

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Welcome to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS), since January 2014 a part of California Lutheran University (<http://www.callutheran.edu>). We are a faith and learning community dedicated to excellence in theological education for developing leaders for the church in the world. Our beautiful location, dynamic faculty, cutting-edge curriculum, closely-knit community, and membership in the Graduate Theological Union (<http://www.gtu.edu>) provide a unique setting for wrestling with issues of Christian faith, discipleship, and the communication of the Gospel to a world in need of truly good news.

Our approach to theological education is unique among the seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We were founded to prepare leaders for God's people in diverse and changing contexts. These contexts used to be particular to the West. Not anymore.

Our approach has never been more relevant; our resources never stronger. Our philosophy, location, and membership in the GTU and the Western Mission Cluster ensure students a theological education for today's world.

PLTS is an inclusive community and offers hospitality to all who participate in our programs of study. As disciples of Christ committed to public leadership among God's people in diverse and challenging cultural contexts, we eagerly learn from and welcome one another's diversity, including, but not limited to, theological perspective, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity, relationship status, age, physical ability, social and economic status and sexual orientation.

PLTS Community Day

Students are expected to regularly participate on Wednesday in Community Day at PLTS. On Community Day, we gather for Eucharist, formation events and/or in formation groups, and lunch together. The Worship Committee coordinates the Wednesday worship offerings on campus, working with faculty, staff, and seminarians in the preparing and leading of campus worship. For more information about how you might get involved, please contact Dr. Steed Davidson and Dr. Shauna Hannan.

PLTS Academic Policies

For a complete listing, please visit the PLTS website at: <http://www.plts.edu/>

Transfer of Credit

A. Transfer of Credits and Shared Credit in Degree Programs

Seminarians transferring from other accredited seminaries will normally be admitted to PLTS with the class standing attained at the seminary from which they transferred. However, they are accountable to the same program progress requirements as the corresponding PLTS class.

Seminarians with an MA (or equivalent degree) in theological studies may be granted advanced standing in the MDiv program if evaluation of the MA transcript shows that they can complete the core requirements in two years or less. However, in no case will such seminarians be able to earn the MDiv degree in fewer than one-and-a-half years of full-time academic work, plus a quarter of clinical pastoral education (CPE) and a year of internship.

A seminarian who wishes to further shorten the MDiv residency may do so by submitting the MA diploma to the degree granting institution, which in turn notifies PLTS that the degree has been surrendered. The remaining amount of work needed shall be determined upon evaluation of the MA transcript. However, in no case will such seminarians be able to earn an MDiv degree in less than one full-time academic year plus CPE and internship.

B. Transfer of Course Credits

Upon evaluation by the Offices of the Associate Deans, credits earned at other accredited institutions with a grade of C (or equivalent) or above may be transferred. Undergraduate level courses are not transferable. In order to qualify for the PLTS MDiv degree, a seminarian presenting credits for transfer must normally be in full-time residence at PLTS for at least the final year of course work. For the MTS degree, a limited number of credit units may be taken at other accredited institutions and transferred with approval of the Offices of the Associate Deans. Upon evaluation, credits taken no more than 10 years prior to entrance into PLTS from an accredited institution with a grade of C (or equivalent) or above may be transferred.

Academic Limits

See transfer of credits for more information on limits.

Maximum Time Allowed to Complete Programs

MDiv: 6 years plus internship

MTS: 4 years

CTS and CATS: 2 years

Note: Credit transferred to programs is applied to time allowed in all programs.

Comprehensive Examinations

Comprehensive examination or a major thesis/project that demonstrates the student's general understanding of and particular interest in the specialization/area of concentration is required. Should a student choose to meet this requirement by comprehensive examination, she or he will consult with her or his academic advisor and the Offices of the Associate Deans to arrange for examination with faculty in the area of concentration. The faculty in the area [faculty evaluators] will evaluate examination(s) and determine completion of the MTS comprehensive examination component of the degree.

The faculty in the area will submit notification of completion of comprehensive examination to the Offices of the Associate Deans for notation on the student's transcript. All comprehensive examination(s) must be submitted to the faculty evaluators for determination of completion by **November 15** for fall graduates and **April 15** for spring graduates.

Thesis or Project

Students in graduate programs at PLTS may be required or may elect to do a thesis or project as part of their degree program.

Should a student choose to meet this requirement by a MTS thesis [25-35 pages in length] or project [with a written component of at least 10 pages], she or he will proceed as follows.

i. MTS Thesis/Project Proposal

In the first semester of study, each MTS student will consult with her or his academic advisor to determine area(s) of interest and potential faculty coordinators for her or his MTS thesis/project proposal. This consultation will include conversation about future placement.

In the second semester, the student will work with her or his academic advisor and the instructor of FT 2095 to prepare a MTS thesis/project proposal. The student may enroll in an additional Special Reading Course as SRC 9999 MTS: Thesis/Project Research for 0-1.5 credits in the second semester in order to complete significant work toward the development of as well as completion of this proposal.

The proposal must include an anticipated completion date, a proposed specialization/area of concentration, a tentative title, and a brief description of the intended thesis or project. The proposal must also include the names and signatures of the faculty coordinator and at least one other reader/evaluator who will constitute the evaluation committee for the completed thesis or project. It is the student's responsibility to contact persons who are both competent and willing to serve in this capacity. The proposal form can be obtained online. The completed MTS thesis/project proposal must be submitted to the Offices of the Associate Deans for final approval.

ii. MTS Thesis/Project Completion

During the writing of the MTS thesis/project, the student enrolls in MDV 3015 Comps/Thesis/Project for 3 credits. During the writing of the thesis or doing of the project, the student will regularly submit drafts of work to-date to the evaluation committee for feedback.

iii. MTS Thesis/Project Evaluation

A final draft of the MTS thesis/project must be submitted to the evaluation committee for review by **November 15** for fall graduates and **April 15** for spring graduates. Upon completion of the final draft of the thesis or completion of the project and accompanying paper, the student will submit her or his work to the evaluation committee and schedule an evaluation meeting with the committee to occur no earlier than two weeks after submission of the completed draft. The coordinator will solicit feedback from the committee members in preparation for the meeting. During the meeting, the evaluation committee will converse with the student about her or his thesis/project, provide any additional feedback or corrections, and determine completion of the MTS thesis/project component of the degree and assign a grade. Upon determination of completion by the evaluation committee, the committee will sign off on the completion form available online and submit this form to the Offices of the Associate Deans. A notation of completion and title will be placed on her or his transcript.

PLTS MDiv:

A student may arrange to do a specialized thesis or project paper as part of her or his MDiv program. Prior to making any arrangements, she or he must consult with the Offices of the Associate Deans to determine requirements and deadlines, including the procedures for proposing a thesis or project paper, for constituting an evaluation committee, and for determining completion. A final draft of the thesis or project paper must be submitted to the evaluation committee for review by **November 15** for fall graduates and **April 15** for spring graduates.

Programs Offered

The University offers the following degrees and certificates through the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS):

- Master of Divinity Degree
- Master of Theological Studies
- Certificate of Theological Studies
- Certificate of Advanced Theological Studies

Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is a professional degree designed to develop biblical, theological, historical, practical and contextual competencies, and to integrate these competencies in the practice of ordained leadership in congregations and related ministry settings. The MDiv prepares students for ordained ministry in the ELCA, ordained ministry in another Christian tradition, or other rostered ministry in the ELCA especially for chaplaincy or other professions requiring a degree with 72 credit hours.

The MDiv degree program consists of 84 credit hours of coursework as well as contextual and co-curricular completion requirements. A full-time MDiv program is defined as 12 credit hours per semester. A normal course load is considered to be 12-15 credits per semester. Core courses must be taken with PLTS faculty. Substitutions to this requirement must be approved by the faculty member teaching in the area and received by the Offices of the Associate Deans.

Contextual completion requirements include Teaching Parish, Clinical Pastoral Education, Cross-Cultural Experience, and Internship. Contextual requirements require a one-time completion of a professional boundaries workshop prior to beginning at a site. Teaching Parish is defined as 6 preparation and contact hours per week in a congregation for three semesters and receives 0.00 credit hours per semester. Clinical Pastoral Education is normally completed in an ACPE accredited site. Cross-Cultural Experience

Cross-Cultural Experience is a supervised immersion field experience in a non-dominant cultural community with reflection while preparing for lay or rostered leadership. Internship ordinarily consists of 40 contact hours per week over the course of twelve months. Internship includes weekly pastoral visits, worship leadership, administrative duties, and other responsibilities as agreed upon. Internship is or exceeds the equivalent of enrollment in full-time coursework at PLTS. The designation of full-time academic enrollment is maintained each semester while a normal course load is considered to be 0.00 credits per semester.

A student preparing 1) for specialized lay ministry, 2) for other rostered ministry in the ELCA, or 3) for ordained ministry in another Christian tradition will be in contact with the Contextual Education Office in order to prepare a plan for how to meet the internship requirement in a way that fulfills respectively 1) the student's vocational requirements, 2) the requirements of ELCA candidacy for other rostered ministry, or 3) the candidacy requirements of the student's Church body or denomination. For a student who is a member of a denomination that does not require internship, this requirement may be waived by petition to and vote by the faculty.

Co-curricular completion requirements include four semesters of participation in a Formation for Ministry in Community Group, a one-time professional boundaries workshop, and an annual anti-racism training.

A student may arrange to do a specialized thesis or project paper as part of her or his MDiv program. Prior to making any arrangements, she or he must consult with the Offices of the Associate Deans to determine requirements and deadlines, including the procedures for proposing a thesis or project paper, for constituting an evaluation committee, and for determining completion.

Bible (9 credits)

OT 8175	Introduction to Old Testament	3
NT 8175	Interpreting the Gospels	3
NT 2500	Paul	3

4000 Level Prophets course required

History and Theology (19.5 credits)

HSST 2902	Lutheran Confessional Writings	
HS 1220	Living Tradition	
ST 2003	Systematic Theology	
HS 8100	History of Christianity I	
HSST 1112	History of Christianity II	
Systematics Elective (2000+)		19.5

Ethics and Cultures (10.5 credits)

FT 8227	Reading Congregations	
FT 2204	Ministry Across Cultures	
CE 2065	Introduction to Christian Ethics	
World Religion Elective (2000+)		10.5

Ministry Languages (6 credits)

NT 1070	Introduction to N.T Greek	
NT 1215	The Gospel of John in Greek	
FT 1853	Spanish for Worship I	
FT 1854	Spanish for Worship II	
BS 8100	Introductory Biblical Languages	6

Arts of Ministry (18 credits)		
PS 1009	Introduction to Pastoral Care	3
HM 2525	Biblical Preaching	3
LS 2140	Ministry of Word and Sacrament	3
ED 2020	Christian Education in the Parish	3
FT 4670	Public Ministry	3
Electives (15 credits)		
Elective courses		15
Contextual and Co-Curricular requirements are completion. No credits		
Contextual Education:		
FE 1201	Discerning Appropriate Pastoral Boundaries	
FE 1220	Teaching Parish (3 semesters)	
FT 2203	Cross-Cultural Experience	
FE 4020	Internship (12 months)	
Formation for Ministry:		
FE 1200	Anti-Racism Training	
FT 1024	Formation for Ministry Group (Semester 1)	
FT 1024	Formation for Ministry Group (Semester 2)	
FT 8124	Formation for Ministry Group (online) (Semester 3)	
FT 8124	Formation for Ministry Group (online) (Semester 4)	
Total Hours		75

Master of Theological Studies

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is a degree designed to integrate general theological disciplines and specialized competencies in preparation for academic or ministerial vocations. The MTS provides two years of graduate theological study of the core of church theology with a Lutheran emphasis—Bible, history, theology, and ethics and cultures. The MTS requires a focused specialization/area concentration and synthesis. A diaconal concentration is available for those preparing for Word and Service rostered leadership.

The MTS consists of 49.5 credit hours, including one semester of a 1.5 credit MTS seminar [FT 2095 Fieldwork/Project Development], and 15 specialization credit hours devoted to the research and preparation of a thesis [25-35 pages in length], preparation for comprehensive examinations, or preparation and completion of a project [with a written component of at least 10 pages] related specifically to a student's chosen specialization. The MTS seminar will guide the student through the preparation and completion of an MTS thesis/project proposal. 25.5 of the 49.5 course credits must be taken at PLTS. A full-time MTS program is defined as at least 12 credit hours per semester. A normal course load is considered to be 12 credits per semester.

Bible (6 credits)		
OT 8175	Introduction to Old Testament	3
NT 8175	Interpreting the Gospels	3
History (6 credits)		
HS 8100	History of Christianity I	3
HSST 1112	History of Christianity II	3
Theology (6 credits)		
ST 2003	Systematic Theology	3
HSST 2902	Lutheran Confessional Writings	3
Ethics and Cultures (6 credits)		
CE 2065	Introduction to Christian Ethics	3
FT 2204	Ministry Across Cultures	3
Specialization/Area Concentration (15 credits)		15
Electives (6 credits)		6
Synthesis (4.5 credits)		
FT 2095	Fieldwork Or Project Development	1.5
MDV 3015	P.L.T.S in Comp/Thesis Project	3
Co-Curricular requirements are completion. No credits		
FT 1024	Formation for Ministry Group (Semester One)	

FT 1024	Formation for Ministry Group (Semester Two)
FT 1024	Formation for Ministry Group (Semester Three)
FE 1200	Anti-Racism Training
FE 1201	Discerning Appropriate Pastoral Boundaries

Total Hours

49.5

Certificate of Theological Studies

The Certificate of Theological Study (CTS) is awarded to those who complete one year of theological study (at least 12 credit hours per semester for 2 semesters) by seminarians interested in furthering their theological education. Courses in the areas of Bible, church history, systematic theology, and Christian ethics or cross-cultural studies (12 units total) must be taken from PLTS faculty members. The remainder of the seminarian's program (12 additional units) is arranged to meet her or his special interests and goals. **Due to federal regulations on gainful employment programs, the CTS is not eligible for federal financial aid.**

Certificate of Advanced Theological Studies

The Certificate for Advanced Theological Studies (CATS) is awarded to those who complete one year of theological study (at least 12 credit hours per semester for 2 semesters). The CATS may also include internship (except international students). The CATS is designed for seminarians who already hold an MTS or MDiv degree (or their equivalents) in another institution [e.g., roster-seeking MTS or MDiv seminarians graduated from non-ELCA seminaries needing to fulfill core Lutheran courses and other requirements of the Lutheran-Year-In-Residence, including contextual education and formation requirements]. At least one-half of the units must be taken from PLTS faculty members. For a seminarian who desires to complete the CATS and for whom denominational requirements do not include contextual education requirements, these requirements may be waived by petition to and vote by the faculty.