

# CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

---

The Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS) is designed for men and women sensing a call to pursue theological education in order to serve more effectively as laypersons. The CTS is a non-degree program that offers the student an opportunity to experience the equivalent of one year in seminary in order to develop a deeper understanding of his/her faith and to be equipped to serve God's leading in his/her life for future ministry.

Candidates might include those preparing for specific local or overseas cross-cultural mission assignments; those involved with children's, youth, or adult ministries; those serving (or preparing to serve) as a licensed lay pastor; or young adults who wish to attain theological and biblical grounding for future study or vocation. In addition to the required core courses, the CTS offers many choices in biblical and theological electives with emphases in Bible and Theology, Mission, and Lay Ministry. Courses may be taken on-campus or from a distance. If full-time study is possible, a student may complete a CTS program in one year.

As with all other programs at LBS, CTS courses are taught at the graduate level. If a student should later be admitted to an LBS degree or diploma program, all of the credits earned in the CTS may be applied.

## Program Outcomes

- A. Interpret the Bible with a Christ-centered focus.
- B. Demonstrate skills for the doing of ministry in a chosen emphasis.
- C. Exhibit attitudes characteristic of servant leaders in local and global mission.

## *General Education Prerequisites for the Certificate in Theological Studies (30 credits)*

At a minimum, the student must meet the following general education prerequisites or their equivalents prior to admission into the program:

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Communications</b>       | 6 credits   |
| English Composition         | (3 credits) |
| <b>Humanities</b>           | 6 credits   |
| <b>Social Sciences</b>      | 6 credits   |
| <b>Natural Science/Math</b> | 3 credits   |
| <b>Electives</b>            | 9 credits   |

**Total General Education Prerequisites                      30 credits**

The Certificate in Theological Studies is granted to students who have completed the 30 credits of general education prerequisites prescribed above, plus an additional 30 credits (11 core required credits, 19 credits in electives) as outlined in the CTS program of study.

## CTS Program of Study

---

The following courses are required of all students in the CTS program.

|                                      |                                    |    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----|
| PT 400                               | Introduction to Seminary Education | 1  |
| EB 435                               | New Testament Introduction I       | 2  |
| EB 436                               | New Testament Introduction II      | 2  |
| EB 611                               | Torah & Covenant History           | 3  |
| Total Required Core Credits          |                                    | 8  |
| Total Required Emphasis Credits      |                                    | 9  |
| Other Elective Credits               |                                    | 6  |
| Total Required CTS Credits (Minimum) |                                    | 23 |

The exact list of courses for a specific emphasis is dependent on the student's ministry goals. The student will work with his/her faculty advisor to design a course plan.

## CTS Emphases Descriptions

---

### Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Bible & Theology

This emphasis is designed to equip students with a strong biblical and theological foundation. Courses in New Testament and Old Testament will introduce the student to a Christ-centered way of reading and interpreting the scriptures for personal and ministry use. Courses in church history will provide a framework for understanding how God has guided the church throughout its existence to accomplish the Great Commission. Systematic theology courses will help the student understand and apply the main doctrines of the Bible.

### Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Biblical Languages

This emphasis is exclusively focused on the biblical languages of Hebrew and Koine Greek. The student will take beginning courses in both of these languages and then learn to employ these languages by translating and interpreting portions of the Old Testament (Jonah) and New Testament (a Gospel, the epistle of Galatians).

### Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Lay Ministry

Students preparing for or engaged in ministry as a lay pastor, lay leader, youth worker, worship leader, or elder will receive strong biblical and theological training in their emphasis. The student's advisor will work with the student to help choose courses that will serve to strengthen their area of study and ministry focus.

### Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Missions

This emphasis is designed to prepare students for local and global mission work. Biblical courses will pair with historical courses to give the student a well-rounded perspective of God's activity among and through his church. Mission-oriented courses will help the student shape the gospel message to people of various worldviews and cultures.

### Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Old Testament

This emphasis caters to the student who desires to grow in a thorough understanding of the context, content, and message of the Old Testament. It includes a course in Biblical Hebrew and provides opportunity to use this language in reading and interpreting the books of the Pentateuch, Covenant History, Prophets, and Poetry and Wisdom.

### Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in New Testament

This emphasis serves the student who desires to grow in a thorough understanding of the context, content, and message of the New Testament. It includes a course in New Testament Koine Greek and provides opportunity to use this language specifically in reading and interpreting the Gospels and Paul's letter to the Galatians.

### Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Systematic Theology

This emphasis will equip the student to articulate and apply the doctrinal teachings as set forth in the scriptures and as confessed in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren Statement of Faith. It will consider the ways the church has interpreted doctrines of scripture throughout its history and help the student to analyze ethical issues and to assist the church respond to these issues in biblical ways.