

The Master of Sacred Theology (STM) Program At United Lutheran Seminary

The Master of Sacred Theology (STM) is an advanced academic degree that enables candidates to continue their studies beyond a basic level degree in divinity. Admission requires the completion of a first professional degree (M.Div. or other first graduate theological degree that provides equivalent theological background) with a GPA of 3.0 or above and an aptitude for theological study at an advanced level.

PURPOSE

The STM degree provides a fuller mastery of one area or discipline than is normally provided at the basic degree level of theological study.

STM students will:

- Develop an advanced understanding of a focused area or discipline in the context of general theological study
- Use research methods and resources within the discipline
- Develop the ability to formulate productive questions
- Express their learnings in clearly articulated written and oral forms of expression
- Engage in scholarly conversations with their peers in advanced programs.

Candidates pursue the degree for a variety of reasons: as a preparation for further study at the Ph.D. level; as a preparation for teaching; for the scholarly enhancement of ministerial practice; or for disciplined reflection on a specialized function of ministry.

Options for Study

- **Major.** Each student in the STM program will be exposed to various disciplines, but will also choose one major field for deeper study. The Major Fields supported by ULS include Anglican Studies, Bible, Black Church Studies, Christian Education, Church History, Church and Society, Congregational Studies, Homiletics, Inter-faith Studies, Liturgy/Worship, Lutheran Studies, Pastoral Care, Theology, and World Christianity
- **Flexibility.** ULS offers residential, intensives, and distance learning courses. Up to four courses in the program may be done at other institutions that are accredited to offer advanced level degrees. ULS is a member of the Washington Theological Consortium, which includes many different ecumenical options.

Duration of the Program

The duration of the program will vary with each candidate depending on whether study is full-time or part-time, professional responsibilities, and the pace of progress toward the stated goals of the program. However, the program shall be completed in no less than one year and no more than six.

The STM consists of seven (7) advanced degree level courses (at ULS these would be STM/DMIN courses) plus a thesis. Details about transferring course credit can be found in the STM Manual.

TYPLICAL PROGRAM

STM (Thesis)

Fall Semester	January	Spring Semester	Summer
3 courses	1 course	3 courses Begin to plan and write thesis	Continue writing Thesis

Cost:

Currently ULS has been blessed with gifts that allow us to scholarship tuition of up to two courses a semester. For more information on financing your degree, please contact the Admissions office (below).

Admissions:

Admission is on a rolling basis throughout the year.

<p>For application material contact:</p> <p>Deacon Nancy Gable Interim Director of Admissions Phone: 717-338-3008 Email: ngable@uls.edu</p>	<p>For program information contact:</p> <p>The Rev. Dr. Allison deforest Director of Graduate School, Institutional Assessment, Distributed Learning and Co-op Programs and Adjunct Faculty Phone: 215-248-6347 Email: adeforest@uls.edu</p>
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