits<sup>2</sup>
- 6 hours of online/directed studies courses taken while on location of cross-cultural internship
- 6 hours of integrative module courses offered at NTS

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<sup>1</sup> For full description of the Degree and Certificate programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary, see the section of the NTS Catalog which describes certificates and diplomas.

<sup>2</sup> The MA/ICS degree requires 2 one-hour internships. The 365m includes this total of 2 hours required, but also gives options for increasing the internship credit from 2-6 hours. These additional hours of internship credit would satisfy the Certificate and Diploma requirements. The additional 2-4 hours of internship credit would be considered elective hours if the student chooses to complete the MA/ICS degree.



## ACADEMIC DESCRIPTION

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The Diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry is designed to serve persons who have recently graduated with an undergraduate degree and anticipate cross-cultural opportunities in future ministry, or those who are beginning preparation for a career in missions. The diploma may be earned as a component of a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies. It is also available to persons not pursuing a NTS degree and who do not anticipate a full-time ministry career.

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The academic requirements for 365m/ Diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry are the same as the requirements that Nazarene Theological Seminary has for entrance into other graduate programs and can be found in the current NTS Catalog. Beyond the academic requirements, acceptance as a student in this program will depend upon the limitations of approved 365m sites and assessment of the students' probability for success in the program. All students who submit application to NTS and 365m by the stated deadline will be notified no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> of their acceptance or non-acceptance into the program beginning the following fall.

### OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

#### Institutional Outcomes:

- *Nazarene Theological Seminary* will be a theological resource to a broader community of the Church by offering missiological and theological resources to individuals who are not pursuing ministry as their primary vocation.
- *Nazarene Theological Seminary* will strengthen its role of networking universities, mission agencies, and local churches.
- *Universities* will build on their successes in short-term mission as well as global awareness by encouraging graduates to offer one year of service to the church, and find resources to be actively involved in cross-cultural ministry.
- *Universities* will explicitly connect graduates to the global ministry of the Church of the Nazarene.
- *Mission agencies* will have an active role in preparing future missionaries through the involvement of Missionary mentors in the training process.
- *Mission agencies* will have resources to extend the mission of the church to new areas through focused intern teams.



### Student Outcomes:

- Articulate the integration of theory and practice in mission through action and reflection, informed by reading, writing, and group interaction, and demonstrated by increasingly nuanced papers and reflective conversation with the academic mentor.
- Develop a personal philosophy of mission which integrates theology and missiology through reading, writing, and group interaction and demonstrated by increasingly nuanced papers, speeches, and reflective conversation with the academic mentor.
- Understand the changing global society through exposure to current missiological issues in seminars and conversations with scholars and demonstrated through integrative activities and reflective conversation with the academic mentor.
- Discover patterns for bridging cross-cultural differences through writing a daily journal and demonstrated by increasingly insightful entries.
- Nurture redemptive relationships with people in a cross-cultural context through a variety of ways and demonstrated through reflective conversations with the cultural mentor.
- Learn practical and contextualized aspects of cross-cultural ministry through ministry engagement with national ministers and demonstrated through reflective conversations with the ministry mentor.
- Communicate the gospel in a cross-cultural context through practical experiences and demonstrated through reflective conversations with the ministry and cultural mentors.
- Learn an emic aspect of the host location through living with a national family and demonstrated in reflective conversations with the cultural mentor.
- Initiate and assess cross-cultural ministry goals through engagement in and leadership of contextual ministry and demonstrated through reflective conversations with the ministry mentor.
- Form habits of spiritual development through consistent spiritual reading and practice of spiritual disciplines and reflective conversations with the ministry mentor.
- Form an academic basis for continued theological education through critical evaluation and reading of resources consistent with residential seminary education.

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*Note: syllabi will be updated annually and included in the appendix*

#### **1) MSS520 Foundations of Mission**

Mission is based upon biblical, historical and theological foundations. Scripture forms the basis of our understanding of the call and commission. The church has historically responded to God's call; an examination of how God has worked through individuals and churches to fulfill God's mission.



*Course narrative and Rationale*

Those who would respond to God's call to participation in the Christian mission (the *missio Dei*), especially in cross-cultural contexts, have a long and rich history of the formation of its foundations. These formed in response to the person and ministry of Jesus Christ as faithful witnesses have continually crossed boundaries in carrying out the *missio Dei*, established outposts and then centers of Christian influence, and then continued in mission. Students are invited to discover these foundations and ask how Christ's witnesses throughout the world today continue to bear appropriate and faithful witness based on the biblical, theological and historical foundations of the Christian mission.

**2) MSS645 Practice of Intercultural Mission**

Introduction to the practice of intercultural ministry including specific skills useful to living and ministering cross-culturally.

*Course Narrative & Rationale*

The context of intercultural ministry involves a variety of complex social, organizational and personal issues. This is a practical mission course that addresses aspects of these issues through the development of some of the key elements of cross-cultural ministry which include cultural self-awareness, cultural intelligence and other practical aspects to the participant.

**3) MSS790 Short-Term Missions**

This course explores the development and literature related to the phenomenon of short-term missions. Participants will have the opportunity to explore current writing and will also make contribution to the development of short-term missions through constructive participation in writing projects as well as interaction with short-term mission leadership.

*Course Narrative & Rationale*

Short-term missions is a growing, proletariat phenomenon which currently involves more than 2 million Christians from the U.S. each year. The enormity of this phenomenon is impacting local churches as well as the activity of long-term missionaries. The impact of short-term missions on finances, global perspectives, and the changing role of missionaries and mission pastors who serve as brokers between short-term mission teams and host churches necessitate research, study



and development which lead to practices which are informed by theological and missiological understanding.

#### **4) MSS625 Global Expansion of the Christian Mission**

Introduction to the major strategies of evangelism and church growth that are being used in world areas. The use of existing strategies as a platform to assist the student to devise new strategies. The development of movements of Christianity through multiplication and multilevel structures.

##### *Course Narrative*

The Church of Jesus Christ continues to give faithful witness to Jesus Christ, making disciples and establishing churches among the nations (peoples), experiencing tremendous growth in some areas and encountering great difficulties in others. This course begins with an overview of the expansion of Christianity from its earliest days that gives perspective to the beginning and development of missions in the Church of the Nazarene, Then, current, specific, strategies of the ongoing expansion of the Christian mission are explore and evaluated.

#### **5) ICS524 The Context of Global Mission: COUNTRY**

The Context of Global Mission is designed for students who will live in a global context outside of the U.S. for one year. This course is a study of a specific country in which students will learn how those who live within the country understand themselves and their context (emic). Students will also learn from academic sources which seek to understand the culture within the larger socio-political, religious and anthropological context (etic). The aspects of culture which will be studied include language, religion, art, family systems, history, as well as socio-economic issues relevant to understanding the current context. Beyond cultural aspects, students in this course will also study the role of Christians and Christian ministries in a specific context.

##### *Course Rationale*

In a changing global context, it is essential that the person develop tools for understanding the people and the environment around them when ministering in a culture which is new to them. The nature of this course is to expose students to integrated learning which maintains a creative tension between academic sources which are used in a class room environment and learning from the context itself.



## 6) ICS530 Cultural Anthropology (online)

An introduction to cultural anthropology. The nature of culture and cultural universals; the study of structure, customs and world view.

### *Course Narrative & Rationale*

Christian ministry occurs within the context of the peoples of the world and their cultures. Christian ministers throughout the world find their context of ministry increasingly cross-cultural. With the increasing movement of peoples from their places of origins to the urban centers of the world (large and not so large) for business, education, due to genocide and oppression, as well as for opportunity, an understanding of peoples and their cultures is fundamental to the task of participation in the *missio Dei*. From the earliest revelation, God's concern for all the peoples of the world is evident. This course introduces the student to the social science of cultural anthropology and one of its major research tools, ethnographic research. These are explored in order to help the student understand how they may help in the task of cross-cultural ministry.

## 7) ICS522/622 International Intercultural Studies Practicum (6 credits)

Supervised ministry in an international context. The student works under the direction of a mentor. Progress is also monitored by a professor.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

### MENTOR ROLE DESCRIPTION

The program includes three on-site mentors

- The ACADEMIC MENTOR ideally is a career missionary with sufficient cultural experience and academic basis to lead graduate level students. The role of the academic mentor includes the following.
  - Serve as the liaison between NTS and the Regional leadership, local church leadership, and the national ministry and local culture mentors.
  - Serve in an advisory role in helping to define aspects of the internship syllabus such as contextualization that includes the culture and ecclesiology characteristic of the particular context.
    - Contextualizing the internship as well as course syllabus such as the context-specific course interns will undertake.
    - Suggesting appropriate reading sources to be used prior to leaving for the internship site as well as during the course of the internship.





365m is an integrative program that seeks to utilize both academic resources in the classroom environment and experiential learning in a contextual setting. Therefore, participation in *both* aspects of the program is required. Students will not be allowed to participate solely in the ministry aspect of the program without the academic component nor will they be allowed to participate solely in the academic aspect without participating in the ministry component. As such, students who are on academic probation or do not meet the criteria as enrolled students at NTS or who have been excluded from participating in the ministry component as a result of failing to comply with any of the policies as set forth in this Handbook, will not be allowed to continue as students in 365m. A student who is not allowed to continue in the program for these reasons will be required to leave the learning context and will be responsible for all financial ramifications related to leaving the program prematurely.

### FINANCIAL UNDERSTANDING

- It is the understanding of Nazarene Theological Seminary that the student is responsible for obtaining the full amount of funds necessary to complete one year of 365m. Funds may be raised through various means such as support letters, fundraisers and financial aid.
- A couple of tools to assist in designing fundraising include the website for Round-Trip Missions at <http://www.roundtripmissions.com/content/fundraising-tool>. Another source which provides helpful information is through Southern Nazarene University at <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/funds.htm>.

All NTS policies regarding financial aid, tuition and withdrawal are applied to 365m participants.

#### **Cost per academic year of 365m will include:**

- Tuition
- Insurance
- Food
- Housing
- Travel to field
- On site transportation (*this includes major transportation from one city to another. It does not include bus or subway fares within the same city*)

*\* Does not include vaccinations, personal spending, and miscellaneous travel.*

Please note that repayment of student loans may be deferred during this year of study. For more information on financial aid, visit the NTS financial aid page at <http://www.nts.edu/financial-aid>. Tuition costs will be paid directly to NTS at the time and in the amount of all other NTS programs. Current tuition costs can be found at <http://www.nts.edu>. All other costs associated with the program will be paid directly to the



specific mission agency facilitating the field experience. Amounts will vary based on the mission agency and location.

## **ARRIVAL**

1. Field Orientation
  - All participants in 365m will receive a Field Orientation upon arrival and will have ongoing interaction with their mentors during the full time of their stay.
2. Personal Risk
  - All participants in 365m shall engage in ministry and learning activities willingly. It is understood that there is suffering associated with cross-cultural ministry. The student does and will assume all risks of damage to and loss of personal property, as well as personal injury or loss of life.

## **ORGANIZATION & STRUCTURE**

1. Accountability
  - All students in 365m shall communicate through the line of accountability. A student shall communicate any questions, suggestions or concerns to the mentor or person to whom he or she is directly accountable to on site. If the subject matter, or the nature of the relationship, makes it exceptionally difficult to discuss with the supervisor, then the student may speak directly with the responsible faculty member at NTS.
2. Employment
  - All students in 365m shall devote their full time and energy to the learning and ministry for which they were sent. Due to the saturation nature of learning and participation in ministry, employment during this time will not be allowed (certain exception may be made as part of the learning experience in specific locations).
3. Travel
  - All students in 365m shall secure written permission from the Academic Mentor/Mission Agency coordinator and the NTS responsible faculty before traveling outside the assigned area of service.

## **PERSONAL CONDUCT**

1. Spiritual Vitality

All students in 365m shall evidence a lifestyle that demonstrates that of a Christian leader.

  - *Christian Behavior*
    - (1) All students in 365m shall abide by the Covenant of Christian Character (see Index), and consistently meet for worship with a specific congregation selected in consultation with the ministry mentor.
  - *Rest*



- (1) All students in 365m shall observe times of Sabbath/Rest. The nature of the ministry may require a missionary to be flexible as to when he or she rests. However, generally speaking, it is necessary for students in 365m to find the equivalent of one day of rest during a week.
2. Peace and Politics
    - All students in 365m shall be peace makers; both with individuals around them and in the society in which they serve. Students will obey all civil laws applicable, and may only participate in the political matters of the place where he or she is serving after obtaining written permission from the Academic Mentor.
  3. Relationships
    - All students in 365m shall observe the highest standards of purity in relationships. A student will always be careful to behave in a way that is appropriate and inoffensive.
    - Dating in cross-cultural settings is often subject to misunderstandings. Consequently, a student may date someone in his or her place of service only after first securing written permission from the Academic mentor in consultation with local leadership.
  4. Visitors
    - All students in 365m shall obtain written permission from the Academic Mentor before people from their country of origin visit. All such visitors to the field must follow the policies set forth by the respective mission agency in regards to visitation.

## LEAVING

1. Ministry Review and Evaluation
  - All students in 365m shall participate in a Ministry Review at the end of the term of service. This will be incorporated into the second summer of module courses at NTS.
2. End of Service
  - All students in 365m may have their visit terminated at any time at the option of either the mission agency or the academic mentor, with or without cause, and with or without prior notice. Students returning home shall pay for the related expenses from their ministry funds, unless otherwise noted.  
Some of the reasons for termination may include, but are not limited to:
    - Failure to complete academic work. Any student who does not successfully maintain grades of C or above will not be allowed to continue in 365m.
    - Interpersonal conflict which cannot be resolved.
    - Conduct which is inconsistent with the purposes of this program.
    - Perceived threat or danger to the student.
    - Failure to meet financial obligations.
  - At the end of service, a participant shall deliver all property which belongs to the mission agency to the person to whom he or she is accountable.



## TRAVEL POLICY

It is understood that some students may wish to return home during the year for the holidays or special events such as weddings. To ensure that such travel is as least disruptive to the cohort, the mentors, and the ministry, and does not interfere with any of the academic requirements of the program, the following guidelines should be followed.

- 1) Students will not be allowed to miss any class time or related meetings/activities during the two-week modules held at NTS.
- 2) Each student will have one optional trip back home for up to 10 days. Students will be free to use this time either for the holidays, a wedding, or any other event. The expense for this will be the responsibility of the student and the funds will be above and beyond the funds that have been raised for 365m. Students will need to give a minimum of one month notice to their primary mentor and it should be after all other expenses are raised.
- 3) Students must first adhere to the travel policies for their specific mission agency (which may not allow travel during an assignment) and also receive approval from the 365m Program Director.

