

Flexible Delivery Makes a TEDS Education Accessible

"I've been given the opportunity to gain a degree that I believe will make me more effective as a pastor and missionary."

Dan DeRoche, Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies) Student

Our desire is to make a TEDS education accessible to all—at the same time maintaining our commitment to community building in a face-to-face context. We continue to work to create delivery options and plans that address the needs of program students unable to enroll in regular semester-length daytime courses. Visiting students and noncredit auditors who wish to attend courses for personal enrichment are also welcomed.

Though the availability of particular courses varies from semester to semester, courses applying to the Certificate in Christian Studies, the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) (MA/CS), the Master of Arts in Ministry (MA in Min), the Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies) (MA/ICS), or the Master of Divinity (MDiv) may all be completed in a combination of nontraditional modes. One may complete a Certificate in two years, an MA/CS, MA in Min, or MA/ICS in four years, and an MDiv in eight years by taking one or two courses each fall, spring, and summer semester.

Extension site, distance education, and summer and short-term Deerfield campus course work can be combined in a number of ways to complete major portions of these programs. Prospective and accepted students are encouraged to consult with the Admissions Office, the Office of Extension, or a program advisor to determine possible options.

Various TEDS course delivery options are described below. Not all courses are available in each mode. Students should consult the various academic advisement tools available for specific program planning and note any limitations that may exist for program completion. Some offices may need to be contacted during normal daytime business hours.

Current and projected course schedules are available online at www.tiu.edu/tiu/academics/courseschedules. Distance Education courses are always available, with a course listing found at www.teds.edu/distanceeducation/. Current extension site offerings may be found at www.teds.edu/extension/.

Option One: Daytime Courses in Deerfield

Most Deerfield fall and spring semester courses meet one day each week—morning, afternoon, late afternoon, or evening. Biblical language classes and some other classes meet two days each week.

Option Two: Evening, Weekend, and Short-term Modules in Deerfield

The core MDiv curriculum with some electives rotates through a four-year evening-weekend school schedule on the Deerfield campus. Evening courses generally meet one night weekly for fifteen weeks during the fall or spring semester or for three or four Friday night–Saturday weekends during the semester. This rotation enables completion of MDiv course work over eight years for those taking four courses each year. Completion of short-term modules or summer school courses will lighten the load or accelerate the pace.

Some one- or two-week short-term modules are also offered during the semester. Short-term courses are taught by guest professors and regular TEDS faculty and are sometimes offered off-campus as a conference wrap-around or intensive course.

Option Three: Summer School in Deerfield

The core MDiv curriculum with some electives also rotates through summer school on the Deerfield campus. Summer courses are offered in one-, two-, or three-week short-term sessions. Courses are scheduled in two main sessions—Early Summer (May-June) and Late Summer (July-August)—with a one-week summer break surrounding July 4. The summer rotation enables completion of all MDiv course work over six summers for those taking a full summer academic load or over four summers for those taking an additional two or three courses during fall and spring semesters.

Summer is often a convenient time for teachers and those involved in campus ministries to complete biblical and theological studies and provides opportunity for other students to accelerate their program completion. Students admitted for the fall semester may begin course work in the preceding summer term. Beginning Greek and Hebrew are offered each summer, enabling students to “jump-start” their fall program.

Option Four: Extension Locations

Church-based extension sites (Chicago, Illinois; Akron and Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Davie, Florida) hold weekend and evening classes. Classes at these sites generally meet for three to five weekends per semester and enable the completion of all MA (Christian Studies) course work except for a one course Deerfield residency component. About one-third of MDiv course work and the entire MA (Christian Studies) program may be completed at the Columbus, Ohio, extension, at the South Chicago Regional Center, and at the Florida Regional Center. Visit www.teds.edu/extension/ for more information.

Option Five: Conference Wrap-Around Courses

TEDS offers graduate credit in conjunction with a number of high-profile conferences offered around North America. The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity, the Urbana Conference, The Spiritual Formation Forum, Xenos Summer Institute, and the U.S. Center for World Mission's Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course are all available for academic credit. Each year additional conferences are also available for academic credit. Contact the Office of Extension and Affiliated Education at 800.588.7705 or 847.317.6550 for current information.

Option Six: Distance Education Courses

Distance Education courses may be completed from anywhere in the world. Each course provides a programmed syllabus and a set of specific course assignments. Courses are offered using a combination of online, audio, video, and printed material, depending on the course. The entire Certificate in Christian Studies may be completed in Distance Education mode, and Trinity is currently revising and expanding its offerings to enable students to complete some program-applicable course work through Distance Education. Visit the Distance Education website for more information at www.teds.edu/distanceeducation/.