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 admissions@lstc.edu or via postal service to LSTC’s Admissions Office, 5416 S. Cornell Ave, 4th Fl. Chicago, IL 60615.

- 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 Masters 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/toe3fl 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.

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<tr>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates Attended</th>
<th>Diploma/Degree</th>
<th>Date Received/Expected</th>
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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:

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<th>Writing</th>
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**Occupational Experience**

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

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**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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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 Admissions 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 ____________________