

**Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers)
to Pre-seminary Course Registration
with special reference (★) to curriculum revision**

14 March 2013
Scheduling for
2013-14

General Information

1) What and where is my most complete course information?

The online (website) MLC *Catalog* has it all. It has all course descriptions and prerequisites.

2) Is there a compact summary of all pre-seminary courses and their fit in degree program plans?

Yes. A one-page coded listing of all pre-seminary courses is available via *Portal\Website\Academics\Academic Deans\Studies in Pastoral Ministry\Registration Info\SPaM Course Offerings 2012-13* or you may get one from the academic dean or Mrs. Louters via email.

3) Where can I get my own tailored pre-seminary program plan?

You might have it already from your present or a past advisor. Otherwise contact your advisor for a copy. The Deans' Office (Dean Balge or Mrs. Louters) will provide one on request by email.

4) What, where, and why is the five-year plan?

The five-year plan is available under Scheduling on the Portal. It shows when courses will be offered up to five years out. It helps students and advisors plan long-range for completion of a degree program.

5) How do know whether there is room for me in a course?

Visit Course Status under Scheduling on Portal.

6) What, where, and why is my unofficial transcript?

Your unofficial transcript lists all your courses taken, their grades, and your current school year's courses. It is available, after you log in, on Portal under Grades.

7) Is there anything I should especially be aware of about my unofficial transcript?

Yes, several things. a) The unofficial transcript's total of credits earned is often more than the *degree* credits earned. Remedial, choir, band, and non-SPaM (in other words for all four, non-degree) credit is also tallied as college credit. b) APP, cbe, CLEP, and transfer credit (anything that shows at the top of the unofficial transcript) does not tally in the Portal "total credit" number, for reasons of factoring the GPAs. GPAs reflect only courses completed at or through MLC. c) It is often good to check off all your unofficial transcript credits against your pre-seminary program plan.

8) I am presently a freshman (sophomore, junior), but the Portal shows me as a sophomore (junior, senior). Does that matter?

Yes, and only in positive ways. It reflects your total number of credits accrued. It determines your "spot in line" for registration, as well as priority in other aspects of campus life. But your program plan shows how you accrue the 130/131 degree credits now needed for graduation and your actual graduation date.

9) Please refresh my memory about electives.

Area electives. Every pre-seminary student must take electives in given academic areas (e.g., history), courses beyond the general education (GenEd) requirements. Not all electives fulfill an area requirement. The ones that do are listed in the catalog and on the one-page summary of pre-seminary courses. Additional area electives taken in a given discipline count as free electives.

Free electives. A certain number of free electives are required of the pre-seminary student. (Confession Language-option students have usually already met the requirement by the requirements of their option.) Any non-Biblical language courses taken outside the student's non-Biblical language option count as free electives. And again, extra area electives are counted as free electives.

Non-pre-seminary courses. Pre-seminary students may carry non-pre-seminary courses on their schedule, if they meet the prerequisites. While they do not receive degree credit for them, such courses do impact GPAs.

10) What are the credit minimum and maximum that a student may carry?

★ Credit minimum. Four-year traditional pre-seminary students are encouraged to maintain full-time status with twelve or more credits. To carry fewer credits a pre-seminary student must obtain permission from his academic dean.

★ Credit maximum. With curriculum revision and in keeping with US Department of Education guidelines, students now live with an eighteen-credit ceiling each semester. Exceptions may be made for old

program plans. Courses such as choir, band, instrumental lessons, etc. do count toward the eighteen-credit ceiling, unless they are taken as an audit. Total number of credit and audit hours may not exceed twenty-one.

General Education Menus

11) ★ What is a GenEd menu?

A GenEd menu is list of courses, any one of which will fulfill the requirement of a given area of the general education required of all MLC students.

12) ★ How will the new General Education menus affect me?

That depends. The farther along in your program you are, the less will be the effect. If you have already met a given old GenEd requirement, you need not meet the new one. But, if you have not yet taken, for example, *Introduction to Fine Arts*, you still may simply take *Introduction to Fine Arts* or you may select another course from Fine Arts menu to meet the Fine Arts requirement of the new curriculum. The same thing applies for the Intercultural, Physical Education, Math, English, and Science GenEd requirements. Students have more choice under the new curriculum.

13) ★ My program plan requires MUS0001 Introduction to Music, but the course is no longer offered.

Consult the GenEd menu for the vocal music requirement. Any one of the courses listed there fulfills the music requirement.

Chinese

14) ★ May I take Chinese for pre-seminary degree credit?

Yes, all the Chinese courses are available as free elective credit. Each also fulfills Intercultural requirement.

History

15) ★ My program plan shows HIS2110 and HIS2111, but they are no longer offered. What should I do? Take HIS2112 *Rise of the West* and HIS2113 *Modern West*.

16) ★ Must I take HIS2112 *Rise of the West*, though it is not a GenEd requirement?

Yes, it is a pre-seminary requirement. It replaces the former HIS2110.

17) ★ I notice that HIS2112 and HIS2113 are 3-credit courses. My program plan showed HIS2110 and HIS2111 at 4 each. Must I make up those two credits?

No, this aspect of history requirements is part of a net credit reduction.

18) ★ My program plan shows HIS3010 *US History since 1945* as a requirement. Must I still take it?

Yes, HIS3010 remains a GenEd requirement. But you now are encouraged to take it, if possible, in your junior year to balance against the writing and speaking emphases of the pre-seminary program.

Public Speaking

19) ★ My four-year degree plan requires ENG1310 *Public Speaking*. Must I still take it?

No. *Public Speaking* is no longer required and no longer offered.

20) ★ Must I substitute another course in my plan for *Public Speaking*?

No. There has been a net reduction in the number of credits required for graduation.

21) ★ I have already taken *Public Speaking*. May I count *Public Speaking* as an area or free elective?

No. *Public Speaking* was a requirement at the time you took it.

Religion

22) Where have the religion courses on my program plan gone?

Their course numbers have changed. All the REL courses are now THE (theology).

Science

23) ★ SCI1001 *Living World* (renamed SCI1003 *Biology*) is a requirement on my program plan. Must I still take *Biology*?

No. You may, but you don't have to. SCI1003 *Biology* is now on the menu with five other science courses that fulfill the GenEd science requirement.

24) ★ Is SCI1101 *Physical World* (renamed SCI1102 *Physical Science*) still a requirement for pre-seminary students who did not have high school physics?

No, you may take it, but you do not have to. It is now on the menu with five other science courses that fulfill the GenEd science requirement.