

- An applicant must receive a positive entrance decision to be fully admitted to the seminary. This decision reflects a readiness for theological study. Those who are unclear as to vocational goals, but capable of theological study, should not be discouraged by this entrance requirement.

## Endorsement

- Endorsement normally occurs after an initial period of theological education. This process evaluates and affirms the student's growth and sense of call to rostered ministry. A reflective essay and interview are required to help identify developmental goals for each individual. A positive endorsement decision by the candidacy committee enables a candidate to participate in an ELCA internship or supervised field study.
- Endorsement by one's candidacy committee does not guarantee admission to or continuation at the seminary.

## Approval

- Approval normally occurs during the final year of study and indicates the church's confidence that the candidate is ready to begin service in one of the rostered ministries of the ELCA. The approval decision is made by the candidacy committee in consultation with ELCA seminary faculty. Once approved, candidates participate in a churchwide assignment process and are then eligible to receive a Letter of Call for service in the church.

## ELCA Candidacy Evaluation

### Entry to Professional Ministry

At significant points in a student's preparation for ministry in the ELCA, the appropriate synod and the seminary engage with the student in evaluation as outlined above. The purpose of these evaluation processes is to encourage students, to raise issues with any student whose progress is hindered, or to dismiss students whose work or conduct make it apparent that he/she will not be able to meet the church's expectations. For students preparing for ministry in a church other than the ELCA, the seminary will engage with these students in an appropriate evaluation.

When issues are raised with students or when students are dismissed, the concerns may include: inadequate academic performance; lack of professional skills appropriate to the ministries for which they are preparing; conduct which the church judges unbecoming a person preparing for, or engaging in, professional ministry. Basic documents for evaluation are the Endorsement Essay, CPE evaluation, internship reports, the Approval Essay, and the ELCA's "Vision and Expectations."

Additional evaluations during one's seminary career may be conducted either by the seminary or by the synodical or multi-synodical candidacy committee if there are sufficient concerns to warrant such actions.

M.Div. seniors who are approved for call and ordination can normally expect to receive assignment to a region of the ELCA through a church wide assignment process. Subsequently there will be further assignment to a synod within that region. The assignment process is predicated upon the needs of the church and also takes very seriously the gifts and ministry hopes of the candidates. M.A. graduates who are seeking rostered ministry in the ELCA will experience a more varied pattern of assignment and recommendation for first-call.

## Professional Ministry Master of Arts

The Wartburg M.A. and M.A. in Diaconal Ministry degree programs meet the theological education requirement for those students preparing to become diaconal ministers and associates in ministry in the ELCA.

Typically, diaconal ministers work on the boundaries of church and world seeking to empower, equip, and support the baptized people of God in ministry and mission. Both diaconal ministers and associates in ministry are ministers of the word of God carrying out a particular service in one or more areas such as education, administration, outreach and evangelism, care, music and the arts.

In order for diaconal ministers to be grounded in community, they participate in a two-week summer church-wide Formation Event. Students may apply for this event to receive three semester hours of credit which may be applied to their Wartburg M.A. degree. In addition to their academic work, they normally complete 700 hours of supervised field experience (included within the 700 hours is 200 hours of a diaconal ministry project related to a congregation) and 40 hours of supervised spiritual direction.

Students preparing to become associates in ministry in the ELCA are candidates, who working together with their synodical committees, complete 20 semester credit hours of theological education, which can happen while in the process of working towards an M.A. degree. Associates in ministry candidates normally complete one year of 600 (minimum) supervised hours of field experience.

Wartburg, with its emphasis on flexibility and individuality in community, may be of help to those M.A. students preparing for certification/rostering in other church bodies.

## MATDE Entrance Requirements

Minimum entry requirements into this program include a bachelor's degree or equivalent, a TOEFL score of 500 (paper-based), 173 (computer-based), or 61 (internet-based) for students whose primary language is other than English, endorsement from the applicant's church or sending agency, and a commitment to put into practice the knowledge, skills, and attitudes learned. Applications are accepted anytime for this degree program. However, new students begin the first year of the program in odd-numbered calendar years (2009, 2011, etc.).

## TDE Applicant Essay

Each applicant should attach to the application a personal essay stating reasons for desiring the Master of Arts in Theology, Development, and Evangelism degree. State academic objectives and the specific knowledge or skills desired.

## United States Residents Procedures for application to the TDE

Contact Wartburg by phone, fax, or the mailing address below. United States residents may be eligible for financial aid through the seminary. Wartburg will make available upon contact appropriate information and forms.

### Admissions Office

Wartburg Theological Seminary  
333 Wartburg Place, P.O. Box 5004  
Dubuque, IA 52004-5004  
Phone: 563-589-0203  
Fax: 563-589-0333