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3. Academic Programs

Types of Degrees

The Seminary offers five types of degree programs:

- Doctor of Ministry (36 hours)
The D.Min. is the highest degree awarded for vocational leaders who desire further study beyond the Master of Divinity.
- Master of Divinity (75 hours)
The M.Div. is the basic degree oriented toward ministry.
- Master of Arts (48 hours)
The M.A. degree is an academic degree focusing on theological studies with opportunity to specialize in a wide variety of ministry, theological and Biblical areas of study.
- Master of Religious Education (60 hours)
The M.R.E. is a professional degree preparing leaders for various educational ministries in churches and Christian institutions.
- Master of Arts in Counseling (60 hours)
The M.A.C. is a specialized degree equipping persons for leadership ministry in the area of pastoral care and counseling.

Specific requirements for each of these degree programs (and several certificate programs) are listed below.

Areas of Specialization Study for the M.Div. and M.A.

The Seminary offers a variety of areas of study that may be pursued as a specialization within the Master of Divinity or the Master of Arts programs. These areas of study, based in one of the Seminary's two fields, include:

Bible and Theology/Philosophy Field

BIBLE:

Biblical Languages
General Bible
New Testament
Old Testament

THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY:

Christian Apologetics
Church History/Historical
Theology
Church & Culture
Contemporary Christian
Theology
General Theology
Philosophy

Christian Ministries Field

General Ministry*
Preaching Ministry
Church Development
Christian Education
Leadership Studies
Worship Studies
Pastoral Care & Counseling
Intercultural Studies (Missions)
Bible Translation

*Master of Arts students who do not want to specialize in a particular area of study may pursue a "General Ministry" track allowing them to choose from a variety of areas.

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Lincoln Christian increasingly recognizes that, for vocational leaders, the D.Min. degree is becoming the desired next step for them beyond the M.Div. in a pursuit of lifelong learning. LCU's D.Min. program focuses on Leadership Ministry with specializations available in preaching, church/parachurch leadership, spiritual formation, and pastor care (a unique program in pastoral counseling targeted specifically toward pastors facing difficult issues in their personal and professional lives).

Students must meet all applicable Association of Theological Schools (ATS) standards in order to be admitted to the program, including a 3.0 GPA in their master's degree program.

Once admitted to the program, students must earn a grade of 2.67 or better in every class. Students receiving a grade lower than 2.67 in any D.Min. course will be required to retake that course. For graduation from the program the overall GPA must be at 3.0 or higher.

The purpose of the Doctor of Ministry program in Leadership Ministry is *to glorify God by nurturing and equipping servant leaders for a lifetime of increasingly effective ministry*. In order to accomplish this purpose, the Seminary has established the following six goals for all D.Min. students:

1. Demonstrate a more Biblically and theologically informed and integrated understanding of the nature and purpose of ministry.
2. Demonstrate an approach to ministry consistent with their understanding of the nature and purposes of ministry.
3. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary for a lifetime of ministerial research that is both self-directed and peer-influenced.
4. Demonstrate increased evidence of and commitment to personal spiritual growth.
5. Demonstrate increased effectiveness in their area of ministry specialization.
6. Contribute to the understanding and practice of ministry through the completion of a doctoral level, integrative ministry project.

The Doctor of Ministry Course Requirements

1. Core Courses (all specializations take these core classes)

DMIN 1001	Developing Skills for Effective Ministry Research	2
DMIN 1002	Developing a Devotionally Shaped Ministry <u>OR</u>	4
DMIN 1405	Christian Ministry and Formation	4
DMIN 1003	Developing a Biblically Grounded Ministry	4
DMIN 1004	Developing a Culturally Sensitive Ministry	4
DMIN 1005	Developing an Effective Ministry Research Project	2
DMIN 1090	DMin Project	4

2. Specialization Track Courses

Church/Parachurch Leadership Courses

DMIN 1101	Understanding the People You Lead	4
DMIN 1102	Empowering the People You Lead	4
DMIN 1103	Advancing the People You Lead	4
DMIN 1104	Specialized Study in Leadership ¹	4

2. Specialization Track Courses (cont.)

Pastor Care Courses

DMIN 1201	Integration of Theology & Psychology for Pastor Care	4
DMIN 1202	Clinical Conceptualization of Pastor Care	4
DMIN 1203	Intervention in Pastor Care	4
DMIN 1204	Clinical Practice of Pastor Care	4

Preaching Courses

DMIN 1301	Improving the Content of Your Preaching	4
DMIN 1302	Improving the Impact of Your Preaching	4
DMIN 1303	Improving the Creativity of Your Preaching	4
DMIN 1304	Specialized Study in Preaching ¹	4

Spiritual Formation Courses

DMIN 1401	Leading Individuals to Spiritual Growth	4
DMIN 1402	Leading Congregations to Spiritual Growth	4
DMIN 1404	Specialized Study in Spiritual Formation ¹	4
DMIN 1406	Leading Groups to Spiritual Growth	4

¹ As an alternative, students in the Leadership, Preaching or Spiritual Formation tracks may choose a course from another specialization track to fulfill this requirement, except for a course from the Pastoral Care track due to the highly specific nature of that track.

The Master of Divinity Degree Program

Lincoln Christian's Master of Divinity is a three-year (75 hour) **professional degree** for leaders who serve in a church or church-related setting. Our focus is on developing "servant leaders," which we define as those who humbly follow the call of God, the life of Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit to serve and equip others. Accordingly, our Master of Divinity degree is specifically designed to develop:

1. *Servant leaders who live wisely.* Graduates will be mature Christians who seek a Biblical wisdom that begins with worshiping God and is demonstrated daily through deepening spirituality, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and personal accountability.
2. *Servant leaders who engage Scripture responsibly.* Graduates will value God's Word, interpret it knowledgeably, articulate its major themes clearly, obey it faithfully, and share its truths appropriately in various ministry settings.
3. *Servant leaders who think theologically.* Graduates will defend a Christian worldview, understand key theological issues, appreciate our Seminary's theological tradition, articulate a well-reasoned theology of ministry, and assess ministry situations theologically.
4. *Servant leaders who grow intellectually.* Graduates will love God with all their minds by learning key information and concepts from the past and present that are related to ministry, making appropriate correlations and applications of these to ministry, and utilizing lifelong learning skills in ministry.
5. *Servant leaders who minister capably.* Graduates will lead a ministry skillfully and passionately, work well in team-based ministry settings, and communicate clearly, especially in the preaching, teaching, and caring ministries of the Church.
6. *Servant leaders who engage the world compassionately.* Graduates will demonstrate appropriate concern for all of God's creation, giving due attention to ministry's cultural contexts, its global character, its social justice implications, its pastoral nature, and its disciple-making demands.

The Master of Divinity Course Requirements

1. Courses Focusing on God's Word *		21
BI 501	Introduction to God's Word **	3
BI 810	Biblical Interpretation for Ministry	3
NT 610	Interpreting the New Testament: Greek Basics	3
NT 611	Interpreting the NT: Greek Exegesis	3
OT 610	Interpreting the Old Testament: Hebrew Basics	3
OT 611	Interpreting the Old Testament: Hebrew Exegesis	3
TH 600	Turning Points in Systematic Theology	3
2. Courses Focusing on God's World *		15
BI 610	Scripture in Context	3
CH 600	Christianity through the Ages	3
CH 801	Implementing Restoration Movement Principles	3
IC 603	Intercultural Insights for Ministry & Missions	3
TH 710	Insights for Ministering to Contemporary Minds	3
3. Courses Focusing on God's Work *		18
CE 600	Teaching Ministry of the Church	3
LS 602	Biblical Leadership for Today	3
LS 800	Shaping the Ministry of a Leader ⁺	3
PC 600	Basic Types of Counseling Ministry	3
PR 601	Preparing to Preach	3
WS 705	Foundations for Worship Ministry	3
4. Courses Exploring God's Will *		9
LS 600	Shaping the Mind of a Leader****	3
LS 601	Shaping the Heart of a Leader ⁺	3
LS 701	Mentored Ministry Experience	3
5. Electives		<u>12</u>
Electives/Specialization [^]		
(Student works with advisor on selection)		
Total:		75

* Any of the core (required) courses listed in the Master of Divinity program above may be replaced with another course in the same area (i.e. with the same course prefix) upon the approval of the student's faculty advisor. Exceptions are LS600, NT610, and OT610, which require proficiency exams (contact Seminary Office) and which then allow students to take any elective course in their place. Students who demonstrate proficiency in NT610 or in OT610 must still take either NT611 or OT611, or an exegetical course in that area.

**Students with an undergraduate degree from a Bible college may substitute a Bible or theology course for this requirement. Students without a Bible college background may proficiency out of this course and substitute a Bible/Theology elective instead.

***This course serves as an academic introduction to Christian worldview studies and graduate research. It is offered as a semester-long course each fall and spring. Students may also proficiency out of this course (see note above and "Proficiency" policy in Chapter 5) and substitute any 3-hour elective.

+ Students are strongly encouraged to take LS600 and LS601 during their first or second semester on campus. These courses are foundational and need to be completed early in the program. LS800 is designed to be a capstone course and is intended to be taken during the last year of the M.Div. program.

[^] Students may choose all 12 hours of their electives in one area of study in order to graduate with a specialization in the Master of Divinity program or choose courses from a variety of areas. Students may also complete up to 9 of these 12 elective hours in practicum-based experiences on the field by enrolling in LS890 Leadership Ministry Practicum.

The Master of Arts Degree Program

Lincoln Christian’s **Master of Arts** is a 48-hour academic degree oriented toward general theological studies and requires either a master’s thesis or an extended research paper with a comprehensive exam or an oral presentation. This program does allow a student to specialize in one of the Seminary’s major areas of study, but such specialization is more from a research perspective than for professional practice. Students with an undergraduate degree in professional ministerial or theological studies may arrange for a briefer degree program, possibly as few as 30 hours. Students who desire a degree more oriented toward general ministry practice should pursue the Master of Divinity either instead of or in addition to this degree. Since this degree is by nature “general” and since the various areas of specialization are so diverse, it is difficult to establish comprehensive goals for every individual in this program. Still, there are some basic objectives that are germane to all Master of Arts students:

1. To *demonstrate advanced research and writing skills* through successful completion of LS600 “Shaping the Mind of a Leader” and completion of a thesis or an extended research paper.
2. To *develop an ability to properly interpret God’s Word* through proficiency in the Biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew or through completion of course work in those disciplines.
3. To *gain a deeper theological understanding of one of the Seminary’s major areas of study*, evidenced through successful completion of course work in that area, culminating in a thesis or extended research paper and a comprehensive oral exam or graduate presentation over that area.
4. To *understand* how deeper theological study of a particular area should be set within the context of the *Seminary’s own religious heritage and its emphasis on leadership ministry*.

Master of Arts Course Requirements

1. M.A. Core Courses	21
Required for all areas of concentration:*	
LS 600 Shaping the Mind of a Leader	3
LS 601 Shaping the Heart of a Leader	3
CH 801 Implementing Restoration Movement Principles	3
Required for concentrations in Bible and Theology: *	
NT 610-611 Interpreting the New Testament	6
OT 610-611 Interpreting the Old Testament	6
Required for concentrations in Christian Ministries:	
BI 603-604 Interpreting Scripture I-II	6
Two courses in Bible or Theology	6
2. Concentration Requirements¹	21
Courses	15-18
Extended Research Paper (3) or Thesis (6)	3-6
3. Elective Courses^{2**}	6
Course work totaling 6 hours	—
Total:	48

Notes to Master of Arts 48-hour program:

- ¹ Students must choose an area of concentration from one of the areas of study listed on Page 24 and work with a faculty advisor in that area to write a thesis or extended research Paper. Guidelines are available from the Seminary office.
- ² Advising in some concentrations may require or strongly recommend that these hours be used within the area of concentration. See the Web site and consult with the program advisor for program specifics.
- * Students may proficiency out of LS600, NT610, or OT610 by passing a proficiency exam, and taking electives instead. Students who demonstrate proficiency in NT610 or OT610 have the option of taking NT611 and OT611 or taking other exegetical courses. Students who have had course work comparable to LS601 or CH801 may substitute another course in that area with the permission of their faculty advisor. The total number of elective hours will be more for those who can demonstrate proficiency in LS600, NT610, or OT610.
- **Please note that for some specializations, the Master of Arts degree may be completed without enrolling in traditional, semester-long courses on campus. To complete the degree through non-traditional means, students may choose one or more of the following means: intensive week courses (offered several times annually), three to five distance learning courses (see “Distance Learning” policy in Chapter 5 for more clarification on the exact hours of DL courses allowed), six to nine hours of independent study, or transfer credits (see “Transfer of Credits” policy in Chapter 5). The length of the program controls the number of distance learning courses or independent study courses which are allowable. If pursuing a degree through non-traditional means, at least 9 hours must be taken through intensive week courses on campus.

Notes on Completing M.A. Course Work in One Year:

Students with an undergraduate degree in Bible or a related field may complete the 48-hour M.A. in as few as 30 hours. Depending on prior courses and one’s chosen specialization, a student may be exempted from the 6 hours of electives listed above, reducing the 48-hour program to 42 hours. In addition, such students may be exempted from as many as 12 more hours, further reducing their total hours to 30 based on the following conditions:

- 1) Having CH801 (3 hrs.) waived if they have completed an undergraduate course in Restoration History.
- 2) Having LS600 (3 hrs.) waived if a student passes the proficiency exam in this area.
- 3) Having 6 hours of Bible/Theology courses waived if one of the following applies:
 - a) a student is pursuing a specialization in Bible/Theology, and has completed 2 years of undergraduate Greek or passes the Greek proficiency, the student does not need to take NT610 or NT611.
 - b) a student is pursuing a specialization in Christian Ministries, they do not need to take 6 hours of Bible/Theology courses beyond BI603-604. The student may substitute OT610-611 for BI603-604 if he/she has completed 2 years of undergraduate Greek.

The Master of Religious Education Degree Program

Lincoln Christian’s **Master of Religious Education** is a two-year (60-hour) professional degree for those preparing for leadership in various educational ministries of congregations and Christian institutions. The program emphasizes education that is theologically informed, culturally relevant, practically oriented, and personalized for the individual. This degree is also designed to meet the typical requirements for entry into advanced programs in education, e.g. Ed.D. and Ph.D. The student objectives of this program are as follows:

1. Students will be equipped to be educational leaders through the comprehension of educational foundations.
2. Students will be equipped to be educational leaders through a thorough knowledge of Biblical and theological studies.
3. Students will be equipped to be educational leaders through the formation of a pastoral disposition.
4. Students will be equipped to be educational leaders through the development of proficient educational practices.
5. Students will develop an integrated praxis approach to Christian education in their ministry setting.
6. Students will be prepared to enter advanced programs in education.

Master of Religious Education Course Requirements

1. Core Courses	30
Required for all areas of concentration:	
BI 501 Introduction to God’s Word ¹	3
BI 610 Scripture in Context	3
CH 801 Implementing Restoration Movement Principles ²	3
LS 600 Shaping the Mind of a Leader ³	3
LS 601 Shaping the Heart of a Leader	3
TH 600 Turning Points in Systematic Theology	3
Language Requirement Options: ⁴	
NT 610-611 Interpreting the New Testament	6
OT 610-611 Interpreting the Old Testament	6
—OR—	
BI 603-604 Interpreting Scripture I-II	6
Two courses in Bible or Theology	6
2. The MRE Core	21/24
CE 601 Educational Leadership and Administration	3
CE 605 Human Development and Ministry	3
CE 663 Theology and History of CE	3
CE 747 Instructional Strategies	3
CE 800 Christian Learning and Curriculum	3
CE 895 Supervised Ministry Experience	3
CE 901/903 Thesis or Extended Research Paper	6/3
3. MRE Electives	6/9
Choose courses in the CE area with the help of the faculty advisor. ⁵	—
Total:	60

¹ Students with an undergraduate degree from a Bible college may substitute a Bible or theology course for this requirement. Students without a Bible college background may proficiency out of this course and substitute a Bible/Theology elective instead.

² Students who have completed a college course in the history of the Stone-Campbell Tradition (Restoration History) may substitute a history course.

³ The LS600 requirement may be met through a proficiency exam. Students passing the proficiency must then substitute another 3 hour elective.

⁴ Proficiency testing is available for OT610 and NT610. Students passing the proficiency in one or both language areas will then need to substitute Bible or theology electives for these hours.

⁵ Courses in the MRE Core must total either 6 core classes (18 hrs.) and a 6-hour thesis or seven core classes (21 hrs.) with a 3-hour extended research paper (ERP). Those selecting the 3-hour ERP will take 9 hours of CE electives. The electives should be chosen from CE604, 606, 607, 652, 700, 706, 750, 801, 802, 855, 899, and 900.

Master of Arts in Counseling Degree Program

Lincoln Christian's **Master of Arts in Counseling** is a two-year (60-hour) specialist degree for those preparing for entry-level counseling positions and/or for more advanced study in the field of counseling. Whether students are preparing for work in a church or non-church setting, the program emphasizes counseling as a ministry.

Licensure or accreditation in one of the specialized professional associations may require board examinations or clinical and academic work beyond this basic degree. Students seeking Illinois Licensed Professional Counselor status should work closely with their advisor to be sure that all academic requirements of the Illinois Department of Regulation are satisfied.

Those admitted to the Master of Arts in Counseling program must not only meet all Seminary admissions requirements (see Chapter 6), but also have completed 12 hours in psychology or related social science courses at the undergraduate level. Completion of psychological profiles and/or an interview may be required. All students are admitted on a probationary basis with ongoing evaluation for continuation in the program. Those in the program may be required to seek and successfully complete counseling or therapy at any time during the program. Those who graduate with a Master of Arts in Counseling degree will be able to:

- *Demonstrate effective integration* of Biblical and theological concerns with current psychological perspectives.
- *Exercise pastoral and counseling skills* in ministry to troubled persons and dysfunctional families.
- *Use advanced exegetical resources* to interpret the Bible.
- *Conduct graduate-level research* in specialized areas relating to counseling ministry.
- *Exhibit personal self-awareness and wholeness* in the context of service to others.
- *Demonstrate effective counseling skills* in working within a larger clinical or church setting.

Master of Arts in Counseling Course Requirements

1. The Counseling Core *		21
PC 601	Research and Administration for Counseling	3
PC 602	Basic Counseling Techniques	3
PC 603	Crisis Intervention Techniques	3
PC 663	Major Theories of Counseling/Psychotherapy	3
PC 667	Tests and Measures for Counseling	3
PC 804	Family Systems Counseling	3
PC 892	Counseling Practicum ¹	3
2. Counseling Electives **		18
Choose any courses in counseling to total 18 hrs. Students who seek licensure should choose courses in consultation with the faculty advisor to fulfill the expectations of their state licensure agency.		

3. The Theology-Ministry Core *			21
BI	603/604	Interpreting Scripture I-II	6
CH	801	Implementing Restoration Movement Principles+	3
LS	600	Shaping the Mind of a Leader+	3
LS	601	Shaping the Heart of a Leader	3
TH	710	Insights for Ministering to Contemporary Minds	3
PC	810	Ethical and Legal Issues for Christian Leaders	3
			—
Total:			60

Notes on the M.A.C.:

¹ Other clinical options may be explored in consultation with the faculty advisor.

* Students who have had coursework comparable to any of these core courses, with the exception of LS600, may substitute another course in the same area of study, with permission of the faculty advisor.

**The clinical options courses listed above are conducted off campus in a setting approved by the faculty advisor. If it better suits the professional development needs of the student, further counseling elective classes may be taken in the place of the clinical requirement.

+ Students meeting proficiency in either of these two areas must then substitute another 3 hour elective in consultation with their faculty advisor.