

**Lutheran Brethren Seminary
Statement of Educational Effectiveness
2024-2025**

The mission of Lutheran Brethren Seminary is to serve the church and world by preparing servants of Christ for a life of ministry in God's mission and for equipping His people to serve in His mission. As a Christian institution of learning we are responsible to God to reflect His character in all that we do. We take this stewardship very seriously.

The curriculum of the seminary is under continuous review and revision to ensure that its graduates are thoroughly prepared for a life of service and ministry. Those seeking details of the current curriculum can find it in the Academic Catalog

The following table provides a snapshot view of enrollment, retention, graduation, and job placement rates over the past ten academic school years.

Academic Year	Enrollment	Retention *	Graduation **	Job Placement
2024-2025	37	100%		100%
2023-2024	39	100%		83%
2022-2023	39	100%		100%
2021-2022	34	80%		100%
2020-2021	35	66%		66%
2019-2020	34	100%	100%	100%
2018-2019	34	78%	100%	100%
2017-2018	31	78%	100%	80%
2016-2017	32	100%	100%	100%
2015-2016	35	88%	100%	100%
2014-2015	29	86%	75%	100%

* Graduate Retention Rate (1st time, full-time, graduate degree seeking students enrolled in the previous Fall who re-enrolled or successfully completed their program by the current Fall.)

** Graduate Graduation Rate (Using the Fall 2018 cohort, 1st time, full-time, graduate degree seeking, graduate degree completers who did so within 150% of the normal (or expected time for completion.)

The assessment of the seminary program is a continuous process. There is a review of the program outcomes to determine if they reflect the mission of LBS and the needs of CLB congregations. The achievement of program outcomes is of particular importance and is reviewed annually. Every three years the program is compared to that of three other seminaries to ensure that LBS is on par with other like-minded institutions. Curriculum is reviewed; survey data is collected and analyzed as are the above-mentioned graduation and retention rates. A summary of all data is presented to the faculty and Dean to make informed decisions for the future.

Student Experience Survey

In the 2025 Student Experience Survey students were asked questions about their experiences at LBS. The following responded “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied.”

- 90% of students said they were challenged to grow spiritually
- 81% said their time at LBS deepened their burden for the lost
- 90% said their time at LBS contributed to their acquiring ministry skills, learning independently, and thinking critically
- 100% of students were satisfied with faculty being available outside of class time.
- 82% said they were prepared to share their faith one-on-one and 73% said they were prepared to disciple a new believer
- 73% felt prepared to exercise leadership in a ministry context
- 82% said they experienced growth over time in their ability to share their faith with the lost.
- When asked if they could start over again, would they attend LBS 100% said yes or probably yes.

Individual comments included:

- “I have been very pleased with LBS faculty performance and professionalism.”
- My time at LBS has been a very rewarding and enriching experience that is helping me to grow personally as a disciple and as a servant leader in my home, church, and community.
- I am very satisfied with my education at LBS and happy to be included. I do wish there were more opportunities for group assignments, especially doing ministry together.
- The cooperative and nurturing atmosphere is so different from the competitive nature of my other graduate studies in engineering and business. Here, the goal is to prepare and energize people to serve God’s church, and it shows in the positive attitudes of faculty, staff, and students alike!

In the 2025 Faculty evaluation of the distance program:

- 100% responded that Populi met needs in student management
- 100% said that students were able to access resources necessary to successfully complete their courses.
- 80% responded that distance students were held to the same deadlines as campus students
- 100% responded that Office hours are available at a set time or appointment
- 100% responded that Orientation enabled students and faculty to have a successful experience in DE
- 100% communicated with distance students prior to the first day of class
- General Observations made:
 - It has been difficult to convince many distance students to utilize the available \$500 per year travel funds that LBS provides for students.
 - There is a desire to bring DE students on campus more often to build a greater sense of community
 - There were no problems with ZOOM.

In the **2025 Student evaluation of the distance program** students were asked to describe their most challenging issue.

- My work schedule, which doesn't allow me to be synchronous most of the time.
- Juggling schoolwork with fulltime ministry and finding time for sabbath rest.
- Working full-time, managing my family, and staying up on my class work.
- Hearing all the students speak in classroom 3.

When asked to rate their experiences students responded:

- 62.5% were able to hear in-class students during class discussions
- 100% were able to participate in real-time classes.
- 100% said there was adequate interaction with instructor and students.
- 75% said that turn-around time for submitting assignments and receiving grades was good.
- 100% reported good response time when leaving messages for faculty.
- 25% attended asynchronously