

# Transferring Credits into a Lancaster Theological Seminary Degree Program

In general, transfer credits are accepted from ATS-accredited institutions under the following guidelines:

- Credits were earned at an institution accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada (ATS).
- Official transcript shows a grade earned of C or higher (GPA 2.0) for Master's students or B or higher (GPA 3.0) for Doctor's students.
- Credits have not been applied to another degree already received.
- Credits were earned not more than ten (10) years prior to Lancaster Seminary matriculation. Exception may be requested by written application to the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean of the Seminary.
- Courses are appropriate for the degree program(s) being pursued at Lancaster Theological Seminary.
- Credits for courses for consideration in meeting Lancaster Seminary degree program requirements must meet the goals and objectives of the required courses as evidenced by a course syllabus, subject to approval by the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean of the Seminary or the appropriate department professor.

All transfer credits and advanced standing are subject to approval by the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean of the Seminary, based on these and other transfer of credit policies. To graduate from Lancaster Seminary, all Lancaster Seminary requirements for the degree must be successfully completed (M.Div., Section 14; MA(R), Section 15; D.Min. Section 17). Normally, it is assumed that required courses, or equivalent, will be completed with Lancaster Theological Seminary faculty.

## **Students from another ATS-accredited institution requesting transfer of credits into a Lancaster Seminary master's degree program:**

- M.Div. to M.Div.: Transfer from M.Div. program at another ATS accredited institution into M.Div. at Lancaster Seminary: A minimum of thirty (30) credit hours of study must be successfully completed at Lancaster Theological Seminary, and all graduation requirements must be satisfied, in order to earn the Lancaster Theological Seminary M.Div. degree.
- MA(R) to MA(R): Transfer from MA(R) program at another ATS accredited institution into the Lancaster Seminary MA(R) program:
  - Up to six (6) credit hours from a non-theological graduate institution may be considered for transfer.
  - No more than twenty-six (26) credit hours may be transferred toward

- the Lancaster Seminary MA(R) degree.
- A minimum of 26 credit hours must be completed at Lancaster Theological Seminary, and all graduation requirements must be satisfied, in order to earn the Lancaster Theological Seminary MA(R) degree.
- MA(R) to M.Div.: Transfer from MA(R) program at another ATS accredited institution into the Lancaster Seminary M.Div. program:
  - If MA(R) or equivalent degree was not awarded, the equivalent of a minimum of two (2) years of study (at least 60 credits) and all requirements for graduation must be successfully completed at Lancaster Seminary to earn the Lancaster Seminary M.Div. degree.
  - If MA(R) or equivalent degree was awarded from another institution: Up to 16 credits (1/6 of the Lancaster Seminary M.Div. degree per ATS standards) may be considered for transfer as Advanced Standing\*\* credits. The equivalent of a minimum of two (2) years of study (at least 60 credits) and all requirements for graduation must be successfully completed at Lancaster Seminary to earn the Lancaster Seminary M.Div. degree.
- If MA(R) degree was earned at Lancaster Theological Seminary:
  - All credits earned toward the Lancaster Seminary MA(R) degree may be used toward the M.Div. degree at Lancaster Theological Seminary provided that they meet all other conditions for transfer credits.
  - If accepted, the student will enter the M.Div. degree program under the prevailing graduation requirements for the degree.
  - Upon successful completion of the M.Div. program, the student must relinquish the Lancaster Seminary MA(R) diploma.

\*\* Per ATS standard M.4.2 "Advanced Standing with Credit" is determined by "appropriate written and/or oral assessment that students have the knowledge, competence, or skills that would normally be provided by the specific courses for which they have been admitted with advanced standing." M.4.3 "Advanced standing with credit cannot be automatically granted on the basis of ministerial or life experience or the content of undergraduate work."

**Students from another ATS-accredited institution requesting transfer of credits into the Lancaster Seminary doctor's degree program:**

- Requests for transfer of a maximum of 6 credits must be approved by the Doctor of Ministry Committee.
- Official transcript must show that a grade of B (GPA 3.0 or higher) or higher was earned.
- See also Doctor of Ministry Degree, Section 17.

## **On-line Study**

- Up to thirty (30) credit hours of on-line study from an ATS-accredited institution, including Lancaster Seminary, may be applied toward the M.Div. degree upon approval.
- Up to fourteen (14) credit hours of on-line study from an ATS-accredited institution, including Lancaster Seminary, may be applied toward the MA(R) degree.

Up to six (6) credit hours of on-line study from an ATS-accredited institution, including Lancaster Seminary, may be applied toward the D.Min. degree.