

CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Lay ministry callings in the ministry and mission of the church rely on strong leadership, biblical knowledge, and practical ministry skills.

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

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

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

Program Outcomes

- A. Interpret and apply the Bible with a Christ-centered focus.
- B. Demonstrate skills for the doing of ministry in a chosen emphasis (Lay Ministry, Bible & Theology, or Mission).
- C. Exhibit attitudes characteristic of servant leaders in local and global mission.

General Education Prerequisites for the Certificate in Theological Studies (32 credits)

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

Communications (6 credits)

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| Speech | 3 credits |
| English Composition | 3 credits |

Behavioral/Social Science (12 credits)

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| Western Civilization, I, II | 6 credits |
| General Psychology | 3 credits |
| Introduction to Sociology | 3 credits |

Humanities/Fine Arts (11 credits)

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| Introduction to Philosophy | 3 credits |
| Literature | 3 credits |
| Humanities Electives | 5 credits |

Natural Science/Math

| | |
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| | 3 credits |
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Total General Education Prerequisites

32 credits

The Certificate in Theological Studies is granted to students who have completed the 32 credits of general education prerequisites prescribed above, plus an additional 30 credits (11 core required credits, 19 credits in electives) as outlined in the CTS program of study.

One-year plan for students starting during the 2024-2025 Academic Year

CTS Program of Study

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

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|--------|--|---|
| PT 900 | Introduction to Seminary Education | 1 |
| EB 635 | New Testament Introduction I | 2 |
| EB 636 | New Testament Introduction II | 2 |
| EB 611 | Torah & Covenant History | 3 |
| HT XXX | At least one course in Historical Theology | 3 |
| ST XXX | At least one course in Systematic Theology | 3 |

In addition to the above core requirements, students will complete the program with electives from other courses listed in the spring and fall schedule. (See the 2024-2025 Tentative Course Offerings. For other course options in the catalog that are not in the Fall/Spring schedule, consult with your assigned faculty advisor or the Registrar.) **16 credits (see below)**

CTS Emphases Descriptions

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Bible & Theology

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

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Missions

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

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Lay Ministry

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

