



The Robert E. Webber

# Institute for Worship Studies

The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies (IWS) offers two degree programs: the Master of Worship Studies ([MWS](#)) and the Doctor of Worship Studies ([DWS](#)). The purpose of the programs offered through IWS is to further equip worship leaders, instructors, and others interested in the theory and practice of Christian worship, for their responsibilities in the local church and other settings. Given this purpose, fourteen program outcomes have been identified ([seven for DWS](#) and [seven for MWS](#)).

In addition to student-based feedback, IWS assesses the program outcomes through faculty-based and alumni-based feedback, both of which are provided below.

The faculty-based assessment data triangulates student achievement on artifacts, exit interviews, and course evaluations, all of which are directly tied to program outcomes. The faculty have also set benchmarks for each program to help determine the extent to which outcomes are being met.

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## Faculty-Based Assessment Data for Degree: Doctor of Worship Studies

Degree: Doctor of Worship Studies				
Program Outcome	Direct & Indirect Measures	Target (Criteria for Success)	Assessment Results	Action Steps Based on Assessment
1. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, worship rooted in and declaring the story of the Triune God as expressed in the Scriptures.	Artifact A [DWS 701: Biblical Foundations and Historical Development of Christian Worship]- <i>Biblical Theology Paper</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score $\geq 80\%$ on criteria listed on rubric	93% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.7	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i> or higher	Average of 100% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
2. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, major trajectories in the practice of Christian worship through culture and time for use in assessing current expressions of Christian worship.	Artifact A [DWS 701: Biblical Foundations and Historical Development of Christian Worship]- <i>Historical Papers 1 and 2</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score $> 80\%$ on criteria listed on rubric	80% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.74	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal	Average of 100% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.

		with a rating of <i>moderately</i> or higher		
3. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate, a scripturally rooted, historically informed Christian theology of worship to guide the planning and evaluation of Christian worship.	Artifact A [DWS 702: The Renewal of Sunday Worship: Music and the Arts]- <i>Determine Paper</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score $\geq 80\%$ on criteria listed on rubric	88% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations [801]	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.79	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i> or higher	Average of 99% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
4. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, ways in which culture informs and shapes expressions of Christian worship, past and present.	Artifact A [DWS 703: The Church Year]- <i>Course Final Project</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score $\geq 80\%$ on criteria listed on rubric	90% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.36	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i> or higher	Average of 99% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
5. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the	Artifact A [DWS 704: The Sacred Actions and Ministries of Worship]- <i>Final Project</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score $> 80\%$ on criteria listed on rubric	81.4% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.

centrality of God's mission, with respect to the Church's worship, founded on the scriptural revelation of the Triune God.	Artifact B [DWS 702P-704P: Practicum]- <i>Practica</i>	85% of students receive a cumulative score >85% on criteria listed on rubric	100% of students scored 85% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations of 704	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.62	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i> or higher	Average of 99% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
6. The student will demonstrate the ability to research, evaluate and articulate concepts related to Christian worship, using scholarly materials (primary and secondary) and the theological action-research methodology.	Artifact A [DWS 801: The Doctoral Thesis: Research and Design]- <i>Thesis</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score >80% on criteria listed on rubric	97% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Artifact B [DWS 801: The Doctoral Thesis: Research and Design]- <i>Oral presentation</i>	85% of students receive a passing, or passing with approved modifications, score based on criteria listed on rubric	Will begin collection 2024	
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.7	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i> or higher	Average of 99% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.

7. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate, implement and evaluate, key concepts related to Christian worship in a particular setting.	Artifact B [DWS 702P-704P: Practicum]- <i>Practica</i>	85% of students receive a cumulative score >85% on criteria listed on rubric	100% of students scored 85% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.61	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i> or higher	Average of 100% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.

## Faculty-Based Assessment Data for Degree: Master of Worship Studies

Degree: Master of Worship Studies				
Program Outcome	Direct & Indirect Measures	Target (Criteria for Success)	Assessment Results	Action Steps Based on Assessment
1. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, Biblical evidence for worship as participation in the story of the Triune God.	Artifact A [MWS 501: A Biblical Theology of Worship]- <i>Biblical Principles Paper</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score >80% on criteria listed on rubric	94% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.72	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i>	Average of 97% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
2. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the historical development of Christian worship practices and theology.	Artifact A [MWS 501: A Biblical Theology of Worship]- <i>Biblical Principles Paper</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score ≥80% on criteria listed on rubric	94% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Artifact B [MWS 502: The History, Theology, and Spirituality of Christian Worship]- <i>Historical Research Paper</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score ≥80% on criteria listed on rubric	100% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations [502]	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.4	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal	Average of 96% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.

		with a rating of <i>moderately</i>		
3. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the role of theology, philosophy and epistemology in Christian formation.	Artifact B [MWS 502: The History, Theology, and Spirituality of Christian Worship]- <i>Historical Research Paper</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score $\geq 80\%$ on criteria listed on rubric	100% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Artifact B [MWS 503: Contextualization, Spirituality, and Christian Worship]- <i>Worship Project</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score $\geq 80\%$ on criteria listed on rubric	91% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations [503]	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.6	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i>	Average of 100% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
4. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the role	Artifact B [MWS 503: Contextualization, Spirituality, and Christian Worship]- <i>Worship Project</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score $\geq 80\%$ on criteria listed on rubric	91% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.

of contextualization in engaging God’s people in the dialogue of worship.	Artifact B [MWS 504: Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Christian Worship]- <i>Research Paper</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score >80% on criteria listed on rubric	76% of students scored 80% or higher	Significant improvements were made to intentionally support MWS Program Outcome 4 in Jan 2020. June 2021 and Jan 2022: showed success as a result of targeted intervention. June 2023 data showed slight decline; Academic Dean and Course Professor designing an action plan to address primary causes for assessment results.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations [503 & 504]	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.74	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i>	Average of 100% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.



<p>5. The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the centrality of God’s mission with respect to the Church’s worship, including its global dimensions.</p>	<p>Artifact B [MWS 504: Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Christian Worship]- <i>Research Paper</i></p>	<p>80% of students receive a cumulative score &gt;80% on criteria listed on rubric</p>	<p>76% of students scored 80% or higher</p>	<p>Significant improvements were made to intentionally support MWS Program Outcome 4 in Jan 2020. June 2021 and Jan 2022: showed success as a result of targeted intervention. June 2023 data showed slight decline; Academic Dean and Course Professor designing an action plan to address primary causes for assessment results.</p>
	<p>Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations [504]</p>	<p>Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category</p>	<p>Average score of 4.7</p>	<p>Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.</p>
	<p>Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews</p>	<p>85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i></p>	<p>Average of 100% rated moderately or higher</p>	<p>Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.</p>
<p>6. The student will demonstrate the ability to research, evaluate and</p>	<p>Artifact A [MWS 601: Ministry Internship]- <i>Internship</i></p>	<p>80% of students receive a cumulative score ≥80% on criteria listed on rubric</p>	<p>100% of students scored 80% or higher</p>	<p>Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.</p>

articulate concepts related to Christian worship, using scholarly materials, as well as apply them to the spiritual life of the believer, with an emphasis upon the planning of corporate worship.	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations [WR501]	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.12	
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i>	Average of 100% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
7. The student will demonstrate the ability to integrate and evaluate MWS course objectives within a local ministry context through specific, intentional and strategically supervised efforts.	Artifact A [MWS 601: Ministry Internship]- <i>Internship</i>	80% of students receive a cumulative score ≥80% on criteria listed on rubric	100% of students scored 80% or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 1- Course Evaluations [601]	Average of 3.25 or higher in each identified category	Average score of 4.76	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.
	Indirect Measurement 2- Exit Interviews	85% of students will self-report having achieved program goal with a rating of <i>moderately</i>	Average of 100% rated moderately or higher	Benchmark achieved; continue to monitor.

In addition to faculty-based feedback, IWS also assesses the program outcomes through alumni-based feedback. IWS annually distributes an exit interview to that year's graduating class. Compiling feedback from interviews of the last four graduating classes (2019-2022), the following data were compiled.

**Utilizing a 3 point scale** (3 = significantly, 2 = moderately, 1 = slightly), our alumni rated the extent to which their courses fulfilled the program outcomes:

## Alumni Responses: Program Outcomes for the Doctor of Worship Studies

### 26 respondents of 73 alumni (2019-2022 graduating classes)

- 1. Biblical foundation of Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, worship rooted in and declaring the story of the Triune God as expressed in the Scriptures. **(2.8/3.0)**
- 2. Historical development of Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, major trajectories in the practice of Christian worship through culture and time for use in assessing current expressions of Christian worship. **(2.8/3.0)**
- 3. Theological reflection on Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate, a scripturally rooted, historically informed Christian theology of worship to guide the planning and evaluation of Christian worship. **(2.9/3.0)**
- 4. Cultural reflection on Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, ways in which culture informs and shapes expressions of Christian worship, past and present. **(2.7/3.0)**
- 5. Missiological reflection on Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the centrality of God's mission, with respect to the Church's worship, founded on the scriptural revelation of the Triune God. **(2.8/3.0)**
- 6. Methodological skills for studies in Christian worship** The student will demonstrate the ability to research, evaluate and articulate concepts related to Christian worship, using scholarly materials (primary and secondary) and the theological action-research methodology. **(2.8/3.0)**
- 7. Ministerial skills in Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate, implement and evaluate, key concepts related to Christian worship in a particular setting. **(2.9/3.0)**

## Alumni Responses: Program Outcomes for the Master of Worship Studies

### 20 respondents of 56 alumni (2019-2022 graduating classes)

- 1. Biblical foundation of Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, Biblical evidence for worship as participation in the story of the Triune God. (2.8/3.0)
- 2. Historical development of Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the historical development of Christian worship practices and theology. (2.6/3.0)
- 3. Theological reflection on Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the role of theology, philosophy and epistemology in Christian formation. (2.6/3.0)
- 4. Cultural reflection on Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the role of contextualization in engaging God's people in the dialogue of worship. (2.9/3.0)
- 5. Missiological reflection on Christian worship** The student will understand, as well as demonstrate the ability to articulate and evaluate, the centrality of God's mission with respect to the Church's worship, including its global dimensions. (2.9/3.0)
- 6. Methodological skills for studies in Christian worship** The student will demonstrate the ability to research, evaluate and articulate concepts related to Christian worship, using scholarly materials, as well as apply them to the spiritual life of the believer, with an emphasis upon the planning of corporate worship. (2.9/3.0)
- 7. Ministerial skills in Christian worship** The student will demonstrate the ability to integrate and evaluate MWS course objectives within a local ministry context through specific, intentional and strategically supervised efforts. (3.0/3.0)