

DCE Specialist Certification Program

**A post-baccalaureate program of study for placement in
the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a Director of
Christian Education**



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

11400 Concordia University Drive

Austin, Texas 78726

(512) 313-5106

WELCOME!

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Post-Baccalaureate DCE Specialist Certification Program at Concordia University Texas.

This packet includes a number of items that should provide you with important information regarding this unique program of ministry preparation.

Included in this packet:

Program Application Form

Personal Reference Form

Program Information

Curriculum Outline

Current Tuition Rates

Student Financial Services DCE
Certification Application

Should you decide to apply to the DCE Specialist Certification Program at Concordia University Texas, please follow the steps outlined below.

Application Process:

1. Fill out the Concordia University Texas application for the Post-Baccalaureate DCE Certification at <https://crm.orionondemand.com/crm/forms/Bd7k3MN7SA70x6708Em>.
2. Send official copies of all college transcripts to Concordia University.
3. Give reference forms to proper individuals.

Send all information to:

Admissions Office
Concordia University
11400 Concordia University Drive
Austin, Texas 78726



Concordia University Reference

Name of Applicant _____

The above named applicant is applying for admission to the Director of Christian Education (DCE) Program and is asking you to furnish a reference. The DCE Program at Concordia University Texas prepares Christian men and women for full time service of leadership in youth ministry, Christian education, evangelism, family ministry, children's ministry, and/or missions. We seek deeply committed individuals who feel a definite sense of a call in their desire to enter full time ministry. We would appreciate your frank evaluation of this applicant's spiritual commitment, maturity and motivation. It is essential that your remarks be honest, fair, and accurate. Please scan and email the form to: jacob.youmans@concordia.edu or mail a hard copy to: Dr. Jacob Youmans, DCE Program Director, Concordia University Texas, 11400 Concordia University Dr., Austin, TX 78732

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____
2. How well do you know the applicant? _____ Very Well _____ Well _____ Casually
3. What goals does the applicant have? _____

4. What are the applicant's strong points? _____

5. What are the applicant's limitations? _____

6. Describe the applicant's relationship with peers. _____

7. To your knowledge, has the applicant ever experienced problems with substance abuse? _____
8. Please comment on each of the following items about which you have sufficient knowledge.

Church Involvement:

Understanding Lutheran Theology:

Personal Spirituality:

Personal Hygiene:

9. Specific characteristics of the applicant (Please check the appropriate box.)

	Very Low 1-25%	Modest 25-50%	Good 50-75%	Very Good 75-90%	Outstanding 90-95%	Truly Exceptional 95-100%	Unable to Judge
Academic Ability							
Creative, innovative thinking							
Capacity for objective evaluation of self							
Empathic Capacity							
Ability to work independently							
Capacity to handle stress							
Open-mindedness, tolerance for diversity							
Energy level at work-activity							
Commitment to Christian Education							

10. Does the applicant have personality characteristics which would interfere with functioning in the ministry?
(Please check appropriate boxes below.)

	Definitely No	Possibly Yes	Minor	Definitely Yes Moderate	Significant	Unable to Judge
Anxious, Fearful						
Dependent						
Low self-esteem, unusual need for approval						
Manipulative						
Hostile, angry						
Shy, sensitive to criticism						
Pushy, aggressive						
Impulsive, hasty						

11. Would you allow this individual to work with your children? ____ Yes ____ No

12. In general, how would you rate the applicant's potential for ministry?

____ Poor ____ Fair ____ Good ____ Excellent ____ Cannot Determine

13. Name of Reference _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Concordia University

DCE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Program Information

Purpose

The Concordia University DCE Specialist Certification Program is a means by which Bachelor degree graduates may complete program certification requirements for the Director of Christian Education (DCE) ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and be included on the roster of the Commissioned Ministry.

Curricular Structure

The DCE Specialist Certification Program requires a total of up to 70 hours of credit, depending on prior coursework and experience. A one-year Internship in a LC-MS parish will give 24 semester hours of credit. The Internship is required to receive the DCE Certification.

Program Entrance Requirements

- Completion of a Bachelor's degree at a regionally accredited institution
- Overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or better
- Three completed Reference Forms: Academic, Congregational Pastor, and Personal (non-family, at least 21 years old)
- Official copies of all college transcripts on file at Concordia University
- Completion of the Concordia University and DCE Certification application forms
- Active membership in a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for at least two years

What is a DCE?

A DCE is a Called Minister of the Gospel who is a professionally trained parish education specialist, working in a team ministry with the Pastor, staff and lay leaders of the congregation. His/Her prime responsibility is in the administration and resourcing of parish education and youth ministry programs, teaching the faith, and training laity for service inside and outside of the parish. Depending upon the personal gifts, prior experience and training, congregational need and desire, a DCE may also provide leadership in the young adults, singles, family, music and evangelism ministries of the congregation. Other titles used to denote a DCE are Minister of Youth and Education, Minister of Parish Education, Director of Education and Youth, Director of Religious Education and Minister of Discipleship.

Career Opportunity

Each year, throughout Synod, there have been more requests for DCE graduates than graduates available. In the same manner, there have been more applications for DCE Interns than Interns available. Viewing this as a positive trend of the Church toward DCE ministry, there is a continuing need for preparing workers to serve as Directors of Christian Education.

Over the past 50 years, the DCE profession has shown continued growth and professional maturation. Currently nearly 600 DCEs are serving within the full-time ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Since certification of DCEs began, over 1900 people have been certified into this exciting ministry of the Church.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few” is a true statement regarding the DCE ministry. Men and women who are committed to serving our Lord in a ministry of teaching the faith are needed to serve the educational needs of children, youth, families, adults and the entire congregation.

Skills and Talents Required

In order to meet the demands of the job, many skills are required of the DCE. In reviewing candidates for entry into the DCE program, Concordia University looks for women and men who exhibit:

- A strong faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- A willing spirit to serve the Lord, His Church and others in mission and ministry
- Enjoyment in working with and for people
- Good organizational and administrative skills
- Ability to recruit and involve others in ministry opportunities

For more information about the DCE Certification Program, please write or call:

Dr. Jacob Youmans
DCE Program Director
Concordia University
11400 Concordia University Drive
Austin, Texas 78726
(512) 313-5106
Jacob.youmans@concordia.edu
www.concordia.edu/dce

Admissions Office
Concordia University
11400 Concordia University Drive
Austin, Texas 78726
1-800-865-4282
(512) 313-4676
www.concordia.edu

Concordia University Texas

DCE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

Curriculum

Religion Core 18 hours

REL 1301	New Testament History and Reading
REL 1311	History and Literature of the Old Testament
REL 2352	<i>History & Philosophy of the Reformation</i>
or REL 3354	<i>History of Christianity</i>
REL 3341	Lutheran Doctrine
REL 3353	<i>American Christianity</i>
or REL 3381	<i>Major World Religions</i>
REL 3333	Introduction to Christian Ethics

Professional Preparation Core 24 hours from the following:

COM 3303	Communications for Church Workers
or COM 3304	<i>Group Dynamics</i>
REDU 2220	Introduction to DCE Ministry
REDU 3230	Leading Contemporary Worship
REDU 3232	Outdoor Christian Ministry
REDU 3240	Missional Leadership
REDU 3250	Christian Witness & Evangelism
REDU 3310	Youth Ministry
REDU 3311	Cultural Influences in Youth Ministry
REDU 3313	Special Topics in Youth Ministry
REDU 3315	Confirmation Planning and Implementation
REDU 3316	Ldrshp & Admin in Children's Ministry
REDU 3317	Children's Ministry
REDU 3319	Middle School Ministry
REDU 3320	Parish Administration
REDU 3330	Family Ministry
REDU 3340	Adult Education in the Parish
REDU 3341	Leadership Development
REDU 3345	Emergent Theory
REDU 3350	Curriculum and Methods in Religious Education
REDU 3398	Nat'l/Int'l Studies: Mission Trip
PSY 3331	Introduction to Counseling

Field Experience 4 hours

REDU 4210	DCE Seminar and Field Work I
REDU 4211	DCE Seminar and Field Work II

Internship 24 hours

REDU 41210	DCE Internship I
REDU 41211	DCE Internship II

TOTAL 70 hours

Concordia University Texas
DCE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

**Tuition and Fees
2012-2013**

DEPOSIT:

Students in the DCE Certification program receive a 25% discount in tuition through the Student Financial Services DCE Certification Discount Grant. The table below shows both the cost of tuition and the discounted rate. A tuition deposit may be required to reserve classes. This deposit is non-refundable, but will be applied to tuition.

TUITION:

	2012-2013 Tuition	Cost with Discount
Per Semester Hour (for 1-11 hours)	\$785.00	\$589.00
Full-Time (12-18 hours)	\$11,800.00	\$8850.00

Full payment of all tuition and fees is due on or before registration for each semester. Additional fees and interest may be charged after posted deadlines. All charges must be paid prior to participation in graduation or release of credentials or certification. Students must fill out the Student Financial Services DCE Certification Application in order to receive the grant to discount tuition.

ADDITIONAL FEES: (per semester)

Student Activities Fee (full time)	\$50.00
<i>Meal Plan D (commuters only) - optional</i>	\$600.00

For information regarding student accounts, call Student Central at 512-313-4700 or email studentcentral@concordia.edu.

