



# United Lutheran Seminary

## **GUIDELINES FOR United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) “AFFILIATES”**

1). The October 2019 ELCA Candidacy Manual notes affiliation is expected *at time of entrance* (see page 47). *Students must recognize that failure to affiliate at time of entrance may delay ELCA Internship.*

### **4.5.3.1 ELCA Seminary Affiliation**

**Affiliation assists a candidate in understanding the variety of ways ELCA seminaries, in collaboration with synods, have developed to fulfill the Lutheran learning and formation requirements. Affiliation assists candidates with:**

- 1. identifying an appropriate CPE program,**
- 2. identifying and receiving oversight of the required internship,**
- 3. selecting approved Lutheran learning and formation opportunities offered at an ELCA/ELCIC seminary, or at the non-ELCA seminary where a candidate is registered,**
- 4. facilitating the process for ELCA/ELCIC seminary faculty recommendation required at approval (Form D).**

**After being granted entrance by a Candidacy Committee and being admitted to an accredited non- ELCA seminary, the candidate works with a Candidacy Committee representative in consultation with the academic dean of the ELCA seminary of affiliation to complete the Candidate Plan and identify how the Lutheran learning and formation requirements will be met (Appendix D). A representative from the non-ELCA seminary may also be invited to participate in the development of the candidate plan.**

2). The Candidate Plan should be sent to the following people at ULS: The Dean, Registrar, Faculty-Advisor and Contextual Formation Office by the end of the first semester. *Failure to submit a Candidate Plan in a timely fashion may delay Endorsement and ELCA Internship.*

### **4.5.3.1 ELCA Seminary Affiliation**

**The Candidacy Committee may request the candidacy leadership manager to work with the candidate and appropriate seminary representatives to develop the plan, which can help the**

**Candidacy Committee, seminary, and candidate identify approximate timing for CPE, Endorsement, internship, and Approval. The completed plan becomes part of the candidate's file. The synod will send copies of the plan to the ELCA seminary of affiliation.**

3). Affiliated students are normally expected to take six courses at ULS in consultation with the Dean, faculty advisor or ULS Affiliate Liaison. (At most schools where the candidate anticipates earning a degree, financial aid can be used for enrollment for courses at ULS. Check with your financial aid officer and registrar). *It is strongly encouraged that most of these courses include residential intensives or residential courses at either the Gettysburg or Philadelphia campus.* (See Expectations/outcomes for Lutheran Learning and Formation below (From 2019 *ELCA Candidacy Manual*, p. 47).

#### **4.5.3.2 Outcomes for Lutheran Learning and Formation**

**The expectations and outcomes established for Lutheran learning and formation are:**

- 1. a solid grounding in the ELCA hermeneutical understanding of the Scriptures, systematic theology, and the Lutheran Confessions,**
- 2. the articulation of a Lutheran theological perspective through the study of theology, church history, Bible, worship, preaching, Christian education, pastoral care, and ethics,**
- 3. a holistic understanding of ministry in a Lutheran context, including the integrity and varieties of Lutheran worship,**
- 4. familiarity with policies and practices associated with ELCA polity, assignment, call, and mobility, and**
- 5. participation in current theological conversations within the ELCA, including establishing relationships with future colleagues characterized by mutual support and consolation, accountability, and a clear sense of shared mission.**

Such learning opportunities may include online courses and cohort groups offered by one of the ELCA seminaries.

**The Lutheran learning and formation guided by an ELCA seminary is a constitutional requirement of the ELCA and will normally not be waived (ELCA Constitution – 7.31.03.d).**

Candidates who choose to complete his or her Lutheran learning and formation requirements on the campus of an ELCA seminary and seeks an advanced degree during the time of residency will need to complete admission requirements at the ELCA seminary of affiliation.

4). If a student and/or Candidacy Committee seek a waiver of the Lutheran Formation requirement, it must be done *PRIOR* to Endorsement. The ULS representative on the Theological Review Panel must be a member of the faculty designated by the Dean (From 2019 *ELCA Candidacy Manual*, p. 48).

#### 4.5.3.3 Lutheran Formation Waiver

**Rarely** will a waiver of the ELCA seminary affiliation requirement be requested by a Candidacy Committee. However, in the event that a Candidacy Committee desires to explore the possibilities of a waiver of affiliation, the Candidacy Committee may seek advice from a **Theological Review Panel** (section 5.2.3) convened for this specific purpose. **To assist the Candidacy Committee and the panel in making an informed recommendation, the candidate will participate in an interview and provide academic papers and other written documents indicating that the Lutheran learning and formation outcomes listed above have been or will be fulfilled.** If a waiver is recommended by the panel and the Candidacy Committee affirms the recommendation, a written request for waiver is sent by the Candidacy Committee to the director for candidacy. The waiver request from the Candidacy Committee is vetted by a team of Domestic Mission candidacy staff, and a decision is reached and communicated in writing to the Candidacy Committee. **A request to waive the affiliation requirement must be made prior to Endorsement and does not alter the requirements for internship and a supervised clinical ministry experience.** Candidates for whom the ELCA seminary affiliation has been waived must still have a Form D completed in order to be approved and assigned.

#### **Pre-requisites to an ELCA Internship:**

1). Candidate Endorsement which includes recommendations for Internship (please note, if candidacy committee disapproves off-site supervision, we cannot guarantee internship placement). Especially note that the following items are required for Endorsement: *“Competence in core areas of theological study, such as Bible, theology and the Lutheran Confessions,” 2019 ELCA Candidacy Manual, pg. 57).*

*Please see the October 2019 ELCA Candidacy Manual, Appendix F, Guidelines for Internship, pages 92-96.*

2). Interview with the Director of Contextual Formation

3). Satisfactory completion of Twenty-four weeks of Ministerial Fieldwork or its equivalent as approved by Director of Contextual Formation (with special emphasis on competency to lead worship in a Lutheran Congregation).

4). Satisfactory completion of CPE

5). Completion of Professional Boundaries workshop

6). Completion of Anti-Racism/Cultural Sensitivity Training.

7). Student Internship Application must be received by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> in order to begin Internship the following year (normally in the Summer). *There can be no exceptions to this guideline.* In addition, Endorsement by the Candidacy Committee must occur by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> in order to participate in internship matching workshops for Internship the following year.