LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SASKATOON

PROGRAMS HANDBOOK

(FOR DMIN PROGRAM, SEE DMIN HANDBOOK)

2026-2027 Academic Year

In the event of a discrepancy between this Handbook and Seminary Policies, Seminary Policies shall apply.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Lutheran Theological Seminary, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, equips people for Christ-centered leadership and witness to participate in God's mission in the world.

OUR CORE IDENTITY

Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) is rooted in the theological vision of Martin Luther, proclaiming that God's love—revealed through Scripture and embodied in Jesus Christ—is abundant and fulfilling for all. Embracing this liberating gospel, we are called and sent to share this gift with the world. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we prepare courageous, compassionate leaders who serve our church, respond to the world's deep needs, engage in ecumenical collaboration, and draw from the richness of diverse wisdom and traditions.

- A seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- A Reconciling in Christ seminary that welcomes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities
- Member of the Saskatoon Theological Union with The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad and St. Andrew's College
- Affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan
- Accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada

ACCREDITATION

Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon is accredited by the
Commission on Accrediting of
The Association of Theological Schools (www.ats.edu)
and is approved to offer the following degrees:
Master of Divinity,
Master of Theological Studies,
Doctor of Ministry (in cooperation with St. Andrew's College)

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1. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Accessing Course and Student Information

Populi (https://stuskca.populiweb.com/) serves as LTS's Student Information System (registration, financial records, document/form repository, and unofficial transcripts) and Learning Management System (course content, discussion boards, gradebook).

Documents and forms described in this and the other handbooks are located on Populi through the "Files" link in the top-left corner of the screen. Files are organized by category.

Course Formats and Delivery

Each 3-credit course requires 30-36 hours of direct instruction ("contact hours") and generally 90-102 hours of work throughout the semester, including attending class. Students who complete a program full-time should assume that all aspects of coursework approximate full-time employment (e.g., four courses in a term could be equivalent to 36 hours per week, assuming each week has four 3-hour class sessions each with 6 hours of preparation).

Courses are either Intensive or Term-Length:

1. Intensive Courses (1- 2 weeks long)
    - Classes are synchronous and may be held onsite or online, or both
    - Students should check the course schedule carefully as to the configuration of days and weeks
2. Term-Length Courses (offered in two – 6-week blocks)
    - Courses are synchronous and held online
    - Courses are typically taken over a 4-month period
    - Class sessions are generally scheduled as 3-hour sessions once a week

Courses may be scheduled in one of the following formats:

1. On-site: all students must attend the class in person, which will include locations other than Saskatoon.
2. Blended: some students join the class onsite and others join simultaneously online through video conferencing.
3. Hybrid: one component of the course is held onsite, and the second component is online.
4. Classes can be synchronous (assigned class times with simultaneous student engagement) or asynchronous (flexible scheduling with structured milestones).

Academic Terms:

Throughout the academic year, the Seminary's terms are as follows:

Fall	September to December
Winter	January to April
Spring	May to June

2. MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (MTS) DEGREE

Purpose

The MTS program is designed for students wishing to study theology for personal growth while developing and integrating faith and theology in their vocation within church and society. The degree is an academic, rather than practical degree. This program is not designed for students desiring ordination in the ELCIC, however it may be sufficient for churches in other traditions. It is the student's responsibility to ascertain ordination requirements in any non-ELCIC church tradition.

Curriculum

The MTS curriculum is comprised of 54 credits (18 courses). The program is, at minimum, a 2-year course of study. The general course requirements are drawn from the STU Common Curriculum.

Requirements for Admission

Admission to the MTS degree program requires the applicant to have an undergraduate degree from a recognized University, consisting of at least 90 credit hours, with an accumulated Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 75%.

Applicants without a bachelor's degree, who are at least 30 years of age, may apply for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) through LTS. PLAR information can be found on the LTS website.

Requirements for Graduation

The Master of Theological Studies program has the following requirements for successful completion of the program:

1. An accumulated average of not less than 65% over the two years of study in 18 three-credit courses, including an integrative component (comprehensive exam or a thesis)
2. Satisfactory completion of all required courses in the curriculum, along with the required number of courses in the major and minor area of study chosen by the student.
3. The successful completion of a 6-credit thesis (if accumulated Grade Point Average is above 75%), OR successful completion of a 3-credit comprehensive exam and an additional 3-credit elective course, after the completion of 16 three-credit courses.

Outcomes and Criteria

The outcomes of the Master of Theological Studies are fourfold, to:

1. *Provide opportunity for the academic study of theology/religion at an advanced level.* The criteria for success are:
   - 1.1. Comprehend the scope of biblical literature and the range of methods for interpretation and interpret texts in a manner appropriate to its literary and historical locations.
   - 1.2. Describe in broad strokes the history of the church and its engagements with Canadian cultural and religious contexts.
   - 1.3. Understand the evolving landscape of theological and religious discourse and its applications, especially in Canadian cultural and religious contexts.

2. *Provide personal enrichment and strengthen the theological/religious basis for leadership in lay and secular contexts.* The criteria for success are:
   - 2.1. Analyse complex personal and social crises through an ethical and theological/religious lens that leads to concrete transformational action.
   - 2.2. Recognise and address one's own social location and limitations so that others feel welcome and safe to share their complex and diverse perspectives and faith experiences.
   - 2.3. Articulate one's own conception(s) of spirituality and its applicability in religious and non-sectarian contexts.

3. *Foster the integration of faith and practice within the church and community*. The criteria for success are:
   3.1. Understand the range of Christian spiritual thinking and practice in contemporary contexts.
   3.2. Understand the basic precepts of the world's major religious traditions, engage in interfaith dialogue, and work collaboratively with leaders of other communities, religious or secular, in common endeavours.
   3.3. Locate, establish and practice one's vocation/profession in the broader religious and secular landscape of Canada and the world.

4. *Create an intellectual and religious/spiritual platform for challenging social inequities and injustices, and advancing reconciliation, especially as these pertain to countering imperialism and colonization in Canadian contexts.* The criteria for success are:
   4.1. Comprehend the history of a broad range of social justice issues in Canada and the world.
   4.2. Understand Canada's rich diversity of past and present cultures and community practices, and examine the role of theology/religion and, specifically, its complicity in colonialism especially with respect to Indigenous peoples.
   4.3. Articulate vocational/professional practices inclusive of sustained engagements with current justice and equity issues, especially those pertaining to Canadian efforts at dismantling colonial structures and attitudes, and to reconciliation.

Required Courses
Courses in BOLD are required to be taken onsite wherever they are offered, regardless of whether the course is offered in blended format.

Level I

Choose from five of the following six:

- FND101 What is the Good News? A Historical Approach
- FND102 Who is the Church?
- FND103 Introduction to Biblical Literature
- FND104 Spiritual Practices for Cultivating Resilience and Compassion
- FND105 Public Practical Ministry I
- FND106 God and Suffering

Required:

- FND107 Considering Contexts, Cultures, and Differences
- CLQ101 Methods for Interdisciplinary, Ecumenical Theological Studies
- **LTS101 Lutheran Formation**
  - Students residing outside of Canada may instead take SL120Lutheran Confessions

Level II/III

- Four courses (12 credits) at the 200 and 300 level in the major area of study
- Two courses (6 credits) at the 200 and 300 level in the minor area of study
- One elective (3 credits) plus comprehensive exam OR Major thesis (6 credits)

Required:

- **CLQ201 Learning in and From Indigenous Contexts** (students residing outside of Canada may be provided with an alternate online course)
- CAP390 MTS Capstone

Major and Minor Areas of Study

MTS students are required to choose a major and minor area of study. A major field shall consist of no less than four courses (12 credits), inclusive of the required courses for each major in one of the following areas. Fulfilling a major also requires passing the comprehensive exam for that major and completing an

additional elective OR completing a thesis in the major. It is important for students to be attentive to which FND courses may be required by the majors, as this will affect the choices for the FND courses above. (Please note that 200 and 300 course numbers and titles may be added over the coming year.)

1. Biblical
    - FND103 Introduction to Biblical Literature
    - AIP365 Gospel of Mark
    - AIP368 Gospel of Matthew
    - AIP378 Gospel of Luke
    - AIP268 Gospel of John
    - AIP312 A Torah of Exile: Land, Loss, and Longing
    - AIP231 Hope and Vacillation in Israel's Wisdom Books
    - Pauline Epistles course with Lutheran emphasis (completed through a course-sharing agreement)
2. Systematic Theology & Ethics
    - FND106 God and Suffering
    - FND107 Considering Contexts, Cultures, and Differences
    - AIP220 Christ, Reconciliation, and Liberation
    - AIP221 The Spirit, The Church and Hope
    - AIP381 Queer Theologies
    - AIC250 Practices for Ethical Reflection
    - AIS351 Globalization and Ethics
3. Practical Theology and Ministry
    - FND104 Spiritual Practices for Cultivating Resilience and Compassion
    - FND105 Public Practical Ministry I
    - AIS240 Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care in the Congregational Setting
    - AIP230 Practical Public Ministry II
    - AIP331 Advanced Lutheran Preaching and Worship
    - Christian Education course (completed through a course-sharing agreement)
4. Leadership
    - FND107 Considering Contexts, Cultures, and Differences
    - CAP330 Leadership in Practice
    - AIS260 Leading Missional Communities
    - Additional course identified in consultation with the Leadership professor and faculty advisor
5. Lutheran Studies
    - LTS101 Lutheran Formation
    - LTS201 Lutheran Integration
    - LTS301 Lutheran Transformation
    - SL120 Lutheran Confessions
    - AIP331 Advanced Lutheran Preaching and Worship
6. Ecumenical Studies
    - LTS101 Lutheran Formation
    - LTS201 Lutheran Integration
    - LTS301 Lutheran Transformation
    - ESC101Roots of Anglicanism
    - ESC201 Roots of Anglicanism
    - SAC101 UCC Context
    - SAC301 UCC Today (Doing Church into the Future)
7. Diaconal Studies
    - FND103 Introduction to Biblical Literature
    - FND105 Public Practical Ministry for the Whole People of God
    - FND106 God and Suffering
    - FND107 Considering Contexts, Cultures, and Differences
    - DIAC129 Theology and Practice of Diaconal Ministry

- LTS101 Lutheran Formation
- CLQ201 Learning in and From Indigenous Contexts/Indigenous Intercultural Relations
- SL120 Lutheran Confessions
- AIP220 Christ, Reconciliation, and Liberation
- AIP221 The Spirit, The Church and Hope
- AIS351 Globalization/Ethics and CL302 Cross-Cultural/Globalization Immersion Practicum
- LTS201 Lutheran Integration
- LTS301 Lutheran Transformation
- DIAC329 Diaconal Project
- AIS240 Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care in the Congregational Setting
- Any Biblical Studies course
- Thesis (counts for 2 courses) OR comprehensive exam and one more elective

Thesis or Comprehensive Exam Option

Students enrolled in the MTS program who have achieved a minimum GPA of 75% have the option of writing a thesis instead of taking an additional elective course and writing a comprehensive exam. Those who are eligible for the thesis option and are interested in writing a thesis are to submit a "Thesis Proposal Guidelines" for found in *Populi*, to the Dean of Studies prior to the completion of 27 credit hours (9 three-credit courses).

The thesis shall conform to the standards of the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. The length of the thesis shall be a minimum of 60 pages but not exceed 75 pages (15,000–18,000 words). A copy of the thesis approved by the thesis advisor shall be submitted to the examiners for the defense no later than 4 weeks prior to the deadline for oral defense. Upon passing the defense, the complete, corrected thesis in PDF format, with the signature page of the readers, is to be submitted to the registrar by noon of convocation day.

The successful completion of the MTS thesis option carries with it the academic equivalent of two three-credit courses. The "Thesis Proposal Guidelines" form is available on *Populi*.

If the student chooses to do a comprehensive exam instead of a thesis, they will inform the Dean of Studies before the start of the final year of their program. Besides the comprehensive exam, the student will also take one additional course in the MTS program, to ensure they have the required credit hours for the degree. The comprehensive exam, covering the student's major area of study will be given to the student at the beginning of the final semester of their program, along with a reading list to assist them in their preparation for the exam. The exam will be due 4 weeks before the end of an academic term, unless otherwise arranged. The Faculty will grade the exam promptly, and if not satisfactory, the student has one chance to revise and resubmit their exam essay, after which the final grade will be submitted.

4. MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV) DEGREE

Purpose

The MDiv degree program is an academic and professional degree program designed to prepare and equip people for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament (pastoral ministry), primarily in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC).

Curriculum

Normally the program is, at minimum, a four-year course of study involving at least 28 three-credit courses. This includes the successful completion of an internship of 10-12 months. To be eligible for ordination as a pastor in the ELCIC, the student must attain the MDiv degree AND be *annually* endorsed and approved by their Synod. Students from other denominations are recommended to consult with their judicatory bodies for alternate requirements.

Requirements for Admission

Admission to the MDiv degree program requires the applicant to have an undergraduate degree from a recognized University, consisting of at least 90 credit hours, with an accumulated Grade Point Average GPA) of at least 75%.

Applicants without a bachelor's degree, who are at least 30 years of age, may apply for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) through LTS. PLAR information can be found on the LTS website.

Requirements for Graduation

Upon recommendation of the Faculty, the MDiv degree is granted to students who have successfully completed all the requirements for the degree.

1. For ordination-track students in the ELCIC - Annual endorsement of the student by the synodical Candidacy Committee is required for each year of study, including for internship.
2. Successful completion of all course requirements with an accumulated average of not less than 65% is necessary in the courses presented for graduation
3. Successful completion of the required cross-cultural immersion experience (CL302).
4. Successful completion of a 10-12 month supervised internship.
5. Successful completion of Level I and Level II comprehensive exams.

Outcomes and Criteria

The outcomes of the Master of Divinity are fivefold, to:

1. (Religious Groundings and Denominational Heritage) *Apply graduate-level critical thinking and a Gospel lens to primary sources, classical traditions, and current understandings of the Christian faith to support public proclamation of the Word.* Criteria indicating outcome is met:
   1.1. Comprehends the scope of biblical literature and interprets the texts in a manner appropriate to their literary and historical locations.
   1.2. Understands and communicates the foundations and methods of historical and contemporary theologies, as framed by the denominational writings in ecumenical conversation.
   1.3. Relates biblical and theological concepts to everyday life and contemporary narratives of faith and vice versa.

2. (Personal and Spiritual Formation) *Exhibit Gospel-grounded leadership by integrating the liberating Gospel of Christ into their personal lives in a way that inspires and supports others to do the same.* Criteria indicating outcome is met:
   2.1. Expresses God's compassion and love for self and for others in contextually appropriate ways.
   2.2. Exhibits personal maturity through knowledge of one's own social location and limitations, and self-discipline, including emotional regulation. Demonstrates appropriate self-care. Has good

decision-making skills.

2.3. Proficient with practices of spiritual formation for individuals and communities that nurture discernment of the movements and callings of the Holy Spirit as they strengthen Christian discipleship in providing and receiving spiritual direction to and from one another.

2.4. Proficient with pastoral care skills that communicate God's concern for those in need and for those suffering from institutional and systemic violence, informed by foundational and emerging insights from the fields of psychology and sociology.

3. (Missional Awareness and Cultural Context) Cultivate responsible Christian engagement with today's world by bridging historical and contemporary contexts and intersections of church and society. Criteria indicating outcome is met:
   3.1. Demonstrates awareness of diverse ethical and religious lenses, including specifically Indigenous ones, and appropriately applies them to complex personal and social crises.
   3.2. Can describe and analyse the history and development of the Christian religion in its shared and diverse expressions, within global religious and cultural contexts, with attention to Christianity's treatment of Indigenous peoples.
   3.3. Demonstrates ongoing openness to knowledge and experiences of Canada's diverse cultural, religious, and geographic contexts, especially those of Indigenous peoples and lands.
   3.4. Decentres local experience and context as normative and demonstrates a deepening engagement with inclusion, justice, and decolonisation.

4. (Teaching and Continuing Education) From both learning and teaching perspectives, engage informed, intentional, and contextualized approaches to life-long education that nurtures Christian formation. Criteria indicating outcome is met:
   4.1. Uses supportive and effective age-, ability-, and culturally-appropriate methods when teaching the contents of the Christian faith.
   4.2. Finds and assesses age-, ability-, and culturally-appropriate resources for catechesis and/or Christian education.
   4.3. Has plans to continue education in theology, biblical studies, religious studies, and/or specialised ministries for the enrichment of the church.

5. (Capacity for Ministerial and Public Leadership) Lead others in church and community collaborations that serve the transformative and life-affirming work of Christ-in-the-world. Criteria indicating outcome is met:
   5.1. Proficiently leads denominational worship in its varied forms, as well as those of full-Communion partners, is prepared to administer the Sacraments, and effectively communicates the good news of God's work in the world through preaching and other modes of public proclamation in varying cultural contexts.
   5.2. Clearly describes the constellation of offices in one's own denomination, how they work together, and articulates one's own calling to leadership. (Vocational Awareness and Pastoral Identity)
   5.3. Works collaboratively with others, gives and receives feedback with critical compassion, communicates effectively, and is a respectful, invitational, and engaged listener of diverse opinions and life stories.
   5.4. Discerns, supports, and models the role of the church in the public sphere, particularly as it advocates and works towards God's reconciliation, equality, and justice in the midst of environmental, economic, and other global and local precarities.
   5.5. Demonstrates leadership in the communal life of the seminary and of field ed sites, and is well-respected and valued by one's peers, communities, and instructors.
   5.6. Can implement organisational practises relevant to local contexts that support collaborative leadership, effective administration, change management, and constructive conflict resolution.

Required Courses

Courses in BOLD are required to be taken onsite wherever they are offered, regardless of whether the course is offered in blended format. (7 courses)

Level I (9 courses)

1. FND101 What is the Good News? A Historical Approach
2. FND102 Who is the Church?
3. FND103 Introduction to Biblical Literature
4. FND104 Spiritual Practices for Cultivating Resilience and Compassion
5. FND105 Public Practical Ministry I: Worship with **onsite intensive**
6. FND106 God and Suffering
7. FND107 Considering Contexts, Cultures, and Differences
8. CLQ101 Methods for Interdisciplinary, Ecumenical Theological Studies
9. **LTS101 Lutheran Formation**

Level II (10 courses)

1. **LTS201 Lutheran Integration**
2. SL120 Lutheran Confessions
3. AIP220 Christ, Reconciliation, and Liberation
4. AIP221 The Holy Spirit, Hope, and the Church
5. **CLQ201 Learning in and From Indigenous Contexts/Indigenous Intercultural Relations**
6. Pauline Epistles course with Lutheran emphasis (completed through a course-sharing agreement, students must receive permission from their advisor prior to enrollment)
7. AIP230 Public Practical Ministry II: Preaching with **onsite intensive**
8. AIS240 Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care in the Congregational Setting
9. AIS351 Globalization/Ethics and **CL302 Globalization/Cross-Cultural Practicum**
10. AIS260 Leading Missional Communities (concurrent with internship)

Level III (9 courses)

1. **LTS301 Lutheran Transformation**
2. CAP330 Leadership in Practice (following completion of internship)
3. AIP331 Advanced Lutheran Worship and Preaching
4. AIP312 Torah in Exile
5. Christian Education course (completed through a course-sharing agreement, students must receive permission from their advisor prior to enrollment)
6. PL384 Outreach Ministry
7. Three open electives at Level II or III OR two electives and a thesis
    - *Note: all electives must be 3-credit courses.*
    - Students intending to continue in graduate study should ensure that they take at least five courses in the area in which they plan further studies.
    - A reading course may be taken in place of an open elective to allow for more self-directed study in a particular area. Students desiring to take a reading course should complete a "Reading Course Proposal Form" found in *Populi*. The application must be approved by the Dean of Studies in consultation with the Faculty. Such reading courses shall be of such a scope as to require an amount of time and study approximately equivalent to that demanded by regular seminary courses.

***Cross-Cultural Immersion Practicum (CL302)**

The Cross-Cultural Immersion Practicum is the field component of the required introductory ethics course AIS351 Globalization/Ethics. Students will have the opportunity to be immersed in a context other than their own where they engage in theological reflection, social analysis, worship and fellowship with the church and people of the country. The context of the immersion experience provides the case studies and cultural material for the course, which in turn serves to prepare students for the trip. Students will be accompanied by faculty who facilitate reflection with the students and seminary community.

Competency Exams after Level I and Level II

At the completion of Level I courses and again at the completion of Level II courses, the student will be examined by the Faculty in an approximately one-hour interview. In LTS101 and LTS201, students will be assigned a lectionary journal assignment that must be submitted prior to the relevant competency exam. The competency examination will cover material in the completed Level. Students are advised to pay particular attention to the outcomes section of the course syllabi as a study guide. A grade of *Pass, Pass with Conditions,* or *Fail* will be assigned. Students must pass both competency examinations for Level I and Level II to qualify for internship. If a grade of *Pass with conditions* is assigned, the faculty and student will work out a plan to address the conditions noted, along with an approved timeline for the completion of the work required.

Thesis Option

Students enrolled in the MDiv program who have achieved a minimum GPA of 75% have the option of writing a thesis in lieu of taking 2 three-credit courses. Students choosing the thesis option are to submit their thesis proposal to the Dean of Studies before they have completed 54 credit hours (the equivalent of 18 three-credit courses or the first two years of their program), and prior to beginning their internship.

The thesis shall conform to the standards of the latest edition the Chicago Manual of Style. The length of the thesis shall be a minimum of 60 pages but not exceed 75 pages (15,000–18,000 words). A copy of the thesis approved by the thesis advisor shall be submitted to the examiners for the defense no later than 4 weeks prior to the deadline for oral defense. Upon passing the defense, a receipt from the binders for the approved copy is to be submitted to the registrar by noon of convocation day.

The successful completion of the MDiv thesis option carries with it the academic equivalent of two three-credit courses. The "Thesis Proposal Guidelines" form is available in *Populi*.

Contextual Formation for Students Preparing for Ordained Ministry in the ELCIC

(MDiv students preparing for ordination in denominations other than the ELCIC must consult with their denomination for contextual formation requirements. LTS is able to assist students in fulfilling those requirements through the Director for Contextual Formation.)

Experiential Ministry Learning during Level I and Level II

During the pre-internship period, in addition to their coursework, MDiv students will work with mentors and experienced clergy to gain a more intimate exposure to rostered ministry prior to internship and to reflect regularly on that experience. This occurs during Levels I and II of study (comparable to the first two years of the degree program). During this time, students work with mentors and qualified clergy to develop a deeper understanding of rostered ministry through practical experience, supervision, and reflective learning. On average, students work five hours per week during the academic year on this requirement.

Pre-Internship Experiential Ministry Learning: Level I

- Students are assigned to their current congregations.
- Weekly time spent in ministries/activities that do not predate their enrollment at LTS.
- The student who already holds leadership roles in the congregation will need to set clear boundaries between being a student and a parishioner/member.
- In preparation for Level II experiential ministry learning, the student may need to start relinquishing existing leadership roles to accommodate being in a different congregation.

Pre-Internship Experiential Ministry Learning: Level II

- Students work with the Director of Contextual Formation to arrange an assignment at a different congregation or ministry site to fulfill the requirement.

Internship

Students are eligible for an internship once they have completed all the courses in Level I and Level II. Internship is required of all candidates for ordination in the ELCIC. The internship program is administered by the Director of Contextual Formation at the Seminary and normally involves placement in a ministry site under the supervision of a pastor for a period of ten to twelve months. The seminary's Director of Contextual Formation, the Faculty, the student's Bishop, the supervising pastor, and congregational representatives are closely involved in the initial placement, progress assessment, and final evaluation of the intern and internship.

- A positive endorsement from the Candidacy Committee for an internship is required before placement in an internship setting.
- Students should be prepared to move away from their local context during the period of internship, as local sites may not be available.

Internship: Site Selection and Placement

- An eligible and endorsed student should inform the Director of Contextual Formation at least six months before the intended start date of an internship to begin the placement process.
- The Director of Contextual Formation initiates and oversees all conversations about internship placement, who consults with the student's bishop, potential site supervisors, and candidacy committee members.
- The selection of an internship site, made by the Director, is guided by criteria established in the ELCIC Candidacy Manual and how well the internship fits for the candidate, the site(s), and the synod.
- The Director works with the student's bishop, the supervising clergy, and ministry representatives in the intern's initial placement, progress assessment, and final evaluation.
- Diaconal candidates may also be assigned a mentor from the roster of ordained deacons (diaconal ministers), who may be from a synod other than the internship site.

Internships in specialized situations may become available from time to time. Students must be endorsed by both their synodical Candidacy Committee and by the Faculty for this specialized ministry site before the Faculty will make such assignments.

Grading Internship Placement

The internship placement grade will be recorded on the student's transcript, using the categories P (Pass), P/WR (Pass With Reservations), and F (Fail). The category P/WR indicates that the internship or fieldwork placement meets the minimal requirements for the program, but does not carry the faculty's recommendation for ordination.

When a student is given the internship or fieldwork placement grade P/WR, the following procedure will be observed:

a. Reservations will be noted in writing, with one copy given to the student, one placed with the internship reports, and one sent to the student's synodical Candidacy Committee.
b. The Contextual Education Director and faculty will assist the student in constructively addressing the reservations.
c. Reservations may include, but not be limited to, identification of personal and/or professional areas that could be strengthened before entering ministry.
d. For such a student to prepare for ordination the recommendation may include completing a second internship (which may be of shorter duration), pursuing training in specific areas of ministry before appearing for the Western Synods Examination (Colloquy Exam), or pursuing work and/or training in an area other than ministry.
e. The decision to act on these latter recommendations will rest with the appropriate synodical Candidacy Committee, which will be in contact with the student in the senior year.

5. DIPLOMA IN DIACONAL MINISTRY

Purpose

The Diploma in Diaconal Ministry is designed to prepare people for ordained diaconal ministries (ministries of Word and Service) in the ELCIC. Other denominations may recognize this Diploma as valuable preparation for ministry in their denomination.

Curriculum

The Diploma in Diaconal Ministry is a 15-course program of study in theology, following the attainment of a B.A. degree or its equivalent in an area of specialization applicable to working as a Deacon. This program is designed with sufficient flexibility to serve those who are seeking to become ordained Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons) in the ELCIC, but are unable or unwilling to complete the MTS in Diaconal Ministry degree program.

Requirements for Admission

1. Synodical Candidacy Committee endorsement or endorsement from the student's denominational body.
2. Completion of the "Application for Admission to a Diploma Program," including autobiography, application fee ($75), and other requested information.
3. Receipt of official transcript from the school where the student was enrolled in an undergraduate degree program.
4. The receipt of four letters of reference on behalf of the student.
5. Documentation of criminal records check and vulnerable sector registry check (as available).

Requirements for Graduation

Successful completion of the Diploma in Diaconal Ministry for ELCIC Candidates shall be fulfilled by:

1. For ordination-track students in the ELCIC - Annual endorsement of the student by the synodical Candidacy Committee is required for each year of study, including for internship. In the final year of study, the student must also be endorsed to register for the Western Synods Examination (Colloquy Exam), if a member of the ELCIC
2. Successful completion of all course requirements with an accumulated average of not less than 65% is necessary in the courses presented for graduation
3. Successful completion of the required cross-cultural immersion experience (CL102).
4. The satisfactory completion of one quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) or Pastoral Counselling Education (PCE). *Note: it is the responsibility of the student to arrange this.*
5. Successful completion of a 6-9 month supervised internship.
6. Successful completion of a Diaconal Project
7. Successful completion of Level I and Level II comprehensive exams.

Outcomes and Criteria

The outcomes of the Diploma in Diaconal Ministry are that students will be able to:

1. *Apply critical thinking and a Gospel lens to primary sources, classical traditions, and current understandings of the Christian faith to support public proclamation of the Word.* The criteria for success are:
   1.1. Comprehends the scope of biblical literature and interprets the texts in a manner appropriate to their literary and historical locations.
   1.2. Understands and communicates the foundations and methods of historical and contemporary theologies, as framed by Lutheran theology in ecumenical conversation.
   1.3. Relates biblical and theological concepts to everyday life and contemporary narratives of faith and vice versa.

2. *Integrate the liberating Gospel of Christ into their personal life in ways that inspire and support others to do the same.* The criteria for success are:

2.1. Expresses God's compassion and love for self and for others in contextually appropriate ways.
2.2. Exhibits personal maturity through knowledge of one's own social location and limitations, and self-discipline, including emotional regulation. Demonstrates appropriate self-care. Has good decision-making skills.
2.3. Proficient with practices of spiritual formation for individuals and communities that nurture discernment of the movements and callings of the Holy Spirit as they strengthen Christian discipleship in providing and receiving spiritual direction to and from one another.
2.4. Proficient with pastoral care skills that communicate God's concern for those in need and for those suffering from institutional and systemic violence, informed by foundational and emerging insights from the fields of psychology and sociology.

3. *Engage in Gospel-based leadership in the intersections of church and society that points to the diaconal calling of the church as a whole.* The criteria for success are:
3.1. Demonstrates awareness of diverse ethical and religious lenses, including specifically Indigenous ones, and appropriately applies them to diaconal ministry, particularly the student's own diaconal gifts.
3.2. Demonstrates familiarity with the history and development of the Church in its shared and diverse expressions, within global religious and cultural contexts, with attention to Christianity's treatment of Indigenous peoples, for the purpose of contextualizing service in and with the community.
3.3. Demonstrates ongoing openness to knowledge and experiences of Canada's diverse cultural, religious, and geographic contexts, especially those of Indigenous peoples and lands, while appropriately locating one's self and one's community within that diversity.
3.4. Articulates a deepening engagement with inclusion, justice, and decolonisation through a framework of Word and Service.

4. *From both learning and teaching perspectives, engage informed, intentional, and contextualized approaches to life-long education that nurtures diaconal formation*. The criteria for success are:
4.1. Uses supportive and effective age-, ability-, and culturally-appropriate methods to foster integration of faith and service within the church and in the community.
4.2. Finds and assesses age-, ability-, and culturally-appropriate resources for Christian education, within the context of one's specific diaconal ministry.
4.3. Has plans to continue education in specific diaconal ministries for the enrichment of the church and community.

5. *Lead others in church and community collaborations that serve the transformative and life-affirming work of Christ-in-the-world.* The criteria for success are:
5.1. Proficiently supports worship in its varied forms and effectively communicates the good news of God's work in the world through preaching and other modes of public proclamation in varying cultural contexts.
5.2. Clearly describes the constellation of offices, how they work together, and articulates one's own calling to diaconal leadership.
5.3. Works collaboratively with others, gives and receives feedback with critical compassion, communicates effectively, and is a respectful, invitational, and engaged listener of diverse opinions and life stories.
5.4. Discerns, supports, and models the role of the church in the public sphere, particularly as it advocates and works towards God's reconciliation, equality, and justice in the midst of environmental, economic, and other global and local precarities.
5.5. Demonstrates leadership in the communal life of the seminary and of field ed sites, and is well-respected and valued by one's peers, communities, and instructors.
5.6. Can implement organisational practises relevant to local contexts that support collaborative leadership, effective administration, change management, and constructive conflict resolution.

Required Courses (15 courses)
Courses in BOLD are required to be taken onsite wherever they are offered, regardless of whether the course is offered in blended format.

Level I (7 courses)

1. FND103 Introduction to Biblical Literature
2. FND104 Spiritual Practices for Cultivating Resilience and Compassion
3. FND106 God and Suffering
4. FND107 Considering Contexts, Cultures, and Differences
5. DIAC129 Theology and Practice of Diaconal Ministry
6. **LTS101 Lutheran Formation**

Level II (6 courses)

1. **LTS201 Lutheran Integration**
2. AIP230 Public Practical Ministry II: Preaching with **onsite intensive** (the FND105 prerequisite is waived for students in this program)
3. SL120 Lutheran Confessions
4. AIP220 Christ. Reconciliation, and Liberation OR AIP221 The Spirit, Hope, and the Church
5. **CLQ201 Learning In and From Indigenous Contexts/Indigenous Intercultural Relations**
6. Pauline Epistles course from a Lutheran perspective (advisor approval required before registering)
7. AIS351 Globalization/Ethics and **CL302 Cross-Cultural/Globalization Practicum***

Level III (2 courses)

1. AIS260 Leading Missional Communities
2. DIA300Diaconal Project

***Cross-Cultural Immersion Practicum (CL302)**

The Cross-Cultural Immersion Practicum is the field component of the required introductory ethics course AIS351 Globalization/Ethics. Students will have the opportunity to be immersed in a context other than their own where they engage in theological reflection, social analysis, worship and fellowship with the church and people of the country. The context of the immersion experience provides the case studies and cultural material for the course, which in turn serves to prepare students for the trip. Students will be accompanied by faculty who facilitate reflection with the students and seminary community.

Competency Exams after Level I and Level II

At the completion of Level I courses and again at the completion of Level II courses, the student will be examined by the Faculty in an approximately one-hour interview. The competency examination will cover material in the completed Level. Students are advised to pay particular attention to the outcomes section of the course syllabi as a study guide. A grade of *Pass, Pass with Conditions,* or *Fail* will be assigned. Students must pass both competency examinations for Level I and Level II to qualify for internship. If a grade of *Pass with conditions* is assigned, the faculty and student will work out a plan to address the conditions noted, along with an approved timeline for the completion of the work required.

Contextual Formation for Students Preparing for Ordained Ministry in the ELCIC

Certain formations components are required by the ELCIC. These include the Diaconal Formation event, Contextual Education, CPE, and Internship. Diaconal Diploma students preparing for ordination in denominations other than the ELCIC must consult with their denomination for contextual formation requirements. LTS is able to assist students in fulfilling the internship requirement through the Director for Contextual Formation.

Contextual Formation during Level I and Level II

During the pre-internship period, in addition to their coursework, Diaconal Diploma students will work

with mentors and experienced clergy to gain a more intimate exposure to rostered ministry prior to internship and to reflect regularly on that experience. Contextual education is overseen by the Director for Contextual Formation. The "Expectations of LTS Students in their Contextual Sites" is located on Populi.

Internship

Students are eligible for an internship once they have completed all the courses in Level I and Level II. Internship is required of all candidates for ordination in the ELCIC. The internship program is administered by the Director of Contextual Formation at the Seminary and normally involves placement in a ministry site under the supervision of a pastor for a period of 6-9 months. The seminary's Director of Contextual Formation, the Faculty, the student's Bishop, the supervising clergy, and ministry representatives are closely involved in the initial placement, progress assessment, and final evaluation of the intern and internship. Internships in specialized situations may become available from time to time. Students must be endorsed by both their synodical Candidacy Committee and by the Faculty for this specialized ministry site before the Faculty will make such assignments.

Grading Internship Placement

The internship placement grade will be recorded on the student's transcript, using the categories P (Pass), P/WR (Pass With Reservations), and F (Fail). The category P/WR indicates that the internship or fieldwork placement meets the minimal requirements for the program, but does not carry the Faculty's recommendation for ordination.

When a student is given the internship or fieldwork placement grade P/WR, the following procedure will be observed:

a. Reservations will be noted in writing, with one copy given to the student, one placed with the internship reports, and one sent to the student's synodical Candidacy Committee.
b. The Contextual Education Director and faculty will assist the student in constructively addressing the reservations.
c. Reservations may include, but not be limited to, identification of personal and/or professional areas that could be strengthened before entering ministry.
d. For such a student to prepare for ordination the recommendation may include completing a second internship (which may be of shorter duration), pursuing training in specific areas of ministry before appearing for the Western Synods Examination (Colloquy Exam), or pursuing work and/or training in an area other than ministry.
e. The decision to act on these latter recommendations will rest with the appropriate synodical Candidacy Committee, which will be in contact with the student in the senior year.

6. OTHER CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, OCCASIONAL AND EXTERNAL PROGRAM STUDENTS

Certificate in Lutheran Leadership (Lay-Track)

The Certificate in Lutheran Leadership (Lay track) equips lay leaders to live more fully into their baptismal calling within ELCIC contexts. The certificate program will prepare participants to lead non-sacramental worship, respond to emerging pastoral care needs, work together with rostered leaders, and develop strong administration skills. The foundation of the certificate will be continual formation and education in Lutheran theology.

Requirements for Admission

1. Pay the $75 application fee as indicated on the LTS website
2. Complete the "Application for Admission to the CLLL program" form and other requested information sent by the registrar.

Required Courses (9 courses)

Courses in BOLD are required to be taken onsite wherever they are offered, regardless of whether the course is offered in blended format.

1. **LTS101 Lutheran Formation**
2. **LTS201 Lutheran Integration**
3. **LTS301 Lutheran Transformation**
4. FND103 Introduction to the Bible and Biblical Interpretation
5. FND105 Public Practical Ministry: Worship with **onsite intensive**
6. FND106 God and Suffering OR AIP220 Christ, Reconciliation, and Healing OR AIP221 The Spirit, The Church and Hope
7. AIP331 Advanced Lutheran Worship and Preaching
8. AIS240 Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care in the Congregational Setting
9. AIS260 Leading in Missional Communities

Certificate in Lutheran Leadership (Pastor-Track)

Admission to this Certificate program is by invitation only, with the approval of the ELCIC Synodical Candidacy Committee (CCOM) or Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (CTEL).

The Certificate for Lutheran Leadership (CLL-Pastor Track) is an academic professional certificate program for approved ELCIC candidates for ordination who have studied at non-Lutheran seminaries, for pastors from a non-Lutheran tradition who have been endorsed by an ELCIC Candidacy Committee as a candidate for acceptance to the roster of pastors, or for those approved for the ELCIC's Alternate Route for Admission to the Roster of Pastors. The Certificate allows the student to complete a period of intensive reflection on the Lutheran understanding of the core sources of the faith.

The certificate programs requires a minimum of nine courses. Although not required for the Certificate in Lutheran Leadership from LTS, students in the pastor track may be expected by their ELCIC Synodical Candidacy Committee to have completed one unit (quarter) of CPE/PCE and a supervised internship before they will be eligible for the Western Synods Examination (Colloquy Exam) and/or being placed on the roster of ordained ministers in the ELCIC. LTS can facilitate an internship if required.

Requirements for Admission

1. Synodical Candidacy Committee endorsement.
2. Completion of the "Application for Admission to a Certificate Program," including ~~photograph~~, autobiography, application fee ($75), and other requested information.
3. Receipt of official transcript from the school where the student has been enrolled in an MDiv course.

4. The receipt of four letters of reference on behalf of the student.
5. Documentation of criminal records check and vulnerable sector registry check (as available).

Required Courses (minimum 9 courses)
These courses are the minimum required for the Certificate. Candidacy Committees may require additional courses beyond those listed here.
Courses in BOLD are required to be taken onsite wherever they are offered, regardless of whether the course is offered in blended format.

1. **LTS101 Lutheran Formation**
2. **LTS201 Lutheran Integration**
3. **LTS301 Lutheran Transformation**
4. SL120 Lutheran Confessions
5. **CLQ201 Learning In and From Indigenous Contexts/Indigenous Intercultural Relations**
6. AIS260 Leading Missional Communities
7. AIP331 Advanced Lutheran Worship and Preaching

The remaining two courses are chosen in conjunction with the faculty advisor.

Occasional Students

Occasional Student status is for students who are planning on entering a degree program but are not yet ready to or for students who are looking for continuing education. Students may register for a course for credit OR audit. For credit courses, the student will be expected to submit assignments and exams. For audit courses, students are expected to attend class and do course readings, but are not required to submit assignments, and will not be evaluated by the instructor.

Occasional students may register for up to a maximum of 18 credit units (ordinarily, 6 courses), prior to admission to a degree program. These credits may not be used as transfer credit to another institution.

Some courses may require educational pre-requisites or permission of the instructor.

External Program Students

External Program Student status is for students who intend to use credits earned through courses at Lutheran Theological Seminary or St. Andrew's College towards academic degree programs at another institution.

External Program Students may register for up to a maximum of 18 credit units (ordinarily, 6 courses). Upon completion of 18 credit units, students must be admitted to a program with Lutheran Theological Seminary or St. Andrew's College. No further study will be permitted without program status in one of our member schools.

Students are expected to be eligible for the courses in which they seek to enroll, meeting pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements. With permission from the instructor, the institution may choose to waive these requirements in particular cases but is under no obligation to do so.

Note: Occasional Student courses may not be used as transfer credit to another institution. Only External Program Student courses are eligible for this purpose.