



## **Luther Seminary Catalog**

**Academic Year 2023-2024**

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## About this Catalog

### Mission statement

Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

### About this Catalog

This catalog is in effect for the period of Fall Semester 2023 through Summer Term 2024. It may be updated throughout that period in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) the following:

- New program
- Announcement of the impending closure of a program
- Academic policies (changes, additions and/or deletions)
- Course descriptions (changes, additions and/or deletions)
- Faculty listings (additions, departures, changes in rank and/or title, etc.)
- Contact information
- Community standards

Changes in curriculum and in academic and admission policies will not be made within a catalog year unless the change:

- is clearly to the benefit of those to whom it would apply,
- is optional (but beneficial to some)
- can be accommodated without serious difficulty within the normal span allowed for a degree

Significant changes in curriculum or academic or admission policies will normally begin with a new academic year and a new catalog. Depending on the nature of the change, changes in academic policies may be applied to all students, regardless of the catalog under which they entered. However, changes in curriculum apply only to students who first enroll in a program during the academic year in which a change in curriculum becomes effective, or students who transfer into such a program during that year. Significant changes will be communicated to the Luther Seminary Community.

Students are subject to the graduation requirements in the catalog in effect at the time of their initial enrollment. All students entering Luther Seminary in the 2023-2024 academic year complete their work according to the graduation requirements indicated in this catalog.

## Affiliation and Accreditation

Luther Seminary is one of the seven seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Luther Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and by the Higher Learning Commission.

The following degree programs are approved: M.Div., M.A., D.Min., Th.M., Ph.D.

## Luther Seminary

Accreditation Agency contact information:

The Higher Learning Commission  
230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1411  
Phone: 800-621-7440/312-263-0456

Fax: 312-263-7462

[info@hlcommission.org](mailto:info@hlcommission.org)

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada

10 Summit Park Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275  
Phone: 412-788-6505/Fax: 412-788-6510

[www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)

Luther Seminary is registered as a Private Institution with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education pursuant to sections 136A.61 to 136A.71. Registration is not an endorsement of the institution. Credits earned at the institution may not transfer to all other institutions.

For further information, contact:  
Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55108-5227  
Phone: (651) 642-0567

<https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/>

## Theological Education at Luther Seminary

Luther Seminary exists to educate leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world. We intend to be confessional and missional—boldly confessing the classical Christian faith as expressed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessions as we participate in the creative work and the reconciling mission of God in Jesus Christ.

Luther Seminary understands that theological education involves the whole person and is done in community. It is based on the conviction that the Scriptures convey promises that bear witness to God's faithful character. These promises take shape in community and move us to engage a complex world.

Luther Seminary's curricular strategy calls for teaching Christian theology in a framework of four interrelated movements:

- Learning the Christian story
- Interpreting and confessing the story
- Leading in mission according to the story

## Luther Seminary

- Living our callings

As a center of learning on behalf of the church for the sake of the world, Luther Seminary has designed multiple educational processes by which to accomplish our vision and goals:

- M.Div. - Missional Pastors
- M.A. - Academic and Professional Degrees
- Graduate Certificates
- D.Min., Th.M., Ph.D. - Advanced Theological Education
- Faith+Lead

### Missional Pastors

The purpose of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree is to prepare students to be pastors who provide theologically informed and effective leadership in congregations for the sake of God's mission of witness and service. "Missional pastors" are "apt teachers" (1 Timothy 3:2) within the priesthood of all believers who, through the ministry of Word and Sacrament, equip all the baptized for their lives within and beyond the Christian community. The M.Div. program seeks to graduate pastors who will lead in developing new congregations and strengthening existing congregations for ministry in changing contexts. The M.Div. is available as a residential /commuter or distributed learning program.

### Vocational Formation

All Master of Arts (M.A.) and M.Div. students are given opportunities to develop their sense of vocation and call through classroom interactions with faculty and peers, relationships with staff and administrators, regular chapel worship, and through other structured and unstructured formational activities. For M.A. students in Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Christian Ministry; and Leadership and Innovation for Ministry, their degree concentration point people and members of the contextual learning staff will serve a particularly important role in vocational discernment and formation. All M.A. and M.Div. students are assigned a faculty advisor when they begin their program. Faculty advisors are a source of support for vocational discernment and formation. Faculty advisors also serve as candidacy mentors for students who are candidates for ordained ministry.

### M.A. and Graduate Certificate Programs

These two-year degree- and one-year graduate certificate programs help prepare students for the variety of specialized ministries required by God's many-sided mission of witness and service. The M.A. prepares students either for further graduate study or to serve as mission driven leaders in a variety of ministries within and beyond Christian congregations. Students may choose one of seven M.A. concentrations. The M.A. in Lutheran Ministry allows for two tracks - Deacon or Chaplaincy - and provides Lutheran theological training for those preparing for ministry in a Lutheran setting. The Graduate Certificate Program is a one-year program designed to equip lay leaders across denominational lines and is intended for students who do not have an earned (and who are not concurrently seeking) a theological degree.

## Degree Programs at a Glance



## Luther Seminary

	M.Div.	M.A.	Th.M.	Ph.D.
Degree required for admission	A bachelor's degree or its equivalent received from a regionally accredited college or university	A bachelor's degree or its equivalent received from a regionally accredited college or university	An M.Div. or M.A. or its equivalent from an accredited theological school	An M.Div. or M.A. in theology, biblical studies, history or the arts of ministry, or bachelor of divinity or its equivalent from an accredited theological school
Number of courses in program	25	14 or 16	6	13
Residency Requirements	At least 8	Vary by concentration from 3 to 6 courses taken on campus		
Writing project	N/A	Capstone	Thesis	Dissertation
Continuation Status	N/A	2 semesters (fee assessed)		
Language Examinations	No	No	Yes	Yes
Time limit to complete program	8 years	5 years	5 years	7 years

## Enterprise Leadership Team (ELT)

ENTERPRISE LEADERSHIP TEAM (ELT)
The Rev. Dr. Robin Steinke, President and Professor of Systematic Theology
John Coskran, Vice President of Finance
Heidi Droegemueller, Vice President for Seminary Relations
The Rev. Dr. Terri Elton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Leadership
The Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson, Dean of Faculty, Professor of Old Testament and Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology and Ministry
The Rev. Randy Kyle, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Vice President of People and Culture
Dr. Leon Rodrigues, Vice President of Inclusion and Belonging and Dean of Students
The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile, Vice President of Innovation and Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership

## Disability Resources

## Luther Seminary

It is Luther Seminary's policy to ensure that no qualified student with a disability is denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or subjected to discrimination in any seminary program, service or activity. The seminary provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. More information about disability resources is available in the Student Handbook. If students wish to request accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Liaison for documentation and information about available reasonable accommodations:

Peter Susag

Library Office

214 Gullixson Hall

651-641-3465

[psusag001@luthersem.edu](mailto:psusag001@luthersem.edu)

## Writing Support

Writing Support

Luther Seminary's Writing Support provides feedback on writing and publishing course papers, theses and submissions to external publications as well as related issues such as citation, revision and formatting. Through face-to-face or online consultations, writers get specific answers to their questions and identify strategies for meeting their academic and professional goals.

For more information, contact the Writing Support Coordinator:

Peter Susag

Library Office

214 Gullixson Hall

651-641-3465

[psusag001@luthersem.edu](mailto:psusag001@luthersem.edu)

## Faculty

For faculty bios and more information, visit <https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/>

### **Michael Binder**

*Assistant Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership*

B.A., Carleton College, 2000

M.Div., Bethel Seminary, 2008

Ph.D., Luther Seminary, 2017

## Luther Seminary

**Kristofer Phan Coffman**

*Assistant Professor of New Testament*

B.A., St. Olaf College, 2013

M.Div., Luther Seminary, 2016

Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 2022

**Timothy J. Coltvet**

*Director of Contextual Learning*

B.A., Concordia College, 1994

M.Div., Luther Seminary, 1998

Ordained, 1998 (ELCA)

**Dale Dobias**

*Library Director*

A.A., Golden Valley Lutheran College, 1979

B.A., Taylor University, 1981

M.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1990

M.A., United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 1989

**Terri Elton**

*Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Leadership*

B.A., Concordia College, 1986

M.A., Luther Seminary, 1998

Ph.D., Luther Seminary, 2007

Ordained, 2022 (ELCA)

**Mark Granquist**

*Professor of Church History and Lloyd and Annelotte Svendsbye Chair in Church History*

B.A., St. Olaf College, 1979

M.Div., Yale University Divinity School, 1984

Ph.D., University of Chicago Divinity School, 1992

Ordained, 1988 (ELCA)

**Guillermo Hansen**

*Director of Advanced Theological Education and Professor of Global Christianity and Martin Luther King Jr. Chair for Justice and Christian Community*

M.Div., Ecumenical Theological University,  
Argentina, 1986

S.T.M., Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 1988

Th.M., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1990

Ph.D., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1995

Ordained, 1996, United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina

**Mary E. Hess**

*Professor of Educational Leadership*

B.A., Yale University, 1985

M.T.S., Harvard University, 1992

Ph.D., Boston College, 1998

**Isaac Horwedel**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Ethics and Louisville Institute Post Doctoral Fellow*

B.A., Anderson University, 2010

M.Div., Emory University, 2017

Ph.D. Candidate, Emory University

## Luther Seminary

**Cameron B. R. Howard**

*Associate Professor of Old Testament*

A.B., Davidson College, 2001

M.T.S., Emory University, 2003

Th.M., Columbia Theological Seminary, 2004

Ph.D., Emory University, 2010

**Rolf A. Jacobson**

*Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Old Testament and The Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry*

B.A., University of St. Thomas, 1987

M.Div., Luther Seminary, 1991

Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 2000

Ordained, 1991 (ELCA)

**Dirk G. Lange**

*Professor of Worship and Frederik A. Schioltz Chair in Christian Missions*

B.A., University of Winnipeg, 1979

M.Div., Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 2001

S.T.M., Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 2001

Ph.D., Emory University, 2005

Ordained, 2002 (ELCA)

**Karoline Lewis**

*Professor and Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching*

B.A., Northwestern University, 1989

M.Div., Luther Seminary, 1994

Ph.D., Emory University, 2006

Ordained, 1999 (ELCA)

**Lois Malcolm**

*Professor of Systematic Theology and Olin and Amanda*

*Fjelstad Registad Chair for Systematic Theology*

B.A., Bethel College, 1981

M.A., University of Minnesota, 1985

M.A., Luther Seminary, 1989

Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1997

**Amy Marga**

*Professor of Systematic Theology*

B.A., Concordia University, 1995

M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1998

Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 2006

**Anna Marsh**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Old Testament*

B.A., Gustavus Adolphus College, 2004

M.A., Luther Seminary, 2008

Ph.D., Jewish Theological Seminary, 2022

**Joy J. Moore**

*Associate Professor of Biblical Preaching*

B.A., National College of Education, 1982

M.Div., Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 1989

Ph.D., Brunel University/London School of Theology, 2007

Ordained Elder, 1991 (United Methodist Church)

## Luther Seminary

<p><b>Alan G. Padgett</b> <i>Professor of Systematic Theology</i> B.A., Vanguard University, 1977 M.Div., Drew University, 1981 D.Phil., University of Oxford, 1990 Ordained, 1984 (United Methodist Church)</p>
<p><b>Jennifer V. Pietz</b> <i>Assistant Professor of New Testament</i> B.A., Coe College, 2001 M.Div., Luther Seminary, 2013 Ph.D., Emory University, 2019 Ordained, 2014 (LCMC)</p>
<p><b>Andrew Root</b> <i>Professor and Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry</i> B.A., Bethel College, 1997 M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary, 2000 M.Th., Fuller Theological Seminary, 2001 Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 2006</p>
<p><b>Cody Sanders</b> <i>Associate Professor of Congregational and Community Care Leadership</i> B.A., Gardner-Webb University, 2005 M.S., Mercer University, 2009 M.Div., McAfee School of Theology, 2009 Ph.D., Brite Divinity School, 2015 Ordained, 2009, (Baptist)</p>
<p><b>Kathryn M. Schifferdecker</b> <i>Professor of Old Testament and Elva B. Lovell Chair of Old Testament</i> B.A., St. Olaf College, 1990 M.Div., Yale University, 1996 Th.D., Harvard University, 2005 Ordained, 2001 (ELCA)</p>
<p><b>Matthew L. Skinner</b> <i>Professor of New Testament and Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Chair of New Testament</i> B.A., Brown University, 1990 M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1997 Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 2002 Ordained Teaching Elder, 2005, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.</p>
<p><b>Robin J. Steinke</b> <i>President</i> <i>Professor of Systematic Theology</i> B.A., Augustana College, 1980 M.Div., Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 1994 S.T.M., Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 1994 Ph.D., University of Cambridge, 1999 Ordained, 1999 (ELCA)</p>
<p><b>Steve Thomason</b> <i>Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation</i> B.A., Wheaton College, 1990 M.Div., Bethel Seminary, 2002 Ph.D., Luther Seminary, 2015 Ordained, 1998 (The Christian Church) Ordination Transferred to ELCA, 2012</p>

## Luther Seminary

**Mark D. Tranvik**

*Professor of Reformation Theology and History*

B.A., Luther College, 1979

M.Div., Yale University, 1982

Th.D., Luther Seminary, 1992

**Jennifer Wojciechowski**

*Assistant Professor of Church History*

B.A., University of Minnesota, 2005

M.A., Bethel Seminary, 2011

Ph.D., Luther Seminary, 2018

**Dwight Zscheile**

*Vice President of Innovation*

*Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership*

B.A., Stanford University, 1995

M.Div., Yale Divinity School, 1998

Ph.D., Luther Seminary, 2008

Ordained Priest, 2006 (The Episcopal Church)

### Senior Lecturers, Visiting Professors, Emeriti, Affiliated and Adjunct Instructors

As the need arises, qualified individuals are contracted for specific courses. They are listed on the course offerings schedule with the courses they teach.

## Admissions

Luther Seminary Admissions Website: <https://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/>

### Master of Divinity Degree and Master of Arts Degree

General admissions requirements for these degree programs are listed below. Additional requirements are indicated in the sections describing each degree (e.g., M.A. concentrations, graduate certificates).

The Master of Divinity degree program is primarily intended to prepare candidates for ordained ministry (and is required for those seeking ordination as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and similar vocations in many other denominations).

The Master of Arts degree program is primarily intended to prepare those seeking vocations in nonprofit leadership or lay rostered ministry in the church. The M.A. degree is the minimum degree requirement for those seeking ordination as a minister of Word and Service (i.e., deacon or deaconess) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Students pursuing any path towards ordination should contact their church/synod or other denominational body to begin/complete the entrance process in order to begin seminary.

A seminary of the ELCA, Luther Seminary welcomes students from all religious and faith traditions. Courses in denominational theology and polity required for a student's ordination are available at Luther, through consortium offerings or by independent study.

Those not seeking degrees may study as graduate certificate and non-degree students.

## Luther Seminary

Prospective students are encouraged to visit Luther Seminary. A visit may be arranged by contacting [welcome@luthersem.edu](mailto:welcome@luthersem.edu) or 651-641-3521. Also, see website [www.luthersem.edu](http://www.luthersem.edu)

### Prerequisites

A bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited college or university, is required. Students without a bachelor's degree may be considered for admission if they have significant leadership or ministry experience, possess the equivalent of an Associate Arts degree or more, and/or have a positive entrance decision from their synodical candidacy committee if pursuing ordination. Other requirements may be requested by the Office of Admissions upon application. Contact the Office of Admissions ([admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)) for more information.

Applicants are typically required to have a cumulative grade point average in college or most recent school of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (B average). However, factors other than the academic record are taken into consideration when making admissions decisions. These may include other graduate study or degrees, occupational experience, church and community leadership and an applicant's demonstrated readiness for graduate-level work. Applicants with undergraduate GPAs below 3.0 are requested to submit a statement detailing readiness for graduate school and may be asked to submit additional materials.

### Greek and Hebrew

Entering students who have earned undergraduate credit for Greek or Hebrew may take a proficiency exam to satisfy the degree requirement if:

- They have earned at least two full semesters of undergraduate or graduate credit from a regionally accredited institution.
- Courses were in ancient or Biblical Greek or Hebrew (intro and grammar).
- They have earned a grade of "C" (2.0) or higher.
- They have completed courses within five years of starting at Luther Seminary.

If a student receives credit for their Greek or Hebrew courses, this credit will be considered toward the maximum credits allowed under Advanced Standing. See Advanced Standing section for more information.

### Personal Qualifications

**Gospel-centered** - you are committed to the witness of salvation through Jesus Christ - preference given to applicants who can articulate a Christian faith identity; preference also given to applicants who have a set of spiritual practices and are active in a Christian faith community

**Community-oriented** - you can articulate a vocational purpose to serve the church and God's world - preference given to applicants who seek to use their degree in service to Christian communities; preference also given to applicants willing to invest in the Luther community, distributed or in-person

**Academically Skilled** - you are able to communicate meaningfully and clearly in written and verbal forms, can successfully speak and write in the English language, and can successfully navigate online environments - preference given to applicants who have demonstrated previous academic success and exposure to recommended prerequisite studies such as Bible, English, Philosophy/Religion, History, Speech and Foreign Language

**Learning Leader** - you are willing to engage yourself and others in the challenges and opportunities of living out a Christian faith in a modern, pluralistic society - preference given to applicants who have demonstrated leadership success in their communities; preference also given to applicants who demonstrate creativity and imagination for existing

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congregational and emerging ministries

**Inclusive** - you are curious and respectful of diverse cultures and ideas, are committed to building relationships with others across difference and can demonstrate the ability to sit in discomfort and “engage one another with openness, vulnerability, and generosity” - preference given to applicants whose experiences have prepared them to navigate ethnic and cultural differences

**Self-awareness** - you pay attention to your physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and are willing to ask for help - preference given to applicants who demonstrate resilience, flexibility, integrity, emotional maturity and good communication skills

**Preparedness** - you have the support and tools needed to take on the challenge of graduate theological education - preference given to applicants who have the support of their personal network (i.e. faith community, mentors, family) and who demonstrate awareness of and responsibility for the financial and time commitments of seminary study and contextual learning

*As a seminary of the ELCA, preference will be given to ELCA ordination-bound applicants who meet the above qualifications and can demonstrate satisfactory progress in their candidacy process.*

*As a seminary “anchored and animated by a Lutheran confessional witness” that is “grounded in a theology of the cross that offers hope,” Luther Seminary is also made up of and led by a generously ecumenically-diverse faculty and staff. Our student population is generally 2/3 Lutheran, with the remaining third made up of 35 denominations and faith traditions. As such, preference will also be given to ecumenical applicants who meet the above qualifications, can demonstrate satisfactory support from their judicatory bodies to pursue study at Luther, and are willing to cultivate their respective denominational identities within a Lutheran confessional learning community.*

*Finally, preference will also be given to applicants who are uniquely gifted to positively impact and add value to the Luther Seminary classroom and community, the larger church, and the world and can contribute a distinct perspective, experience and ideas that enrich these contexts. This also includes applicants willing and able to serve in under-served communities (i.e. rural).*

## **Application Processes (M.Div., M.A.)**

The following documents must be received by the Admissions Office at Luther Seminary to complete an application:

### **1. Application**

Students intending to study for the Master of Divinity degree, Master of Arts degree, or who will be enrolled as ELCA affiliate, graduate certificate or non-degree students or as auditors, must complete an application form at [www.luthersem.edu/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/apply).

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission to the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree programs.

### **2. Transcripts**

Applicants for all master’s degree programs must arrange for official transcripts to be sent directly to Luther Seminary from every college and/or university attended. Transcripts must be received directly from issuing institutions.

Applicants for graduate certificate and non-degree programs need to only submit their official transcript from the college or university where they received their bachelor’s degree.

### **3. Recommendations**

Each applicant must secure seminary recommendation forms - appropriate recommendation forms submitted through



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online application - from a pastor/ministry mentor and a teacher/academic reference. No recommendations can be received from family members. Applicants who have been out of their most recent academic experience for more than five years may substitute the teacher/academic recommendation with a professional work supervisor recommendation.

International applicants are asked to submit an additional teacher/academic reference recommendation and a church/institutional recommendation in lieu of a pastor/ministry mentor recommendation.

Recommendations should be submitted to the Admissions Office by those who write them.

### **4. Resume**

Applicants must submit a resume, no more than two pages, outlining their ministry, leadership, service, and professional experience.

### **5. Requirements for Applicants Pursuing Ordination with the ELCA**

Applicants pursuing ordination with the ELCA for either the Word and Sacrament or Word and Service rosters are required to submit these additional materials:

- Confirmation email received directly from candidacy committee or synod indicating applicant is scheduled or on track to be scheduled for their entrance interview
- Authorization for Release form

In some instances, the Admissions Committee may request confirmation of a positive entrance decision before making a final decision on an application.

### **6. Admissions Conversation**

Once the Admissions Office has begun to receive application materials, a member of the Admissions team will contact the applicant by either email, phone or video conference call with the applicant for a formal admissions conversation. This conversation serves the discernment process and ensures applicants are applying to the degree program that best fits their vocational goals and have the opportunity to ask questions and receive important information particular to their application. This conversation is required and must be scheduled and take place before the application deadline.

#### **After the Application is Completed**

When beginning the application process, each applicant will create an account on Luther Seminary's online application portal which allows applicants to track which documents are still required for admission. Applicants are asked to check this portal regularly for an update on the status of their applications.

When the application is complete, it will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee and a decision made at the pre-scheduled Admissions Committee meetings. The official admission decisions are communicated to applicants through the online application portal. Applicants will receive email notice of when an update has been made on their application portal.

Luther Seminary reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant for any justifiable reason.

A student may be advised at any time to discontinue studies if he or she does not demonstrate the qualifications on the basis of which admission was approved.

The faculty has final authority in admissions and dismissals.

Master's degree students may begin their studies at Luther Seminary in the fall semester only. Due to the Jubilee Scholarship offering, enrollment is limited by the number of scholarships available each year.

## Luther Seminary

Admissions to Luther Seminary is a competitive process. It is strongly recommended that applicants begin the application process early in the year prior to the year of enrollment. Application deadlines are as follows:

- Early Priority - December 1
- To qualify for Fund for Leaders (ELCA applicants) - January 16
- International Applicants Final Deadline - March 1
- Final Deadline - June 1

Admitted students who wish to change the date of their enrollment should contact the Admissions Office. Study may be deferred for up to one year without reapplication.

Non-degree affiliated and auditing students may be granted mid-year enrollment in Winter term, Spring semester, or Summer term.

Please direct questions concerning admission and application procedures to:

Admissions Office  
Luther Seminary  
651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3  
[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

<https://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/>

### International Applications

Luther Seminary is blessed with students from many parts of the world. This lively, diverse community of many traditions, ethnicities and ages is united by a deep faith in Jesus Christ.

Applicants whose church is a global companion of the ELCA and who are requesting financial support from ELCA Global Mission should submit a separate application through their national church to the International Leadership Development Program at the ELCA Global Mission. Please contact your home church/diocese for details about the ELCA scholarship application process and deadlines.

All other international students, including those Lutheran students who are not seeking financial aid through the ELCA, may apply online at [www.luthersem.edu/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/apply) or contact the Admissions office for guidance.

International applicants must meet English language proficiency as part of their admissions requirements.

International applicants may be required to submit either a score from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Scores must not be more than two years old at the time of application. Other recognized test scores will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

International applicants must have the following minimum test scores to qualify for admission:

Master of Arts or Master of Divinity

- TOEFL: Composite score of 80 or above
- IELTS: 6.5 or above

Master of Theology, Doctor of Philosophy, or Doctor of Ministry

## Luther Seminary

- TOEFL: Composite score of 80 or above (reading at least 22; listening at least 20; speaking at least 18; writing at least 20).
- IELTS: 7.0 or above

Luther Seminary's test code with the Educational Testing Service, which administers the TOEFL, is 6377.

All questions concerning applications and admission as a citizens of countries other than the U.S. should be directed to:

Admissions Office  
Luther Seminary  
651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3  
[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

<https://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/>

### Transfer from Another Seminary

Students transferring from another theological school should use the admissions procedures as described for the M.Div./M.A. degree programs.

All materials requested for regular application to Luther Seminary must be included in an application for transfer to Luther Seminary. In addition, the application must include an official transcript from the previous theological school.

Luther Seminary accepts transfer credits only from the following types of schools:

1. All regionally accredited institutions
2. All ATS (Association of Theological Schools) institutions
3. International institutions whose accreditation is equivalent to those noted above

### Advanced Standing

Students may petition for advanced standing for individual courses after they have submitted an admissions confirmation and final official college transcript showing their conferred degree. Students must submit their request during the first calendar year in which they are enrolled. Luther Seminary will allow up to five (5.0) credits for an M.Div. degree and three (3.0) credits for an M.A. degree to be met by advanced standing. See Advanced Standing and Tuition and Fees for more information.

## Master of Theology Degree and Doctor of Philosophy Degree

**Note: Luther Seminary is not currently accepting any new students into the D.Min. program.**

General admissions requirements for post-graduate programs administered by the Advanced Theological Education Office (ATE) are listed below. See degree requirements relating to the Master of Theology (Th.M.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) for more information.

### Th.M. prerequisite:

- Bible applicants: Working knowledge of Hebrew and Greek demonstrated by transcripts and in course work.
- Congregational and Community Care applicants: One unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in an approved, accredited program.

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## Ph.D. prerequisite:

- A Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree in theology, biblical studies, history or the arts of ministry, or Bachelor of Divinity degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited theological school, is required.

## Admission Process (Th.M., Ph.D.)

### 1. Application

All applicants must complete a degree application form at: [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply).

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission to the Th.M. or Ph.D. degree programs.

### 2. Transcripts

All applicants must arrange for official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work to be sent directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants coming from a school that uses the pass/fail grading system should submit names and contact information for two additional professors who are familiar with the applicant's work. This information will be submitted on the online application.

Those who graduated from Luther Seminary within 10 years from the time of application may submit a transcript release authorization form for copies of undergraduate and Luther Seminary transcripts. Contact the Admissions Office for details.

### 3. Th.M. Admission Requirements

#### a. Statement of Intent

Each Th.M. applicant must write a one- to two-paragraph statement indicating plans for study and the projected year for completion of the Th.M. program requirements. This statement will be uploaded on the online application.

#### b. Recommendation Forms

Th.M. applicants must secure academic recommendation forms (appropriate recommendation forms submitted through online application) to be submitted by three professors directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants who have been out of their most recent academic experience for more than five years may substitute a professional recommendation, but it is strongly preferred to have at least one academic recommendation. International applicants are asked to submit an additional church/institutional recommendation.

### 4. Ph.D. Admission Requirements

#### a. Writing sample

Admissions will be based on the feasibility of the research interest or area of study proposed and the willingness and availability of one or more Luther Seminary faculty to oversee the student's work on a continuing basis through graduation. Provide a reflection of 3000-4000 words within the area of intended study - uploaded through online application.

#### b. Recommendation Forms

Ph.D. applicants must secure academic recommendation forms (appropriate recommendation forms submitted through online application) to be submitted by three professors directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants who have been out of their most recent academic experience for more than five years may substitute a professional recommendation, but it is

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strongly preferred to have at least one academic recommendation. International applicants are asked to submit an additional church/institutional recommendation.

### 5. International Applicants

See International Application section for additional admission requirements and deadlines.

### 6. Application Deadlines

It is strongly recommended that applicants begin the application process early in the year prior to the year of enrollment.

- Th.M. students may begin their studies at Luther Seminary in the Fall semester only. The final application deadline for domestic Th.M. applicants is June 1.
- Ph.D. students begin their studies at Luther Seminary in the Fall semester only. All materials for U.S. applications to the Ph.D. program are due January 8 prior to the fall the applicant plans to enroll.
- See International Application section for additional admission requirements and deadlines.

### 7. After the Application is Completed

When beginning the application process, each applicant will create an account on Luther Seminary's online application portal which allows applicants to track which documents are still required for admission. Applicants are asked to check this portal regularly for an update on the status of their applications.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the Admissions Office and the Advanced Theological Education Office. Official admission decisions are communicated to applicants via the online application portal. Applicants will receive email notice of when an update has been made on their application portal.

Luther Seminary reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant for any justifiable reason. A student may be advised at any time to discontinue studies if he or she does not demonstrate the qualifications on the basis of which admission was approved. The faculty has final authority in admissions and dismissals.

### Post-Master of Divinity/Master of Arts Non-Degree Status

This non-degree status permits the student to enroll in courses for post-graduate credit without being in a degree program. Applicants must complete a degree application form [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply) and arrange for official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work to be sent directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants coming from a school that uses the pass/fail grading system should submit names and contact information for two additional professors who are familiar with the applicant's work. This information will be submitted on the online application.

Applications for post-Master of Divinity/Master of Arts non-degree student status should be received by the Office of Admissions at least 60 days in advance of the term in which admission is sought.

See International Application section for additional admission requirements and deadlines.

Please direct all questions concerning admission and application procedures to the Admission Office [admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu); 651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3.

### Graduate Certificate Programs

Students are classified as certificate students at Luther Seminary when they are taking courses for credit toward completion of a graduate certificate but are not admitted to a degree program or do not have an earned theological degree.

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## Admission Requirements

A bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited college or university, is preferred. Ordinarily, applicants are required to have a cumulative grade point average in college of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (B average). Factors other than the academic record are taken into consideration in making admissions decisions. These may include other graduate study or degrees, occupational experience, church and community leadership and an applicant's readiness for graduate-level work. Applicants with undergraduate GPAs below 3.0 are requested to submit a statement detailing readiness for graduate school and may be asked to submit additional materials.

Students without a bachelor's degree may be considered for admission if they have significant leadership or ministry experience, possess the equivalent of an Associate Arts degree or more, and/or have a positive entrance decision from their synodical candidacy committee if pursuing ordination. Students with no Bachelor's degree may also be asked to submit additional materials.

## Admission Procedures

All applicants for certificate student status must:

- Submit a completed application form at [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply).
- Arrange for an official transcript from the college or university where they received their bachelor's degree to be sent directly to Luther Seminary.
- Each applicant must secure seminary recommendation forms—appropriate recommendation forms submitted through online application—from a pastor/ministry mentor and a teacher/academic. No recommendations can be received from family members. Applicants who have been out of their most recent academic experience for more than five years may substitute the teacher/academic recommendation with a professional work supervisor recommendation.

International applicants are asked to submit an additional teacher/academic recommendation and can submit a church/institutional recommendation in lieu of a pastor/ministry mentor recommendation. Recommendations should be submitted to the Admissions Office by those who write them.

## Other Considerations

- Certificate students are not eligible for federal financial aid.
- Degree program candidates have priority in registration for classes.
- Prerequisite courses within the concentration are to be taken sequentially; other prerequisites do not apply.
- All required courses taken, within the time limit, toward the graduate certificate are transferable to the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degree program.
- Certificate students are restricted to enrolling in those courses which comprise the graduate certificate program.
- Certificate student status does not guarantee admission into a degree program.

All questions concerning applications and admission as a graduate certificate student should be directed to:

Admissions Office  
651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3  
[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

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### Non-Degree/Auditors

Students are classified as non-degree students at Luther Seminary when they are taking courses for credit but have not matriculated into a degree program. Auditors do not receive course credit. For information on auditing fees please see Tuition and Fees.

### Admission Requirements

A bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited college or university, is preferred. Ordinarily, applicants are required to have a cumulative grade point average in college of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (B average).

### Admission Procedures

All applicants for non-degree student status must:

- Submit a completed application form at [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply).
- Arrange for an official transcript from the college or university where they received their bachelor's degree to be sent directly to Luther Seminary.
- Meet all prerequisites for courses they wish to enter. If a student has questions about fulfilling the prerequisite requirements, he or she should consult with the registrar and the instructors of the courses.

Auditors are required to receive written permission from the instructor to take a course.

### Other Considerations

- Non-degree student status normally is granted for one year. Requests for renewal are reviewed by the Admissions Committee.
- Non-degree students are not eligible for federal financial aid.
- Degree program candidates and graduate certificate candidates have priority in registration for classes.
- Non-degree students may apply a maximum of six core courses toward the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degree program if taken within the time limit. Non-degree status does not guarantee admission into a degree program.

All questions concerning applications and admission as a non-degree student should be directed to:

Admissions Office

651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3

[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

## Advanced Theological Education (ATE)

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees assist persons preparing for educational and theological leadership in the church and its colleges and seminaries throughout the world. The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree is an in-service professional degree for pastors and other ministers intended to enhance their capacity for missional leadership. All three degrees presuppose a first theological degree (an M.A. or M.Div.). We believe that God's mission requires confessional scholars who have all the credentials of the academy and who also relate their scholarship to the needs of the church in a new era of mission.

## Contextual Learning

Contextual Learning is an integral part of theological and professional education for all students. In every Luther Seminary degree program, you choose from a variety of options to engage spiritual and practical questions in real-world congregations and faith-based organizations. These options include Clinical Pastoral Education, Internship, and FE0523 Systems and Leading Change.

## Library Services

Libraries and archives have been important since biblical times because they collect, organize and preserve the traditional witnesses of the faith. But more than simply a storage facility of the past, libraries are living organisms that incorporate new scholarship and place witnesses into conversation with leaders being educated for Christian communities. Luther Seminary's library partners with faculty in educating leaders; enables research and scholarship at all levels; and cultivates diverse communities of learners through stewarding collections, space and services.

Located on the second floor of Gullixson Hall, the library holds around a quarter-million print volumes and provides access to thousands of electronic journals and an increasing number of electronic resources, including e-books. The Luther Seminary library has a spacious reading room where students may read and study; for those wanting a more semi-private space for study, there are carrels available in the book stacks. The library also has a number of computer workstations available for student use as well as free wireless access.

The Rare Book Room on the third floor houses the library's oldest volumes in an aesthetically pleasing, climate-controlled space resembling a medieval scriptorium. Special collections include an extensive collection of books published before 1800, the Carl Doving Hymnal Collection, and the Jacob Tanner Catechism Collection. Of particular note is the Reformation Research Program, a comprehensive collection of 16th-century imprints.

Luther Seminary students have access to an additional half-million print volumes available through the other six theological libraries of the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools, as well as easy Inter Library Loan access to resources across the state and beyond.

The library website ([www.luthersem.edu/library](http://www.luthersem.edu/library)) provides links to staff contact information and directions to the library, as well as links to the online catalog; other digital resources; research guides; an online reference chat; and library policies.

### **For more information contact:**

Luther Seminary Library  
2481 Como Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
651-641-3447

### **Reformation Research Program**

The Reformation Research Program offers a comprehensive collection of 16th-century imprints. The collection includes more than 42,000 titles on microfiche and microfilm in German, English and other languages. Holdings can be searched via the Luther Seminary library catalog. Works can be obtained through inter-library loan or by directly contacting the program. The program also sponsors conferences and other programs related to its goals.

### **For more information, contact:**

Reformation Research Program  
Luther Seminary



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2481 Como Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
651-341-3389  
[mtranvik001@luthersem.edu](mailto:mtranvik001@luthersem.edu)

### Arts and Archives

Luther Seminary hosts a large collection of visual art materials in a variety of formats. While many of the pieces in the fine arts collection deal directly with biblical narratives and theological themes, much of the contemporary portion of the collection invites a wide range of interpretation. The collection addresses the need for compelling artwork to serve as a critical tool in theological education. The arts and archives program maintains a rotational schedule of the fine arts collection through six campus gallery spaces and provides online access to collection images for instructional and promotional purposes.

Additionally, the seminary houses two significant archival collections: the Luther Seminary Archives and the ELCA Region 3 Archives. The seminary collections date to the founding of the earliest predecessor school, Augsburg College and Seminary, in 1869. The collection includes the official records of additional predecessor schools, including Red Wing Seminary (Hauge Synod), the United Church Seminary (United Norwegian Lutheran Church in America), Luther Theological Seminary (Norwegian Synod) and Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary (Lutheran Church in America). An online inventory for this collection of minutes, correspondence, personal papers, oral histories and photographs is available at [www.luthersem.edu/archives](http://www.luthersem.edu/archives). The collection is available for research by the seminary community and the general public. The archives and the library work together to provide the primary and secondary sources needed for this research.

The ELCA Region 3 Archives is a continually growing collection of official records, personal papers, correspondence, photographs and films documenting the life and work of several Lutheran church bodies, beginning with the founding of these bodies in the American Midwest of the 1840s. The collection is particularly strong in documenting Lutheran work in the states of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota (the current synodical members of ELCA Region 3 since 1988) as well as Wisconsin, Iowa and Montana.

The Region 3 Archives is the largest collection in the ELCA network, which comprises nine regional and one churchwide archive. It supports research use with primary materials in thousands of congregational and biographical files as well as global missions and American missions materials. All of these records are complemented by visual material in photographic, 8/16 mm film, VHS and DVD formats. Congregational, biographical and missions collections are of particular interest to Luther Seminary students for their course work and independent study.

The ELCA Region 3 Archives is open to all researchers. An online inventory is available at [www.luthersem.edu/archives](http://www.luthersem.edu/archives).

#### **For more information, contact:**

Arts and Archives  
Luther Seminary  
2481 Como Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
651-641-3205  
[pdaniels@luthersem.edu](mailto:pdaniels@luthersem.edu)

## Office of the Registrar

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The Office of the Registrar handles most of the academic functions students need. The office handles class registration and cancellation, course updates, the academic calendar, and policies. It also provides students with information about degree requirements and graduation. Students can update their student biographical information and order transcripts through the Office of the Registrar.

Our mission is to safeguard the integrity of academic records while providing fair and efficient services to students, faculty and staff.

## Advising

Students in the M.A. or M.Div. program are encouraged to meet with an academic advisor at least once per year in order to ensure they're on track to meet their academic goals.

Students in the final year of their program should work directly with the Registrar's Office.

Students pursuing the D.Min., Th.M., or Ph.D. degree are advised by the Advanced Theological Education (ATE) office.

## International Student and Scholar Affairs

The Office of International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) works to:

- Partner with the Admissions Office for all international applicants, assisting students with application requirements and financial solvency documents. ISSA also evaluates and verifies the accreditation and/or degree of foreign academic credentials
- Partner with the Academic Dean's Office on invitations to international scholars
- Assist in coordinating financial resources and administering scholarship funds for all international students and scholars
- Provide relevant services and support for international students and scholars at Luther Seminary
- Lead the seminary in compliance with U.S. Federal regulations as they relate to international students/scholars who come to study, research, teach, and relate at the seminary
- Work alongside leadership for the internationalization efforts of the seminary

## Student Handbook

For more information on Luther Seminary's official policies as they pertain to students, please consult the Student Handbook. A copy of the handbook can be obtained at <http://inside.luthersem.edu/students/handbook/>. Topics include but are not limited to:

- Background check and healthy boundary maintenance
- Climate of mutual respect and responsibility
- Code of conduct violations process
- Community Life

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- Student disability accommodation policy
- Drug Free Schools Zone Act
- Electronic communications policy
- Emergency campus closings
- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
- Financial policies
- Grievances
- Harassment, Unlawful Discrimination, and Hostility policy
- Misrepresentation policy
- Non-discrimination policy
- Sexual misconduct policies (sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual violence)
- Smoke-free policy
- Substance abuse policy
- Use of official Luther Seminary logo and letterhead
- Weapons policy
- Welcome Statement

## Finance

The Finance Department, led by the Seminary's Chief Financial Officer, plays a vital role in managing and overseeing various financial functions within the Seminary Community. Their responsibilities encompass a wide range of tasks that are essential for maintaining the financial health and operations of the institution.

One of the key responsibilities of the Finance department is processing all Seminary invoices, as well as managing cash and check receipts. They meticulously handle and record these financial transactions to ensure accurate and transparent accounting.

In addition to invoice processing and receipt management, the Finance Department is responsible for developing and implementing financial policies, processes, and procedures for the Seminary. These guidelines establish a framework for financial operations, promoting consistency, adherence to regulations, and effective financial management.

An efficient accounting system is maintained by the Finance Department to enable proper budget control, as well as accounts receivable and payable management. This system records budgets, receipts, and disbursements, providing a comprehensive overview of the Seminary's financial activities. It enables effective tracking, analysis, and reporting of financial information.

Moreover, the Finance Department generates various financial reports for different stakeholders, including Seminary administration, the Board of Directors, committees, and external financial institutions. These reports provide valuable insights into the Seminary's financial status, enabling informed decision-making and ensuring transparency in financial

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matters.

Guided by the Seminary's vision and values, the Finance department advises the leadership on business decisions and their potential impact on the integrity and overall financial health of the institution. Their objective is to ensure sound and sustainable financial planning not only for the current year but also for the future.

Through exemplary fiscal stewardship, the Finance department supports the Seminary's mission by managing its financial resources effectively. Their commitment to responsible financial practices contributes to the overall success and well-being of the institution.

### Contact Information:

Business Office

Phone: 651-641-3242

Email: [busoffice@luthersem.edu](mailto:busoffice@luthersem.edu)

## Operations and Facilities

The Operations and Facilities team is committed to supporting hospitality and coordinated organization at Luther Seminary. More information can be found here: <https://inside.luthersem.edu/operations/>

## Office of Technology

The Office of Technology manages many tools available to Luther Seminary students. There are several computer labs and print stations available in main campus buildings. Wi-Fi is also available. Other services provided by the Office of Technology include support for accessing online class content via mobile devices; Microsoft Office software; and email.

Students may download a free license of the latest Microsoft Office version from Microsoft. The latest version of Windows can be purchased for a small fee from [luthersem.onthehub.com](http://luthersem.onthehub.com). Details are found on the Office of Technology website.

Upon admission, all students receive online Luther accounts to access network services and email. These accounts are the official channel of communication. Students are expected to monitor and use them to receive important information regarding registration, bill payments and other student services.

For more information on Technology Services, visit: [inside.luthersem.edu/technology](http://inside.luthersem.edu/technology)

For technical assistance, email: [helpdesk@luthersem.edu](mailto:helpdesk@luthersem.edu) or call: 651-641-3462.

An online Luther account is an essential communication link for enrolled students.

## Faith+Lead

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Faith+Lead is Luther Seminary's connected hub of digital properties, learning opportunities, coaching, and leadership resources alongside the degree programs. Faith+Lead's mission is to connect and educate learners and leaders to know the difference Jesus makes and equip them for God's calling in their lives and communities. Faith+Lead offers non-credit courses through Faith+Lead Academy, digital resources (blogs, podcasts, videos, practices, stories), learning communities, and coaching for a broad ecumenical audience of church leaders, everyday disciples, and ministry entrepreneurs. For more information, visit [www.faithlead.org](http://www.faithlead.org).

# Academic Calendar

Academic Calendar 2023-2024

<b>2023-2024</b>	
<b>Fall Semester 2023</b>	<b>9/11/2023 - 12/11/2023</b>
Online Orientation	August 21 - September 8
Labor Day Holiday	September 4
Syllabus Day for All Courses	September 11
Prep Week	September 11 - 15
International Student Orientation	September 12 - 14
Last Day to Add/Drop Classes via MyLutherNet (withdrawal from class will be noted after this date)	September 15
Fall Residential Focus Session 1 (RFS 1)	September 16 - 18
Fall Residential Focus Session 2 (RFS 2)	September 20 - 22
Fall Semester Grades Due	December 29
Fall Semester Incomplete Grades Due	January 12
<b>Winter Term 2024</b>	<b>1/2/2024 - 2/16/2024</b>
Syllabus Day for All Courses	January 2
Online Courses Begin	January 2
Prep Week	January 2 - 5
Last Day to Add/Drop Classes via MyLutherNet (withdrawal from class will be noted after this date)	January 5

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<b>2023-2024</b>	
Winter Residential Focus Session 1 (RFS 1)	January 6 - 8
Winter Residential Focus Session 2 (RFS 2)	January 10 - 12
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 15
Extended Session Courses Begin	January 16
Extended Session Courses End	February 16
Online Courses End	February 16
Winter Term Grades Due	March 1
Winter Term Incomplete Grades Due	March 15
<b>Spring Semester 2024</b>	<b>2/20/2024 - 5/20/2024</b>
Syllabus Day for All Courses	February 20
Prep Week	February 20 - 23
Last Day to Add/Drop Classes via MyLutherNet (withdrawal from class will be noted after this date)	February 23
Spring Residential Focus Session 1 (RFS 1)	February 24 - 26
Spring Residential Focus Session 2 (RFS 2)	February 28 - March 1
In-Person and Online Courses Begin	March 4
Easter Break-No Classes	March 26 - April 1
Summer Term Registration Begins	April 16
In-Person and Online Courses End	May 17
Final Exams	May 20
Spring Semester Grades Due	June 7
Spring Semester Incomplete Grades Due	June 21
Baccalaureate	May 25
Commencement	May 26
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	<b>6/3/2024 - 8/23/2024</b>
Syllabus Day for All Courses	June 3

<b>2023-2024</b>	
Prep Week	June 3 - 7
Last Day to Add/Drop Classes via MyLutherNet (withdrawal from class will be noted after this date)	June 7
Summer Residential Focus Session 1 (RFS 1)	June 8 - 10
Summer Residential Focus Session 2 (RFS 2)	June 12 - 14
Juneteenth Holiday - No Classes	June 19
July Break-No Classes	July 4 - 5
Fall Registration Begins	July 9
Extended Session and Online Courses End	August 23
Summer Term Grades Due	September 6
Summer Term Incomplete Grades Due	September 20

## Academic Honesty

Members of the Luther Seminary community are expected to conduct themselves responsibly and honestly in academic matters. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses against this expectation and are subject to disciplinary action.

What is plagiarism? “Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting the words or thoughts of another writer as if they were your own ... If you quote from anything at all ... you must put quotation marks around it, or set it off from your text. If you summarize or paraphrase an author’s words, you must clearly indicate where the summary or paraphrase begins and ends ... In every instance you must formally acknowledge the written source from which you took the material.” [Quoted from James A.W. Heffernan and John E. Lincoln, *Writing: A College Handbook* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1982), p.547.]

### Examples of plagiarism include:

- Copying from a source text (whether online or offline) without proper acknowledgment
- Turning in another student’s work as your own with or without that student’s knowledge
- Copying materials word-for-word from a source text, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks
- Paraphrasing materials from a source text without appropriate documentation
- Turning in a paper copied from a website
- Recycling your own work from a previous assignment, without permission of the instructor or proper citation

If instances of cheating or plagiarism are detected, one of the disciplinary actions shall follow: either the instructor records a failure for the assignment or examination, or the instructor records a failure for the course. In either case, the instructor shall bring the matter to the Office of the Academic Dean, an indication that plagiarism has occurred will be

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placed in the student's permanent record and the question whether further disciplinary action should be considered will be determined in consultation with the instructor and the Office of the Academic Dean.

### Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI tools are being integrated into all areas of our lives, including learning. One of the governing values for students, staff and faculty is to promote a spirit of excellence and inquiry. Guided by this value, it is the expectation of the Luther Seminary community that through their course work students develop critical thinking skills and the capacity to develop their own theological, biblical, and theoretical arguments. Students will work with various tools as they develop these skills and capacities, yet the work they turn in and/or present to professors must be their original work. Individual professors may give more guidance to their expectations regarding the use of AI tools within their particular courses.

## Academic Year

The academic year, roughly from mid-September to mid-August, begins with an orientation and introduction to seminary. The year continues with two semesters of 12 weeks each, separated by a Winter term of six weeks. In addition, within both semesters, Winter term and Summer term, two residential focus sessions are offered. An examination period is scheduled at the end of each semester.

## Chosen Name Policy

Luther Seminary recognizes that some of its students use names other than their legal names to identify themselves. As long as the use of this different name is not for the purpose of misrepresentation, the Seminary allows students to use a name different from the legal name on certain seminary records. To change your Chosen Name, please use the Chosen Name, Gender, and Pronouns Change Form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6E\\_X8ITIBtPCjLTNIw72o9ZSz1vwCpCWRsUTiIMj1O5XD3A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6E_X8ITIBtPCjLTNIw72o9ZSz1vwCpCWRsUTiIMj1O5XD3A/viewform)

Please note that changing your chosen name for certain records does not change your legal name with Luther Seminary. Below is a listing of all of the areas in which your chosen name will appear (once changed) and areas in which your legal name will still appear:



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PLACES WHERE CHOSEN NAME WILL APPEAR	PLACES WHERE LEGAL NAME WILL APPEAR
Admissions Decision Letters	Candidacy (only on Candidacy forms that require Legal Name)
Alumni Office Records	Checks generated by the Business Office
Campus Housing Rosters	Financial Aid and Billing Records and Communication
Candidacy	Immigration Documents (based on passport)
Class Rosters	Official and Unofficial Transcripts
Commencement Programs	Paychecks and Paystubs
Contextual Education Communications	Registrar's Office Records (i.e. permanent student file records)
Diploma	Some official forms or correspondence from the Seminary such as financial aid rewards, residence life contracts, departmental or program notices, new hire forms, etc.
Email	Study Abroad and Study Away (i.e. travel documents, signature documents)
Emergency Contact Lists	Tax Forms (1098T)
Faculty Advisee Lists	Time Entry System
Library Records	
Moodle	
Student Directory	
Student ID Card (Provided you obtain a new one from the Library)	
Transfer Credit Evaluation	

Students and alumni who have had their name legally changed should complete a Legal Name and Legal Sex Change Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbnOLB0odiSGX9-snPbwAuyle4HTsFG7rP-KCnfm01VwjQMq/viewform>

Your new legal first and last name will appear on ALL Seminary documentation listed above, though one's former legal name will be stored in some Seminary records and not redacted.

## Commencement

An application for graduation must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar at the beginning of the academic year in which the student intends to graduate. Attendance at Commencement is expected. Graduating students not attending need to notify the Office of the Registrar in writing by May 1. The capstone project and oral examination must be completed by May 1 in order to participate in commencement. Two courses (including all outstanding incompletes) are the maximum number of courses a student may have to complete during the Summer term and still participate in commencement ceremony. These courses must be completed by the end of the Summer term following commencement ceremony. In the commencement bulletin, an asterisk is placed beside those names with the notation: "Requirements to be completed by the end of the Summer term (of the year of graduation)." Requirements not completed by this date will postpone graduation to a later date. New graduation fees will be assessed.

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, commonly known as the Buckley Amendment, is a federal law that states an educational institution must maintain the confidentiality of education records.

Luther Seminary shares the responsibility for ensuring the security and privacy of the records and data maintained. This includes requiring the written student signature for the release of data, including transcripts and verifications of enrollment.

The Office of the Registrar is responsible for administering the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) at Luther Seminary. Annually, Luther Seminary informs students of their rights under FERPA and the regulations relating to FERPA.

FERPA affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the students' education records within 45 days of receipt of a request for access. Students should submit a written request to the Office of the Registrar.
2. The right to request amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Students should submit a written request to the Office of the Registrar, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. The student will be notified of the decision.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

Upon request, Luther Seminary will disclose education records without consent, when a school official has a legitimate educational interest to review records in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. A school official is a person employed by Luther Seminary in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position; a personal or company with whom the seminary has contracted (such as an attorney or auditor); a student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

Upon request, Luther Seminary discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Luther Seminary to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

For more information, please visit the FERPA website <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/ferpa-general-guidance-students>

### Notice Designating Directory Information

This official notice regarding Directory Information refers to detailed information held by and released by the Office of the Registrar when there is valid need. Most of the time, when you hear the word "Directory" on campus, it refers to the Luther Seminary Directory which refers to the on-line directory on MyLutherNet. It contains photos, mailing address, phone number, degree program and email address for students and office location, office telephone and email address for faculty and staff.

Student information contained in an education record that generally would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed is identified as directory information.

## Luther Seminary

Directory information contained in seminary records is released upon request at the discretion of Luther Seminary and only for official business related to the educational process.

Luther Seminary hereby designates the following categories of student information as directory information to be released upon request without student consent, unless we are notified otherwise from the individual student.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name</li><li>• Address</li><li>• Advisor</li><li>• Student Status</li><li>• Phone</li><li>• Email address</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic Standing</li><li>• Degree Program/Area of Study</li><li>• Degrees and Awards Received</li><li>• Thesis Title</li><li>• Dissertation Title</li><li>• Dates of Enrollment</li><li>• Enrollment Status</li><li>• Prior Schools attended &amp; Degrees Conferred</li><li>• Citizenship</li><li>• Photographs</li></ul>
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Students may refuse disclosure of directory information by informing the Office of the Registrar in writing. A hold on releasing specific information will remain in effect until the student files a specific request to remove it. If a student does not specifically request the withholding of directory information, Luther Seminary assumes that the student approves of the disclosure of such information.

Luther Seminary cooperates with students and judicatories of all denominations in providing appropriate information for their candidacy process.

For students participating in the ELCA candidacy process, information and recommendations pertaining to academic standing and progress through the degree program and candidacy process are shared with synodical staff and candidacy committees as called for by candidacy partnerships.

## Human Rights

Luther Seminary admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges and programs generally accorded or made available to students. The seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national and ethnic origin or disability in administration of educational policies and financial aid programs.

Luther Seminary is an equal opportunity employer and follows an affirmative action policy in the recruitment and hiring of faculty and staff.

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Policy statements concerning sexual harassment appear in the faculty handbook, the student handbook and the staff handbook. Inquiries regarding Luther Seminary's policies against sex discrimination and sexual misconduct may be referred to the seminary's Title IX Coordinator:

Randy Kyle

Title IX Coordinator (Interim)

Chief Human Resources Officer

Bockman Hall 109

651-641-3519

[rkyle001@luthersem.edu](mailto:rkyle001@luthersem.edu)

## Language

Bearing in mind that language reflects, reinforces and creates social reality, the seminary is committed to the use of language that respects the equal dignity and worth of all human beings in all academic papers and in classroom and online conversation.

## Auditors

Students who wish to take courses without credit or grade may request to audit a course.

Students auditing a course are subject to a \$540 fee per course and relevant fees as well as normal petition procedures in the case of an overload.

Non-degree students are subject to the \$540 fee per course and relevant fees for audits.

Students who wish to audit a course must request written permission from the instructor within the first week of the term to register for the audit. Forms for the instructor's signature are available online. Auditors are expected to attend class with the same regularity as those registered for credit. Reading and writing assignments are not required and examinations are not given to auditors. If attendance expectations have been met, a grade of AU is reported to the Office of the Registrar and recorded as such on the student's record. If an auditor does not attend any course sessions, the course will be removed from the student record.

All auditors are subject to standard admission procedures, either as degree candidates or non-degree students. Exceptions with regard to prerequisite requirements may be made with the permission of the instructor and in consultation with the Director of Enrollment Services where appropriate.

Seminary faculty and staff may audit courses without applying for admission and without charge.

The number of auditors in a course may not exceed more than 25 percent of the enrollment in that course, with the exception of courses where spouses are specifically encouraged or required to audit.

Under no circumstances are auditors given academic credit.

Regularly enrolled students in a degree program normally may audit only one course per semester.

Regularly enrolled students who wish to change their status in a course from credit to audit must inform the instructor

## Luther Seminary

and the Office of the Registrar by the first deadline to add/drop a course in a term/session.

Normally, online courses are exempt from auditing.

## Classification

Admitted applicants are described as candidates for the Master of Arts degree, the Master of Divinity degree; as, non-degree or certificate students; as Master of Theology students; as Doctor of Ministry students; Doctor of Philosophy.

Students may be full time or half time in any category; however, they cannot change from one degree program to another without completing the Changing Degree Programs process.

### Master of Arts Students

Juniors—0.5-6.5 earned course credits

Seniors—7.0 or more earned course credits

### Master of Divinity Students

Juniors— 0.5-7.5 earned course credits

Middlers—8.0-16.5 earned course credits

Seniors—17.0 or more earned course credits

Normally, students are re-classified after the submission of grades following Fall and Spring semesters.

## Course Credit, Hour Definitions and Work Expectations

The unit of credit is one semester hour which, in most courses, represents one, 50-minute class period plus the required preparation. The language of “credit hours” normally is not used; rather, courses are designated as either a full course or a half course.

One full course (1.0) is equivalent to 3.00 semester hours.

A half course (.5) is equivalent to 1.50 semester hours.

The faculty expects a minimum of two hours work outside of class for every hour of allotted class time.

### In-person Classroom

1. The unit of credit is one semester hour (or Carnegie unit) represents one, 50-minute class period plus between 2.5-3.0 hours of student-directed learning.
2. Thus, on a per-course weekly basis students are expected to engage in four hours of classroom learning per week, plus ten hours of student-directed learning per week over the twelve weeks of a full course. This would mean that during a 12-week semester, a full course would meet for 40 hours of classroom contact time. A half course meets for 20 hours of classroom contact time (two hours a week for ten weeks).

### Independent Studies

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1. In directed and independent studies, a full course entails four to six hours of contact time between instructor and student. Correspondingly, independent student learning activities should extend to roughly 130-150 student-directed learning hours, which includes reading, writing and other activities, which contribute to student learning as defined by the supervising instructor.
2. Half-course directed and independent studies entail two to four hours of contact time between instructor and student. Correspondingly, independent student learning activities should extend to roughly 65-75 student-directed learning hours, which includes reading, writing and other activities which contribute to student learning as defined by the supervising instructor.

### Online Asynchronous, Online Synchronous, and Hybrid Courses

In online asynchronous, online synchronous and hybrid classes, one full course would entail approximately 40 hours of any combination of the following activities: face-to-face classroom time (for in-person section of hybrid course); watching instructor-defined content such as streaming video; reading lecture transcripts posted online, PowerPoint presentations, streaming audio, etc.; engaging in instructor defined interactive learning activities such as discussion boards, chat or Web conferencing discussion groups. Additionally, students would be responsible for 97-117 hours of student-directed learning, or roughly 7.5-9.0 hours of student-directed learning per week.

### Residential Focus Session Courses

1. A 20-hour in person period and approximately an additional 20 hours delivered online and/or residentially throughout the remainder of the semester.
2. There are two residential focus sessions each semester and term. A student can take a maximum of two residential focus session courses in a semester or term.

## Course Load

### Course Load

A normal course load for the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees is eight to ten courses per year.

A full course load is four courses in the fall and spring semester and up to two full courses during the winter and summer terms.

It is not advisable to carry an overload. If a student wishes to take an overload, they may petition for approval. Petitions for overloads must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than the first day of the term.

If a student is on academic probation or has two or more outstanding incomplete grades, overloads are not allowed.

## Course Substitution

Course substitution is permitted for core courses in which competency is demonstrated or in M.A. concentration courses when vocational and educational needs are better served by alternative courses.

Students may petition for such substitutions to the appropriate division chair or concentration faculty point person. Some students may be required to demonstrate competence in the area of study through either examination or documentation.

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In the case of qualifying exams, the examination is prepared and graded by the division involved. Ordinarily a student is allowed only one opportunity to pass the exam.

Where competence is demonstrated, a notation indicating that the course requirement has been fulfilled is placed on the student's permanent record, and the student has the option of taking those credits in another area of the curriculum. In no case is academic credit given for the demonstration of competence.

# Cross-registration, Cooperative Relationships and Study Abroad Opportunities

The Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools allows open cross-registration with permission for a limited number of courses. Information on cross-registration is available at the Office of the Registrar.

The schools in this consortium are:

- Bethel Seminary
- School of Theology and Seminary at Saint John's University
- The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity
- United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy students are only able to enroll in consortium classes by petition to the Office of Advanced Theological Education.

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### ELCA Reciprocity

During the Winter Term, students at any ELCA seminary may cross-register for specified courses at any other ELCA seminary. Contact the Office of the Registrar for more details and course listings.

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### Methodist House of Studies at Luther Seminary

The Methodist House of Studies at Luther Seminary refers to the network that offers support for students preparing for ministry in Methodist contexts. The purpose is to help Methodist students strengthen their distinct faith identity and their understanding of Wesleyan theology and practice, and to foster ties with area Methodist churches. Methodist faculty and staff members at Luther Seminary serve as mentors who hold regular, informal meetings with students and local Methodist clergy.

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### Study-Abroad and Global Research Opportunities

Part of Luther Seminary's Vision Statement states:

"We believe God calls us to center our work in the needs of local churches and leaders for the world. We will develop leaders who are rooted in the gospel and can form Christian community and lead innovatively. We will meet learners where they are and open creative and accessible pathways and forms of theological education."

With this in mind, the International Student and Scholar Affairs together with the Academic Advising Office, the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Advanced Theological Education, and the Office of the Registrar commit to encouraging and supporting all students at Luther Seminary who wish to engage in study or research at global theological institutions.

## Luther Seminary

Luther Seminary currently has study abroad opportunities in place with schools in Norway and Hong Kong, and is actively developing them in other parts of the world. We will provide updates as agreements are renewed or established.

If you are an M.A. or M.Div. student interested in participating in a short-term exchange program or study abroad opportunity, please consult with the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you are a Th.M. or Ph.D. student and considering research in another country, please see the Office of Advanced Theological Education (ATE).

If you are a faculty member considering an engagement with an institution abroad (research or teaching), please see the Office of Academic Affairs. Our offices will work with you on the details for such an exchange and opportunity.

## Final Examinations

Final examinations are held as indicated in the seminary calendar and/or on the course syllabus. If a student finds it impossible to take the examination at the appointed time, a special examination may be negotiated with the instructor.

## Independent Study/Individualized Study

It is possible for students to take courses via independent study with current full-time faculty. Those who may be interested in further graduate study will find it particularly helpful to take an independent study course in which they can work to develop their research and writing skills.

No more than 5.0 total courses (full or half courses) may be completed by independent study for the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degrees. (Consortium courses are counted as independent study courses.) Rare exceptions may be made to these limits if: a course needed for a student's Master of Arts concentration is not offered except through independent study/learning agreement or a student's Master of Arts thesis project requires additional independent study. Decisions about exceptions will be made by the Office of the Academic Dean in consultation with the point person for the student's concentration.

Independent Study courses are designed by the student in consultation with the instructor and are not an existing course. The student should be concerned with needs not otherwise met through available courses. The course design must include the following components: a) topic; b) assignments; c) evaluation and the criteria and/or procedure which will be used to assess the work; and d) student learning outcomes as statements that specify what learners will know or be able to do as a result of the assignments.

Normally, the course is designed in terms of a full course, though arrangements for a half course are possible.

The signature of the instructor indicating approval of course design must be obtained prior to being registered for the independent study and according to the add/drop deadlines for the term.

A division chair signature is required for all independent study courses.

An independent study registration form is available on the Registration tab of MyLutherNet.

### Individualized Study

Individualized Study courses are existing core or elective courses that are completed with a full-time faculty member. In each instance, the stated objectives of the course are to be fulfilled, but the means for the achievement of those objectives, the method of evaluation and the schedule are flexible and are to be worked out in detail between the student



## Luther Seminary

and the instructor.

Both the instructor and a division chair signature are required for all Individualized Study courses.

An Individualized Study registration form is available on the Registration tab of MyLutherNet.

## Online Classes and Residency Requirements

If choosing to complete their degree programs through online courses, students must ensure that they meet or exceed the minimum number of Residential Focus Session (RFS) courses required by their particular degree program.

Residency requirements per first degree program areas are as follows:

- For Master of Arts degrees, residential requirements vary by concentration from three to six RFS courses.
- For Master of Divinity degrees, residential requirements are at least eight RFS courses.

Some required courses are only offered in a RFS format. See Degree Program Pathways or talk with advising for more information.

Online classes vary in format, just as classroom-based classes vary from one subject or faculty member to another. Yet, the following applies across the board:

- Luther Seminary online learning integrates various types of interactions: interaction with course content, an instructor, other students, and/or a local context. Some online courses have synchronous requirements or require groups of students and/or the professor to be online at the same time. Some online courses are asynchronous, or do not require being online at the same time. All of the online courses are writing intensive, since writing is the chief medium of exchange.
- Students can be anywhere with internet access.
- Online courses follow the regular academic calendar.
- Registration periods for online courses are the same as RFS and on-campus courses.

Students who choose to move between degree programs must ensure that they meet the residency requirement of the degree program in which they plan to graduate.

International students in the United States in F or J status are restricted to the number of online classes they can take during each term or semester; please contact the Office of International Student and Scholar Affairs for clarifications.

## Registration

Students register online for courses each term. Registration priority is given to students based on student classification. Detailed registration information is provided by the Office of the Registrar and is available on MyLutherNet.

All holds on a student's account must be resolved before registration will be allowed. Any holds placed on a student's account can be resolved by contacting the office where the hold originated. Unresolved holds will prohibit registration.

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The nature of the curriculum and the sequence of courses make it advisable for students to begin their studies in the Fall semester whenever possible. It is possible, however, for students to begin their studies either in the Winter term or at the beginning of the Spring semester.

Students are responsible for registering for courses in which they have met the appropriate prerequisite(s). Registration may be denied to a student who requests enrollment in a course without fulfilling the prerequisite.

Once students complete the initial registration process, schedule changes may be made according to the add/drop deadlines for each term as stated in the seminary's academic calendar. No registration will be allowed after the stated deadline.

For more information on registration and course schedules, contact:

Office of the Registrar  
Luther Seminary  
2481 Como Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
651-641-3473  
[registrar@luthersem.edu](mailto:registrar@luthersem.edu)  
[www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)

## Repeatable Courses

Certain courses are designated as repeatable and may be taken more than once for credit. A course description will designate if the course can be repeated or if the course is required to be taken in multiple terms.

In the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts and graduate certificate programs, if a core requirement has been failed, the course or its equivalent must be retaken at the earliest opportunity. Credit is not granted twice.

## Transfer Credit

Credits earned at other accredited graduate institutions with a grade of C (or pass in pass/fail system) or above may be considered for transfer in the M.A. and M.Div. programs to Luther Seminary upon evaluation by the registrar and in consultation with the academic dean, division chair and faculty point people.

Luther Seminary will accept a maximum of one half of the Master of Arts degree and Master of Divinity degree program requirements through transfer credits that have been completed within ten years prior to matriculation at Luther Seminary. Transfer credits are accepted from the following types of schools:

1. All regionally accredited institutions
2. All ATS (Association of Theological Schools) accredited institutions
3. International institutions whose accreditation is equivalent to those noted above

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### Credit Duration

All course credits applied toward all degree program requirements should be earned within ten years of the awarding of the degree.

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# Luther Seminary

## Second First Degrees

Students who have completed a first master's degree at Luther Seminary or another accredited graduate school or seminary and are seeking a second master's degree from Luther Seminary are eligible to utilize a maximum of 50 percent of the credits from the first degree toward the completion of the second degree. The first earned degree must be surrendered, and the degree must have been completed within ten years of matriculation into the second master's degree. Credits applied from the first degree cannot exceed more than half of the total credits of the second degree. Students must complete at least 50 percent of the requirements for the second degree through new courses.

## Advanced Standing

Students can petition for advanced standing for individual courses after they have submitted an admissions deposit and official final college transcript. Students must submit their request during the first calendar year in which they are enrolled at Luther Seminary. Petitions will be reviewed from September to May each year.

Luther will allow up to five (5.0) credits for a M.Div. degree and three (3.0) credits for an M.A. degree to be accepted for advanced standing. Because signature courses are unique to Luther Seminary, students will not be able to receive advanced standing for courses to meet these requirements. Students can transfer in core and elective credit, with the faculty determining which type will be granted.

Courses for consideration need:

- To be from a degree completed in the last five years;
- To have received a grade of "B" (3.0) or higher;
- To be 300-level or higher; and
- To be from a regionally accredited institution.

Forms for this purpose are available on the website, the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of the Registrar and will be reviewed by faculty representatives from each academic division. If credits are accepted as Advanced Standing, the Office of the Registrar will update the student record to reflect the appropriate credit for prior learning.

Students will pay an administrative fee of \$250 per course requested as Advanced Standing (M.Div. students will not exceed \$1,250 for all courses; M.A. students will not exceed \$750). Charges will be placed on the student's account when the petition is received. Students will be charged regardless of the outcome of the petition. Students can use their scholarship funds to pay for the administrative fee.

## Grading

Letter grades (A, B, C, D, F) are required for the Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Philosophy degree students in 6000, 7000, and 8000-level courses.

Master of Arts, Master of Divinity and non-degree students are on the letter grade system, though students may elect to take Pass-Marginal-Fail grades for designated courses. At the time of course registration, students must elect their credit type as either AF (A-F letter grades) or PF (Pass-Fail). Courses not available for letter grade option will default to PF in the registration process.

All grades appear and remain on the official transcripts.

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The deadline to make credit type changes for currently registered courses in a term is the last day to add or drop courses.

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## **Pass (P)**

A notation of Pass indicates that, within the expectation of the course described by the instructor, the student has demonstrated an acceptable level of competence in handling both content and method. A grade of Pass is equivalent to a letter grade of C-.

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## **Marginal (M)**

A notation of Marginal, while not implying failure of the course, indicates that the student has demonstrated only a questionable level of competence with respect to knowledge of and working use of the content or method (or both).

The student may make up a Marginal grade by retaking the course (or its equivalent).

No more than three grades of M are allowed within the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degree curricula.

Marginal grades count negatively in relation to financial aid satisfactory academic progress.

No student shall be given a second-chance grade once a Marginal has been recorded. No student shall be allowed to test out of a core requirement for which she or he has previously received a Marginal, but when the student retakes a core requirement, the professor may, at his or her discretion, judge that the student has satisfied certain requirements on the basis of past accomplishment.

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## **Fail (F)**

A notation of Fail indicates that the student has failed to demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in handling content and method.

No grade of Fail will be allowed within the courses required for graduation. If a core requirement has been failed, the course (or its equivalent) must be retaken at the earliest opportunity.

Fail grades count negatively in relation to Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress.

No student shall be given a second chance at changing the failed grade once the Fail has been recorded. No student shall be allowed to test out of a course for which a Fail has been recorded; however, when the student retakes a course, the professor may, at his or her discretion, judge that the student has satisfied certain requirements on the basis of past accomplishment.

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## **Incomplete (I)**

The grade of Incomplete can be given in the following situations:

1. When a student has failed to do some portion of the required work in a course because of some unexpected hardship. In this case, the grade of Incomplete must be requested by the student from the instructor no later than the last regularly scheduled session of the course in question.
2. When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student who has completed on time all the required work of a course, but needs to redo some minor portion of that work to bring it to a satisfactory level. If such work can be accomplished reasonably within the Incomplete time limit, the instructor can, at his or her discretion, give the grade of Incomplete and notify the student of the requirements. A student may not apply for this type of Incomplete.

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Incomplete grades are due in the Office of the Registrar two weeks after the grade due date for that term. Incomplete grades remain on the official transcript, in addition to the final reported grade.

Any extension shall be by written petition to the Office of the Registrar and shall include in writing the support of the instructor. Normally, one extension per Incomplete course is granted and that only when the required petition is submitted to the Office of the Registrar. The grade notation of Incomplete Extension (IE) will be recorded for approved extensions. In the event that an extension is not requested and granted through the end of the next semester, the grade shall be recorded as a Fail, and the student and instructor will be notified accordingly.

Extended Incompletes not reported to the Office of the Registrar by the end of the following semester (in the case of Spring semester incompletes, the end of the Summer term) will be recorded as Fails, and the students and instructors will be notified accordingly.

Incomplete grades count negatively in relation to financial aid satisfactory academic progress.

A pattern of Incomplete grades and extensions will call into question a student's continued status at Luther Seminary.

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### Withdrawal (W)

Students desiring to withdraw from a course must make their intention known to the Office of the Registrar according to the term/semester deadlines as stated in the seminary's academic calendar. A request to withdraw from a course must be received prior to the last day of the semester/term. Students withdrawing from a course after the add/drop deadline will receive a W on their transcript and tuition is not refunded.

A Withdrawal notation does not call into question the continued status of a student at the seminary. However, a pattern of Withdrawals will activate an alert to student support offices. Failure to attend or participate in a registered or online course does not constitute dropping or officially withdrawing from the course.

## Grade Appeal Process

Students who want to appeal the final grade given for a course must follow these procedures:

Instructors must have clear statements about expectations for student work and criteria for evaluation in the course syllabus. A student may appeal the final grade for the course on the grounds that the instructor's evaluation was not appropriate given stated expectations for the course.

**Step 1:** The student must contact the instructor within 30 days after the date when final grades are posted on the seminary course site. The student and instructor must attempt to resolve the issue. If the instructor considers it appropriate, the instructor may change the grade within 90 days of the date that the original grade was due.

**Step 2:** If the student and instructor are not able to resolve the issue, the student may file a written appeal with the Dean of Academic Affairs within 60 days of the date when the original grade was posted on the seminary course site. The appeal should indicate why the student considers the final grade inappropriate given the instructor's stated expectations for the course.

**Step 3:** The Dean of Academic Affairs will ask the instructor for a written summary of the reasons that the grade was given. After reviewing the student's appeal and the instructor's summary, the Dean of Academic Affairs will determine whether or not the appeal process should continue.

**Step 4:** If the Dean of Academic Affairs determines that further consideration should be given to the appeal, the Dean of Academic Affairs will ask two faculty members in appropriate fields to review the student's work in relation to the

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instructor's stated expectations for the course. The two faculty members will submit a recommendation and rationale as to whether the original grade should or should not be changed.

Step 5: After receiving the recommendation and rationale from the two faculty members, assuming their decision is unanimous, the Dean of Academic Affairs will implement that decision on whether or not to change the original grade. If their decision is not unanimous, the Dean of Academic Affairs will make the final decision. This will conclude the appeal process and the Dean of Academic Affairs will report any grade change to the student, the instructor, and the Office of the Registrar.

## Grade Point Average (GPA)

Grade Point Averages (GPA) will be calculated by term and cumulatively for students in the Th.M., D.Min., and Ph.D. programs. Because coursework for the Th.M., D.Min., and Ph.D. programs must be passed with a grade of B or better to receive credit, the minimum GPA for these programs will be 3.0. GPA calculations on final transcripts for ATE graduates are provided with a written request.

GPA calculations for students in the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs will be calculated on final transcripts for graduates at the written request of students if at least 75% of their courses were taken with letter grades. This policy does not apply to transcripts for Graduate Certificate or affiliated students. Transfer courses are not calculated into the GPA.

## Class Attendance

Attendance and participation in courses for which a student is registered is expected. A student with excessive absences jeopardize their continued participation in the course. A student missing up to 25% of instructor-led class time can make arrangements with the instructor to complete work. A student missing more than 25% will be administratively withdrawn from the course.

## Full-time and Half-time Status

### Full-time Status

Students in the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs must carry at least 3.0 credits in the Fall semester and Spring semester to be considered full-time.

### Half-time Status

Students in the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs who carry fewer than 3.0 credits but at least 1.5 credits in the Fall and Spring semesters are classified as half-time students.

## Leave of Absence and Withdrawal

### Leave of Absence and Withdrawal

Master of Arts, graduate certificate, Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy degree students in good standing who intend to suspend course enrollment during fall or spring semester must petition for a leave of absence by using the online request form ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar/enrollment\\_change\\_forms](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar/enrollment_change_forms)).

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A leave may be granted for up to two semesters. Leaves are not normally granted for more than two semesters. If the leave is granted, the student is able to resume studies at the close of the requested period of leave without reapplication.

Doctor of Ministry students must petition the Advanced Theological Education Office for a leave of absence. Consideration will be taken of ability in subsequent cohorts.

Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degree students who fail to register for at least one class in fall or spring semester will be granted leave of absence status by default.

Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy students who fail to register for continuation through the Advanced Theological Education Office or who fail to pay the continuation fee, without a request for leave of absence, will be withdrawn from student status and the seminary by default. This will be noted as Withdrawal by Default in the seminary's reporting and on the transcript. Such students will need to reapply to the Admissions Committee to continue studies.

If a leave of absence is granted, graduation requirements are those of the catalog in effect at the time of the student's initial registration. If a student withdraws or is dismissed from Luther Seminary and is later readmitted, he or she is subject to the graduation requirements in the catalog in effect at the time of readmission and registration.

All course credits applied toward all degree program requirements should be earned within 10 years of the awarding of the degree.

### **Return from Leave of Absence**

Returning from a leave of absence requires notification to the Office of the Registrar with a student's enrollment intentions ([registrar@luthersem.edu](mailto:registrar@luthersem.edu)).

Following a return from a leave of absence, the student completes program requirements as established in the catalog in effect at the time of the student's initial registration. In addition, it is required for financial aid recipients to contact the Financial Aid Office prior to returning from a leave of absence ([finaid@luthersem.edu](mailto:finaid@luthersem.edu)).

Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degree students who fail to return from a leave of absence or officially withdraw will be withdrawn from student status and the seminary by default. Such students will need to reapply to the Admissions Committee to continue studies.

## Good Academic Standing

Students are considered to be in good academic standing if they are not currently on academic probation.

## Academic Probation

### **Academic Probation**

A student is placed on academic probation if the following conditions exist in the current and immediate past semester/term:

- one grade of Fail and one grade of D/Marginal or
- more than one grade of Fail or
- more than two grades of D/Marginal

## Luther Seminary

The winter and summer terms count as academic terms in this respect. The faculty is notified.

The student remains on academic probation until all academic work taken in a semester has received a letter grade of C (or better) or Pass. This assumes at least three full courses or the equivalent in a semester. A maximum load of four full courses per semester is allowed while on academic probation. For half-time students placed on academic probation, a total of three successive courses must receive a letter grade of C (or better) or Pass in order to be removed from academic probation. The faculty is notified. A registration hold will be placed on the student's registration. Students on academic probation must develop a plan to be removed from academic probation. No separate faculty action is necessary to remove a student from academic probation.

A student who is retained on academic probation after two successive terms from when they are placed on probation is subject to dismissal from Luther Seminary. The winter and summer terms count as academic terms in this respect. Faculty action is required.

A student on academic probation cannot serve on Student Council, any Seminary committee, or as a Teaching Assistant (TA).

## Dismissal

The faculty has the final authority for dismissal of students in all matters relating to academic performance and shares responsibility with the president for dismissal with respect to other behavioral matters.

The student may appeal dismissal to the faculty.

The faculty may vote to dismiss a student who remains on academic probation for two successive semesters after being placed thereon, or whose work or conduct demonstrated in other ways (including a recurring pattern of academic difficulties) warrants such action.

After at least one year following dismissal, if there are sufficient grounds to merit reconsideration, a student may seek readmission. The readmission process begins with the Office of the Academic Dean. All reapplication materials are sent to the Office of Admissions and to the Office of the Academic Dean. The readmission must be approved by the faculty.

The faculty may choose for the above reasons to require an enforced leave of absence rather than dismissal.

## Course Information

The curriculum at Luther Seminary offers a wide variety of course options for all degree programs. All of these courses play a vital role in the interwoven flow and philosophy of the curriculum. Luther Seminary's curricula are dedicated to educating leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

In addition to the standard curriculum offerings, other opportunities for theological education while a student is at Luther Seminary include cross-registration through the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools, online courses, independent studies/guided readings under faculty supervision and off-campus study opportunities.

Courses listed in this section may not be offered every year. Credit value for elective offerings may vary full or half course each term. See the current course offerings and schedules on the registrar's website at <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/>.



## **Bible**

The Bible Division extends and deepens each student's faithful and critical reading of Scripture through a series of core classes and a broad range of electives. Many classes focus on the engagement of the Bible, theology and culture.

Our major goal is that the biblical witness be at the heart of our faith and ministry as we seek to discern the will and ways of God in a variety of cultures, in our own time and for the future.

## **History/Theology**

As teachers in the History/Theology Division, we assist students in becoming effective leaders of Christian communities in mission.

We know that students will not be able to simply reproduce the tried-and-true practices of past generations without reflecting on their suitability to change and a diversity of contexts. They will need access to the wisdom of Christians from around the world and over the centuries as they struggle to lead Christian communities in mission.

The historians among us invite students to explore the experience of millions of believers over thousands of years, with special emphasis on the Reformation traditions and mission in America.

From a decidedly global perspective, the teachers of mission introduce students to diverse religions, cultures and methods of mission.

The systematic theologians help students ground leadership neither in tradition nor novelty, but in the Triune God.

## **Leadership for Mission**

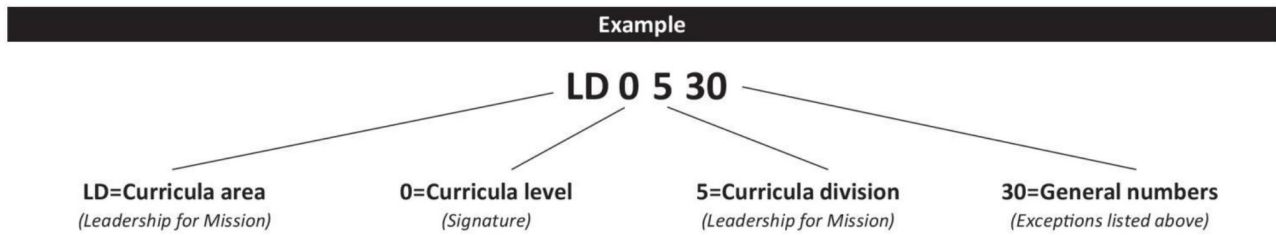
The Leadership Division helps educate leaders for Christian communities by placing the primary emphasis on leadership within the division's courses. This emphasis is developed within an understanding of the church as being both a confessional and missional church, which draws faithfully on its rich biblical and theological heritage while it seeks to address a changing world with relevance and integrity.

The theological and theoretical foundations for leadership in Christian ministry are developed as a framework for engaging in the actual skills of ministry—vision casting, preaching, worship, disciplining, pastoral care, education, evangelism, youth work, family ministry, counseling in difficult situations and so on.

Varieties of teaching methods are utilized to provide students with the theological background, current research and hands-on experience to engage in the actual practice of ministry. Critical to this work is the integration of various ministry contexts into the students' learning process through such programs as contextual learning, internship and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

## **Explanation of Course Numbers**

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Each course number consists of a two-letter prefix and a four-digit course number. The two-letter prefix identifies the curricula area in which the course is offered and a four-digit course number refers to the following classifications below.

CURRICULA AREA		
BP—Biblical Preaching	CC—Cross-Cultural	CD—Cross-Divisional
CG—Congregational and Community Care	CL—Congregational Leadership	CY—Children, Youth and Family Ministry
EL—Educational Leadership	FE—Field Education (Contextual Learning)	GR—Graduate Research (Ph.D.)
HC—History of Christianity	HT—History/Theology	IN—Internship (Contextual Learning)
LD—Leadership for Mission	LG—Language	MP—Ministry Project
NT—New Testament	OT—Old Testament	PR—Preaching
RM—Rural Ministry	SG—Signature	ST—Systematic Theology
UM—Urban Ministry	WO—Worship	WP—Writing Project

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<b>CURRICULAR LEVEL</b>		
0000: Signature/Core level required of Certificate/M.A./M.Div.		
1000-4000: Certificate/M.A./M.Div. electives		
6000: Th.M.		
7000: D.Min.		
8000: Ph.D. (Graduate Research)		
<b>CURRICULAR DIVISION</b>		
100: Old Testament		
200: New Testament		
300: History of Christianity		
400: Systematic Theology		
500: Leadership for Mission		
600: Cross-Divisional		
700: Bible		
800: History of Christianity/Systematic Theology (Graduate Research)		
900: Leadership for Mission (Graduate Research)		
<b>GENERAL NUMBERS 00-99, EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING</b>		
95: Thesis		
96: Ministry Project		
97: M.A./M.Div. Independent Study/Guided Readings		
98: Th.M./D.Min. Independent Study/Guided Readings		
99: Ph.D. (Graduate Research) Independent Study/Guided Readings		

## All Courses

## Luther Seminary

Biblical Preaching [BP] Courses	Cross-Cultural Studies [CC] Courses	Cross-Divisional [CD] Courses
Congregational and Community Care [CG] Courses	Congregational Mission and Leadership [CL] Courses	Children, Youth and Family Ministry [CY] Courses
Educational Leadership [EL] Courses	Field Education [FE] (Contextual Learning) Courses	Graduate Research [GR] (Doctor of Philosophy) Courses
History of Christianity [HC] Courses	History and Theology [HT] Courses	Internship [IN] (Contextual Learning) Courses
Leadership for Mission [LD] Courses	Language [LG] Courses	New Testament [NT] Courses
Old Testament [OT] Courses	Preaching [PR] Courses	Rural Ministry [RM] Courses
Signature [SG] Courses	Systematic Theology [ST] Courses	Urban Ministry [UM] Courses
Worship [WO] Courses		

## Pathway - M.Div.

Pathway - MDiv

## Courses-Cross-Cultural Studies [CC]

### Cross-Cultural Studies [CC]

#### CC1697 Guided Reading and Research in Cross-Cultural Studies

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

#### CC6698/8699 Guided Reading and Research in Cross-Cultural Studies

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

## Courses-Cross-Divisional [CD]

### Cross-Divisional [CD]

#### CD1613 The Holy Land: Its People, Places and Prayers

An introduction to the history, cultures and peoples of Israel and Palestine. Participants in this course visit places holy to Christians, Jews, and Muslims exploring the biblical texts associated with those places and the opportunities they present for enhancing preaching and teaching. Participants also learn about current geo-political realities in the region, visiting with Palestinians and Israelis and hearing their stories, their struggles and their hopes for the future. The class will include historical and theological reading, reflection and discussion. This course will have a significant cross-cultural learning component.

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*Cultural Context*

*Full or half course*

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## **CD1622 United Methodist Polity and Doctrine**

An introduction to the institutional nature and functioning of the United Methodist church, its historical development, connectional system, ordination and ministry, legislation, theological contributions and ecumenical relationships.

*Full course*

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## **CD1625 African Methodist Episcopal Church History and Polity**

An introduction to the history, culture and polity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, including its inception and development, organization and orders for ministry, lay and clergy functions, connectional system, theological history and current issues.

*Full course*

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## **CD1626 Gospel and Culture in South Africa**

Learn about the situation of the church in South Africa. Explore the working of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Examine the work of South African churches in a multicultural setting and their worship life. Encounter a pluralistic and diverse world as the context of ministry. The group will spend significant time in the Cape Town area, including sharing student housing with students from all over Africa at the University of Stellenbosch, as well as in George working with the Christian Medical Service and Relief and its ministry to those affected by poverty and HIV/Aids.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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## **CD1633 God, Evil and Suffering**

An examination of ways in which the Bible and the Christian tradition consider evil and suffering and how such consideration informs the task of interpreting and confessing the gospel in the contemporary world. Special attention is given to implications for pastoral reflection.

*Full course*

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## **CD1635 Trauma, Theology and Ministry**

This course explores the spiritual, emotional, relational, and physiological dimensions of trauma for individuals, families, congregations, and communities. It considers historical, intergenerational, personal, individual, and relational trauma and the impact of those on ministers. It analyzes implications for faithful trauma-informed theological understandings and pastoral care practices.

*Full course*

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## **CD1639 Law and Gospel**

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An examination of the theological, biblical and pastoral dimensions of the law-and-gospel distinction and how that distinction informs the task of interpreting and confessing Christ in a changing world. Law and gospel is introduced as a fruitful hermeneutical expectation. The theological, confessional and existential aspects of the law-and-gospel distinction are introduced and examined—including the various uses of the law and the wide range of gospel proclamation. Special attention is given to the complexities of the law/gospel distinction in relation to pastoral ministry.

*Full course*

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### **CD1640 Knowing Our Neighbors: Latin America, Meso-American Culture, and the Mission of the Church**

The purpose of this course is to explore and learn about the religious, cultural and social roots and background of the Latina/o communities in the US, especially those of Mexican origin, as neighbors with whom God calls us to be in community. This course is intended for learners that seek to gain a multicultural perspective by reflecting anthropologically, socially, and theologically in light of the voices of the marginalized. The course provides cross-cultural opportunities to expand a student's worldview, theology and ecclesiology. In addition, the course challenges one's perceptions about global justice, practices of hospitality, and understanding of the church's mission.

*Full course*

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### **CD1643 The Gospel and Global Media Cultures**

This course explores the emerging discussion at the intersection of biblical studies, cultural studies, theology, civic engagement and media environments. Students study how interpreting and confessing the gospel informs the narrative identities and practices of missional congregations as they engage their communities and the world as public companions with God in global civil society. Students use at least two digital tools to create their own interpretation and confession of Christian witness.

*Full course*

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### **CD1646 Comparative Confessions**

This course focuses on doctrinal agreement and disagreement among various representatives of the Christian tradition (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and Reformed) through comparison of their confessional documents. We investigate the significance of diverse theological understandings for pastoral practice in pluralistic communities and ecumenical cooperation.

*Full course*

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### **CD1648 Faith, Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

This course explores how the gospel of Jesus Christ brings forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing to people wherever there is sin, conflict, and suffering. Integrating biblical and theological resources with current interdisciplinary research on forgiveness, the course helps students develop a theological framework and practices for bringing to the fore the importance of forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing in their leadership of Christian communities called to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically*

*Fulfills Leadership or Systematic Theology elective*

## Luther Seminary

*Full course*

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### **CD1650 Global Church Immersion: Tanzania**

This course will learn about the church of the global south by spending two weeks in Tanzania, learning from and with pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). Students will prepare for the trip by reading about Christianity in sub-Saharan Africa, including issues of biblical interpretation, poverty, prosperity Gospel, evangelism, Christian-Muslim relations, and the history of missionary activity. During the trip, students will engage in regular reflection and conversation and worship with ELCT pastors and members. Students will also write a reflection paper after the trip, exploring theological, biblical, and/or leadership issues facing the church of the global south.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **CD1697 Guided Reading and Research in Cross-Divisional**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a faculty member. Consult faculty.

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### **CD6698/8699 Guided Reading and Research in Cross-Divisional**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

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### **CD6930 Introduction to Research Methods-Part A**

An introduction to graduate level research within a theological perspective and with particular attention to the methodologies students will employ in their summative degree research (ThM, DMin, PhD). Research processes for empirical (social science field research) and literature-based dissertations will be considered. Topics include the research question, literature review, research methods, processes for data gathering and analysis, thesis writing, the ethical implications of research, and the complex nature of subjectivity. Participants will explore potential topics of interest for their research and develop a draft research proposal (including a draft IRB application if appropriate). Participants will also reflect on how personal and professional experiences affect the process of research and consider ways that their work can influence both the academy and the church.

*Half course*

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## **Courses-Congregational and Community Care [CG]**

### **Congregational and Community Care [CG]**

#### **CG0525 Congregational Care and Formation**

This course introduces students to concepts and practices in the care and formation of persons, families and congregations with attention to diversity within cultures, ecclesial traditions and generations. Attention will be given to paradigm shifts in the practice of ministry from classical models to clinical/professional models, and now to communal and contextual models of care and formation, so that students have historical frameworks to develop a holistic vision for

## Luther Seminary

ministry. Integrating theological and social scientific resources and engaging contemporary issues and challenges in the world, this course will offer students a framework for care and formation that involves listening (to God, to neighbor and to self), interpreting pressing challenges in care and formation and developing effective responses for leading ministries of care and formation in a variety of settings.

*Full course*

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### **CG3511 Pastoral and Congregational Care of Addictions**

An introduction to historical, cultural and ecclesiastical attitudes towards alcoholism, drug abuse and other forms of addiction (food, pornography, Internet and so on). Consideration is given to etiology, symptomatology, intervention, prevention of and recovery practices for addiction. Special consideration is given to the theological implications of addiction within community and the unique roles that can be played by a community of faith and its leaders in supporting recovery.

*Full course*

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### **CG3512 Prayer in Congregational and Community Care**

An exploration of the care dimension of prayer as a sustaining practice that 1) enriches the communal life of faith; 2) responds with care for individuals (e.g., in a pastoral visit); 3) nurtures the vocation of ministry. The course explores the context, values, theological commitments and psychological frameworks assumed in various forms of prayer, particularly communal prayer, personal prayer, guided pilgrimage, spiritual direction and prayer in multi-faith contexts.

*Full or half course*

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### **CG3513 Singleness, Marriage and Family in Context**

Informed by biblical, theological and scientific approaches to personhood and relationships, frameworks are provided for congregational and pastoral care ministries with persons who are single, divorced, preparing for marriage, married and in families. Students learn enrichment, crisis counseling, conflict resolution and community support skills. Special attention is paid to challenges that arise in parenting, immigration, situations of unemployment and abuse.

*Full course*

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### **CG3519 Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families**

Providing congregational and community care with persons who have mental illness manifests itself in a myriad of ways. Effective ministry integrates a three-fold model of care, namely the theological, pastoral, and medical models. The course will address theological and pastoral insights regarding pastoral care and community care, offer an overview of mental illness from a medical model, and to put into practice practical implications in order to move towards an integrated ministry.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **CG3520 Grief and Loss**



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An investigation of the nature and dynamics of grief. This course engages grief both in the intimacy of personal relationship, as well as grief arising from loss of employment, church closure and other forms of communal loss. Discussion of communal and one-on-one forms of caring for those who are grieving, with analysis of the theology of grief implicit in such care, particularly in relation to questions of theodicy. Special attention is paid to the communal care elements of funerals and other forms of ritual in times of loss, as well as challenges arising for communities in multi-faith contexts.

*Full or half course*

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### **CG3523 Human Sexuality and Christian Faith**

A course designed to provide an understanding of sexuality from a Christian perspective. Many of the issues faced by congregations and clergy require a deep understanding of sexual theology and congregational care. These issues include, but are not limited to gender dynamics, healthy sexuality, sexual dysfunction, infertility, abortion, sexual identity and sexual violence. Attention is given to biblical, confessional and behavioral foundations for sexuality and sexual values and roles.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **CG3528 Spiritual Resiliency through the Life Span**

A theoretical and practical examination of how faith makes a difference as we age, particularly during middle and later years. A life span approach is used to explore the gifts of increasing spiritual maturity and personal wisdom. Traditional and emerging metaphors of spirituality are explored and special attention given to the themes of religious practices, vocation, affect, interpersonal relationships and creativity as they appear in the narratives of spiritually resilient older adults who are grounded in spiritual communities.

*Full or half course*

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### **CG3530 Applied Pastoral Theology: The Case of Cancer**

This class analyzes the “case of cancer”—that is, the concrete and historically situated particulars of this disease and illness— as a way of exploring the principles and practices in any case of pastoral care where human suffering evokes or calls for a theological response. Close attention is paid to the issues of theodicy and meaning making that arise from cancer as disease of evolutionary development.

*Full course*

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### **CG3540 Religious Vocation, Ministry and the Movies**

Movies and other film media have been and remain a powerful source for moral development and intellectual formation. Furthermore, these sources of information may be instrumental in formation for ministry and religious vocation. This course explores the theologies assumed or produced in films and pays attention to the ways in which films may be employed for religious formation and ministerial development.

*Full course*

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### **CG3542 Responses to Domestic Violence in Congregations and Communities**

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This course explores theoretical and theological understandings of domestic violence and the development of faithful, effective responses grounded in God's care for individuals, couples, and families struggling with violence. Students are encouraged to integrate insights from scripture, theology, social sciences, and experience in ways that enhance their ability to offer care and to lead communities of care in responding with faith, hope, and love to both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

*Cultural Context*

*Full or half course*

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### **CG3544 Principles and Practices of Pastoral Counseling**

This course integrates biblical, theological, theoretical, and neurobiological understandings of therapeutic and pastoral prevention, enrichment, and intervention. Protocols are examined and basic counseling skills are practiced for common pastoral counseling situations, such as pre-marriage and remarriage counseling, uncomplicated grief, couple conflict, and parent-child interaction. Students explore the development of interventions and healing rituals for congregational and community crises. Particular attention is given to ethical issues, intercultural dynamics, and capacity for reflective practice. It is recommended that students take CG0525 prior to this course.

*Full course*

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### **CG3552 Care of Self and Care of Others**

This course explores the role of compassionate communication in care of self and care of others. It develops a spirituality of compassion and seeks to enhance competencies in speaking honestly, listening with empathy, responding to criticism, staying in dialogue, and dealing with guilt and grief. Experientially based; includes role plays, journaling, and small group work.

*Full or half course*

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### **CG3554 Congregational and Community Care from a Womanist Perspective**

This course provides students with an opportunity to understand the intersection of theological, psychological, and cultural dimensions of congregational and community care. Students will unravel the complex interplay of sociopolitical, intrapsychic, and interpersonal concerns and the classical and neo-classical functions of pastoral care from a Womanist perspective. The course also offers students an opportunity to learn the process of "co-creating" healing, engaging in gender and racial analysis and works of justice, and spiritual integration, drawing implications for the care of souls for all genders and cultures.

*Full course*

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### **CG3560 Pastoral Theologies of the Cross: Suffering, Violence, Redemption, & Justice**

This course explores congregational and community care through reflecting theologically on the cross as a central reality of Christian faith. Students develop competency integrating biblical, theological, and theoretical understandings of suffering and violence on individual and systemic levels. The class aims to develop caring praxis with individuals and communities that evidence trauma-informed, culturally competent perspectives on grace, redemption, healing, and justice, constructed by listening to and learning from diverse persons and communities.

*Full course*

### **CG3565 Futurist Theologies of Care**

An exploration of potential “futures” as a site of caring praxis. This course helps students develop a speculative futurist orientation toward ministry that critically attends to the shock, violence, and chaos of near-future scenarios involving ecological, anthropological, political, and technological contexts. Students will develop capacities to theologically and theoretically analyze problems and possibilities facing the human and more-than-human inhabitants of the earth, and lead congregations and communities of care in trauma-informed, culturally competent, and justice-oriented ministry.

*Full course*

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### **CG3570 Hope and Despair**

Informed by biblical, theological, and social science approaches, this course develops a robust practical theology of hope to inform congregational and community care leadership. Attention is given to care amid various experiences of despair in both individual and communal contexts, including grief/loss, depression, suicidality, cultural hegemony, systemic violence, and ecological devastation. Students will develop thick theological understandings of hope, rooted in biblical and theological sources, that inform an integrated ministerial praxis characterized by active hope.

*Full course*

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### **CG3575 Narrative Approaches to Pastoral and Congregational Care**

An introduction to narrative theories of care and counseling understanding lived experience through story, narrative, and social discourse. This course integrates theological and social science resources to develop competency in care leadership that analyses the narratives of self, careseekers, congregations, and communities with humility, curiosity, and compassion, and supports narrative development toward preferred outcomes. Particular attention is given to complex understandings of diversity, cultural contexts, social structures, and prophetic dimensions of ministry related to concerns of justice.

*Full course*

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### **CG4597 Guided Reading and Research in Congregational and Community Care**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **CG6510 History and Emerging Trends in Pastoral and Practical Theology**

This course explores pastoral care in light of its larger cognates, pastoral theology and practical theology. An overview of pastoral and practical theology throughout church history. Focus on key figures and theories in the early church, Middle Ages, Reformation and the modern period up to and including today.

*Full course*

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### **CG6511 Pastoral and Congregational Care of Addictions**

An introduction to historical, cultural and ecclesiastical attitudes towards alcoholism, drug abuse and other forms of addiction (food, pornography, Internet and so on). Consideration is given to etiology, symptomatology, intervention, prevention of and recovery practices for addiction. Special consideration is given to the theological implications of

## Luther Seminary

addiction within community and the unique roles that can be played by a community of faith and its leaders in supporting recovery.

*Full course*

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### **CG6520 Cultivating Congregational and Community Care**

This course explores congregational and community care from the perspective of the ministry leader who is eager to cultivate an ecclesial identity of mutual caregiving through integration of Christian faith practices including guidance, healing, reconciliation, consolation and liberation. Attention is given to developing care-giving skills in the area of discerning and responding to needs in the community, and intercultural and multi-generational care. Throughout, there will be a focus on how care within the congregation may be extended to serve communities in the world.

*Full course*

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### **CG6522 Grief and Loss**

An investigation of the nature and dynamics of grief. This course engages grief both in the intimacy of personal relationship, as well as grief arising from loss of employment, church closure and other forms of communal loss. Discussion of communal and one-on-one forms of caring for those who are grieving, with analysis of the theology of grief implicit in such care, particularly in relation to questions of theodicy. Special attention is paid to the communal care elements of funerals and other forms of ritual in times of loss, as well as challenges arising for communities in multi-faith contexts.

*Full or half course*

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### **CG6544 Principles and Practices of Pastoral Counseling**

This course integrates biblical, theological, theoretical, and neurobiological understandings of therapeutic and pastoral prevention, enrichment, and intervention. Protocols are examined and basic counseling skills are practiced for common pastoral counseling situations, such as pre-marriage and remarriage counseling, uncomplicated grief, couple conflict, and parent-child interaction. Students explore the development of interventions and healing rituals for congregational and community crises. Particular attention is given to ethical issues, intercultural dynamics, and capacity for reflective practice. It is recommended that students take CG0525 prior to this course.

*Full course*

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### **CG6552 Care of Self and Care of Others**

This course explores the role of compassionate communication in care of self and care of others. It develops a spirituality of compassion and seeks to enhance competencies in speaking honestly, listening with empathy, responding to criticism, staying in dialogue, and dealing with guilt and grief. Experientially based; includes role plays, journaling, and small group work.

*Full or half course*

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### **CG6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Congregational and Community Care**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

## Courses-Congregational Mission and Leadership [CL]

### Congregational Mission and Leadership [CL]

#### **CL0520 Church Organization and Leadership**

This course focuses on church organization, polity, and missional leadership. It explores theological and theoretical definitions of leadership, cultivating congregational identity and vision, gifts discernment in the body of Christ, leading teams, overseeing finances and facilities, leading change, addressing conflict, and creating a culture of leadership multiplication. Students engage in self-reflection on their own gifts and ongoing leadership development.

*Full course*

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#### **CL0535 God's Mission: Biblical and Theological Explorations**

This course examines biblical, theological and theoretical frameworks for congregational mission and leadership. Students explore the Bible's rich witness to God's mission from Genesis to Revelation. They critically engage major paradigms in Christian mission over history and across traditions with an eye toward developing their own capacity to lead Christian communities in mission.

*Full course*

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#### **CL4530 New Missional Ministries**

This course prepares persons for mission development: planting a new congregation or innovating new missional initiatives in an existing congregation. Multiple resources are engaged, including Bible study, literatures on church planting and innovation, and case studies. Attention is given to formulating a theology for mission development and designing a portfolio of strategies and practices to carry out this type of ministry.

*Full course*

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#### **CL4550 Travel Course: The Missional Church in Context**

The Missional Church in Context is a travel course that provides the opportunity for students to learn from and with congregational leaders forming and leading Christian communities gathered around Word and Sacrament for bold participation in God's mission. The course allows students to learn the current challenges and opportunities for leading congregations in mission from current congregational leaders by spending concentrated time in a congregation or with congregational leaders from a particular context. Students will spend a few days or weeks on-site in addition to completing pre-post-visit readings, writing, and reflection assignments. This course may be taken more than once for credit.

*Cultural Context - George Floyd Square offering*

*Full or half course*

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#### **CL4560 Money and Mission of the Church**

## Luther Seminary

Financial stewardship is essential to the life and mission of both congregations and wider church. This course includes a study of biblical texts related to giving and stewardship of resources, the meaning of money, one's own attitudes regarding money and stewardship, theological under-girdings for financial stewardship, the importance of pastoral leadership in a congregation's stewardship, analysis of stewardship programs, engagement with church leaders, and discussion of practical application to contemporary congregational life and preaching.

*Full course*

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### **CL4565 Ministry in Urban Contexts**

This course introduces students to contextual theologies and issues facing Christian leaders in urban environments. Students engage theology, theory and particular urban communities as they create their own contextual framework for ministry in an urban setting and develop a contextual response to a particular ministry issue.

*Cultural Context*

*Full or half course*

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### **CL4567 Funding Forward: Leading Organizations to Financial Sustainability**

Organizations often struggle to develop financial support for their mission. Congregations, in particular, are realizing that the "Sunday morning offering" may not be enough to sustain their mission. This course will consider innovative practices for guiding leaders from missional imagination to practical implementation, emphasizing the role of money in sustainable development. This course will explore a wide-range of faith-motivated leadership settings, including non-profits, established congregations seeking alternative funding arrangements, new ministries in existing congregations, and emerging faith communities, as well as a variety of different funding sources.

*Full course*

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### **CL4570 Leading Change that Transforms Christian Communities for Mission**

In this course students expand their capacity for leading communities through change and conflict to participate in God's mission in the world. Students will explore biblical, theological, and theoretical resources for a missional approach to leading change and addressing conflict. Working with case studies, students will discern their adaptive challenges, reflect critically on a community's current and possible practices, and imagine strategies for moving into the future.

*Full course*

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### **CL4573 Christian Witness, Evangelism and Mission in a Secular Age**

This course explores the apostolic nature of the Christian faith, examines a holistic proclamation of the gospel, reflects critically on evangelism in a secular age, and experiments with listening to and engaging with particular contexts. Students will understand the critical role faith practices play in cultivating Christian community and be introduced to a variety of sociological and cultural lenses to read and interpret particular contexts. Students will develop their own working theology and practices of Christian witness and mission in a specific context through a cultivating project.

*Full course*

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### **CL4597 Guided Reading and Research in Congregational Mission and Leadership**

## Luther Seminary

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **CL6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Congregational Mission and Leadership**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within the division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

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## **Courses-Children, Youth and Family Ministry [CY]**

### **Children, Youth and Family Ministry [CY]**

#### **CY4525 Contemporary Issues in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry**

This is a directed reading/seminar collaboration course. Each year a contemporary topic in the area of Children, Youth and Family ministry is chosen. Students will then read from the bibliography associated with that topic and a guest lecturer will be invited to present to students. The student will seek to integrate readings, discussions, and the idea of leading thinking. Because topics change, this course may be repeated for credit.

*Full course*

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#### **CY4560 Family, Childhood, and the Church: Exploration in Family Ministry**

A theological framework for home and congregation ministry will be developed in this course followed by practical ministry strategies to provide effective ministries across the generations. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of different family forms, the cultural impact on the conception of family/childhood, and move toward intergenerational approaches for ministry.

*Full course*

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#### **CY4562 The Child, Children's Ministry, and the Church**

This course focuses on Christian understandings of the personhood of the child. It places in conversation developmental/psychological perspectives and theological positions. Particular attention is given to recent research in brain studies. Students will explore the theological nature of the child and their place in the church. The course makes a case for the essential place of children's ministry in the church, exploring how childhood is wrestling with spiritual, transcendent, and mystical realities. Therefore, perspectives and practices of children's ministry are explored, evaluated, and reimagined.

*Half course*

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#### **CY4564 Culture and Emerging Generations**

Ministries with emerging generations and their families require deep understanding of young people's cultural engagement. Students learn to read the agency and structures of younger generations in culture. Drawing on this work, and work from other courses, students integrate text and context in developing effective practices in youth and family ministry.

## Luther Seminary

*Full or half course*

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### **CY4566 Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Youth Worker**

From 1927 to 1938 Dietrich Bonhoeffer's central pastoral ministry was with children and youth. This course examines Bonhoeffer's biography, looking in-depth at his lectures, sermons, and essays on youth work. Through Bonhoeffer's writing and history students are given an example of a theological thinker in children's and youth ministry to emulate. The course particularly explores confirmation using Bonhoeffer's work in *Wedding 1932* and *Pomerania 1938* to reexamine our practices today.

*Full or half course*

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### **CY4570 Relational Ministry and the Future of the Church**

A course that examines the theological, historical and sociological bases for relational/incarnational youth ministry. The course is designed to look at popular understandings of relational/incarnational ministry, assessing them through a theological understand of relationships. Students will be given the tools to use a relational/incarnational approach to youth ministry engendered from theological and strategic perspectives.

*Full course*

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### **CY4579 Young Adults and the Church**

Young adulthood brings with it a search for meaning, purpose and faith. Students explore God's presence in the young adult journey focusing on the theological and development dynamics inherent in young adult questions and dreams. Theological understandings of the church and its mission that are particularly effective in engaging young adults are studied and worked into effective approaches to ministry in congregations, campus ministries and mission organizations.

*Half course*

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### **CY4597 Guided Reading and Research in Children, Youth and Family**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **CY6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Children, Youth and Family Ministry**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

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## **Courses-Educational Leadership [EL]**

### **Educational Leadership [EL]**

**EL3523 Engaging Scripture in the Midst of the Learning Community**



## Luther Seminary

Recognizing the central place of scripture in the church's teaching ministry, this course explores and develops ways to engage sacred texts while supporting the church as learning community. Students explore and evaluate published curriculum materials, as well as create and implement original materials. Particular attention is given to diverse media in which scripture is embedded, and the various practices by which people of faith deepen their biblical imagination.

*Full course*

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### **EL3532 Contemporary Issues in Religious Education**

This is a directed reading/seminar collaboration course. Students individually choose from a short list of pressing religious education challenges and read the bibliography associated with that challenge. They then meet in plenary session at predetermined times during the term with a faculty member who helps them to teach each other what they have learned about a specific challenge and seek insight from each other in meeting the identified challenge. This course may be taken more than once for credit.

*Full course*

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### **EL3539 Christian Education and Dismantling Racism**

This course analyzes institutionalized racism and proposes a series of frameworks from within Christian education for engaging and dismantling racism, and for supporting multicultural and intercultural congregational learning. Students are required to participate in an intensive retreat/workshop on dismantling racism as part of the course.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **EL4532 Religious Education in Relation to Creation**

A study of the educational issues raised by emerging environmental awareness, particularly in relation to questions of stewardship and justice. This course focuses on two primary contexts, the rural and the urban, considering specific examples of ways in which Christian educators support congregational learning and ministry that embraces ecological literacy.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **EL4535 New Media in Faith Education**

This course explores emerging media as environments in which people "create, share and believe." Particular attention is given to new cultures of learning, and digital storytelling as a constructive form of faith formation. Students explore the role of church leaders in supporting digital media literacy, participate in media production in faith contexts, and develop theological rationales for participating in emerging media spaces.

*Full course*

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### **EL4540 Foundations of Educational Leadership**

## Luther Seminary

This course provides a substantial introduction to the foundational issues of religious education. Students explore six curricula for learning in communities of faith -- koinonia, didache, leiturgia, kerygma, diakonia and martyria—and the practices and theological resources associated with them. Particular attention is given to ways to encourage, prepare and empower persons to support the development of learning communities in specific contexts.

*Full course*

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### **EL4542 Learning in the Presence of Other Faiths**

A study of the educational issues raised by living in a world of multiple faiths. The course examines the significance of diverse theological understandings for pastoral practice amid pluralism. The course also considers specific examples of interfaith learning, the pastoral challenges of supporting interfaith families, and engagement with people who do not claim religious identity.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **EL4544 Nurturing Spirituality, Vocation and Mission in Adults**

This course explores the rich wealth of Christian frameworks for understanding and nurturing spirituality, vocation and mission. Research on social and psychological development in adulthood is connected to shifting understandings of religion and spirituality. Students explore both the promises and contradictions of this research for the design of effective strategies for adult education and faith formation.

*Full course*

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### **EL4546 Religious Education for Children**

This course explores ways to encourage, empower, and equip parents and other primary care givers to nurture faith in children. Attention is given to educational issues arising around first, second and third generation immigrants, and including children with physical and/or learning disabilities in congregational settings.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **EL4548 Proactive Ministry in Media Cultures**

This course explores myriad challenges raised by media cultures for communities of faith. Questions of digital presence, communicative practices in digital cultures, constructive theological approaches to digital divides and other issues of justice, and positive use of diverse media in worship and mission are engaged.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **EL4550 Civic Action and Pastoral Leadership**

The rise of digital technologies has rapidly shifted focus from that of “the private and the public” to the “personal and the collective.” In the process rising generations have little understanding of how traditional civic organizations and

## Luther Seminary

structure's function. This course will focus on helping emerging pastoral leaders to reflect theologically on the structures and systems of civic action to gain a sense of what might be possible, and to encourage and empower lay people across generations. Questions addressed will include: how do courts function (eg. harassment, immigration), what kinds of state and federal aid might churches participate in utilizing (eg. county extension agents, nutrition programs), how can churches support local economic development, what kinds of nonprofit collaboration are possible, and what role can Christian public leaders play in civic action in pluralist and public spaces.

*Fulfills Congregation Mission and Leadership (CL) elective*

*Full course*

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### **EL4561 Women in Ministry**

This course engages critical reflection on the practice of ministry in light of current feminist theory and theology, feminist biblical interpretation, issues of gender, and the very real experiences women face when entering various roles in the church. Presentations and discussions will focus on leadership skills and strengths in conversation with contemporary feminist and gender studies, the authority and office of the clergy, women's roles in past and present ecclesial structures, sexism, and constructions of power in the church.

*Full or half course*

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### **EL4597 Guided Reading and Research in Educational Leadership**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **EL6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Educational Leadership**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

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## **Courses-Field Education [FE] (Contextual Learning)**

### **Field Education [FE] (Contextual Learning)**

#### **FE0200 Internship Orientation**

Offered during the Winter term and Summer term for students preparing for upcoming internship placement. Prior to registering for orientation, please contact the Contextual Learning team about your internship timeline and have your internship application completed and submitted.

*Note: This course is a prerequisite to internship. There is a \$50 materials fee.*

*Non-credit course*

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#### **FE0500 Clinical Pastoral Education - Full-Time**

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) offers students the opportunity to develop and integrate theological knowledge and professional skills in a wide variety of clinical contexts such as hospitals, extended care facilities, social service and social justice organizations, and congregational settings. The focus of learning are the people and relationships affected by the

## Luther Seminary

act of giving spiritual care, including both the one who receives and the one who gives that care. Some methods employed to develop this reflective practice include verbatims, journaling, peer group sessions, and one-on-one conversations with a CPE supervisor. All CPE registration is completed by the Office of Contextual Learning.

*Non-credit course*

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### **FE0505 Clinical Pastoral Education - Part-Time**

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) offers students the opportunity to develop and integrate theological knowledge and professional skills in a wide variety of clinical contexts such as hospitals, extended care facilities, social service and social justice organizations, and congregational settings. The focus of learning are the people and relationships affected by the act of giving spiritual care, including both the one who receives and the one who gives that care. Some methods employed to develop this reflective practice include verbatims, journaling, peer group sessions, and one-on-one conversations with a CPE supervisor. All CPE registration is completed by the Office of Contextual Learning.

*Non-credit course*

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### **FE0509 Clinical Pastoral Education - Nine-Month Experience**

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) offers students the opportunity to develop and integrate theological knowledge and professional skills in a wide variety of clinical contexts such as hospitals, extended care facilities, social service and social justice organizations, and congregational settings. The focus of learning are the people and relationships affected by the act of giving spiritual care, including both the one who receives and the one who gives that care. Some methods employed to develop this reflective practice include verbatims, journaling, peer group sessions, and one-on-one conversations with a CPE supervisor. Students take more than one consecutive semester of part-time extended CPE unit. All CPE registration is completed by the Office of Contextual Learning.

*Non-credit course*

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### **FE0523 Field Education: Systems and Leading Change**

This course attends to leading change in the midst of particular communities and their distinct contextual realities with a system's point of view. In this course, students will expand their leadership capacity by engaging systems theory while leading and being in dialogue with a particular ministry context. With their ministry context as a primary conversation partner, students will critically reflect on themselves as leaders, discover the communal nature of leadership, explore different spiritual practices, and develop their own leadership practices. Particular attention will be given to praxis, contextualization, and integrative approaches to ministry which will be connected to the student's degree program or concentration of study. The format for this course includes weekly classes and small groups sessions, in addition to weekly leadership in a ministry context. This course has a requirement of at least 100 hours.

*Full course*

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## **Courses-Graduate Research [GR] (Doctor of Philosophy)**

### **Graduate Research [GR] (Doctor of Philosophy)**

**GR8650 Contextual Theology in Global Conversation**

## Luther Seminary

This course will introduce students to the tools, sources and methodologies necessary to develop a contextual and interdisciplinary framework that will inform their research and dissertation. It will present classical models of theology as the church sought to engage and respond to specific contexts and explore the contextual and ecumenical emphases developed in the 20th and 21st centuries – particularly in the Global South. Students will become familiar with a variety of socio-analytic tools for defining the peculiarities of a context in order to engage them theologically, critically, and constructively. The model developed by the theologians and churches of the Lutheran Global Communion will serve as a reference of global inter-contextual theologies.

*Ph.D. students only; Th.M. students with permission*

*Full course*

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### **GR8651 Interdisciplinary Seminar**

A tutorial taken with the advisor in the first year focusing on the intersection of the student's area of study with the program niche or thrust.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Full course*

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### **GR8652 Designing Learning in the Global Theological Academy**

Recognizing the important inter-relationships between content, context, and curriculum, this course provides a substantial introduction to learning design and practice. Topics include syllabus construction (development of outcomes, contextual challenges, learner particularities, assignments, etc.) as well as broader pedagogical challenges (e.g., education for [trans] formation, relationships between classroom and context, possible roles played by digital media, professional identity in the global theological academy, and so on). Students will produce a full course syllabus and accompanying essay, session notes, and example content presentation in consultation with their faculty content supervisor and appropriate to their context. Students will implement this design later in the degree program, as a requirement prior to receiving the Ph.D.

*Ph.D. students only; Th.M. students with permission*

*Full course*

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### **GR8653 Theological Explorations in a Global Context**

An interdisciplinary seminar to be taken by students in their first year focusing on themes in theology (womanist theologies, liberation theologies, etc.).

*Ph.D. students only; Th.M. students with permission*

*Full course*

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### **GR8654 Theological Hermeneutics**

A course in philosophical, theological and biblical hermeneutics focusing on the interpretation of Scripture in relationship to diverse situations and horizons. Various traditional and contemporary hermeneutical theories, including those originating in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia will be explored.

## Luther Seminary

*Ph.D. students only; Th.M. students with permission*

*Full course*

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### **GR8660 Interdisciplinary / Pre-comp Exams**

A thesis feasibility independent study with the thesis advisor.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Full course*

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### **GR8661 Comp Exam Development**

A comprehensive examination proposal development course. The outcome of the course will be approval of a comprehensive examination proposal by the end of the second year.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Full course*

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### **GR8662 Comp Examinations**

A comprehensive examination course consisting of two exams. One written exam covering topics in student's field of study and a second exam covering specific topics from student's dissertation field. The outcome of the course is completion of exams.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Full course*

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### **GR8670 Proposal**

A thesis proposal development course. This will be an intensive course during the fall of the third year. Students will take the course as a cohort, allowing for peer or collaborative learning. The outcome for the second half of the course will be approval of a thesis proposal during the December division meeting.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Half course*

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### **GR8671 Research**

A research development course. spring of the third year.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Half course*

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### **GR8680 Writing I**

This course will be in context with collaboration with the contextual supervisor during the

## Luther Seminary

A thesis writing independent study leading to a completed thesis.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Half course*

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### **GR8681 Writing II**

A thesis writing independent study leading to a completed thesis and defense.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Half course*

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### **GR8699 Guided Reading and Research**

An independent study for Ph.D. students. Consult faculty within division and the Advanced Theological Education Office.

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### **GR8930 Introduction to Research Methods-Part A**

An introduction to graduate level research within a theological perspective and with particular attention to the methodologies students will employ in their summative degree research (ThM, PhD, DMin). Research processes for empirical (social science field research) and literature-based dissertations will be considered. Topics include the research question, literature review, research methods, processes for data gathering and analysis, thesis writing, the ethical implications of research, and the complex nature of subjectivity. Participants will explore potential topics of interest for their research and develop a draft research proposal (including a draft IRB application if appropriate). Participants will also reflect on how personal and professional experiences affect the process of research and consider ways that their work can influence both the academy and the church.

*Half course*

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### **GR8931 Introduction to Research Methods-Part B**

An introduction to graduate level research within a theological perspective and with particular attention to the methodologies students will employ in their summative degree research (ThM, PhD, DMin). Research processes for empirical (social science field research) and literature-based dissertations will be considered. Topics include the research question, literature review, research methods, processes for data gathering and analysis, thesis writing, the ethical implications of research, and the complex nature of subjectivity. Participants will explore potential topics of interest for their research and develop a draft research proposal (including a draft IRB application if appropriate). Participants will also reflect on how personal and professional experiences affect the process of research and consider ways that their work can influence both the academy and the church.

*Prerequisite: GR 8930: Introduction to Research Methods-Part A*

*Half course*

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## **Courses-History of Christianity [HC]**

### **History of Christianity [HC]**

## Luther Seminary

### **HC0305 History of Christianity I**

An examination of how Christians have practiced, understood and given public witness to their faith from its beginnings to the Western Reformation (1517). This course pays particular attention to topics formative of Christian identity such as orthodoxy, heresy, Trinity, mission, culture, and politics. This course considers the challenges of confessing the Christian faith in religiously pluralistic societies in Asia, Africa and Europe.

*Full course*

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### **HC0307 History of Christianity II**

This course is a survey of major events, movements, and figures that have influenced the history of Christianity and its mission since the Reformation to the present. This course inquires into the roots of present day Christianity in the Reformation and Renaissance, Luther and the Lutheran Reformation, various Protestant and Roman Catholic reforming movements, and other efforts for Christian witness in the early modern period through the eras of enlightenment and Evangelical revivals to the present. The course examines how these traditions of reform and renewal continue to shape how Christians today understand their faith.

*Prerequisite: HC0305 History of Christianity I (for MDIV and Academic MA)*

*Full course*

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### **HC1327 History of Lutherans in North America**

A study of Lutherans in North America, focusing the transplanted and development of distinctive Lutheran traditions, and on the interaction of Lutherans with North American religious life. Students will have opportunity for directed research within the subject matter of this course.

*Half course*

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### **HC1340 Mission and Ministry in the American Context**

Religion in the United States is distinctive and complex, oriented toward freedom, pluralism, and religious entrepreneurship. Using historical and social scientific research methods, students will examine how this distinctive context has evolved over time, how it functions in contemporary society, and how students will define their mission and ministry as Christian leaders. By use of analysis and projects, they will develop understandings and strategies to become familiar with, and successful in this American religious context.

*Full course*

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### **HC1350: Christianity and Politics**

This course studies aspects of conflict and convergence between Christian interpretations of society and secular political thoughts. Special attention will be paid to the Lutheran doctrine of the two kingdoms and other contributions from the Reformation, the modern concept of revolution, critics of the Christian state, and how Christianity functions under different types of political systems.

*Full Course*

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### **HC1354 The Mission Impulse in Modern Christianity**



## Luther Seminary

Christianity has grown greatly since 1800, not only in terms of its geographical reach, but also in the scope of its impact on society. New definitions of mission efforts within the wider society (social and benevolent missions) have pushed the boundaries of the Christian presence in the world. This course examines this mission impulse and its impact, which involves both the growth of Christianity in the North Atlantic world, as well as the establishment and reform of Christianity in areas of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It also explores the lives of individual women and men who have heard this calling and have taken it into their lives.

*Full course*

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### **HC1365 Luther Studies**

An orientation in the historical methods and sources in Luther scholarship, featuring some biographical work as well as consideration of controversial issues in research.

*Full course*

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### **HC1377 American Theology in the Twentieth Century**

A study of religious thinkers in American culture and society, especially during the tumultuous period between 1935 and 1970. Special attention is given to the critical examination of the liberal tradition in American politics and religious thought.

*Full or half course*

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### **HC1623 The Anglican Tradition**

A course exploring the doctrine, history, polity and ethos of Anglicanism, from its roots in the English Reformation to today's global Communion. A particular focus is given to Anglican history in North America, including the Episcopal Church.

*Full course*

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### **HC1624 United Methodist Church History**

An investigation of historical roots and growth of the Wesleyan movement and Methodist churches in England and America, including their doctrinal expression, cultural conflicts, and ecclesial developments. Students will learn from the positive and negative examples and teaching of Wesley and the Methodist churches how better to fulfill our vocation in the church and world today.

*Full course*

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### **HC2332 The Bible in Modern Culture**

An examination of the Bible and its understanding of its authority in church and culture. The course explores pre-critical methods and the development of historical-critical method, in their cultural contexts. Special attention to the understanding of the authority of scripture in confessional theology and fundamentalism.

*Full course*

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### **HC2336 Augustine of Hippo**

## Luther Seminary

A close study of the writings of Augustine of Hippo, the founder of Western theology as well as a major source of Martin Luther's theology. An overview of his life and work through the extensive reading of primary sources. Special attention will be given to his philosophical presuppositions, and topics such as the growing place of grace in his theology, the question of good and evil, free will, and predestination.

*Full or half course*

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### **HC 2635 Comparative Confessions**

An examination of doctrinal agreement and disagreement among various representatives of the Christian tradition (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed) through comparison of their confessional documents. The course also examines the significance of these diverse theological understandings for pastoral practice in pluralistic communities and ecumenical cooperation.

*Full course*

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### **HC3330 The History of Christian Mysticism**

This course explores the roots and the historical developments of Christian mysticism. It will examine the rich and diverse expressions of mystical thought and theology in a variety of Christian faith traditions through the writings and lived experiences of influential Christian mystics. Attention will also be paid to the impact of Christian mysticism on contemporary life.

*Full course*

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### **HC4337 Diaconal Ministry— History, Formation and Spirituality**

This course introduces students to the historical, theological, and social contexts in which the work of diaconal ministry has been expressed throughout the church's history and asks how that history continues to impact the present. The course also provides significant opportunity for the development of spiritual disciplines and vocational discernment.

*Full course*

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### **HC4344 History of Women in the Church**

From preaching to paying the pastor's salary, women's contributions to the church have been varied and immensely important. This course will explore the diverse roles and experiences Christian women have had with and within the church from the early modern era until today. Topics will range from female challenges to authority, women's commitment to missions and reform, women in leadership, and women's roles and challenges today.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **HC4345 New Religious Movements in North America**

An examination of traditional alternative religions, such as the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christian Science, as well as newer alternative religions like Scientology, New Age, Wicca, and apocalyptic groups (Waco, Jonestown). Views how these religious groups begin and develop over time, and how they form a challenge to mainline American religion.

## Luther Seminary

*Half course*

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### **HC4350 Christianity and the New American Immigrants**

New immigrants to North America change the face of American religion. This course examines the religious aspects of recent immigration, including the impact on the immigrant community and on the wider North American religious culture. It will also consider the ways in which mainline American Protestants can assist and cooperate with the newer immigrant communities.

*Half course*

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### **HC4355 The Reformations of the Sixteenth Century**

This course will examine the theological and social dimensions of the Protestant reformations in the sixteenth century. Topics to be covered: Luther's break with Rome and the ensuing development of Lutheranism; the Reformed, Anglican and Anabaptist traditions; and the Roman Catholic reformation.

*Full course*

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### **HC4397 Guided Reading and Research in History of Christianity**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **HC6324 Studies in Early Christianity**

Exploring early Christian writers and their various genres such as theological treatises and Biblical commentaries. Special attention is given to Early Christian spirituality and its relationship to the formation of Christian leaders for ministry. The course can be taken more than once with different topics.

*Half course*

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### **HC6327 History of Lutherans in North America**

A study of Lutherans in North America, focusing on two features: the transplantation and development of distinctive Lutheran traditions and the interaction of Lutherans with the wider currents of North American religious life. The Lutheran churches also will be examined as a distinctive tradition within a much larger, pluralistic world, but also in many ways, as a reflection of and reaction to their own North American context. Students will have the opportunity for directed research within the subject matter of this course.

*Half course*

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### **HC6328 Orthodoxy and Heresy**

The formation of Christian theology through the first five centuries over and against opposing heresy. The course is a study of controversies that impacted the life of early Christians, the sixteenth century reformers and the present day. Topics such as Trinitarian theology, Incarnation, salvation, creeds and topics relevant to Christian theology today are included.

*Full course*

## Luther Seminary

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### **HC6336 Proclamation Among Early Christians**

Theology and history of preaching and Biblical interpretation as was practiced in early Christian churches. The course focuses on the context, content, and methods of various Christian writers for example, Augustin, Chrysostom, and Origen and examines themes such as spiritual practices, mystical and pastoral theology. The course can be taken more than once with different topics.

*Full or half course*

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### **HC6354 The Mission Impulse in Modern Christianity**

Christianity has grown greatly since 1800, not only in terms of its geographical reach, but also in the scope of its impact on society. New definitions of mission efforts within the wider society (social and benevolent missions) have pushed the boundaries of the Christian presence in the world. This course examines this mission impulse and its impact, which involves both the growth of Christianity in the North Atlantic world, as well as the establishment and reform of Christianity in areas of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It also explores the lives of individual women and men who have heard this calling and have taken it into their lives.

*Full course*

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### **HC6365 Luther Studies**

An orientation in the historical methods and sources in Luther scholarship, featuring some biographical work as well as consideration of controversial issues in research.

*Full course*

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### **HC6398/8399 Guided Reading and Research in History of Christianity**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

## **Courses-History and Theology [HT]**

### **History and Theology [HT]**

#### **HT0801 Lutheran Confessional Writings**

A study of the confessions of the Lutheran Church as set forth in the Book of Concord. The documents of the reforming movement, viewed in the historical settings, are explicated in the light of their witness to the centrality of the gospel of justification by faith. Consideration is given to the contemporary importance of this witness for the life and mission of the Lutheran Church in a post-secular age. A central question of the course focuses on what it means to confess today in ecumenical engagement, in culturally diverse situations and interfaith contexts, and how that confession is shaped by those contexts.

*Prerequisite: SG 0401 Thinking Theologically Confessing Publicly and HC0307 History II - From Reformers to Present*

*Full course*

## Courses-Internship [IN] (Contextual Learning)

### Internship [IN] (Contextual Learning)

#### IN0500 Internship - Full Time

Internship is a core integrative experiential learning component of the formation of Christian Public Leaders. Internship provides leadership experience in community under the supervision of a pastor or non-profit ministry leader who serves as a contextual educator. Its dual aim is a developmental process of vocational formation and growth in competence in the various skills of ministry practice. Typically internship will include developing learning goals, periodic evaluations, regular supervisory meetings for theological reflection, and a capstone leadership project.

*Prerequisite: PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching, WO0515 Public Worship, and FE0200 Internship Orientation*

*Non-credit course*

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#### IN0505 Internship - Part Time

Internship is a core integrative experiential learning component of the formation of Christian Public Leaders. Internship provides leadership experience in community under the supervision of a pastor or non-profit ministry leader who serves as a contextual educator. Its dual aim is a developmental process of vocational formation and growth in competence in the various skills of ministry practice. Typically internship will include developing learning goals, periodic evaluations, regular supervisory meetings for theological reflection, and a capstone leadership project.

*Prerequisite: PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching, WO0515 Public Worship, and FE0200 Internship Orientation*

*Non-credit course*

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#### IN0560 Internship - 9 month Part Time

Internship is a core integrative experiential learning component of the formation of Christian Public Leaders. Internship provides leadership experience in community under the supervision of a pastor or non-profit ministry leader who serves as a contextual educator. Its dual aim is a developmental process of vocational formation and growth in competence in the various skills of ministry practice. Typically internship will include developing learning goals, periodic evaluations, regular supervisory meetings for theological reflection, and a capstone leadership project.

*Prerequisite: PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching, WO0515 Public Worship, and FE0200 Internship Orientation*

*Non-credit course*

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## Courses-Leadership for Mission [LD]

### Leadership for Mission [LD]

#### LD0500 Theological Frameworks for Ministry I

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Ministry is a theological task done with and for living persons. Students in this course explore a theology of ministry that helps children, youth, and their families interpret God's action in their actual lives. The course assists students in thinking about ministry from the location of divine action, recognizing how the leader's own theological conceptions fuel his or her imagination for ministry with children and youth. Students are asked to construct their own "theology" of ministry. Each student is encouraged to focus on their own area of specialization (children's ministry, youth ministry, pastoral care ministry, etc.) but is also moved into examining a theology of ministry that explores the centrality of God's action in intergenerational dimensions of human communities.

*Full course*

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### **LD0505 Theological Frameworks for Ministry II**

This course continues the focus, themes, and attention of LD0500. Students will be given further opportunities to think about God's action as a framework for ministry, taking the next steps in integrating experience, practice, and ministry.

*Full course*

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### **LD0530 Missional Leadership in Professional Settings**

This course serves as a final capstone course for the three MA degrees in the Leadership Division. Students will demonstrate their ability to integrate theology, theory and practice in the creation and defense of a capstone project centered on a current issue in their concentration area. Capstone projects might include a practical ministry project or an article for publication. In addition, students will reflect on themselves as professional Christian leaders in light of their program learning and prepare professional development plans for their first two years after the program.

*Full course*

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### **LD0535 Portfolio Capstone Project**

This course serves as the capstone project for the MA in Lutheran Ministry. Students will demonstrate their competency for Christian ministry by developing a portfolio with particular attention to a specific area of ministry. The portfolio will contain artifacts developed during their field education (contextual learning) requirement/s and demonstrate their ability to integrate theology, theory and practice as they lead Christian ministry. Students will complete a structured conversation with their faculty advisor and a member of the contextual learning staff. This course is to be taken in the term in which they are completing their field education requirement.

*Full course*

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### **LD0540 Innovation with Congregations and Other Faith Based Organizations**

This course addresses the adaptive challenges congregations and nonprofits face with a missional imagination and a disciplined approach to innovation. Drawing from the disciplines of theology and the fields of innovation theories, change management, and design, students will develop capacities for discovering adaptive challenges, practice using design-thinking, gain capacities for leadership agility, and learn theories of innovation.

*Full course*

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### **LD0550 Faithful Innovation in Practice**

This course addresses faithful innovation as a theological understanding of Christian leadership. Building on the learnings

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from the Innovation within Congregations and other Faith-based Communities course, this course integrates Christian practices, innovation theory, and a practice-oriented approach to leading change to discern a community's future, cultivate creative experimentation, and expand leadership and organizational imagination in the midst of complexity. Students will develop a theology of innovation, practice agile leadership, lead others in faithful innovation, and develop tools for leading in the face of resistance. Prerequisite: LD0540 Innovation within Congregations and other Faith-based Communities

*Full course*

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### **LD2510 Voices of Women of Color in Early American Ministry**

This course provides an examination of the social, political, cultural, and religious impact of women on color in their context. Special attention is given to the African American woman's experience in U.S. slavery through the civil rights era, to issues facing women in the church today. The class also addresses the contribution of women of color in the history of the church and the global church today.

*Full course*

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### **LD3510 Introduction to Chaplaincy**

This course is designed to help students understand the basic nature of chaplaincy. Students will explore various types of chaplaincy ministry professions, explain the historical development of chaplaincy from biblical models of pastoral care to contemporary chaplaincy, illustrate the key roles of chaplains, and begin to develop a spiritual care program for a given community.

*Full course*

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### **LD4597 Guided Reading and Research in Leadership for Mission**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **LD6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Leadership for Mission**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

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### **LD6925 Introduction to Research Methods**

An introduction to graduate level research within a theological perspective and with particular attention to the methodologies students will employ in their summative degree research (Th.M., Ph.D., D.Min.). Research processes for empirical (social science field research) and literature-based dissertations will be considered. Topics include the research question, literature review, research methods, processes for data gathering and analysis, thesis writing, the ethical implications of research, and the complex nature of subjectivity. Participants will explore potential topics of interest for their research and develop a draft research proposal (including a draft IRB application if appropriate). Participants will also reflect on how personal and professional experiences affect the process of research and consider ways that their work can influence both the academy and the church. Companion course to GR8930.

*Full course*

## Courses-Language [LG]

### Language [LG]

#### **LG0110 Biblical Hebrew**

An introduction to Hebrew grammar and syntax. Reading and analysis of selected Old Testament texts explore the nature of translation and its relation to interpretation. In doing so, students come to see themselves as active participants in the work of interpreting Old Testament texts. Help is given in effective use of digital and print resources such as grammars, lexicons, and concordances. Mastery of basic vocabulary is stressed.

*Full course*

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#### **LG0220 New Testament Greek**

An introduction to Greek grammar and syntax. Reading and analysis of selected New Testament texts explores the nature of translation and its relationship to interpretation. In doing so, students come to see themselves as active participants in the work of interpreting New Testament texts. Help is given in effective use of digital and print resources such as grammars, lexicons, and concordances. Mastery of basic vocabulary is stressed.

*Full course*

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#### **LG4127 Reading Hebrew**

Reading of selected passages from the Old Testament designed to provide the student with a working knowledge of biblical Hebrew through continued study of grammar, syntax and vocabulary. This course may be taken more than once with different topics.

*Prerequisite: LG0110 Biblical Hebrew*

*Full course*

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#### **LG4225 Reading Greek**

Reading of selected passages from the Greek New Testament and cognate literature to improve students' ability to translate fluently with the help of Bible software; identify how Greek grammar, vocabulary, and syntax are vital components of biblical interpretation; and communicate to others such exegetical insights in clear ways. The course also includes instruction in advanced concepts of Greek grammar and emphasizes knowledge of the most commonly occurring words in the Greek New Testament. This course may be taken more than once with different topics.

*Prerequisite: LG0220 New Testament Greek*

*Full course*

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#### **LG4525 Ministry with Latinos/as/xs - El ministerio con gente latina**

This course is designed for students with some college level Spanish language ability who want to gain theological and ministerial competency in this language by practicing preaching, teaching and ministering in Spanish. A combination of readings, conversational practice, assignments and participation in Spanish-speaking churches and cultural and musical



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activities will hone skills and communication strategies for ministry among Spanish-speaking audiences and communities. *Note: After enrolling, students will need to demonstrate a mid-range intermediate college level ability in Spanish (online, via Augsburg College, no cost to student). Tutorial sessions may be offered during the first weeks of the course.*

*Full course*

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### **LG4197 Guided Reading and Research in Language**

An independent study under the personal supervision of a professor. Consult faculty within the division. Master of arts/master of divinity students.

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### **LG6198/8199 Guided Reading and Research in Language**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

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## **Courses-New Testament [NT]**

### **New Testament [NT]**

**COURSES NT0214 - NT0218 MEET THE CORE REQUIREMENT FOR A GOSPELS COURSE. ADDITIONAL COURSES IN THIS GROUP MAY BE TAKEN AS ELECTIVES. THE CHIEF AIM OF THESE COURSES IS THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF ONE OR MORE OF THE GOSPELS WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO INTERPRETATION OF THE GOSPELS FOR THE SAKE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.**

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#### **NT0214: The Four Gospels in Global Perspective**

An introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) and the Gospel of John as well as the discipline of New Testament study. Attention is paid to the distinct character of each Gospel while also exploring their continuity. Attention is given to both the ancient contexts of each Gospel and the contexts of modern interpreters. Texts are studied in order to equip students to interpret them for the sake of Christian life and ministry.

*Full course*

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#### **NT0215 Gospels: The Gospel According to Matthew**

A detailed study of the Gospel according to Matthew, exploring its structure, theology, and teachings within its ancient setting. Attention is given to the Gospel's theological and ecclesial significance today, particularly for preaching, teaching, faith formation, and its understandings of mission and discipleship. To form and equip students as biblical interpreters, the course considers various interpretive traditions and explores what it means to read, teach, or preach Matthew theologically.

*Full course*

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#### **NT0216 Gospels: The Gospel According to Mark**

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A detailed analysis of the Gospel according to Mark with special attention given to its literary coherence, narrative rhetoric, historical setting, and distinctive theological witness. To form and equip students as biblical interpreters, the course considers various interpretive traditions and explores what it means to read, teach, or preach Mark theologically.

*Full course*

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### **NT0217 Gospels: The Gospel According to Luke**

A detailed analysis of the Gospel according to Luke, attending to the themes, theology, and teaching of the Gospel within its ancient setting, as well as its significance for our own time. The course highlights both the distinctiveness of Luke and its similarities to the other Gospels. To form and equip students as biblical interpreters, the course considers various interpretive traditions and explores what it means to read, teach, or preach Luke theologically.

*Full course*

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### **NT0218 Gospels: The Gospel According to John**

A detailed analysis of the Gospel of John that explores its themes, literary characteristics, and theology within its ancient setting, as well as its significance for our own time. The course addresses both the similarities and differences between John and the other Gospels. To form and equip students as biblical interpreters, the course considers various interpretive traditions and explores what it means to read, teach, or preach John theologically.

*Full course*

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**COURSES NT0230-NT0254 MEET THE CORE REQUIREMENT FOR AN EPISTLES COURSE. ADDITIONAL COURSES IN THIS GROUP MAY BE TAKEN AS ELECTIVES. THE CHIEF AIM OF THESE COURSES IS TO INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO THE EPISTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, ESPECIALLY THE PAULINE EPISTLES. EACH COURSE WILL INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO THE PAULINE TRADITION THROUGH THE STUDY OF ONE OR MORE EPISTLES. LG 0220 (NEW TESTAMENT GREEK) IS A PREREQUISITE FOR THESE COURSES, EXCEPT FOR M.DIV. STUDENTS WHO HAVE CHOSEN THE SPANISH FOR MINISTRY OPTION INSTEAD OF NEW TESTAMENT GREEK.**

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### **NT0230 Epistles: Romans through Revelation**

An overview of the Pauline Letters, Hebrews, the General Letters, and Revelation as Christian scripture. Students develop a nuanced outlook on the contents and theological varieties of these writings. Students consider how they lead others in making sense of the New Testament in light of current realities and for the sake of exploring and articulating Christian faith.

*Prerequisite: LG0220 New Testament Greek (or LG4525 for M.Div. students who choose the Spanish for Ministry language option instead of New Testament Greek).*

*Full course*

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### **NT0240 Epistles: Philippians and 2 Corinthians**

A study of Paul's writings to the Philippian and Corinthian churches. Attention is given to structure, use of language, coherence, and theology in their ancient settings and in contemporary understanding.

*Prerequisite: LG0220 New Testament Greek (or LG4525 for M.Div. students who choose the Spanish for Ministry language option instead of New Testament Greek).*

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*Full course*

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### **NT0245 Epistles: Galatians and 1 Corinthians**

A study of Paul's writings to the Galatian and Corinthian churches. Attention is given to structure, use of language, coherence, and theology in their ancient settings and in contemporary understanding.

*Prerequisite: LG0220 New Testament Greek (or LG4525 for M.Div. students who choose the Spanish for Ministry language option instead of New Testament Greek).*

*Full course*

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### **NT0250 Epistles: Paul's Letters to the Romans**

How do Christian communities today receive, embrace, and embody the righteousness and justice of God? An exegetical study of Paul's letter to the Romans, this course gives primary attention to exegetical and theological issues that arise from a close reading of this text and their implications for faith and ministry in the church of today.

*Prerequisite: LG0220 New Testament Greek (or LG4525 for M.Div. students who choose the Spanish for Ministry language option instead of New Testament Greek).*

*Full course*

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### **NT0254 Epistles: Galatians and Philipians**

A study of Paul's writings to the Philippian and Galatian churches. Attention is given to structure, use of language, coherence, and theology in their ancient settings and in contemporary understanding.

*Prerequisite: LG0220 New Testament Greek (or LG4525 for M.Div. students who choose the Spanish for Ministry language option instead of New Testament Greek).*

*Full course*

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### **NT1220 Ancient Erotics**

How might the writers and readers of early Christian literature have conceptualized intimacy? And how might love have shaped their understandings of God, Christ, and the church? Particular attention will be given to the following topics: the ancient debate between philosophy and poetry over the advisability of falling in love; the physiology of emotion; Christian texts dealing with sex and marriage; patristic and medieval erotic readings of New Testament texts. This course will be taught on the basis on English translations of Greek and Latin texts.

*Full course*

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### **NT1230 Interpreting the Passion Narratives**

An investigation of the Gospels' depictions of Jesus' betrayal, trial, and execution. The course explores historical, literary, and theological dimensions of the Passion accounts, as well as how each one functions within its respective Gospel. Attention is given to how these texts have been variously interpreted in theological scholarship, in the popular

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imagination, and in the visual and performing arts. Study of the Passion leads to deeper consideration of how these narratives, and the interpretations that derive from them, can inform Christian proclamation, teaching, and ministry today.

*Half course*

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### **NT1250 The Acts of the Apostles**

Exegesis of selected passages from Luke's narrative of the early church's geographical and theological growth. Special attention is given to the literary coherence of Acts, key theological motifs, points of interpretive controversy, questions of the book's historical and theological purposes, its depiction of communities and their decision-making, and the ways that this book might inform Christian ministry today. Sections based on either Greek or English text.

*Full course*

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### **NT2230 Resurrection in the New Testament**

This course examines some of the ways that New Testament texts variously portray and interpret Jesus's resurrection and its implications for Christians, both in the present and future. It attends to the literary, historical, and theological dimensions of a range of New Testament texts in order to discern the particular claims they make about resurrection. Special attention is given to engaging the theological and practical implications of New Testament understandings of Jesus's resurrection for the Church and to equipping students to teach and proclaim resurrection as fundamental to Christian life.

*Prerequisite: Gospels (NT 0214–NT 0218)*

*Full course*

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### **NT4227 Genesis to Revelation**

This course follows the sweep of the Biblical story from the dawn of creation to the New Jerusalem. Narrative portions of the Bible give the course its basic structure, with major poetic and prophetic texts, New Testament epistles, and apocalyptic writings woven in along the way. Students encounter key parts of virtually every Biblical book from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation. The class is designed so that participants experience the Scriptures, as words on the page are transformed into sight and sound through readings, music, drama, and large screen photographs. During course, class members create their own study Bibles and design materials for teaching the Biblical story in creative ways.

*Full course*

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### **NT4282 Interpreting the Passion Narratives**

An investigation of the Gospels' depictions of Jesus' betrayal, trial and execution. The course explores historical, literary, and theological dimensions of the Passion accounts, as well as how they function within their respective Gospels. Attention is given to how these texts have been interpreted in theological scholarship and in the visual and performing arts, and to how they can inform Christian proclamation and ministry today.

*Half course*

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### **NT4285 Jesus Real to Reel**

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An investigation of the story of Jesus in film. Participants will study contemporary constructions of the context, character and work of Jesus in film and bring those constructions into dialogue with historical Jesus scholarship and the discipline of narrative theology.

*Full course*

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### **NT4297 Guided Reading and Research in New Testament**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **NT6250 The Acts of the Apostles**

Exegesis of selected passages from Luke's narrative of the early church's geographical and theological growth. Special attention is given to the literary coherence of Acts, key theological motifs, points of interpretive controversy, questions about the book's historical and theological purposes, its depiction of communities and their decision-making, and the ways that this book might inform Christian ministry today.

*Full course*

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### **NT6298/8299 Guided Reading and Research in New Testament**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

## **Courses-Old Testament [OT]**

### **Old Testament [OT]**

#### **OT0115 Law and Narrative**

An overview of the Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy), the Deuteronomistic History (Joshua – 2 Kings), and other narrative texts, with attention to both legal material and narrative texts. Attention is paid to major theological themes, events, books, and figures. Attention is also paid to hermeneutical and exegetical issues regarding interpreting Old Testament law and Hebrew narrative. Texts are studied in order to equip students to interpret them for the sake of Christian life and ministry.

*Full course*

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#### **OT0120 Prophets and Poetry**

An introduction to selected prophetic and poetic books. Attention is paid to major theological themes, texts, figures and genres of both the prophetic and poetic books. Attention is also paid to hermeneutical and exegetical issues regarding interpreting Hebrew poetry and prophecy. Texts are studied in order to equip students to interpret them for the sake of Christian life and ministry.

*Prerequisite: LG0110 Biblical Hebrew (or LG4525 for M.Div. students who choose the Spanish for Ministry language option instead of Biblical Hebrew).*

## Luther Seminary

*Full course*

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### **OT1120 The Book of Daniel**

An exegetical, literary, and theological study of the book of Daniel, with specific attention given to interpreting the book for Christian ministry. Related Jewish and Christian texts will provide important background to the course.

*Full course*

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### **OT1124 Sex, Gender, and the Old Testament**

An exploration of ways men, women, masculinity, and femininity are portrayed and constructed in the Old Testament. Attention is given to literary characterization, social roles, metaphor, and understandings of sexuality in the biblical text and in the church today. The course also engages questions of scriptural authority and gendered portrayals of God.

*Full course*

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### **OT1126 Bible and Empire**

A study of the ways empire is portrayed in the Bible, as well as ways the Bible has been used in modern imperial projects. Particular attention is given to ancient Israel as both colonizer and colonized, to the Bible as a product of an imperial context, and to biblical notions of the kingdom of God. The course also engages a sampling of the history of interpretation of the Bible in the European colonialism of the fifteenth through nineteenth centuries.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **OT1130 Bible and Ecology**

An examination of biblical texts that speak of creation and humanity's place in it. Special attention is paid to the topic of human vocation vis-a-vis creation, especially in light of contemporary environmental issues.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **OT1140 The Book of Jeremiah: Theologizing Over Rubble**

A study of the book of Jeremiah that highlights its function as a theological response to the trauma of exile. Issues related to Jeremiah's historical and social dimensions along with its usefulness in the construction of Christian identity and vocation are given priority. Students read carefully and translate select texts from Jeremiah with an eye toward theological interpretation.

*Prerequisite: LG0110 Biblical Hebrew for all MDiv and M.A.-Bible students*

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **OT1144 The Book of Job**

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An examination of the book of Job and the theological questions it raises. Special attention is paid to questions about suffering, the problem of evil, and the nature of divine justice. The book is also examined in light of Christian theology and pastoral practice. Brief consideration is given to the place of Job within the context of other biblical wisdom literature.

*Prerequisite: LG0110 Biblical Hebrew for all M.Div. and M.A. - Bible students*

*Full course*

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### **OT1148 Work, Money and the Old Testament**

An examination of the topic of “work” across the Hebrew Bible, comparing and contrasting it with ideas such as “toil” and “rest,” and considering its relationship to money, income, and value. Revisits traditional stewardship themes derived from the Old Testament, such as tithing, sabbath, and vocation, in light of current cultural and economic expectations around work. Course assignments involve exegetical analysis, self-reflection, and preparation for leading conversations in faith communities around biblical notions of labor and value.

*Prerequisites: LG0110 Biblical Hebrew and OT0120 Prophets and Poetry*

*Full course*

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### **OT1150 Isaiah**

A study of the book of Isaiah with emphasis on its theology, historical background, and usefulness in the construction of Christian identity and vocation. The course focuses on the careful reading of biblical texts and on the identification and interpretation of broader theological themes emphasized in Isaiah. The course gives particular attention to important political and sociological issues facing Judah, as well as to literary strategies for reading biblical poetry.

*Prerequisite: LG0110 Biblical Hebrew for all M.Div. and M.A.-Bible students.*

*Full course*

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### **OT1160 Psalms**

This course introduces students to the God of the Psalter and role of the psalms in the life of faith. Students are introduced to the interpretation of Hebrew poetry as well as the theological interpretation and analysis of the main types of psalms. Consideration is given to the use of psalms in Christian worship, preaching ministry, hymnody and spirituality.

*Prerequisite: LG0110 Biblical Hebrew for all M.Div. and M.A. - Bible students*

*Full course*

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### **OT1162 Preaching the Old Testament Story**

An examination of critical issues and practices related to preaching that addresses the broad narrative arc of the Old Testament. Topics covered include preaching and interpretation of narrative texts, hermeneutical challenges related to constructing an Old Testament narrative, exploration of alternative lectionaries and liturgies and the theological significance of the Old Testament as Christian scripture.

*Prerequisites: PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching; LG0110 Biblical Hebrew Fulfills Preaching elective*

*Full course*

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### **OT1176 Justice and Righteousness in the Old Testament**

An exegetical and theological study of justice and righteousness in the Old Testament. Attention is given to the theological and social dimensions of justice and righteousness. Special attention to justice in the legal material of the Pentateuch and selected prophets, including Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah and Habakkuk. Limited attention given to justice in Israel's ancient Near Eastern context.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **OT3117 Five Scrolls**

An examination of selected material from Ruth, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and/or Lamentations. Texts are studied with attention to their use in preaching, worship, and pastoral care.

*Full course*

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### **OT4197 Guided Reading and Research in Old Testament**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **OT6122 The Book of Daniel**

This course is an exegetical, theological, and literary study of the book of Daniel. Questions related to gender analysis, history, post-colonialism, empire, and apocalypticism are also given priority. The course contains a biblical language component as well in that students will gain rudimentary competency in biblical Aramaic.

*Full course*

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### **OT6124 Sex, Gender, and the Old Testament**

An exploration of ways men, women, masculinity, and femininity are portrayed and constructed in the Old Testament. Attention is given to literary characterization, social roles, metaphor, and understandings of sexuality in the biblical text and in the church today. The course also engages questions of scriptural authority and gendered portrayals of God.

*Full course*

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### **OT6198/8199 Guided Reading and Research in Old Testament**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

## **Courses-Preaching [PR]**

### **Preaching [PR]**

**PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching**



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Proclaiming the gospel reveals the word of God incarnated in the world and in the life and ministry of Christian communities. This course introduces the fundamentals of biblical preaching with the primary goal of helping students integrate their own unique voice with how biblical texts connect to the daily life of faith. By nurturing the skills of effective and moving communication—including faithful biblical interpretation, consideration of the role of the sermon in congregational worship, use of language and imagery, and embodied delivery—this course helps students develop interpretive, creative, theological, homiletical, and practical disciplines that will inform and shape their preaching and lay the groundwork for lifelong learning and discovery. Close attention is given to how biblical preaching equips discipleship, forms communities eager to engage the Bible, and empowers witness in the world.

*Prerequisites: OT0115 Law and Narrative or equivalent and NT0214-18 Gospels or equivalent*

*Full course*

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### **PR3550 Contemporary Approaches to the Bible for the Pulpit**

This course introduces students to contemporary approaches in biblical interpretation with a specific focus on how these perspectives make a difference for preaching. With an attention to contextual hermeneutics, students will grow in their understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of how the Bible is read and heard by listeners. The course will also address the ethical and pastoral implications of tending situational hermeneutics for homiletics and Christian public leadership.

*Prerequisite: PR0150 Foundations of Biblical Preaching*

*Full course*

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### **PR4537 Preaching in a Changed World**

Over the last half century, the Western World has been transformed by cultural impulses routinely described by terms such as postmodernism, secularism, and pluralism. Yet patterns of preaching (and worship) remain relatively unchanged. This course investigates these movements and their impact and invites students to reflect theologically and practically our current culture and to construct faithful and fitting homiletical responses to our current situation.

*Full or half course*

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### **PR4553 Storied Words: Preaching as a Creative Practice**

This course is designed to deepen the theological insights of students and to sharpen the creative skills that relate to their homiletical work. Special attention will be given to creativity in the use of language, development of the sermon's form, and issues relating to drama and performance in preaching. Issues relating to media use in proclamation will also be addressed. An emphasis will be placed upon the life-long task of acquiring practical habits appropriate to the pastoral vocation, focusing on the cultivation of judgment required for faithful communication of the biblical witness in service of the gospel in the context of personal, social, and cultural challenges.

*Prerequisite: PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching or equivalent*

*Full course*

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### **PR4557 Preaching and Interpreting the Gospel of John**

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The Gospel of John presents a very different portrait of Jesus when compared to its counterparts. As a result, its role in the imagination of the church's preaching has been supplementary to the three-year lectionary preaching cycle that favors the Synoptic Gospels. This course focuses on the narrative integrity of the Fourth Gospel, its specific theological claims, and the particular ways in which it interprets the meaning of the Word made flesh so that its unique voice might be respected and heard into the life of the church.

Fulfills New Testament elective in John

*Prerequisites: OT0115 Law and Narrative or equivalent; NT0215-18 Gospels or equivalent*

*Full or half course*

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### **PR4559 Public Speaking, Public Voice: Speech, Communication, and Ministry**

A call to ministry invites and compels imagination about one's vocation as a public theologian. This course is an introduction to the primary skills of oral communication, the principles of rhetoric, and the various kinds of discourse and speaking techniques necessary for effective public speaking and leadership. Designed both for students with little public speaking background as well as those wanting to hone their communication skills, this course will encourage students to identify strengths and areas of growth in delivery, to discover and develop their unique voice for the sake of incarnational ministry, and to gain confidence in their ability to articulate their own theological thinking.

*Full or half course*

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### **PR4563 Preaching and Its Liturgical Contexts**

People come to services, not sermons and go to worship, not to preaching. As the sermon is not the only event in worship and in the life of a congregation, to what must a preacher attend when interpreting biblical texts into the multiple contexts of congregational life? This course explores the various congregational and liturgical circumstances that shape our preaching, including weddings, funerals, congregational and community situations, and the church's ecclesial seasons for the sake of preaching that is deeply contextual, situational, and meaningful.

*Prerequisite: PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching or equivalent*

*Full or half course*

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### **PR4565 Preaching and Congregational Leadership**

This course is governed by three intertwined convictions. 1) Professional ministry is primarily about leadership, both eschatological (announcing God's promises) and temporal (leading God's church forward in mission). 2) Leadership is something that is learned over time through experimentation, reflection, and experience. 3) Preaching is a primary and public arena where pastoral leadership is regularly exercised. This course therefore delves into the nature and exercise of pastoral leadership in a variety of settings and situations, particularly with regard to the public role of preacher, through readings, presentations (by instructor and participants), case studies, and reflection on past experience.

*Full course*

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### **PR4567 Race and the 21st Century Pulpit: Learning from the African American Tradition**

This course provides a preaching practicum for students by critically exploring the role of oral interpretation of Scripture through the historical, theological, ecclesial, and aesthetic tradition of the African American Pulpit.

## Luther Seminary

*Prerequisite: PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching or equivalent*

*Full course*

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### **PR4597 Guided Reading and Research in Preaching**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **PR6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Preaching**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

## **Courses-Rural Ministry [RM]**

### **Rural Ministry [RM]**

#### **RM4510 Exploring Small Town and Rural (STaR) Ministry: New Challenges for Pastoral Ministry**

The course introduces students to small town and rural (STaR) communities and congregations, with the goal of students reflecting on implications for leadership in the Church within STaR communities. Emphasis is placed on economic, population/ethnic/cultural, and environmental transitions that are affecting communities and congregations in small town and rural America.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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#### **RM4515 Ministry in Small Town and Rural (STaR) Contexts**

Students, together with clergy and lay persons from small town and rural congregations, study issues affecting America's small town and rural (STaR) communities. Clergy and lay persons from STaR congregations and communities are engaged as part of the course. Contexts include southwestern Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and North Dakota. Implications for ministry and leadership in these contexts are explored. Because contexts change, course may be repeated for credit.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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#### **RM4535 Small Town and Rural (STaR) Communities and Economies**

This course explores the development, structure, and maintenance of small town and rural (STaR) communities. The role of the church in community and the effects of change in population, agriculture, economy, and community are explored. Future challenges for leaders of STaR congregations are addressed.

*Full course*

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#### **RM4540 Small Town and Rural (STaR) Church Leadership**

## Luther Seminary

This course studies the theology, theory and practice of leadership and explores several approaches to social and organizational change. Emphasis is placed on the pastor as a leader of change in the small town and rural (STaR) congregation.

*Full course*

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### **RM4555 Small Town and Rural Community, Economies and Rural Ecosystems**

This course explores the development, structure, and maintenance of small town and rural (STaR) communities. The role of the church community and the effects of change in population, agriculture, economy, and community are explored. This course also addresses environmental issues facing small town and rural (STaR) communities and areas. Biblical, theological, and leadership foundations to address these issues are presented. Special emphasis is placed on how STaR church leaders facilitate an awareness and discussion of justice and ethical issues related to environmental challenges in society.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **RM4597 Guided Reading and Research in Rural Ministry**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **RM6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Rural Ministry**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and Advanced Theological Education Office.

## Courses-Signature [SG]

### Signature [SG]

#### **SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly**

What does it mean to be a public witness to Jesus Christ in a pluralistic, post-secular, consumer society? Using classical and contemporary thinkers in systematic theology, students will think critically about how and in what ways God encounters us in and through our neighbors, calling us to examine our own assumptions about who God is and what God does in law and promise. Centered in Jesus Christ crucified and risen, the course examines how justification by faith alone turns us outward from the self through the Holy Spirit to participate in God's work of reconciliation, justice, and peace with our neighbor and for our neighbor. Students develop their identity as Christian leaders and grow in their theological capacity to offer public leadership in a wide range of ministry settings.

*Full course*

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#### **SG0405 Leading Christian Communities in Mission**

## Luther Seminary

This course introduces students to the complex realities of forming and leading Christian communities in a pluralist era. Students engage biblical and theological traditions for understanding the triune God's mission in the world and how this shapes the church's missional identity and leadership. Insights from sociology help students interpret persons and communities similar to and different from them for the sake of witness and service. Through attending carefully to specific Christian communities and their contexts, students develop imagination, practices, habits, and skills for faithful and innovative public leadership.

*This course has a significant contextual component. Contact instructor for details.*

*Full course*

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### **SG0610 Christian Public Leaders**

Christian public leaders lead Christian communities by giving voice to the gospel of Jesus Christ, teaching and confessing faith in the triune God, entering into God's mission and service in the world and leading others in that work, and demonstrating the skills needed to gather a community around that mission. This course introduces students to this calling and Luther Seminary's understanding of vocational formation, and to the signature courses of the curriculum. Through readings, assignments, classroom learning, and faculty advisor-led small groups, students will connect with other students and faculty, reflect on their own leadership, and identify personal learning goals for their seminary journey.

*Full course*

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### **SG0620 Research Capstone Course**

This course serves as part one of the capstone course for MA degrees to complete the capstone writing project requirement. Capstone writing project requirements demonstrate proficiency in the students' respective fields, including an ability to deal with the conventions of academic work at the master's level, synthesize their learning, and do significant, independent scholarly work. In this course, students will complete one of the two capstone research papers or a full draft of the article for publication. Specifically, students will prepare a thesis statement, develop an initial outline with specific disciplinary content, create a bibliography, secure an advisor and readers, and develop a timeline for completion and a structured conversation. This course is to be taken in the first semester of the final year of the MA degree program.

*Half course*

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### **SG0621 Structured Conversation for Research Capstone**

This course serves as part two of the capstone course for MA degrees to complete the capstone writing project requirement. Capstone writing project requirements demonstrate proficiency in the students' respective fields, including an ability to deal with the conventions of academic work at the master's level, synthesize their learning, and do significant, independent scholarly work. In this course students will complete their capstone writing project requirements by turning in two capstone research papers or article for publication and successfully complete a structured conversation with a faculty advisor and reader by the dates established in the Research Capstone Course. This course is to be taken in their final year of the MA degree program in the term that aligns with their deadlines for graduation.

*Prerequisite: SG0620: Research Capstone Course*

*Half course*

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### **SG0705 Scripture and Its Witnesses**

## Luther Seminary

An inquiry into the Old and New Testaments as Christian scripture and the Bible's multiple ways of presenting the nature of God and God's commitments to the world and its peoples. Students develop a nuanced outlook on the Bible as a whole as they gain experience identifying how several theological ideas receive different expression in the Scriptures at different times in the history of Israel and the church. Students consider how they lead others in making sense of the Bible in light of their current realities and for the sake of exploring and articulating their Christian faith. The course brings students' cultural contexts into conversation with the Bible and emphasizes how understanding the Bible requires them to engage other biblical interpreters as essential conversation partners.

*Prerequisite: Four bible core courses (OT0115 Law and Narrative, NT0214-NT0218 Gospels, OT0120 Prophets/Poetry, and NT0230-NT0254 Epistles); and NT0220 Greek and LGO110 Hebrew*

*Full course*

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### **CD6610 Christian Public Leader and Scholarship**

Christian public leaders lead Christian communities by giving voice to the gospel of Jesus Christ, teaching and confessing faith in the triune God, entering into God's mission and service in the world and leading others in that work, and demonstrating the skills needed to gather a community around that mission. This course introduces Th.M. students to Luther Seminary's curriculum, including research methods and exploration of thesis topic.

*Half course*

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### **SG6698/8699 Guided Reading and Research in Signature Courses**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and the Advanced Theological Education Office.

## **Courses-Systematic Theology [ST]**

### **Systematic Theology [ST]**

#### **ST0440 The Triune God and the World**

This course provides a comprehensive, coherent presentation of the articles of faith in the Triune God, drawing upon biblical, theological, confessional and contemporary resources. Together we will cultivate theological imagination in view of communities and neighbors through current questions, challenges to faith, and awareness of diverse contexts.

*Prerequisites: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly and HC0305 History of Christianity I*

*Full course*

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#### **ST1420 Theology and Church in the Global South**

What are the concerns and prominent themes among Christians in the Global South? Why should we listen? As the Christian Church shifts its demographic density to the South, new theological perspectives populate the ecumenical and confessional conversation. This course will focus upon the theological themes and methods emerging from Africa, Asia and Latin America, and how the classical doctrinal themes are approached from these contexts enriching and expanding the perspectives of the North-American churches.

## Luther Seminary

### *Cultural Context*

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*

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### **ST1422 The Church's Encounter with World Religions**

This course examines the encounter of the Christian church with the practices and beliefs of the major world religions in the local, regional and global contexts. It explores the claims, beliefs, and practices of these religions and how they relate to our identity as Christians. Students will also study different contemporary paradigms that seek to understand these encounters within a Trinitarian theology of religions.

### *Cultural Context*

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full or half course*

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### **ST1424 Liberation Theologies and Their Reception by Lutheran Theologians**

Is there such a thing as a liberationist Lutheran theology? This course is a study of the historical and contemporary writings and trends of Liberation Theology (Latin American, African-American, Feminist, Dalit, Minjung, Queer) and its creative, critical and constructive reception within the grammar of Lutheran and Protestant theology. The course will focus upon the origins of Liberation Theology, its methodology and main theological and ethical themes (praxis, option for the poor, liberation, Kingdom of God, spirituality, cross, and Christology); and the reception and constructive critique by a selected number of Lutheran and protestant theologians as they seek to integrate the methodological and theological/ethical challenge of liberation theology by re-interpreting classical themes such as justification, faith and works, two kingdoms, cross, church and vocation.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Half course*

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### **ST1426 God and Economy: Faith and Consumerism in the Age of Capital**

"You shall have no other gods," what does it mean in our present consumerist age? This course is a study of the biblical, patristic and reformation understandings of faith in relation to the economy, particularly as a "holy order" through which God ministers to us and we minister one another. It seeks to provide an analysis of the historical and structural emergence of capital, the market system and consumerism and analyze it through the theological lens provided by the First Commandment and the doctrine of the two kingdoms. It will explore theological and ethical criteria for Christian vocation and provide tools for moral deliberation in ministry and congregational settings around economic issues.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*

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### **ST1434 Thinking Theologically in an Evolutionary Situation**

## Luther Seminary

This course will focus upon contemporary scientific developments and their importance for Christian theological thinking, preaching and ministry. Talk about God as creator and redeemer requires an engagement with the contemporary evolutionary descriptions of the universe and life permeating the worldview of Western societies, media, popular culture, and churches. By offering a selection of key topics which constitute the backbone of the contemporary scientific account, the role of science as a critical heuristic tool for enriching Christian symbols about God and creation will be explored and tested, as well as its homiletical and ethical implications. Conversely, the course explores the incidence of religious beliefs in general, and Christian claims in particular, for the evolutionary process.

*Prerequisite: ST0440 The Triune God and the World or equivalent*

*Full course*

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### **ST1436 Justification and Justice: Faith and Politics in Contemporary Theology**

How does the chief article of Christian doctrine about justification by faith relate to questions and challenges pertaining to social justice? What is the call of the Christian concerning political matters? Are faith and power compatible? The course will outline different theological paradigms in the contemporary context as well as different models of justice as represented by Western and non-Western philosophers and traditions. Historical and contemporary case-studies will serve as references to illustrate these paradigms and practical engagements.

*Prerequisite: SG 0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Half course*

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### **ST1438 The Bible and Truth: Interpreting the Scriptures in Ministry**

What do we mean when we say the Bible is true? And what are the ways of interpreting and using Scriptures in ministry that respect and make good on those truth claims? These questions with attention to diversity of audience focus upon the use of Scripture in ministry.

*Full course*

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### **ST1448 Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Healing**

This course explores how the gospel of Jesus Christ brings forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing to people wherever there is sin, conflict, and suffering. Integrating biblical and theological resources with current interdisciplinary research on forgiveness, the course helps students develop a theological framework and practices for bringing to the fore the importance of forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing in their leadership of Christian communities called to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*

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### **ST1450 Sophia Cries Out in the Street: Wisdom in the Bible, Theology, and Life**

This course explores the figure of Wisdom in the Old and New Testaments, in the history of Christianity, and in contemporary Christian theology and practice. Focusing on deepening one's understanding of Christ and the Triune God, and one's self and others - including those who are of a different race, class, gender, and ethnicity - the course also attends



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to practices related to biblical interpretation, discipleship and spiritual formation, ethics and pastoral care, mission and apologetics, and dialogue with science and other faith traditions.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*

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### **ST1454 St. Paul as Exegete, Philosopher and Apostle for the Twenty-First Century**

This course seeks to use Paul as a resource for developing a theological framework and practices for apostolic ministry in the twentieth-century. It does so by bringing together three different conversation partners: biblical scholars who are reinterpreting Paul's theology in light of his Jewish and Hellenistic influences; philosophers who are interested in Paul's relevance to postmodern thought; and theologians who have appropriated Paul in developing missional ecclesiologies.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*

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### **ST1456 "One Died For All:" On Being a Trinitarian Theologian of the Cross**

Why did Jesus die? What is the relationship between his death and the sin and the suffering we find within us and within the world around us? What difference does Jesus' death and resurrection make for our lives and for our understanding of who God is? This course brings together two important themes in twentieth-century theology—Trinitarian theology and a theology of the cross. Drawing on the Bible, patristic theologians, and Martin Luther, this course thinks with and beyond the work of two modern theologians—Jürgen Moltmann (a Protestant) and Hans Urs Von Balthasar (a Roman Catholic)—in order to help students develop a theological framework and practices for apostolic ministry in our time.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full or half course*

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### **ST1458 The Holy Spirit's Presence and Power in Our Personal Lives and Public Ministry**

Who is the Holy Spirit and how is the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, the church, and in the world around us? Drawing primarily on Scripture, this course helps students explore what it means to have received the Holy Spirit in our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection and what difference this makes for our apostolic ministry within Christian communities called to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

*Half course*

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### **ST1462 Global Feminist Theology: Feminist, Womanist, African, and Asian Theology**

This course explores and analyzes contemporary feminist theologies within global Christianity, such as white feminist, womanist, African, and Asian theologies. It retrieves historical voices of women in Christian thought and discerns how best to interpret and confess the gospel of Jesus Christ to women and men in different cultural contexts. It asks, 'what does the female face of God look like today?'

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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### **ST1464 Ethics of the Body, Gender, and Sex**

This course will explore the way that contemporary society constructs gender and deals with human sexuality. It will draw upon contemporary theologies of the body in order to explore a Christian vocation of one's body, gender, and sexuality, taking into account the spiritual and ethical dimensions of the practices of hospitality, nurture, and love within different-sex and same-sex relationships.

*Full course*

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### **ST1466 Ecotheology and Ethics**

This course investigates our current ecological crisis in the light of a biblically informed Christian ethic. It is equally a study in a Christian ethical interpretation of Scripture in the light of our current ecological crisis. A case study approach helps to ground a short introduction to ecology as well as a study of various models for a Christian ethics of creation care. The focus is on a critical theological reflection on praxis in a pluralistic world of many faiths and none at all, but in which we all share a common, growing crisis.

*Full course*

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### **ST1478 Philosophers and Theologians**

The interaction of classical philosophers and theologians like Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Kant, Hamann, and Hegel, emphasizing the post-moderns and their current theological counterparts. The use and limits of apologetics and testimony in relation to proclamation will be examined.

*Full course*

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### **ST1480 Denominational Church Polity and Doctrine**

Covers the special doctrine, confession, and institutional nature of a particular denomination, including issues such as ordination, ministry and leadership in the church organization, legislation, theological contributions and ecumenical relationships.

*Full course*

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### **ST1487 The Theology of Karl Barth and Its 21st Century Trajectories**

This course will explore the theology Karl Barth, perhaps the most important theologian of the twentieth century. It will examine his cultural context, his contributions to contemporary doctrines of revelation, election, and Trinity. It will also explore how his Christology has implications for theological anthropology today.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly or ST 0440 The Triune God and the World or equivalent*

*Full course*

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### **ST1490 Living Christian Ethics: Disability Theology**

This investigation of various models and theories in Christian ethics (moral theology) is grounded in the theology, ethics and praxis surrounding disability and ableism. Meets core elective in Ethics requirement for MDiv students.

*Full course*

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## Luther Seminary

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### **ST2450 The Theology and Ethics of Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

This course is a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's theology, spirituality and ethics in view of the major challenges posited to the Christian church by the rise of secularism, totalitarianism, persecution, racism, war and injustice. Special attention will be given to Bonhoeffer's creative re-reading of the Lutheran tradition, the use of Scripture and the confessions, the outlines of his political theology, his re-introduction of the notion of status confessions in the face of the "Jewish Question," his consideration of natural law and the State, Christian responsibility, mandates, vocation, peace and love, and the meaning of faith in a religion less world. His ethical paradigm will be analyzed in relation to the Roman Catholic understanding of natural law and the Reformed use of the third use of the law.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*

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### **ST2462 The Theology of Martin Luther**

The methodology, structure and intention of Luther's theology. This includes the background in the Middle Ages, Luther's own development, and current interpretations. Emphasis is on the use of this theology for proclamation.

*Full course*

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### **ST2464 Theology of Confession and Forgiveness**

The office of the keys in doctrine and practice. Historical teaching and modern debates are considered, with the emphasis on current use of repentance and absolution in church and world.

*Full course*

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### **ST2465 Theological Hermeneutics**

The development of contemporary theological hermeneutics, hermeneutics that takes the movement of God as the chief agent of the reading and use of Scriptures in church and world, is explored. A wide spectrum of experience, practices, and theological reflection is central to this exploration.

*Full course*

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### **ST2472 Church, Discipleship and the Ethics of Jesus**

In this course we work together to investigate the character and meaning of the ethics of Jesus for a Church life today. Foundational to our learning will be the Gospel texts, read in the context of the faith community in mission today as the place in which vital individual discipleship is lived out. Christian moral theology, philosophical ethics, and various ethical approaches to interpreting Scripture all provide elements that provoke our questioning and dialog.

*Full course*

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### **ST2476 The Demonic: Theology and Ministry**

This course inquires into the concept of the devil and the demonic in Scripture, Christian theology and history. We explore concepts of the demonic in contemporary theology and culture, as well as exploring socio-political, psychological, and ministry implications.

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*Full course*

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## **ST2478 Theology, Conspiracy and Christian Nationalism: The Case of QAnon**

This course explores the relationship between Christianity and American conspiracy theories, both historically, and in particular, the current popular conspiracy theory of QAnon, and its religious worldview. To that end, it will examine the rise of American Evangelicalism and how its theological commitments function in U.S. politics. Using Lutheran teachings on sin, grace, eschatology, and Christology, the course helps students discern how Christian theology interacts with particular political and social views in America.

*Full course*

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## **ST2480 Ways of Knowing and Experiencing God**

Atheist and fundamentalist caricatures tend to dominate our public discourse about God. Focusing on the deep connection between knowing God and knowing oneself and others, this course explores how a range of classic Christian theologians— including Augustine, Aquinas, Calvin, and Luther—provide deeper and much more expansive ways of knowing and experiencing the reality of God. Situating these classic ways of knowing God in relation to contemporary debates, the course attends to the role of the biblical interpretation and spiritual practice in theology even as it relates discourse about God to reason and science, on the one hand, and ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, on the other.

*Full course*

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## **ST2482 Race and Protestantism in America**

This course explores the ways that American Protestantism and race intersect. It will specifically focus on Protestant attitudes towards African slaves and their conversion to Christianity. It will investigate how Western Christian theology has supported the construction of "whiteness" and "blackness", and look at how Protestant theologians interacted with the Civil Rights movement. It introduces students to Black theology and the spiritual resources that Black Americans utilize in order to deal with and resist unjust social structures.

*Full course*

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## **ST2484 Justice and Reconciliation**

This course focuses on the triune God's creating, sustaining, and reforming work of justice and reconciliation in the world today. Students will explore a range of biblical, theological, and ecumenical perspectives in dialogue with philosophical and sociological approaches to theories of justice, to the interconnections of different situations and systems of injustice, and to various theories and practices of reconciliation.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

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## **ST4430 Theology of John Wesley**

An investigation of the theology of Wesley, with particular attention to original sources such as sermons, tracts and letters. Wesley is interpreted as a pastoral or practical theologian, against the background of his life and ministry in the evangelical revival. Attention is given to key Wesleyan doctrines, such as the (so-called) Wesleyan quadrilateral, soteriology, pneumatology and Christian perfection.

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*Half course*

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### **ST4497 Guided Reading and Research in Systematic Theology**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **ST6421 Theology and Church in the Global South**

What are the concerns and prominent themes among Christians in the Global South? Why should we listen? As the Christian Church shifts its demographic density to the South, new theological perspectives populate the ecumenical and confessional conversation. This course will focus upon the theological themes and methods emerging from Africa, Asia and Latin America, and how the classical doctrinal themes are approached from these contexts enriching and expanding the perspectives of the North-American churches.

*Prerequisite: ST0440 The Triune God and the World or equivalent*

*Full course*

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### **ST6422 The Church's Encounter with World Religions**

This course examines the encounter of the Christian church with the practices and beliefs of the major world religions in the local, regional and global contexts. It explores the claims, beliefs, and practices of these religions and how they relate to our identity as Christians. Students will also study different contemporary paradigms that seek to understand these encounters within a Trinitarian theology of religions.

*Full course*

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### **ST6424 Liberation Theologies and Their Reception by Lutheran Theologians**

Is there such a thing as a liberationist Lutheran theology? This course is a study of the historical and contemporary writings and trends of Liberation Theology (Latin American, African-American, Feminist, Dalit, Minjung, Queer) and its creative, critical and constructive reception within the grammar of Lutheran and Protestant theology. The course will focus upon the origins of Liberation Theology, its methodology and main theological and ethical themes (praxis, option for the poor, liberation, Kingdom of God, spirituality, cross, and Christology); and the reception and constructive critique by a selected number of Lutheran and protestant theologians as they seek to integrate the methodological and theological/ethical challenge of liberation theology by re-interpreting classical themes such as justification, faith and works, two kingdoms, cross, church and vocation.

*Half course*

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### **ST6427 God and Economy-Faith and Consumerism in the Age of Capital**

"You shall have no other gods," what does it mean in our present consumerist age? This course is a study of the biblical, patristic and reformation understandings of faith in relation to the economy, particularly as a "holy order" through which God ministers to us and we minister one another. It seeks to provide an analysis of the historical and structural emergence of capital, the market system and consumerism and analyze it through the theological lens provided by the First Commandment and the doctrine of the two kingdoms. It will explore theological and ethical criteria for Christian vocation and provide tools for moral deliberation in ministry and congregational settings around economic issues.

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*Full course*

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### **ST6454 St. Paul as Exegete, Philosopher and Apostle for the Twenty-First Century**

This course seeks to use Paul as a resource for developing a theological framework and practices for apostolic ministry in the twentieth century. It does so by bringing together three different conversation partners: biblical scholars who are reinterpreting Paul's theology in light of his Jewish and Hellenistic influences; philosophers who are interested in Paul's relevance to postmodern thought; and theologians who have appropriated Paul in developing missional ecclesiologies.

*Full course*

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### **ST6458 The Holy Spirit's Presence and Power in Our Personal Lives and Public Ministry**

Who is the Holy Spirit and how is the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, the church, and in the world around us? Drawing primarily on Scripture, this course helps students explore what it means to have received the Holy Spirit in our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection and what difference this makes for our apostolic ministry within Christian communities called to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

*Half course*

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### **ST6461 Theological Hermeneutics**

The development of contemporary theological hermeneutics, hermeneutics that takes the movement of God as the chief agent of the reading and use of Scriptures in church and world, is explored. A wide spectrum of experience, practices, and theological reflection is central to this exploration.

*Full course*

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### **ST6462 The Theology of Martin Luther**

The methodology, structure and intention of Luther's theology. This includes the background in the Middle Ages, Luther's own development, and current interpretations. Emphasis is on the use of this theology for proclamation.

*Full course*

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### **ST6484 Race and Protestantism in America**

This course explores the ways that American Protestantism and race intersect. It will specifically focus on Protestant attitudes towards African slaves and their conversion to Christianity. It will investigate how Western Christian theology has supported the construction of "whiteness" and "blackness", and look at how Protestant theologians interacted with the Civil Rights movement. It introduces students to Black theology and the spiritual resources that Black Americans utilize in order to deal with and resist unjust social structures.

*Full course*

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### **ST6487 The Theology of Karl Barth and its 21st Century Trajectories**

This course will explore the theology Karl Barth, perhaps the most important theologian of the twentieth century. It will examine his Cultural Context, his contributions to contemporary doctrines of revelation, election, and Trinity. It will also explore how his Christology has implications for theological anthropology today.

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*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly or ST0440 The Triune God and the World or equivalent*

*Full course*

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### **ST6498/8499 Guided Reading and Research in Systematic Theology**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and the Advanced Theological Education Office.

## **Courses-Worship [WO]**

### **Worship [WO]**

#### **WO0515 Public Worship: Leadership in Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Thanksgiving**

With the aim of preparing evangelical leaders of public worship, this course engages the student in the experience of worship as an encounter between God's Word and community. It combines the practice of communal worship with biblical, theological, historical, and interfaith reflection. The course focuses on embodied skills of liturgical planning and presiding through a creative, Gospel-rooted approach to rituals, sermons, art, music, and hymnody (local and global, as well as ecumenical, traditional, and contemporary) of Christian worship practice. Through these practices, students give witness to Jesus Christ in God's mission of reconciliation, justice, and peace for all creation.

*Prerequisite: OT0115 Law and Narrative or NT0214-NT0218, or equivalent; SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*

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#### **WO4515 Contemporary and Alternative Worship**

The course surveys current trends in worship emerging in response to the culture of global late modernity/postmodernity. It will explore some characteristics of present global culture and the culture of consumerism, and some theological responses. It will consider such forms of worship as Seeker Services, Praise and Worship music and the Contemporary worship music industry; the Vineyard worship; neo-Celtic worship; alternative worship; Emerging worship; and Liquid Worship. Students will create, experience, and lead a variety of worship experiences.

*This course includes assignments in context. Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full or half course*

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#### **WO4518 Congregation as Catechetical Community**

Both post-modern secular culture and the growth of global Christianity have contributed to a renewal of historic patterns of catechesis (early-church and reformation) leading to the rites of initiation. Additionally, there has been renewal of various related rites of affirmation at particular stages of life including a common teenage affirmation of baptism ritual commonly titled "confirmation." The course considers the importance of developing congregational apprenticeship processes for incorporation of those new to the community of faith and those renewing such incorporation into Christ. Specific focus will be placed on congregational practice, and attention paid to differences in theology of and ritual and catechetical processes for infants, youth, and adult baptism, as well as such rites for adults at various life-stages.

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*This course includes assignments in context. Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full or half course*

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### **WO4522 Worship and Ecology**

This course explores the vital connection between ecology and the theology and practice of Christian worship. It unfolds in three progressive stages: Part I focuses on the Earth in crisis and the modern disenchantment of worship and creation. Part II focuses on ancient and contemporary worship resources for renewed care of creation. Part III focuses on the practice of ecological worship and ethical living as our path to a just future. Theological, liturgical and scientific perspectives will be explored using a wide range of authors, with special attention to The Easter Vigil as a vital center for renewing green worship. *This course includes assignments in context.*

*Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full course*

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### **WO4524 Political Worship**

Beginning with historical and contemporary understandings of the political meaning of the church in liberal democratic societies, the course explores the political nature of the church with worship as the central practice of the 'fellow citizens with the saints' (Eph. 2:19).

*This course includes assignments in context.*

*Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full course*

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### **WO4527 Music and Worship: Creative Integration**

The focus of this course is the use of music in worship and how music enhances proclamation in worship. The integration of hymnody, psalmody, liturgical music and chant will be examined historically though the primary attention is given to the vast spectrum of diverse musical possibilities available today and the mechanics of creative implementation. The class focuses on the various musical components of worship – primarily making use of Evangelical Lutheran Worship resources – though other contemporary and ecumenical resources will be consulted.

*Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full course*

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### **WO4538 Children in Worship**

Students reflect theologically, historically, and liturgically on children's ministry. They explore and identify creative ways to engage children in worship experiences, and they prepare intergenerational learning experiences that strengthen the community of faith and its commitment to including children in worship.

*Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full or half course*

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## Luther Seminary

### **WO4544 Liturgy and Origins: Sources of Renewal**

Through a re-reading of primary, historical liturgical texts, particularly from the early church, we will explore how different communities have searched for a language to witness to the Christ event and ask what that witness means for our liturgical celebrations today. Issues of the origins and normative patterns for worship will be studied.

*Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full course*

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### **WO4554 Law and Gospel: A Liturgical Event**

This seminar consists in a study of Luther's approach to preaching through his sermons and his writing on the sacraments and the centrality of the dialectic between law and gospel. We will also explore what this dialectic means today and how it is embodied in a life of faith particularly in worship. What, for examples, are contemporary expressions for "law and gospel"? Luther will be put into conversation with Jacques Derrida, Emmanuel Levinas, Cathy Caruth, Judith Butler and Michel de Certeau.

*Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full course*

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### **WO4562 Worship Forming Community: Prayer and Music Leadership**

A set of hands-on training labs focused on building skills and developing a greater sensitivity for worship and music leadership. The aim is to help worship leaders in imagining and leading transformative worship experiences. The course will be taught by a variety of practitioners, and will primarily be participatory workshops rather than lecture-based classes. Topics will include but not be limited to: Sunday and seasonal worship planning, lector and presider training, crafting words and prayers for public worship; how to teach new songs to a congregation; encountering and encouraging diversity in worship; re-imagining our physical worship space; expanding your church's musical repertoire; visual art and symbols in worship that are deep and provocative.

*Half course*

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### **WO4570 The Three-Day Feast**

The passion, death and resurrection of Christ are at the heart of Christian life and witness. They find primary liturgical expression in the worship service known as the Three-Day Feast or Triduum. This course explores the specific theological, historical and ritual characteristics of the Three-Day Feast and the dynamics of the liturgical calendar in its re-orienting of time. The Three-Day Feast offers creative possibilities for reaching out in mission to a world longing for meaning.

*This course includes assignments in context.*

*Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full or half course*

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### **WO4573 God's Mission and Worship**

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The course seeks to understand the surprising ways God is at work through innovative worship in response to a variety of upheavals currently being experienced by the church in North America. Drawing from understanding of adaptive leadership, the course explores the idea of pastoral imagination for holy worship experiments that call the church into service of the needs of the world. The course combines reading, engagement of worship case studies and in-class worship experiments.

*This course includes assignments in context.*

*Prerequisite: WO0515 Public Worship*

*Full or half course*

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### **WO4597 Guided Reading and Research in Worship**

An independent study for qualified students under the personal supervision of a member of the division. Consult faculty within division.

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### **WO6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Worship**

An independent study for students in Advanced Theological Education. Consult faculty within division and the Advanced Theological Education Office.

## Master of Divinity Degree Program

The goal of Luther Seminary's Master of Divinity program is that our graduates will be prepared to serve as missional pastors in the church, leading Christians in lives of witness and service. In addition to being persons of faith and good character who are grounded firmly in the message of the Bible and the insights of Christian history, theology and ethics, we want our graduates to be known for excellence as preachers of the biblical message, leaders in worship and servant leaders.

We want them to be able to provide effective leadership in congregations by equipping members to serve God's mission of spreading the gospel and caring for the world. The world's needs for witness and service have never been greater. We believe God is calling and sending the church of Jesus Christ into mission in a new era of Christian history, one in which the church can no longer depend on support from the surrounding culture.

Our vision is to prepare a new generation of pastors who can strengthen the life of individual Christians and congregations even as they lead them to engage in mission in their context. We believe this requires learning both theology and leadership not only in the classroom and library but also in the contexts of congregations and their communities and in relation to Christians of other communions and members of other religions. This commitment to be both confessional and missional—and never one without the other—draws together the various courses, practices and contextual experiences of Luther Seminary's Master of Divinity program for educating students for pastoral ministry. This commitment is expressed in seven learning outcomes for graduates of our program:

1. **Biblical Hermeneutics:** Graduates, together with others in community, will read the Scriptures faithfully, critically, and imaginatively.
2. **Systematic Theology:** Graduates will articulate and confess the character, identity, and work of the Triune God in the world from diverse biblical, historical, and theological perspectives.

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3. **History of Christianity:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to understand the origins and spread of Christianity and the ways this history continues to shape persons and communities.
4. **Cultural Context:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to understand and competently engage culture in its diversity in theological reflection, social relations, and ministerial practice.
5. **Formation:** Graduates will demonstrate growth and maturity in their character, relational, and faith formation.
6. **Leadership for Mission:** Graduates will demonstrate the development of their own gifts for leadership in their ministry context(s) and within a critical understanding of leadership.
7. **Christian Ministry Praxis:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to form and lead within Christian community gathered around Word and Sacrament for bold participation in God's mission.

## Master of Divinity Course Curriculum

### Signature Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
SG 0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1 course
SG 0705	Scripture and its Witnesses	1 course
Total number of Signature courses		4 courses

### Core Courses:

## Luther Seminary

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
LG 0100	Biblical Hebrew	1 course
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
OT 0120	Prophets and Poetry	1 course
LG 0220	New Testament Greek	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
NT 0230-0265	Epistles	1 course
ST 0440	The Triune God and the World	1 course
HC 0305	History of Christianity I	1 course
HC 0307	History of Christianity II	1 course
HT 0801	Lutheran Confessional Writings	1 course
CG 0525	Congregational Care and Formation	1 course
PR 0510	Foundations of Biblical Preaching	1 course
WO 0515	Public Worship	1 course
Total number of Core courses		13 courses

### Elective Courses:

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Electives in Leadership	2 courses
	Elective in Preaching	1 course
	Elective in Ethics	1 course
	Elective in Systematic Theology	1 course
	Elective in Church History	1 course
	Elective in Bible	1 course
	Elective in Interpreting and Confessing	1 course
Total number of Elective courses*		8 courses

\*At least one elective must be a Cultural Context course.

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

### Curriculum by Divisions:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
<b>Leadership Courses</b>		
SG 0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1 course

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<b>COURSE NUMBER</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED</b>
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
CG 0525	Congregational Care and Formation	1 course
PR 0510	Foundations of Biblical Preaching	1 course
WO 0515	Public Worship	1 course
	Electives in Leadership	2 courses
	Elective in Preaching	1 course
<b>Total Leadership Courses</b>		<b>8 courses</b>
<b>History/Theology Courses</b>		
HT 0801	Lutheran Confessional Writings	1 course
HC 0305	History of Christianity I	1 course
HC 0307	History of Christianity II	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
ST 0440	The Triune God and the World	1 course
	Elective in Ethics	1 course
	Elective in Systematic Theology	1 course
	Elective in Church History	1 course
<b>Total History/Systematic Theology Courses</b>		<b>8 courses</b>
<b>Bible Courses</b>		
LG 0100	Biblical Hebrew	1 course
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
OT 0120	Prophets and Poetry	1 course
LG 0220	New Testament Greek	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
NT 0230-0265	Epistles	1 course
SG 0705	Scripture and its Witnesses	1 course
	Elective in Bible	1 course
<b>Total Bible Courses</b>		<b>8 courses</b>
<b>Cross-Divisional Course</b>		
	Elective in Interpreting and Confessing	1 course

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COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
Total Cross-Divisional Courses		1 course
Total Number of MDiv Courses		25 courses

Course Descriptions for All Courses

## Master of Arts Degree Program

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

In these words, the Apostle Paul identifies the variety of God-given gifts, services and activities that God uses to build up the body of Christ. The same Spirit, the same Lord and the same God works within this great diversity of gifts and callings to build up the body of Christ for its life in the world, thus empowering the church’s witness and mission.

Paul’s words also express the vision of the two-year master’s and graduate certificate programs at Luther Seminary: to educate and equip God’s people who are called to a variety of vocations in the world and in the church. Because the mission of God’s people calls for many forms of specialized service, Luther Seminary offers a great variety within its two-year master’s degree and one-year graduate certificate programs.

All first theological degree students take the Signature Courses in the curriculum together, and frequently study alongside one another in other courses as well. That shared experience gives students in the M.Div., M.A. and graduate certificate programs the opportunity to expand their understanding of their own concentration areas while gaining appreciation of the gifts, callings and vocations of their peers.

There are three learning outcomes desired for graduates of our MA program:

1. **Biblical Hermeneutics:** Graduates, together with others in community, will read the Scriptures faithfully, critically, and imaginatively.
2. **Systematic Theology:** Graduates will articulate and confess the character, identity, and work of the Triune God in the world from diverse biblical, historical, and theological perspectives.
3. **History of Christianity:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to understand the origins and spread of Christianity and the ways this history continues to shape persons and communities.

## Master of Arts-Bible Concentration Course Curriculum

Signature Courses:

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COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
SG 0620	Capstone Course	.5 course
SG 0621	Structured Conversation for Research Capstone	.5 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

**Concentration Courses:**

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
LG 0110	Biblical Hebrew	1 course
LG 0220	New Testament Greek	1 course
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
OT 0120	Prophets and Poetry	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
NT 0230-0254	Epistles	1 course
SG 0705	Scripture and Its Witnesses	1 course
HC 0305	History of Christianity I	1 course
	Bible elective course	1 courses
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

**Elective Courses:**

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	2 courses
Total number of Elective courses		2 courses

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

## Master of Arts-History of Christianity Concentration Course Curriculum

**Signature Courses:**

## Luther Seminary

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
SG 0620	Capstone Course	.5 course
SG 0621	Structured Conversation for Research Capstone	.5 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

### Concentration Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
ST 0440	The Triune God and the World	1 course
HC 0305	History of Christianity I	1 course
HC 0307	History of Christianity II	1 course
	History elective courses	4 courses
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

### Elective Courses:

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	2 courses
Total number of Elective courses		2 courses

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

# Master of Arts-Justice and Reconciliation Concentration Course Curriculum

### Signature Courses:



## Luther Seminary

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
SG 0620	Capstone Course	.5 course
SG 0621	Structured Conversation for Research Capstone	.5 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

### Concentration Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
ST 0440	The Triune God and the World	1 course
HC 0305	History of Christianity I	1 course
HC 0307	History of Christianity II	1 course
ST 2484	Justice and Reconciliation	1 course
	Justice and Reconciliation elective courses	3 courses
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

### Elective Courses:

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	2 courses
Total number of Elective courses		2 courses

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

# Master of Arts-Systematic Theology Concentration Course Curriculum

### Signature Courses:

## Luther Seminary

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
SG 0620	Capstone Course	.5 course
SG 0621	Structured Conversation for Research Capstone	.5 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

### Concentration Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
ST 0440	The Triune God and the World	1 course
HC 0305	History of Christianity I	1 course
HC 0307	History of Christianity II	1 course
	Ethics elective course	1 courses
	Systematic Theology elective courses	3 courses
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

### Elective Courses:

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	2 courses
Total number of Elective courses		6 courses

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

## Master of Arts-Children, Youth and Family Concentration Course Curriculum

### Signature Courses:

## Luther Seminary

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
LD 0530	Missional Leadership in Professional Settings	1 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

### Concentration Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
OT 0115 or NT 0214-0218	Law and Narrative or Gospels	1 course
SG 0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1 course
FE 0523	Systems and Leading Change	1 course
HC 0305 or HC 0307	History of Christianity I or History of Christianity II	1 course
LD 0500	Theological Frameworks I	1 course
LD 0505	Theological Frameworks II	1 course
	Children, Youth and Family elective courses	3 courses
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

### Elective Courses:

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	2 courses
Total number of Elective courses		2 courses

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

# Master of Arts-Christian Ministry Concentration Course Curriculum

### Signature Courses:

## Luther Seminary

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
LD 0530	Missional Leadership in Professional Settings	1 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

### Concentration Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
SG 0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1 course
LD 0500	Theological Frameworks I	1 course
HC 0305 or HC 0307	History of Christianity I or History of Christianity II	1 course
FE 0523	Systems and Leading Change	1 course
	Christian Ministry elective courses	3 courses
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

### Elective Courses:

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	2 courses
Total number of Elective courses		2 courses

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

# Master of Arts-Leadership and Innovation in Ministry Concentration Course Curriculum

### Signature Courses:

## Luther Seminary

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
LD 0530	Missional Leadership in Professional Settings	1 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

### Concentration Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
OT 0115 or NT 0214-0218	Law and Narrative or Gospels	1 course
SG 0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1 course
LD 0500	Theological Frameworks I	1 course
HC 0305 or HC 0307	History of Christianity I or History of Christianity II	1 course
FE 0523	Systems and Leading Change	1 course
LD 0540	Innovation with Congregations and Nonprofits	1 course
	Leadership and Innovation in Ministry elective courses	3 courses
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

### Elective Courses:

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	2 courses
Total number of Elective courses		2 courses

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

# Master of Arts-Lutheran Ministries Chaplaincy Course Curriculum

### Signature Courses:

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COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
LD 0535	Portfolio Capstone Project	1 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

### Concentration Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
WO 0515	Public Worship	1 course
LD 0500	Theological Frameworks I	1 course
HC 0307	History of Christianity II	1 course
HC 4337	Diaconal History	1 course
HT 0801	Lutheran Confessional Writings: History and Theology <i>or denominational substitution</i>	1 course
PR 0510	Foundations of Preaching	1 course
CG 0525	Congregational Care and Formation	1 course
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

### Elective Courses:

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	4 courses
Total number of Elective courses		4 courses

### Contextual Requirement Courses:

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF UNITS REQUIRED
	Clinical Pastoral Education	2 units
	Internship or Clinical Pastoral Education Residency	

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

# Master of Arts-Lutheran Ministries Deacon Course Curriculum

**Signature Courses:**

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
SG 0610	Christian Public Leader	1 course
SG 0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1 course
LD 0535	Portfolio Capstone Project	1 course
Total number of Signature courses		3 courses

**Concentration Courses:**

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
OT 0115	Law and Narrative	1 course
NT 0214-0218	Gospels	1 course
WO 0515	Public Worship	1 course
LD 0500	Theological Frameworks I	1 course
HC 0307	History of Christianity II	1 course
HC 4337	Diaconal History	1 course
HT 0801	Lutheran Confessional Writings: History and Theology or <i>denominational substitution</i>	1 course
PR 0510	Foundations of Preaching	1 course
CG 0525	Congregational Care and Formation	1 course
Total number of Concentration courses		9 courses

**Elective Courses:**

	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED
	Open elective courses	4 courses
Total number of Elective courses		4 courses

**Contextual Requirement Courses:**

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COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	NUMBER OF UNITS REQUIRED
	Clinical Pastoral Education	
	Internship (6 month full time)	

Course Descriptions for Signature [SG] Courses, Core Courses and All Courses

## Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) is an advanced research degree designed to develop scholarly leadership for Christian churches and for work in the community of theological scholarship throughout the world. The degree is offered in history, theology, pastoral care and counseling and congregational mission and leadership. The program is deliberately theological and confessional without compromising its commitment to academic excellence and accountability.

The Ph.D. degree is administered by the Advanced Theological Education Office (ATE). Current students should refer to the catalog published in the year of the student's enrollment in the degree program for graduation requirements.

For more information contact:

- Admissions Office [admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu); 651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3
- Advanced Theological Education Office [ate@luthersem.edu](mailto:ate@luthersem.edu); 651-523-1647

### Program Niche

The Ph.D. program is designed to give students flexibility to propose and engage in a course of study that is individualized, interdisciplinary, integrative, contextual, and cross-cultural in nature. Students in consultation with their principal advisor and the Advanced Theological Education office will craft a concentration that embodies their research interests and provides coherence to their study. These areas of concentration are expected to draw upon the established academic discourses of Bible, church history, theology, and practical theology, and to be in creative interdisciplinary conversation with the primary thrust of the program. Examples of possible areas of concentration include Systematic Theology, Christian Ethics, Reformation Studies, Church History, Congregational Mission and Leadership, New Testament, Old Testament, Biblical Preaching, Youth and Family Ministry, Christian Education, Liturgical Studies, Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Global Christianity.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Luther Seminary and its faculty aspire through its Ph.D. program to assist students in achieving the following learning outcomes:

1. **Interdisciplinary Understanding:** Graduates will demonstrate expertise in their chosen area of study that includes knowledge of the history, methods, ideas, and figures of their field, an understanding of the interdisciplinary dynamics between their field and one or more cognate disciplines, and the creative potential to advance theological scholarship.
2. **Scholarship:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to critically engage an area of biblical, historical, or theological scholarship using appropriate research practices and methods of written and oral communication.
3. **Vocational Readiness:** Graduates will have vocational proficiencies necessary to faithfully serve and lead in the context of the church, academy, and/or society, including teaching, mentoring, collaboration, service, innovation, and theological leadership.



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4. **Contextual Engagement:** Graduates will engage in productive practices of integrative contextual reflection that involve wrestling with issues of identity, culture, and context in light of the increasingly diverse and global Christian community.

### General Degree Requirements

#### Residence

The first and fourth years of study are years of residence. It is expected that all seminar and course requirements will be completed during the first two years of the program. Students will return for a two to three month period between years two and three to take comprehensive exams. The third and fourth years will be dedicated to dissertation proposal, research and writing.

#### Curriculum Schedules

##### First Year

- Four area seminars
- Two elective courses (or equivalent in courses and half courses)
- One seminar course with advisor (Fall term)
- Introduction to Research Methods

##### Second Year

- One contextual course (Fall term)
- One on-line seminar course with advisor (Spring term)
- Comprehensive exams taken during summer residency

##### Third Year

- One guided course with advisor (One each term to guide proposal and research)
- One contextual course (Spring term)
- Submit dissertation proposal to December division meeting

##### Fourth Year

- Two guided courses with advisor (One each term to guide writing process)
- Dissertation defense (During the month of April)

A total of 13 course credits will be taken during the four years of the program. Courses must be passed with a grade of B or better to receive Ph.D. degree credit. Unless otherwise noted, the academic policies and procedures apply to the Ph.D. degree

#### Guided Courses

Ph.D. advisor lead courses are scheduled throughout the program in order to bring the student and faculty advisor together to discuss topics related to the dissertation topic.

# Luther Seminary

## English Proficiency

Proficiency in English is assumed of all students. Students whose work demonstrates they are not prepared to write an acceptable English thesis are required to make up this deficiency (normally at their own expense) prior to the acceptance of their thesis proposal.

## Language Examinations

Two modern research languages will be required. One modern language requirement must be completed before beginning residency in the first year, the second before submitting the comprehensive exam proposal as the end of the second year. Students in Bible related study will be required to demonstrate proficiency in Greek or Hebrew before beginning in the Ph.D. program. Proficiency in the other biblical language will need to be demonstrated by the end of the first year. Other languages may be required if needed in connection with the thesis project.

Language examinations are given in French, German, Spanish and Latin. Competence in social scientific research will be required in place of one modern research language in the case of students whose chosen field of study make use behavioral or social scientific research methods. Students wishing to be examined in a language other than those listed must petition the ATE Office. Primary consideration is given to the relevance of the request to the student's planned research.

International students whose native language is other than English may satisfy the language requirement passing an exam in English composition.

Language exams are administered by the ATE Office. Both language examinations must be passed before the comprehensive exam proposal is submitted. Dictionaries and grammars may be used, and the criterion for a passing grade is the demonstrated ability to make regular research use of the language.

## Comprehensive Examinations

After completing course requirements and language examinations, Ph.D. students prepare for comprehensive examinations. The comprehensive examination proposal will be presented by the faculty advisor to their respective Division, no later than March of the second year.

Each student must pass two comprehensive examinations taken during the residency period between the second and third year of the program.

In consultation with the thesis advisor, the student prepares a comprehensive examination proposal including the following:

1. Nominations of two members of the faculty who agree to serve, along with the thesis advisor, as readers of the comprehensive examinations
2. Dates proposed for each examination (during the residential period between the 2nd and 3rd year)
3. Specific topics for examinations in accord with the requirements of each area of study (see below)
4. Bibliographies for each examination

Having secured approval of the thesis advisor and readers on the appropriate form available from the ATE Office, the student submits the comprehensive examination proposal to the chair of the thesis advisor's division for initial approval.

After securing the division's approval, the comprehensive exam proposal is reviewed by the ATE Office for final approval.

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Comprehensive exams are administered by the ATE Office. The first examination will be written via computer and the second examination could either be in a written or oral format.

### Thesis Proposal

After passing two comprehensive examinations, the student, in consultation with the thesis advisor during a guided course in Fall Semester of the third year, prepares a thesis proposal including:

1. Working title
2. Nominations for two faculty members who agree to serve as readers of the thesis
3. Brief discussion of existing scholarship on the topic
4. Statement of the problem addressed by the thesis and the approach taken in addressing it
5. Statement of methodological considerations involved in the research and writing of the thesis
6. Detailed outline describing the content of each chapter of the thesis
7. Working bibliography
8. Schedule for writing and completing the thesis

Having secured approval of the thesis advisor and readers on the appropriate form available from the ATE Office, the student submits it along with the completed thesis proposal to the chair of the thesis advisor's division for initial approval.

The final thesis proposal is submitted to the advisor's faculty division for initial approval. After securing the division's approval, the thesis proposal is reviewed by the ATE Office for final approval. At this time, the student is admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree and the candidacy fee is assessed.

### Thesis

The Ph.D. thesis is expected to be an original contribution to the field of scholarship. Normally, it should not exceed 250 pages, excluding front matter, bibliography and appendices.

The thesis must be prepared in accord with: (1) The requirements of Luther Seminary's Writing and Style Guide, (2) the Chicago Manual of Style; or (3) the publication guidelines of another scholarly manual or journal that is chosen by the student in consultation with his or her advisor. If choosing option three, the student must submit a comprehensive style sheet for approval by the ATE Office.

No later than January 15, students should notify the ATE Office indicating intention of program completion.

With consultation from the advisor and readers, and no later than March 1, the student must submit the full defense draft of the thesis to the ATE Office (email copy) and to the advisor and readers (print copies).

At least 30 days after the defense draft is submitted, and no later than April 1, the student arranges with the ATE Office, the thesis advisor, and the readers for an oral examination of the thesis. The appropriate form, certifying readiness for the oral examination, must be submitted by the candidate to the ATE Office at least one week prior to the examination. A copy of the thesis must be made available publicly by the same date. The oral defense is a public event, though only faculty have speaking privileges.

Upon successful completion of the thesis oral examination, and no later than April 15, the student submits a final, typographically perfect copy via email to the ATE Office for final review that the thesis is in conformity of the required

## Luther Seminary

style and format.

The ATE Office certifies Ph.D. students for graduation by May 1 of each year. The Ph.D. graduation fee covers the cost of printing and binding one copy of the dissertation that will be placed in the seminary library. An electronic version will be kept in the seminary repository.

Students who do not meet the deadlines in this section cannot be guaranteed graduation during the year in question.

### **Commencement**

An application for graduation must be submitted to the Registrar's Office at the beginning of the academic year in which the student intends to graduate. Attendance at commencement is expected. Graduating students not attending need to notify the Registrar's Office in writing by May 1.

In some situations, students who have successfully completed the thesis oral examination but not the final thesis review may petition to the ATE Office to participate in graduation ceremonies. All final thesis changes must be completed by the end of the summer term following graduation ceremonies. In the commencement bulletin, an asterisk is placed beside those names with the notation: "Requirements to be completed by the end of the summer term (of the year of graduation)." Requirements not completed by this date will postpone graduation to a later date, and new graduation fees will be assessed. The thesis oral examination must be completed by May 1 in order to participate in commencement.

### **Time Limit**

The Ph.D. degree is designed to be completed in four years when the study is full-time. Written consent from the thesis advisor and permission from the ATE Office is required to continue beyond this limit. Students may not exceed seven years.

### **Continuation and Status**

For the first four years of doctoral study, while completing course work and residence requirements, studying for comprehensive examinations and writing the thesis proposal and thesis, Ph.D. students will normally be considered full-time students. After the fourth year, students seeking certification of full- or half-time student status must do so in advance by petition, clearly justifying the request in writing.

Students are charged a continuation fee each year after completing the residence requirement. Failure to pay the continuation fee, without a request for leave of absence, terminates status as a student at Luther Seminary. See the Leave of Absence and Withdrawal policies for more details.

## **Doctor of Philosophy Course Curriculum**

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	YEAR (RESIDENTIAL) <sup>1</sup>	YEAR 2 (AWAY)	YEAR 3 (AWAY)	YEAR (RESIDENTIAL) <sup>4</sup>
Fall	GR8650 GR8651 GR 8930 1 Elective	GR8660 (Contextual Sup./Adv)	GR8670 (Advisor) (Proposal submitted to Dec. division mtg.)	GR8680 (Writing)
Winter			Research in context	
Spring	GR8652 GR8654 GR 8931 1 Elective	GR8661 (Advisor)	GR8671 (Contextual Sup./Adv)	Defense Graduation GR8681 (Writing)
Summer	GR8653	Residency (4-6 wks) Comp Exams (1) Comp Exams (2)	GR8680 (Writing begins online and finishes in early Fall)	

13 credits total

Non-course degree requirements:

- Language Exams (1 tested upon entrance in program and 1 tested in winter of 2nd year)

## Doctor of Ministry Degree in Biblical Preaching

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree in biblical preaching arises from the central convictions that the living word of God changes lives, creates faith and motivates mission. Also, the proclamation of the gospel in Christian worship is a primary manifestation of the word of God in our midst and is central to the life and mission of the church. The program is intentionally biblical, practical, collegial and spiritual. The objective is to equip and train leaders who can bear compelling witness to Christ through sermons whose conception, design and delivery all stem from their engagement with the biblical witness.

**Note: Luther Seminary is not currently accepting any new students into the D.Min. program.**

The D.Min. degree is administered by the Advanced Theological Education Office (ATE). Current students should refer to the catalog published in the year of the student's enrollment in the degree program for graduation requirements.

For more information contact:

- Admissions Office [admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu); 651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3
- Advanced Theological Education Office [ate@luthersem.edu](mailto:ate@luthersem.edu); 651-523-1647

### Program Learning Outcomes

The Luther Seminary D.Min. teaching faculty has established the following learning outcomes for the D.Min. program in biblical preaching:

1. Graduates will creatively apply critical theological reflection and pastoral analysis to the practice of ministry.
2. Graduates will interpret the interplay of theology, Scripture, and cultural context in a manner that is meaningful to Christian communities.

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3. Graduates will apply theological scholarship to a specific area or issue in Christian ministry.
4. Graduates will develop interpretive lenses and practices for reading and studying the Bible that will inform preaching in the light of their particular contexts.
5. Graduates will implement course material to preach effectively in their congregational settings.
6. Graduates will engage their congregations to create communities of proclamation.

### General Degree Requirements

#### Curriculum

The curriculum consists of three core seminars, three elective courses, three colloquies, two projects and a thesis. The students are required to attend three, three-week summer residencies to take place in June. Each residency is followed by significant work carried out in the student's contextual site and with the support of the student's sponsoring community. Throughout the year the students will be expected to interact with colleagues from their cohort via web-based forums relating to their coursework, contextual projects and thesis, vocational and professional development and spiritual well-being.

#### Academic Standing

In order to remain in good academic standing, a student must receive a grade of B or better for work for which credit is given and satisfactorily complete all other requirements of the program as determined by the ATE Office. Unless otherwise noted, the academic policies and procedures also apply to the D.Min. degree.

#### Candidacy

Admission to studies occurs when a person applies and is admitted to study in the D.Min. program. Admission to candidacy occurs by action of the ATE Office upon approval of the thesis proposal, and qualifies the student to continue study beyond the core seminars, elective courses and projects. This action entitles the student to begin work on a thesis, and the candidacy fee is assessed at this time.

#### Thesis

A thesis will be required. The thesis must be prepared in accord with the requirements of Luther Seminary's Writing and Style Guide. Normally, it should not exceed 200 pages, excluding front matter, bibliography and appendices. In the third year of the program, candidates complete a doctoral thesis that draws together the insights of the previous projects, residencies and sermons and that both relates to a particular area of the candidate's interest and reflects his or her concrete ministry context.

With consultation from the advisor and readers, and no later than March 1, the student must submit the full defense draft of the thesis to the ATE Office (email copy) and to the advisor and readers (print copies).

The thesis advisor and the readers set a time with the entire D.Min. cohort for an oral examination, to be held in March or April of the year in which the degree is to be granted.

Within two weeks of successfully completing the thesis oral examination, the student submits a final, typographically perfect copy via email to the ATE Office for final review that the thesis is in conformity of the required style and format.

The ATE Office certifies D.Min. students for graduation by May 1 of each year. The D.Min. graduation fee covers the cost of printing and binding one copy of the thesis that will be placed in the seminary library. An electronic version will also be kept in the seminary repository.

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Students who do not meet the deadlines in this section cannot be guaranteed graduation during the year in question.

### Commencement

An application for graduation must be submitted to the Registrar's Office at the beginning of the academic year in which the student intends to graduate. Attendance at commencement is expected. Graduating students not attending need to notify the ATE Office in writing by May 1.

In some situations, students who have successfully completed the thesis oral examination but not the final thesis review may petition to the ATE Office to participate in graduation ceremonies. All final thesis changes must be completed by the end of the summer term following graduation ceremonies. In the commencement bulletin, an asterisk is placed beside those names with the notation: "Requirements to be completed by the end of the summer term (of the year of graduation)." Requirements not completed by this date will postpone graduation to a later date, and new graduation fees will be assessed. The thesis oral examination must be completed by May 1 in order to participate in commencement.

### Time Limit

The D.Min. degree in biblical preaching is designed to be completed in three years. Requests for extensions for additional periods of time not to exceed two years total may be made by petition to the ATE Office. Students desiring a leave of absence must also petition the ATE Office. See the Leave of Absence and Withdrawal policies for full details.

### Status

D.Min. students, while completing course work and writing the thesis, will be considered half-time students for the three years of the biblical preaching program.

## Master of Theology Degree

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree program provides for continuing study through the discipline of academic excellence. It aims to develop in the student an informed, critical approach to a chosen field of study through post-graduate courses, mastery of a research language and a thesis.

The Th.M. degree is administered by the Advanced Theological Education Office (ATE). See Admissions for prerequisites and admission requirements. Graduation requirements for each student are stated in the catalog published in the year of the student's enrollment in the degree program.

For more information contact:

- Admissions Office [admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu); 651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3
- Advanced Theological Education Office [ate@luthersem.edu](mailto:ate@luthersem.edu); 651-523-1647

### Concentrations

- Bible (Old or New Testament)
- Congregational and Community Care (Clinical Pastoral Theology)
- Congregational Mission and Leadership
- History of Christianity
- Mission and World Religions

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- Pastoral Theology and Ministry (Composite degree concentration involving courses in congregational and community care, congregational leadership, children and youth ministry, educational leadership, preaching, and worship)
- Systematic Theology/Ethics

### Program Learning Outcomes

Luther Seminary and its faculty aspire through its Th.M. program to assist students in achieving the following learning outcomes:

1. **Advanced Understanding:** Graduates will demonstrate an advanced understanding of their chosen area of study.
2. **Scholarship:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to critically engage an area of biblical, historical, or theological scholarship using appropriate research practices and methods of written and oral communication.

### General Degree Requirements

#### Coursework

A total of six courses (or the equivalent number of full and half courses) plus an approved thesis are required for the Th.M. degree. The normal course load is three courses per semester.

Of the six courses, at least four must be taken in the area of concentration; one course may be taken as an elective (in any area, including the area of concentration) in addition to the required classes Christian Public Leader (.5 course) and Intro to Research Methods (.5 course). Students in pastoral theology and ministry should choose at least four courses from the composite areas listed above.

Th.M. course requirements are normally met through a combination of courses offered at the Th.M. (6000) level, independent studies, course upgrades and, Ph.D. seminars (8000). Students must complete required paperwork for independent studies, upgrades and, Ph.D. seminars, with approval from instructors and the ATE office.

Students who received M.A. or M.Div. degrees from Luther Seminary normally may not upgrade courses taken for previous degrees. Students concentrating in Bible may not upgrade LG0110 or LG0220 for Th.M. credit.

Courses must be passed with a grade of B or better to receive Th.M. degree credit. Unless otherwise noted, the academic policies and procedures also apply to the Th.M. degree.

#### Transfer Credits

Up to three courses, not applied toward another degree, may be transferred by petition to the Th.M. degree from previous work at Luther Seminary or other accredited institutions. All transfer credits must be approved by the ATE office.

Luther Seminary M.A. and M.Div. degree seniors wishing for post-graduate credit must inform the registrar and the instructor of the course in writing at the time of registration. Such course work can later be accepted toward the Th.M. degree only with the approval of the ATE Office. Students may not apply post-graduate credits toward two degrees, nor may post-graduate credit status in a course be granted retroactively.

Students from the Luther Seminary Ph.D. degree program who apply and are admitted to the Th.M. program may use up to six courses at the Ph.D. level (with a grade of B or better) to satisfy Th.M. degree course requirements.

#### English Proficiency



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Proficiency in English is assumed of all students. Students whose work demonstrates they are not prepared to write an acceptable English thesis are required to make up this deficiency (normally at their own expense) prior to the acceptance of their thesis proposal.

### Language Examinations

Th.M. students are required to pass one written examination in Latin or a modern research language other than the student's native tongue. Normally this exam is in French, German or Spanish. Students wishing to be examined in a language other than those listed must petition the ATE Office. Primary consideration is given to the relevance of the request to the student's planned research.

International students whose native language is other than English may satisfy the language requirement passing an exam in English composition.

Language exams are administered by the ATE Office several times during the fall and spring semesters. One dictionary or grammar may be used, and the criterion for a passing grade is the demonstrated ability to make regular research use of the language.

### Thesis Proposal

After completing course requirements and language examinations, Th.M. students register for continuation. The ATE Office, at the written request of the student and with the written permission of the faculty member nominated, also appoints the thesis advisor at this time.

The student, in consultation with the thesis advisor, prepares a thesis proposal including:

1. Working title
2. Nominations for two faculty members who agree to serve as readers of the thesis
3. Brief discussion of existing scholarship on the topic
4. Statement of the nature and purpose of the thesis
5. Detailed outline describing the content of each chapter of the thesis
6. Working bibliography
7. Schedule for writing and completing the thesis

Having secured approval of the thesis advisor and readers on the appropriate form available from the ATE Office, the student submits it along with the completed thesis proposal to the chair of the thesis advisor's division for initial approval.

After securing the division's approval, the thesis proposal is reviewed by the ATE Office for final approval. At this time, the student is admitted to candidacy for the Th.M. degree and the candidacy fee is assessed.

### Thesis

The Th.M. thesis is intended to demonstrate the student's ability to pursue research in the area of concentration. The thesis is not necessarily an original contribution to scholarship, but it may not simply duplicate existing scholarship on the topic. Normally, it shall not exceed 100 typewritten pages, excluding front matter, bibliography and appendices.

The thesis must be prepared in accord with: (1) The requirements of Luther Seminary's Writing and Style Guide, (2) the Chicago Manual of Style; or (3) the publication guidelines of another scholarly manual or journal that is chosen by the

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student in consultation with his or her advisor. If choosing option three, the student must submit a comprehensive style sheet for approval by the ATE Office.

No later than January 15, students should notify the ATE Office indicating intention of program completion.

With approval from the advisor and, and in consultation with readers, and no later than March 1, the student must submit the full defense draft of the thesis to the ATE Office (email copy) and to the advisor and readers (print copies).

At least 30 days after the defense draft is submitted, and no later than April 1, the thesis advisor arranges with the student and the readers for an oral examination of the thesis.

Upon successful completion of the thesis oral examination, and no later than April 15, the student submits a final, typographically perfect copy via email to the ATE Office for final review that the thesis is in conformity of the required style and format.

The ATE Office certifies Th.M. students for graduation by May 1 of each year. The Th.M. graduation fee covers the cost of printing and binding one copy of the thesis that will be placed in the seminary library. An electronic version will also be kept in the seminary repository.

Students who do not meet the deadlines in this section cannot be guaranteed graduation during the year in question.

### **Commencement**

An application for graduation must be submitted to the Registrar's Office at the beginning of the academic year in which the student intends to graduate. Attendance at commencement is expected. Graduating students not attending need to notify the ATE Office in writing by May 1.

In some situations, students who have successfully completed the thesis oral examination but not the final thesis review may petition to the ATE Office to participate in graduation ceremonies. All final thesis changes must be completed by the end of the summer term following graduation ceremonies. In the commencement bulletin, an asterisk is placed beside those names with the notation: "Requirements to be completed by the end of the summer term (of the year of graduation)." Requirements not completed by this date will postpone graduation to a later date, and new graduation fees will be assessed. The thesis oral examination must be completed by May 1 in order to participate in commencement.

### **Time Limit**

The Th.M. degree is designed to be completed in two years when study is full-time. However, part-time students may have up to five years to complete the degree from the time of initial registration. Written consent of the thesis advisor and permission of the ATE Office is required to continue beyond this limit.

### **Continuation and Status**

Th.M. students, while completing course work and writing the thesis proposal and thesis, will normally be considered full-time students for two years. After the second year, students seeking certification of full- or half-time student status must do so in advance by petition, clearly justifying the request in writing.

Students are charged a continuation fee each semester after two years of full-time study. Students who have not met the six-course requirement will be charged tuition rather than a continuation fee for every semester they are enrolled in classes. Failure to pay the continuation fee, without a request for leave of absence, terminates status as a student at Luther Seminary. See the Leave of Absence and Withdrawal policies for more details.

## Master of Theology Course Curriculum

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The Th.M. curriculum consists of 6 courses, at least four in the area of concentration and one elective (in any area, including the area of concentration).

### Course Descriptions for All Courses

<b>COURSE NUMBER</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED</b>
CD 6610	Christian Public Leader	.5 course
CD 6930	Intro to Research Methods	.5 course
	Concentration Courses	4 courses
	Elective Course	1 course
<b>Total Number of Th.M. Courses</b>		<b>6 courses</b>

## Graduate Certificate Programs

### Luther Seminary offers graduate certificates in five areas:

- Bible, History of Christianity and Systematic Theology
- Children, Youth and Family Ministry
- Christian Ministry
- Leadership and Innovation for Ministry
- Methodist Studies

Each graduate certificate requires eight courses, combining four basic Bible, history and theology courses with four concentration courses. The programs are designed to be completed in one year of full-time residential study or in two to four years of part-time study (online or in-person).

Students who have completed a graduate certificate program may apply their course work toward a Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degree if they are admitted into one of those programs through a new application process.

These graduate certificate programs are designed to equip lay leaders across denominational lines. The certificate programs are intended for students who do not have an earned (and who are not concurrently seeking) first theological degrees.

### Graduate Certificate in Bible, History of Christianity and Systematic Theology

The graduate certificate program in Bible, History of Christianity and Systematic Theology is designed for people who desire a basic grounding in Christian theology and tradition. A student may concentrate in Bible, History of Christianity or Systematic Theology.

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<b>Core and Signature Courses (4.0 courses)</b>		
<b>Bible (2.0 courses)</b>		
OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course
<b>History of Christianity (1.0 course)</b>		
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
<b>Systematic Theology (1.0 course)</b>		
SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
<b>Concentration Courses (4.0 courses)</b>		
Choose any four courses (combining either full or half courses) listed as M.A. concentration courses in Bible, History of Christianity or Systematic Theology		
Total Core and Signature Courses		4.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses		4.0 courses
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>		<b>8.0 courses</b>

## Graduate Certificate in Children, Youth and Family Ministry

The graduate certificate program in Children, Youth and Family Ministry is designed for people who desire a basic grounding in children, youth and family ministry. This certificate may be earned in a distributed learning or residential format.

## Luther Seminary

<b>Core and Signature Courses (4.0 courses)</b>		
<b>Bible (2.0 courses)</b>		
OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course
<b>History of Christianity (1.0 course)</b>		
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
<b>Systematic Theology (1.0 course)</b>		
SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
<b>Concentration Courses (4.0 courses)</b>		
LD0500	Theological Frameworks I	1.0 course
LD0505	Theological Frameworks II	1.0 course
Choose any combination of additional CY courses to total 2.0 full courses.		
Total Core and Signature Courses		4.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses		4.0 courses
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>		<b>8.0 courses</b>

## Graduate Certificate in Christian Ministry

The graduate certificate program in Christian Ministry is designed for people who desire to focus on the various aspects of care giving ministry. A student may concentrate in a specific area of ministry or take a combination of courses from across the disciplines within Christian Ministry. This graduate certificate may be earned in a distributed learning or residential format.

## Luther Seminary

<b>Core and Signature Courses (4.0 courses)</b>		
<b>Bible (2.0 courses)</b>		
OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course
<b>History of Christianity (1.0 course)</b>		
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
<b>Systematic Theology (1.0 course)</b>		
SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
<b>Concentration Courses (4.0 courses)</b>		
Choose any combination of Leadership for Mission courses to total 4.0 full courses.		
Total Core and Signature Courses		4.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses		4.0 courses
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>		<b>8.0 courses</b>

## Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry

The graduate certificate program in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry is designed for people who are interested in deepening their theological knowledge and leadership skills for a variety of the outreach ministries of faith communities.

<b>Core and Signature Courses (4.0 courses)</b>		
<b>Bible (2.0 courses)</b>		
OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course
<b>History of Christianity (1.0 course)</b>		
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
<b>Systematic Theology (1.0 course)</b>		
SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
<b>Concentration Courses (4.0 courses)</b>		
Choose any four Congregational Mission and Leadership courses (combining either full or half courses).		
Total Core and Signature Courses		4.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses		4.0 courses
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>		<b>8.0 courses</b>

## Graduate Certificate in Methodist Studies

## Luther Seminary

The graduate certificate program in Methodist Studies is designed to meet the educational needs of people who are preparing for ministry in Methodist churches.

<b>Core and Signature Courses (total required: 4.0 courses)</b>		
<b>Bible (2.0 courses)</b>		
OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course
<b>History of Christianity (1.0 course)</b>		
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
<b>Systematic Theology (1.0 course)</b>		
SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course

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<b>Concentration Courses (total required: 4.0 courses)</b>		
<b>Option A:</b>		
CD1622	United Methodist Polity and History	1.0 course
CD1624	United Methodist Church Doctrine and History	1.0 course
SG0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1.0 course
<i>Choose from the following to total 1.0 full course:</i>		
WO0515	Public Worship: Leadership in Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Thanksgiving	1.0 course
PR0510	Foundations of Preaching	1.0 course
An evangelism course such as:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CL4573 Christian Witness, Evangelism and Mission in a Secular Age</li> </ul>		
<b>Option B:</b>		
CD1625	African Methodist Episcopal Church History and Polity	1.0 course
ST4430	Theology of John Wesley	0.5 course
SG0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1.0 course
<i>Choose from the following to total at least 1.5 courses:</i>		
WO0515	Public Worship: Leadership in Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Thanksgiving	1.0 course
PR0510	Foundations of Preaching	1.0 course
An evangelism course such as:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CL4573 Christian Witness, Evangelism and Mission in a Secular Age</li> </ul>		
Total Core and Signature Courses		4.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses		4.0 courses
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>		<b>8.0 courses</b>

NOTE: United Methodist students seeking ordination **must** take **all** of the following types of class according to the *Book of Discipline*: Old Testament; New Testament; Theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; evangelism; worship/ liturgy and United Methodist doctrine, polity and history (two semester credits each, six semester units = 2.0 courses at LS).



## Non-Degree/Auditors

### Non-Degree/Auditors

Students are classified as non-degree students at Luther Seminary when they are taking courses for credit but have not matriculated into a degree program. Auditors do not receive course credit. Post-Master of Divinity and Master of Arts students, please see the Master of Theology degree section for information on status as non-degree students.

### Admission Requirements

A bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited college or university, is preferred. Ordinarily, applicants are required to have a cumulative grade point average in college of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (B average).

See Auditors for more information.

### Admission Procedures

All applicants for non-degree or auditor student status must:

- Submit a completed application form at [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply).
- Arrange for an official transcript from the college or university where they received their bachelor's degree to be sent directly to Luther Seminary.
- Meet all prerequisites for courses they wish to enter. If a student has questions about fulfilling the prerequisite requirements, he or she should consult with the registrar and the instructors of the courses.

Auditors are required to receive written permission from the instructor to take a course.

### Other Considerations

- Non-degree student status normally is granted for one year. Requests for renewal are reviewed by the Admissions Committee.
- Non-degree students are not eligible for financial aid.
- Degree program candidates and graduate certificate candidates have priority in registration for classes.
- Non-degree students may apply a maximum of six courses, taken within the time limit, toward the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degree program.
- Non-degree status does not guarantee admission into a degree program.

All questions concerning applications and admission as a non-degree or auditor student should be directed to:

Admissions Office

651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3

[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

## Changing Degree Programs

Enrolled students in the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degree programs may request a degree change to another Master's program through the Registrar using the change of degree form found on MyLutherNet. Completing the degree

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change form is the first step.

Master of Arts students requesting a change to the Master of Divinity degree program will additionally be asked to:

1. Request confirmation of entrance into candidacy or an ordination process, sent directly by candidacy committee or judicatory body to [candidacy@luthersem.edu](mailto:candidacy@luthersem.edu). The Associate Director of Candidacy will confirm receipt of documentation with the Registrar.
2. Connects with the Associate Director of Candidacy to review Clinical Pastoral Education and internship requirements. The Associate Director of Candidacy will confirm information has been communicated with the Registrar.

Please note: Student must meet biblical language requirements, including taking appropriate New Testament and Old Testament core courses that make use of the languages. Any required core courses yet to be taken that require biblical languages may not be taken until respective language prerequisites are complete.

Master of Divinity students requesting a change to the Master of Arts degree program will additionally be asked to:

1. Provide an update regarding your candidacy status with your judicatory body. If continuing in an ordination process, request that your candidacy committee or judicatory body send a communication to [candidacy@luthersem.edu](mailto:candidacy@luthersem.edu) indicating support for the degree change. If no longer pursuing an ordination process, describe in detail an update of your discernment process and how the new degree program will equip you for your ministry vocation. The Candidacy Coordinator will confirm receipt of documentation with the Registrar.
2. Meet with the faculty point person for the new degree and concentration to ensure there is a program fit. The faculty point person will confirm the student may proceed with the degree change with the Registrar.

Please note: If the Associate Director of Candidacy determines a loss of judicatory support has occurred, it may be necessary to proceed to a process for determining student status (see "Loss of Judicatory Support").

Master of Arts degree student requesting a change to another M.A. concentration will additionally be asked to:

1. Meet with the faculty point person for the new degree and/or concentration to ensure there is a program fit. The faculty point person will confirm the student may proceed with the degree change with the Registrar.

Please note: Courses taken in the Master of Divinity track that are not required for a Master of Arts degree either as part of the core or as part of a student's concentration may be used as free elective courses.

After the change of degree form is completed and all above requirements met, the Registrar will complete a degree audit and then notify the student of the approved degree change and the results of the degree audit.

## Change of Concentration

Students in the Master of Arts program who wish to change program concentration must submit the change of concentration form and required signatures to the Office of the Registrar. Use the change of concentration form.

## Admissions

Luther Seminary Admissions Website: <https://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/>

## Luther Seminary

### Master of Divinity Degree and Master of Arts Degree

General admissions requirements for these degree programs are listed below. Additional requirements are indicated in the sections describing each degree (e.g., M.A. concentrations, graduate certificates).

The Master of Divinity degree program is primarily intended to prepare candidates for ordained ministry (and is required for those seeking ordination as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and similar vocations in many other denominations).

The Master of Arts degree program is primarily intended to prepare those seeking vocations in nonprofit leadership or lay rostered ministry in the church. The M.A. degree is the minimum degree requirement for those seeking ordination as a minister of Word and Service (i.e., deacon or deaconess) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Students pursuing any path towards ordination should contact their church/synod or other denominational body to begin/complete the entrance process in order to begin seminary.

A seminary of the ELCA, Luther Seminary welcomes students from all religious and faith traditions. Courses in denominational theology and polity required for a student's ordination are available at Luther, through consortium offerings or by independent study.

Those not seeking degrees may study as graduate certificate and non-degree students.

Prospective students are encouraged to visit Luther Seminary. A visit may be arranged by contacting [welcome@luthersem.edu](mailto:welcome@luthersem.edu) or 651-641-3521. Also, see website [www.luthersem.edu](http://www.luthersem.edu)

#### Prerequisites

A bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited college or university, is required. Students without a bachelor's degree may be considered for admission if they have significant leadership or ministry experience, possess the equivalent of an Associate Arts degree or more, and/or have a positive entrance decision from their synodical candidacy committee if pursuing ordination. Other requirements may be requested by the Office of Admissions upon application. Contact the Office of Admissions ([admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)) for more information.

Applicants are typically required to have a cumulative grade point average in college or most recent school of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (B average). However, factors other than the academic record are taken into consideration when making admissions decisions. These may include other graduate study or degrees, occupational experience, church and community leadership and an applicant's demonstrated readiness for graduate-level work. Applicants with undergraduate GPAs below 3.0 are requested to submit a statement detailing readiness for graduate school and may be asked to submit additional materials.

#### Greek and Hebrew

Entering students who have earned undergraduate credit for Greek or Hebrew may take a proficiency exam to satisfy the degree requirement if:

- They have earned at least two full semesters of undergraduate or graduate credit from a regionally accredited institution.
- Courses were in ancient or Biblical Greek or Hebrew (intro and grammar).
- They have earned a grade of "C" (2.0) or higher.
- They have completed courses within five years of starting at Luther Seminary.

## Luther Seminary

If a student receives credit for their Greek or Hebrew courses, this credit will be considered toward the maximum credits allowed under Advanced Standing. See Advanced Standing section for more information.

### Personal Qualifications

**Gospel-centered** - you are committed to the witness of salvation through Jesus Christ - preference given to applicants who can articulate a Christian faith identity; preference also given to applicants who have a set of spiritual practices and are active in a Christian faith community

**Community-oriented** - you can articulate a vocational purpose to serve the church and God's world - preference given to applicants who seek to use their degree in service to Christian communities; preference also given to applicants willing to invest in the Luther community, distributed or in-person

**Academically Skilled** - you are able to communicate meaningfully and clearly in written and verbal forms, can successfully speak and write in the English language, and can successfully navigate online environments - preference given to applicants who have demonstrated previous academic success and exposure to recommended prerequisite studies such as Bible, English, Philosophy/Religion, History, Speech and Foreign Language

**Learning Leader** - you are willing to engage yourself and others in the challenges and opportunities of living out a Christian faith in a modern, pluralistic society - preference given to applicants who have demonstrated leadership success in their communities; preference also given to applicants who demonstrate creativity and imagination for existing congregational and emerging ministries

**Inclusive** - you are curious and respectful of diverse cultures and ideas, are committed to building relationships with others across difference and can demonstrate the ability to sit in discomfort and "engage one another with openness, vulnerability, and generosity" - preference given to applicants whose experiences have prepared them to navigate ethnic and cultural differences

**Self-awareness** - you pay attention to your physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and are willing to ask for help - preference given to applicants who demonstrate resilience, flexibility, integrity, emotional maturity and good communication skills

**Preparedness** - you have the support and tools needed to take on the challenge of graduate theological education - preference given to applicants who have the support of their personal network (i.e. faith community, mentors, family) and who demonstrate awareness of and responsibility for the financial and time commitments of seminary study and contextual learning

*As a seminary of the ELCA, preference will be given to ELCA ordination-bound applicants who meet the above qualifications and can demonstrate satisfactory progress in their candidacy process.*

*As a seminary "anchored and animated by a Lutheran confessional witness" that is "grounded in a theology of the cross that offers hope," Luther Seminary is also made up of and led by a generously ecumenically-diverse faculty and staff. Our student population is generally 2/3 Lutheran, with the remaining third made up of 35 denominations and faith traditions. As such, preference will also be given to ecumenical applicants who meet the above qualifications, can demonstrate satisfactory support from their judicatory bodies to pursue study at Luther, and are willing to cultivate their respective denominational identities within a Lutheran confessional learning community.*

*Finally, preference will also be given to applicants who are uniquely gifted to positively impact and add value to the Luther Seminary classroom and community, the larger church, and the world and can contribute a distinct perspective, experience and ideas that enrich these contexts. This also includes applicants willing and able to serve in under-served communities (i.e. rural).*

### Application Processes (M.Div., M.A.)

# Luther Seminary

The following documents must be received by the Admissions Office at Luther Seminary to complete an application:

## 1. Application

Students intending to study for the Master of Divinity degree, Master of Arts degree, or who will be enrolled as ELCA affiliate, graduate certificate or non-degree students or as auditors, must complete an application form at [www.luthersem.edu/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/apply).

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission to the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree programs.

## 2. Transcripts

Applicants for all master's degree programs must arrange for official transcripts to be sent directly to Luther Seminary from every college and/or university attended. Transcripts must be received directly from issuing institutions.

Applicants for graduate certificate and non-degree programs need to only submit their official transcript from the college or university where they received their bachelor's degree.

## 3. Recommendations

Each applicant must secure seminary recommendation forms - appropriate recommendation forms submitted through online application - from a pastor/ministry mentor and a teacher/academic reference. No recommendations can be received from family members. Applicants who have been out of their most recent academic experience for more than five years may substitute the teacher/academic recommendation with a professional work supervisor recommendation.

International applicants are asked to submit an additional teacher/academic reference recommendation and a church/institutional recommendation in lieu of a pastor/ministry mentor recommendation.

Recommendations should be submitted to the Admissions Office by those who write them.

## 4. Resume

Applicants must submit a resume, no more than two pages, outlining their ministry, leadership, service, and professional experience.

## 5. Requirements for Applicants Pursuing Ordination with the ELCA

Applicants pursuing ordination with the ELCA for either the Word and Sacrament or Word and Service rosters are required to submit these additional materials:

- Confirmation email received directly from candidacy committee or synod indicating applicant is scheduled or on track to be scheduled for their entrance interview
- Authorization for Release form

In some instances, the Admissions Committee may request confirmation of a positive entrance decision before making a final decision on an application.

## 6. Admissions Conversation

Once the Admissions Office has begun to receive application materials, a member of the Admissions team will contact the applicant by either email, phone or video conference call with the applicant for a formal admissions conversation. This conversation serves the discernment process and ensures applicants are applying to the degree program that best fits their vocational goals and have the opportunity to ask questions and receive important information particular to their

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application. This conversation is required and must be scheduled and take place before the application deadline.

### **After the Application is Completed**

When beginning the application process, each applicant will create an account on Luther Seminary's online application portal which allows applicants to track which documents are still required for admission. Applicants are asked to check this portal regularly for an update on the status of their applications.

When the application is complete, it will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee and a decision made at the pre-scheduled Admissions Committee meetings. The official admission decisions are communicated to applicants through the online application portal. Applicants will receive email notice of when an update has been made on their application portal.

Luther Seminary reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant for any justifiable reason.

A student may be advised at any time to discontinue studies if he or she does not demonstrate the qualifications on the basis of which admission was approved.

The faculty has final authority in admissions and dismissals.

Master's degree students may begin their studies at Luther Seminary in the fall semester only. Due to the Jubilee Scholarship offering, enrollment is limited by the number of scholarships available each year.

Admissions to Luther Seminary is a competitive process. It is strongly recommended that applicants begin the application process early in the year prior to the year of enrollment. Application deadlines are as follows:

- Early Priority - December 1
- To qualify for Fund for Leaders (ELCA applicants) - January 16
- International Applicants Final Deadline - March 1
- Final Deadline - June 1

Admitted students who wish to change the date of their enrollment should contact the Admissions Office. Study may be deferred for up to one year without reapplication.

Non-degree affiliated and auditing students may be granted mid-year enrollment in Winter term, Spring semester, or Summer term.

Please direct questions concerning admission and application procedures to:

Admissions Office  
Luther Seminary  
651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3  
[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

<https://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/>

### **International Applications**

Luther Seminary is blessed with students from many parts of the world. This lively, diverse community of many traditions, ethnicities and ages is united by a deep faith in Jesus Christ.

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Applicants whose church is a global companion of the ELCA and who are requesting financial support from ELCA Global Mission should submit a separate application through their national church to the International Leadership Development Program at the ELCA Global Mission. Please contact your home church/diocese for details about the ELCA scholarship application process and deadlines.

All other international students, including those Lutheran students who are not seeking financial aid through the ELCA, may apply online at [www.luthersem.edu/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/apply) or contact the Admissions office for guidance.

International applicants must meet English language proficiency as part of their admissions requirements.

International applicants may be required to submit either a score from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Scores must not be more than two years old at the time of application. Other recognized test scores will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

International applicants must have the following minimum test scores to qualify for admission:

Master of Arts or Master of Divinity

- TOEFL: Composite score of 80 or above
- IELTS: 6.5 or above

Master of Theology, Doctor of Philosophy, or Doctor of Ministry

- TOEFL: Composite score of 80 or above (reading at least 22; listening at least 20; speaking at least 18; writing at least 20).
- IELTS: 7.0 or above

Luther Seminary's test code with the Educational Testing Service, which administers the TOEFL, is 6377.

All questions concerning applications and admission as a citizens of countries other than the U.S. should be directed to:

Admissions Office

Luther Seminary

651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3

[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

<https://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/>

### Transfer from Another Seminary

Students transferring from another theological school should use the admissions procedures as described for the M.Div./M.A. degree programs.

All materials requested for regular application to Luther Seminary must be included in an application for transfer to Luther Seminary. In addition, the application must include an official transcript from the previous theological school.

Luther Seminary accepts transfer credits only from the following types of schools:

1. All regionally accredited institutions
2. All ATS (Association of Theological Schools) institutions
3. International institutions whose accreditation is equivalent to those noted above

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## Advanced Standing

Students may petition for advanced standing for individual courses after they have submitted an admissions confirmation and final official college transcript showing their conferred degree. Students must submit their request during the first calendar year in which they are enrolled. Luther Seminary will allow up to five (5.0) credits for an M.Div. degree and three (3.0) credits for an M.A. degree to be met by advanced standing. See Advanced Standing and Tuition and Fees for more information.

## Master of Theology Degree and Doctor of Philosophy Degree

**Note: Luther Seminary is not currently accepting any new students into the D.Min. program.**

General admissions requirements for post-graduate programs administered by the Advanced Theological Education Office (ATE) are listed below. See degree requirements relating to the Master of Theology (Th.M.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) for more information.

### Th.M. prerequisite:

- Bible applicants: Working knowledge of Hebrew and Greek demonstrated by transcripts and in course work.
- Congregational and Community Care applicants: One unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in an approved, accredited program.

### Ph.D. prerequisite:

- A Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree in theology, biblical studies, history or the arts of ministry, or Bachelor of Divinity degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited theological school, is required.

## Admission Process (Th.M., Ph.D.)

### 1. Application

All applicants must complete a degree application form at: [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply).

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission to the Th.M. or Ph.D. degree programs.

### 2. Transcripts

All applicants must arrange for official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work to be sent directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants coming from a school that uses the pass/fail grading system should submit names and contact information for two additional professors who are familiar with the applicant's work. This information will be submitted on the online application.

Those who graduated from Luther Seminary within 10 years from the time of application may submit a transcript release authorization form for copies of undergraduate and Luther Seminary transcripts. Contact the Admissions Office for details.

### 3. Th.M. Admission Requirements

#### a. Statement of Intent

Each Th.M. applicant must write a one- to two-paragraph statement indicating plans for study and the projected year for completion of the Th.M. program requirements. This statement will be uploaded on the online application.



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## **b. Recommendation Forms**

Th.M. applicants must secure academic recommendation forms (appropriate recommendation forms submitted through online application) to be submitted by three professors directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants who have been out of their most recent academic experience for more than five years may substitute a professional recommendation, but it is strongly preferred to have at least one academic recommendation. International applicants are asked to submit an additional church/institutional recommendation.

## **4. Ph.D. Admission Requirements**

### **a. Writing sample**

Admissions will be based on the feasibility of the research interest or area of study proposed and the willingness and availability of one or more Luther Seminary faculty to oversee the student's work on a continuing basis through graduation. Provide a reflection of 3000-4000 words within the area of intended study - uploaded through online application.

### **b. Recommendation Forms**

Ph.D. applicants must secure academic recommendation forms (appropriate recommendation forms submitted through online application) to be submitted by three professors directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants who have been out of their most recent academic experience for more than five years may substitute a professional recommendation, but it is strongly preferred to have at least one academic recommendation. International applicants are asked to submit an additional church/institutional recommendation.

## **5. International Applicants**

See International Application section for additional admission requirements and deadlines.

## **6. Application Deadlines**

It is strongly recommended that applicants begin the application process early in the year prior to the year of enrollment.

- Th.M. students may begin their studies at Luther Seminary in the Fall semester only. The final application deadline for domestic Th.M. applicants is June 1.
- Ph.D. students begin their studies at Luther Seminary in the Fall semester only. All materials for U.S. applications to the Ph.D. program are due January 8 prior to the fall the applicant plans to enroll.
- See International Application section for additional admission requirements and deadlines.

## **7. After the Application is Completed**

When beginning the application process, each applicant will create an account on Luther Seminary's online application portal which allows applicants to track which documents are still required for admission. Applicants are asked to check this portal regularly for an update on the status of their applications.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the Admissions Office and the Advanced Theological Education Office. Official admission decisions are communicated to applicants via the online application portal. Applicants will receive email notice of when an update has been made on their application portal.

Luther Seminary reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant for any justifiable reason. A student may be advised at any time to discontinue studies if he or she does not demonstrate the qualifications on the basis of which admission was approved. The faculty has final authority in admissions and dismissals.

# Luther Seminary

## Post-Master of Divinity/Master of Arts Non-Degree Status

This non-degree status permits the student to enroll in courses for post-graduate credit without being in a degree program. Applicants must complete a degree application form [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply) and arrange for official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work to be sent directly to the Admissions Office. Applicants coming from a school that uses the pass/fail grading system should submit names and contact information for two additional professors who are familiar with the applicant's work. This information will be submitted on the online application.

Applications for post-Master of Divinity/Master of Arts non-degree student status should be received by the Office of Admissions at least 60 days in advance of the term in which admission is sought.

See International Application section for additional admission requirements and deadlines.

Please direct all questions concerning admission and application procedures to the Admission Office [admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu); 651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3.

## Graduate Certificate Programs

Students are classified as certificate students at Luther Seminary when they are taking courses for credit toward completion of a graduate certificate but are not admitted to a degree program or do not have an earned theological degree.

## Admission Requirements

A bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited college or university, is preferred. Ordinarily, applicants are required to have a cumulative grade point average in college of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (B average). Factors other than the academic record are taken into consideration in making admissions decisions. These may include other graduate study or degrees, occupational experience, church and community leadership and an applicant's readiness for graduate-level work. Applicants with undergraduate GPAs below 3.0 are requested to submit a statement detailing readiness for graduate school and may be asked to submit additional materials.

Students without a bachelor's degree may be considered for admission if they have significant leadership or ministry experience, possess the equivalent of an Associate Arts degree or more, and/or have a positive entrance decision from their synodical candidacy committee if pursuing ordination. Students with no Bachelor's degree may also be asked to submit additional materials.

## Admission Procedures

All applicants for certificate student status must:

- Submit a completed application form at [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply).
- Arrange for an official transcript from the college or university where they received their bachelor's degree to be sent directly to Luther Seminary.
- Each applicant must secure seminary recommendation forms—appropriate recommendation forms submitted through online application—from a pastor/ministry mentor and a teacher/academic. No recommendations can be received from family members. Applicants who have been out of their most recent academic experience for more than five years may substitute the teacher/academic recommendation with a professional work supervisor recommendation.

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International applicants are asked to submit an additional teacher/academic recommendation and can submit a church/institutional recommendation in lieu of a pastor/ministry mentor recommendation. Recommendations should be submitted to the Admissions Office by those who write them.

### Other Considerations

- Certificate students are not eligible for federal financial aid.
- Degree program candidates have priority in registration for classes.
- Prerequisite courses within the concentration are to be taken sequentially; other prerequisites do not apply.
- All required courses taken, within the time limit, toward the graduate certificate are transferable to the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degree program.
- Certificate students are restricted to enrolling in those courses which comprise the graduate certificate program.
- Certificate student status does not guarantee admission into a degree program.

All questions concerning applications and admission as a graduate certificate student should be directed to:

Admissions Office  
651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3  
[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

### Non-Degree/Auditors

Students are classified as non-degree students at Luther Seminary when they are taking courses for credit but have not matriculated into a degree program. Auditors do not receive course credit. For information on auditing fees please see Tuition and Fees.

### Admission Requirements

A bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited college or university, is preferred. Ordinarily, applicants are required to have a cumulative grade point average in college of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (B average).

### Admission Procedures

All applicants for non-degree student status must:

- Submit a completed application form at [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/apply).
- Arrange for an official transcript from the college or university where they received their bachelor's degree to be sent directly to Luther Seminary.
- Meet all prerequisites for courses they wish to enter. If a student has questions about fulfilling the prerequisite requirements, he or she should consult with the registrar and the instructors of the courses.

Auditors are required to receive written permission from the instructor to take a course.

### Other Considerations

- Non-degree student status normally is granted for one year. Requests for renewal are reviewed by the Admissions Committee.

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- Non-degree students are not eligible for federal financial aid.
- Degree program candidates and graduate certificate candidates have priority in registration for classes.
- Non-degree students may apply a maximum of six core courses toward the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degree program if taken within the time limit. Non-degree status does not guarantee admission into a degree program.

All questions concerning applications and admission as a non-degree student should be directed to:

Admissions Office

651-641-3521 or 1-800-LUTHER3

[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

## Candidacy

Candidacy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the churchwide process of preparation and formation leading to approval for the public ministries of the church:

- Word and Service
- Word and Sacrament

Candidacy invites an active partnership between the candidate, congregation, synod, seminary and the ELCA. An in-depth discussion of the process is provided at [www.luthersem.edu/candidacy](http://www.luthersem.edu/candidacy). For more information, contact Candidacy in the Contextual Learning Office at 651-641-3492 or [candidacy@luthersem.edu](mailto:candidacy@luthersem.edu)

### Affiliation

All candidates who are preparing for ordination in the ELCA who obtain a Master of Divinity degree from a non-ELCA seminary are expected to affiliate with an ELCA seminary, complete a supervised internship and participate in Lutheran learning and formation through the affiliate seminary.

- Affiliated student status is granted to candidates who have received a positive entrance decision from their candidacy committee, who are admitted to the seminary and submit the appropriate fee\* and complete a Candidate Plan with the seminary and their synod.
- For students who affiliate with an ELCA seminary by paying the affiliate fee within six months of being granted entrance, the fee will be \$1600. For students who affiliate after the six-month period, the fee will be \$2000 across all ELCA seminaries.
- The seminary, in consultation with the synod candidacy committee, sets the expectations for the Lutheran learning and formation.
- Information regarding affiliation is available at [www.luthersem.edu/context/candidacy/affiliated-candidates/](http://www.luthersem.edu/context/candidacy/affiliated-candidates/)

### ELCA Candidacy and Ordination for Word and Sacrament Ministries

Candidates in the ELCA who are preparing for ordination are required to be a part of the candidacy process with their synod. A positive entrance decision is expected before admission to the seminary. However, if other admissions requirements are met, a provisional offer of admission may be extended pending the receipt of a positive entrance

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decision. ELCA candidates are required to obtain a positive entrance decision by the end of their first semester of study. Candidates without a positive entrance decision on file in the Contextual Learning – Candidacy Office will have a hold placed on their registration for subsequent terms until the entrance decision is received.

### TEEM - Theological Education for Emerging Ministries

TEEM is a program administered by Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California in partnership with Luther Seminary. Entrance to the program begins with the candidate's synod bishop, candidacy committee and the ELCA. Candidates preparing for ministry through TEEM are required to complete their theological education and candidacy requirements simultaneously.

Persons interested in more information may contact the TEEM office at [teem@plts.edu](mailto:teem@plts.edu) or may visit [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/degrees/programs\\_certificates](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/degrees/programs_certificates)

### ELCA Candidacy and Ordination for Word and Service Ministers

Deacons and Deaconesses carry out a public ministry of Word and Service. With demonstrated competence and expertise in a particular discipline, all Word and Service candidates are preparing to serve both within and outside of congregational settings.

- With deliberate course selection, any M.A. program will serve to fulfill the educational requirements of candidacy for Word and Service Candidates.
- The Contextual Learning Office will oversee the supervised field work for Deacons. More information can be found at [www.luthersem.edu/contextual\\_learning](http://www.luthersem.edu/contextual_learning).
- Candidates who attend non-ELCA seminaries may affiliate with Luther Seminary for the completion of their Word and Service requirements.
- Deaconess candidates, additionally, can complete the candidacy process of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA [deaconesscommunity.org](http://deaconesscommunity.org) as well as the synod candidacy process.

### Candidacy for Students from Other Traditions

Students from many Christian denominations prepare for their vocations at Luther Seminary.

Each denomination has its own requirements for ordination, certification, licensing or other ways of ordering ministry. Luther Seminary can assist students and their denominations in identifying courses which will fulfill denominational requirements.

- The primary reference is always the denominational contact who coordinates the appropriate candidacy process.
- The staff of Contextual Learning – Candidacy Office [candidacy@luthersem.edu](mailto:candidacy@luthersem.edu) or the Student Affairs Office are available for general assistance regarding coursework and fulfillment of requirements.
- The Contextual Learning Office can help with requirements and placements for Christian Public Leader (CPL), Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and Internship [contextuallearning@luthersem.edu](mailto:contextuallearning@luthersem.edu) or 651-641-3266.

### Loss of Judicatory Support

If a student in the M.Div. ordination track program has not received official support from his/her judicatory in the first semester of study a hold will be placed on his/her registration for subsequent terms until the support documentation is received. If judicatory support is subsequently terminated, a committee consisting of the Academic Dean, the Dean of Students, the Associate Director of Candidacy, and the Director of Enrollment Services will review the circumstances of

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the loss or denial of judicatory support. A student's status may be terminated at the end of the semester in which the loss or denial of support occurs. A student whose judicatory support is withdrawn in the final year of study in the M.Div. ordination track program may be allowed to complete requirements for the degree, with permission from the committee.

### Change of Judicatory Support

If a student changes denominations while enrolled in the M.Div. ordination track program or chooses to pursue the degree without judicatory support, the student must submit an updated authorization for release for the new judicatory body as well as documentation regarding the requested change. If continuing in an ordination process, request that your candidacy committee or judicatory body send a communication to [candidacy@luthersem.edu](mailto:candidacy@luthersem.edu) indicating support for the degree change. If no longer pursuing an ordination process, describe in detail an update of your discernment process and how the new degree program will equip you for your ministry vocation. The student's file will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Academic Dean, the Dean of Students, the Associate Director of Candidacy, and the Director of Enrollment Services, which has the right to request additional information from the student and/or judicatory. This committee may uphold the initial admissions decision or rescind admission based on this change.

## Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid provides students with the financial resources necessary to achieve their educational goals by administering scholarships made available by endowments, as well as federal and institutional loans. Merit scholarships, listed below, are offered in conjunction with the admission process to our M.Div. and M.A. degree programs.

Students who are U.S. Citizens or permanent residents showing evidence of financial need and are admitted to any of the following programs are eligible to receive federal education loans: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Philosophy.

### Scholarships

**Jubilee Scholarship** – All qualified, newly admitted M.A. and M.Div. students will receive full tuition scholarships. Scholarships will be made regardless of full-time or part-time study and will be available to both residential/commuter and distributed learners.

Additional information for the Jubilee Scholarship:

- Scholarships will be granted for a maximum of 3 years/14 courses (M.A.) or 6 years/25 courses (M.Div.).
- Receipt of the Presidential, Wallace, or ELCA Fund for Leaders will replace the Jubilee Scholarship.
- The Jubilee Scholarship does not include a living stipend.

### Distinguished Scholarships

**Presidential Scholarships:** This is for residential and distance students in the M.Div. and M.A. programs. Scholarships are awarded to students who embody the Luther Seminary vision statement to “lead faithful innovation for the gospel of Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing world.” Along with tuition, new Presidential recipients will also receive a \$500 per course living stipend. Scholarships will be granted for a maximum of 3 years/14 courses (M.A.) or 6 years/25 courses (M.Div.). Newly-admitted students are eligible to apply.

**Richard Wallace Scholarship:** The Wallace Scholarship recognizes leaders who are students of color or students from new immigrant communities and is for residential and distance students in the M.Div. and M.A. programs. Scholarships are awarded to students who embody the Luther Seminary vision statement to “lead faithful innovation for the gospel of

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Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing world.” This scholarship was created in honor of Dr. Richard Wallace. A faculty member of Luther Seminary, he was a “champion for peace and justice.” His legacy honors the diversity of God’s people and ministry. Along with tuition, new Wallace recipients will also receive a \$500 per course living stipend. Scholarships will be granted for a maximum of 3 years/14 courses (M.A.) or 6 years/25 courses (M.Div.). Newly-admitted students are eligible to apply.

To be considered for these scholarships, you must:

- Meet the criteria for the scholarships as outlined above; and
- Must have completed the application for admission; and
- Complete the Luther Seminary Distinguished Scholarship application.

NOTE: Even if you meet the criteria for multiple distinguished scholarships, you only need to fill out this application once.

Additional information for the Presidential, Richard Wallace scholarship:

- Scholarship amount will increase in size accordingly with any tuition increases as student progresses in years. The stipend will remain the same for the duration of your degree.
- Deadline for all application materials is April 1.

### Other Scholarships

**Artist in Residence:** Scholarship given to an artist of proven ability and breadth and that possesses an openness to working with several key constituencies at Luther Seminary. The artist will work principally in one of the visual arts (painting/drawing, sculpture, photography, etc.) but will not be limited to working only in these media. Critical to the artwork produced and to the arts immersion experiences offered will be a passion for exploring the intersection of art and Christian faith and its impact on theological education. A separate application and recommendation form must be submitted to the Office of Admissions and an interview is required.

**Musician in Residence:** Scholarship given to a student with worship leadership experience, with preference given to candidates with strong instrumental abilities (guitar, keyboard, organ, drum, other) and worship leadership experience. All musicians seeking to further their worship and music skills while gaining a theological education are encouraged to apply. Will be expected to assist in worship service planning and provide music for worship during chapel at Luther Seminary on a regular basis (i.e. two times per month). A separate application and recommendation form must be submitted to the Office of Admissions and an audition and interview are required.

Additional information for the Musician/Artist in Residence:

- Recipients must be a residential student.
- Scholarships will be granted for a maximum of 3 years/14 courses (M.A.) or 6 years/25 courses (M.Div.).
- Along with full tuition, these awards will include a \$500 per full course living stipend.
- Scholarship amount will increase in size accordingly with any tuition increases as student progresses in years. The stipend will remain at \$500 per course for the duration of your degree.
- Receipt of the Artist/Musician in Residence will replace the Jubilee Scholarship.

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**Service Scholarships:** We will recognize incoming students who have completed a year of service in YAGM, LVC, J-3, Urban Servant Corps or other faith based service organizations within the last 5 years of entering Luther Seminary. The amount of this award will be \$5000 per year (\$2,500 in fall term and \$2,500 in spring term.). The Service Scholarship will be granted for 2 years (M.A.) or 3 years (M.Div.). Applicants must have their supervising volunteer/program coordinator email [admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu) with a confirmation of their dates of service.

**Th.M. Scholarship** - All new domestic Th.M. students are eligible to receive a scholarship of \$5000. This scholarship is for the first year only of study. The scholarship will be disbursed twice during the first year. \$2500 per Fall and Spring Semesters.

**Ph.D. Students** – All new incoming Ph.D. students will be eligible for full tuition scholarships. The scholarship will also include a living stipend. Please contact the Graduate Studies Office for more information.

### Special Outside Funding Sources

Admitted students receiving full-tuition benefits from the ELCA Fund for Leaders qualify for an additional \$750 stipend for every course. This additional stipend is limited to 14 courses for the MA program and 25 courses for the M.Div program.

### Loans

Luther Seminary participates in the Federal Direct Unsubsidized and Graduate PLUS loan programs.

The Mourer loan, a private, institutional loan, is also offered to students as funds are available and criteria is met. This loan is eligible for partial cancellation for ministry service following graduation.

Detailed loan information can be found at [www.luthersem.edu/finaid](http://www.luthersem.edu/finaid).

### Employment

Most students work part-time to assist in financing their education. Luther Seminary has a limited number of student jobs available, all of which are on campus. Positions are advertised and handled by Student Affairs office.

### Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Federal regulations require the Office of Financial Aid to measure the satisfactory academic progress (SAP) of federal student loan recipients on a per term basis. The federal SAP policy is more defined than the seminary's policy related to student academic progress. In order for students to receive financial aid (from both federal and Luther sources) they must remain in good academic standing. Academic standing for financial aid purposes is measured in two ways - qualitative (academic probation) and quantitative. Admitted students may view the policy in the Financial Aid Portal under the "Satisfactory/Academic Progress".

Financial aid for this policy will include both Luther Seminary-originated and federal aid.

## Tuition and Fees for 2023-2024

Tuition and fees paid by students cover only about 2 percent of the total annual educational and general costs for each full-time student at Luther Seminary.



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The remaining 98 percent is paid by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its synods, gifts from individuals and congregations, grants from foundations and corporations, bequests, income from the endowment and other miscellaneous sources.

### **Master of Divinity Degree and Master of Arts Degree**

#### **Tuition**

**Full Course \$2,320**

**Half Course \$1,160**

**Auditor Fee, per course \$540**

**Continuation Fee \$1,000**

Applies to two-year Master of Arts degree students who have completed all course requirements except the writing project and are not enrolled in course. Payable every semester beyond the second year in the program.

**SEVIS Management Fee \$350**

Assessed each year for certain international graduates

**Graduation Fee \$200**

Assessed during the final year

Non-refundable and non-transferable

**Transcript Fee \$10 + shipping/handling**

Refer to transcript cost charts online <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/transcript-request/>

**Student Organization Fee \$10**

Payable every semester

**Advanced Standing Fee, per course \$250**

Not to exceed \$1,250 for M.Div. students or \$750 for M.A. students. Charge placed on student's account when the petition is received. Students charged regardless of the outcome of the petition. No refunds.

### **Medical Insurance**

Because the Affordable Care Act has increased the health insurance options for students, Luther no longer offers its own student policy. Instead, students have multiple options for obtaining coverage:

- As a covered dependent under a group health policy of a spouse or of parents if under age 26.
- An individual policy purchased directly from a private health insurer.
- An individual policy purchased through the Marketplace at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)
- Medicaid or other government programs if you qualify, based on your state of residence.

International students and scholars should heed the guidance from the International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) office on medical insurance coverage requirements. An international student/scholar is defined as an individual living and studying in the U.S. on an F-1, J-1, or another non-immigrant status (including R-1) visa.

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### Graduate Certificate/Non-Degree

#### Tuition

Full Course \$2,320

Half Course \$1,160

Auditor Fee, per course \$540

SEVIS Management Fee \$350

Assessed each year for certain international graduates

Graduation Fee \$200

Assessed during the final year

Non-refundable and non-transferable

Transcript Fee \$10 + shipping/handling

Refer to transcript cost charts online <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/transcript-request/>

Student Organization Fee \$10

Payable every semester

#### Medical Insurance

Because the Affordable Care Act has increased the health insurance options for students, Luther no longer offers its own student policy. Instead, students have multiple options for obtaining coverage:

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- An individual policy purchased directly from a private health insurer.
- An individual policy purchased through the Marketplace at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)
- Medicaid or other government programs if you qualify, based on your state of residence.

International students and scholars should heed the guidance from the International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) office on medical insurance coverage requirements. An international student/scholar is defined as an individual living and studying in the U.S. on an F-1, J-1, or another non-immigrant status (including R-1) visa.

### Master of Theology Degree

#### Tuition

Full Course \$2,485

Half Course \$1,242.50

Auditor Fee, per course \$540

Continuation Fee \$1,000

Payable per semester after two years of full-time study

Candidacy Fee \$300

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Payable upon approval of thesis proposal

### **Graduation Fee \$200**

Assessed during the final year

Non-refundable and non-transferable

### **SEVIS Management Fee \$350**

Assessed each year for certain international graduates

### **Transcript Fee \$10 + shipping/handling**

Refer to transcript cost charts online <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/transcript-request/>

### **Student Organization Fee \$10**

Payable every semester

### **Medical Insurance**

Because the Affordable Care Act has increased the health insurance options for students, Luther no longer offers its own student policy. Instead, students have multiple options for obtaining coverage:

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- An individual policy purchased directly from a private health insurer.
- An individual policy purchased through the Marketplace at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)
- Medicaid or other government programs if you qualify, based on your state of residence.

International students and scholars should heed the guidance from the International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) office on medical insurance coverage requirements. An international student/scholar is defined as an individual living and studying in the U.S. on an F-1, J-1, or another non-immigrant status (including R-1) visa.

### **Post-Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Non-Degree**

#### **Tuition**

**Full Course \$2,485**

**Half Course \$1,242.50**

**Auditor Fee, per course \$477**

### **SEVIS Management Fee \$350**

Assessed each year for certain international graduates

### **Transcript Fee \$10 + shipping/handling**

Refer to transcript cost charts online <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/transcript-request/>

### **Student Organization Fee \$10**

Payable every semester

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## Medical Insurance

Because the Affordable Care Act has increased the health insurance options for students, Luther no longer offers its own student policy. Instead, students have multiple options for obtaining coverage:

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- An individual policy purchased directly from a private health insurer.
- An individual policy purchased through the Marketplace at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)
- Medicaid or other government programs if you qualify, based on your state of residence.

International students and scholars should heed the guidance from the International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) office on medical insurance coverage requirements. An international student/scholar is defined as an individual living and studying in the U.S. on an F-1, J-1, or another non-immigrant status (including R-1) visa.

## Doctor of Philosophy Degree

### Tuition

**Full Time, per year (four years) \$17,500**

**Auditor Fee, per course \$540**

**Continuation Fee \$1,000**

Payable per semester after four years of full-time study

**Candidacy Fee \$300**

Payable upon approval of thesis proposal

**Graduation Fee \$200**

Assessed during the final year

Non-refundable and non-transferable

**SEVIS Management Fee \$350**

Assessed each year for certain international graduates

**Transcript Fee \$10 + shipping/handling**

Refer to transcript cost charts online <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/transcript-request/>

**Student Organization Fee \$10**

Payable every semester

## Medical Insurance

Because the Affordable Care Act has increased the health insurance options for students, Luther no longer offers its own student policy. Instead, students have multiple options for obtaining coverage:

- As a covered dependent under a group health policy of a spouse or of parents if under age 26.
- An individual policy purchased directly from a private health insurer.

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- An individual policy purchased through the Marketplace at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)
- Medicaid or other government programs if you qualify, based on our state of residence.

International students and scholars should heed the guidance from the International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) office on medical insurance coverage requirements. An international student/scholar is defined as an individual living and studying in the U.S. on an F-1, J-1, or another non-immigrant status (including R-1) visa.

### **Doctor of Ministry Degree in Biblical Preaching**

#### **Tuition**

#### **Basic Tuition \$15,450**

Charges of \$5,150 billed once per year for the first three years in the program.

#### **Continuation Fee \$1,000**

Payable every year in the program beyond the final year

#### **Candidacy Fee \$625**

Payable upon approval of thesis proposal

#### **SEVIS Management Fee \$350**

Assessed each year for certain international graduates

#### **Graduation Fee \$200**

Assessed during the final year

Non-refundable and non-transferable

#### **Transcript Fee \$10 + shipping/handling**

Refer to transcript cost charts online <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/transcript-request/>

#### **Student Organization Fee \$10**

Payable every semester

Travel, books, lodging and meal expenses are the responsibility of the student.

Doctor of Ministry tuition will remain constant for the duration of a student's time in the program, but fees are subject to change annually.

#### **Affiliated Students**

#### **Affiliation Fee (within six months of being Entranced) \$1,600**

(Non-Refundable)

OR

#### **Affiliation Fee (after six-month period) \$2,000**

(Non-Refundable)

For ELCA students attending a non-ELCA seminary but seeking ordination in the ELCA

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### Transcript Fee \$10 + shipping/handling

Before a transcript can be issued, accounts must be settled or arrangements, made for payment of balance. Refer to transcript cost charts online.

### Student Organization Fee \$10

Payable every semester

### Auditors

### Tuition

Full Course	\$540
Half Course	\$540

### Transcript Fee \$10 + shipping/handling

Refer to transcript cost charts online <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/transcript-request/>

### Refund on Withdrawal from Luther Seminary

Refund of tuition is made to a student who withdraws from Luther Seminary by formal application via MyLutherNet. The effective date of withdrawal is the date a formal notice is received. All relevant offices will receive notice of the student's withdrawal. Th.M., D.Min. and Ph.D. students need to make a formal application for withdrawal to the Advanced Theological Education Office.

The seminary is not responsible for refunds if a student fails to follow this procedure.

Effective July 1, 2000, Luther Seminary adopted a new refund policy that conforms to the updated version (section 668.22) of the Higher Education Amendments Act of 1998. Withdrawing students with Title IV funds (Federal subsidized / Unsubsidized Direct Loans and Federal Perkins Loan) will be subject to both federal policy regarding the possible return of Title IV funds AND Luther Seminary's refund policy as outlined in the next section.

Federal policy states that if a student totally withdraws from all courses within a given academic term on or before the 60 percent point in time of the enrollment period, calculated using calendar days, a portion of the total federal Title IV funds awarded to a student must be returned. The calculation of the return portion may result in the student owing a balance to Luther Seminary and/or the federal government.

Please note: Students withdrawing from all courses in a term, ceasing to attend all courses in a term, receiving less than passing grades in all courses attempted in a term and receiving Title IV funds will be subject to the above federal policy. Questions about this should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid. [finaid@luthersem.edu](mailto:finaid@luthersem.edu).

### Refund Schedule

Students who withdraw on or before the last day to drop add a course will receive a FULL REFUND. Withdrawing from a course after the drop/add date will result in NO REFUND.

Doctor of Ministry students withdrawing from their program are eligible for refunds of tuition and program fees payments based on the percentage of completion of their term. After 60% of the term there are no refunds. For example, the Biblical Preaching term is April 1 through March 31. No refunds would be issued if the student withdraws after November 5th. The seminary is not responsible for refunds if a student fails to follow this procedure.

### Delayed Veterans Benefits

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The Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 amended 38 USC §3679(e) to protect students in the case that their VA Education benefits are delayed through no fault of their own. This act requires schools to forgive the assessment of fines and program withdrawals when a VA beneficiary can demonstrate that they are entitled to payment.

Luther Seminary permits any “covered individual” (i.e. a person using Chapter 31 or Chapter 33 benefits<sup>1</sup>) to attend a course of education if they present the school a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility, Statement of Benefits, or VA form 28-1901, and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

In the above case, Luther Seminary will not impose any penalty whatsoever on the VA beneficiary student or require that such a student borrow additional funds because of their inability to meet financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement of funding from VA under Chapter 31 or 33.

### Federal Tuition Assistance – Refund Policy

Luther Seminary has signed the Department of Defense (DOD) Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and is approved to process DoD Tuition Assistance (TA) for all of our degree programs. TA benefits are available to qualifying individuals currently serving in the Armed Forces. Each service branch has specific TA policies and annual funding limits. Questions about your own TA eligibility should be directed to your unit or education office. Some helpful links are below.

### Return of Tuition Assistance (Unearned TA Policy)

Students who use Tuition Assistance (TA) are expected to remain enrolled in the course for its entire duration. If a student using TA withdraws or stops attending, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of the benefit that was originally authorized. To remain in compliance with the Department of Defense's policy, Luther Seminary will return any unearned TA funds through at least 60% mark of the course on a prorated basis. The amount of unearned TA that is returned is based on student-initiated date of withdrawal or last date of attendance noted by the instructor.

After 60% of the course has passed, TA will not be evaluated for a return to the DOD.

As an institution, we will bill the DOD after 60% of the course has passed to reduce the amount of incorrect TA funds being disbursed by the DOD to Luther Seminary. We will only bill for the amount the student earned given their enrollment.

### Schedule for Returning Unearned TA

#### 15-week course withdraw submitted

Before or during weeks 1-2	100% return
During weeks 3-4	90% return
During weeks 5-6	75% return
During weeks 7-8	50% return
During week 9	40% return (60% of course completed)
During weeks 10-15	0% return

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### 11-week course withdraw

Before or during week 1	100% return
During week 2	82% return
During week 3	73% return
During week 4	64% return
During week 5	45% return
During week 6	40% return (60% of course completed)
During week 7-11	0% return

### 6-week course withdraw submitted

Before or during week 1	100% return
During week 2	67% return
During week 3	50% return
During week 4	40% return (60% of course completed)
During weeks 5-6	0% return

### Financial Petitions

The Financial Petition Committee is a standing committee of the Seminary that normally reviews requests to reduce or refund tuition costs when a student withdraws from a course past the stated refund deadline. Representatives from Financial Aid, the Registrar's Office, the Business Office and Student Affairs serve on the committee. Financial Petitions must be submitted within 60 days of the student withdrawing from the course.

Students wishing to petition may do so by submitting a petition form for late course withdrawal through the Office of the Registrar, if applicable.

In addition, students must submit the Financial Petition form which may be found through the Student Affairs Office.

Requests will not be reviewed unless all documentation is submitted with the petition.

### Payment of Charges

A student's registration is not complete until satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Business Office for payment of tuition, housing and all other charges.

Satisfactory arrangements include any combination of the following:

1. Payment of all charges in full
2. Student aid awarded by Luther Seminary applied to account
3. Completed application for a direct loan



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4. Documentation of future payments to be made directly to Luther Seminary by an outside source, such as a letter from the student's home congregation stating the date and amount of tuition or other charges to be paid by that congregation

Registration for succeeding academic semesters or units of study is not permitted, and current registrations are canceled, until all amounts previously owed have been satisfied as explained above.

A hold will be placed on a student's record when his or her account is not paid. This hold will restrict a student's registration until the account is paid off (allow for 24 hours for the hold to clear off the record) or arrangements have been made for payment (the hold remains on the student record; the Office of the Registrar will manually process the student's registration). A hold will prohibit a student from registering online on MyLutherNet.

Payment of all accounts in the Business Office and library is required before a degree is awarded.