

ASIA LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Academic Catalog

2025-2026

(revised Spring 2025)

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Student,

Welcome to Asia Lutheran Seminary. It's our mission to prepare Christians to serve as leaders of confessional Lutheran groups across Asia. We are glad that you are here! Whether you are just beginning your preparations or you've been an ALS student for many years, we are glad you are here. At ALS, you will find much more than just an academic program. You'll find yourself fed with God's word. You'll grow in your faith. You'll become part of an international family of students and leaders from across Asia. You will be equipped to share the truth of God's word with those around you.

Before sending out his disciples into ministry, Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matt. 9:37-38). Today, we can say the same: "The harvest is still plentiful, but the workers are few." It is our prayer that God will bless your time at ALS and that through you and many more, he will carry out his harvest in the ripe harvest fields of Asia.

God bless you,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
President, Asia Lutheran Seminary

1. INTRODUCTION TO ASIA LUTHERAN SEMINARY

1.1 Location

Asia Lutheran Seminary (ALS) is located at 688 Shanghai Street in Hong Kong in the Mong Kok district of Kowloon. The seminary currently occupies four floors of the Chun Hoi Commercial Building. The seminary offices occupy the 8th floor. The main classroom is on the 4th floor, and the second classroom and meeting room are on the 10th floor. The library is on the 16th floor.

1.2 Legal Establishment

The ALS Hong Kong campus is registered under Asia Lutheran Seminary of Hong Kong, which provides a variety of ministry and educational services in Hong Kong.

1.3 History

Asia Lutheran Seminary was established by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) as a regional seminary to promote Christian leadership in Asia. It preaches and teaches the whole counsel of God but is centered on Christ and his teaching of law and gospel. It opened on May 29, 2005. The founding president was Dr. John Lawrenz (2005-2010). The second president was Dr. Steven Witte (2011-2023). The current president is Dr. Jonathan Bare (2023-present).

1.4 Vision and Mission

Mission: To prepare Christians to serve as leaders of confessional Lutheran groups across Asia.

Motto: Truth Shared

Values: Be One; Be Bold; Be True

Vision: A growing network of Lutheran communities across Asia, actively reaching the lost, discipling the found, and equipping future leaders.

1.5 Affiliation

ALS was founded and is supported by members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. This church body has committed itself to supporting ALS through its prayers and offerings. ALS also works in cooperation with the association of churches, which comprises the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).

ALS professors share a common subscription to the teachings of the Confessional Lutheran church and a commitment to preparing leaders who will faithfully proclaim the true message of salvation through Christ Jesus in their churches and communities. To ensure the quality and doctrinal integrity of its teaching, the faculty of ALS is called from member churches of the CELC or churches that subscribe to these beliefs. Each professor has advanced studies in his assigned areas of teaching.

1.6 Local and International Cooperation with Other Institutions

ALS has ongoing cooperation in the form of faculty and/or student exchanges with Martin Luther College (New Ulm, MN, USA), Wisconsin Lutheran College (Milwaukee, WI, USA), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (Mequon, WI, USA). Study trips and other cooperative ventures are also arranged with these and other Lutheran institutions.

1.7 Instructional Emphases

Classroom instruction at ALS centers around five areas of emphasis:

- Careful study of the Bible's Old and New Testaments
- Systematic exploration of the Bible's teachings
- Lessons to be learned from the past achievements and struggles of the Christian Church
- The practical skills needed for leadership within a congregation
- Evangelizing those who do not yet believe

1.8 Instructional Goals

It is the goal of ALS to shape Christian leaders who will

- search the Scriptures as the only reliable source of truth;
- know that only God defines what is right and wrong;
- confess the Lord Jesus Christ as the world's only Savior;
- proclaim the gospel as a divine gift, not a human choice;
- say "thank you" to God by living a life that pleases him;
- identify false teachings and avoid giving them support;
- promote Christian freedom where God has not spoken;
- deal with weak Christians in humility and patience;
- encourage the spiritual gifts of fellow believers;
- rely upon the Word of God, baptism, and the Lord's Supper as the only means that the Holy Spirit uses to create and sustain saving faith; and
- await with confidence God's promise of everlasting life together with Jesus Christ and all believers in heaven.

1.9 Regional Theological Education Program

Through the Regional Theological Education Program (RTEP), Asia Lutheran Seminary serves as a resource and support to partner church bodies throughout Asia in their theological education efforts. The program currently assists with the work being done in a dozen countries, primarily in South and Southeast Asia. Led by a team of ALS professors, RTEP stands alongside WELS missionaries and local church leaders in the important task of training up leaders for gospel ministry. The team's goal is to assist in four areas: **Communication, Consultation, Resources, and Training.**

1.9.1 Communication

RTEP facilitates communication between missionaries, church leaders, and others offering theological education throughout Asia. The program encourages the sharing of ideas, discussion of cross-program issues, cooperation on programs, and communication of needs and resources. Additionally, the RTEP team maintains an overview of the various theological education efforts in all countries served by the Asia One Team.

1.9.2 Consultation

RTEP provides consultation to local church and seminary leaders on a variety of issues pertaining to theological education. The team offers assistance with training needs assessments, program development, curriculum planning workshops, program assessment, and program revisions or updates.

1.9.3 Resources

RTEP maintains a database of curricular materials offered throughout Asia. As new programs are developed or courses are taught, the team will assist in ensuring that necessary materials are made available to those who can use them. Additionally, through the Pastoral Studies Institute of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, RTEP has access to a database of WELS pastors and teachers with expertise in a variety of subjects and equipped to teach as visiting or online instructors. RTEP maintains a schedule of all guest instructor needs and ensures that they are well prepared to meet local training requirements.

1.9.4 Training

RTEP coordinates formal and informal professional development opportunities for missionaries, local instructors, and seminary leaders and professors. Informal training may include mentoring, facilitation of discussions on best practices in teaching, sharing of resources, etc. Formal professional development opportunities may include local or regional workshops, for-credit courses through Asia Lutheran Seminary or sister seminaries, and other offerings as needs arise.

1.9.5 RTEP Team members

Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt, Director

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare

Rev. Daniel Kingsbury

1.10 Languages of Instruction

ALS's mainstream curriculum offers certificate-to-degree level training in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. Additional courses in other languages may be offered when there is a need. Teaching materials and textbooks are also normally provided in the language of instruction.

1.11 Tuition and Financial Aid

The operation of ALS is heavily subsidized through gifts and grants from the WELS, South Asia Lutheran Evangelical Mission (SALEM), other church bodies, and individuals. As a result, it maintains a tuition and financial assistance policy that allows all students access to its courses and degree programs. Tuition varies depending on the degree program. In addition, there is a one-time enrollment fee, administrative fees for each semester of enrollment, fees for auditing classes, and charges for late enrollment and/or late payment.

ALS regularly evaluates requests for financial aid, scholarship awards, and other grants to degree students who demonstrate the requisite need, potential for service in public ministry, and dedication to finishing a specific ALS program.

1.12 Accreditation

The ALS program has been granted full accreditation by the Asia Theological Association for its degree-level programs. The academic and theological integrity of ALS has also been formally recognized by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and by the CELC.

1.13 Website

Up-to-date information on the ALS curriculum and events can be found at its website:
<https://en.asiaseminary.com/>

2. ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Governing Board

Rev. Jonathan Leach, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Fisher, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Benjamin Clemons, Secretary
Rev. Angus Au
Mr. Theodore Rattei
Rev. Alex Wong
Rev. Qiang Wong

2.2 President's Chinese Advisory Committee

Rev. Alex Wong, Hong Kong (Chairman)
Rev. Angus Au, Hong Kong
Mr. Michael Lin, Taiwan
Mr. C.K. Lee, Taiwan
Rev. Andrew Chen, China
Mr. Liu, China

2.3 Administrative Officers

President: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
Vice President: Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Academic Dean: Rev. Dr. Cheung Kwok Fai Angus
English-Language Certificate Dean: Mr. Jeremy Seeger
Chinese-Language Certificate Dean: Rev. Anthony Barthels
Faculty Recording Secretary: Rev. Timothy Matthies
Student Advisor Coordinator: Rev. Zhu Yue William
Hong Kong Recruitment Director: Rev. Anthony Barthels
Regional Theological Education Program Director: Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Worship Coordinator: Rev. Timothy Matthies

2.4 Administrative Committees

(First Name listed is Chair; President is Advisory to all committees)
Executive: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare; Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt; Rev. Jonathan Leach
Admissions: Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt; Rev. Dr. Cheung Kwok Fai Angus
Communications Committee: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare, Rev. Anthony Barthels, Ms. Irene Ng
Technology: Mr. Jeremy Seeger; Rev. Anthony Barthels
RTEP: Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt; Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare; Rev. Daniel Kingsbury
Alumni Committee: Dr. Cheung Kwok Fai Angus; Ms. Yeung Kit Ling Yvonne; Mrs. Cheung Tsang Ka Man Kaman; Mrs. Hui Ho Yin Lin Sandy; Mr. Mok Wan Kin David;

2.5 Support Staff

Office Manager: Ms. Irene Ng
Accounting Assistant: Ms. May Lam

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Vivian Ho
Librarian: Ms. Shan Cheung
Office Assistant: Ms. Mandy Wong
Media Designer: Ms. Ivy Choi
Translation Assistant: Ms. Jenny Chen
Registrar: Ms. Elim Xie
Executive Editor: Ms. Yvonne Yeung
Editor: Ms. Joey Chow

3. TEACHING STAFF

3.1 Faculty

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Rev. Dr. Cheung Kwok Fai Angus
Rev. Timothy Matthies
Mr. Jeremy Seeger
Rev. Anthony Barthels
Rev. Daniel Kingsbury
Rev. William Zhu

3.2 Adjunct Faculty

Rev. Matthew Doebler
Rev. Robert Siirila

3.3 Instructors

Rev. Alex Wong
Rev. Angus Au
Rev. Titus Tse

3.4 Emeritus Faculty

Rev. Dr. John Lawrenz
Rev. Dr. Steven Witte
Rev. Dr. Glen Thompson

3.5 Former Faculty

Rev. Dr. Michael Smith
Rev. Dr. Matthew Oseka
Rev. Aaron West

3.6 Visiting Professors, Adjunct Professors, and Teaching Assistants

ALS is blessed to have numerous prominent Lutheran missionaries, pastors, and scholars serve as visiting faculty, adjunct instructors, and teaching assistants. All visiting faculty share the Lutheran vision of ALS and are members of church bodies that are associated with the

CELC. All Teaching Assistants are in doctrinal agreement with ALS. A listing of current visiting professors, adjunct instructors, and teaching assistants is updated each semester by the ALS administration.

4. COMMUNITY LIFE

4.1 Faculty Consultation

The ALS faculty is dedicated to supporting students both spiritually and intellectually. Students are encouraged to discuss any issues with any faculty members.

4.2 Communications with and from ALS

Students may communicate with ALS via electronic messaging, telephone, or email. The ALS office manager and other office staff are located on the 8th floor of the seminary building and are all multilingual in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English. The ALS office can be reached from 10:00 to 19:00 weekdays at info@asiaseminary.com, phone number +852-3118-6445, or WhatsApp +852 6755 3568.

The ALS office may also need to contact the student regarding classes, scheduling, payment of fees, and other matters. Students should therefore ensure that the ALS office has their most current contact information – especially email and telephone – and their preferred method of contact.

4.3 Spiritual Life

Asia Lutheran Seminary (ALS) places significant emphasis on the spiritual growth and holistic development of students as they are trained to become future Christian leaders and pastors. Historically, ALS has supported students through our distinctive Mentor Program, which complements their academic pursuits with personalized spiritual guidance from experienced Christians. This previous program created a platform for one-on-one mentorship, fostering deepened faith and practical application of theological knowledge in personal life and ministry grounded in God's Word and framed by the law and gospel.

In recent years, with the advancement of ALS and the emergence of a more complex and challenging environment, it is our aim that the newly established Student Advisor Program (SAP) will serve as an effective bridge to strengthen the relationship between students and ALS, facilitating more timely and efficient communication, and enabling ongoing academic and spiritual enrichment.

With the assistance of advisors who maintain regular contact with students, SAP serves as an essential channel for effective communication, thereby facilitating the work of both student management and academic management. With a long-standing expectation, ALS not only aims to assist students throughout their academic journey but also anticipates that, upon their entry into respective ministries in the future, ALS will continue to share visions with them, provide mutual support, and foster close and enduring ministry partnerships.

4.4 Library

A theological library and resource center is located on the 16th floor of the ALS campus. This collection now includes a multi-language circulating library, virtual learning resources, maps, and a small bookstore. All students enrolled at ALS are offered a library card. Enrolled students can use resources in the library, or most items can be checked out for a maximum of 120 days. Please contact ALS for normal operating hours, a library card application form, and the lending policy. Students may go to <https://library.asiaseminary.com/> for many materials and to browse the ALS library catalog.

Students are further encouraged to use the PDF resources available for free download at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary website <https://www.wisluthsem.org/resources/essay-files/>. Additionally, students may visit *Fourth Century Christianity* (www.fourthcentury.com), founded and overseen by ALS Professor Emeritus Glen L. Thompson. This site currently contains over 1500 pages of information on the early church and the late Roman Empire: primary documents, translations, charts, and suggestions for reading.

4.5 ALS Bookstore

As part of the Shanghai Street campus, ALS operates a small bookstore on the 16th floor. The main purpose of the bookstore is to supply the necessary books for professors and students to purchase for their ALS classes. The bookstore especially concentrates on Lutheran materials that are not available through other local Christian bookstores. The bookstore is also the chief distributor for ALS publications, as well as many of the English and Chinese language materials produced by WELS Multi-Language Productions. For bookstore hours, contact the ALS office.

4.6 Student Lounge

The ALS library, located on the 16th floor, also serves as a student lounge. Students may relax and study in this area between scheduled classes. The lounge is normally open weekdays from 14:30 to 19:00.

4.7 Photocopy Facilities

Normally, students should do any required copying before they arrive at ALS. Many professional printing companies are located in the immediate vicinity. ALS does have copy facilities, but they are normally for use by ALS staff only. In the event of an emergency, ALS staff may be able to assist students for a set fee.

4.8 ALS English Language Fellowship

Since many of the ALS professors are English speakers, a Sunday worship service or Bible class is conducted at ALS each week on the 4th floor. These are primarily aimed at the spiritual care of the ALS professors, their families, and staff, but others are welcome to attend.

4.9 WELS Multi-Language Productions (MLP)

ALS works in close collaboration with the Asian office of WELS Multi-Language Productions. MLP seeks to assist ALS in developing biblically accurate Chinese Christian materials for the wider Chinese community. It has offices on the 11th floor of the ALS Shanghai St. campus. To purchase translated publications, please contact the MLP Hong Kong office at 2190 6211 or visit the Northwestern Publishing House website: <https://online.nph.net/multi-language-productions>

5. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

5.1 Definition of Student Status

Students who register at ALS fall under one or more of the following categories:

- **Program students:** Students who have registered and been approved for one of the ALS certificate, diploma, or degree programs. Program students will be classified as full time or part time.
- **Full time:** A program student who takes 12 or more credits in one semester will be classified as full time for that semester.
- **Part time:** A program student who takes at least one credit-bearing course but fewer than 12 credits during a semester will be classified as part time for that semester.
- **Non-program students:** Students who have registered to take classes for studying biblical languages but have not enrolled in an ALS certificate or diploma or degree program.

5.2 Registration Procedures

Registration forms for classes are available from the ALS office or can be downloaded from the ALS website. Forms must be completed and returned to the ALS office with full tuition payment at least seven days before the beginning of class. Late registrations will be accepted until the first class meets if space is available and with an additional late charge of HKD 220. Contact the ALS office with additional questions.

5.3 Student Advisor Program

In academic advising, advisors focus on monitoring and supporting students' academic progress while maintaining a comprehensive understanding of their learning situations. When students encounter challenges or require additional support in their studies, advisors can promptly provide appropriate guidance and supervision. This assistance emphasizes care-oriented communication and collaborative problem solving rather than direct academic instruction. Advisors are authorized by the college to oversee and facilitate students' academic development; reciprocally, students are expected to demonstrate respect and cooperation with their advisors as part of fulfilling their academic responsibilities.

Specifically, academic advising encompasses two key functions:

1. Advisors assist students in addressing their academic inquiries. If further input from course instructors is deemed necessary after an advisor's assessment, feedback can be submitted through the system for ALS to arrange appropriate support.
2. Advisors engage students in discussions regarding specific academic concerns identified by the faculty and provide feedback to assist ALS in evaluating ongoing progress and future needs.

5.4 Prerequisites and Competencies

ALS program students will normally be secondary school graduates. Exceptions may be approved by the faculty.

Since classes are offered in multiple languages, students must demonstrate a competency in the respective language to enroll in classes offered in that language. Exceptions will be made

on a case-by-case basis by the academic dean in consultation with the course instructor and faculty.

ALS diploma- and degree-level programs require academic research and writing. As a result, students are typically expected to have sufficient computer skills to complete such assignments. Exceptions must be approved by the academic dean.

The ability to do original exegesis in Greek and Hebrew is a prerequisite for the M.Div. degree.

5.5 Transfer of Credits

Students who have not completed a bachelor's degree but have received at least two years of college-level education may be allowed to transfer some credits in appropriate areas of study from a recognized post-secondary institution towards an ALS bachelor's degree program. Such students must maintain a grade point average (GPA) above 2.50 while earning their first 30 credits at ALS to continue in their ALS degree program.

Usually, a maximum of 30 credits can be applied to the D.C.M. or other foundational theological degree program. The credits obtained by non-degree students are kept on file by the ALS office.

Any transfer of credits from other recognized theological schools is accepted towards an ALS degree solely at the discretion of the faculty and the academic dean. To apply for a transfer of credits, an official letter of request must be submitted to the academic dean together with official copies of transcripts from the other institutions. A decision will generally be made within 90 days and communicated in writing to the student.

Students already possessing an M.Div. from another seminary but who wish to obtain one from ALS must earn at least 30 credits at ALS. A list of additional requirements can be obtained from the academic dean.

5.6 Waiver of Courses

The ALS faculty may implement required courses or a required breadth of coursework in any of its degree programs. This catalog outlines the regulations currently in place. Under unusual circumstances, the faculty may agree to waive one or more of these requirements upon the recommendation of the academic dean or upon application by the student. Application for such a waiver must be filed in writing with the academic dean. A decision will normally be made within 90 days and communicated in writing to the student.

5.7 Attendance

Attendance is required to gain credit for ALS courses. Illness, family, and work obligations may require occasional absences. Such absences should be communicated to the professor in advance via the ALS office. The student will still be responsible for all assignments and class content missed during the absence. Class recordings are often available to assist with this. ALS policy states that if a student misses more than 20% of the total class time, no credit will be given for the course without faculty approval.

5.8 Changes in Registration

Students may change programs. To request such a change, students must submit a written request to the academic dean explaining the rationale for the change.

5.9 Cancellation of Courses

Insufficient student enrollment and a variety of other circumstances may necessitate the cancellation of an advertised or scheduled course. In such cases, tuition fees are fully refunded. ALS, however, assumes no other liability for such cancellations.

5.10 Policy on Submission of Written Assignments

It is the responsibility of students to ensure assignments are submitted to their instructors in the proper format and style and in a timely manner. Students can either hand in their assignments in person or, if the instructor permits, e-mail them as attachments or upload them to the course site at ALS Online. Students should not submit assignments through the ALS office or the office manager, either in person or electronically.

5.11 Grade Reports

Grades are recorded at the completion of each semester. Reports, however, are emailed to students only after the conclusion of the academic year. Generally, this will occur within six weeks after the end of the spring semester. The report will be in the form of an unofficial transcript, which will show credit and grade information for all previous courses. Printed copies of each grade report can be obtained from the ALS office for the cost of HKD 20 per report.

5.12 Achievement Standards

ALS values a holistic approach to the student's development. While academic achievement is important, the spiritual growth of a student is also a major concern to ALS. Similarly, the continual development of the student's integrity and passion for serving the Lord is also important. Grades, however, will primarily reflect the integrity, promptness, and completeness of the academic work done in a course. Each course syllabus will specify the standards used in grading that course.

5.13 Grading Scale

ALS uses the following alphabetical grading system for most classes. A few courses may be graded Pass or Fail. The following table is used to determine the letter grades:

Letters	Grade Points	Representation
A+	4.00	97 - 100
A	4.00	94 - 96
A-	3.70	90 - 93
B+	3.30	87 - 89
B	3.00	84 - 86
B-	2.70	80 - 83
C+	2.30	77 - 79

C	2.00	74 - 76
C-	1.70	70 - 73
D+	1.30	67 - 69
D	1.00	64 - 66
D-	0.70	60 - 63
F	0.00	60 or lower, failing; no credit granted
I	Incomplete	Not counted for grade points; no credit granted
P	Pass	Not counted for grade points
AU	Audit	Not counted for grade points; no credit granted
W	Withdrawal	Not counted for grade points; no credit granted

5.14 Course Papers and Theses

ALS course papers and theses should normally follow the commonly accepted practices of composition. To avoid plagiarizing, students should use citations to give credit where credit is due. Students writing in English should follow The Chicago Manual of Style for instructions on proper citations, or the guidelines found in the Society of Biblical Literature Style Guide (SBL), which is available in the ALS library. A summary entitled Student Supplement to the SBL Handbook of Style is available from the ALS office. A similar guide for those writing in Chinese is also available from the ALS office.

A thesis advisor will be assigned to work with each M.A.R. and M.Div. student when they begin working on their thesis. Thesis proposals approved by the advisor are to be submitted one school year in advance of the student's graduation. The completed thesis must be submitted to the academic dean at least 60 days prior to graduation. If the student has been requested to make alterations, the revised thesis must be submitted in proper form at least 30 days prior to graduation.

5.15 Practicums and In-Service Training

Many ALS degree students are preparing for leadership activities in the church. Therefore, whenever possible, students will be encouraged to practice, in a congregational or other ministry setting, the skills they are learning in the classroom. ALS will assist wherever possible in coordinating such in-service practice and training and will record it in the student's academic record on a non-credit basis. See also 7.2.5 below.

5.16 Holidays and Cancellation of Class

No classes and online classes will be held on any public holidays or specific dates as indicated in the seminary calendar.

In the event of the announcement of a No. 8 signal storm warning or a black rainstorm signal, students should follow the guidelines below:

- If the signal is lowered before 07:00, morning classes will meet as usual.
- If the signal is lowered before 12:00, afternoon classes will meet as usual.
- If the signal is lowered before 17:00, evening classes will meet as usual.

5.17 Directed or Independent Study

Occasionally, a student may be allowed to fulfill a requirement or pursue a special interest through directed or independent study. Such study must receive prior approval from the academic dean in order to earn credit towards a degree. Students can obtain an application form from the ALS office.

5.18 Graduation

ALS has a tradition of holding its yearly graduation services in late October or early November. Students who qualify for an ALS degree in a given year will receive information about participation in the ceremony and how to prepare for it from the ALS office. A fee of HKD 200 will be assessed to cover the cost of gown rental and other related costs.

5.19 Academic Honesty

ALS expects academic honesty from all students at all times. Academic dishonesty violates the scholarship standards of ALS, and more importantly, it does not align with God's commands. Academic dishonesty can result in serious penalties, including denial of academic credits along with dismissal from the seminary. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or plagiarizing on assignments or examinations, or submitting insufficient academic sources. Students who are charged with academic dishonesty have the right to appeal to the academic dean. Any actions taken will also be communicated to the student's pastor or other spiritual overseer.

5.20 Academic Probation and Suspension

If a student's GPA is below the minimum standard of C, the student may be placed on academic probation. A student with probation status must decrease his or her academic credits to no more than 6. A student on probation must also acquire a minimum GPA of 2.5 by the end of the probationary semester. Otherwise, the student will usually be placed on academic suspension and will not be allowed to register for additional classes without written permission from the academic dean after consultation with the faculty. If a student's GPA for the probationary semester rises significantly above the minimum standard, but his or her cumulative GPA remains below the minimum standard, the student may appeal to the academic dean to continue on probation for an additional semester.

5.21 Dismissal

A student whose academic performance does not meet the minimum standard or whose behavior has negatively impacted the Christian character of the ALS community, its learning environment, or the mission of the seminary may face dismissal. The final decision for dismissal remains with the faculty.

5.22 Resumption of a Study Program

The following procedures apply to students who wish to resume their studies after being suspended, dismissed, or declared inactive:

The resumption of a study program will normally occur within a 4-year period after the student was suspended or dismissed. A resumption petition must be made in writing to the

academic dean, and he and the faculty must concur in granting it. New registration fees must be paid upon resumption.

5.23 Academic Appeals

ALS expects teachers and students to resolve any grievances in a God-pleasing manner. In light of Jesus' guidance on resolving conflicts, any grievances of an academic nature should be dealt with by the parties involved in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-19. If, after this initial step, both parties are unable to reach a mutual agreement, the student may appeal in writing to the academic dean for a resolution.

5.24 Transcripts of Academic Records

The ALS office maintains current transcripts for all enrolled students. These can be seen by the students upon request. A student may at any time obtain an official transcript from the ALS office for a nominal fee. Official transcripts can also be sent to other institutions or organizations for a fee. Please note the following:

- Typical processing time is 1–2 working days.
- ALS will not release a student's transcript if he has remaining financial obligations.
- ALS requires students' signatures to release transcripts.

5.25 Confidentiality

Academic records are private and are treated as such. Access is normally limited to the ALS registration, the academic dean, the registrar, and the faculty.

5.26 Changes to the Catalog

From time to time, the faculty may find it necessary to change the catalog, academic and other procedures, and degree requirements. Every effort will be made to inform students promptly of any changes that affect them. If changes are made to the requirements for a degree program, students may be allowed to finish their program under the old requirements at the discretion of the faculty.

6. ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

6.1 Entrance Requirements

All applicants for ALS courses and degree programs should normally be baptized Christians.

Applicants will submit one or more appropriate letters of recommendation. At least one recommendation must be from an individual who is familiar with and can comment meaningfully and knowledgeably on the likelihood that the student has the academic gifts to study successfully in seminary-level courses. The applicant must also submit at least one recommendation from his or her pastor or the head of the applicant's church body. The applicant may submit one letter if the writer of the recommendation fulfills all the above requirements.

6.2 Application for Admission

An application form for admission to an ALS certificate, diploma, or degree program can be obtained from the ALS website. The completed application must be submitted together with the application fee before attendance is allowed in any classes.

6.3 Application for New Program

Upon completion of an ALS certificate, diploma, or degree program, a student must reapply to be accepted into a new program. This process will ensure that ALS has current information on the student's contact information and up-to-date information on their church affiliation. The application will require only filling out the application form and submitting an updated recommendation by the student's pastor. No new transcript needs to be supplied, and no application fee will be charged by ALS.

6.4 Acceptance of Students

Students become candidates for a certificate, diploma, or degree when they are accepted by the admissions committee. Whenever ALS accepts a candidate, there must be an expectation that the program can be completed satisfactorily within a reasonable amount of time. ALS may terminate a program for good and sufficient reasons. Candidates will be advised regularly regarding their programs, their status, and any changes to program requirements.

6.5 Entrance Examinations

Applicants for a diploma or degree program who do not have at least a high school diploma or its equivalent, or who have other possible educational deficiencies, may be required to take an entrance examination and may be admitted on probation. The academic dean will be responsible for making such determinations.

6.6 Deferred Admission

Successful candidates may choose to defer their admission to a later academic semester. Application files are valid for two years following the original acceptance. After two years, the candidate must reapply.

7. THE CURRICULUM

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 Academic Programs Offered

ALS offers programs of study that lead to several certificates, a diploma, a bachelor's degree, and two options for a master's degree.

In our newly unified mainstream program, students who are beginning or are in the early stages of theological study may earn a **TELL Certificate** by completing the TELL program requirements. (Program descriptions can be found in section 7.2 of this catalogue.)

Following this beginning level, students who complete the next program of study may earn a **Diploma of Church Ministry (D.C.M.)** by completing the D.C.M. program requirements.

Following this secondary level, students who complete the next program of study may earn a **Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)** degree by completing the B.Th. program requirements.

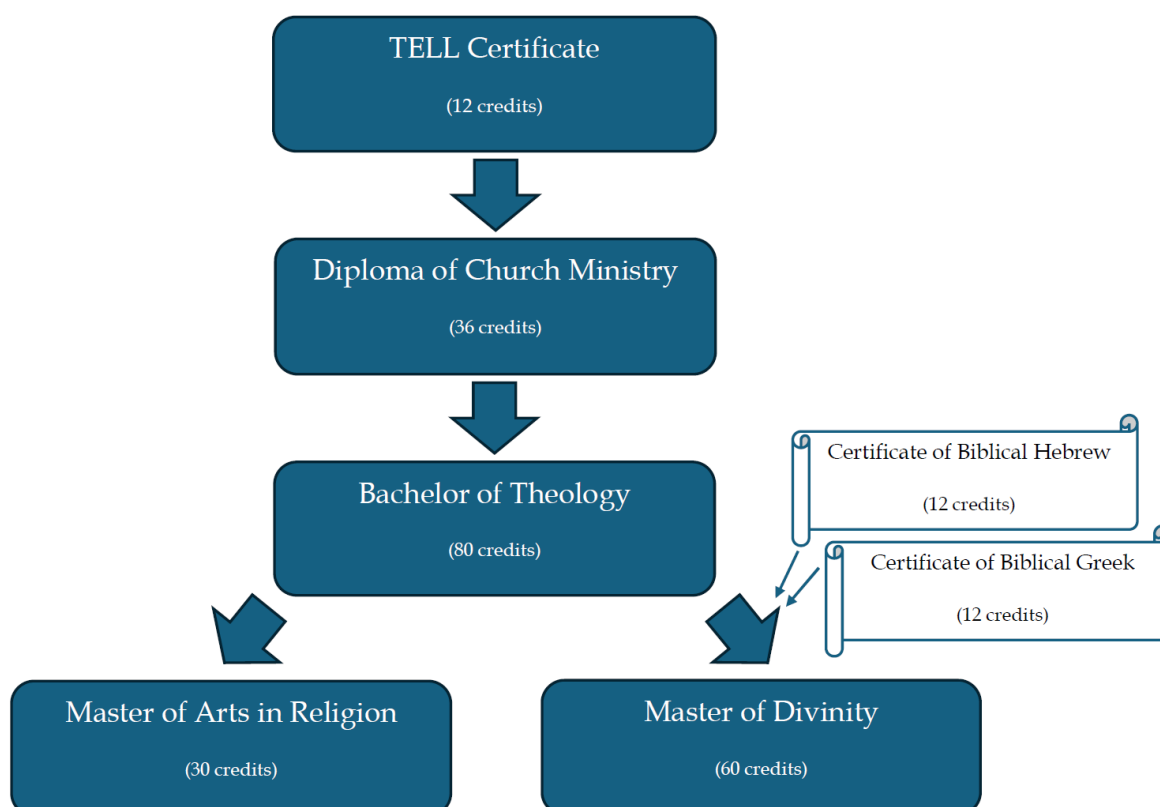
Following this degree, students may continue into the master's level via one of two paths. The first path is to earn a **Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.)** degree by completing the M.A.R. program requirements. The second path is to earn a **Master of Divinity (M.Div.)** degree by completing the M.Div. program requirements.

As part of its emphasis on understanding and sharing God's Word, ALS offers thorough training in biblical Greek and Hebrew. Students who successfully complete an ALS language program will receive a **Certificate in Biblical Hebrew** or a **Certificate in Biblical Greek**. Each of these programs is a prerequisite for several courses in the M.Div. program.

ALS may validate and accept some coursework completed at other institutions of higher learning on a case-by-case basis. However, a significant number of credits will have to be earned at ALS for the faculty to approve a student for an ALS degree. Please see section 5.5 Transfer of Credits for more details.

Since ALS exists to prepare people to serve the church, we encourage students to enroll in an entire program rather than just choosing single courses. Still, if students are undecided about enrolling, we may allow them to audit a few courses. Please contact ALS for further information.

7.1.2 Graphic Overview of ALS Programs



7.1.3 The Five Areas of Instruction

ALS degree programs are made up of elements from each of the following five areas:

- **(BIB) Biblical Theology** – The careful study of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible
- **(SYS) Systematic Theology** – A topical and analytical exploration of the Bible’s teachings
- **(HIS) Historical Theology** – Learning from the church’s past achievements and struggles
- **(PAS) Practical Theology** – Equipping students to minister to God’s people in today’s world
- **(MIS) Missional Theology** – The study of bringing the gospel to people who do not yet believe

7.1.4 Instructors and Students

At all levels, ALS provides instruction that is rooted in the cross of Christ and the teaching of Scripture that is led by confessional Lutheran instructors and professors. All students must respect this instruction and have the ability and disposition to do post-secondary level study.

7.2 Description of Programs

7.2.1 TELL Certificate

Description

This program is designed for all Christians. Students will grow through experiencing and understanding God's Word, his teaching, and his ministry in a practical way. They will learn about their own gifts for ministry, grow in their Lutheran identity, and develop skills necessary for starting and leading a group that gathers around the Means of Grace (the gospel in Word and sacraments). This program uses the TELL Method – Think, Evaluate, Learn, Lead – to study various short Bible passages, so that students are equipped to use pre-made materials to teach a group of people the basic message of the Bible.

The TELL Certificate requires completing 12 credits of coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 8.

Students who complete the TELL program may apply to study for a Diploma of Christian Ministry (D.C.M.).

Prerequisites

A secondary school diploma or an equivalent aptitude for learning is needed. No previous coursework in theology is required. However, some students may need to complete three short, online, self-study introductions to the program (also known as TELL 1) in order to move into the first set of teacher-led courses (TELL 2).

All who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled. Upon completion of the first set of teacher-led courses (TELL 2), admission to the final set (TELL 3) will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Length of Study

Students who take one TELL course every two months may complete the entire TELL program in approximately three years.

7.2.2 Diploma of Church Ministry

Description

The Diploma of Church Ministry (D.C.M.) program is designed to provide students with a more in-depth foundation for ministry in the church. It includes a relatively broader study of Scripture, discussions of key aspects of congregational life, and practical preparation in regard to Christian worship, helping others learn biblical teaching, and preparing and sharing devotions in different settings so God's Word can be applied to people's hearts.

The D.C.M. requires completing 36 credits of coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 8.

Students who complete the D.C.M. program may apply to study for a Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.).

Prerequisites

The TELL Certificate or its equivalent is required for admittance to the program. If students do not have this background, they will be encouraged to first complete the ALS certificate program. A secondary school diploma is also required.

Students normally will be members of a local congregation, and all who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled. Admission also requires character befitting of a person who aspires for ministry as outlined in 2 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Admission will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Length of Study

By taking approximately six credits per semester, students may expect to complete the D.C.M. program in approximately three years.

7.2.3 Certificates in Biblical Hebrew and Biblical Greek

Description

At any point in their ALS studies, students may apply to join the certificate programs in biblical Greek or biblical Hebrew. While these two biblical languages are only required for the study of exegetical courses at the Master of Divinity level, they will be a blessing to all students who participate. Students will be equipped to carry out a basic exegetical study of a biblical narrative using Greek or Hebrew.

The Certificate in Biblical Hebrew requires completing 12 credits of Hebrew coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 8.

The Certificate in Biblical Greek requires completing 12 credits of Greek coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 8.

Students who finish either program will, upon approval by the professor, be eligible to enroll in an ALS exegesis course in that language. The exegetical courses for biblical Greek are the Gospel of John, Galatians, and 1 Corinthians. The exegetical courses for biblical Hebrew are Genesis, Psalms, and Jeremiah.

Prerequisites

To be admitted to a biblical language certificate course, a student must apply and be accepted as an ALS student. Potential students must also receive the permission of the ALS academic dean for enrollment. Enrollment may be limited due to class size. Preference will be given to students in the ALS bachelor's degree and master's degree programs, and to students who commit to attending the full program for that language.

Length of Study

Each language certificate can be earned in one year of study. Students are welcome to repeat these programs when desired, which would allow them to grow in their ability to use these languages and also would allow them to assist their fellow students in their studies. To enhance learning efficiency, the latest interactive pedagogical techniques are used, including Total Physical Response (TPR) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS).

7.2.5 Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)

Description

Students who earn a Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) degree will have a solid understanding of Lutheran theology and the ability to share this knowledge in a variety of ministry applications. Graduates will be equipped for leadership roles in the church.

The B.Th. degree requires completing 80 credits of coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 8.

Students who complete the B.Th. program may apply to study for a Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) degree or a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. Students who desire to continue on to the M.Div. program are encouraged to begin their study of Greek and Hebrew at the bachelor's degree level if they have not already done so.

Prerequisites

An ALS Diploma of Church Ministry (D.C.M.) or its equivalent is required for admittance to the program. If students do not have this background, they will be encouraged to first complete the ALS D.C.M. program. A secondary school diploma is also required.

A recommendation letter from the student's pastor is required. Students normally will be members of a local congregation, and all who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled. Admission also requires character befitting of a person who aspires for ministry as outlined in 2 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Admission will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Length of Study

By taking approximately sixteen credits per semester, students entering ALS with a D.C.M. or its equivalent may expect to complete the B.Th. degree in approximately two-and-a-half years. Students who have no such background or who are taking fewer credits per semester may expect to take at least four years.

7.2.6 Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.)

Description

After completing the B.Th. program, students may apply to enter either the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) program or the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program. The M.A.R. program provides students with some scholarly training and further growth in practical skills for ministry and leadership in the church. It culminates in a three-credit research thesis on a topic of the student's choice.

The M.A.R. degree requires completing 30 credits of coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 8.

Prerequisites

An ALS B.Th. degree or its equivalent is required for admittance to the program. If students do not have this background, they will be encouraged to first complete the ALS B.Th. program. A secondary school diploma is also required.

A recommendation letter from the student's pastor is required. Students normally will be members of a local congregation, and all who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while

enrolled. Admission also requires character befitting of a person who aspires for ministry as outlined in 2 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Admission will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Research and Thesis

Candidates for the M.A.R. degree from ALS must demonstrate the ability to do theological research. They will do this by writing a thesis on a topic selected through consultation with the ALS faculty. The thesis must be read and endorsed as satisfactory by a committee of at least three ALS faculty members or outside examiners, as appointed by the ALS academic dean.

Program Completion Interviews

As a student nears the end of a certificate, diploma, or degree program, ALS will arrange a Program Completion Interview with him or her. Where applicable, this interview will be conducted in coordination with the student's church or church body. In the interview, the student's progress through the program will be reviewed. The student will be given an opportunity to describe his or her commitment to the doctrine and practice of biblical Christianity and Confessional Lutheranism. Recommendations for ministry and higher-level studies will be discussed.

Length of Study

By taking 5-6 credits per semester, candidates entering the M.A.R. program with a B.Th. degree should normally complete their degree within two-and-a-half to three years of enrollment.

7.2.7 Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Description

After completing the B.Th. program, students may apply to enter either the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) program or the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program. The M.Div. program provides students with some scholarly training and further growth in practical skills to be pastoral leaders of churches or church bodies, theologians, and seminary instructors. This program emphasizes Greek and Hebrew exegesis (the Certificate in Biblical Hebrew and the Certificate in Biblical Greek are each prerequisites for some of its courses), so as to provide a solid foundation for clearer interpretation of the Bible, clearer understanding of its teachings, and clearer proclamation to the church and the world. The M.Div. program culminates in a six-credit research thesis on a topic of the student's choice.

The M.Div. degree requires completing 60 credits of coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 8.

Prerequisites

An ALS B.Th. degree or its equivalent is required for admittance to the program. If students do not have this background, they will be encouraged to first complete the ALS B.Th. program. A secondary school diploma is also required.

A recommendation from a confessional Lutheran pastor is required. Students normally will be members of a local congregation, and all who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled. Admission requires character befitting of a person who aspires for public ministry as outlined in 2 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Admission will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Research and Thesis

Candidates for the M.Div. degree from ALS must demonstrate the ability to do theological research. They will do this by writing a thesis on a topic selected through consultation with the ALS faculty. The thesis must be read and endorsed as satisfactory by a committee of at least three ALS faculty members or outside examiners, as appointed by the ALS academic dean.

Program Completion Interviews

As a student nears the end of a certificate, diploma, or degree program, ALS will arrange a Program Completion Interview with him or her. Where applicable, this interview will be conducted in coordination with the student's church or church body. In the interview, the student's progress through the program will be reviewed. The student will be given an opportunity to describe his or her commitment to the doctrine and practice of biblical Christianity and Confessional Lutheranism. Recommendations for ministry and higher-level studies will be discussed.

Length of Study

By taking approximately 10 credits per semester, candidates entering the M.Div. program with a B.Th. degree should normally complete their degree within three years of enrollment. To make this possible, students contemplating enrollment in the M.Div. program are urged to begin biblical language training already at the bachelor's level.

8. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The following is a general guide that describes the courses that are currently taught at ALS. Additions or changes to this list may be made from time to time, as needs require.

8.1 TELL Certificate

For an overall description of this certificate program, please see section 7.2.1.

8.1.1 TELL 1 Courses

Some students may need to complete three short, online, non-credited self-study introductions to the TELL program (also known as “TELL 1” or “the self-study level”) before they move into the first set of teacher-led courses (TELL 2).

TELL 1: Spiritual Healing (SH) – What does it mean to heal our spirit? Pain isn’t just physical, and when we hurt, we want relief. In this course, we will learn how our soul can find peace and clarity.

TELL 1: Truth Brings Peace (TBP) – Are you at peace with God? Are you at peace with yourself? The world tells us that, to gain contentment, we should trust ourselves or depend on earthly things or people. In this course, we will learn the best way to find lasting peace.

TELL 1: Introduction to the Bible (IB) – How well do you think you know God? It is interesting that many people who doubt the truths of the Bible have never read it. But still today, many people are discussing the topics that the Bible addresses. In this course, we will find out if it is possible to know God on our own without the Bible.

8.1.2 TELL 2 Courses

The first set of teacher-led courses in this certificate program is known as “TELL 2” or “the discipleship level”. Each course is worth 0.5 credits, with the exception of the first course, “Work of the Savior”, which serves as a non-credited entry point for all students, including those who went through the short TELL 1 self-study courses.

TELL 2: The Bible: The Work of the Savior (WS) – In this course, we will focus on the week when the Son of God gave his life for us and took it back up again on the third day.

TELL 2: The Bible: In the Beginning (ITB) – In this course, we will learn the principles of everything: creation, the human race, the plan of salvation, and the origins of the people of Israel.

TELL 2: The Bible: The Chosen Nation (CN) – In this Old Testament course, we will see how God made a great nation out of the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God saved them from Egypt, gave them laws, led them into the promised land, and blessed them through wise leaders.

TELL 2: The Bible: The Fallen Nation (FN) – In this course, we will learn about the idolatry and disobedience of God's people and their consequences. The kingdom was divided.

Powerful enemies were approaching. Would God remain faithful to his promises? Would a remnant survive? And, most importantly, would the Messiah still come?

TELL 2: The Bible: The Coming of the Savior (CS) – In this course, we will learn how God came into our world in human flesh. We will also discover Jesus’ early ministry: his entry into ministry, his teachings, and his miracles.

TELL 2: The Bible: The Christian Church (CC) – In this course, we will learn about the obstacles that the disciples faced in carrying out their great mission as instructed by the Savior. And we will answer the question: What can we learn from the ministry of the Christian church in the book of Acts?

TELL 2: Jesus’ Teachings: The Ten Commandments (TC) – This course will help us understand God’s law, the use of the Ten Commandments, and their application in the life of a follower of Christ today. We will also see that Jesus Christ is the one who fulfilled God’s law as our substitute.

TELL 2: Jesus’ Teachings: The True God (TG) – Who is God? Human beings of all times have desired the answers to such questions. In this course, we will study God’s Word that holds clear answers. We will see God’s great love for humanity.

TELL 2: Jesus’ Teachings: Sacraments and Prayer (SP) – In this course, we will study the blessings of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper and God’s promises about prayer. In addition, we will see what the Bible says about the Ministry of the Keys and the role of spiritual leaders.

TELL 2: Fellowship: Legalism – Enemy of Grace (EG) – Legalism confuses people and makes them think that their relationship with God is based on how well they play by the rules. God doesn’t want this kind of relationship with us. In this course, we will clear up all the confusion. God wants a relationship with us that is based on the saving message of the gospel!

TELL 2: Fellowship: Spiritual Identification (SP) – A basic psychological need is to discover our identity. Questions like “Who am I?” and “What makes me, me?” help us to discover our identity. We also have a spiritual identity, which is based on the teachings of God’s Word. In this course, we evaluate God’s Word to confirm and grow in our spiritual identity.

TELL 2: The Word Grows: Living as a Disciple (LD) – In this course, it is our privilege to learn from Jesus’ disciples about being disciples of Jesus. We will ask the question, “What is a disciple?” More importantly, we will look in the mirror and ask ourselves, “Am I a disciple?” and “If I am a disciple of the risen Christ, what does this mean for my life today?”

TELL 2: The Word Grows: A Disciple Makes Disciples (DMD) – “Go and make disciples...,” said our Lord. In this course, we will learn how to go and make more disciples.

8.1.3 TELL 3 Courses

With the approval of the ALS academic administration, students may continue to the final set of teacher-led courses in this certificate program, which is known as “TELL 3” or “the multiplication level”. Each course is worth 0.5 credits, and 2.5 credits’ worth of practicum competencies must also be demonstrated during this period in order to earn the TELL certificate.

TELL 3: The Word Grows: Multiplying Disciples (MD) – In this course, we take a closer look at the book of Acts. We will look at the chains of disciples there – that is to say, we will look at how God multiplied believers in the early Christian church.

TELL 3: The Word Grows: Multiplying Ministers (MM) – The purpose of this course is to learn how to identify, train, and call other people for ministry. In other words, we will learn how to engage other people – motivated by God’s Word – to grow his kingdom.

TELL 3: The Word Grows: Multiplying Churches (MC) – In this course, we will discuss how to multiply churches. In order to do so, it will be important that we understand not only the concept of multiplication, but also the concept of God’s church.

TELL 3: Let Us Worship 1: The Biblical Principles of Worship (BPW) – This course presents the biblical basics of conducting a worship service solely based on the Word of God.

TELL 3: Let Us Worship 2: Worship in Practice (WP) – This course presents useful tips and practical suggestions for conducting a worship service solely based on the Word of God.

TELL 3: Epistles: Letters of Faith and Wisdom (LFW) – In this course, we will read 16 of the letters of the New Testament and learn about their context and content. We will be prepared to use these letters to answer questions about salvation, holy living, and God’s will for his church.

TELL 3: Psalms as a Devotion (PD) – In this course, we will gain an appreciation of the Psalms, develop a daily habit of being in God’s Word, and learn how to create a devotional plan – not just for ourselves and our families, but also for sharing with our group.

TELL 3: Practicum Competencies (PC) – The TELL practicum competencies are designed to help us practice key things that the TELL program equips us to go and do – while at the same time recognizing that different people may require somewhat differing amounts of time to demonstrate proficiency. The following five areas – all related to TELL course topics – are checked: law and gospel, the habits of disciples, making disciples, multiplying disciples or churches, and the practical aspects of a worship service.

8.2 Diploma of Christian Ministry

For an overall description of this diploma program, please see section 7.2.2.

8.2.1 Diploma of Christian Ministry Courses

Each of the following courses must be taken to complete the DCM program, with the exception of one dual-track point (students will take either DCM 247 or DCM 248, as circumstances dictate). Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth 2 credits, and 2 credits’ worth of practicum competencies must also be demonstrated during this period in order to earn this diploma.

DCM 111: Old Testament Survey 1 (3 credits) – This course studies selected events and key people in the Old Testament from the book of Genesis to the book of Ruth. It observes “what people do, what God does, and how God’s promise of the Savior continues”. Students will describe some of the basic contents and main themes of these books. They will describe some of the prophecies about Christ in these books. In addition, they will apply to their own lives “what people do, what God does, and how God’s promise has continued”.

DCM 112: Old Testament Survey 2 (3 credits) – This course studies selected events and key people in the Old Testament from the book of First Samuel to the book of Malachi. It observes “what people do, what God does, and how God’s promise of the Savior continues”. Students will describe some of the basic contents and main themes of these books. They will describe some of the prophecies about Christ in these books. In addition, they will apply to their own lives “what people do, what God does, and how God’s promise has continued”.

DCM 113: Life of Christ (3 credits) – This course provides an overview of the four Gospels in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. By reading various passages in the Gospels with some background information, students will gain a deeper understanding of those events in the Bible, especially focusing on the life of Jesus Christ in his first coming to the world. Meanwhile, through reading these passages, students will also learn the messages of God’s law and God’s gospel that they contain.

DCM 115 Bible Background (3 credits) – This course provides a brief overview of Bible history while at the same time teaching students the basics of geography and daily life in Bible times. It provides students with the big picture of biblical events. By the end of this course, students will be able to read the Bible in depth with proper cultural context and historical background.

DCM 116 Basic Bible Interpretation (1 credit) – This course teaches the basic principles of understanding and interpreting the Bible. We will learn why interpretation is important, how to employ simple methods to help us study the Bible, and how to defend its authenticity. By the end of this course, we will have the tools to read and understand the Bible more effectively.

DCM 131 Luther’s Small Catechism 1 – This course studies Christian doctrine and life using Luther’s Small Catechism as an outline of the Bible’s teaching. The specific focus in this course is the three articles of the Apostles Creed. Students will understand, treasure, and fix in their minds the Bible-based doctrines that we find in these parts. They will also begin to become familiar with some diverging doctrines related to these parts that have divided different Christian groups. In addition, they will grasp the importance of the biblical doctrines and be ready to explain them to others.

DCM 132 Luther’s Small Catechism 2 – This course studies Christian doctrine and life using Luther’s Small Catechism as an outline of the Bible’s teaching. The specific focus in this course is Baptism, Confession and the Ministry of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Students will understand, treasure, and fix in their minds the Bible-based doctrines that we find in these parts. They will also begin to become familiar with some diverging doctrines related to these parts that have divided different Christian groups. In addition, they will grasp the importance of the biblical doctrines and be ready to explain them to others.

DCM 133 Luther’s Small Catechism 3 – This course studies Christian doctrine and life using Luther’s Small Catechism as an outline of the Bible’s teaching. The specific focus in this course is the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the Daily Prayers, and the Table of Duties. Students will understand, treasure, and fix in their minds the Bible-based doctrines that we find in these parts. They will also begin to become familiar with some diverging doctrines related to these parts that have divided different Christian groups. In addition, they will grasp the importance of the biblical doctrines and be ready to explain them to others.

DCM 134 Law and Gospel – This course offers an organized exploration of the Lutheran doctrine of Law and Gospel, providing students with a deeper understanding of God's Word. Through this study, students will examine the definitions, functions, and applications of Law and Gospel in the Christian life. The course emphasizes the proper distinction between Law and Gospel, equipping students to apply these concepts thoughtfully and effectively in both personal faith and ministry contexts. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation vis-à-vis this core theological framework and its significance for Christian teaching and practice.

DCM 141 Evangelism – This course studies how to share the gospel of forgiveness of sins in Christ with people who do not believe in our Savior. It explores several methods for doing this and several settings where this may be done. Students will engage with the teaching of the Bible about the gospel's necessity, content, and power. They will also consider how it can be spread to people around us – whether by individuals or by congregations. In addition, they will create a flyer that can be used to talk clearly with unbelievers about God's law and God's gospel.

DCM 142 Christian Family (1 credit) – What is God's design for the Christian family? This course explores how marriage, parenting, and family life reflect God's purposes and how these differ from worldly models. We will discover biblical roles, practical ways to show love, and tools for healthier communication. With Scripture as the foundation, we will learn to identify areas for growth and seek God's help to strengthen relationships. This course will equip us to live out grace and truth in our families, reflecting Christ's love at home.

DCM 242 Equip the Believers to Serve – This practical course gives us exactly what we need to know to equip God's people for various types of service. We will understand the meaning of service and become aware of the many ways that we serve. We will learn how to serve God as spouses, single people, parents, and children. We will learn how to serve at work, whether as an employee or as a leader. We will learn how to serve as citizens, friends, and neighbors. We will learn how to model service to the people that we serve in the church, and how to mentor them. Finally, we will learn how to instill this knowledge in others so that they can work together with us to equip God's people for acts of service.

DCM 244 Facilitate the Worship Gathering – This practical course explores the heart of Christian worship – what it is, why it matters, and how it can be led well. We will gain a clear understanding of worship's biblical roots, historical development, and enduring significance, with special attention to its Lutheran expression. We will apply key principles as we think about worship services that are simple yet meaningful, incorporating liturgy, music, and the Means of Grace. By the end of this course, we will be confident in our understanding of worship and will be able to make sure that its basic mechanics and preparations are carried out.

DCM 245 Prepare to Teach the Bible – One of the most effective ways to encourage God's people and proclaim the gospel is through a well-prepared lesson about a part of God's Word. This has the power to reach many people at once – to correct, instruct, encourage, comfort, and inspire. This course will equip us with the essential skills to faithfully prepare and deliver Christ-centered lessons. These principles can help us teach the gospel in a variety of appropriate formats – whether to children or adults.

DCM 246 Prepare a Basic Devotion – This course teaches students how to prepare meaningful devotions that are Christ-centered and rooted in Scripture. It covers the essential steps of selecting a text, identifying a clear theme, and applying the message to daily life.

Students will learn how to craft devotions that both encourage believers and proclaim the gospel. Through practical exercises and feedback, students will gain confidence in writing and delivering devotions for various ministry settings.

DCM 247 Shepherd the Believers – This practical course teaches us how to shepherd a group, whether a small church or a small group that is a ministry of an existing church. We will learn the biblical principles of shepherding and what shepherding looks like in daily life. We will learn hands-on application of shepherding principles in real-life situations so that we can more confidently live out our vocation as a shepherd of souls in various situations.

DCM 248 Women's Ministry – This practical course teaches us how to minister to the sisters in Jesus' church. It will help us consider specific examples of what this work might consist of and what qualifications and training are required. We will learn hands-on practices of visitation and spiritual care for women in their unique needs in daily life, and we will grasp more fully that our Father in heaven has made them treasured daughters and heirs in his family.

DCM 291 Practicum Competencies – The DCM practicum competencies are designed to help us practice key things that the DCM program equips us to go and do – while at the same time recognizing that different people may require somewhat differing amounts of time to demonstrate proficiency. The following eight areas – all related to DCM course topics – are checked: using the Small Catechism, evangelism presentations, promoting Christian family, preparing some aspects of worship services on one's own, preparing Bible lessons on one's own, preparing devotions on one's own, and ministering to other believers.

8.3 Certificates in Biblical Hebrew and Biblical Greek

God has committed his message to us through natural languages in the Scriptures. The ALS language curriculum gives students the opportunity to read the Bible in its original languages. For an overall description of these certificate programs, please see section 7.2.3.

8.3.1 Certificate in Biblical Hebrew Courses

The Certificate in Biblical Hebrew requires completing 12 credits of Hebrew coursework. This coursework equips students to carry out basic exegetical study of a biblical narrative, using the original Hebrew text.

This unified set of five courses studies the original language that is used for nearly three fourths of the Bible: ancient Hebrew. It employs a living-language method that engages not only students' skills of memorization and pattern recognition but also the brain's auditory processing center, so that participants may acquire Hebrew's relatively easy vocabulary and grammar as smoothly as possible. Students will quickly learn many Hebrew words and will become more and more familiar with the way Hebrew is spoken and written, even gaining the ability to produce some simple responses. They will also gain fluency in reading short stories and performing simple dialogues. In addition, by the end of these five courses, students will have read – with comprehension – the narrative sections of the original text of the book of Jonah.

HEB 471 Hebrew 1 (4 credits)

HEB 472 Hebrew 2 (3 credits)

HEB 473 Hebrew 3 (1 credit)

HEB 474 Hebrew 4 (3 credits)

HEB 475 Hebrew 5 (1 credit)

8.3.2 Certificate in Biblical Greek Courses

The Certificate in Biblical Greek requires completing 12 credits of Greek coursework. This coursework equips students to carry out basic exegetical study of a biblical narrative, using the original Greek text.

GRE 481 Greek 1 (4 credits) – Greek 1 is our gateway to learning biblical Greek (Koiné Greek). In this course, students will learn the Greek language directly in Greek, just like a child, without using another language for translation. While our main goal is reading and interpreting the Bible in its original language, listening and speaking are crucial for effective language learning. This course will help us listen, speak, read, and even think in Greek. Unlike online courses that mostly use a modern language to teach Greek, this immersive experience in Greek itself will build a strong foundation for students' future studies.

GRE 482 Greek 2 (3 credits) – This course builds on the fundamentals learned in Greek 1. After taking Greek 2, students can read fluently and communicate simply in Greek. Students will also learn (in a modern language) how the basic grammar structures taught in Greek 1 work.

GRE 483 Greek 3 (1 credit) – In Greek 3, students begin to read and discuss Bible stories in Greek. More time will also be spent mastering more difficult grammar points, particularly using the past tense and future tense.

GRE 484 Greek 4 (3 credits) – Greek 4 builds off the previous Greek courses in that more grammar is added to what students have already learned. At this point, in addition to learning the Greek language, students will also begin to translate biblical texts. During this course, students will begin reading the books of 1 John and 2 John.

GRE 485 Greek 5 (1 credit) – In Greek 5, the final grammatical structures that students need to read biblical Greek will be introduced. By the end of this course, students will have mastered participles and various uses of the infinitive. Students will also be ready to read biblical texts on their own.

8.4 Bachelor of Theology

For an overall description of this bachelor's degree program, please see section 7.2.5. Each of the following courses must be taken to complete the Bachelor of Theology program. Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth 3 credits. The list of courses below is categorized according to the five areas of instruction (see section 7.1.3): biblical theology, systematic theology, historical theology, practical theology, and missional theology.

8.4.1 Bachelor of Theology Courses: Biblical Theology

The Biblical Theology curriculum faithfully examines the Old and New Testaments. It pays close attention to the intention of the original authors who revealed in their inspired writings the expectation and coming of Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient Savior.

BIB 311 Old Testament: The Books of Moses – This course studies God's revelation of himself and of his plan of salvation in the first five books of the Bible, which are foundational for understanding the rest of Scripture. These books explain the origin of the universe, of

humanity, of sin, and of the promise of the Savior; they recount that God provided more details about this promise to the patriarchs and to his Old Testament people Israel; and they show that God protected and separated them so that the Savior could eventually come for us. Students will demonstrate that these books center on Christ and teach God's grace, appreciating the axiom "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is made clear by the New." They will also become familiar with the laws that God gave through Moses and distinguish whether they are binding for all people of all time. In addition, they will become more confident about their grasp of the outlines and background information of these books and of the meaning of individual passages.

BIB 312 Old Testament: The Former and Latter Prophets – This course studies God's revelation of himself and of his plan of salvation from the entrance into the Promised Land until the re-entrance into the Promised Land after the exile. This is the majority of the Old Testament – 26 books – and they show that God was faithful to his covenant, that he sent his Word through the prophets, and that he provided more and more details about the Messiah who was coming. Students will demonstrate that these books center on Christ and teach God's grace, appreciating the axiom "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is made clear by the New." They will also summarize the general flow of the history of Old Testament Israel, as well as describe common themes in the prophets' messages. In addition, they will become more confident about their grasp of the outlines and background information of these books and of the meaning of individual passages.

BIB 313 Old Testament: Poetry – This course studies God's revelation of himself and of his plan of salvation in Israel's standalone poetry and wisdom literature (that is, the parts of the Old Testament that are neither books of history nor books of prophecy – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations). These books are key for expressing trust and praise towards God, for understanding what he is like and what humans are like and what the Messiah is like, and for living our everyday lives in gratitude to him and in service to our neighbor. Students will demonstrate that these books center on Christ and teach God's grace, appreciating the axiom "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is made clear by the New." They will also summarize the characteristics of Old Testament poetry, as well as interact with scholarship on major theological themes in these books. In addition, they will become more confident about their grasp of the outlines and background information of these books and of the meaning of individual passages.

BIB 314 New Testament: The Four Gospels – In this course, students will study the four Gospels in depth. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify the isagogic information of each Gospel and understand what makes each unique. During this course, the benefits and dangers of the historical-critical methods of Gospel research will be examined and explained. Additionally, literary features of the Gospels will be explored to deepen students' comprehension of specific passages, enhancing their overall study of the Gospels.

BIB 315 New Testament: Acts and the Pauline Epistles – This course will provide an isagogical overview of a significant portion of the New Testament, beginning with Acts and continuing with the epistles (letters) that the apostle Paul wrote. The background information for each of these books will be examined, so as to provide a clearer picture of the early church in New Testament times. Major themes in Paul's letters will also be explored.

BIB 316 New Testament: Non-Pauline Epistles and Revelation – In this course, students will learn about the General Epistles (letters) in the New Testament. The content of each letter, including features that are unique to each letter, will be studied in depth. Students will understand the historical background of each letter, such as the author, date, and purpose of

writing. They will also be able to explain difficult passages within these letters. Additionally, students will express biblical truths and apply them to their own lives and the lives of others. Finally, they will appreciate the connections between these letters and the rest of the Bible.

BIB 411 Introduction to Biblical Interpretation – In this course, students will gain a grasp of the whole picture of hermeneutics. Included are brief introductions to Canon History, the Historical-Grammatical Interpretation Method, the History of Biblical Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. This course will help students understand the importance of the Bible and its interpretation in their Christian faith and practice.

BIB 412 Isaiah: The Fifth Gospel – This book studies in depth the content and significance of a key Old Testament book: the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. For the benefit of each reader's personal faith, this book proclaims the realities of human sin and God's grace, and provides Isaiah's crucial, divinely inspired prophecies about the Messiah and the church. Students will appreciate Isaiah as a master poet and will search out the meaning of the whole book and of its individual sections. They will also show a basic familiarity with the history of interpretation of the book and with a few issues in current scholarship. In addition, they will describe where the content of this book fits in the history of God's people and will explain Isaiah's use of other parts of the Bible, as well as other Bible books' use of Isaiah.

BIB 413 Romans: Daily Bread of the Soul – Luther called the book of Romans “daily bread for the soul.”¹ Not only was this book essential in sparking the Reformation, but as Luther points out, the truths in Romans are essential for all Christians to meditate on daily. In this course, we will thoroughly study each chapter of Romans, mining the depths of this wonderful letter.

8.4.2 Bachelor of Theology Courses: Systematic Theology

The Systematic Theology curriculum presents an orderly and thorough study of God's plan for redeeming the world through faith in Christ Jesus. The biblical doctrines are presented over a series of courses, with the goal that students will learn to comprehend the truth of God in an organized fashion, so that they can, in turn, communicate it to others clearly and completely.

SYS 431 Prolegomena and Theology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of two areas – *prolegomena*, that is, the foundational overview to the study of biblical doctrines, and *theology*, that is, in a strict sense, the study of God. In this course, students will grow in their understanding of God's Word as the foundation of every part of our doctrine. The student will study God's essence, his attributes, and his work as our Triune God. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 432 Anthropology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *anthropology*, that is, in a theological sense, the study of mankind as the object of salvation. In this course, students will grow in their understanding of the following topics: creation, the false teaching of evolution, God's providence, angels, mankind, and sin. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

¹ Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works, Vol. 35: Word and Sacrament I*. Ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann. Vol. 35. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999. Print.

SYS 433 Christology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *Christology*, that is, the study of the person and work of Christ. Through this course, students will grow in their understanding of God's grace to humanity, which is expressed through the person of Christ and his work of salvation. This study will cover the person of Christ as true God and true man, the communication of attributes, Christ's states of humiliation and exaltation, and the threefold office of Christ. Further, specific applications and common errors in each of these areas will be discussed. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 434 Soteriology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *soteriology*, that is, the study of the topic of salvation itself, the result of Christ's work. Students will study the topics of faith, conversion, and election, learning to apply these teachings accurately and to respond to common errors. In the second half of the course, students will grow in their understanding of the means through which God works to apply salvation to us – his “Means of Grace”. This will review what has been learned in other courses concerning the Word of God and will provide an in-depth study of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 435 Ecclesiology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *ecclesiology*, that is, the study of the church. Students will study the results of Christ's work of salvation in the life of Christians. Specifically, this course will cover the topic of “Sanctification” and the related topics of good works, adiaphora, prayer, and cross-bearing. Students will also explore, from a theological and practical perspective, the topics of the church, the ministry of the church, and church fellowship. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 436 Eschatology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *eschatology*, that is, the study of the end times. From a broad perspective, the end times include all that happens between Christ's ascension and his return. This course will first explore three key aspects of the Christian's life in this world before Christ's return: the relationship and distinction between church and state, the life of Christians regarding marriage and family, and the marks and identification of the Antichrist. The course will then delve into the specific study of the end times. This will include studying the signs of the end times, the scriptural understanding of the millennium, and Christ's return and eternal reign. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

8.4.3 Bachelor of Theology Courses: Historical Theology

The Historical Theology curriculum surveys the historical record of the believers who have gone before us. It helps us to learn, from their lives and their testimony, that God graciously preserves and extends his church by means of his unconditional gospel.

HIS 321 Church History to A.D. 1400 – This course covers church history from the period of the apostles up until about A.D. 1400, which includes the ancient and medieval periods. It covers information and concepts related to some main church fathers, some main heresies, the spread of the church, church organization, and developments in the worship life of the

church. Through these lectures, students will gain a more in-depth understanding and a more complete picture of the development of the church in the first 1400 years after Christ.

HIS 322 The Reformation – Reformation, from the Latin word *reformatio*, carries the meaning of restoration back to the true and unchanging original form. Such were the religious reforms that took place in the Western church in the sixteenth century. The starting point of the Reformation is generally considered to be the time when Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in Wittenberg. What distinguished Martin Luther from previous reformers who criticized corruption in the life of the church was that he went to the theological root of the issue, so as to preserve the doctrines of grace and salvation. In this course, the origins and development of the history of the Reformation are focused on, illustrating this scene of Christianity's restoration.

HIS 323 Modern Christianity – This course surveys the development of Christianity in the Western world from the Enlightenment to the present. It examines major movements such as liberalism, evangelicalism, fundamentalism, and the ecumenical movement. Students will analyze key figures, theological trends, and the ongoing challenges facing the church today.

HIS 421 Book of Concord: The Ecumenical Creeds – This course studies the historical background and doctrinal content of the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. These three creeds proclaim the biblical truth that the Christian church has always believed, and they defend it against opposing doctrines that appeared in the early church and may still appear again in our times. Students will gain a clear comprehension of the meaning of the various lines of these creeds in their historical context. They will also recognize the dangers that the false teachings, which are denied in the three creeds, pose to the Christian faith. In addition, they will thank the Holy Spirit for moving believers to proclaim and defend his teachings, so that the church may continue to have God's truth now and in the future.

HIS 422 Book of Concord: The Augsburg Confession and Its Apology – This course will study these two Reformation-era documents that define what it means to be Lutheran. The Augsburg Confession and its Apology neither seek to prove nor to clarify the mysteries of the Christian faith in a rational way but rather set forth in great precision what Scripture does say and does not say – in interplay with what other Christian groups were saying at that time and still do today. Students will get to know the chief concepts of the Christian faith that are confessed in the Augsburg Confession and its Apology, and thus gain a more precise understanding of doctrine. They will also see more fully from the history of the Reformation era that doctrinal aberration often comes from accommodation with or concession to human reason. In addition, they will perceive that, while doctrinal concession and compromise undermine and destroy the unity of the church, biblical truth unites the church.

HIS 423 Book of Concord: Luther's Large and Small Catechisms – This course studies Luther's two catechisms and their role as key resources for the maturation of the church. These two catechisms present the foundational content of the Christian faith in a way that is designed to build up both clergy and laypeople. Students will grow in appreciation for the fact that the purpose of these two catechisms is to summarize in a simple way the doctrine of Scripture and to educate people in it effectively. They will also glimpse the heart and mind of Luther the reformer in his historical context. In addition, they will apply the teaching of these two catechisms to their own service to God's people and to the home life of their own family and the Christian families around them.

8.4.4 Bachelor of Theology Courses: Practical Theology

The Practical Theology curriculum nurtures students to be competent ministers in the church, making use of the Means of Grace to show people God's love, teach, equip, and comfort them.

PAS 341 Understanding and Leading Worship (2 credits) – This course focuses on exploring the definition, objectives, content, and significance of worship. Guided by biblical teachings on worship, students will delve into the principles and elements that constitute Christian worship. In this course, students will gain a clear and comprehensive understanding of worship, appreciate its historical practices and importance, develop an informed appreciation for Lutheran worship traditions, and acquire the necessary skills to design appropriate worship rites that are tailored to their congregational contexts.

PAS 342 Counseling (2 credits) – This course introduces the basic principles and techniques of a Christian approach to counseling, based on the application of God's law and God's gospel. Through this course, students will grow in their understanding of themselves and their relationship to Christ, as well as in their compassion for fellow human beings. Students will understand the unique role and the unique tools of the Christian counselor, will become familiar with techniques for achieving gospel resolution, and will be able to recognize circumstances that call for the integrated application of God's law and God's gospel.

PAS 343 Teaching (2 credits) – When we read the Bible, we can find various pieces of information and historical stories. But the Bible is certainly not just information; it is God's Word. Through all this information and these real stories, we receive God's message. The purpose of this course is to demonstrate how to receive God's message from this God-breathed information, thus equipping students to spread the gospel and teach the Bible.

PAS 441 Introduction to the Life of a Shepherd (2 credits) – This course invites students to cultivate godly habits and develop practical wisdom necessary for nurturing the spiritual well-being of those entrusted to their care. Through a re-examination of the role of a shepherd and its associated responsibilities, students will be reminded of the essential calling of public gospel ministry and will learn to provide effective shepherding care. After completing this course, students will be able to establish a personal devotional life, provide foundational shepherding care for individuals in diverse life circumstances, identify and overcome common challenges faced by shepherds in ministry, and engage with a mentor for regular guidance and support.

PAS 442 Stewardship (2 credits) – This course is designed to explore the biblical concept of stewardship and its application to financial management, Christian giving, and cultural engagement. Upon completion of this course, students will gain an appreciation for stewardship as the principled practice of responsibly managing and utilizing the resources entrusted to them by God – such as time, talents, finances, and other gifts – in ways that honor him and benefit others. With a mindset rooted in gratitude and in our belonging to Christ, students will be equipped to foster a culture of generosity, develop and enhance stewardship ministries, and guide congregations in embracing stewardship as an integral part of their Christian lifestyle.

PAS 443 Homiletics 1 (2 credits) – This homiletics course is an introductory program designed to give students an understanding of the broader picture of homiletics. It focuses on expository preaching, including the following elements: learning how to use God's law and God's gospel to prepare sermons, discussing how to effectively use examples, considering

how to preach the message of Christ's cross, and practicing some preaching techniques. Through this course, students will gain a basic grasp of the elements of preaching and understand the significance of expository preaching for Christian faith and practice. This course will focus on passages from the Gospels and the Pauline letters.

PAS 444 Homiletics 2 (2 credits) – This homiletics course is an introductory program designed to give students an understanding of the broader picture of homiletics. It focuses on expository preaching, including the following elements: learning how to use God's law and God's gospel to prepare sermons, discussing how to effectively use examples, considering how to preach the message of Christ's cross, and practicing some preaching techniques. Through this course, students will gain a basic grasp of the elements of preaching and understand the significance of expository preaching for Christian faith and practice. This course will focus on passages from the Old Testament, both narrative books and prophetic books.

8.4.5 Bachelor of Theology Courses: Missional Theology

The Missional Theology curriculum equips students to bring the good news of Jesus Christ as humanity's only Savior to people who have not yet heard God's truth – whether near to home and within their own culture or elsewhere in God's world.

MIS 451 Paul the Missionary – This course includes a careful study of the Book of Acts to understand the life of Paul as a missionary and his role in the early church. The mission methodologies and strategies of Paul are discussed to review their influence on missions today. The details of Paul's missionary routes will help students gain a deeper understanding of church planting and the spread of the gospel at that time.

MIS 452 Introduction to Lutheran Missiology – This course introduces missiology as a theological discipline and helps students understand it from a Confessional Lutheran perspective. Throughout this course, students will grow in their appreciation of the freedom, gospel-centered nature, and gospel motivation that characterize Confessional Lutheran missiology. By the end of this course, students will feel motivated to carry out God's mission in their own lives and will be able to infuse mission DNA into their local church and its local leaders, for the sake of reaching out, evangelizing the lost, and planting churches.

8.4.6 Bachelor of Theology Courses: An Auxiliary Course

Although strictly speaking, it is not part of the five areas of instruction at ALS, the following course is included in the Bachelor of Theology curriculum for its auxiliary value. Its goal is to help equip students complete the Bachelor of Theology coursework and better serve others as they guide important conversations in the church and in their personal lives.

RES 361 Essay Writing and Skills – This course serves as a training workshop for bachelor's level students to grow in their abilities to write in an organized and thoughtful way. It includes discussions about various topics related to writing, such as forming a thesis statement, constructing paragraphs that share helpful details and analysis to provide logical support for the thesis statement, making beneficial use of references, and so on. The aim is to provide a practical learning process for bachelor-level students as they carry out their coursework and serve the church.

8.5 Master of Arts in Religion and Master of Divinity

For an overall description of these two master's degree programs, please see sections 7.2.6 and 7.2.7. While the entire list of courses below is required for the Master of Divinity degree, only courses marked with an asterisk (*) are required for the Master of Arts in Religion degree. The remaining credits for the Master of Arts in Religion degree will also consist of courses on this list, but specific course selections must be made in consultation with the ALS academic administration, so that appropriate paths can be found for each student's individual situation.

Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth 3 credits. The list of courses below is categorized according to the five areas of instruction (see section 7.1.3): biblical theology, systematic theology, historical theology, practical theology, and missional theology. The Master of Divinity courses in Hebrew and Greek exegesis are listed as subcategories of biblical theology.

8.5.1 Master's Level Courses: Biblical Theology

The Biblical Theology curriculum faithfully examines the Old and New Testaments. It pays close attention to the intention of the original authors who revealed in their inspired writings the expectation and coming of Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient Savior.

***BIB 511 Hermeneutics: Canon History** (1.5 credits) – The teaching of hermeneutics at ALS is divided into four areas: Canon History, Historical-Grammatical Interpretation, the History of Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. These areas are closely interrelated, and the goal of these courses is to provide comprehensive training for students in Lutheran biblical interpretation skills. The Canon History course covers historical information and discussions about the formation of the biblical canon, including both the Old Testament and New Testament. Topics studied include: the Apocrypha, translations of the Bible, and how the biblical canon was preserved.

***BIB 512 Hermeneutics: Historical-Grammatical Interpretation** (1.5 credits) – The teaching of hermeneutics at ALS is divided into four areas: Canon History, Historical-Grammatical Interpretation, the History of Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. These areas are closely interrelated, and the goal of these courses is to provide comprehensive training for students in Lutheran biblical interpretation skills. The Historical-Grammatical Interpretation course covers principles for reading the Bible, as well as methods for conducting historical-grammatical interpretation step-by-step. It highlights using a principal Lutheran doctrine, Law and Gospel, to help us organize and analyze the messages that we are interpreting. At the same time, it also emphasizes that the various biblical messages are in harmony, thus demonstrating the principle of *sola scriptura*.

***BIB 513 Hermeneutics: The History of Biblical Interpretation** (2 credits) – The teaching of hermeneutics at ALS is divided into four areas: Canon History, Historical-Grammatical Interpretation, the History of Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. These areas are closely interrelated, and the goal of these courses is to provide comprehensive training for students in Lutheran biblical interpretation skills. The History of Biblical Interpretation course provides students with a deeper understanding of different types of biblical interpretation that have been used – from the patristic period to the Middle Ages, to the Reformation period, to Modern interpretation, and to the Postmodern understanding of Scripture. It aims to help students affirm the importance of proper biblical interpretation, as well as recognize the errors caused in doctrine and practice by some improper methods of interpretation.

BIB 514 Hermeneutics: Textual Criticism (1 credit) – The teaching of hermeneutics at ALS is divided into four areas: Canon History, Historical-Grammatical Interpretation, the History of Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. These areas are closely interrelated, and the goal of these courses is to provide comprehensive training for students in Lutheran biblical interpretation skills. The Textual Criticism course provides students with an introduction to textual criticism in both the Old Testament and New Testament, while holding on to the doctrines of the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture. This course includes teaching about biblical manuscripts' text types, writing mediums, naming, and dates. Discussions on variants from different manuscripts are conducted. The history of textual criticism will be briefly reviewed. Through the workshop sessions in this course, students can expect to gain a more in-depth understanding about the topic of textual criticism.

Hebrew Exegesis Sub-Category:

HEB 571 Hebrew Exegesis: Genesis – This course studies, in detail, portions of the Hebrew text of the first book of the Old Testament: God's revelation concerning the early history of his saving activity. It includes the LORD's dealings with the entire human race from his creation to the worldwide Flood and then also his promises to and training of Abraham, the father of the Old Testament chosen people and our father in faith. Students will gain a thorough comprehension of the portions of Genesis that we study exegetically in Hebrew (about one third of the book). They will also increase the speed with which they can read and comprehend a Hebrew narrative, expand their grammatical recognition and working vocabulary, and become familiar with some reference works for Hebrew exegesis. In addition, they will explore some topics regarding the book of Genesis that have deep significance for our Christian faith.

HEB 572 Hebrew Exegesis: Psalms – This course studies, in detail, portions of the Hebrew text of this Old Testament book of prayer, praise, teaching, and thanksgiving. This book has played a key role in the life of believers, both before and after the coming of the Messiah, and serves as a crossroads for the rest of Scripture. Students will gain a thorough comprehension of the portions of Psalms that we study exegetically in Hebrew (about 30 psalms, or one fifth of the book). They will also increase the speed with which they can read and comprehend Hebrew poetry, expand their grammatical recognition and working vocabulary, and become familiar with some additional reference works for Hebrew exegesis. In addition, they will explore some topics regarding the book of Psalms that have deep significance for our Christian faith.

HEB 573 Hebrew Exegesis: Jeremiah – This course studies, in detail, portions of the Hebrew text of this major Old Testament prophet. This book places before our eyes the crosses and deep sorrow that often come to messengers who bring God's Word to others, and yet it also comforts us with the promise of Christ, the Righteous Branch of David, who is the LORD our Righteousness. Students will gain a thorough comprehension of the portions of Jeremiah that we study exegetically in Hebrew (about one fourth of the book). They will also increase the speed with which they can read and comprehend prophetic narrative and poetry in Hebrew, expand their grammatical recognition and working vocabulary, and become familiar with some additional reference works for Hebrew exegesis. In addition, they will explore some topics regarding the book of Jeremiah that have deep significance for our Christian faith.

Greek Exegesis Sub-Category:

GRE 581 Greek Exegesis: The Gospel of John – In this course, students will master the outline and themes of the Gospel of John. They will strengthen their ability to read New Testament Greek and will practice exegesis techniques using the original text. Additionally, students will deepen their understanding of the Savior and God’s plan of redemption.

GRE 582 Greek Exegesis: Galatians – In this course, students will master the Greek of the book of Galatians. By the end of the course, students will have translated Galatians into their native language. In addition to historical matters, the key theological themes in Galatians will be discussed.

GRE 583 Greek Exegesis: 1 Corinthians – First Corinthians is a beautiful letter filled with great theological truths. In this course, students will examine 1 Corinthians in its original Greek. Time will be spent dealing with translation and exegetical issues. By the end of the course, students will have read through all of 1 Corinthians in Greek and translated large portions of the text.

8.5.2 Master’s Level Courses: Systematic Theology

The systematic theology curriculum presents an orderly and thorough study of God’s plan for redeeming the world through faith in Christ Jesus. The biblical doctrines are presented over a series of courses, with the goal that students will learn to comprehend the truth of God in an organized fashion, so that they can, in turn, communicate it to others clearly and completely.

SYS 531 Advanced Systematic Theology 1 – This course builds directly on the foundational studies from the bachelor's level, diving deeper into the doctrines of theology, anthropology, and Christology. Students will go beyond the basics to critically analyze various doctrinal claims from a scriptural perspective. They will engage in advanced research and thoughtful discussions that will challenge them to think critically about these doctrines and their connections. Through this course, students will not only grow in their understanding of these concepts and their appreciation for these teachings but also be able to apply, articulate, and defend key biblical teachings in a clear, compelling, and loving way. Students who complete this course will be prepared to be a voice for Lutheran, scriptural theology in a world of complex contemporary theologies.

SYS 532 Advanced Systematic Theology 2 – This course builds directly on the foundational studies from the bachelor's level, diving deeper into the doctrines of soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. Students will go beyond the basics to critically analyze various doctrinal claims from a scriptural perspective. They will engage in advanced research and thoughtful discussions that will challenge them to think critically about these doctrines and their connections. Through this course, students will not only grow in their understanding of these concepts and their appreciation for these teachings, but also be able to apply, articulate, and defend key biblical teachings in a clear, compelling, and loving way. Students who complete this course will be prepared to be a voice for Lutheran, scriptural theology in a world of complex contemporary theologies.

8.5.3 Master’s Level Courses: Historical Theology

The Historical Theology curriculum surveys the historical record of the believers who have gone before us. It helps us to learn, from their lives and their testimony, that God graciously preserves and extends his church by means of his unconditional gospel.

HIS 521 Lutheranism since the Reformation – In the five centuries stretching from 1521 through the 2020s, the Lutheran church has spread from Electoral Saxony to the far reaches of the globe. There is a vast body of historical material that allows for the study of the Lutheran church in the centuries of its existence. The purpose of this course is to provide a brief survey of the history of Lutheranism. Through learning the history of Lutheranism, our goal is that we in the Lutheran church will be able to expound on who we are and how we came to be where we are today.

HIS 522 History of Christianity in the Student's Context – This course allows students to explore an overview of the development of Christianity in their context, from its earliest introductions to the present day. It examines key periods related to the arrival of Christianity, the progression of mission work, and the situation in the modern era. Special attention is given to the interaction between Christian teachings and culture, society, and politics. Students will explore major figures, movements, and challenges faced by the church in different historical contexts. Through lectures, readings, and discussions, students will gain a deeper understanding of Christianity's evolving role within the history of their context.

***HIS 523 Book of Concord: The Smalcald Articles** (2 credits) – This course studies Luther's Smalcald Articles, namely their doctrinal content and the general historical situation behind them. This document played a key role in uniting the Lutheran church, particularly over against the teachings of the Roman church. Students will grow in appreciation for the fact that Lutheran confessional writings are normed by Scripture and show the teaching of Scripture, while a basic feature of doctrinal aberration is concession to human reason. They will also appreciate the "mature" doctrine of Luther the reformer. In addition, they will apply the teaching of the Smalcald Articles to their own churches and ministries.

***HIS 524 Book of Concord: The Formula of Concord** – This course studies the last and most comprehensive of the Lutheran confessions: the Epitome and the Thorough Declaration of the Formula of Concord. This confession not only reunited a divided Lutheran church at the time of the 1580 Book of Concord, but it also, in subsequent history, preserved divine truth in the face of various subtle heresies. Students will grow in appreciation for the fact that Lutheran confessional writings are normed by Scripture and show the teaching of Scripture, while a basic feature of doctrinal aberration is concession to human reason. They will also contrast orthodox Lutheran teaching, especially with the thinking of false teachers who ostensibly stood within the Lutheran church. In addition, they will apply the teaching of the Formula of Concord to their own churches and ministries.

8.5.4 Master's Level Courses: Practical Theology

The Practical Theology curriculum nurtures students to be competent ministers in the church, making use of the Means of Grace to show people God's love, teach, equip, and comfort them.

PAS 541 The Pastoral Letters – This course is designed to provide students with an expository introduction to Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus in the New Testament, along with related matters such as date, authorship, occasion, and purpose. It also emphasizes the thematic application of the key principles that are found in these letters. Through this course, students will be able to: (1) identify and understand the qualifications, duties, responsibilities, and attitudes that God has established for the office of the public ministry; (2) gain deeper insights into the things that Paul emphasizes in his instructions; and (3) explore and determine various ways in which the content of the Pastoral Letters can be applied in contemporary contexts.

PAS 542 Church Leadership and Administration (2 credits) – This course is designed to examine the models of church and ministry that are presented in the Bible, drawing on leaders who appear in the Bible as exemplars. It encourages critical reflection and discussion – rooted in Christ’s cross – on current leadership theories, as well as on related themes such as challenges, vision, goals, and decision-making. Through this course, students will be equipped to comprehend and apply biblically grounded principles and theories of church leadership and management within specific ministerial contexts. They will also be prepared to guide the church and God’s people to align their focus with God’s mission, thereby maximizing the fulfillment of this mission.

8.5.5 Master’s Level Courses: Missional Theology

The Missional Theology curriculum equips students to bring the good news of Jesus Christ as humanity’s only Savior to people who have not yet heard God’s truth – whether near to home and within their own culture or elsewhere in God’s world.

MIS 551 History of Missions – This course includes historical information and discussions about mission work in Christianity from the time of Jesus up to the postmodern era. It will discuss the influence of various cultural movements, in different periods, on the methods of doing mission work. Based on this historical perspective, students are expected to rethink the meaning of mission work and its relationship to Lutheran theology.

MIS 552 Leading Gospel-Mission Movements (2 credits) – This course reviews Confessional Lutheran missiology and trains students in how to serve as a leader of a Confessional Lutheran mission movement. Students will learn how to shepherd other shepherds, how to lead other leaders, and how to keep the eyes of everyone on the Great Commission. Students will learn how to help their movement continue to strengthen its theological foundations, while also broadening their reach through national church planting and international missions.

8.5.6 Master’s Level Courses: Auxiliary Course and Thesis

Although strictly speaking, the first course below is not part of the five areas of instruction at ALS, it is included in the master’s level curriculum for its auxiliary value. The goal of the thesis writing course is to equip the students with the skills necessary to complete their theses, which will encourage them to develop into thoughtful leaders serving in the church and thoughtful individuals in their personal lives. The thesis itself is a key part of the master’s level curriculum, since it provides students with an opportunity to further develop and demonstrate mature theological thinking. Students in the Master of Arts in Religion program are expected to complete a 3-credit thesis, while students in the Master of Divinity program are expected to complete a 6-credit thesis.

***RES 561 Thesis Writing** – This course serves as a training workshop for master’s-level students to write their final thesis. This workshop includes discussions about various topics related to research and writing, such as the research question/topic, research methodology, finding sources, and source citation. The aim is to provide a practical learning process for master’s-level students before they begin to write their thesis.

***THE 591 Master’s Thesis** (M.A.R., 3 credits) – An in-depth study of a theological topic approved by the faculty, selected from one of the five areas of theological study offered at ALS. Approved topics may also be interdisciplinary, integrating multiple areas of theology.

Students pursuing the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) degree at ALS are required to complete this thesis under the guidance of a thesis advisor.

THE 592 Master's Thesis (M.Div., 6 credits) – An in-depth study of a theological topic approved by the faculty, selected from one of the five areas of theological study offered at ALS. Approved topics may also be interdisciplinary, integrating multiple areas of theology. Students pursuing the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree at ALS are required to complete this thesis under the guidance of a thesis advisor.

9. CHARGES, FINANCIAL AID, AND DISCOUNTS

9.1 Tuition and Fees

The following system of fees and charges has been approved for the 2025-2026 school year.

9.1.1 Tuition Fees

D.C.S./B.Th. /Single subject	HKD 790 per credit
M.A.R./M.Div.	HKD 910 per credit
Audit Student	HKD 310 per credit

9.1.2 Administration Fees

Administration fee for non-program students	HKD 110 per semester
Enrollment fee for program students	HKD 110 one time
Late charges (exceeding deadline)	HKD 220 per semester

9.1.3 Discounts

Students may qualify for only one of the following discounts:

Program Student	20% discount
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9.1.4 Examples

Student A (D.C.M./B.Th. student): $\text{HKD } 790 \times 3 \text{ credits} \times 20\% = \text{HKD } 1896$

Student B (M.Div.): $\text{HKD } 910 \times 3 \text{ credits} \times 20\% = \text{HKD } 2184$

Student C (Single subject): $\text{HKD } 790 \times 3 \text{ credits} + \text{HKD } 110 \text{ (Admin. Fee)} = \text{HKD } 2480$

9.2 Grants

Limited scholarships and grants are available from ALS for full-time students preparing for full-time work in the Lutheran church. Application information can be obtained from the ALS office.

9.3 Refunds

ALS will refund 100% of tuition costs to students within a month if a course must be cancelled at any time. Students will also receive a full refund if they drop a course before the class meets for the first time. Students will receive a 50% refund if they drop the course before the third class. If, however, a student has outstanding financial obligations to ALS, the refund will be applied to his/her account.

9.4 Students with Unpaid Accounts

Any students with unpaid financial obligations from any preceding semesters will not be permitted to register for classes for a new semester without special permission from the academic dean. ALS will also not allow a student with an unpaid account to graduate, receive a diploma or degree, or receive an official transcript.

10. SEMINARY CALENDAR

September 2025 – January 2026 Fall Semester

February 2026 – May 2026 Spring Semester

August 30, 2026, Semester opening Worship