



## General Instructions

A completed application includes the following items. Items may be submitted electronically to [admissions@lstc.edu](mailto:admissions@lstc.edu) or via postal service to LSTC's Admissions 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>.
- **Autobiographical Statement** approx. 800–1,000 words describing:
  1. The significant events of your life, your faith, your relationship to the church  
*Who and what in your life has led you to this moment?*
  2. An assessment of your strengths and growth areas  
*What will you bring to the seminary community and what do you hope to learn?*
  3. A description of why you decided to attend seminary, particularly LSTC  
*What is your calling and what are your hopes about what comes next?*

If you are in the ELCA Candidacy Process, you may submit your Candidacy Essay as your autobiographical statement.

- **Official Transcripts** sent directly from all institutions where you have completed academic work since high school.
- **References** from two or three people, depending on degree program. Download reference forms from [www.lstc.edu](http://www.lstc.edu), complete top portion, and have referent submit completed forms directly to LSTC.

## Application Deadlines and Financial Aid

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and have no specific deadline dates. However, applications should be submitted at least two months before the beginning of classes to allow for review by the admissions committee. Financial aid is based primarily on merit and is awarded as applications are received. There is no separate Financial Aid application.

## Program Fee

All affiliate students, those completing an MDiv at another seminary of divinity school but affiliating with LSTC for internship and Lutheran Year studies to complete candidacy requirements, must pay a one-time affiliation fee of \$900.

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 Emphases

- Master of Divinity, MDiv
Preparation for ordained, Word and Sacrament ministries within the ELCA
Ecumenical Master of Divinity, Ecumenical MDiv
Preparation for ordained, Word and Sacrament ministries in other faith traditions
Master of Arts for Ministry, MAM
Preparation for Word and Service ministries within the ELCA or specialized ministries in other faith traditions
Master of Arts, MA
Study of theology to prepare for further academic work or for personal enrichment
Dual Degree
Pursue a degree with the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago in conjunction with an LSTC degree (mark above)
ELCA Affiliate Student, completing requirements for MAM-AFLY degree
Completing an MDiv at another seminary or Divinity School but affiliating with LSTC for Internship and Lutheran Year studies to complete candidacy requirements and an additional degree (MAM or ThM). If pursuing a ThM, please complete the Advanced Studies application instead of this form.
ELCA Affiliate Student, non-degree
Completing an MDiv at another seminary or Divinity School but affiliating with LSTC for Internship and Lutheran Year studies to complete candidacy requirements only, non-degree seeking.

When do you intend to begin studies at LSTC?

- Fall (September) Year \_\_\_\_\_  Spring (February) Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full-time (3-4 classes per semester)  Part-time (1-2 classes per semester)  
 Seminary Housing  Commuter

**EMPHASES** (optional)

- African Descent  Biblical Studies  Interfaith Studies  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 American Indian/Alaska Native  Environmental Ministry  Religion and Science  
 Asian American/Pacific Islander  Hispanic/Latin@  Urban Ministry

**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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

If ELCA, what synod? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your standing within your denomination or faith tradition?

Ordained minister    Other rostered leader    Lay member    Other

How have you been involved with your congregation and/or denomination (*youth ministry, synodical committees, leadership positions, etc.*)?

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## Candidacy

Do you intend to prepare for rostered ministry in the ELCA?

No (*skip this section*)    Word and Sacrament ministries, Ordained    Word and Service ministries, Consecrated

What portions of the candidacy process have you completed with your synod?

Application    Initial Interview    Psychological Assessment    Background Check    Entrance Panel

## 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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Do you feel your transcript is an adequate indicator of your abilities?    Yes    No (*If no, include an explanation in your autobiography.*)

Please list academic and extracurricular activities and honors (*organizations, offices, teams, prizes, scholarships*).

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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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### 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 Admissions Office. Recommendation forms are available at [www.lstc.edu](http://www.lstc.edu).

1. Your Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

2. Teacher, administrator or counselor at the last education institution you attended\* \_\_\_\_\_

3. Layperson or your employer/supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

\* If you have been out of the academic environment for some time and have lost contact with potential references at the last educational institution attended, substitute the name of a person who can speak to your academic ability and success in a graduate-level program.

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## ***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 \_\_\_\_\_