

## Meeting ELCA requirements at HDS

The ELCA requirements for the so-called Lutheran Year give good guidance for study while at HDS. This table, from the ELCA Candidacy Manual, states the purpose of this year and how a student at might that purpose while at HDS.

Purpose of Lutheran year	
ELCA	HDS
A solid grounding in Lutheran systematic theology and the Lutheran Confessions and to enable the candidate to articulate a Lutheran theological perspective. This happens not only in the study of theology, but in the study of church history, Bible, worship, preaching, education, pastoral care, and ethics; it occurs not only in the classroom but through the total teaching/learning environment and culture of the seminary;	Courses of study in theology, scripture, church history, preaching, pastoral care, and ethics. Courses in Lutheran polity and Lutheran confessions.
A sound understanding of ministry in a Lutheran context, including the integrity and variety of Lutheran worship; an appreciation of the relationship between lay and ordained ministries; a familiarity with policy and practice associated with approval, call, and mobility; and the expectations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of its ordained ministers	Active engagement in the HDS Lutheran community, worship in local Lutheran congregations, field education in local Lutheran congregations, consultation with and guidance of HDS Lutheran denominational counselors.
Become a participant in the current theological conversation of the ELCA and to establish relationships with future colleagues in ministry that are marked by mutual support, accountability, and a strong sense of shared mission.	Active engagement in the HDS Lutheran community, participation in local Lutheran events and gatherings, engagement in ecumenical and interfaith events.

And these are the academic requirements.

<b>Academic requirements during Lutheran year</b>	
<b>ELCA</b>	<b>HDS</b>
Old Testament	Many courses, plus those at the Boston Theological Institute. (The Boston Theological Institute, or BTI, is an association of ten university divinity schools, schools of theology and seminaries in the Greater Boston area. Students at HDS may take courses at any of the schools.)
Gospels and/or Paul	Many, plus BTI
Reformation history	Reformation and other periods, plus BTI
Theology of Luther, Confessions, Lutheranism in North America and globally, Lutheran ethics, ecclesiology, evangelism, stewardship, theology mission.	Lutheran Confessions, Lutheran Polity Reformation theology, modern Lutheran theologians, Christian ethics, comparative studies.
Systematic theology	Many

## **General guidelines for Harvard Divinity School Lutheran students seeking ordination**

1. Affiliate with an ELCA seminary.
2. Engage in Lutheran activities and organizations.

At HDS:

HDS Lutherans

Noon worship

PHUY Lutheran Community

In the community:

Join or be active in one of the local Lutheran congregations

Find Lutheran-related Field Ed sites

3. Take Lutheran Polity and Lutheran Confessions courses.
4. Engage in ecumenical and interfaith activities

With ecumenical partners

With local Jewish and Muslim communities

With ecumenical social service organizations

5. Meet core Lutheran curriculum suggestions. Requirements can be met at HDS and also at BTI schools.

Bible (HDS OT and NT introductions, plus others)

Gospels

Letters of Paul

Greek (Two years: Elementary and intermediate Greek)

Suggest Hebrew (One year)

Theology (Christian, historical, ecumenical)

Church history, especially Reformation

6. Meet other Lutheran curriculum expectations.

Religion, justice, and society (many; Public Leadership, Community Organizing, and Planning art of ministry)

Ecumenical and interfaith studies (OR Other Religion courses)

Preaching (Courses in Preaching and Worship art of ministry)

Liturgy (Courses in Preaching and Worship art of ministry)

Pastoral counseling (Pastoral Care and Counseling art of ministry)

Field Education, at least two units (concurrent or summer)

7. Let your candidacy committee know what you are doing.