Studies in Urban Ministries

This major prepares you for effective ministry in an urbanized world. The majority of the world now lives in the city and there is an increasing need for workers to be trained to effectively lead ministries and social agencies in urban areas. The capstone of the Urban Ministry Studies program is a nine-month field experience where you will live in the heart of inner-city Philadelphia at the Urban Hope Training Center. The field experiences provide students with real-world classroom experience as the cities of the Northeast become the “classroom” for these nine months.

- It is rooted in the fact that there is life transformation through Jesus Christ and He changes lives and circumstances.
- It includes nine months of living in an urban area known for various urban issues. The cooperation is with the Urban Hope Training Center in the Kensington area of Philadelphia.
- Students will study the eight areas of concentration that are issues found in all urban areas of the world.
- The ministry they will be involved with uses a holistic approach to the gospel, but also includes the value of connecting with local churches.
- Students will be mentored by experienced urban leaders who are living in the inner city and connecting with the community.
- Students will be involved in contact-making, outreach, discipleship and teaching in a cross-cultural setting.
- Students will learn through observation and interaction with various organizations and groups in the Northeast, traveling to various world-class cities as a group.
- Options will be given to students to visit urban areas outside the USA to observe other ways of meeting social, material and spiritual needs.
- Students will be taught by practitioners who will equip students to work in many areas of social services.

Courses include but not limited to:

*UMS1100 Foundations of Urban Ministry*

The course will help the student develop a biblical framework for urban ministry and gain an overall understanding of foundational principles for effective urban ministry.

*UMS4830 Urban Studies Field Experience*

Field experiences will be taught through a residency at the Urban Hope Training Center in Philadelphia, PA. Students will spend a total of two semesters completing the field experiences.** The 24 credits will include:

- Navigating the Systems of the City
- Models of Urban Ministry
- Crisis Counseling and Intervention
• Ministry to Special Needs
• Understanding and Adapting to Cultural Mores
• Breaking the Cycle of Poverty, Depression and Hopelessness
• The uniqueness of Evangelism and Discipleship in an Urban Setting
• The Drug Culture, Street Life and Addictions

*YMI314 Cross Cultural Youth Ministries
The student will learn how to assess relevant issues related to specific cultures and how to target the needs of youth within various socio-economic groups.

ICS311 Intercultural Communication
Students will examine the principles and processes of communicating effectively with people from a second cultural context, whether in multi-cultural U.S.A. or in other countries.

BBL313 Understanding World Religions
Students will examine the belief systems of major religions with a view to understanding why the tenets of each system make sense and drive behavior for the adherents. They will also examine how each religion affects the host culture and how the culture affects the religion. The inadequacies of each belief system will be considered in light of the adequacy of Christianity.

SOC110 Introduction to Sociology
An introductory study of humans functioning in society. Basic principles of sociology will be experienced including organization, structure, strata, and problems in American society. Emphasis will be placed on observational techniques that will help to develop a spirit of active participation in the world.

Courses are taught at Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana.
*These courses are taught in the inner-city of Philadelphia at the Urban Hope Training Center.
**Transportation is provided while in Philadelphia. Housing and meals will be provided at the Urban Hope Training Center.

For program information contact Timothy Kurtancek at CE National at 574.267.6622 or call Grace College at 1.800.544.7223.