# **Learning about The United Church of Canada Theological Schools**

## Centre for Christian Studies

### Recruiter or Admission contact person

Scott Douglas (registrar), [sdouglas@ccsonline.ca](mailto:sdouglas@ccsonline.ca)

### Open houses or events people can attend in the coming year (virtually or in person)

CCS Fridays: a series of monthly online workshops on a variety of topics

Online Open House: date to be announced

### What programs do you offer?

* Diploma in Diaconal Ministries
* Certificates (Spiritual Care, Social Justice, Christian Education and Worship)
* Continuing Studies
* Joint degrees (BA and Masters) are offered with St. Andrew’s and St. Stephen’s colleges

### What is your approach to equipping people preparing for ministry leadership?

We focus on practical theology in a collaborative environment. Learning circles and personal reflection help students connect ministry theory and theology with experience and practice. Students learn in community (and about community), developing skills in teamwork, conflict resolution, empowerment, and mutual support. A holistic approach to learning helps students make connections between pastoral care, social justice, and education and worship. Mentor relationships help students develop their diaconal identity and connection to the diaconal community. Students set learning goals based on their individual needs and established competencies for ministry.

### Can people study by distance?

Yes. We have a national student body, living and studying in their home communities. Students engage in learning-in-community through field placements, mentoring, and engagement with student peers. Week-long intensive learning circles are offered four times per year, and online learning circles are offered twice a year.

### Can people study part-time?

Yes. The Diaconal Ministries program is a four-year full-time program. Or you can take it at a slower pace to make time for family, community, or work commitments.

### What financial support does your school offer students?

Bursaries are available, with applications in spring and fall.

### Can students get an academic degree?

We have joint degree agreements with St. Andrew’s and St. Stephen’s colleges, allowing students to use their CCS studies toward a Masters degree.

### Is an undergraduate degree required for admission?

No. Applicants without an undergraduate degree can submit writing samples demonstrating their ability to think critically, to engage reflectively, and to express ideas. Students with limited undergraduate experience might benefit from supplemental courses in academic skills.

### Is there a practical component?

Yes. Students in the Diaconal Ministries program do three 8-month field placements over the course of their program. These are done concurrent with learning circles and external courses so that learnings from circles can be applied in the field and learnings from field experience can be integrated in circle.

### What makes your school unique?

We are one of the few theology schools in the world that focuses on [diaconal ministry](https://www.ducc.ca/). Our action/reflection praxis model of education holds space for transformative learning within a community of enthusiastic co-learners. We teach from a theologically progressive, intersectional and liberative stance. We are an Affirming Ministry.

### What learning circles are you offering this year?

Our theme learning circles fall into three categories—spiritual care, education and worship, and social justice. Individual learning circles focus in on a particular aspect or issue. You can find the list of [upcoming learning circles on the CCS website](https://ccsonline.ca/program/courses-and-circles/).

### Anything else people should know?

Curious about our program or diaconal ministry? Wanting to deepen your leadership and practical ministry skills? [Check our upcoming learning circles and workshops](http://ccsonline.ca/www.instagram.com/ccs_canada/), and contact us for more information (Instagram).