**WHAT IS COLLOQUY?**

The word colloquy is Latin for "interview" or "working together." The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) utilizes the colloquy process to certify individuals who seek to be Ministers of Religion, Ordained, or Ministers of Religion, Commissioned. In Lutheran congregations or Recognized Service Organizations, but who have not had formal training in a college, university or seminary of the denomination.

Candidates who successfully complete all requirements of the Director of Christian Education (DCE) Colloquy program and who demonstrate mastery of required outcomes are certified as Ministers of Religion, Commissioned. Upon certification, the candidate becomes eligible for a Call to serve as a DCE as a calling entity of the LCMS.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**

The primary mission of the church is to make disciples of every nation by bearing witness to Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Director of Christian Education certification program is to prepare students for professional Word and Service ministry as equippe rs of the Church to carry out God's mission for Christian Education.

This is an online, accelerated colloquy program for lay workers in congregations or Registered Service Organizations.

**THEOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

Students complete seven courses in theology. They may fulfill this requirement either by completing a minor in Confessional Lutheranism at Concordia University on campus or choosing to complete the theology requirement with the online program available through CUENet (Concordia University Education Network). Consult with the director of Colloquy about the possible transfer of eligible credits from another Concordia University or from Valparaiso University.

**EDUCATION REQUIREMENT**

**Introduction to DCE Ministry**

Through class discussion, readings, presentations and involvement with Director of Christian Education, students grow in understanding the purpose and functions of a DCE.

**Gifts-Based Volunteer Ministry**

Students will explore the theology of volunteer ministry; understand the connection of vocation and gifts-based volunteer ministry; explore best practices in volunteer management, including gift assessment, database creation and maintenance, job descriptions, recruitment, screening, training, supervision, evaluation, affirmation, and thanking volunteers; and apply learning to the design of a volunteer ministry program for a specific ministry site.

**Teaching the Faith Across the Lifespan**

This course will provide a study of Catechesis throughout the ages with particular attention to principles of Biblical interpretation from a Lutheran perspective. Students will work toward a definition of Lutheran Catechesis that will incorporate an understanding of educational theory and practice, utilize tools and skills needed for appropriate Biblical study and teaching within a Lutheran framework while displaying an understanding of the relationship between Christian education and the worship and devotional life of the Church.

**Colloquy Internship I**

The Colloquy DCE Internship provides the Colloquy DCE student a full-time, supervised experience at a local ministry site. The Colloquy student receives assessment of work being done at the ministry site with consultations for self-directed growth and evaluation.

**ONLINE EDUCATION**

Learners collaborate with a community of peers using weekly online class discussions, e-mail, and Internet bulletin boards. The weekly online class discussions take place on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm (Central Time). Each course is seven weeks long.

**WEEK ON CAMPUS**

A lasting and distinctive feature of our cohort-delivered program is our on-campus segment. The week-long experience allows students to work through course content, develop peer relationships, receive online technology training and meet core faculty members. This component of the program is part of the Introduction to DCE Ministry course.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Dr. Stephen C. Stohlmann  
Director of Colloquy  
651-641-8824  
stohlmann@csp.edu

Kevin Hall  
Director of the DCE Colloquy Program  
651-603-6165  
khall@csp.edu
This course is a continuation of DCE Internship I, providing the Colloquy DCE student a full-time, supervised experience at a local ministry site. The Colloquy student receives assessment of work being done at the ministry site with consultations for self-directed growth and evaluation.

Teaching Strategies for Adults
Students will study issues of motivating the adult learner, techniques for effective teaching, and educational implications of a variety of teaching methodologies. A review of available resources is included.

Leadership
This course presents a systematic study of the principles of administration for effective servant leadership. The foundations, roles and functions of effective Christian team leadership will be discussed and practiced. Leadership styles and skills will be discovered and practiced.

Family & Youth Ministry
This course provides students with the necessary insights and skills to develop and facilitate a ministry with and for youth and families in a congregation. A relational approach to youth and family ministry emphasizes the need for peer and family support. Philosophical and practical aspects are emphasized to help students understand youth and family ministry as an integral part of the congregation’s mission. A discussion of related subjects, resources and literature is included.

Ministry Teams in the Parish
This course explores a team approach to ministry with particular emphasis on collaborative leadership models that utilize individuals’ gifts and have a strong link to the mission of the organization. Small group dynamics, life cycles of a group, roles, covenanting and personality styles will be explored in looking at how ministry teams are used in the parish.

Role of the DCE
The role of the Director of Christian Education as an educational minister is explored. Calling and placement procedures, professional ethics and expectations, the constitution and by-laws of the LCMS, the role of the DCE in Synod and District, and the role of the DCE in team ministry are examined.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION
1. University application
2. DCE Colloquy application
3. Application fee $30
4. Official transcripts from the college or university granting undergraduate degree
5. Complete CUEnet coursework or CSP’s Confessional Lutheranism minor (or equivalent)
6. Contact the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod District that you work in to complete a background check.
7. Membership in an LCMS congregation for a minimum of 2 years and provide evidence of active participation in church work over a period of time
8. Currently working in a Lutheran church or RSO
9. Demonstrate ability to meet the Scriptural standards for admission to the public ministry of the Church
10. Possess a baccalaureate degree with a minimum 2.5 CGPA, and be 25 years of age minimum by the completion of the colloquy process.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION
1. For Colloquy application packet contact:
   Dr. Stephen Stohlmann
   Concordia University
   275 Syndicate St. N
   St. Paul, MN 55104
   651-641-8824
   colloquy@csp.edu
2. Return completed Colloquy application forms to:
   Kathryn Hagen
   Concordia University
   275 Syndicate St. N
   St. Paul, MN 55104
   651-641-8892
   hagen@csp.edu

TUITION AND FEES
This is a 24 graduate credit and 6 undergraduate credit (internship) program. Tuition rate is $214 per academic credit. For financial aid applications contact your LCMS district office and congregation as well as the Concordia Financial Aid office.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
For a current list of technology requirements, visit www.csp.edu/dce and click on the Requirements tab.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
DR. STEPHEN C. STOHLMANN • 651-641-8824 • COLLOQUY@CSP.EDU • WWW.CSP.EDU/DCE