Statement of purpose: The Life and Ministry Diploma program is designed for the serious lay student to grow in understanding of the Bible and practical ministry. The advantages of the program are that it offers students Gordon-Conwell education with flexible admissions requirements, limited program completion requirements, and reduced costs.

Course requirements: The Ockenga Diploma program consists of six courses. One course must be taken from each of the following areas: Biblical Studies, Christian Thought, and Ministry. The remaining three courses can be electives from any of the above areas. Concentration in one area is encouraged.

Admissions process: A completed application and two references are required to be submitted to the Ockenga Diploma Program Coordinator (diploma@gcts.edu).

Prerequisites: The program is intended for the serious lay student and courses are taught at a graduate school level. Therefore, a baccalaureate degree or equivalent is expected though not necessarily required. Students admitted without a baccalaureate degree must maintain at least a C average.

Degree credit: All three-credit courses are transferable to any degree program at Gordon-Conwell upon completion of the entire diploma program. However, to apply diploma courses to a degree program, students must officially enroll in the desired program through the Admissions office and meet the standards of the program. A matriculation fee representing the real cost of the courses for degree use is required to apply the diploma program credits to a degree program, to be paid upon acceptance into the desired degree program.

Course selection: Each semester, select courses are designated as diploma courses at the Hamilton campus. The Ockenga registrar will identify and communicate current course selections. Additionally, courses are offered off campus through the Semlink distance education program. The entire diploma program can be taken through Semlink.

Fee information: The diploma program cost is $375 per course (plus shipping for Semlink materials). The cost of textbooks is not included. Exception: The Ministry Partnership Student Spouse Program cost is $125 per course, textbooks not included.

Exams: In order to ensure the integrity of each Diploma course, the student is required to write exams in the presence of a proctor. This proctor should be a pastor, chaplain, church leader, school faculty member or administrator. The proctor may not be a family member or a current Gordon-Conwell student. Exam materials will be sent directly to your proctor upon request.