

# Curriculum Overview

Revised March 2025

Luther Classical College educates Lutherans in the classical, Lutheran tradition and prepares them for godly vocations within family, church, and society, fostering Christian culture through study of the best of our Western heritage. Luther Classical College's core program objective is to provide a common foundation in confessional Lutheran theology and the classical liberal arts tradition for all students. All students take the same courses that belong to the core program curriculum, which is the bulk of all studies at LCC, regardless of track. Students also have the option to select a track designed to prepare them for specific work after college.

## B.A. in Classical Liberal Arts (a 4-year degree)

- **General Track:** The goal of the General Track is to provide students with a four-year curriculum in Lutheran theology and the classical liberal arts, instilling a passion for family life, deepening one's appreciation for the church, and cultivating a broad skill set appropriate for many careers.
- **Pre-Seminary/Biblical Languages Track:** The goal of the Pre-Seminary Track is to prepare students spiritually, morally, and intellectually for enrollment at a confessional Lutheran theological seminary in preparation for ordination into the pastoral office. The same coursework serves as a Biblical Languages Track for personal spiritual edification and potential applications in various lay vocations.
- **Teacher Certification Track:** The goal of the Teacher Certification Track is to prepare students to teach in classical Lutheran schools through pursuit of the certification requirements of the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education.
- **Parish Music Track:** The goal of the Parish Music Track is to prepare students to support the church musically with instrumental accompaniment, conducting, composition, arrangement, and the fostering of congregational part-singing.

## A.A. in Classical Liberal Arts (a 2-year degree)

- **General Track:** The goal of the General Track is to provide students with a two-year curriculum in Lutheran theology and the classical liberal arts, especially appropriate for the vocation of Christian motherhood and for careers requiring neither a bachelor's degree nor specific trade skills. This track may serve either as a terminal A.A. degree or else as a stepping stone toward a B.A. degree at another institution should the student desire to complete a major not offered at Lutheran Classical College.
- **Trade Partnership Track:** The goal of the Trade Partnership Track is to prepare students for a variety of vocations and includes training in a skilled trade through relationships with other colleges and businesses.

## An Integrated Curriculum

- Students enroll for about 80% of their courses in common, as a core curriculum. Each track offers a few courses for special focus, and students also have some space for free electives.
- "Integrated Humanities" courses involve history, law, literature, philosophy and—always central in every classroom—confessional Lutheran theology.
- Most reading assignments are common to all students, laying a common foundation that they share with each other, with their professors, and with great thinkers of the past.
- Capstone experiences in each track include both a broad foundation and a special focus.
- Daily chapel services, regular "Christian Culture" events, and personal guidance from a faculty mentor ensure that every student receives a rich, classical, Lutheran education.



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## Comparison of B.A. Tracks

	General Track	Pre-Seminary / Biblical Languages Track	Teacher Certification Track	Parish Music Track
Pre-Admission Requirements	Summer Latin Course or Placement Test ( <i>Wheelock's Latin</i> )			
Core Requirements	B.A. Core (Theology, Latin, History, Law, Literature, Philosophy, Rhetoric, Mathematics, Natural Science, Art History, Music History)			
Program Requirements	N/A	Greek & Hebrew	Teaching Methods & Field Work	Music Theory & Music Skills
Program Electives	Misc. Credits	N/A	N/A	Voice/Instrument
Capstone	Senior Thesis		Senior Project	
Free Electives	Additional Courses at Each Student's Discretion			

*Senior Thesis:* Original research, based on primary sources, using classical and Biblical languages when appropriate, and typically defended as a disputation in the tradition of the late medieval university.

*Senior Project:* Examples include curriculum development (Teacher Certification Track) and composition/recital (Parish Music Track), each with a shortened senior thesis.

## Comparison of A.A. Tracks

	General Track	Trade Partnership Track
Pre-Admission Requirements	Summer Latin Course or Placement Test ( <i>Wheelock's Latin</i> )	N/A
Core Requirements	A.A. Core (Theology, History, Law, Literature, Philosophy, Rhetoric, Mathematics, Natural Science, Art History, Music History)	
Program Requirements	Latin Courses	N/A
Program Electives	N/A	Misc. Credits (Including Skilled Trade Courses)
Capstone	Sophomore Exhibition	
Free Electives	Additional Courses at Each Student's Discretion	

### Notes

The A.A. Core consists of the first two years of the B.A. Core, except for Latin, which is optional for the Trade Partnership Track, but a program requirement for the A.A. General Track.

Trade Partnership Track students earn an A.A. from LCC in two years and complete a trade certificate at a partnership school in Year Three.

The Sophomore Exhibition consists of a class discussion before a live public audience. A faculty member or Teacher Certification Track student will lead an interdisciplinary Socratic dialogue on the basis of texts studied within the A.A. Core.

## The Enduring Value of a "General" Education

- Appreciating the unity of goodness, truth, and beauty, LCC students pursue breadth before depth.
- The "General Track" is so named because the Latin word *genera* (plural of *genus*) refers to broad categories. (Recall that in biology, several distinct "species" fit within a common "genus.")
- To be generally educated—that is, to have a firm grasp of all the *genera* of knowledge—is the only way to become well-educated. To attempt a *specific* education too early—whether out of personal fascination, for a profit motive, or for any other reason—leads to intellectual myopia, resulting in ignorance concerning other subject areas as well as a shallow understanding of one's focal subject.
- About 80% of each track consists of the consistent core found also in the "General Track," ensuring that all students at LCC master the *genera* first, and explore the *species* second.

## Sample Courses and Texts

The full curriculum is published in the Academic Catalog ([www.lutherclassical.org/academic-catalog](http://www.lutherclassical.org/academic-catalog)). The following samples provide highlights from that curriculum. Topics are categorized and sequenced as presented in the “Educational Philosophy” that appears in the catalog, beginning, of course, with theology.

### THEOLOGY

- **Lutheran Commonplaces and Catechisms**  
Melancthon, *Loci Theologici*; Luther, *Small Catechism*; Luther, *Large Catechism*
- **Old Testament and New Testament Survey**  
*The Holy Bible*
- **Lutheran Reformation I and II**  
*The Book of Concord*; selected writings by Luther and others
- **The Gospels**  
A survey of the Gospels, emphasizing both their unity and uniqueness while also addressing challenges from modern criticism
- **Church Fathers**  
Selected writings from the Apostolic Fathers through the “Eight Doctors of the Church”
- **Defense of the Faith**  
An overview of Christian apologetics, including C.S. Lewis, John Warwick Montgomery, and others
- **Post-Reformation Theology**  
A survey of theology from ca. 1600 to present, including Pietism, Rationalism, and Neo-Orthodoxy

### LANGUAGES

- **Latin**  
Julius Caesar, *De Bello Gallico*; Cicero, selections; Sallust, selections; Virgil, *Aeneid*; Augustine, selections
- **Greek**  
Selected Attic authors; *Greek New Testament*
- **Hebrew**  
*Hebrew Old Testament*

### HISTORY

- **History of Ancient Greece**  
Herodotus, *The Histories*; Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*; Arrian, *Alexander the Great*; Plutarch, *Lives*
- **History of Republican and Imperial Rome**  
Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita*; Polybius, *Histories*; Tacitus, *Annals and Histories*; Suetonius, *Lives*; Josephus, selections

### HUMANITIES

- **Early Medieval Worldviews**  
Augustine, selections; Boëthius, *Consolation of Philosophy*; Bede, *Ecclesiastical History*; *Beowulf*; *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*
- **Late Medieval Worldviews**  
Anselm, selections; Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*; Dante, *Divine Comedy*
- **Renaissance through Enlightenment Worldviews**  
An interdisciplinary dialogue among students who each read a unique set of works and report insights to one another, as the professor guides them with Socratic questioning.
- **Modern and Postmodern Worldviews**  
Continued from the preceding; disciplines range from literature to physics, from philosophy to psychology, from theology to mathematics, all of which contribute to a fuller understanding of the dominant mindsets of our time.

### LAW

- **Principles of Civil Government**  
Aristotle, *Politics*; Machiavelli, *The Prince*; *Magdeburg Confession*; Locke, *Second Treatise*; *Federalist Papers*
- **Landmark Supreme Court Cases**  
*Marbury v. Madison*, *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Roe v. Wade*
- **Modern Economic Theories**  
Smith, *Wealth of Nations*; Marx/Engels, selections; Weber, *Protestant Work Ethic*; Hayek, *Road to Serfdom*

### LITERATURE

- **Greek Literature**  
Hesiod, *Theogony*; Homer, *Iliad* and *Odyssey*; selected tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides
- **Roman Literature**  
Virgil, *Aeneid*; selections from Cicero, Lucretius, Ovid, Horace, Seneca, and Pliny
- **Early Modern English Verse**  
Shakespeare, selections; Milton, *Paradise Lost*; Herbert, selections

## PHILOSOPHY

- **Survey of Western Philosophy**  
Selections from Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Kierkegaard, and others
- **Logic**  
Aristotle, *Organon*; assorted Scholastic writers; contributions to Logic/Dialectic at the University of Wittenberg

## MATHEMATICS

- **Geometry**  
Euclid, *Elements of Geometry*; applications through the time of Newton's development of calculus
- **Entrepreneurial Computation and Analysis**  
Luca Pacioli, double-entry bookkeeping; John Napier/Leonhard Euler, logarithms; plus, modern financial calculations for mortgage payments, bond valuations, and capital investment analysis

## ART HISTORY

- **Art History**  
A survey of Western art from Greek and Roman antiquity through the Renaissance and Reformation and to the present day
- **History and Philosophy of Art**  
A survey of the cultural history and aesthetic theories of Western Civilization, contextualizing man's pursuit of beauty within the ideals of the classical, medieval, modern, and postmodern periods.

## Rhetoric

- **Progymnasmata**  
Fourteen stages of imitation as presented in the *Progymnasmata* of Aphthonius
- **Oratorical Analysis, Composition, and Delivery**  
Studying the world-changing speeches of great orators and learning to mimic their craft
- **Disputatio**  
Presenting a fair and decisive argument after thoroughly examining both sides

## NATURAL SCIENCE

- **Astronomical Observations and Theories**  
A laboratory course evaluating the competing theories of Aristotle, Ptolemy, Newton, and Einstein
- **Physics and Metaphysics**  
Aristotle, *Physics* and *Metaphysics*; Newton, *Opticks*; Einstein, selections
- **Biology and Bioethics**  
Linnaeus, *Systema Naturae*; Darwin, *Origin of Species*; Mendel, selections; Watson/Crick, selections

## MUSIC

- **Choir & Individual Vocal Lessons**
- **Orchestra/Assorted Ensembles & Individual Lessons**
- **Music History**  
Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and others
- **Music Theory**  
Analysis, composition, four-part hymn writing, and polyphonic vocal arrangement
- **Music Skills**  
Instrumental performance, conducting, and piano pedagogy
- **Hymnody and Liturgy**  
Studying (and singing) the Hebrew Psalter, Gregorian chants, Lutheran chorales, and Lutheran liturgical orders

## Tuition & Scholarships

LCC receives no government financial aid. Through the generous assistance of our donors, we have set tuition at \$8,500/year for the 2025–2026 academic year. Additionally, students who score well on the CLT, ACT, or SAT may be eligible for an automatic Academic Merit Scholarship. For a list of other scholarship opportunities, please visit [www.lutherclassical.org/financial-aid](http://www.lutherclassical.org/financial-aid).

## Application Process

Prospective students begin by completing a brief survey at: [www.lutherclassical.org/pre-admission](http://www.lutherclassical.org/pre-admission)



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