

The New Curriculum and You

Update on changes (Oct. 2, 2013)

Craig Koester (academic dean) on behalf of the transition team and Educational Leadership Committee

All of you who are currently enrolled at Luther Seminary are rightly wondering how the changes in curriculum will affect you. Those of you who plan to graduate this year (2013-14) are not affected by any of the changes. Some of you who will continue your studies beyond September 2014 may complete your degree programs by fulfilling the requirements of the present curriculum, while others may want to switch to the new one. Here are things to keep in mind as you plan for 2014-15 and beyond.

Differences between the Current and New Curricula

Both the current curriculum and the new curriculum will prepare you for your call. Both curricula require competency in all fields relevant to your degree program. A major difference between the two curricula is how competency is demonstrated.

- Current curriculum works with the **Distribution Course** model: Competency is demonstrated by completing the many required courses, with fewer electives.
- New curriculum works with the **Portfolio** model: Competency is demonstrated by completing a smaller number of required courses and larger number of electives, while creating and regularly assessing a portfolio of your work in various fields.

Implications of the Transition

- Currently enrolled students can continue with the current curriculum in 2014-15 and beyond.
 - All courses you have completed count toward the degree total
 - Greek and CPE can also count toward the total
 - You can complete any remaining courses by using equivalents in the new curriculum
- For those currently enrolled students who switch to the new curriculum, you will need to:
 - Take the Learning Leader Course (.5)
 - Create and regularly update your portfolio (.5)
 - Participate in a cohort
 - Identify remaining courses. All courses you have taken thus far count toward the degree total. A list of equivalences between the curricula will help you determine which courses you still need to take.
- Later this year, the registrar's office will ask all students to indicate which curriculum they plan to follow.

Which Curriculum is Right for You?

Number of Courses Completed by Sept. 2014	Approach	Rationale
M.Div. – 16 or more courses M.A. – 10 or more courses	Stay with current curriculum	<p>Taking the Learning Leader course and undertaking the kind of portfolio and cohort work envisioned by the new curriculum is problematic in the latter phase of a degree program.</p> <p>The changes in Greek and CPE credits will help you move more quickly toward completion of your program.</p> <p>NOTE: The new internship model will not be implemented until summer 2015 (see below), so students planning to begin internship in 2014 will not be able to switch to the new curriculum.</p>
M.Div. – 10-15 courses M.A. – 6-9 courses	Recommend you stay with current curriculum	<p>Most students in the middle of their programs will find it easiest to use equivalences to complete their courses under the distribution model of the current curriculum, instead of completing the steps needed to create and assess a portfolio and participate in cohorts.</p> <p>The changes in Greek and CPE credits, and options for internship will help you move more quickly toward completion of your program.</p> <p>But if students find it beneficial to change curricula, they may do so by submitting the requisite form to the registrar's office.</p>
M.Div. – 9 or fewer courses M.A. – 5 or fewer courses	Recommend you switch to the new curriculum	Students who are early in their studies will find it easiest to switch to the new curriculum. Doing so will allow them to work fully with the new curriculum.

Curriculum Transitional Information

Greek: Students who continue in studies in the 2014-15 academic year will be able to count the 1.5 credit Greek course toward the total 30 credits needed for the M.Div. This does not apply to students who will graduate in 2013-14. But it does apply to students who continue in studies beyond Sept. 1, 2014 in either curriculum.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

Many students' degrees at Luther Seminary require Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). The current curriculum does not give academic credit for CPE, but going forward, students have more options beginning in the 2014-15 academic year.

CPE completed prior to summer 2014: Students continuing in studies may choose to convert the non-credit unit of CPE into a unit that counts toward the total needed for the degree. The steps are to:

- Submit a request form to the registrar's office.
- Pay a fee of \$500 to change the unit from a non-credit to a 1.0 credit unit of CPE.

CPE beginning summer 2014: Students register for CPE as a 1.0 credit course. The tuition is the standard cost for a credit and is paid to Luther Seminary's business office. The business office will then pay the tuition charged by the CPE site, up to the amount charged by the seminary. If the site charges more than the standard seminary tuition for one credit, the student is responsible for the extra cost. If the site bills the student directly, the student brings the invoice to the business office for reimbursement.

Internship

- As part of the new curriculum, the internship program will be redesigned to accommodate the portfolio requirements.
 - The redesign process will begin during the academic year 2013-2014.
 - Given the need for students, internship supervisors and internship committees to become familiar with the new requirements, the new internship program will not be fully implemented until June 1, 2015.
- M.Div. students who need to move more quickly through their programs may register for some credited courses during their internship. This needs to be done in consultation with Contextual Learning, the internship site and your candidacy committee. Standard tuition is paid for course credits taken during internships.

(Information continues on next page)

Questions

We want to make sure you have opportunities to ask your questions. We have scheduled several drop-in sessions for conversation with the Dean and staff from the Student Resource Center and Registrar's Office.

- Wednesday October 9 from 11:45-12:30 in the Campus Center Auxiliary Dining Room
- Monday October 21 from 4:30-5:30 in the coffee shop
- Tuesday October 22 from 11:30-12:30 in the Campus Center Auxiliary Dining Room

In early November there will be opportunities to meet with staff from the Student Resource Center (src@luthersem.edu; 651-641-3435) and the Registrar's Office (registrar@luthersem.edu; 651-641-3473) to review your own program needs and help you find the best options for your studies.