

General Instructions

Application deadline for all students is January 15 for the following academic year. All application items below must be received by LSTC by that date in order to be considered, including GRE, TOEFL, and IELTS test scores. A completed application includes the following items. Items may be submitted electronically to advancedstudies@lstc.edu or via postal service to LSTC's Advanced Studies Office, 1100 E. 55th St. Chicago, IL 60615.

- **Application for Admission.** Save this document to your hard drive and open/complete in Acrobat Reader, not your browser. Mac users should use Adobe Acrobat, not Preview software. Free Adobe Reader software available here: <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>.
- **Essay** no longer than two pages single-spaced describing:
 1. Your intellectual interests and vocational goals
How does your proposed program of study contribute to your long-range professional and vocational goals?
 2. How your scholarly interests match the academic programs and the faculty strengths at LSTC
Why are you applying for an advanced degree at LSTC?
- **References** from two or three people, depending on degree program. Download reference forms from www.lstc.edu, complete top portion, and have referent submit completed forms directly to LSTC.
- **Writing Sample** of no more than twenty pages that is representative of your work in the field in which you are applying. This may be a term paper, published essay, or portion of a larger work. If you choose to excerpt a portion from a larger work, include a one-paragraph abstract of the entire paper as an introduction to the writing sample.
- **Official Transcripts** sent directly from all post-secondary institutions where you have completed academic work. If you are currently enrolled in the final year of a Master's program, please request a transcript that lists all courses to date and send a final transcript upon completion of your degree. Transcripts written in a language other than English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, or Arabic must be accompanied by a notarized translation.
- **GRE** for US and Canadian students. Contact Educational Testing Services at www.ets.org/gre for test dates and locations. Only scores submitted directly by ETS to LSTC (institutional code 1026-4) will be accepted.
- **TOEFL or IELTS** for international students whose primary language is not English. The TOEFL or IELTS will be waived if applicants can demonstrate that they have already earned a graduate degree in which the language of instruction was English. For information about test dates and locations, contact Educational Testing Services at www.ets.org/toefl or www.ielts.org. Only scores taken less than two years previously and submitted directly by ETS to LSTC (institutional code 1026-4) will be accepted.
- **Resume or CV** (*optional*). While not required, including a resume or CV may strengthen your application if it sufficiently presents your qualifications for advanced graduate work, including education, employment, and publications in your field of interest.
- **Additional Considerations** (*optional*) written as a summary statement that provides any additional information that you think would be helpful as we consider your application, including: reflection on your life's journey, description of personal qualities and experiences that would commend you for advanced studies at LSTC.

Financial Aid

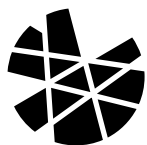
Financial aid is based primarily on merit. A limited number of advanced study scholarships and fellowships may be available for PhD students. Due to budgetary constraints, financial assistance is not generally available for ThM students.

Global Mission Scholarships are available to Lutheran international students seeking financial support. Applicants should apply through their national church to Ms. Tammy Jackson, Director for Leadership Development, Global Mission Unit, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, USA, (773) 380-2639, Tammy.Jackson@elca.org. Completed scholarship applications are due by October 15 for the following academic year.

Application Fee

All advanced studies applicants must pay a one-time application fee of \$50. Fee may be paid through checks paid by bank draft, postal money order, or personal check written on a U.S. bank (payable to LSTC.)

The Lutheran School of Theology 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 of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. LSTC admits qualified students without regard to race, color, national and ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or veteran's status, physical ability and social class.



Personal Data

Name: Title _____ Last _____ First _____ MI _____

Preferred Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Gender and Preferred pronouns _____

Current mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Effective dates: From _____ To _____

Permanent or alternate address (if applicable)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Preferred e-mail address _____ Alternate e-mail address _____

Primary Telephone _____ Cell Home Work Other

Secondary Telephone _____ Cell Home Work Other

Country of Citizenship _____

Social Security Number (if applicable) _____

Relationship Status: Single Married

Number of dependent children _____ Age of dependent children _____

Degree Program and Area of Study

Master of Theology, ThM

Doctor of Philosophy, PhD

FIELD AND CONCENTRATION

Bible (please specify): Old Testament New Testament Both Testaments (ThM only)

Church History

Lutheran Ministry Studies (ThM only)

Theology (please specify): Systematic Theology Ethics / Church and Society

Theological Anthropology Religion and Science

World Christianity and Mission (please specify): Theology History

When do you intend to begin studies at LSTC?

Fall (September) Year _____ Spring (February) Year _____

Full-time (2-3 classes per semester) Part-time (1 class per semester)

Seminary Housing Commuter

International Applicants Only

Please submit copies of current citizenship documents (passport, etc.) with your application.

Are you currently in the United States? Yes No

If you are currently in the United States, please provide your immigration status:

Permanent Resident Alien Nonresident Alien Unknown

If you are in the United States on a visa, what type of visa is it? F1 F2 J1 J2 R Other

Are your plans for advanced graduate study in the United States endorsed by your home church or by the institution at which you are presently employed? Yes No

Institution Name _____

Contact Person _____ Email Address _____

Do you intend to bring your family with you to the United States? Yes No

Finances

LSTC seeks to be a responsible steward of the generous donations given to us and expects student recipients of these funds to exercise the same care. It is also expected that students report their finances in an accurate and ethical manner. Financial aid is primarily based on merit, but please *estimate* your income below based on the academic year (September–May) in which you are applying.

Are you able to pay for the cost of your education without LSTC scholarships? Yes (*skip this section*) No

ESTIMATED INCOME AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Student income for the academic year _____ Spouse/partner income for the academic year _____

Church and Synod scholarships _____ Military/Veterans benefits _____

Available trust funds/education funds _____ Available savings _____

Other sources of financial support _____

LOANS

A FAFSA is only required if you will be taking out a student loan. Student loans are not packaged with LSTC scholarships. If needed, students can apply for a student loan after admission is confirmed. Federal Student Loans are available for U.S. citizens who are in a degree program and studying at least part-time.

Church Relationship

Home Congregation Name _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____

Denomination or Institution _____

If ELCA, what synod? _____

What is your standing within your denomination or faith tradition?

Ordained minister Other rostered leader Lay member Other

Education

Beginning with high school, list in chronological order all schools attended and all diplomas/degrees received or expected. If education records are under a different name (before marriage), please indicate

Name of Institution	Location	Dates Attended	Diploma/Degree	Date Received/Expected
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Have you applied or do you intend to apply for admission to other theological schools? Yes No

What are those other schools, and what is the status of your application with them?

Seminary/Divinity School	Application Status
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Languages

Primary language(s) _____

Other languages (Modern and Biblical/Ancient). Indicate *fluent, good, fair, or poor* in reading, writing, and speaking skills:

Language	Reading	Writing	Speaking
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Occupational Experience

Please list most recent first, including any military experience, or attach your resume or CV.

Place of Employment	Position Held	Dates
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HONORS AND AWARDS

PUBLICATIONS

Test Scores

GRE Test Date (US and Canadian Applicants) _____ Not Applicable
TOFEL or IELTS Test Date (*international students whose primary language is not English*) _____ Not Applicable

I am requesting a waiver of the TOFEL or IELTS requirement on the basis of :

- Previous Graduate Degree in English
- Native English Speaker
- Other (please explain) _____

References

Please list below the full names of the persons whom you have asked to write a reference for you. Give each person a copy of the recommendation form and have them submit it directly to the Advanced Studies Office. Recommendation forms are available at www.lstc.edu. Your references should be persons who are well-acquainted with the quality of your academic work. ThM applications require two references, and PhD applications require three. PhD applicants whose studies will be sponsored by their denomination or church body may include a recommendation written by an ecclesiastical official in support of the application.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Signature and Date

Please sign below indicating your assent to the following statements. Applications will not be processed without applicant’s signature (e-signature is accepted).

- 1. I affirm that all the information supplied by me on this application and in supporting documents is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that misrepresentation may result in denial or revocation of my admission, or expulsion.
- 2. My signature also authorizes the seminary to complete a background check in compliance with federal regulations, if required.
- 3. I acknowledge that all documents and materials submitted for application become the property of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and are not returnable to the applicant or forwarded to any third party.
- 4. I understand that all financial aid information submitted with this application and while I am at seminary is solely for awarding of grants available through the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and only minimal information such as name, status as student and a very general overall “financial need” may be shared with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), my church, my synod and other outside scholarships I have applied for, for help in obtaining additional scholarship grants on my behalf.

Signature _____ Date _____