General Instructions

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, Illinois 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, 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.
Application Form
Masters Programs

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.*)?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

**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

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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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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*).

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________
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?

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<th>Seminary/Divinity School</th>
<th>Application Status</th>
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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>Language</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Speaking</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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<th>Place of Employment</th>
<th>Position Held</th>
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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.

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.
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 __________________________

_____________________________________________