

## MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

**1. Do I need to fill out an Admission Initial Inquiry Information form?**

The Admission Office appreciates it when you fill out this preliminary form so that we can communicate more easily with you.

**2. Can only men apply to the Master of Divinity (MDiv) Program?**

Because of the doctrinal position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), all candidates for the MDiv degree must be male by natural birth.

**3. I am attending a Concordia University for my undergrad. What courses would you recommend for my pre-seminary work?**

Those taking biblical studies/exegesis are advised to take the Classics or Theological Languages. Individuals majoring in History are advised to consider Latin and German. Those inclined toward pastoral ministry are advised to major in Education, Psychology, or the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

**4. If I am attending one of our Concordias, may I waive certain courses at CTSFW?**

Yes, provided your transcript indicates that you have passed similar and equal courses on the college level. However, to meet the 139 quarter hours required for graduation, you will be expected to take additional electives equal in credit to the waived courses. Electives must be taken in the same department as the waived courses.

**5. I did not take my undergrad at a Concordia. May I still apply?**

CTSFW does not restrict its admission to grads of LCMS colleges and universities. Individuals with bachelor's degrees from other accredited colleges and universities are encouraged to apply.

**7. Does CTSFW encourage second-career men to apply?**

Absolutely. Many seminarians have pursued other vocations and have already had successful careers other than in ministry. Second-career men add maturity and life-experience to the Seminary community and are great blessings to their congregations.

**8. Must I be a member of an LCMS congregation to apply? Must my wife be a member of an LCMS congregation?**

An applicant must be a member of an LCMS congregation, ordinarily for a minimum of two years prior to admission. If married, his wife must also be a member of an LCMS congregation.

**9. May I apply to CTSFW if I and/or my wife have been divorced?**

Yes. The Seminary's Divorced Applicant Policy for pastoral applicants may be found at [www.ctsfw.edu/pastoral-divorce-policy](http://www.ctsfw.edu/pastoral-divorce-policy).

**10. How long does the application and admission process of CTSFW typically take?**

We suggest 6-12 months prior to enrollment; however, 3-4 months is the average time frame to complete and gather the required documentation so that the applicant's file can be sent

before the Admission Committee. Unforeseen challenges can delay the time frame, which is why we always recommend starting, completing, and submitting the application well in advance of your desired start date.

**11. Must I complete an application for admission to the MDiv Program?**

A completed application is required. Applying to CTSFW is a four-step process that goes as follows:

Step 1: Initial Application

Step 2: Family Information

Step 3: Education and Employment History

Step 4: Personal Background Information

Each step will be emailed to you with directions and links for uploading all required documents, and our online application can be completed at your own pace. Upon completion of each step you will receive an email for the next step in the process. Each new email will also include an application checklist, letting you know which items have been completed and which are pending completion. All questions must be answered and all required documents received in order to present an application file to the Admission Committee. See "What About Transcripts?" for additional information.

**12. What is the requirement for recommendations?**

Recommendations are required from your senior or sole pastor and four personal acquaintances. If you have graduated from a Concordia within the last five years, a recommendation is also required from the president of the college or university. The four personal references should be from adults who have known you well for a period of time and are not related to you. You will be asked to provide the names and contact information of your references. We suggest that you contact them prior to submitting their names in order to get their permission and to obtain up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses.

**13. What about transcripts?**

In order to present an admission file to the Admission Committee, we at least need an unofficial transcript from all colleges or universities in which you are currently enrolled, have attended, and/or through which you have completed a degree.

In order to begin taking classes, a final official transcript is required from all colleges or universities you have attended and/or completed a degree through in order to complete your admission file. Admission for applicants who are approved with only unofficial transcripts in their file is subject to the receipt of all final official transcripts.

Applicants should arrange to have final official transcripts sent to the CTSFW Admission Office via U.S. Mail to: Concordia Theological Seminary, ATTN: Admission Office, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46825 or emailed to [Admission@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Admission@ctsfw.edu) by the registrar of any previous colleges or universities.

**14. Am I required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)?**

Applicants whose undergraduate GPA is below 2.75 and non-degree applicants are required to complete the GRE and have the scores forwarded to the CTSFW Admission Office. Applicants who already have a master’s, doctorate, or equivalent degree are not required to take the GRE. GRE test scores beyond five years will not be accepted.

**15. Can I take the GRE online?**

The GRE is available online at [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre) or you can contact them by telephone at (866) 473-4373.

**16. Do I have to complete a bachelor’s degree first?**

Yes and no. Entering students are required to have completed a bachelor’s degree or educational equivalent from an accredited college or university and have attained a minimum GPA of 2.25. Exception: CTSFW may choose, in special circumstances, to waive the requirement of a baccalaureate degree for admission to the Seminary. This happens on a privileged basis and such admission is highly selective. The Admission Committee must have reasonable probability that the applicant will be able to successfully perform at the graduate level. For consideration by the Admission Committee the non-degree applicant must:

- ◆ Be at least 35 years old.
- ◆ Have earned at least 60 credits (equivalent of an associate’s degree) from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum GPA of 2.0 as outlined:

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
English (Composition, Literature) .....	6
Public Speaking* .....	2
Humanities (Art, Drama, Music) .....	9
Social Sciences (History, Sociology, Economics) .....	9
Science/Math .....	6
Additional Courses .....	28
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>60</b>

\* Students enrolled in a Liberal Arts program incorporating public speaking in the general curriculum may apply for exemption from the speech requirement.

- ◆ Submit official transcripts and course descriptions.
- ◆ Take the GRE—see question 15 for additional information.

**17. Must I have an interview with my district?**

Every applicant to a seminary program leading to ordination is required to participate in a pre-admission interview in the district where he holds communicant membership. Note: If the applicant is married the interview must include the wife. The district office will forward the results to the CTSFW Admission Office.

**18. Am I required to undergo a criminal background check?**

Yes, Protect My Ministry, an agency contracted by the LCMS, is used. The applicant must sign a waiver release so that the results will be submitted to the CTSFW Admission Office.

**19. After my application is accepted, must I complete the Confirmation of Admission?**

Yes, this indicates your intention to enroll at CTSFW for the term of your admittance. It allows CTSFW to prepare more effectively for your arrival.

**20. Must I take the Entry-Level Competency Exams (ELCEs)?**

- a. All incoming MDiv students are required to show entry-level competency in Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT). This can be done by passing a competency exam offered through the Registrar’s Office, taking online courses offered by the Seminary (which are good for four years), or taking six undergrad semester hours in OT and six undergrad semester hours in NT with a GPA of at least 3.0.
- b. All incoming MDiv students who have Greek and/or Hebrew language skills can demonstrate competency by taking a competency exam or passing six semester hours in Biblical Greek and/or six semester hours in Biblical Hebrew with a GPA of at least 3.0.
- c. All incoming MDiv students are required to take the Christian Doctrine exam or they must have completed six undergrad semester hours in doctrine (Lutheran theology, Lutheran Confessions, Christian doctrine) with a GPA of at least 3.0.

**21. Is Hebrew a requirement of the MDiv Program?**

The MDiv curriculum requires the completion of two Hebrew courses. In order to waive this requirement, competency must be demonstrated by completing the ELCE for Hebrew or the applicant must have completed six semester hour of Biblical Hebrew in their undergraduate studies, including a course in their final year of undergraduate study with a 3.0 GPA (on a scale of 4.0)

**22. I do not have the pre-seminary Greek requirement. What should I do?**

The Seminary offers Greek: Summer Greek, Fall Greek, and online Greek. However, since Greek is a pre-seminary requirement, credits in Greek do not apply to MDiv graduation requirements.

**23. Must I answer personal background questions on the MDiv application for admission?**

Yes, however, please understand that answering yes to any of the personal background questions does not automatically jeopardize your application. Our goal is both to get to know you better and to help you think through any significant issues from your past. We are concerned about how you have dealt with the issue and what spiritual counsel and professional/medical treatment was sought. Your honesty is greatly appreciated.

**24. May I apply to CTSFW if I have significant household debt?**

Yes. Accepted applicants whose consumer debt exceeds \$20,000 will be referred to a financial counselor from Concordia Plan Services who works with our students at CTSFW.

**25. Must I submit an autobiographical statement?**

Yes. We ask that you provide an autobiographical statement that includes your education, work, and church experiences and provides information about any events or people who have been instrumental in your decision to apply for the MDiv Program in 1,500-2,000 words.

**26. Must I answer the personal reflection questions?**

Yes. We ask you to respond to the following three items, writing 100-200 words for each personal reflection question:

1. Why do you want to be a pastor?
2. Please reflect on 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
3. What strengths and weaknesses will you bring to this task?