

# DEAF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

MASTER OF ARTS  
PROGRAM (36 CREDITS)

The Master of Arts in Deaf Christian Leadership is designed to expand the Deaf student's theological and biblical understanding and skill sets in leadership. Skills acquired through this educational pursuit will equip one to better understand and work with people in both Deaf and non-Deaf communities with the purpose of moving others on to meaningful change through biblical, theological, sociological and psychological study. The program explores the health of the Deaf leader, development of models for Deaf leadership and the need to accurately analyze various cultures and leadership models in the global Deaf Community.

All courses are taught in American Sign Language, without voicing assistance, therefore, every student enrolled in this major must be fluent in American Sign Language.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

THE	505D	Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation
PHL	508D	Apologetics and Ethics: Contemporary Challenges
LED	501D	Biblical Leadership Models
LED	505D	The Leader and Leadership Development
LED	510D	Developing Leaders
LED	515D	Creative Leadership
LED	520D	Organizational and Leadership Communication
SOC	550D	Cross-Cultural Leadership 1
SOC	560D	Cross-Cultural Leadership 2
SOC	610D	Research Dynamics
SOC	611D	Research Project

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### THE 505D Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation 3 credits

This course will examine the science of hermeneutical analysis, processes, and methods in which one can derive the most accurate and valid interpretation of passages of the Bible. Due consideration will be given to the art involved in integrating various lines of thought in the Bible to accomplish an adequate understanding and application of any passage in the Bible. A distinct perspective in this course is in the discussion of hermeneutical contextualization of Biblical text to the culturally Deaf Christian.

### PHL 508D Apologetics and Ethics: Contemporary Challenges 3 credits

This course is an exploration of the integration and interdependence of apologetics and ethics in the contemporary world. The reasonableness of Christianity in both its truth claims and moral determinations are considered. Approaches to apologetics and ethics are analyzed, and the combined insights are applied to contemporary issues affecting the Deaf Community at home and abroad.

### LED 501D Biblical Leadership Models 3 credits

This course will examine and analyze the variety of leadership models found within both the Old and New Testaments, examine why particular models of leadership were required at particular times and how New Testament leadership is presented and developed in light of the Christological model and its implications for Deaf men and women serving in Christian leadership today. Special emphasis will be placed upon knowledge, skills, attitudes and values involved in "servant leadership".

## PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will cultivate ongoing development in research and writing skills in relationship to Christian leadership in various global Deaf communities.
2. Students will expand their understanding of both biblical and professional literature relating to a Christian perspective on leadership and the Deaf Community as a people group.
3. Students will be able to engage in advanced dialogue on indigenous leadership and articulate such in written and verbal (signed) form.
4. Students will develop a broader frame of reference in relation to various cultures and societal needs and how leadership approaches influence outcomes.

### LED 505D The Leader and Leadership Development 3 credits

This course will address the spiritual formation, psychological development, health and well being, discipline and ethical decision-making of the Deaf leader as well as on going care and development needed in order to be a truly effective leader. An assessment of the student's emotional intelligence will be integrated into the course curriculum.

### LED 510D Developing Leaders 3 credits

This course will work from the foundation that quality leaders develop and equip other leaders. The focus will be to present a workable process on how to develop Deaf leaders and equip a team of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing leaders to work effectively together with understanding and mutual regard to accomplish God-given purposes and goals and then multiple leaders. Surveys of present leadership development materials, as well as transferable concepts from leadership programs will be analyzed.

Prerequisite: LED 505D

### LED 515D Creative Leadership 3 credits

This course will examine extensive examples of creative approaches to leadership and how Deaf leaders can generate and maintain creativity to effectively develop and lead a group of people to accomplish outstanding goals. Characteristics of visionary leaders will be examined, exploration of their leadership habits and spiritual disciplines for effective visionary leadership and strategies for conceiving vision and implementing tools for visionary leadership.

**LED 520D Organizational and Leadership Communication 3 credits**

This course will analyze organizational structures, social stratification or hierarchy in the Deaf Community, organizational styles, conflict management, cross-cultural communication dynamics, personalities and the impact that they have upon an organization and its development, along with the essentials of effective communication channels to nurture an organization so that it can identify well articulated processes for decision making and team involvement. Areas of study will also include budgeting, scheduling, staff management, committee structures, leadership and communication. Ethical issues will be addressed to focus upon organizational integrity.

**SOC 550D Cross-Cultural Leadership 1 3 credits**

It is often noted that Deaf people around the world have more in common with their international Deaf counter-part than with their own dominate ethnic hearing community. This course will consist of an international field course of study under the direction of a professor and will take place overseas in a foreign mission field setting in which leadership analysis; teaching and training will be conducted. This course will expand the cross-cultural understanding of the Deaf student to more effectively assess and respond to the realities being faced in that particular setting and evaluate the transferability of various leadership models. The course will examine the role of culture and cultural dynamics in the selection, emergence and functioning of the international indigenous Deaf leader.

**SOC 560D Cross-Cultural Leadership 2 3 credits**

This course will build upon SOC 550D. This course will consist of an international field course of study under the direction of a professor that will take place overseas in a foreign mission field setting in which leadership analysis, teaching and training will be conducted. This course will expand the cross-cultural understanding of the Deaf student to more effectively assess and respond to the realities being faced in that particular setting and evaluate the transferability of various leadership models. The course will examine the role of culture and cultural dynamics in the selection, emergence and functioning of the international indigenous Deaf leader. In addition to the requirements of SOC 550D, the student will need to either design Deaf leadership models to address the cultural context or utilize existing models and how they would interface with that cultural context. The student will need to demonstrate the transferability of such models to other cultural contexts.

Prerequisite: SOC 550D.

**SOC 610D Research Dynamics 3 credits**

This course will train the student in the advanced skills of scholarly research, design, writing and documentation as a direct preparation for the final research project of the degree.

Prerequisite: completion of at least five of required courses

**SOC 611D Research Project 6 credits**

This course will consist of a major written project that reflects graduate level research and writing on an area of study agreed upon and under the direct supervision of a professor who has specialization in the chosen topic of study in keeping with the degree. The final project must receive committee approval.

Prerequisite SOC 610D