



# Grace Communion Seminary

## Consumer Information Disclosure

### General Information

1. Name of Institution: Grace Communion Seminary
2. Address: 3120 Whitehall Park Dr., Charlotte, NC 28273
3. Year Founded: 2003.<sup>1</sup> First accredited: 2012. Accreditation expires: 2025.<sup>2</sup>
4. CEO/President: Gary W. Deddo, PhD
5. Accreditation Status: GCS is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission, [www.deac.org](http://www.deac.org). DEAC is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency. DEAC is also a recognized member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
6. State Approval and E-mail Contact Information: Grace Communion Seminary is a business name of Ambassador College, a California non-profit religious corporation with federal 501(c)(3) status. As a church-related school teaching the doctrines of the supporting organization, GCS is authorized by the state of California, Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education to function as an institution with religious exemption. To contact BPPE, email [bppe@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bppe@dca.ca.gov).

Our office is in North Carolina. Degree programs of study offered by Grace Communion Seminary have been declared exempt from the requirements for licensure, under provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section (G.S.) 116–15 (d) for exemption from licensure with respect to religious education. Exemption from licensure is not based

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<sup>1</sup> Our legal entity is Ambassador College, a California non-profit religious corporation, founded in 1951. We began offering graduate classes online in 2003, and began doing business with the name Grace Communion Seminary starting in 2007.

<sup>2</sup> It is normal for accreditation to expire every five years. It is also normal that institutions re-apply and are re-evaluated every five years.

upon assessment of program quality under established licensing standards.

7. Participation in Funding Programs (G.I. Bill, DANTES, Title IV, etc.): None.

## Mission & Description

1. Institution Mission Statement: “*Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry.*” We are committed to equip the saints for pastoral ministry through quality graduate-level distance education programs in biblical, theological, ministerial and pastoral studies informed by Incarnational Trinitarian faith.
2. Areas of Special Focus: Trinitarian theology and pastoral practice.
3. Description of Institution: Grace Communion Seminary is an educational institution sponsored by Grace Communion International. We offer training in biblical studies, theology, church history, and pastoral practice. We provide courses and programs that meet traditional graduate academic standards, and are designed to suit the needs of bivocational pastors who can study only on a part-time basis. Our programs also allow fulltime students to progress at a traditional pace. We do not offer any assistance for students looking for employment or placement. Our courses are designed to make students more effective in ministry, not to get them a new job.
4. Student demographic profile: A majority of our students are American pastors of Grace Communion International. We have a contingent of younger, emerging leaders who are interesting in learning more about ministry from a Trinitarian theological foundation. About 15 percent of our students are women. All our students are part-time students.
5. Courses/Programs/Degrees: We offer three degrees: Master of Pastoral Studies, Master of Theological Studies, and Master of Divinity. All *new* students are enrolled in a non-degree status; they may take classes as desired.
6. Average Program Tuition/Cost per Credit Hour: Almost all of our courses carry three semester units of credit. The tuition cost per hour is

\$220; each 3-unit course costs \$660, plus (on average) about \$45 for textbooks.<sup>3</sup> GCS does not sell any textbooks – they must be obtained elsewhere.

- At current tuition rates, a student can complete a master’s degree for about \$9290, plus about \$600-750 for books. A full-time student can complete the degree in two years. Master of Divinity takes longer, at more expense.

## Success Indicators

### 1. Average Completion/Graduation Rate for Students:

- Course completion rate: 96 percent. During the past year, of those who registered for a course, 96 percent completed it.
- Program completion rate for the master’s degree: Since all our students are studying part-time, it normally takes them several years to finish. Students must complete at least seven courses before they may matriculate into a program.
  - In the years 2012 to 2015, 27 students matriculated. Of those, 25 graduated (93 percent).
  - Eight matriculated in 2016. Five have graduated and one is still working.
  - Six matriculated in 2017. Four have graduated; one is still working.
- About 90 percent of students in the MPS program graduate. We have a smaller number of MTS students. Of the ten students who have matriculated, six have graduated, and three are still working.
- Our Master of Divinity program is too new to have completion statistics.

### 2. Percentage of students surveyed<sup>4</sup> who responded that they—

- a. achieved their learning goals: 98%
- b. would recommend the institution to a friend: 97%
- c. were satisfied with their studies: 100%

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<sup>3</sup> We have calculated costs based on “very good” used textbooks, shipped to an address in the USA. Costs are generally higher in other nations. Textbook costs vary widely, and may change from year to year.

<sup>4</sup> All institutions accredited by DEAC are required to ask these three questions in surveys of their students. Survey results are for 2019. 200821