

Pre-Seminary Recommendations

Martin Luther College exists for one reason – to train pastors, elementary and secondary teachers, and staff ministers for the pulpits, classrooms, and congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. About a fourth of the student body consists of men in the pre-seminary program. Their course of study culminates in a bachelor of arts degree. To become WELS pastors, these men then study another four years at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin.

MLC offers also a program of Seminary Certification for non-traditional students, who, because of especially age or other circumstances, are permitted to prepare for seminary in a shortened program. There are two versions of Seminary Certification, one for men with a previous bachelor's degree and one for those without a bachelor's degree.

Pre-seminary Student Achievement Data

Class of	Beginning Freshmen	Accretion	(Total) Attrition	# of Grads	% Gross Attrition	% Net Attrition	Grads Rec'd to WLS	% Rec'd
2018	41	21	26	36	42%	12%	35	97.2%
2017	43	18	28	33	46%	23%	33	100%
2016	48	15	23	40	36.5%	17.0%	40	100%
2015	47	13	30	30	52.0%	36.0%	26	87.0%
2014	32	11	21	21	48.8%	34.4%	21	100.0%
2013	41	5	14	32	30.4%	22.0%	32	100.0%
2012	56	13	38	32	55.1%	42.9%	32	100.0%
2011	52	10	22	40	35.5%	23.1%	40	100.0%
2010	51	5	31	25	55.4%	51.0%	25	100.0%
2009	45	14	16	43	27.1%	4.4%	43	100.0%
2008	62	10	35	35	48.6%	43.5%	35	100.0%
2007	60	10	25	45	35.7%	25.0%	44	97.8%
2006	72	9	34	46	42.0%	36.1%	45	97.8%
2005	77	xx	xx	55	xx	28.6%	55	100.0%

It is worth noting that the rigor of pre-seminary program – essentially liberal arts with a heavy emphasis on Hebrew, Greek, and at least one non-Biblical language – presents academic challenges across the four years of college. The program is quite do-able for the average student who applies himself faithfully. But for the student who is still finding his vocation the demands can be daunting. Hence, in part, the attrition rates. Moreover in carrying out their responsibility to the WELS, the faculty is pro-active in counseling students who lack other, non-academic gifts for ministry to other vocations. This accounts for the nearly perfect recommendation rate at the end of four years.

However, in every class there are students who receive a qualification to their recommendation, a statement both to the student and to the seminary faculty that the young man needs particularly to improve in certain areas as he continues to train for pastoral ministry at the next level.