

**Lutheran Brethren Seminary
Statement of Educational Effectiveness
2025-2026**

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
2025-2026	43	100%		100%
2024-2025	37	100%		100%
2023-2024	39	100%		83%
2022-2023	39	100%		100%
2021-2022	34	80%		100%
2020-2021	35	66%	100%	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%

* 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 2020 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!

Student Services Survey

In the 2026 Student Services Survey students were asked questions about their experiences at LBS using the student services offered to them.

- 100% said they had a Good or Excellent experience
- 82% said they had not suggestions for improvement
- 82% were engaged in Financial Aid, Library, & EBSCO
- 64% were engaged in local congregations
- 45% enjoyed the Fall Conference, worked with Faculty Advisors and Ministry Opportunities

Overall, students found value in each service offered.

In the 2026 Faculty Evaluation of the Distance Program:

- 100% responded that Populi met needs in student management
- 100% said distance students were able to access resources necessary to successfully complete their courses.
- 100% 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

- 75% responded that distance student achievement was comparable with that of campus students.
- 100% communicated with distance students prior to the first day of class
- General Observations made:
 - There were a number of technical hiccups related to Teams and classroom technology that probably eliminated the equivalent of one hour of scheduled teaching across each of my courses during the year. Most of those unexpected interruptions have disappeared in the past month.
 - Some distance students struggle with accountability, particularly when they are asynchronous. I don't see the same level of struggle with on campus students. This applies to a minority of distance students.
 - I appreciated Teams because I was able to simply teach the course and then the issue of the recordings was taken care of for me.
 - Students seem to acclimate to the use of MS Teams quite well. I did not receive any questions about where to find class recordings. Many (though not all) appreciated the meeting notifications from Teams (sometimes this served to remind them of a class meeting they forgot about).

In the **2026 Student evaluation of the distance program** students were asked to describe the best feature of their experience.

- Synchronous meetings
- Ability to continue in ministry
- Asynchronous meetings
- Ability to be active in a church community while taking classes
- Ability to work full-time and take classes
- The pairing of seminary education and practical ministry experiences

Students were asked to describe what they found most challenging.

- There was a feedback/echo when students in the classroom spoke
- Distance
- Self-discipline
- Juggling work, family, and school
- Unclear expectations on synchronous participation Feedback with new TEAMS system
- Missing out on LBS community
- Isolation

When asked to rate specific features students responded Excellent or Good to:

- 90% ability to participate in real-time classes
- 72% adequate interaction between instructors and students
- 90% ease of contacting faculty
- 80% ease of retrieving recordings

Achievement of Program Outcomes

- A. Interpret the Bible in its parts and in its whole through use of its original languages and appropriate exegetical and hermeneutical methods

<i>Assessment Instruments/Course</i>	<i>Benchmark, Expected Performance</i>	<i>Actual Mean Score</i>	<i>% Students Achieving Outcome</i>
OT602 Intro' to Hebrew Exegesis Jonah Exegetical Paper PT905 Preaching Lab Senior Preaching Capstone	85% of students will achieve 80% competency or higher	96.3%	100% (2024)

- B. Articulate and apply the doctrinal teachings as set forth in the Scriptures and confessed in the CLB Statement of Faith

<i>Assessment Instruments/Course</i>	<i>Benchmark, Expected Performance</i>	<i>Actual Mean Score</i>	<i>% Students Achieving Outcome</i>
ST636 Position Paper	85% of students will achieve 80% competency or higher	88.9%	83.3% (2025)

- C. Proclaim God's saving work in Jesus Christ through the public and private ministries of the Word and Sacrament.

<i>Assessment Instruments/Course</i>	<i>Benchmark, Expected Performance</i>	<i>Actual Mean Score</i>	<i>% Students Achieving Outcome</i>
PT505 Preaching Lab Sermon Manuscript	85% of students will achieve 80% competency or higher	91.25%	100% (2026)

D. Demonstrate knowledge and skills for leading congregations

<i>Assessment Instruments/Course</i>	<i>Benchmark, Expected Performance</i>	<i>Actual Mean Score</i>	<i>% Students Achieving Outcome</i>
PT509 Leadership in Ministry Multi-Disciplinary Leadership Assignment WM651 The Church in Mission	85% of students will achieve 80% competency or higher	97.8%	100% (2024)

E. Demonstrate capacity for faithful involvement in God's mission through His church

<i>Assessment Instruments/Course</i>	<i>Benchmark, expected performance</i>	<i>Actual Mean Score</i>	<i>% Students Achieving Outcome</i>
PT632 Theology & Practice of Evangelism, Church Planting Witnessing Paper	85% of students will achieve 80% competency or higher	96%	100% (2025)

F. Demonstrate personal integrity and love for God, His Church, and the world.

<i>Assessment Instruments/Course</i>	<i>Benchmark, expected performance</i>	<i>Actual Mean Score</i>	<i>% Students Achieving Outcome</i>
PT665 Personal Wellness in Ministry Personal Wellness Paper PT515 Supervised Ministry Education Reaction Paper	85% of students will achieve 80% competency or higher	99.2%	100% (2026)