

# Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary Course Catalog



**A Minnesota Corporation**

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# **General Information**

## **Seminary History**

The Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary was founded in 1967 to train members of the body of Christ for Christian ministry, primarily in Lutheran Churches. For this reason, Reverend Kenneth Hendrickson, Dr. Uuras Saarnivaara, and Dr. Albert Saari incorporated the seminary and served as its original board. Dr. Uuras Saarnivaara served the Seminary as dean from its inception until 1987. Reverend Wayne Juntunen was called in 1982 to serve as the assistant dean on a full-time basis and served in that capacity until June of 1991. Reverend James Weidner was called in the fall of 1988 to serve as the Professor of New Testament Studies and Biblical Hermeneutics. In June of 1991, he became the president of the Seminary. Throughout the history of the Seminary, several pastors have been used as instructors in the department of pastoral ministry.

The majority of graduates are pastoring congregations in the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America. Some graduates serve in various capacities with mission organizations and independent ministries. A few have graduated and gone on to ministries in other Church bodies.

## **Statement of Purpose**

The Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary is incorporated as a non-profit religious organization whose purpose is to establish and maintain a theological institution for the training of Christian ministers and workers.

The Seminary is unreservedly dedicated to "holding fast the faithful word" of the Holy Scriptures (Titus 1:9). It acknowledges the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (in their original autographs) as the inerrant and wholly reliable Word of God which is the supreme and only norm and rule of faith and practice of the Christian Church. It also subscribes to the Apostles' Nicene and the Athanasian Creeds and accepts the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord in the sense these Confessions themselves declare in the introductory parts of the Formula of Concord.

Whereas many people today find little or no relevance in Christianity to their every day lives; the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary bears witness to a living, dynamic Christ who speaks to each new generation. It is through His Word that we find meaning in our present condition and have hope for the future. His Word is timeless in that it is God's message proclaimed once and for all. It is not relative nor to be dismissed as time-conditioned nor meant only for its original audience. This proclamation was spoken with power, remains as such today and always will be. However, His Word is also time-bound in the sense that it must always be proclaimed in human history. Each generation must hear it anew. The gospel of Christ is spoken into the present and it needs to be heard in the present.

The Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary is devoted to the proclamation of this Word. Its stance is best described as orthodox, evangelical, conservative and Lutheran. Its orthodoxy, conservatism and Lutheranism is evident in its position regarding the Word of God and the confessions of the Church. Its evangelical thrust is manifested in its concern for the salvation of souls through the proclamation of the Gospel. It is not controlled by any church body. Therefore, it accepts students from any Lutheran circles, and other groups where a sufficient unity of faith exists. The graduates of the Seminary have freedom to accept calls to any field of service.

## **Academic Information - Admissions**

Equal opportunity for admission to the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary is granted without regard to race or nationality.

Note: Acceptance or rejection of a prospective student will be based upon a decision of the Board of Directors of the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary and is not the sole responsibility of the President or staff. Such a determination is made through the evaluation of all the information provided during the application for admission.

### **Privacy Act**

The Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary respects privacy. Personal information will be shared only as required by law or with specific permission.

### **Registration Form & Admission Form**

Forms available at:

**<http://www.ilseminary.org/admissions>**

## **Classification of Students**

### **Full-time Students**

Students who have registered for twelve or more credit hours in a given semester.

### **Part-time Students**

Students who register for less than twelve credit hours in a given semester.

### **Special Students**

Students who have not met the minimum qualifications for the Master of Divinity degree and do not desire to prepare for full-time ministry in the Church.

### **Provisional Students**

Students who are enrolled and yet, in the judgment of the Admissions Committee, have not sufficiently demonstrated aptitude for ministerial training and have been granted a qualified admission consisting of one semester of academic probation.

## **Online/Distance Learning**

Students can take classes "live" via the Internet but in order to participate in this way, they must have a high-speed Internet connection and a webcam. For those who cannot use this "live" stream, classes can also be taken by download or by DVD. For the current class schedule, refer to our website:[www.ilseminary.org](http://www.ilseminary.org)

## **Application**

The completed application form is to be sent to the Administrator of the Seminary. There are instructions on the application form regarding additional information and documentation which is to be sent directly to the Seminary. Applicants will be notified either personally, by mail or by phone of their acceptance as prospective students.

## **Class Attendance**

The student assumes responsibility for completion of all requirements for each course and is expected to attend all class sessions for which registered. Common courtesy suggests that a student confer with the instructor if absence from class becomes necessary. A student who needlessly is absent from class is liable to censure, to disciplinary probation or to dismissal when such action is warranted.

## **Incomplete Work**

A grade of "Incomplete" may be assigned by the instructor. For credit to be given an "Incomplete" must be removed within fifteen weeks of the close of the semester in which it was given. If not completed, the student will fail the course and no credit will be given.

## **Academic Probation**

Any student who fails to maintain a cumulative or current average of 2.00 (C) will be placed on academic probation. If this academic performance continues for two successive semesters, the student may be dismissed and must wait for one year before applying for re-admission.

## **Withdrawal**

A student who wishes to withdraw from the Seminary must secure the approval of the president following consultation with the Curriculum Committee. All earned credits will be honored for a period of five years from the semester of withdrawal if the student re-enrolls within that five-year period.

## **Transfer Students**

Students transferring to the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary are required to have a transcript of all their previous college and Seminary work sent to the Administrator of the Seminary. All Seminary work will be evaluated by the Curriculum Committee and appropriate credit given. No credit is allowed for any grade below C.

## **Lodging**

The Seminary has no residence facilities; hence, students must provide their own accommodations.

## **School Year**

Classes for the first semester of the school year begin on the Wednesday following Labor Day in September unless otherwise specified.

# **Academic Information - Programs of Study**

## **Master of Divinity**

The ministry of the Word is not simply a profession but a calling. Some may not be sure whether God has actually called them to such a ministry. The Seminary welcomes such individuals to commit themselves to at least one year of study. During this time they should be able to determine whether serving others through the uniqueness of a Christian ministry is an affirmation of God's call to them.

Normal preparation for entrance is a Bachelor degree from a recognized college or university. Such preparation is highly recommended. Candidates may have their degree in any field, however a minimum number of credits should have been earned in the following Liberal Arts courses:

- New Testament Greek 6 semester credits

- English 3 semester credits

- Speech 3 semester credits

- English Composition 3 semester credits

- Foreign Language 6 semester credits

- History 6 semester credits

- Social Sciences 6 semester credits

- Philosophy 6 semester credits

Applicants unable to meet the above academic requirements may be admitted to audit or to attend classes and lectures upon approval of the faculty. Such students, upon completion of the given course, will receive a Certificate of Attendance. This could later be credited towards a Seminary Diploma following acquisition of the required minimum credits indicated above.

The Applicant for the Master of Divinity degree must have earned the Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university.

## **Review and Evaluation**

In order that the Seminary may properly assess a student's qualifications for the ministry, an evaluation may be conducted by the faculty at the close of the Seminary 1 year. The criteria used in judging the qualifications of the student are (1) suitable personal qualifications, (2) adequate competence in ministerial functions,



(3) adequate theological development, and (4) academic achievement of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or better.

The Mater of Divinity Degree will be bestowed on those who have successfully completed the required courses in the curriculum as published in the Seminary catalog.

## **Sample Curriculum**

### **Year 1 Fall Semester**

New Testament Introduction	2
Old Testament Introduction	3
History of the Ancient Church	3
Homiletics	2
New Testament Greek Readings	1
Ministry to the World	2
Principles of Biblical Interpretation	<u>3</u>
Total	16

### **Year 1 Spring Semester**

Liturgics and Hymnology	1
Science and Christianity	2
Lutheran Confessions	3
Evangelism	2
History of the Medieval Church and the Reformation	3
Genesis	2
Gospel of John	<u>2</u>
Total	15

### **Year 2 Fall Semester**

Christian Dogmatics I	3
History of the Post-Reformation Church	3
Pastoral Work & Administration	3
Isaiah	2
Galatians	1
Christian Ethics	3
Elective	<u>1</u>
Total	16

### **Year 2 Spring Semester**

Christian Dogmatics II	3
History of Christianity in America	3
Gospel of Matthew from a Synoptic Perspective	2
The Pastoral Counselor	3
Old Testament Wisdom Literature	2
Pastoral Epistles	1
Elective	<u>1</u>
Total	15

### **Year 3**

Internship

### **Year 4 Fall Semester**

Christian Education	2
Romans	2
Joshua	1
Eschatology	2
Acts of the Apostles	2
Anthropology and Christology	2
Ministry to the Aging	1
Elective	<u>2</u>
Total	14

### **Year 4 Spring Semester**

Churches, Sects and Isms	3
History of the Laestadian Movement and Apostolic Lutheranism	2
Samuel, Kings and Chronicles	2
Corinthian Epistles	2
Ezra/Nehemiah, Esther & Job	1
General Epistles and Hebrews	2
Ministry to Youth	1
Ephesians/Colossians	<u>1</u>
Total	14

**Total Credits for Graduation 90**

### **Internship**

A student will serve as an intern during the third year of Seminary training. The internship will be served in a

congregation under the direction of the Pastor or in a para-church ministry, so that the student will experience and participate in all areas of ministry.

## **Academic Information - Programs of Study**

### **Seminary Diploma**

The Seminary Diploma is awarded to students who do not have a baccalaureate degree, but have completed their entire Seminary course work with at least a 2.00 GPA.

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Systematic Theology	21 credits
Exegetical Theology	35 credits
Historical Theology	17 credits
Pastoral Ministry	17 credits
<b>TOTAL CORE CREDITS</b>	<b>90 credits</b>

## **Academic Information - Program of Study**

### **Deaconess Certificate**

A deaconess is a woman who is a church-worker and is trained and dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Christ through acts of mercy and spiritual care. The role of a deaconess is to engage women in diverse settings and specialization, whether in a congregation, in an institution or on the mission field.

The Deaconess program at the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary provides educational opportunities for competent women. The Deaconess serves congregations using her gifts to bless and serve other women. *Titus 2:3-5 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keeps at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

Upon fulfillment of the program requirements, students received a Deaconess Certificate endorsed by the faculty. Along with the Deaconess Certificate a student may also receive an additional degree outside the Seminary such as Nursing, Teaching, Counseling, etc. in order to focus on a specific calling.

## **Sample Curriculum**

### **Year 1 Fall Semester**

New Testament Introduction	2
Old Testament Introduction	3
Ministry to the World	2
Principles of Biblical Interpretation	3
Orientation to Deaconess Studies	3
Elective(s)	2
Field Work	<u>0</u>
Total	15

### **Year 1 Spring Semester**

Liturgics and Hymnology	1
Lutheran Confessions	3
Evangelism	2
Genesis	2
Gospel of John	2
Deaconess History	2
Christian Ethics	3
Field Work	<u>0</u>
Total	15

### **Year 2 Fall Semester**

Christian Dogmatics I	3
Gospel of Matthew	2
History of the Ancient Church	3
Working as a Deaconess I	2
The Pastoral Counselor	3
Elective(s)	2
Field Work	<u>0</u>
Total	15

## Year 2 Spring Semester

Christian Education	2
Christian Dogmatics II	3
Ministry to the Aging	1
Acts of the Apostles	2
Pastoral Epistles	1
Working as a Deaconess II	2
Homiletics	2
Elective(s)	2
Field Work	<u>0</u>
Total	15

## Year 3

Internship (if applicable)

**Total Credits for Graduation** **60**

### DEACONESS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Systematic Theology	9 credits
Exegetical Theology	13 credits
Practical Theology	14 credits
Deaconess Studies	9 credits
Electives	15 credits
<b>TOTAL CORE CREDITS</b>	<b>60 credits</b>

## Academic Information - Courses of Study

Prerequisite Courses

**New Testament Greek. 6 credits**

A course in the rudiments of the language of the New Testament.

Systematic Theology

**Christian Dogmatics I. 3 credits**

Lectures, readings and discussion of various Christian Doctrines including an in-depth look at the prolegomena for doing any study of systematic theology.

**Christian Dogmatics II. 3 credits**

A continuation of Christian Dogmatics I focusing on lectures, readings and discussion of various Christian Doctrines.

**Lutheran Confessions. 3 credits**

An in-depth look at the three ecumenical creeds and the documents that make up the Book of Concord.

**Christian Ethics. 3 credits**

A study of the systems of ethical thought and an analysis of how the ethical dilemmas of humankind should be addressed by those who confess Christ.

**Churches, Sects and Isms. 3 credits**

An overview of the teachings and practices of the most prevalent Christian denominations, sectarian groups and others.

**Science and Christianity. 2 credits**

A study of the relationships and differences in the methodology and epistemology of modern science and the Christian Faith.

**Anthropology and Christology. 2 credits**

An investigation of what it means to be human, especially in light of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

**Eschatology. 2 credits**

An analysis of the last things focusing on the debate surrounding current views of the subject and what the Scripture says regarding this controversial topic.

**Academic Information - Courses of Study**

Exegetical Theology-Core courses

**New Testament Greek Readings. 1 credit**

A course designed to apply the principles learned in New Testament Greek and facilitate the mastery of the language of the New Testament through reading selected portions of its text. (New Testament Greek prerequisite).

**Koine Greek Readings. 1 credit**

A course designed to apply the principles learned in New Testament Greek and facilitate the mastery of the language of the New Testament through reading selected portions of its text.

**Patristic Greek Readings. 1 credit**

The reading and translation of selected passages from the Greek Church Fathers.

**New Testament Introduction. 2 credits**

An introductory study of the origin, authorship, purpose and reliability of the New Testament writings with special attention devoted to their literary design and individual and corporate unity.

**Old Testament Introduction. 3 credits**

An introductory study of the origin, authorship, purpose and reliability of the Old Testament writings with special attention devoted to their literary design and individual and corporate unity.

**Principles of Biblical Interpretation. 3 credits**

A history and study of hermeneutical techniques and their application to the scriptures, including the methods of Textual Analysis (New Testament Greek prerequisite).

**Genesis. 2 credits**

A study of the origin, thought and doctrinal content of the book of Genesis.

**Joshua. 1 credit**

A study of the Book of Joshua considering its historical and spiritual significance and its practical application in the contemporary world. The course is based on determining and evaluating the significant acts of God in this book.

**Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles. 2 credits**

A comparative study of the history of the nation of Israel as recorded in these accounts.

**Ezra/Nehemiah/Esther. 2 credits**

An inquiry into the structure, content and meaning of these important Post-Exilic books emphasizing the impact of the exile upon Hebrew culture.

**Isaiah. 2 credits**

An exegetical study of the book of Isaiah, theories of its development and its impact upon the New Testament.

**Old Testament Wisdom Literature. 2 credits**

A study of selected portions of the Wisdom Books of the Old Testament, their thought, content and implications for today.

**Gospel of Matthew from a Synoptic Perspective. 2 credits**

An analysis of the gospel of Matthew in the light of its similarity to Mark and Luke. Also, questions concerning the roots and priority of the Synoptic Gospels.

**Gospel of Mark. 2 credits**

An in-depth analysis of the most concise Gospel with an emphasis on sound and segmentation.

**Gospel of Luke. 2 credits**

An in-depth analysis of the Third Gospel with an emphasis on sound and segmentation.

**Gospel of John. 2 credits**

An exegetical study of the text of the Fourth Gospel emphasizing its structure and composition.

**Acts of the Apostles. 2 credits**

The historical account of the rise of the Church according to Luke examined in the light of its doctrinal and theological contents.

**Romans. 2 credits**

Exegesis and interpretation of portions of the epistle emphasizing its doctrinal content and theology.



**Corinthian Epistles. 2 credits**

An exegetical study of Apostle Paul's letters to the congregation in Corinth.

**Galatians. 1 credit**

An interpretation of the epistle according to the Greek text along with an analysis of its structure and doctrinal content.

**Ephesians/Colossians. 1 credit**

An exegetical study of the epistles emphasizing the power of the resurrection and who we are in Christ.

**Pastoral Epistles. 1 credit**

An investigation of the thought and doctrinal content of these epistles and a comparison with undisputed Pauline literature to answer questions concerning their Pauline authorship with an exegetical study of the books.

**General Epistles and Hebrews. 2 credits**

A study of the content of each of the letters emphasizing the uniqueness of thought in their respective authors.

**Exegetical Theology-Elective courses****Jeremiah-Lamentations. 2 credits**

A study of the prophecy given through the prophet Jeremiah and the laments traditionally accredited to him.

**Daniel. 1 credit**

An introduction to the genre of apocalyptic literature including the various interpretations of the book today.

**Minor Prophets. 2 credits**

A study of the structure, content, historical significance and apocalyptic interpretations of the "minor" prophetic books of the Old Testament.

**Philippians, Thessalonians and Philemon. 2 credits**

An exegetical study of the letters to the congregations at Philippi and Thessalonica together with Paul's personal letter to Philemon.

### **The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John. 2 credits**

An exegetical study and interpretation of the book emphasizing its structure and content.

### **Hebrew I. 3 credits**

A study of the elementary grammar of the language of the Old Testament.

### **Hebrew II. 3 credits**

An analysis of advanced syntax based upon the principles learned in Hebrew I.

## **Academic Information - Courses of Study**

Historical Theology

### **History of the Ancient Church. 3 credits**

A historical analysis of the major people and events that shaped the Christian Church from the Apostolic Age to 600 AD.

### **History of the Medieval Church and the Reformation. 3 credits**

A historical analysis of the Church of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

### **History of the Church: Reformation to the Present Day. 3 credits**

The history of the church from the Reformation to the present.

### **History of American Lutheranism. 3 credits**

A study of Lutheranism in America from the colonial period to the present.

### **History of the Laestadian Movement and Apostolic Lutheranism. 2 credits**

An investigation of the origin and impact of the Laestadian movement both in its native Finland and in the United States.

### **History of Christianity in America. 3 credits**

A history of the spread of the church in the United States from its pilgrim beginnings to the present.

## **Twentieth Century European Protestantism.**

### **2 credits**

An analysis of the current trends in religious thinking that emerged from the Twentieth Century European Protestant community.

## **History of Christian Doctrine. 1 credit**

A study of the development of Christian teaching.

## **Academic Information - Courses of Study**

### **Pastoral Ministry**

#### **The Pastoral Counselor. 3 credits**

A course about the dynamics of the Pastoral counseling process designed to provide insight into human nature and the close relationship between body, soul and mind in human behavior. Students learn to apply Biblical teachings to help people resolve problems in their lives.

#### **Christian Education. 2 credits**

The principles of the theology of Christian Education. Preparation for teaching Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Bible Classes, etc.

#### **Evangelism. 2 credits**

A study of the principles and methods for Christian outreach in one's own church and community, including home visitation.

#### **Homiletics. 2 credits**

A study of the objectives, construction and delivery of sermons.

#### **Pastoral Work and Administration. 3 credits**

A thorough study and discussion of pastoral theology and its application in the office of the ministry.

#### **Ministry to the World. 2 credits**

The biblical basis for mission work along with a history of the methods employed to carry out such work.

**Liturgics and Hymnology. 1 credit**

A study of the origin and meaning of orders of worship and the parts of the Christian worship service with an emphasis upon current application.

**Ministry to Youth. 1 credit**

A study of philosophies and methodologies involved in working with youth.

**Ministry to the Aging. 1 credit**

A study of the various facets of ministering to senior citizens as vital members of the Body of Christ.

**Academic Information - Courses of Study**

Deaconess Studies

**Orientation to Deaconess Studies. 3 credits**

An overview of the issues of women's ministry in the contemporary church.

**Deaconess History. 2 credits**

A study of the role of deaconesses through the history of the Christian Church.

**Working as a Deaconess I. 2 credits**

A course which explores the use of Deaconess skills involving both congregational and personal care and the employment of such skills in the current church setting.

**Working as a Deaconess II. 2 credits**

A second course which explores the use of Deaconess skills involving both congregational and personal care and the employment of such skills in the current church setting.

**Internship**

Depending on the level of experience of the student, an internship may be required.

## Grading System

<u>Grade</u>		<u>Points</u>
A	Superior	4.00
A-		3.67
B+		3.33
B	Good	3.00
B-		2.67
C+		2.33
C	Average	2.00
C-		1.67
D+		1.33
D	Poor but passing	1.00
D-		0.67
F	Failure	0.00
S	Satisfactory	
I	Incomplete	

# Financial Information

## Fees

Registration	\$25.00
General	\$25.00

## Tuition

Refer to enclosed insert.

## Textbooks

Students are responsible to purchase textbooks prior to the start of class.

## Payment

All fees and tuition are payable upon registering for a class. All unpaid tuition balances will be assessed a  $\frac{1}{4}\%$  (.0025) fee compounded monthly. Payment of all fees, tuition and other Seminary related expenses must be totally met before any degrees are granted. If special arrangements are necessary, they can be made with the Treasurer.

## Audits

Anyone auditing a course will pay the registration and general fees for the semester plus the tuition fee per credit hour.

## Refunds

Fees are non-refundable, however, a student is entitled to a refund of tuition according to the following schedule, when withdrawing from the Seminary.

First day	100%
First week	75%
Second week	50%
Third week	25%
Fourth week or later	0%

## Financial Aid

Some scholarships funds may be available for financial aid to cover tuition and fees. A written request for financial aid must be submitted to the Dean.

## Faculty



**James Weidner, President**  
B.S. Pennsylvania State University  
M.Th. Inter-Lutheran Seminary  
Professor of Biblical Hermeneutics & Exegesis



**Bruce Bergstedt, Instructor**  
B.S. University of Minnesota-Duluth  
M.Th. Inter-Lutheran Seminary



**Ernest Bylkas III, Instructor**  
B.S. University of Minnesota-Duluth  
M.Th. Inter-Lutheran Seminary





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