

DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The Diploma in Christian Ministry (DCM) is a non-degree program of study in theology which prepares men to serve in an ordained role within the Church of the Lutheran Brethren or in other church bodies and mission organizations. It is designed for students who have completed at least 32 general education credits but do not have a bachelor's degree. The student will follow the same course of study as prescribed for the Master of Divinity degree. The DCM is granted to seminary students upon the completion of the following academic requirements and upon the approval of the Dean of the Seminary and the Office of the Registrar.

Should a graduate of the LBS Diploma in Christian Ministry ever subsequently complete an accredited college bachelor's degree, the Diploma may be exchanged for either an MTS or MDiv degree, upon the recommendation of the Dean of the Seminary and the Office of the Registrar, provided that: 1.) Diploma credits have not been used in another degree program; and 2.) All of the academic requirements stipulated in the current LBS catalog for those degrees are satisfied.

Program Outcomes

- A. Interpret the Bible in its parts and in its whole through use of its original languages and appropriate exegetical and hermeneutical methods.
- B. Articulate and apply the doctrinal teachings as set forth in the Scriptures and confessed in the CLB Statement of Faith.
- C. Proclaim God's saving work in Jesus Christ through the public and private ministries of the Word and Sacrament.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge and skills for leading congregations.
- E. Demonstrate capacity for faithful involvement in God's mission through His Church.
- F. Demonstrate personal integrity and love for God, His Church, and the world.

General Education Prerequisites for the Diploma in Christian Ministry (32 credits)

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

Communications (6 credits)

Speech	3 credits
English Composition	3 credits

Behavioral/Social Science (12 credits)

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

Humanities/Fine Arts (11 credits)

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

Natural Science/Math

3 credits

Total General Education Prerequisites

32 credits

In addition, 90 Seminary credits are required. The Diploma in Christian Ministry will be granted to students who have completed the 32 credits of prescribed general education prerequisites plus the 90 required credits outlined in the Seminary Diploma in Christian Ministry program of study.

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

Seminary Year 1

PT 900 Introduction to Seminary Education 1

Total Credit 1

Fall

EB 635 New Testament Introduction I 2
HT 715 Church History 3
OT 601 Beginning Biblical Hebrew 4
PT 912 Supervised Ministry Education 1
WM 757 World Religions & New Religious Movements 3

Total Credits 13

Spring

EB 611 Torah & Covenant History 3
EB 636 New Testament Introduction II 2
HT 722 Survey of American Christianity 3
OT 602 Intro to Hebrew Exegesis 3
PT 901 Homiletics 3
PT 913 Supervised Ministry Experience 1

Total Credits 15

Seminary Year 2

Fall

EB 612 Old Testament Prophets 3
NT 601 New Testament Greek I 3
PT 903 Preaching Lab 1
PT 908 Pastoral Theology 3
PT 914 Supervised Ministry Education 1
ST 821 Systematic Theology I 3

Total credits 14

Spring

EB 613 OT Poetry & Wisdom 3
NT 602 New Testament Greek II 3
PT 915 Supervised Ministry Education 1
ST 822 Systematic Theology II 3
WM 755 Cross Cultural Communication 3
ELEC Directed Study 1

Total credits 14

Seminary Year 3

Fall

NT 605 Exegesis of a Gospel 3
PT 905 Preaching Lab 1
PT 907 Spiritual Care 3
ST 823 Systematic Theology III 3
WM 751 The Church in Mission 3
ELEC Directed Study 1

Total credits 14

Spring

NT 636 Exegesis of Galatians 3
PT 932 Theology & Practice of Evangelism 3
PT 965 Personal Wellness in Ministry 3
ST 824 Systematic Theology Capstone 1
ST 836 Ethics 3

Total credits 13

Biennial Courses

Offered every other year

PT 911 Teaching ministry of the Congregation 2
PT 920 Worship 2
PT 909 Leadership in Ministry 2

Offered:

Spring 2025
Fall 2025
Spring 2026

Total required credits 90

