
"The colleges, universities, and seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod exist to supply the higher education services needed to accomplish the mission of the church.

"Strongly committed to the Lutheran concept of vocation, synodical colleges and universities are liberal arts institutions which provide a Christ-centered spiritual and value-oriented environment for men and women who will be Christians in the church and in secular occupations.

"The objectives of the Synod include the recruitment and education of professional church workers. Therefore, central to the system of synodical higher education is the preparation of those who are called to serve through preaching, teaching and related vocations. Professional preparation for the pastoral ministry is the special assignment of the Synod's seminaries."

"Statement of Mission and Purpose"
as adopted by the 1986 LCMS Convention

Much of value can be learned from the concepts of academic freedom that are commonly found in American culture. However, academic freedom and its related responsibilities as recognized and practiced in the Concordias have their fundamental basis in the Christian identity of our institutions of higher education.

A Concordia campus views academic freedom and responsibility as an expression of the reality of the scriptural Lutheran faith. As agencies of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Concordias express the confessional significance of believing in Christ and his Scriptures, teaching the scriptural Lutheran faith, and confessing the Gospel to the world.

A Concordia campus is a Christian community, characterized by a high awareness of the reality and importance of collegial relationships and commitments.

A Concordia campus values the centrality of a Lutheran understanding of Law, Gospel, and the forgiveness of Christ for all. This reality permeates classrooms, administrative work, and human relations among all campus constituencies.

A Concordia campus provides opportunities for faculty to integrate faith, life, and learning. This includes opportunities to address issues in our contemporary environment from the standpoint of informed Lutheran scholarship.

A Concordia campus values the individuality of each faculty member and respects the right of faculty to hold diverse opinions. The right of persons to retain the convictions of their faith and conscience is respected, but the institution has specific expectations regarding the presentation of doctrinal teachings.

A Concordia faculty member will not actively promote a doctrinal position that is in opposition to the doctrinal position of the LCMS. A Concordia faculty member accepts responsibility for becoming knowledgeable regarding the teachings of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on the theological topics and issues related to his/her academic responsibilities.

The fundamental purpose of due process regarding academic freedom responsibilities is to protect the academic freedom of the faculty member and to uphold the policies and positions of the institution. The attitude of all involved should be inclined to humility and forgiveness.

Each institution is responsible for maintaining clearly stated procedures for due process that include the process described in the 2004 LCMS §§3.8.3.8.5, 3.8.3.8.8, 3.8.3.8.9.

Written acceptance e