



# **2021-2022**

# **Academic Catalog**

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# Luther Seminary

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## 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., M.A. in CYF, M.A. in CM, M.A. in LIM, D.Min., Th.M., Ph.D.

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](tel:6516420567)  
<https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/>

## 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 2021 through Summer Term 2022. 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.

Students are subject to the graduation requirements in the catalog in effect at the time of their enrollment. All students entering Luther Seminary in the 2021-2022 academic year complete their work according to the graduation requirements indicated in this catalog.

# Faculty

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For faculty bios and more information, visit [www.luthersem.edu/facultybios](http://www.luthersem.edu/facultybios).

## **Michael J. Chan**

*Associate Professor of Old Testament*

B.A., Pacific Lutheran University, 2005  
M.A., Luther Seminary, 2009  
Ph.D., Emory University, 2013

## **Michael Binder**

*Assistant Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership*

B.A., Carleton College, 2000  
M.Div., Bethel Seminary, 2008  
Ph.D., Luther Seminary, 2017

## **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**

*Professor of Leadership*

B.A., Concordia College, 1986  
M.A., Luther Seminary, 1998  
Ph.D., Luther Seminary, 2007

## **Lois Farag**

*Professor of Early Church History*

B.S., The American University, Cairo, Egypt, 1977  
M.A., Harvard Divinity School, 1997  
M.Div., Harvard Divinity School, 1997  
Ph.D., The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., 2003

## **David Fredrickson**

*Professor of New Testament*

B.A., Carleton College, 1975  
M.Div., Luther Theological Seminary, 1980  
M.A., Yale University, 1985  
M.Phil., Yale University, 1987  
Ph.D., Yale University, 1990  
Ordained, 1980 (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

## **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**

*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)

**Craig R. Koester**

*Professor and Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Chair of New Testament*

B.A., St. Olaf College, 1976  
M.Div., Luther Theological Seminary, 1980  
Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary, New York City, 1986  
Ordained, 1980 (ELCA)

**Dirk G. Lange**

*Professor of Worship and Frederik A. Schiotz 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

**Joy J. Moore**

*Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean 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)

**Alan G. Padgett**

*Professor of Systematic Theology*

B.A., Vanguard University, 1977  
M.Div., Drew University, 1981  
D.Phil., University of Oxford, 1990  
Ordained, 1984 (United Methodist Church)

**Grace Duddy Pomroy**

*Director of Stewardship Leaders*

B.A., Saint Olaf College, 2010  
M.A., Luther Seminary, 2012  
Certified Financial Education Instructor, National Financial Educators Council

**Andrew Root**

*Professor and Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry*

B.A., Bethel College, 1997  
M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary, 2000  
M.Th., Fuller Theological Seminary, 2001  
Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 2006

**Kathryn M. Schifferdecker**

*Professor of Old Testament and Elva B. Lovell Chair of Old Testament*

B.A., St. Olaf College, 1990  
M.Div., Yale University, 1996  
Th.D., Harvard University, 2005  
Ordained, 2001 (ELCA)

**Matthew L. Skinner**

*Professor of New Testament*

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.

**Robin J. Steinke**

*President*

*Professor of Systematic Theology*

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)

**Mark D. Tranvik**

*Professor of Reformation Theology and History*

B.A., Luther College, 1979

M.Div., Yale University, 1982

Th.D., Luther Seminary, 1992

**Beverly Wallace**

*Associate Professor of Congregational and Community Care*

B.S.W., Adelphi University, 1972

M.Ed., The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 1993

M.Div., Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, 1996

Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 2009

Ordained, 1999 (ELCA)

**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*

*Associate 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 offering schedule with the course or courses they teach.

# Theological Education at Luther Seminary

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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
- 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. and Graduate Certificates—Academic and Professional Degrees
- Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.—Advanced Theological Education
- Lifelong Learning for Leadership

## Missional Pastors

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) may be completed in three to four years of full-time study, or through a five-year distance education program, or in six years of part-time study or through an expedited pathway in 24 months. Its purpose 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 professional 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 professional 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. Students meet with their advisor as a group for 90 minutes each semester.

## 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 academic M.A. prepares students for further graduate study while choosing a concentration in one of five areas at Luther Seminary. The M.A. (Studies in Lutheran Ministries) allows for two tracks—non-affiliated or affiliated—and provides Lutheran theological training for those preparing for ministry in a Lutheran setting. The professional M.A. (in Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Christian Ministry; and Leadership and Innovation for Ministry) prepares students to serve as mission-driven leaders in a variety of ministries within and beyond Christian congregations. One-year graduate certificate programs are designed to equip lay leaders across denominational lines. The Graduate Certificate Program is intended for students who do not have an earned (and who are not concurrently seeking a) theological degree. The M.A. in Children, Youth and Family Ministry and the Graduate Certificate Programs are available in both residential, commuter and distributed learning programs.

## Advanced Theological Education

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.

## Faith+Lead

Faith+Lead is Luther Seminary's connected learning hub for Christian leaders exploring how to connect with God, cultivate Christian community, innovate faithfully, connect with diverse neighbors, equip the saints, shift ministry models, and deepen administrative leadership.

Learning for Christian Leaders models and sustains effective leadership for the sake of God's mission of witness and service in a changing world. Above all, we facilitate opportunities for shared discovery that cultivate the renewing habit of critical and communal reflection—in this case, on the practice of Christian leadership. Toward this end, we provide a variety of study opportunities for professional and lay leaders or members of congregations who are compelled to understand and live out their faith in daily life. This educational process is not a degree-granting program but is aimed at supporting ongoing education in congregations and other Christian communities.

For more information visit  
[www.faithlead.luthersem.edu](http://www.faithlead.luthersem.edu).



# Master of Divinity Degree Programs

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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 four 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.
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.

The M.Div. degree program requirements may be completed in three different modes: Full-time residential/commuter, distributed learning and part-time commuter.

## Master of Divinity—Residential

### General Information

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program prepares students to be faithful and effective pastors in the church as it ministers to the world. The M.Div. is a 30-course/90-semester hour degree program that is offered in multiple pathways:

- **Full-time Residential** is designed to be completed in three to four years. The program involves courses on the seminary campus as well as contextual learning placements for internship and Clinical Pastoral Education. Students who complete the program in four years often do two years of course work, a year-long internship and then a final year of course work. Some students choose to do a part-time internship along with part-time study. It is possible to complete the program in three to three-and-a-half years by taking some courses during the summer and during internship.
- **Distributed Learning (DL)** is designed for students for whom relocation to St. Paul is not feasible. The DL track is normally completed in five years. Of the 30 required courses, students take 20 online and 10 on campus. On-campus courses are offered through one-week residential intensive sessions held in the summer term and during the winter term or residential focus session (RFS) courses in fall and spring semesters

- **Accelerated (MDivX)** is an expedited pathway through the complete M.Div. degree designed to be completed in 24 months. This pathway involves five types of courses: intensive courses on the seminary campus, residential focus session (RFS) courses that include 20 hours of intensive sessions on campus with approximately 19 hours of distance-learning, online courses, Blended Synchronous Learning (BSL) courses delivered simultaneously in person and through video, and a travel intensive course. Learners will participate in congregationally based internships for the entire 24 months. Each academic year will include four terms of study. This cohort-based pathway will begin with its inaugural cohort in June 2019. This cohort will be made up of residential and DL who will take classroom courses and learn in congregational sites year-round for two years.
- **Part-time Commuter** is designed for adult learners based in and around the Twin Cities. Students may complete the program in six years through a combination of online and on-campus courses, many of which are scheduled to fit within students' busy lives.

## General Degree Requirements

### Bachelor's Degree

A bachelor's degree or its equivalent received from a regionally accredited college or university is required. Exceptions may be considered on an individual basis.

### Course Requirements

A minimum of 30 courses is required, including required courses in the core curriculum.

### Language Options

Students may be able to waive one ancient language requirement (LG0110 Biblical Hebrew or LG0220 New Testament Greek) and substitute further study in a modern language for ministry. Students who enter seminary with proficiency in a modern language such as Spanish will be able to opt out of one of the biblical languages in order to take a course in the use of a modern language for the sake of ministry. In such a course, students would learn the theological and ministerial vocabulary and practice preaching, teaching, and ministering in that language. LG4525 will also serve as a substitute course.

### Time Limit

The M.Div. degree may be completed in as few as three years, though normally students take up to four years to complete the program (with internship). Part-time students may take up to eight years. Jubilee Scholarship coverage timelines may differ. Please see section on Financial Aid.

### Registration

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 cause a student to lose registration priority.

### M.Div. Concentrations

Students in the M.Div. program may choose to develop a concentration in a particular area of study. A concentration requires taking a number of electives in a particular field. The options include Bible; History of Christianity; Systematic Theology; Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Spanish Language for Ministry; Congregational Mission and Leadership; Justice and Reconciliation; and Congregational and Community Care. Limit of one concentration area. No concentrations offered in the MDivX program.

### 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. Two courses (including all outstanding incompletes) is the maximum number of courses a student may have to complete during the summer and still participate in graduation ceremonies. These courses 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. New graduation fees will be assessed.

# Master of Divinity Degree Core Curriculum

## Signature Courses (4.0 courses)

### Bible

SG0705	Scripture and Its Witnesses	1.0 course
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### Systematic Theology

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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### Leadership for Mission

SG0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1.0 course
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SG0501	Christian Public Leader I	0.5 course
SG0502	Christian Public Leader II	0.5 course

## Core Courses (16.0 courses)

### Bible

LG0110	Biblical Hebrew*	1.0 course
LG0220	New Testament Greek*	1.0 course

\*Students may be able to waive one ancient language requirement and substitute further study in a modern language for ministry

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
OT0120	Prophets and Poetry (prerequisite Hebrew)	1.0 course

NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course
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NT0230-NT0254	Epistles (prerequisite Greek)	1.0 course
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### History of Christianity

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

### Systematic Theology

ST0440	The Triune God and the World	1.0 course
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### History and Theology

HT0801	Lutheran Confessional Writings (or denominational option)	1.0 course
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## Leadership for Mission

CG0525	Congregational Care and Formation	1.0 course
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PR0510	Foundations of Biblical Preaching	1.0 course
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WO0515	Public Worship: Leadership in Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Thanksgiving	1.0 course
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## Contextual Learning

FE0200	Internship Orientation	0.0 course
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FE0500	Clinical Pastoral Education	1.0 course
FE0509		

IN0500	Internship	2.0 courses
IN0565		

## Elective Courses (10.0 Courses)

Full or half courses to total 10.0 courses  
*1.0 course required in Systematic Theology; 1.0 course required in Leadership for Mission; 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course*

Total Signature Courses 4.0 courses

Total Core Courses 16.0 courses

Total Electives 10.0 courses

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**TOTAL REQUIRED 30.0 courses**

# Master of Divinity Degree Core Curriculum Concentrations

## Master of Divinity—Concentration in Bible

In order to complete a concentration in Bible, noted on the student transcript, a student must successfully complete:

- All required Signature Courses (4.0 courses)
- All required Core Courses (16.0 courses)
- Hebrew—LG4127 Reading Hebrew (1.0 course) or Greek – LG4225 Reading Greek (1.0 course)
- At least the equivalent of 2.0 courses in Old Testament, New Testament or Language
- At least the equivalent of 7.0 remaining elective courses; 1.0 course required in Systematic Theology, 1.0 course required in Leadership for Mission and 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course (*if not completed in concentration electives*)

## Master of Divinity—Concentration in History of Christianity

In order to complete a concentration in History of Christianity, noted on the student transcript, a student must successfully complete:

- All required Signature Courses (4.0 courses)
- All required Core Courses (16.0 courses)
- At least the equivalent of 1.0 course in the pre-Reformation period
- At least the equivalent of 1.0 course in the Reformation period
- At least the equivalent of 1.0 course in Modern period
- At least 7.0 remaining elective courses; 1.0 course required in Systematic Theology, 1.0 course required in Leadership for Mission and 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course (*if not completed in concentration electives*)
- Academic language study appropriate to the subject may count as 1.0 concentration course

## Master of Divinity—Concentration in Systematic Theology

In order to complete a concentration in Systematic Theology, noted on the student transcript, a student must successfully complete:

- All required Signature Courses (4.0 courses)
- All required Core Courses (16.0 courses)
- At least the equivalent of 4.0 courses in Systematic Theology electives
- At least the equivalent of 6.0 remaining elective courses; 1.0 course required in Leadership for Mission and 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course (*if not completed in concentration electives*)

## Master of Divinity—Concentration in Children, Youth and Family Ministry

In order to complete a concentration in Children, Youth and Family Ministry, noted on the student transcript, a student must successfully complete:

- All required Signature Courses (4.0 courses)
- All required Core Courses (16.0 courses)
- LD0500 Theological Frameworks for Ministry I (1.0 course)
- LD0505 Theological Frameworks for Ministry II (1.0 course)
- FE0523-FE0524—Christian Public Leader III and IV (two half courses required) (1.0 course)
- At least the equivalent of 2.0 additional courses in Children, Youth and Family
- At least 5.0 remaining elective courses; 1.0 course required in Systematic Theology and 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course (*if not completed in concentration electives*)

## Master of Divinity—Concentration in Spanish Language for Ministry

In order to complete a concentration in Spanish Language for Ministry, noted on the student transcript, a student must successfully complete:

- Spanish Proficiency Exam
- All required Signature Courses (4.0 courses)
- All required Core Courses (16.0 courses)  
(LG4525 Ministry with Latinos/as/xs - El ministerio con gente latina may fulfill one language requirement.)
- CD1640 Knowing Our Neighbors: Latin America, Meso-American Culture, and the Mission of the Church (1.0 course)  
(Or an equivalent course at the Lutheran Seminary Program at the Southwest.)
- 1.0 course taken at the Hispanic Summer Program, preferably in Spanish or some other international partnership  
Luther Seminary arranges in a Spanish-speaking context
- CPL or Internship in an immersive, cross-cultural experience preferably among individuals who primarily speak Spanish  
arranged with the Office of Contextual Learning
- At least the equivalent of 3.0 additional courses that deal directly with cross-cultural and inter-cultural approaches to  
ministry
- At least 5.0 remaining elective courses; 1.0 course required in Systematic Theology, 1.0 course required in Leadership  
for Mission and 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course (*if not completed in concentration electives*)

## Master of Divinity—Concentration in Congregational Mission and Leadership

In order to complete a concentration in Congregational Mission and Leadership, noted on the student transcript, a student must successfully complete:

- All required Signature Courses (4.0 courses)
- All required Core Courses (16.0 courses)
- CL0520 Church Organization and Leadership (1.0 course)\*
- CL0535 God's Mission: Biblical and Theological Explorations (1.0 course)
- CL4570 Leading Change that Transforms Christian Communities in Mission (1.0 course)\*
- CL4573 Christian Witness, Evangelism and Mission in a Secular Age (1.0 course)\*
- At least the equivalent of 1.0 additional course in Congregational Leadership, Educational Leadership, Rural Ministry,  
Urban Ministry, or designated Systematic Theology courses or Christian Public Leader
- At least 5.0 remaining elective courses; 1.0 course required in Systematic Theology and 1.0 course must be classified as  
a Cultural Context course (*if not completed in concentration electives*)

*\*Another CL, EL, RM, UM or designated ST course or LD0540 may be substituted for one of these courses  
by petition.*

## Master of Divinity—Concentration in Justice and Reconciliation

In order to complete a concentration in Justice and Reconciliation, noted on the student transcript, a student must successfully complete:

- All required Signature Courses (4.0 courses)
- All required Core Courses (16.0 courses)
- ST2484 Justice and Reconciliation (1.0 course)
- At least 5.0 concentration courses in consultation with the faculty point person
- At least 4.0 remaining elective courses; 1.0 course required in Leadership for Mission and 1.0 course must be classified  
as a Cultural Context course (*if not completed in concentration electives*)

## **Master of Divinity—Concentration in Congregational and Community Care**

In order to complete a concentration in Congregational and Community Care, noted on the student transcript, a student must successfully complete:

- All required Signature Courses (4.0 courses)
- All required Core Courses (16.0) (including CG0525 and CPE)
- At least the equivalent of 6.0 additional courses in Congregational and Community Care (combination of full and/or half courses)
- At least 4.0 remaining elective courses (including Educational Leadership and Children, Youth and Family courses); 1.0 course required in Systematic Theology and 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course (*if not completed in concentration electives*)

# Master of Divinity— Distributed Learning (DL) Program

## General Information

The Master of Divinity—Distributed Learning program follows the same curriculum of 30 courses as the traditional Luther Seminary M.Div. Students in the M.Div. DL program complete the degree in a part-time, cohort-based program paced over approximately five years, including summers. For students who are candidates for ministry in the ELCA, invitation to the M.Div. DL cohort also requires a positive entrance decision from their synod candidacy committee for the distributed learning path.

Students must be admitted to the M.Div. DL program.

Students in the M.Div. DL program may move to campus at any point in their studies and finish their degree in residence. A student who moves from the M.Div. DL program to the residential M.Div. program must inform the Office of the Registrar of his or her intention by submitting a Change of Program Delivery Type form located on MyLutherNet.

## General Degree Requirements

### Bachelor's Degree

A bachelor's degree or its equivalent received from a regionally accredited college or university is required. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis.

### Course Requirements

The M.Div. DL program follows the same comprehensive curriculum as the residential M.Div. program: a minimum of 30 courses, including required courses in the core curriculum. Up to 20.0 of the credits may be completed online. At least 10.0 of the credits must be completed on campus.

### Language Options

Students may be able to waive one ancient language requirement (LG0110 Biblical Hebrew or LG0220 New Testament Greek) and substitute further study in a modern language for ministry. Students who enter seminary with proficiency in a modern language such as Spanish will be able to opt out of one of the biblical languages in order to take a course in the use of a modern language for the sake of ministry. In such a course, students would learn the theological and ministerial vocabulary and practice preaching, teaching, and ministering in that language. LG4525 will also serve as a substitute course.

### Time Limit

The M.Div. may be completed in as few as three years, though students normally take up to five years to complete the program (with internship). Part-time students may take up to eight years. Jubilee Scholarship coverage timelines may differ. Please see section on Financial Aid.

### Registration

M.Div. DL students are normally given priority in the online registration process. All holds on a student's account must be resolved before registration is allowed. This can be done by contacting the office where the hold originated. Unresolved holds will cause a student to lose registration priority.

### M.Div. Concentrations

Students in the M.Div. program may choose to develop a concentration in a particular area of study. A concentration requires taking a number of electives in a particular field. The options include Bible; History of Christianity; Systematic Theology; Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Spanish Language for Ministry; Congregational Mission and Leadership; Justice and Reconciliation; and Congregational and Community Care. Limit of one concentration area. See pages 12-14.

**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. Two courses (including all outstanding incompletes) is the maximum number of courses a student may have to complete during the summer and still participate in graduation ceremonies. These courses 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. New graduation fees will be assessed.



# Master of Divinity Degree DL Core Curriculum

## Year One

### Signature Courses (3.0 courses)

#### Systematic Theology

SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly 1.0 course

#### Leadership for Mission

SG0405 Leading Christian Communities in Mission 1.0 course

SG0501 Christian Public Leader I 0.5 course

SG0502 Christian Public Leader II 0.5 course

### Core Courses (3.0 course)

#### Bible

OT0115 Law and Narrative 1.0 course

NT0215-0218 Gospels 1.0 course

#### Systematic Theology

ST0440 The Triune God and the World 1.0 course

### Elective Course (.5 - 1.5 course) \*

**Total Year One 7.5 courses**

*\* LG0220 or 1.0 elective; Student may be able to waive one ancient language requirement and substitute further study in a modern language ministry.*

## Year Two

### Core Courses (4.0-6.0 courses)

#### Bible

LG0220 New Testament Greek\*/\*\* 1.0 course

*\* Or NT0230-NT0254 if Greek completed in Year One.*

*\*\* Students may be able to waive one ancient language requirement and substitute further study in a modern language for ministry*

LG0110 Biblical Hebrew \*\*/\*\*\* 1.0 course

*\*\*\*LG0110 or elective or NT0230-NT0254*

NT0230-NT0254 Epistles 1.0 course

OT0120 Prophets and Poetry \*\*\*\* 1.0 course

*\*\*\*\* OT0120 or LG0110 or elective*

#### History of Christianity

HC0305 History of Christianity I 1.0 course

#### History and Theology

HT0801 Lutheran Confessional Writings (or denominational option) 1.0 course

#### Leadership for Mission

CG0525 Congregational Care and Formation 1.0 course

### Elective Courses (1.0-3.0 courses)

**Total Year Two 7.0 courses**

# Master of Divinity Degree DL Core Curriculum

## Year Three

### Core Courses (4.0-5.0 courses)

#### Bible

OT0120 Prophets and Poetry \* 1.0 course  
*\*Or elective if OT0120 completed in Year Two*

#### History of Christianity

HC0307 History of Christianity II 1.0 course

#### Leadership for Mission

PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching 1.0 course

WO0515 Public Worship: Leadership in Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Thanksgiving 1.0 course

#### Contextual Learning

FE0500 through FE0509 Clinical Pastoral Education 1.0 course

### Elective Course (2.5-3.5 courses)

**Total Year Three 7.5 courses**

## Year Four

### Signature Course (1.0 course)

#### Bible

SG0705 Scripture and Its Witnesses 1.0 course

#### Contextual Learning

FE0200 Internship Orientation 0.0 course

### Electives (5.0 courses)

**Total Year Four 6.0 courses**

## Year Five

### Core Courses (2.0 courses)

IN0500 through IN0565 Internship 2.0 courses

### Elective (0.0 course)

**Total Year Five 2.0 courses**

Total Signature Courses 4.0 courses

Total Core Courses 16.0 courses

Total Electives 10.0 courses \*

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*\* 1.0 required in Systematic Theology; 1.0 required in Leadership for Mission; 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course*

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**TOTAL REQUIRED 30.0 courses**

# Master of Divinity—MDivX

## Accelerated 24 Month Program

### General Degree Requirements

#### Bachelor's Degree

A bachelor's degree or its equivalent received from a regionally accredited college or university is required. Exceptions may be considered on an individual basis.

#### Course Requirements

A minimum of 30 courses is required, including required courses in the core curriculum.

#### Language Options

Students may be able to waive one ancient language requirement (LG0110 Biblical Hebrew or LG0220 New Testament Greek) and substitute further study in a modern language for ministry. Students who enter seminary with proficiency in a modern language such as Spanish will be able to opt out of one of the biblical languages in order to take a course in the use of a modern language for the sake of ministry. In such a course, students would learn the theological and ministerial vocabulary and practice preaching, teaching, and ministering in that language. LG4525 will also serve as a substitute course.

#### Time Limit

The MDivX degree will be completed in 24 months. Students must make satisfactory academic progress every term in order to maintain enrollment in the MDivX. In the MDivX, failure to make satisfactory academic progress is defined as failing or withdrawing from more than two courses total in the program.

#### Registration

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 cause a student to lose registration priority.

#### 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. Two courses (including all outstanding incompletes) is the maximum number of courses a student may have to complete during the summer and still participate in graduation ceremonies. These courses 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. New graduation fees will be assessed.

# MDivX Degree Core Curriculum

## Term One: Summer

FE0210 Orientation 0.0 course

### Signature Courses (2.0 courses)

#### Systematic Theology

SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly 1.0 course

#### Leadership for Mission

SG0501 Christian Public Leader I 0.5 course

SG0502 Christian Public Leader II 0.5 course

### Core Courses (2.0 courses)

#### Bible

OT0115 Law and Narrative 1.0 course

NT0215-0218 Gospels 1.0 course

#### Contextual Learning

IN0505-IN0565 Internship 0.0 course

**Total Term One 4.0 courses**

## Term Two: Fall

### Signature Courses (1.0 course)

#### Leadership for Mission

SG0405 Leading Christian Communities in Mission 1.0 course

### Core Courses (3.5 courses)

#### Bible

LG0110 Biblical Hebrew 1.0 course

#### History and Theology

HT0801 Lutheran Confessional Writings (*or denominational option*) 1.0 course

#### Leadership for Mission

CG0525 Congregational Care and Formation 1.0 course

#### Contextual Learning

IN0505-IN0565 Internship 0.5 course

**Total Term Two 4.5 courses**

## Term Three: Winter

### Core Courses (1.0 course)

#### Leadership for Mission

WO0515 Public Worship: Leadership in Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Thanksgiving 1.0 course

#### Contextual Learning

CPE Orientation 0.0 course

IN0505-IN0565 Internship 0.0 course

### Elective Course (1.0 course)

**Total Term Three 2.0 courses**

## Term Four: Spring

### Core Courses (4.0 courses)

#### Bible

OT0120 Prophets and Poetry (prerequisite Hebrew) 1.0 course

#### History of Christianity

HC0305 History of Christianity I 1.0 course

#### Leadership for Mission

PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching 1.0 course

#### Contextual Learning

FE0509 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) 0.5 course

IN0505-IN0565 Internship 0.5 course

**Total Term Four 4.0 courses**

## Term Five: Summer

### Core Courses (2.0 courses)

#### Bible

LG0220 New Testament Greek or LG4225 Spanish for Ministry 1.0 course

#### History of Christianity

HC0307 History of Christianity II 1.0 course

#### Contextual Learning

IN0505-IN0565 Internship 0.0 course

### Elective Courses (2.0 courses)

**Total Term Five 4.0 courses**

## Term Six: Fall

### Core Courses (2.5 courses)

#### Bible

NT0230-NT0254 Epistles (prerequisite Greek) 1.0 course

#### Systematic Theology

ST0440 Triune God and the World 1.0 course

#### Contextual Learning

IN0505-IN0565 Internship 0.5 course

### Elective Courses (2.0 courses)

**Total Term Six 4.5 courses**

## Term Seven: Winter

### Core Courses (0.5 course)

#### Contextual Learning

FE0509 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) 0.5 course

IN0505-IN0565 Internship 0.0 course

### Electives Courses (2.0 courses)

**Total Term Seven 2.5 courses**

## Term Eight: Spring

### Signature Courses (1.0 course )

#### Bible

SG0705 Scripture and Its Witnesses 1.0 course

### Core Course (0.5 course)

#### Contextual Learning

IN0505-IN0565 Internship 0.5 course

### Elective Courses (3.0 courses)

**Total Term Eight 4.5 courses**

Total Signature Courses 4.0 courses

Total Core Courses 16.0 courses

Total Electives 10.0 courses \*

*\* 1.0 required in Systematic Theology; 1.0 required in Leadership for Mission; 1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course*

**TOTAL REQUIRED 30.0 courses**

# Two-Year's Master of Arts Degree and Graduate Certificate Programs

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“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.

## Master of Arts (Academic) Degree Programs

Students who study in the academic M.A. program are exposed to a wide breadth of classical theological disciplines. Luther Seminary offers four concentrations in its academic M.A. degree program in addition to the M.A. (Studies in Lutheran Ministries). Through guided readings, independent study opportunities and a capstone writing or ministry project, students are also afforded the chance to engage deeply in a particular theological discipline of their choosing, frequently in dialogue with leading scholars in the field.

Students who are a part of the M.A. (Studies in Lutheran Ministries) may take part in either the affiliated track or the non-affiliated track. These tracks prepare students for ministry in Lutheran contexts.

### Concentrations

The academic Master of Arts (M.A.) is available in four concentrations. The M.A. (Studies in Lutheran Ministries) is available in two tracks: affiliated or non-affiliated. Luther Seminary's M.A. degrees and concentrations are both theologically rooted and directed for service in the church and world, including academic as well as congregational and community service.

M.A. students at Luther Seminary include those with clearly defined vocational directions, those exploring a variety of possibilities of service and those who are engaged in lifelong learning about matters of interest to them.

Students are advised to declare a concentration within the academic M.A. program as soon as possible and no later than the end of their first semester of studies or equivalent. A form for declaring or changing a concentration can be obtained from the Office of the Registrar or on MyLutherNet.

### Master of Arts (Academic) Concentrations:

- Bible
- History of Christianity
- Systematic Theology
- Justice and Reconciliation

## Master of Arts (Studies in Lutheran Ministries)

- Affiliated Track
- Non-affiliated Track

## General Degree Requirements—Master of Arts (Academic)

### Bachelor's Degree

A bachelor's degree or its equivalent received from a regionally accredited college or university is required.

Exceptions may be considered on an individual basis.

### Course Requirements

A minimum of 16 courses including required courses in the signature, core and electives curriculum is required for the M.A. academic degree and M.A. (Studies in Lutheran Ministries). The specific requirements for each concentration or specialization are listed individually on the pages that follow.

Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. In order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period, students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)) and enroll in concentration courses as they become available.

### Registration

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 cause a student to lose registration priority.

### Capstone Project

The capstone project has writing or ministry project options listed on pages 39-41. This is a non-credit degree requirement for the academic M.A. degree.

### 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. Two courses (including all outstanding incompletes) is the maximum number of courses a student may have to complete during the summer and still participate in graduation ceremonies. The capstone project and oral examination must be completed by May 1 in order to participate in commencement. These courses 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. New graduation fees will be assessed.

### Time Limit

These programs are 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. Jubilee Scholarship coverage timelines may differ. Please see section on Financial Aid.

### Continuation Status

Two-year M.A. degree students who have completed all course requirements except the capstone project and who are not enrolled in courses beyond the second year of the program will be automatically enrolled in continuation status each semester. A continuation fee will be assessed and is payable each semester. A limit of four semesters is allowed for Continuation Status. Students who fail to complete the capstone project after four semesters of Continuation Status will be withdrawn from the program and must reapply for admission if they wish to continue in a degree program.

### **Rostered Denominational Ministries**

With deliberate course selection, most concentrations will fulfill the academic requirements for rostered ministry in the ELCA as a Deacon or Deaconess and may fulfill requirements for similar programs in other denominations. For more information about rostering requirements in the ELCA or other denominations, contact the candidacy coordinator ([candidacy@luthersem.edu](mailto:candidacy@luthersem.edu)).

### **For information on admission to any of the Two-Years Master of Arts degrees contact:**

The Office of Admissions, ([admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu))

### **Master of Arts (Academic) Degree Program Outcomes:**

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.
4. **Scholarship Aptitude:** 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.

### **Master of Arts (Academic) Concentration Point People:**

- Bible — David Fredrickson ([dfredric@luthersem.edu](mailto:dfredric@luthersem.edu))
- History of Christianity — Mark Granquist ([mgranquist001@luthersem.edu](mailto:mgranquist001@luthersem.edu))
- Systematic Theology — Lois Malcolm ([lmalcolm@luthersem.edu](mailto:lmalcolm@luthersem.edu))
- Justice and Reconciliation — Mary Hess ([mhess@luthersem.edu](mailto:mhess@luthersem.edu))
- Master of Arts (Studies in Lutheran Ministries) — Mark Tranvik ([mtranvik002@luthersem.edu](mailto:mtranvik002@luthersem.edu))



# Academic Master of Arts Degree Program Requirements

## Bible concentration

This specialization focuses on the study of the Bible and is intended as a course of study for those with a particular interest in both testaments of the Bible, for those interested in pursuing further graduate studies in this field and for those who wish to use this concentration as a grounding for specific congregational or community service.

Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. Students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)) for their course planning in order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period.

## Signature/Core Courses (4.0 courses)

### History of Christianity

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

### Systematic Theology

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
ST0440	The Triune God and the World	1.0 course

## Concentration Courses (9.0 courses)

LG0110	Biblical Hebrew	1.0 course
LG0220	New Testament Greek	1.0 course
OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
OT0120	Prophets and Poetry	1.0 course
NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course
NT0230-NT0254	Epistles	1.0 course
SG0705	Scripture and Its Witnesses	1.0 course

Any combination of additional Old or New Testament or biblical language courses to total 2.0 full courses

## Elective Courses (3.0 Courses)

Full or half courses to total 3.0 courses

Total Signature/Core Courses	4.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses	9.0 courses
Total Electives	3.0 courses
Capstone Project	0.0 course

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**TOTAL REQUIRED**                      **16.0 courses**

## History of Christianity concentration

This specialization focuses on the study of the history of Christianity and is intended as a course of study for those with a particular interest in history, for those interested in pursuing further graduate studies in this field and for those who wish to use this concentration as a grounding for specific congregational or community service.

*Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. Students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)) for their course planning in order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period.*

### Signature/Core Courses (6.0 courses)

#### Bible

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

#### History of Christianity

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

#### Systematic Theology

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
ST0440	The Triune God and the World	1.0 course

### Concentration Courses (6.0 courses)

Any combination of History of Christianity courses to total 6.0 full courses

### Elective Courses (4.0 courses)

Full or half courses to total 4.0 courses

Total Signature Courses	6.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses	6.0 courses
Total Elective Courses	4.0 courses
Capstone Project	0.0 course

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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>16.0 courses</b>
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## Systematic Theology concentration

This specialization focuses on the study of the systematic theology and is intended as a course of study for those with a particular interest in theology, for those interested in pursuing further graduate studies in this field and for those who wish to use this concentration as a grounding for specific congregational or community service.

*Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. Students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)) for their course planning in order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period.*

### Signature Courses (6.0 courses)

#### Bible

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

#### History of Christianity

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

#### Systematic Theology

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
ST0440	The Triune God and the World	1.0 course

### Concentration Courses (6.0 courses)

Any combination of Systematic Theology courses to total 6.0 full courses

### Elective Courses (4.0 courses)

Full or half courses to total 4.0 courses

Total Signature/Core Courses	6.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses	6.0 courses
Total Elective Courses	4.0 courses
Capstone Project	0.0 course

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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>16.0 courses</b>
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## Justice and Reconciliation concentration

This specialization focuses on the study of the justice and reconciliation and is intended as a course of study for those with a particular interest in theology, for those interested in pursuing further graduate studies in this field and for those who wish to use this concentration as a grounding for specific congregational or community service.

*Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. Students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)) for their course planning in order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period.*

### Signature and Core Courses (6.0 courses)

#### Bible

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

#### History of Christianity

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

#### Systematic Theology

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
ST0440	The Triune God and the World	1.0 course

### Concentration Courses (6.0 courses)

ST2484	Justice and Reconciliation	1.0 course
SG0501	Christian Public Leader	0.5 course
SG0502	Christian Public Leader	0.5 course

Additional concentration courses in consultation with the faculty point person to total 6.0 full courses

### Elective Courses (4.0 courses)

Full or half courses to total 4.0 courses

Total Signature/Core Courses	6.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses	6.0 courses
Total Elective Courses	4.0 courses
Capstone Project	0.0 course

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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>16.0 courses</b>
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## Master of Arts (Studies in Lutheran Ministries)—Affiliated Track

This program provides Lutheran theological training for those preparing for ministry in a Lutheran setting. Course work grounds students in Lutheran theology and tradition, and the implications for biblical interpretation and various forms of ministry.

The affiliated track is for students who have a M.Div. degree from a non-ELCA seminary and need to complete one year of residence at a Lutheran seminary in preparation for ordination in the ELCA. Students transfer up to 8.0 credits from their M.Div. degree. At Luther, they take an additional 8.0 credits, including an ELCA internship and capstone project.

### Master of Arts (Studies in Lutheran Ministries) program outcomes:

- Biblical Hermeneutics:** Graduates, together with others in community, will read the Scriptures faithfully, critically, and imaginatively.
- 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.
- 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.
- Cultural Context:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to understand and competently engage culture in its diversity in theological reflection, social relations, and ministerial practice.
- Formation:** Graduates will demonstrate growth and maturity in their character, relational, and faith formation.
- 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.
- Lutheran Ministry:** Graduates will articulate the distinctiveness of the Lutheran tradition, including its history, theology, and practices, and the implications for their leadership in God's world.

Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. Students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)) for their course planning in order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period.

### Concentration Courses (8.0 courses)

Choose three of the courses listed below:

HT0810	Lutheran Confessional Theology	1.0 course
SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
SG0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1.0 course
WO0515	Public Worship: Leadership in Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Thanksgiving	1.0 course

Choose one of the courses listed below:

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

Any combination of half or full courses to equal 2.0 courses from courses beginning with the prefix of CG, EL, NT, OT, PR, ST-Ethics or FE0500 through FE0509 Clinical Pastoral Education. *1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course.*

### Contextual Learning

IN0500		
<i>through</i>		
IN0565	Internship	2.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses		8.0 courses
Capstone Project		0.0 course

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**TOTAL REQUIRED\*** **8.0 courses**

*\*Transfer policy allows for up to 8.0 courses to apply to the affiliated track from the M.Div. earned at a non-Lutheran seminary.*

## Master of Arts (Studies in Lutheran Ministries)—Non-Affiliated Track

This program provides Lutheran theological training for those preparing for ministry in a Lutheran setting. Course work grounds students in Lutheran theology and tradition, and the implications for biblical interpretation and various forms of ministry.

This track is for students who are involved or plan to be involved in ministry in an ELCA context as Word and Service ministers, musicians, para-church professionals and non-profit leaders.

### Master of Arts (Studies in Lutheran Ministries) program outcomes:

- Biblical Hermeneutics:** Graduates, together with others in community, will read the Scriptures faithfully, critically, and imaginatively.
- 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.
- 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.
- Cultural Context:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to understand and competently engage culture in its diversity in theological reflection, social relations, and ministerial practice.
- Formation:** Graduates will demonstrate growth and maturity in their character, relational, and faith formation.
- 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.
- Lutheran Ministry:** Graduates will articulate the distinctiveness of the Lutheran tradition, including its history, theology, and practices, and the implications for their leadership in God's world.

*Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. Students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar/](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar/)) for their course planning in order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period.*

### Signature and Core Courses (7.0 courses)

<b>Bible</b>			ST0440	The Triune God and the World	1.0 course
OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course			
NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course			
				Any combination of Preaching, Educational Leadership, Congregational Care courses to total 1.0 full course.	
<b>History of Christianity</b>					
HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course			
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course			
				Any combination of NT or OT courses to total 1.0 full course.	
<b>Systematic Theology</b>					
SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course			
<b>Leadership for Mission</b>					
SG0501	Christian Public Leader I	0.5 course			
SG0502	Christian Public Leader II	0.5 course			
SG0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1.0 course			
<b>Concentration Courses (5.0 courses)</b>					
HT0801	Lutheran Confessional Writings	1.0 course			
WO0515	Public Worship: Leadership in Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Thanksgiving	1.0 course			
				<b>Elective Courses (4.0 Courses)</b>	
				Full or half courses to total 4.0 courses. <i>1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course.</i>	
				Total Core and Signature Courses	7.0 courses
				Total Concentration Courses	5.0 courses
				Total Electives	4.0 courses
				Capstone Project	0.0 course
				<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>16.0 courses</b>

# Professional Master of Arts Degree Programs

- **Master of Arts in Children, Youth and Family Ministry**
- **Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry**
- **Master of Arts in Christian Ministry**

Students who are part of the professional M.A. program are able to add to a solid grounding in the classical theological disciplines courses with a specific emphasis on Christian vocation, formation and training in their particular concentration area. Students can develop in these specialized ministries in community with their cohort and through a close relationship with their concentration point person.

## General Degree Requirements

### Bachelor's Degree

A bachelor's degree or its equivalent received from a regionally accredited college or university is required. Exceptions may be considered on an individual basis.

### Course Requirements

A minimum of 16 courses including required courses in the signature, core and electives curriculum is required. The specific requirements for each degree are listed individually on the pages that follow.

Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. In order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period, students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)) and enroll in concentration courses as they become available.

### Registration

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 cause a student to lose registration priority.

### Capstone Project

The capstone project is included in the coursework of the professional Master of Arts degrees. This requirement is met through the course assignments in LD0530 Missional Leadership in Professional Settings.

### Contextual Learning

Contextual learning in the professional M.A. (CYF, CM and LIM) programs is intended to be flexible and responsive to the specific vocational and intellectual needs of individual M.A. students.

The contextual aspect of the curriculum in the Children, Youth and Family Ministry degree program is fulfilled through the contextual ministry sites in which students are leading while they are students. Residential students must complete four semesters and DL students must participate in contextual learning throughout their time in the program. A cohort learning process accompanies this contextual learning experience for both residential and DL CYF students. Students register for SG0501-SG0502 and FE0523-FE0524 to complete this requirement.

Contextual Learning for students in the M.A. in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry degree program will ordinarily require eight to ten hours of the student's time each month in a setting with an orientation toward mission. In some instances students will develop a ministry project within this setting that fulfills elements of their final project requirements. M.A. LIM students register for SG0501-SG0502 and FE0523-FE0524 to fulfill this degree requirement during each semester they are enrolled in the M.A. program.

### **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. Two courses (including all outstanding incompletes) is the maximum number of courses a student may have to complete during the summer and still participate in graduation ceremonies. The capstone project and oral examination must be completed by May 1 in order to participate in commencement. These courses 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. New graduation fees will be assessed.

### **Time Limit**

These programs are 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. Jubilee Scholarship coverage timelines may differ. Please see section on Financial Aid.

### **Continuation Status**

Two-year M.A. degree students who have completed all course requirements except the writing or ministry project and who are not enrolled in courses beyond the second year of the program will be automatically enrolled in continuation status each semester. A continuation fee will be assessed and is payable each semester. A limit of four semesters is allowed for Continuation Status. Students who fail to complete the writing or ministry project after four semesters of Continuation Status will be withdrawn from the program and must reapply for admission if they wish to continue in a degree program.

### **Rostered Denominational Ministries**

With deliberate course selection, most concentrations will fulfill the academic requirements for rostered ministry in the ELCA as a Deacon or Deaconess and may fulfill requirements for similar programs in other denominations. For more information about rostering requirements in the ELCA or other denominations, contact the candidacy coordinator ([candidacy@luthersem.edu](mailto:candidacy@luthersem.edu)).

### **For more information on any of the Two-Years Master of Arts degrees contact:**

- The Office of Admissions ([admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu))

### **Professional Master of Arts Point People:**

- Master of Arts in Children, Youth and Family Ministry — Andy Root ([aroot@luthersem.edu](mailto:aroot@luthersem.edu))
- Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry — Terri Elton ([telton@luthersem.edu](mailto:telton@luthersem.edu))
- Master of Arts in Christian Ministry — Mary Hess ([mhess@luthersem.edu](mailto:mhess@luthersem.edu))

# **Professional Master of Arts Degree Program Requirements**

## **Master of Arts in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry**

The Master of Arts in children, youth and family ministry (CYF) is designed for individuals who are interested in children, youth and family ministry in either a congregational or para-church ministry setting. This degree program provides theology, theory and practice in a holistic educational environment.

Luther Seminary offers two options for completing the Master of Arts in children, youth and family ministry. The residential option is a two-year degree on the campus at Luther Seminary. The Distributed Learning option allows students to take classes in short, intensive courses on campus and through online classes, allowing students to remain in their present location and ministry and complete the degree over four years.



### **Residential Program**

The residential program is for individuals who can attend classes on the Luther Seminary campus and is a two-year program for full-time students. As part of the curriculum, each student is involved in leading some area of children, youth and family ministry at a ministry site. Students work between 15 hours a month and 20 hours a week. This work allows students to actively be involved in leading ministry with children, youth and their families while they are actively involved in course work.

### **Distributed Learning Program**

The distributed learning (DL) program is designed for individuals who are already serving in a ministry setting and desire theological education, but are not able to attend classes on the Luther Seminary campus. This option is referred to as the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Distributed Learning Program (CYFDL) because the learning is distributed across several contexts. The course curriculum is the same as the residential model; however, courses are completed by combining short-term face-to-face classes (intensives) and online course work.

A minimum of one-third (six courses) of the required courses are completed by attending one and two week-long intensives on the residential campus and the remaining courses are completed online. Students are required to attend four two-week intensives in Winter Terms and have the option of attending one-week intensives in October and/or June. DL students are required to work in a supervised ministry setting throughout their time in the program. Students work a minimum of 10 hours a week in ministry settings leading in the area of children, youth and family ministry. Most students are able to complete the program in a four-year time period.

### **Primary Focus**

While every student in this degree program studies Scripture, theology and leadership, and each student develops a theoretical and practical framework for ministry with children, youth, young adults and families, students can choose to focus the CYF concentration in one of the following areas:

- Children and Family Ministry
- Youth and Family Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Family Ministry
- Outdoor Ministry

Every student will take at least seven courses in the CYF concentration; see the concentration courses listed below. Master of Arts in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (CYF) degree program outcomes:

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.
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. **Children, Youth, and Family Praxis:** Graduates will develop their own imaginative theological frameworks with those in the first third of life informed by God's ministry among us.

Most M.A. concentration courses are offered every other year. Students must be alert to the course schedules ([www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.luthersem.edu/registrar)) for their course planning in order to complete the M.A. degree within the minimum time period.

## Signature and Core Courses (5.0 courses)

### Bible

Choose one:

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

### History of Christianity

Choose one:

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

### Systematic Theology

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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### Leadership for Mission

SG0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1.0 course
SG0501	Christian Public Leader I	0.5 course
SG0502	Christian Public Leader II	0.5 course

## Concentration Courses (7.0 courses)

FE0523- FE0524	Christian Public Leader III and IV (two half courses required)	1.0 course
LD0500	Theological Frameworks I	1.0 course
LD0505	Theological Frameworks II	1.0 course
LD0530	Missional Leadership in Professional Settings	1.0 course

Any combination of additional children, youth and family ministry courses to total 3.0 full courses

## Elective Courses (4.0 Courses)

Full or half courses to total 4.0 courses

*1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course*

Total Signature and Core Courses	5.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses	7.0 courses
Total Electives	4.0 courses

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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>16.0 courses</b>
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# Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry

The Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry integrates a robust understanding of leadership with missional theology, theoretical understandings of innovation and agility, and tools for addressing today's real-world challenges and opportunities. Graduates will develop the capacity to assess complex problems and lead adaptive organizational change as they gain a deeper awareness of themselves as leaders. Using adaptive pedagogical approaches and design thinking, learning will be practical, connected to a variety of ministry-related organizations, and in partnership with practitioners, faculty, and other students.

This degree serves students seeking to lead in a variety of contexts, including congregational settings, new expressions of Christian community, judicatories, nonprofit organizations, consulting, social service ministries, and other organizations. Using face-to-face intensives and online courses.

Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry (LIM) degree program outcomes:

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.
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. **Innovative Ministry:** Graduates will connect theories and practices of innovation with organizational transformation and missional theology.

## Signature and Core Courses (5.0 courses)

### Bible

*\* Choose one:*

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

*\*Or another Bible course by permission of faculty point person*

### History of Christianity

*Choose one:*

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

### Systematic Theology

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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### Leadership for Mission

SG0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1.0 course
SG0501	Christian Public Leader I	0.5 course
SG0502	Christian Public Leader II	0.5 course

### Concentration Courses (7.0 courses)

FE0523- FE0524	Christian Public Leader III and IV (two half courses required)	1.0 course
LD0500	Theological Frameworks I	1.0 course
LD0505	Theological Frameworks II	1.0 course
LD0530	Missional Leadership in Professional Settings	1.0 course
LD0540	Innovation with Congregations and Nonprofits	1.0 course

Any combination of congregational mission and leadership or innovation courses to total 2.0 full courses

### Elective Courses (4.0 Courses)

Full or half courses to total 4.0 courses

*1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course*

Total Signature and Core Courses	5.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses	7.0 courses
Total Electives	4.0 courses

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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>16.0 courses</b>
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# Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, grounded in Luther Seminary's biblical, confessional, and missional commitments, prepares students for public leadership in a variety of contexts and roles. Possible courses include pastoral care, leadership, worship, preaching, evangelism, mission, and other areas of ministry. This flexible degree, available in residential or distributed format, allows students to concentrate in a particular area of ministry or take a variety of leadership courses to fit their vocational goals. Contextual learning provides on-the-ground leadership development, and the program concludes with a capstone ministry project.

## Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (CM) degree program outcomes:

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.
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.

## Signature and Core Courses (5.0 courses)

### Bible

Choose one:

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215-NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

### History of Christianity

Choose one:

HC0305	History of Christianity I	1.0 course
HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course

### Systematic Theology

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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### Leadership for Mission

SG0405	Leading Christian Communities in Mission	1.0 course
SG0501	Christian Public Leader I	0.5 course
SG0502	Christian Public Leader II	0.5 course

## Concentration Courses (7.0 courses)

FE0523- FE0524	Christian Public Leader III and IV (two half courses required)	1.0 course
LD0500	Theological Frameworks I	1.0 course
LD0505	Theological Frameworks II	1.0 course
LD0530	Missional Leadership in Professional Settings	1.0 course

Any combination of Leadership for Ministry (i.e., LD, CG, CL, EL, etc.) courses to total 3.0 full courses

## Elective Courses (4.0 Courses)

Full or half courses to total 4.0 courses

*1.0 course must be classified as a Cultural Context course*

Total Signature and Core Courses	5.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses	7.0 courses
Total Electives	4.0 courses
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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>16.0 courses</b>

# Capstone Project

In order to complete the Master of Arts degree, students in all concentrations shall submit and pass a writing or ministry project. The professional M.A. degree projects are done within the Senior Leadership Project course (LD0530). In all other M.A. concentrations, students should attend to the following:

## Project Instructions and Dates

- M.A. students should begin consideration of their writing or ministry project early in their program in consultation with the appropriate point person.
- The student, in consultation with the concentration point person, shall find an appropriate project advisor and second reader.
- The project advisor is normally a Luther Seminary faculty member specifically related to the student's area of concentration. The second reader can come from the same or a related area of concentration.
- Students who have completed all course requirements except the capstone project and who are not enrolled in courses beyond the second year of the program will be automatically enrolled in Continuation Status each semester. A continuation fee will be assessed and is payable each semester. A limit of four semesters is allowed for Continuation Status. Students who fail to complete the writing or ministry project after four semesters of Continuation Status will be withdrawn from the program and must reapply for admission if they wish to continue in a degree program.
- Important dates associated with completion of a writing or ministry project:

## For students intending to graduate in May

In the year in which a student plans to graduate, he/she shall submit the "Intent to Complete Writing or Ministry Project" form and a project advisor and reader shall in be in place by: Oct. 1

If the project is a ministry project which includes human subjects, the project must be reviewed and approved by the Luther Seminary Institutional Review Board before the research begins and no later than: Nov. 15  
For further information, visit [www.luthersem.edu/irb](http://www.luthersem.edu/irb) .

If the project is two papers, the titles and proposed readers shall be submitted to the Office of the Academic Dean, the faculty concentration point person, and the two readers no later than: Dec. 15

The final forms of all projects shall be submitted to the advisor and reader no later than: March 15

The concluding structured conversation is to be completed no later than: May 1

## For students intending to graduate in December

In the year in which a student plans to graduate, he/she shall submit the  
“Intent to Complete Writing or Ministry Project” form by: May 15

If the project is a ministry project which includes human subjects, the  
project must be reviewed and approved by the Luther Seminary  
Institutional Review Board before the research begins and no later than: June 1

For further information, visit [www.luthersem.edu/irb](http://www.luthersem.edu/irb).

A project advisor and reader shall be in place by: June 1

If the project is two papers, titles and proposed readers shall be  
submitted to the Office of the Academic Dean, the faculty concentration  
point person and the two readers no later than: Sept. 15

The final forms of all projects shall be submitted to the advisor and reader  
no later than: Nov. 1

The concluding structured conversation is to be completed no later than: Dec. 1

## Two papers

Each extensive research paper is 25-40 pages in length and arises from the concentration courses. The faculty involved in the selected courses shall be consulted by the student for guidance and approval. Two faculty members shall read the paper(s) and then conduct a one-hour structured conversation during which the student is given the opportunity to demonstrate competence and comprehension in the special interest areas of the papers.

## Practical Ministry Project

The practical ministry project is 25-40 pages in length, addressing a specific issue in ministry. A faculty member will serve as an advisor in the project. Integrating theology, theory and practice, this project is the opportunity to craft a carefully structured argument with significant theological and ministerial interest. Students in the professional MA concentrations will defend their project as part of a defense day with other concentration students.

## Article

An article is 25-30 pages in length, written with an eye toward publication. A faculty member will serve as an advisor for the article. Writing an article is the opportunity to create a written piece which will be submitted to a professional journal for publication on a topic important to the student and to the wider public. Students in the professional MA concentrations will defend their article as part of a defense day with other concentration students.

## Academic M.A. Writing Projects:

All students pursuing an academic Master of Arts will demonstrate their proficiency in their respective fields by means of a final writing project, which includes an ability to deal with the conventions of academic work at the master’s level, ability to synthesize their learning and ability to do significant independent scholarly work.

The norm for this requirement will be two research papers of 25-40 pages in length.



## Professional M.A. Writing or Ministry Projects:

All M.A. students concentrating in Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Christian Ministry; or Leadership and Innovation for Ministry will create a capstone project in the area of their concentration. Capstone projects might include two papers, a practical ministry project or an article for publication.

### 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*

## General Guidelines for the Papers

- In writing this project, the student will demonstrate competence in a special area of interest, chosen in consultation with an advisor. The student's focus will be on an in-depth problem rather than several "broad" problems (i.e. research questions). When completed, the project will reflect the student's graduate level ability for independent research and will include (a) scholarly exposition of appropriate primary and secondary literature, (b) informed, critical analysis of major issues involved and (c) thoughtful and academically defensible discourse reflecting the student's position on the chosen research question(s). Although the project's format may vary according to the nature of the topic(s) being explored, scholarly and academic standards are expected throughout.
- The student is not expected to conduct research with the extensive rigor of a doctoral dissertation. However, he or she is expected to demonstrate both familiarity with relevant, scholarly literature and growing expertise in the chosen area. Contributions to the larger academy are not required but may well occur. Guidance on how the student's work may contribute to existing literature or to the church at large may be explored with the student's project advisor, who will be involved throughout the project's completion.
- The student will be responsible for proofreading the final work, checking for correct and clear grammar and for the consistent use of formal, academically appropriate style. The ability for self-expression as well as for abstract thought will be revealed in this project. "The Shortcut: A Condensed Manual of Style and Guide for Theses and Papers at Luther Seminary" (2005), available in the Luther Seminary library and online at [www.luthersem.edu/library](http://www.luthersem.edu/library), should be used as the guideline for the papers' format and style. For matters not covered in "The Shortcut," students should refer to "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations," by Kate L. Turabian (6th ed.) or "The Chicago Manual of Style" (15th edition). Where it is appropriate, given the general practice in a specific scholarly discipline, APA style guidelines may be substituted. Please check with the point person in the appropriate M.A. specialization for guidance.
- The length for each paper may not be less than 25 nor greater than 40 pages. The student is expected to work to condense papers that exceed these maximum lengths before submitting them.

# Graduate Certificate Programs

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## 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.

The graduate certificates in Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Christian Ministry; and Leadership and Innovation for Ministry may be completed as part of a distributed learning cohort. Students travel through the curriculum together, taking a combination of online courses and short-term, intensive courses on the Luther Seminary campus. Contact the Admissions Office for more information.

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 or choose a combination of courses in these areas.

### Core and Signature Courses (4.0 courses)

#### Bible (2.0 courses)

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

#### History of Christianity (1.0 course)

HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
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#### Systematic Theology (1.0 course)

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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### Concentration Courses (4.0 courses)

Choose any four courses (combining either full or half courses) listed as M.A. concentration courses in Bible, History of Christianity or Systematic Theology on pages 25-27.

Total Core and Signature Courses	4.0 courses
Total Concentration Courses	4.0 courses

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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>8.0 courses</b>
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## 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.

### Core and Signature Courses (4.0 courses)

#### Bible (2.0 courses)

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

#### History of Christianity (1.0 course)

HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
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#### Systematic Theology (1.0 course)

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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### Concentration Courses (4.0 courses)

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
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Total Concentration Courses	4.0 courses
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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>8.0 courses</b>
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## 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.

### Core and Signature Courses (4.0 courses)

#### Bible (2.0 courses)

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

#### History of Christianity (1.0 course)

HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
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#### Systematic Theology (1.0 course)

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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### Concentration Courses (4.0 courses)

Choose any combination of Leadership for Mission courses to total 4.0 full courses.

Total Core and Signature Courses	4.0 courses
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Total Concentration Courses	4.0 courses
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<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>8.0 courses</b>
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# 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.

## Core and Signature Courses (4.0 courses)

### Bible (2.0 courses)

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

### History of Christianity (1.0 course)

HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
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### Systematic Theology (1.0 course)

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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## Concentration Courses (4.0 courses)

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>

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## Graduate Certificate in Methodist Studies

The graduate certificate program in Methodist Studies is designed to meet the educational needs of people who are preparing for ministry in Methodist churches.

### Core and Signature Courses (total required: 4.0 courses)

#### Bible (2.0 courses)

OT0115	Law and Narrative	1.0 course
NT0215 – NT0218	Gospels	1.0 course

#### History of Christianity (1.0 course)

HC0307	History of Christianity II	1.0 course
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#### Systematic Theology (1.0 course)

SG0401	Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly	1.0 course
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### Concentration Courses (total required: 4.0 courses)

#### Option A:

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

Choose from the following to total 1.0 full course:

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:

- CL4573 Christian Witness, Evangelism and Mission in a Secular Age

#### Option 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

Choose from the following to total at least 1.5 courses:

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:

- CL4573 Christian Witness, Evangelism and Mission in a Secular Age

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 (2 semester credits each, 6 semester units = 2 courses at LS).

# Contextual Learning

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Contextual Learning is an integral part of theological education for all students. In Luther Seminary's M.A. and M.Div. degree programs, students are able to choose a variety of options in which they can engage spiritual and practical questions in real-world congregations and faith-based organizations. These options include Christian Public Leader, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and Internship.

## **Christian Public Leader**

This course will explore Christian Public Leadership by attending to leadership in the midst of particular communities and their distinct contextual realities. In this course, students will expand their leadership capacity by leading and being in dialogue with a particular ministry context. With this ministry context as their 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 all be connected to student's degree program or concentration of study. Students will examine assumptions about God, communities, and neighbor in their particular contexts.

There are four consecutive semesters of CPL. In partnership with the faculty, precept group leaders, and contextual site mentors, each of the four sections will focus on a particular topic: *Who am I as a Christian Public Leader?* (SG0501), *Being Public Leaders in a Public Church* (SG0502), *Systems and Leading Change* (FE0523), and *Lifelong Learners and Leaders* (FE0524).

All M.A. in Leadership concentrations and M.Div. candidates must complete SG0501 and SG0502 as Signature courses, consecutively in the first and second semester of their degree program. SG0501 is offered in fall term and SG0502 is offered spring term.

M.A. and M.Div. candidates in Leadership concentrations will go on to complete FE0523 and FE0524 as core components of their degree. All other M.A. and M.Div. candidates may complete FE0523 and FE0524 as electives. FE0523 and FE0524 are therefore offered in fall and spring terms respectively.

Note: CPL and Internship cannot be taken concurrently. Does not apply to M.Div. X program.

Course descriptions for all CPL courses can be found on pages 94-95 and 100.

- **SG0501 Christian Public Leader—Fall: “Who Am I as a Christian Public Leader?”**  
Each section of Christian Public Leader will focus on a particular topic. This section's focus is: “Who am I as a Christian Public Leader?” In this course, we discover the ministry strengths and assets unique to one's self, as well as the strengths and assets of one's ministry context. The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.
- **SG0502 Christian Public Leader—Spring: “Being Public Leaders in a Public Church”**  
Each section of Christian Public Leader will focus on a particular topic as well as one's vocational formation as a Christian public leader. This section's focus is on: “discovering the broader implications of one's intercultural competencies, as well as the church's identity and voice in the public square.” The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.
- **FE0523 Christian Public Leader—Fall: “Systems and Leading Change”**  
Each section of Christian Public Leader will focus on a particular topic as well as one's vocational formation as a Christian public leader. This section's focus is on: “systems and leading change.” The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.

- **FE0524 Christian Public Leader—Spring: “Lifelong Learners and Leaders”**

This course will explore Christian public leadership by attending to leadership in the midst of particular communities and their distinct contextual realities. In this course students will expand their leadership capacity by leading and being in dialogue with a particular congregation or faith-based nonprofit. With this ministry context as their primary conversation partner, students will critically reflect on themselves as leaders, discover the communal nature of leadership, and develop their own leadership practices. The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.

### **Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) - 1.0 course**

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.

M.Div. candidates will take one unit of CPE during their academic program. M.A. candidates may take one unit of CPE as an elective course. A single CPE unit is 400 hours and is offered in a variety of formats ranging from a three-month, full-time unit to a nine-month, part-time unit. In each case, the experience includes 300 hours of ministry in a clinical or congregational context. The remaining 100 hours of reflective work is divided between peer group reflection, one-on-one meetings with a CPE supervisor and didactic units focusing on skills and reflective practices for ministry.

As all CPE participants are adult learners, the office of Contextual Learning will not limit the number of credits a CPE participant might take during a unit. However, full-time units generally involve at least 40 hours per week, and every student is advised to negotiate their workload carefully with respect to existing seminary and personal obligations.

Students should visit the Contextual Learning website for current details on locating a CPE site and applying for a position.

### **Internship - 2.0 course**

At Luther Seminary, 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 nonprofit 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.

During internship, students serve as a Christian public leader, engage in the full range of ministry and professional experiences, hone knowledge and skills in proclaiming God’s promise, and equip communities to love and serve their neighbors. As part of the internship experience, students will complete a major project that deepens learning of particular leadership skills. These projects may include areas such as administration, leadership, stewardship, outreach, or revitalization which arise out of the context in which one is serving. For more detailed list of internship competencies, visit the Contextual Learning website. Internship is a graduation requirement for all M.Div. students. Discernment of readiness for and placement in an internship develops in conversation with the Office of Contextual Learning, denominational partners, and seminary advising team. Specific patterns and coursework information is as follows.

Note: Internship and CPL cannot be taken concurrently. Does not apply to M.Div. X program.

#### **A. One-Year/Full-Time**

Students of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and other Lutheran denominations are required to fulfill a full-time, one-year internship in a congregation (or its equivalent; see below).

#### **B. Two-Year/Half-Time**

Students of the ELCA and other Lutheran denominations may explore half-time options in conversation with the Office of Contextual Learning, candidacy committee, and seminary advising team. This option is called a “concurrent internship”, which is served half-time over two years in a congregation.

### **C. Two-Semester/Part-Time**

This two-semester course includes spending a minimum of 12 hours per week in an internship context. Other students with specific denominational requirements for internship can contact the Director of Contextual Learning to discuss ways of meeting these requirements.

### **D. 6 Month/Full-Time (For ELCA Word and Service Candidates)**

Candidates seeking ordination in the Word and Service roster in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are required to fulfill a full-time, six-month internship that combines congregational life with other expressions of the church in the world.

### **E. Internship for Non-Degree Students**

The following is required for facilitating an internship through the Office of Contextual Learning at Luther Seminary:

- Candidate must apply as a non-degree student through the admissions office.
- Candidate must remit payment for the two-course credit internship experience.

In addition, the candidate's internship site, whether arranged through the Office of Contextual Learning or prior arrangement, will be obligated to participate in the regular fees of administration and travel pool.

### **F. Registering for Internship**

- Fill out an internship application through the Office of Contextual Learning.
- Set up a pre-internship interview to determine the nature of the internship, requirements, and timeline with a contextual learning staff member.
- The Office of Contextual Learning will notify the Office of the Registrar of all registrations for internship once the appropriate term(s) have been determined.
- All holds on a student's account must be resolved before registration will be allowed.

### **G. Coursework**

Students on internship are encouraged to take classes alongside their internship experience. Ideally, courses would intersect with work in the internship context. Students are expected to consult the Office of Contextual Learning and their internship supervisor in planning and implementing a proposed course schedule and its interaction with the internship context, keeping in mind existing seminary, internship, and personal obligations. Other conversation partners may be one's candidacy committee and seminary advising team. Contextual Learning strongly recommends a guideline of no more than 1.0-credit per term during a one-year/full-time internship.



# Master of Theology Degree

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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 pages 127-129 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-LUTHER-3).
- 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
- 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:

- Graduates will investigate, appraise and critique an area of theological study
- Graduates will critically evaluate and properly cite scholarship in the area of academic study
- Graduates will integrate appropriate research methodologies and a research language in their area of study
- Graduates will communicate the results of scholarship through clear thesis development and writing

## 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; two courses may be taken as electives (in any area, including the area of concentration). 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 on pages 66-79 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**

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:

- a. Working title
- b. Nominations for two faculty members who agree to serve as readers of the thesis
- c. Brief discussion of existing scholarship on the topic
- d. Statement of the nature and purpose of the thesis
- e. Detailed outline describing the content of each chapter of the thesis
- f. Working bibliography
- g. 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 (see page 135).

**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 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, the proper form should be submitted to 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 (see page 135) 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 page 76 (LOA) for details outlining leave of absence policies.

## **Post-Master of Divinity/Master of Arts Non-Degree Students**

Graduates of accredited theological seminaries may apply for post-Master of Divinity/Master of Arts non-degree student status. See page 129 for prerequisites and admission requirements.

This status permits the student to enroll in courses for post-graduate credit without being in a degree program. If the student is later admitted to a degree program, courses taken as a post-Master of Divinity non-degree student may be applied to that program by petition to the ATE Office. No more than three courses taken as a non-degree student may be applied toward Th.M. degree.

# Doctor of Philosophy

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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-LUTHER-3).
- 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:

- Graduates will investigate, interpret, and nurture theological inquiry in an interdisciplinary manner within a diverse and global Christian community.
- Graduates will communicate the results of theological scholarship through clear writing, the design of learning experiences, curating appropriate materials, and presenting information in ways that engage learners and ignite interest.
- Graduates will be familiar with research skills appropriate to their area of study and advance theological scholarship through original research that advances theological understanding in the service of the church, academy, and society.
- Graduates will demonstrate intercultural competencies.

## 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)

## 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 12 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 on pages 66-79 also 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.

## 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 PhD 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:

- a. Nominations of two members of the faculty who agree to serve, along with the thesis advisor, as readers of the comprehensive examinations
- b. Dates proposed for each examination (during the residential period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year)
- c. Specific topics for examinations in accord with the requirements of each area of study (see below)
- d. 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.

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:

- a. Working title
- b. Nominations for two faculty members who agree to serve as readers of the thesis
- c. Brief discussion of existing scholarship on the topic
- d. Statement of the problem addressed by the thesis and the approach taken in addressing it
- e. Statement of methodological considerations involved in the research and writing of the thesis
- f. Detailed outline describing the content of each chapter of the thesis
- g. Working bibliography
- h. 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 (see page 136).

### **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, the proper form should be submitted to 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 style and format.

The ATE Office certifies Ph.D. students for graduation by May 1 of each year. The Ph.D. graduation fee (page 136) 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 study is full-time. Written consent of the thesis advisor and permission of the ATE Office is required to continue beyond this limit.

### **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 page 76 (LOA) for details outlining leave of absence policies.



# Doctor of Ministry Degree in Biblical Preaching

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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-LUTHER-3).
- 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 general, including both specialized tracks in biblical preaching and in congregational mission and leadership:

- Graduates will creatively apply critical theological reflection and pastoral analysis to the practice of ministry.
- Graduates will interpret the interplay of theology, Scripture, and cultural context in a manner that is meaningful to Christian communities.
- Graduates will apply theological scholarship to a specific area or issue in Christian ministry.

Luther Seminary and its faculty aspire through its D.Min. program in biblical preaching to assist students in achieving the following learning outcomes:

- Graduates will develop interpretive lenses and practices for reading and studying the Bible that will inform preaching in the light of their particular contexts.
- Graduates will implement course material to preach effectively in their congregational settings.
- 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 on pages 66-79 apply also 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 (see page 137).

**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 (page 137) 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 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 page 76 (LOA) for full details outlining leave of absence policies.

**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.

# Doctor of Ministry Degree in Congregational Mission and Leadership

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The purpose of the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree in congregational mission and leadership is to prepare and provide leadership for the 21st-century missional church that is both theologically grounded and informed by the social sciences. Graduates will be prepared to lead congregations in vitalization and redevelopment, and to engage in mission and new church development. They will also be prepared to become missional administrative leaders in their denominations at regional and national levels. Sub-specialties may include rural ministry, urban ministry and ministry in nonprofit religious organizations.

**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-LUTHER-3).
- 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 general, including both specialized tracks in congregational mission and leadership and in biblical preaching:

- Graduates will creatively apply critical theological reflection and pastoral analysis to the practice of ministry.
- Graduates will interpret the interplay of theology, Scripture, and cultural context in a manner that is meaningful to Christian communities.
- Graduates will apply theological scholarship to a specific area or issue in Christian ministry.

Luther Seminary and its faculty aspire through its D.Min. program in congregational mission and leadership to assist students in achieving the following learning outcomes:

- Graduates will articulate a critical theological vision for the church's participation in God's Trinitarian mission in the world.
- Graduates will demonstrate the faithful use of social scientific research and leadership and organizational theory for the participation of Christian communities on God's mission.

# General Degree Requirements

## Curriculum

The curriculum during the first three years of study will consist of six seminars. There will be a period of six months associated with each seminar—three months of preparation, the month in which the seminar meets and two months for the completion of a paper or project. Each seminar will meet for one week in July or January with at least 30 contact hours.

## 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 on pages 66-79 apply also 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 six curricular seminars. This action entitles the student to enroll in the thesis seminar, and the candidacy fee is assessed at this time (see page 137).

## Thesis

A thesis is required in the fourth year of the program. Normally, it should not exceed 200 pages, excluding front matter, bibliography and appendices. The thesis must be prepared in accord with the requirements of Luther Seminary's Writing and Style Guide. Each student is required to attend a thesis seminar that will meet in sessions of two or three days each in June, October and January, or such other times to be determined by the instructor. In these sessions, thesis projects will be developed, draft sections reviewed, and a completed thesis ultimately submitted according to the deadlines below.

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 (page 137) 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 D.Min. degree in congregational mission and leadership is designed to be completed in four 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 page 76 (LOA) for full details outlining leave of absence policies.

## Status

D.Min. students, while completing course work and writing the thesis, will be considered half-time students for the four years of the congregational mission and leadership program.

# Learning Resources and Services

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## 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. At Luther Seminary's library, students can read and study in the spacious reading room, reserve a semi-private study carrel in the book stacks or make use of computers or free Wi-Fi.

The special collections 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 four theological libraries of the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools.

The library website ([www.luthersem.edu/library](http://www.luthersem.edu/library)) provides links to maps and staff contact information; the online catalog; other digital resources; research guides; online reference chat; and staff services. Visit the library on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to see the latest library news and photos.

### 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  
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, hosts a minimum of four guest artists' exhibits and provides online access to collection images for instructional and promotional purposes. Additionally, the seminary sponsors two Artists-in-Residence each year. Their work includes regular display presence in gallery spaces, classroom instruction using art materials and open studio time with community members.

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 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)

651-641-3462

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

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

## Disability Resources

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 Main Office

200 Gullixson Hall

651-641-3465

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

## Student Handbook

For more information on Luther Seminary's official policies, 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
- Student disability policy and procedures
- Electronic communications policy
- Emergency campus closings
- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
- Financial policies
- Grievances
- 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

## 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 Main Office  
200 Gullixson Hall  
651-641-3465  
[psusag001@luthersem.edu](mailto:psusag001@luthersem.edu)

# Cooperative Relationships and Other Study Opportunities

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## Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools

The Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools was formally organized in 1971. The schools are:

- Bethel Theological Seminary (Baptist General Conference)
- Luther Seminary (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)
- School of Theology at Saint John's University, Collegeville (Roman Catholic)
- The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, University of St. Thomas (Roman Catholic)
- United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (United Church of Christ)

The consortium makes the resources of the participating faculties and institutions more readily available to students from each participating school, strengthens the degree and continuing education programs of the schools, provides a channel for inter-faculty fellowship and discussion and advances ecumenical understanding.

There is a policy for open cross-registration for courses and extensive interlibrary cooperation. Course offerings are available from the registrar.

Together, the five theological libraries of the consortium hold more than 500,000 volumes. These holdings constitute the most significant resource in religious studies between Chicago and the Pacific Coast.

Resources of the Twin Cities consortium libraries are available to students and faculty via daily courier service. Access to the library collection of Saint John's, the University of Minnesota and other regional libraries is accomplished through the Minnesota Interlibrary Telecommunication Exchange network (MINITEX).

The schools serve publics that include their students, graduates and immediate constituencies of clergy and lay persons, and the academic community of the region, which includes two universities and five colleges whose libraries are also in a consortium. The consortium is a strong, public sign of ecumenical cooperation in the state of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools website ([www.mncts.net](http://www.mncts.net)) contains links to the five seminaries of the Consortium, the Minnesota Theological Library Association, areas for shared resources, a shared calendar and work spaces for Consortium faculty members.



## 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 Office of International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) together with the Academic Advising Office, the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Advanced Theological Education (ATE), 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 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 Academic Advising Office.

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.

## Stateside Opportunities

### ELCA Reciprocity

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

## Online Study Opportunities

With more than 40 percent of the student body taking at least one online class and a growing number of students enrolled in non-residential programs of study, Luther Seminary is a leader in online theological education. While online classes require more self-directed learning than face-to-face instruction which may not appeal to all types of learners, those students who thrive in the online environment like the scheduling flexibility of the courses and the fact that online projects and discussions often foster close collaboration with classmates. Online classes vary in format, just as classroom-based classes vary from one subject or faculty member to another. Some generalizations, however, can be made:

- Online courses follow the regular academic calendar.
- Registration periods for online courses are the same as on-campus courses.
- Learners can be anywhere they have access to the Internet.
- Luther Seminary online learning requires five types of interaction: The student interacts with course content, an instructor, other students, technology and a local context. Some online courses have components that require groups of students and the professor to be online at the same time. All of the classes are writing intensive, since writing is the chief medium of exchange.
- Limitations exist for the number of courses that can be completed by a combination of online classes and independent study. In the following policy, nonresidential means a course that is offered entirely online or as an independent study.
- M.Div. students may take up to two-thirds of their courses in a non-residential format. Of this number, up to five may be independent studies.
- Academic M.A.s may take all of their courses in a non-residential format. Of this number, up to five may be taken as independent studies.

- Professional M.A.s may take up to two-thirds of their courses in a non-residential format. Of this number, up to five may be independent studies.
- Rare exceptions may be made to independent study limits if a course needed for a student's M.A. concentration is not offered except through independent study or if a student's M.A. thesis project requires additional independent study. Decisions about exceptions will be made by the academic dean in consultation with the point person for the student's concentration.

In addition to the above listed guidelines for non-residential study, the remaining course work must be completed in residence at Luther Seminary.

**Contact the Office of Admissions**

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

651-641-3521

**Contact the Office of the Registrar**

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

651-641-3473

## 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.

# Academic Policies and Procedures

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## 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 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. See the current Student Handbook for more details on this matter.

## Academic Probation

One grade of Fail and one grade of D (or Marginal), or more than one grade of Fail, or more than two grades of D or Marginal, in any three successive terms (or less), places a student on academic probation. 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 may not graduate while on 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.

## 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 are two residential focus sessions

Intensive classes offered in winter and summer terms may require pre-work, which may begin approximately one week prior to the first intensive session in January and June. An examination period is scheduled at the end of each semester. The summer term includes Master of Arts/Master of Divinity degree core and elective courses and independent study, graduate theological study opportunities and clinical pastoral education (CPE).

## Academic Advising, Candidacy Mentoring, and Student Support

Luther Seminary is committed to providing students with the support they need to succeed in their academic programs. Each student in the M.A. and M.Div. programs is assigned a faculty advisor who is a resource for vocational formation processes and candidacy mentor for those seeking ordination. Students in these programs can also connect with the Student Affairs office for course planning assistance. Students in the Th.M., Ph.D., or D.Min. program should remain in contact with the Advanced Theological Education office.

Students are encouraged to contact the Office of the Registrar for assistance with degree audits, transcript evaluation, long-range course planning and help with interpreting degree program requirements and regulations. For guidance with academic matters that are not covered in the above, students are encouraged to contact the Academic Dean, [academicdean@luthersem.edu](mailto:academicdean@luthersem.edu)

## 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.

## **Auditors**

Students who wish to take courses without credit or grade may do so by registering as an auditor.

Audits for students who are enrolled in a degree program are subject to a \$477 fee per course and relevant fees as well as normal petition procedures in the case of an overload.

Non-degree and auditor students are subject to the \$477 fee per course and relevant fees for audits.

Student spouse auditors are subject to a \$477 fee per course and relevant fees.

Students who wish to audit a course must confer with the instructor within the first week of the term to gain the instructor’s permission to register for the audit. Forms for the instructor’s signature are available online and in the Office of the Registrar. 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. Auditors may participate in class discussion only upon consent of the instructor. 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 attendance expectations have not been met, the course will be withdrawn from the student’s 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 and the Office of the Registrar by the first deadline to add/drop a course in a term/session.

Normally, online and intensive courses are exempt from auditing.

## **Change of Concentration**

Students in the Master of Divinity or 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. This form is located on MyLutherNet.

## Changing Degree Programs

Any student in an academic Master of Arts program, a professional Master of Arts program or the Master of Divinity program wishing to change degree programs is requesting admission to the new program.

Such students must:

1. Request a program change by submitting the change of degree form to Admissions.
2. Meet with the Registrar for a degree change evaluation and request confirmation by email to the Office of Admissions support of this degree program change.
3. Students who intend to serve as a rostered leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America need to consult their synodical candidacy committee as they consider program changes and submit any relevant material to Admissions.
4. Students entering the Master of Arts program need to meet with appropriate faculty point person for anticipated new degree.

Students moving from a Master of Arts degree into the Master of Divinity degree:

1. 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.
2. Must speak with the Contextual Learning Office concerning Clinical Pastoral Education and internship requirements.

Students moving from the Master of Divinity degree into a Master of Arts degree: 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.

## Class Attendance

Attendance at all residential courses and participation in online courses for which a student is registered is expected. Excessive absences from residential courses and non-participation in online courses jeopardizes the student's academic standing. A student who has excessive absences in residential courses or is not participating in online courses may be administratively withdrawn from courses.

## Classification

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

Students may be full time or half time in any category; however, they cannot change from one degree program to another without the approval of the Admissions Committee.

### Master of Arts Students

- Juniors—0.5-7.5 earned course credits
- Seniors—8.0 or more earned course credits

### Master of Divinity Students

- Juniors— 0.5-9.5 earned course credits
- Middlers—10.0-19.5 earned course credits
- Seniors—20.0 or more earned course credits

During the FIRST year of a concurrent internship, for registration purposes, students will be allowed to register at the same time as middlers. During the SECOND year of the concurrent internship, for registration purposes, students will be allowed to register at the same time as seniors.

Students who complete an early internship will be classified as seniors after successful completion of 20 courses. 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 is equivalent to 3.00 semester hours.

A half course is equivalent to 1.5 semester hours.

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

### Face-to-Face Classroom and Intensive Courses

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 10 hours of student-directed learning per week over the 12 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 10 weeks).
3. During winter and summer terms, full courses meet for approximately 40 hours of instruction and half courses meeting for approximately 20 hours of instruction within a one week intensive. Additional reading, writing and/or other student-directed learning activities should compensate for the reduced total student learning hours.

### Independent Studies

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 and Blended Online Courses

1. In online and blended online classes, one full course would entail approximately 40 hours of any combination of the following activities: face-to-face classroom time; 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.
2. As above, the total numbers of student learning hours may be thought of as a balance, so that a reduction in contact hours may be compensated for by additional student-directed learning hours and increased contact hours may be compensated for by a decrease in student-directed learning hours.

### Residential Focus Session Courses

1. A 20-hour in person intensive period and approximately an additional 19 hours delivered online and /or residentially throughout the remainder of the semester.
2. There are two residential focus sessions each semester: one at the beginning of the semester and one in the middle. During each residential focus session, students can take up to two residential focus courses. This means a student can take a maximum of four residential focus courses in a semester.

## Course Load

A normal course load for the Master of Divinity degree is eight to 12 courses per year, and for the Master of Arts degree, eight to 10 courses per year. This may include various combinations of full and half courses distributed through the year.

The maximum load in fall and spring semester is five full courses; the maximum for the winter term is two full courses; the maximum for the summer term is three full courses.

The recommended course load is 4.5 courses in the fall and spring semester, and one full course during the winter term.

It is not advisable to carry an overload. In the rare event that a petition for an overload is approved, a fee is charged for the overload per course according to the current tuition rate.

If a student is on academic probation or has outstanding incomplete grades, overloads are not allowed. Petitions for overloads must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than the first day of the term.

Two courses (including all outstanding incompletes, but excluding the M.A. capstone project) is the maximum number of courses a student may have to complete during the summer and still participate in graduation ceremonies in spring. These courses must be completed by the end of the summer term following the graduation ceremony.

## 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.

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.

## Credit Duration

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

## Cross-registration

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 Theological Seminary
- School of Theology at Saint John's University
- The Saint Paul School of Divinity
- United Theological Seminary

For more information on the Minnesota Theological Consortium, see page 64.

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

## 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.

## **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, commonly known as the Buckley Amendment, is a federal law that states that 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. For more information on this, see the student handbook or contact the Office of the Registrar.

## **Final Examinations**

Final examinations are held as indicated in the seminary calendar. If a student finds it impossible to take the examination at the regular time, a special examination may be negotiated with the instructor.

## **Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

Financial aid for this policy will include both Luther Seminary-originated and federal aid.

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. See [www.luthersem.edu/fasap](http://www.luthersem.edu/fasap) for more details.

## **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 Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean 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 VP for 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 VP will determine whether or not the appeal process should continue.

**Step 4:** If the VP for Academic Affairs determines that further consideration should be given to the appeal, the VP will ask two faculty members in appropriate fields to review the student's work in relation to the 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 VP for Academic Affairs will implement that decision on whether or not to change the original grade. If their



decision is not unanimous, the VP for Academic Affairs will make the final decision. This will conclude the appeal process and the VP for 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., Ph.D., and D.Min. programs. Because coursework for the Th.M., Ph.D. and D.Min. 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 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.

## Grading

Letter grades (A, B, C, D, F) are required for the Master of Theology, Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Ministry 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 grading option 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.

The deadline to make grading option changes for currently registered courses in a term is the last day to add or drop courses without faculty signed add/drop slips.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## **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.

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) 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.

## **Withdrawal (W or WF)**

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.

Students who withdraw from 12-week semester courses after the second week (calendar days 16-22 from the start of the term) will receive a notation of W (Withdrawal). Students withdrawing after the 22nd calendar day of the term (after the NO REFUND deadlines) will receive a notation of WF (Withdrawal Fail). Students who withdraw from winter and summer terms will receive a WF notation at the NO REFUND deadline. See pages 138-139.

A faculty signed add/drop slip must be submitted by the student to the Office of the Registrar for each course change during the period ranging from calendar day 16 and beyond of the fall and spring semesters. A faculty signed add/drop slip must be submitted by the student to the Office of the Registrar for each course change for winter and summer terms beyond the designated day of the NO REFUND deadline. See pages 138-139.

Students wishing to petition to withdraw without academic penalty may do so with verification from the instructor that the student was doing passing work at the time of withdrawal. A W (Withdrawal) notation will then be given.

A Withdrawal notation does not call into question the continued status of a student at the seminary. However, a pattern of Withdrawals may call into question a student's continued status at Luther Seminary. A Withdrawal Fail notation is given when a student does not follow course withdrawal procedures as indicated above. A WF notation is equivalent to F.

Failure to attend or participate in a registered or online course does not constitute dropping or officially withdrawing from the course.

## **Additional Written Evaluation**

A student who desires a written evaluation must notify each instructor in writing within the first two weeks of the term or by the end of the first week of the winter and summer terms in which the course is taken. Written evaluations are encouraged.

## **Half-time Status**

Students in the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs, as well as non-degree students, who carry less than 3.0 courses but 1.5 courses or more in a semester, are classified as half-time students.

## 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.

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:

Peter Susag

Library Main Office  
200 Gullixson Hall  
651-641-3465  
[psusag001@luthersem.edu](mailto:psusag001@luthersem.edu)

## Independent Study/Learning Agreements

It is possible for students to take courses via independent study/learning agreement 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/learning agreement for the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degrees. 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.

The types of learning agreements and their procedures are as follows:

1. Guided Reading and Research 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 Guided Reading and according to the add/drop deadlines for the term.

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

A learning agreement form for this purpose is available from the Office of the Registrar kiosk or online on the Registration tab (forms link) of MyLutherNet.

2. Independent study courses through any existing core or elective course can be arranged in consultation with the instructor. 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 and the instructor.

There are two types of arrangements for such a track:

- a. Select a scheduled course. Work out the agreement with the instructor within the first five weekdays of the semester, winter and summer terms. In order to register, the student must submit a completed and signed learning agreement form to the Office of the Registrar. The learning agreement form is available from the Office of the Registrar kiosk or online on the Registration tab (forms link) of MyLutherNet.

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

b. Register for an existing course with an instructor who is not teaching the course in that particular term. Approval of the instructor is to be obtained prior to registration for the course. A learning agreement form for this purpose is available from the Office of the Registrar kiosk or online via the Registration tab (forms link) of MyLutherNet. An agreement with the instructor is to be worked out during the first five weekdays of the semester or the first five weekdays of the winter and summer terms.

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

3. A recommended time for independent study work is during the winter term.

## 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.

## 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)).

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.

See pages 138-139 for a refund schedule.

Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degree students who fail to register for at least one class in fall or spring semester and who have not been granted a leave of absence prior to the beginning of the semester 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.

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.

## Online Classes and Residency Requirements

Online course offerings are available each term at Luther Seminary. See page 65 for online study opportunity details.

If choosing to complete their degree programs through online courses, students must ensure that they meet or exceed the minimum number of residential courses required by their particular degree program. Courses which count towards residency include any course where the majority of instructor-led learning occurs on the main campus. This includes weekly, weekend and evening courses taught in fall and spring semesters and residential focus session courses and intensive courses taught during the winter and summer terms.

Residency requirements per first degree program areas are as follows:

- For Master of Arts degrees (academic), there is no residential requirement.
- For Master of Arts degrees (professional), at least one-third of courses must be taken on the main campus.
- For Master of Divinity degrees, at least one-third of courses must be taken on the main campus.

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.

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 or a student's Master of Arts capstone 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.

## Pre-work Period for Courses

Pre-work may begin approximately one week prior to the first intensive course session in winter and summer terms or the beginning residential focus session. Pre-work will be noted on the course schedule and detailed in course syllabus.

## Program Delivery Types

There are three categories of program delivery type in the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts and Certificate programs:

1. Combinations of intensive, residential focus session and online courses for student admitted to the Master of Divinity Distributed Learning Program, Master of Divinity X Accelerated 24 Month Program, and Master of Arts—Children, Youth and Family Distributed Learning Program through Admissions. Note program residential requirements as stated in the catalog.
2. Online Learning is primarily online courses, however, note program residential requirements as stated in catalog. No cohort or early residential privileges are given.
3. Residential/Commuter is primarily residential courses.

Students who change program delivery type must submit a change of program delivery type form to the Office of the Registrar.

## Registration

The option to register either in person, by mail or online is available to students for 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. Students who do not pre-register run the risk of courses being filled or cancelled due to insufficient enrollment.

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 cause a student to lose registration priority.

The nature of the curriculum and the sequence of courses make it advisable for students to begin their studies in the fall 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. Students may retake a course or its equivalent for an improved grade if a grade of Marginal or a letter grade of D is reported. Credit is not granted twice.

## 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. 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.

For example, a student with an 16-credit master's degree from an accredited institution may be able to apply up to eight credits towards a 30-credit Master of Divinity degree at Luther Seminary; or a student with a 30-credit Master of Divinity may be able to apply eight of their eligible 15 credits against an 16-credit Master of Arts degree at Luther Seminary.

## Students with Disabilities

Luther Seminary will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The purpose of accommodation is to provide equal access to educational opportunities to students affected by disabilities. The seminary does not intend that the standards be altered, nor that the essential elements of programs or courses be changed. See the student handbook for more information. Contact the Seminary's Disability Services Liaison to apply for accommodations:

Peter Susag

Library Main Office  
200 Gullixson Hall  
651-641-3465  
[psusag001@luthersem.edu](mailto:psusag001@luthersem.edu)

## Transfer Credit

Credits earned at other accredited graduate institutions with a grade of C (or equivalent) 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 (1/2) of the academic Master of Arts degree and Master of Divinity degree program requirements and one-third (1/3) of the professional Master of Arts degree program requirements through transfer credits that have been completed within the 10 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) institutions
3. International institutions whose accreditation is equivalent to those noted above

# Courses

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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 [www.luthersem.edu/registrar](http://www.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

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:

- BI—Bible
- 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

The four-digit course number refers to the following classifications. The first digit identifies the curricula level.

- 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)

The second digit identifies the curricula division:

- 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)

The third and fourth digit identifies general numbers 00-94, except for the following:

- 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

Master of Theology degree students may register for courses at the 8000-level by permission of the instructor and Advanced Theological Education Office.

## Faculty

### Children, Youth and Family:

Andrew Root

### Congregational and Community Care:

Beverly Wallace

### Congregational Leadership:

Terri Elton

### Congregational Mission and Leadership:

Michael Binder

Dwight Zscheile

### Contextual Leadership:

Tim Coltvet

### Educational Leadership:

Mary Hess

### Global Christianity:

Guillermo Hansen

### History of Christianity:

Lois Farag

Mark Granquist

Mark Tranvik

Jennifer Wojciechowski

### Homiletics/Preaching:

Karoline Lewis

Joy Moore

### New Testament:

David Fredrickson

Craig Koester

Matthew Skinner

### Old Testament:

Michael Chan

Cameron Howard

Rolf Jacobson

Kathryn Schifferdecker

### Stewardship:

Grace Duddy Pomroy

### Systematic Theology and Ethics:

Lois Malcolm

Amy Marga

Alan Padgett

### Worship:

Dirk Lange

Division chairs are noted in the online faculty directory at [www.luthersem.edu/faculty](http://www.luthersem.edu/faculty).

### Example

**LD 0 5 30**

**LD=Curricula area**  
*(Leadership for Mission)*

**0=Curricula level**  
*(Signature)*

**5=Curricula division**  
*(Leadership for Mission)*

**30=General numbers**  
*(Exceptions listed above)*

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## BIBLICAL PREACHING [BP]

Courses BP7511-BP7539 are designated for students only in the Doctor of Ministry program in biblical preaching. BP7561-BP7599 are elective courses and will be determined on an annual basis. Consult the Advanced Theological Education Office.

### **BP7511 Preaching as the Word of God**

An exploration of preaching as an interpretive act through which God's word does what God intends for it. Moving back and forth between practices of interpretation with particular biblical texts and reflection on those practices, participants discover and assess their own theology of the word and how it informs their preaching.

*Full course*

### **BP7519 Colloquy—First-Year Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching**

Colloquy for first-year students—D.Min. Biblical Preaching degree program.

*Full course*

### **BP7521 Preaching as the Proclaimed Word**

An exploration of preaching focused on its technical and performance aspects, such as sermon design and delivery. Special attention is paid to the guidance that a biblical text's literary and rhetorical features offer as the preacher shapes a preaching event based on that text.

*Full course*

### **BP7529 Colloquy—Second-Year Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching**

Colloquy for second-year students in the D.Min. Biblical Preaching degree.

*Full course*

### **BP7531 Preaching as the Word in Context**

An exploration of preaching as a word of God addressed within Christian worship to a particular time and place. Participants reflect on the way sermons offer a reading or interpretation of the sermon's audience as much as they offer a reading of a biblical text. Attention is paid to the relation of text and context at each stage of sermon development.

*Full course*

### **BP7539 Colloquy—Third-Year Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching**

Third-year colloquy for D.Min. Biblical Preaching students only.

*Full course*

### **BP7578 Interpreting and Preaching the Acts of the Apostles**

Saint John Chrysostom referred to the book of Acts as "a strange new dish," and it remains exactly that for many readers, preachers, and congregations. What can we learn from this lively story of travel, growth, setbacks, miracles, opposition, and responses to the Spirit's initiative? This course explores Acts as a theological narrative, a book that makes bold and sometimes difficult claims about the nature of God, the gospel, and humanity. Together we will explore the challenges and opportunities that come with preaching Acts, whether according to the Revised Common Lectionary's scattered seasonal offerings from Acts or through a series of sermons designed to walk a congregation into a deeper engagement with the book's narrative depiction of God, the church, human cultures, and the gospel. By working with Acts in particular, the course aims to strengthen biblical preaching in general. Interpreting and preaching Acts helps us think more creatively and with more nuance about the nature and theological character of biblical narrative, and so this course also considers what it means to preach a narrative and how preachers help Christian communities understand how biblical narrative can stimulate their theological imaginations.

*Full course*

**BP7588 Preaching Race and Racial Reconciliation**

This course will explore the intersection between race and preaching in the United States. It examines sermons and documents from the periods of slavery, abolition and the Civil War, as well as the twentieth century and Civil Rights movement. It analyzes theological, political and ideological commitments on race, racial injustice, and racial reconciliation primarily among “white” and African-American preachers. It engages the students own understandings about race and reconciliation and explores how to preach into communities on race, injustice and reconciliation.

*Full course*

**BP7589 Preaching From Paul**

A focus on the special opportunities and challenges in preaching from the Pauline and deuter-Pauline corpus, including particular attention to difficult texts as exemplified primarily in Ephesians. We will consider a dialogical hermeneutical and homiletical method for the development of sermons. Attention will be given to reading Paul from various perspectives. There will be an emphasis on competence in the oral performance of texts and its relationship to the interpretation of texts for preaching. Oral performance preparation will be workshop-based during the residence week.

*Full course*

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## 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.

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## 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.

*Cultural Context*

*Full or half course*

**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*

**CD1623 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*

**CD1624 United Methodist Church History and Doctrine**

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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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. It analyzes implications for faithful trauma-informed theological understandings and pastoral care practices.

*Full course*

**CD1639 Law and Gospel**

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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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 Congregational and Community Care or Systematic Theology elective*

*Full course*

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

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

**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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## 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 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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**CG3520 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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

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

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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

**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*

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

*Full course*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

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**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*



**CL4560 Money and Mission of the Church**

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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

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

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

**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.

**Courses CL7511-CL7542 are designed only for students in the Doctor of Ministry program in congregational mission and leadership.**

**CL7511 Integration of Theology and Ministry**

This seminar provides participants with an opportunity to reflect on their ministry experiences by utilizing a variety of methods for doing theology. They engage in theological reflection in relation to the practice of ministry and integrate their previous theological training with their ongoing learning and experience. Attention is focused on building capacity for doing theology in context, while also orienting them to utilizing action research for engaging in change processes.

*Full course*

**CL7512 Pastoral Identity, Leadership, and Spiritual Life**

This seminar focuses on forming and renewing pastoral identity in relationship to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in local churches. Students explore adaptive leadership, organizational learning, and communal discernment in light of the Spirit's work of forming and reforming community. Students are introduced more deeply to action research as a paradigm for participatory, collaborative change.

*Full course*

**CL7521 Missional Church**

This seminar assists students in developing an understanding of church and congregations in relation to the mission of the triune God in and to all of creation. Resources from the fields of both ecclesiology and missiology are brought to bear on helping students formulate a working theology of the missional church within their congregation and context. The diverse literature from other fields of church renewal, church growth, and church effectiveness are critically evaluated from this developing understanding of the missional church. Students are introduced to and practice qualitative research.

*Full course*

**CL7522 Missional Leadership**

This seminar helps students develop an understanding of leadership and organization in Christian faith communities in light of the triune God's mission in all creation and the student's particular context. Literature from the social sciences and Christian theology is used to help students construct a theologically-informed perspective on leadership and organization. Students are introduced to and practice quantitative research.

*Full course*

**CL7531 Congregational Practices and Thesis Proposal**

This seminar engages the difference missional theology makes for the renewal of congregational life and practices in relationship with neighbors and the common good. Particular attention is given to helping participants understand an action research design that employs a mixed-method strategy in leading a congregation through a change process. The project for this seminar is a thesis proposal that serves as the framework for guiding the implementation of students' planned research and the development of their thesis.

*Full course*

**CL7532 Implementation of Thesis Proposal**

This seminar helps participants implement the thesis proposal that was developed in the previous seminar, a thesis proposal that incorporates a theologically-informed use of social science research. Participants are also guided through the writing process of drafting the first four chapters of their eventual thesis—introduction, literature review and theoretical perspectives, biblical and theological perspectives, and research methodology.

*Full course*

**CL7541 Thesis Project**

This seminar provides students with a structured process to implement the research design of their approved research proposal and to incorporate their findings into their final thesis. The seminar meets for a work session to help participants finalize their research and process their results.

*Full course*

**CL7542 Thesis Project**

This seminar provides students with a structured process to implement the research design of their approved research proposal and to incorporate their findings into their final thesis. The seminar meets for a work session to help participants finalize their research and process their results.

*Full course*

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**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

*Full or half course*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

**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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## EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP [EL]

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

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*

**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*

**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. Fulfills CG elective.*

*Full course*

**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*

**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*

**EL4540 Foundations of Educational Leadership**

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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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 structures 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*

**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*

**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.

**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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## 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*

### **FE0210 MDivX Internship Orientation**

Offered during the Summer term for students in the MDivX program.

*Note: This course is a prerequisite to Internship and includes a healthy boundaries workshop as well as orientation to Luther Seminary, to the MDivX program, and to Internship.*

*Non-credit course*

### **FE0500 Clinical Pastoral Education—Full-Time (Summer)**

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.

*Full course*

### **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.

*Full course*

### **SG0501 Christian Public Leader I—Fall Semester or Spring Semester: “Who Am I as a Christian Public Leader?”**

Each section of Christian Public Leader will focus on a particular topic. This section’s focus is: “Who am I as a Christian Public Leader?” In this course, we discover the ministry strengths and assets unique to one’s self, as well as the strengths and assets of one’s ministry context. The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.

*Half course*

### **SG0502 Christian Public Leader II—Spring Semester or Summer Term: “Being Public Leaders in a Public Church”**

Each section of Christian Public Leader will focus on a particular topic as well as one’s vocational formation as a Christian public leader. This section’s focus is on: “discovering the broader implications of one’s intercultural competencies, as well as the church’s identity and voice in the public square.” The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.

*Half course*

### **FE0523 Christian Public Leader III - Fall Semester: "Systems and Leading Change"**

Each section of Christian Public Leader will focus on a particular topic as well as one’s vocational formation as a Christian public leader. This section’s focus is on: "systems and leading change." The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.

*Half course*

**FE0524 Christian Public Leader IV -Spring Semester: "Lifelong Learners and Leaders"**

The course will explore Christian Public Leadership by attending to leadership in the midst of particular communities and their distinct contextual realities. In this course students will expand their leadership capacity by leading and being in dialogue with a particular congregation or faith-nonprofit. With this ministry context as their primary conversation partner, students will critically reflect on themselves as leaders, discover the communal nature of leadership, and develop their own leadership practices. The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.

*Half course*

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**GRADUATE RESEARCH - [GR] (DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY)****GR8650 Contextual Theology in Global Conversation**

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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

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

*Full course*

**GR8660 Interdisciplinary / Pre-comp Exams**

A thesis feasibility independent study with the thesis advisor.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Full course*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**GR8671 Research**

A research development course. This course will be in context with collaboration with the contextual supervisor during the spring of the third year.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Half course*

**GR8680 Writing I**

A thesis writing independent study leading to a completed thesis.

*Ph.D. students only*

*Half course*

**GR8681 Writing II**

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

*Ph.D. students only*

*Half course*

**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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## HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY [HC]

**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*



**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*

**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*

**HC1333 Desert Spirituality for Twenty-First Century Christians**

An introduction to the spirituality and literature of the early men and women who lived in the Egyptian desert. Special attention will be given to their teachings on topics including following Christ, reading scripture, prayer, and living a Christian life; and their past and present spiritual influence on the Church in East and West.

*Cultural Context*

*Half course*

**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*

**HC1354 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*

**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*

**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*

**HC2324 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*

**HC2326 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*

**HC2328 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*

**HC2330 Christians of the Middle East and Africa**

An historical examination of Christians in the Middle East and Africa. Key figures, ecclesial expressions, theological disputes, biblical interpretations, cultural expressions, and interactions with their social, political, and religious worlds will be discussed. Special attention will be given to theologies of mission, and the ways in which this is lived out in their churches.

*Full course*

**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*

**HC2336 Augustine of Hippo**

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*

**HC2338 Adam and Eve**

A close examination of the creation narrative and its interpretation in early Christianity. An in depth analysis of the philosophical, political, legal, and theological writings and social norms that influenced the interpretation of the creation of Adam and Eve that shaped the understanding of the relationship between male and female throughout Christian history.

*Full course or half course*

**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*

**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*

**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.

*Half course*

**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*

**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*

**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.

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

## 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.

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## 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.

*Full course*

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## 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*

*Full course*

### 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*

*Half course*

### 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*

*Full course*

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## LEADERSHIP FOR MISSION [LD]

### **LD0500 Theological Frameworks for Ministry I**

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*

### **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*

### **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*

### **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*

### **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.

### **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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## 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*

### **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*

**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*

**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*

**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 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*

**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.

**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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## **NEW TESTAMENT [NT]**

*Courses NT0215 – 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.*

**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*

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

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*

**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*

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

This study of John's gospel equips students to become effective readers, teachers, and preachers of the text. The first phase of the course focuses on reading and interpreting John's gospel with attention to its literary characteristics, theological dimensions, cultural context, and implications for Christian witness. The second phase explores creative ways to teach John's gospel, as students prepare studies that can be used in various ministry settings. The third phase considers ways that John's gospel engages contemporary listeners through preaching, worship, and other settings.

*Full course*

*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.*

**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 for M.Div. No prerequisite required for M.Div. students who are choosing the LG4525 language option instead of LG0220 New Testament Greek.*

*Full course*

**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 for M.Div. No prerequisite required for M.Div. students who are choosing the LG4525 language option instead of LG0220 New Testament Greek.*

*Full course*

**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 for M.Div. No prerequisite required for M.Div. students who are choosing the LG4525 language option instead of LG0220 New Testament Greek.*

*Full course*

**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 for M.Div. No prerequisite required for M.Div. students who are choosing the LG4525 language option instead of LG0220 New Testament Greek.*

*Full course*

**NT0254 Epistles: Galatians and Philippians**

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 for M.Div. No prerequisite required for M.Div. students who are choosing the LG4525 language option instead of LG0220 New Testament Greek.*

*Full course*

**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*

**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 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*

**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 or half course*

**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*

**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*

**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.

**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 or half course*



## **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.

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## **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*

### **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 (M.Div. students can take without prerequisite if choosing Spanish for Ministry language option instead of LG0110 Biblical Hebrew.)*

*Full course*

### **OT1120 Lions and Eunuchs and Kings, Oh My!: A Study of 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*

### **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 or half course*

### **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*

### **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-à-vis creation, especially in light of contemporary environmental issues.

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

### **OT1140 Theologizing Over Rubble-Jeremiah**

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 or equivalent for all MDiv and M.A.-Bible students*

*Cultural Context*

*Full course*

**OT1144 The Book of Job**

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*

*Full or half course*

**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 and OT0120*

*Full course*

**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*

**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*

*Full or half course*

**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 or half course*

**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 or half course*

**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 or half course*

**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.

**OT6122 Lions and Eunuchs and Kings, Oh My!: A Study of 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*

**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 or half course*

**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.

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## PREACHING [PR]

**PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching**

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 NT0215-18 Gospels or equivalent*

*Full course*

**PR4552 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*

**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*

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

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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**PR4567 Race and the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

*Prerequisite: PR0510 Foundations of Biblical Preaching or equivalent*

*Full course*

**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.

**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.

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## 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*

### **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 or half course*

### **RM4535 Changing Populations and Economies of Small Town and Rural (STaR) Communities**

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*

### **RM4540 Small Town and Rural (STaR) Church Leadership**

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*

### **RM4550 Leadership in Multi-Point Parishes**

This course studies the changing patterns of small town and rural (STaR) ministry and the formation of multi-point parishes. It addresses the challenges and opportunities for ministry in these settings. Leadership, administrative, and planning aspects for ministry are explored.

*Half course*

### **RM4555 Rural Ecosystems and Ministry**

This course 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.

*Full course*

### **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.

### **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.

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## 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*

### **SG0405 Leading Christian Communities in Mission**

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*

### **SG0501 Christian Public Leader I—Fall Semester or Spring Semester: “Who Am I as a Christian Public Leader?”**

Each section of Christian Public Leader will focus on a particular topic. This section's focus is: “Who am I as a Christian Public Leader?” In this course, we discover the ministry strengths and assets unique to one's self, as well as the strengths and assets of one's ministry context. The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.

*Half course*

### **SG0502 Christian Public Leader II—Spring Semester or Summer Term: “Being Public Leaders in a Public Church”**

Each section of Christian Public Leader will focus on a particular topic as well as one's vocational formation as a Christian public leader. This section's focus is on: “discovering the broader implications of one's intercultural competencies, as well as the church's identity and voice in the public square.” The format for this course will include weekly engagement throughout the semester. While delivered in an online format, this course offers both synchronous and asynchronous monthly lectures, as well as both online and residential formation group sessions.

*Half course*

### **SG0705 Scripture and Its Witnesses**

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, NT0215-NT0218 Gospels, OT0120 Prophets/Poetry, and NT0230-NT0254 Epistles); and NT0220 Greek and LG0110 Hebrew*

*Full course*

### **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.

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## 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*

### **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.

*Cultural Context*

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*

### **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*

### **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.

*Contributes to cross-cultural competencies.*

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Half course*

### **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*

**ST1434 Thinking Theologically in an Evolutionary Situation**

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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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 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*

**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 ecclesologies.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly*

*Full course*



**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

*Full course*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

*Half course*

**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.

**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*

**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*

**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.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly or ST0440 The Triune God and the World or equivalent*

*Half course*

**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.

*Full course*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

*Prerequisite: SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly or ST0440 The Triune God and the World or equivalent*

*Full course*

**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.

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## URBAN MINISTRY [UM]

### **UM4597 Guided Reading and Research in Urban Ministry**

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

### **UM6598/8599 Guided Reading and Research in Urban Ministry**

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

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## 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 NT0215-NT0218, or equivalent; SG0401 Thinking Theologically and Confessing Publicly

*Full course*

### **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*

### **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.

*This course includes assignments in context.*

*Prerequisite:* WO0515 Public Worship

*Full or half course*

### **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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**WO4573 God's Mission and Worship**

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*

**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.

**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.

# Regularly Offered Formats Signature and Core Courses 2021-2022

## Signature Courses

COURSE	COURSE DESCRIPTION	CR	FALL	WINTER TERM	SPRING	SUMMER TERM
SG0401	THINKING THEOLOGICALLY AND CONFESSING PUBLICLY	1.0	ONLINE; RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION		RESIDENTIAL	
SG0405	LEADING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN MISSION	1.0	RESIDENTIAL		RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	
SG0501	CHRISTIAN PUBLIC LEADER I	.5	HYFLEX WITH ONLINE AND RESIDENTIAL PRECEPTS			
SG0502	CHRISTIAN PUBLIC LEADER II	.5			HYFLEX WITH ONLINE AND RESIDENTIAL PRECEPTS	
SG0705	SCRIPTURE AND ITS WITNESSES	1.0	ONLINE		RESIDENTIAL	

\*These courses are regularly offered in the terms listed. There may be some alterations to the terms and delivery formats depending on sabbatical and leave schedule of faculty. See current term schedule for complete course offerings.



## Core courses

COURSE	COURSE DESCRIPTION	CR	FALL	WINTER TERM	SPRING	SUMMER TERM
CG0525	CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND FORMATION	1.0	ONLINE		RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	
FE0200	INTERNSHIP ORIENTATION	1.0		INTENSIVE		INTENSIVE
FE0523	CHRISTIAN PUBLIC LEADER - III	.5	HYFLEX WITH ONLINE AND RESIDENTIAL PRECEPTS			
FE0524	CHRISTIAN PUBLIC LEADER - IV	.5			HYFLEX WITH ONLINE AND RESIDENTIAL PRECEPTS	
FE0500- FE0509	CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION	1.0	CPE SITES	CPE SITES	CPE SITES	CPE SITES
HC0305	HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I	1.0	ONLINE; RESIDENTIAL			
HC0307	HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY II	1.0			ONLINE; RESIDENTIAL	
HT0801	LUTHERAN CONFSSIONAL WRITINGS	1.0	RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION		ONLINE	
IN0500- IN0565	INTERNSHIP	2.0	INTERNSHIP SITES	INTERNSHIP SITES	INTERNSHIP SITES	INTERNSHIP SITES
LD0500	THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR MINISTRY I	1.0	RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION			
LD0505	THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR MINISTRY II	1.0		INTENSIVE		
LD0530	MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SETTINGS	1.0			ONLINE	
LG0110	BIBLICAL HEBREW	1.0	ONLINE; RESIDENTIAL		ONLINE	ALT YEARS ONLINE (2021)
LG0220	NEW TESTAMENT GREEK	1.0	ONLINE; RESIDENTIAL			ALT YEARS ONLINE (2022)

\*These courses are regularly offered in the terms listed. There may be some alterations to the terms and delivery formats listed depending on sabbatical and leave schedule of faculty. See current term schedule for complete course offerings.

## Core Courses (Continued)

COURSE	COURSE DESCRIPTION	CR	FALL	WINTER TERM	SPRING	SUMMER TERM
NT0215-18	GOSPELS	1.0	ONLINE	INTENSIVE	RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	
NT0230-54	EPISTLES	1.0	ONLINE; RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION		RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	
OT0115	LAW AND NARRATIVE	1.0	ONLINE; RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	INTENSIVE		
OT0120	PROPHETS AND POETRY	1.0	ONLINE	INTENSIVE		INTENSIVE
PR0510	FOUNDATIONS OF BIBLICAL PREACHING	1.0	RESIDENTIAL		RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	
ST0440	TRIUNE GOD AND THE WORLD	1.0	ONLINE	INTENSIVE	RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	
WO0515	PUBLIC WORSHIP	1.0		INTENSIVE	RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	

## Electives

COURSE	COURSE DESCRIPTION	CR	FALL	WINTER TERM	SPRING	SUMMER TERM
ELECTIVES	ELECTIVES (COMBINATION OF FULL OR HALF = 1.0)	1.0	VARIABLE FORMATS ONLINE, RESIDENTIAL, RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	INTENSIVE	VARIABLE FORMATS ONLINE, RESIDENTIAL, RESIDENTIAL FOCUS SESSION	INTENSIVE

\*These courses are regularly offered in the terms listed. There may be some alterations to the terms and delivery formats listed depending on sabbatical and leave schedule of faculty. See current term schedule for complete course offerings.

# Admissions

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## 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 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and many other denominations). Students should contact their church/synod or other denominational body to begin/complete the entrance process in order to begin seminary.

Those preparing for nonprofit leadership or lay rostered ministry in the church usually pursue a Master of Arts degree. Such a degree is minimally required for those seeking to be ordained as deacons or deaconesses in the ELCA and other denominations.

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 or as auditors.

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, have a positive entrance decision from their synodical candidacy committee if pursuing ordination. Other requirements may be requested by the Office of Admissions. Contact the Office of Admissions 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.

The Association of Theological Schools recommends the following subjects be included in college course work:

“English language and literature; history, including non-Western cultures as well as European and American; philosophy, particularly its history and its methods; natural sciences, both the physical and the life sciences; social sciences, where psychology, sociology and anthropology are particularly appropriate; the fine arts and music, especially for their creative and symbolic values; biblical and modern languages; religion, both in the Judeo-Christian and in the Near and Far Eastern traditions.”

Luther Seminary strongly recommends these minimums for undergraduate study, though other coursework will be taken into consideration:

- Bible—one year
- English—two years
- Philosophy—one year
- History of Western Civilization—one year
- Speech—one course
- Foreign language—intermediate level of proficiency

## Greek

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

- They have earned at least 2 full semesters of undergraduate or graduate credit from a regionally accredited institution.
- Courses were in ancient or Biblical Greek (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 courses, this credit will be considered toward the maximum credits allowed under Advanced Standing. See Advanced Standing, pages 67-68 for more information.

## Personal Qualifications

Luther Seminary recognizes that the Spirit of God calls people with many different gifts to serve and lead the church.

The following constellation of commitments, character traits and competencies signal an individual’s readiness for theological studies:

- A commitment to Christ, the church, and the ministry of God’s word
- The academic ability to read and learn with discernment
- The ability to communicate and write with clarity and precision
- Leadership qualities and experience evidenced by personal and relational health, integrity and consideration of others
- The potential to lead, inspire and relate positively with people

## 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 online application—from a pastor/ministry mentor, a teacher/academic and one additional recommendation of choosing. 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 recommendation of their choosing 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 2 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.

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 - November 1
- To qualify for Fund for Leaders (ELCA applicants) - January 15
- International Applicants Final Deadline - March 1
- Final Deadline - April 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-LUTHER-3  
[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

## 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 ELCA 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 Office of International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) at [iss@luthersem.edu](mailto:iss@luthersem.edu).

International applicants are required to submit either a score from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The Internet-based (iBT) TOEFL score is preferred, though the computer-based and paper-based scores will be accepted. Scores must not be more than two years old at the time of application. Those requesting a waiver from this requirement should contact ISSA for further information. 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 on iBT (213 on the computer-based or 550 on the paper-based)
  - IELTS: 6.5 or above
- Master of Theology, Doctor of Philosophy, or Doctor of Ministry
  - TOEFL (iBT): 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.

International student Th.M. applications are due by March 1 for fall semester.

For more information on admission, citizens of countries other than the U.S. may contact:

Office of International Student and Scholar Affairs  
Luther Seminary  
2481 Como Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55108, U.S.A.  
651-641-3469  
[iss@luthersem.edu](mailto:iss@luthersem.edu)

## 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 as well as a letter or email of good standing from that school's dean or registrar.

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) credit for an M.A. degree to be met by advanced standing. See the Academic Policy and Procedures section (pages 67-68) and Tuition and Fees (page 134) for more information.

# Master of Theology Degree and Doctor of Philosophy Degree

General admissions requirements for post-graduate programs administered by the Advanced Theological Education Office (ATE) are listed below. See pages 49-51 for degree requirements relating to the Master of Theology (Th.M.). See pages 53-56 for degree requirements relating to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.).

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

## Prerequisites

- A Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited theological school are required for the Th.M. degree. Work experience cannot be substituted for theological training, which must include 72 credits that represent broad-based work in theology, biblical studies, and the arts of ministry.
- A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale is required from the first degree in theology. Applicants coming from a school that uses the pass/fail grading system should refer to #2 under Admission Process below.

### 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.)

Application materials must be received by:

Admissions Office  
Luther Seminary  
2481 Como Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

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

## **5. International Applicants**

See pages 126-127 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 April 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 1 prior to the fall the applicant plans to enroll.
- International application deadlines are outlined on pages 126-127.

## **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.

International applicants should see pages 126-127 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-LUTHER-3).

# 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. 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.

## 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, a teacher/academic and one additional recommendation of choosing. 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 recommendation of their choosing 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 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 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-LUTHER-3  
[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 are not admitted 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 on page 52 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).

For more information on auditing, see pages 68 and 138.

## 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.

## 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 core courses toward the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degree program. Non-degree status does not guarantee admission into a degree program.
- Stipulations for auditing courses are found on page 68.

**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-LUTHER-3  
[admissions@luthersem.edu](mailto:admissions@luthersem.edu)

# Candidacy

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## Candidacy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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\* (see page 138), 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 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.
- On campus:
  - 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 Candidacy Coordinator, and the Director of Enrollment Services will review the circumstances of 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. The student's file will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee which has the right to request additional information from the student and/or judicatory. The Admissions Committee may uphold the initial admissions decision or rescind admission based on this change.

# Tuition and Fees for 2021-2022

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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.

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** **\$1,900**

**Half Course** **\$950**

**Auditor Fee, per course** **\$477**

**Technology Annual Fee** **\$200**

Assessed \$100 in Fall term and \$100 in Spring term

**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, each** **\$10 - \$20**

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

**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.

## Graduate Certificate/Non-Degree

**Tuition**

**Full Course** **\$1,900**

**Half Course** **\$950**

**Auditor Fee, per course** **\$477**

**Technology Annual Fee** **\$200**

Assessed \$100 in Fall term and \$100 in Spring term

**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, each** **\$10 - \$20**

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

**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.

## Master of Theology Degree

### Tuition

Full Course	\$2,325
Half Course	\$1,162.50

**Auditor Fee, per course** \$477

**Technology Annual Fee** \$200  
Assessed \$100 in Fall term and \$100 in Spring term

**Continuation Fee** \$1,000  
Payable per semester after two 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, each** \$10 - \$20  
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

### 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.

## Post-Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Non-Degree

### Tuition

Full Course	\$2,325
Half Course	\$1,162.50

**Auditor Fee, per course** \$477

**Technology Annual Fee** \$200  
Assessed \$100 in Fall term and \$100 in Spring term

**SEVIS Management Fee** \$350  
Assessed each year for certain international graduates

**Transcript Fee, each** \$10 - \$20

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

**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.

## Doctor of Philosophy Degree

**Tuition**

**Full Time, per year (four years)** **\$16,500**

**Auditor Fee, per course** **\$477**

**Technology Annual Fee** **\$200**

Assessed \$100 in Fall term and \$100 in Spring term

**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, each** **\$10 - \$20**

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

**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 our state of residence.



## 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.

**Technology Annual Fee** \$200

Assessed \$100 in Fall term and \$100 in Spring term

**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, each** \$10 - \$20

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

*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.*

## Doctor of Ministry Degree in Congregational Mission and Leadership

### Tuition

**Basic Tuition** \$15,450

Charges of \$2,575 billed 2x per year for the first three years in the program.

**Technology Annual Fee** \$200

Assessed \$100 in Fall term and \$100 in Spring term

**Continuation Fee** \$1,000

Payable every term 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, each** **\$10 - \$20**

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

*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

See pages 131-132 for a description of affiliation.

**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

**Transcript Fee, each** **\$10 - \$20**

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**

**\$477**

**Half Course**

**\$477**

**Technology Annual Fee** **\$200**

Assessed \$100 in Fall term and \$100 in Spring term

**Transcript Fee, each** **\$10 - \$20**

Before a transcript can be issued, accounts must be settled or arrangements made for payment of balance. Refer to transcript cost charts online.

## 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 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

### Semesters

Up through 15 calendar days into the term: FULL REFUND

Beyond 15 calendar days into the term: NO REFUND

### Winter term, Summer term and Short-Term Intensive Courses/Terms

#### *One-week or less courses*

Up through one calendar day from date course begins: FULL REFUND

Beyond first calendar day from date course begins: NO REFUND

#### *Two-week courses*

Up through two calendar days from date the course begins: FULL REFUND

Beyond second calendar day from date course begins: NO REFUND

#### *Three-week courses*

Up through three calendar days from date course begins: FULL REFUND

Beyond third calendar day from date the course begins: NO REFUND

#### *Four-week courses*

Up through five calendar days from date course begins: FULL REFUND

Beyond fifth calendar day from date course begins: NO REFUND

#### *Five-week courses*

Up through six calendar days from date course begins: FULL REFUND

Beyond sixth calendar day from date course begins:

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 5<sup>th</sup>. For the Congregational Mission and Leadership program the terms are April 1 through September 30 and October 1 through March 31. No refunds would be issued if the student withdraws after July 19<sup>th</sup> or January 17<sup>th</sup>. The seminary is not responsible for refunds if a student fails to follow this procedure.

## 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
<b>During week 9</b>	<b>40% return (60% of course completed)</b>
During weeks 10-15	0% return

#### 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
<b>During week 6</b>	<b>40% return (60% of course completed)</b>
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
<b>During week 4</b>	<b>40% return (60% of course completed)</b>
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 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
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 cancelled, 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. Transcripts are not released when the student has a Business Office hold.

Payment of all accounts in the Business Office and library is required before a diploma is issued.

## Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid provides students with the financial resources necessary to achieve their educational goals by administering scholarships which are 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 that 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 be receiving full tuition scholarship. 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/16 courses (M.A.) or 5 years/30 courses (M.Div.).
- Receipt of the Presidential, Wallace, ELCA Fund for Leaders and Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) 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/16 courses (M.A.) or 5 years/30 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 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/16 courses (M.A.) or 5 years/30 courses (M.Div.). Newly-admitted students are eligible to apply.

**Beloved Community Scholarship:** Beloved Community Scholars are Christian Public Leaders who are committed to forming and leading communities with prophetic imagination around issues of social, climate, economic, and racial justice concerns for all people. Scholarship recipients will demonstrate an unflinching commitment to understanding theology, praxis, and the intersectionality of race and culture. This program uses a cohort model and recipients are expected to serve 10 hours/week in a particular context doing intersectional justice work. Beloved Community sites will receive \$5000/year (\$2500/Semester) for up to two years to allow students to serve 10 hrs/week in a particular context doing intersectional justice work. Not awarded during internship. Newly-admitted and current/continuing 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 and Beloved Community scholarships:

- 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/16 courses (M.A.) or 5 years/30 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.

**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 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 or Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) qualify for an additional \$750 stipend for every course covered by said outside entities, as long as tuition is covered.

If and when a student's full-tuition benefits are exhausted or ended by the ELCA Fund for Leaders or Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), said student will no longer qualify for an additional stipend. As long as said student remains in good standing with the seminary and/or relevant candidacy processes, his/her/their tuition will then be covered by the Jubilee Scholarship for remaining, required courses.

### **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.

# Academic Calendar 2021-2023

Please note, the academic calendar 2022-2023 is subject to change.

<b>Semester I (Fall)</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022 (tentative)</b>
Labor Day	Sept. 6	Sept. 5
Fall pre-work session begins	Sept. 13	Sept. 12
Orientation	Aug. 23-Sept. 10	Aug. 22-Sept. 9
Classes begin	Sept. 17	Sept. 16
Early semester residential focus session	Sept. 17-25	Sept. 16-24
Online/Full residential session begins	Sept. 28	Sept. 27
Last day to add/drop available classes without faculty signatures. No financial/academic penalties applied.	Oct. 1	Sept. 30
Faculty signed add/drop slip required. Withdrawal grade assigned to dropped courses.	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7
Final day to add/drop available classes with faculty signed add/drop slips. Financial/academic penalties applied.	Oct. 8	Oct. 7
Winter Term registration begins (tentative)	Oct. 26	Oct. 25
Mid-semester residential focus session	Oct. 29-Nov. 6	Oct. 28-Nov. 5
Online/Full residential session break: No classes	Oct. 30-Nov. 6	Oct. 29-Nov. 5
Online/Full residential session resumes	Nov. 9	Nov. 8
Thanksgiving Break: No classes	Nov. 20-28	Nov. 19-27
Classes resume	Nov. 30	Nov. 29
Spring Semester registration begins (tentative)	Dec. 7	Dec. 6
Fall Semester classes end	Dec. 17	Dec. 16
Fall post-work session ends	Dec. 17	Dec. 16
Final Exams: Fall Semester	Dec. 18 & 20	Dec. 17 & 19
Christmas Break: No classes	Dec. 21– Jan. 2	Dec. 20– Jan. 1



<b>Winter Term</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023 (tentative)</b>
New Year's Day	Jan. 1	Jan. 1
Winter Term pre-work session begins	Jan. 2	Jan. 1
Winter Term Intensive I session	Jan. 3-7	Jan. 2-6
Winter Term Intensive II session	Jan. 10-14	Jan. 9-13
Grades due: Fall Semester	Jan. 4	Jan. 3
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No classes	Jan. 17	Jan. 16
Incomplete grades due: Fall Semester	Jan. 18	Jan. 17
Winter Term ends	Feb. 18	Feb. 17
Winter Term post-work session ends	Feb. 18	Feb. 17

<b>Semester II (Spring)</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023 (tentative)</b>
Spring Semester pre-work session begins	Feb. 21	Feb. 20
Classes begin	Feb. 25	Feb. 24
Early semester residential focus session	Feb. 25–Mar. 5	Feb. 24–Mar. 4
Ash Wednesday	March 2	March 1
Grades due: Winter Term classes	March 4	March 3
Online/Full residential session begins	March 8	March 7
Last day to add/drop available classes without faculty signatures. No financial/academic penalties applied.	March 11	March 10
Faculty signed add/drop slips required. Withdrawal grade assigned to dropped courses.	March 12-18	March 11-17
Final day to add/drop available classes with faculty signatures. Financial/academic penalties applied.	March 18	March 17
Incomplete grades due: Winter Term classes	March 18	March 17
Palm Sunday	April 10	April 2
Easter Break: No classes	April 13–19	April 5-11
Easter Sunday	April 17	April 9
Summer Term registration begins (tentative)	April 5	April 18
Classes resume	April 20	April 12
Mid-semester residential focus session	April 22-30	April 21-29
Online/Full residential session break: No classes	April 23-30	April 22-29
Online/Full Residential session resumes	May 3	May 2
Grades due: Graduating students	May 27	May 26
Spring Semester classes end	May 27	May 26
Spring Semester post-work session ends	May 27	May 26
Final Exams: Spring Semester	May 28 & 31	May 27 & 30
Memorial Day	May 30	May 29
Commencement	June 5	June 4
Spring Semester grades due: Non-graduating students	June 10	June 9

<b>Summer Term</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023 (tentative)</b>
Summer Term pre-work session begins	June 6	June 5
Summer Term Residential Focus Session	June 10-18	June 9-17
Summer Term Intensive	June 20-24	June 19-23
Incomplete grades due: Spring Semester	June 24	June 23
Online session begins	June 27	June 26
Independence Day Holiday: No classes	July 2-5	July 4
Fall registration begins (tentative)	July 12	July 11
Summer Term classes end	August 19	August 18
Summer Term post-work session ends	August 19	August 18
Grades due: Summer Term	Sept. 2	Sept. 1
Incomplete grades due: Summer Term	Sept. 16	Sept. 15

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