



## **The Master of Sacred Theology 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 (MDiv 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 advance 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. Examples of major areas of study are: New Testament, Old Testament, Reformation Studies, Lutheran Studies, Church History, Theology, Liturgics, Homiletics, Christian Education, or Pastoral Care.

STM students will:

- Develop an advanced understanding of a focused area or discipline in the context of general theology study
- Use research methods and resources within the discipline
- Develop the ability to formulate productive questions
- Clearly articulate their knowledge
- Engage in scholarly conversations with their peers

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.

### **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.

Prior advanced level courses can be used towards the STM provided that the courses have not been used for another degree and are not more than ten years old. If a student wishes to use courses more than ten years old, a petition must be made to the ULS faculty. Also, up to four advanced level program courses may be transferred from other accredited institutions.

## TYPICAL PROGRAM

### STM (Thesis)

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

### **Financial Aid**

**Financial Aid Application Priority Deadlines are June 30th for Fall and November 30th for Spring. Priority is given to students that submit their applications prior to these deadlines.**

United Lutheran Seminary is excited to announce scholarships for students enrolled in degree-seeking programs. These scholarships, in partnership with outside student support, ensure that qualifying degree-seeking students have their education fully funded. We encourage every student to apply for financial aid, and suggest that you do so at the same time you apply for admission.

**To be eligible for Institutional Financial Aid you must be ADMITTED by June 15th for Fall and November 15th for Spring.** You must apply for federal aid at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), and you must also complete the [Institutional Financial Aid Application](#) after you have been admitted and received a ULS email account. Otherwise you will receive notification of your financial aid package once you have completed the appropriate forms. For financial aid questions, call 215-248-6301 Monday – Friday (8:30am – 5:00pm) or email: [FinancialAid@uls.edu](mailto:FinancialAid@uls.edu)

### **Admissions:**

**Application Fee \$50.00 (Non-Refundable)**

**Fall Application Submission Deadline May 15th\***

**Spring Application Submission Deadline October 15th\***

*\*Completed application, fee, essay, transcripts, and references all must be received by the admissions office no later than **June 1st** for the Fall Semester and **November 1st** for the Spring Semester. It is wise to apply at least six months prior to your intended start date. After you begin the application process as new materials arrive you will be regularly notified of your application status by email.*

**Admissions decisions are made by June 15th for Fall and November 15th for Spring.**

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*For application material contact:*

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Director of Admissions  
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e-mail: [ngable@uls.edu](mailto:ngable@uls.edu)

*For program information contact:*

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