



Institute of Lutheran Theology

## Master of Theology (M.Th.)

The Master of Theology degree is designed for individuals holding an M.Div. degree or equivalent to pursue higher level coursework, either as a preparatory step for further graduate study or as a means of professional development.

**Language Requirements:** Students are expected to possess mastery of verbal and written English for course participation and written work. There are no other language requirements for the program, but students are encouraged to have working knowledge of Latin, Greek, or a modern language for research purposes, especially German.

### Admission Requirements:

- Prior completion of an M.Div. degree, an M.A. in theology or closely related field of study, or a related degree demonstrating preparation for advanced theological work.
- Completion of application form
- Three recommendations from individuals with knowledge of likely academic performance
- Official graduate and undergraduate transcripts must be sent directly to ILT
- (International applicants only) International applicants are required to submit a score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The score must be 213 or above, with an essay rating of at least 5.0, and cannot be more than one year old.

**Transfer Credits:** Because the M.Th. is a one year program, no transfer of courses from other institutions is permitted. Students who take EPR 302 or 303 or HST 350 may convert these courses to graduate credit only if the courses have been taken within two years of enrollment and upon completion of the graduate level coursework.

**Course Requirements:** Completion of the M.Th. degree requires six M.Th. courses for a total of 18 credits, plus a 3 credit thesis course. Content of courses will vary from semester to semester, but regular offerings will include the following areas:

- Reformation Theology
- Contemporary Lutheran Theology
- Issues in Science and Religion and in Philosophy of Religion

**Library Access:** Because students at the M.Th. level will be expected to write research papers for their classes as well as complete a thesis paper, students will be expected to work closely with the director of library services, who will aid in the finding and using of research materials.

**Thesis Requirement:** A 50-75 page (12,000-20,000 word) thesis paper is required for completion of the degree. Students are required to have an approved thesis précis (900 words) and thesis advisor by mid-term of the semester prior to taking HST 690: Thesis (October 15 or March 15 as appropriate). In addition, the thesis must meet the following requirements:

- Use Chicago Style citation. Another style may be used if deemed appropriate by the thesis advisor.
- The thesis must be completed prior to finals week of the term of the thesis course.
- A completed thesis is required to include:
  - Title page
  - Copyright page
  - Signatory page
  - Librarian Certification page
  - Table of Contents
  - Text of thesis
  - Bibliography
- A copy of the completed thesis will be bound and placed in the ILT library

**GPA Requirement:** Only courses passed with a grade of B or better may receive graduate credit and only courses designated for graduate credit may apply toward the degree.

**Full-Time/Part-Time Status and Continuation:** Initially, only one to two M.Th. courses will be offered per semester. Students are expected to take at least one course per semester, and are required to graduate within four years after enrolling in the program.

**Open Studies Option:** Qualified students may enroll in individual M.Th. courses without being enrolled in the M.Th. program. Open Studies students are required to submit an application form and, if appropriate, TOEFL scores .

For more information contact:  
admissions@ilt.org  
www.ilt.org  
605-692-9337

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