

Core Ecclesial Tradition Requirement

The Core Ecclesial Tradition requirement is satisfied by a 3 or 4-credit hour course that focuses on historical theological and ecclesial traditions that are especially formative for the student's contexts of ministry.

- Presbyterian Church (USA) students fulfill the requirement with a 4-credit hour heritage and polity course taken in the spring of the second year of full-time study. The course is offered every spring. It may be taken in the third year, if it is not taken in the second.
- Baptist students will take History of the Baptist Churches (3 credit hours), normally after at least one year of study. The course tends to be offered every other year. Many non-denominational churches trace their origins to Baptist churches, and this course may be appropriate for students from such churches.
- United Methodist Church (UMC) students preparing for ordination are directed by their denomination to take UMC History, Polity, and Doctrine at a UMC Seminary. LPTS has a relationship with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary to facilitate registration for its online versions of these courses. LPTS Tuition Grants do not cover the cost of these courses. Students begin their UMC-specific courses in their second year of LPTS studies, at the earliest.
- In some cases, LPTS contracts with local ministers in order to provide 3 or 4-credit hour Core Ecclesial Tradition courses. LPTS coordinates local resources for instruction with students who need courses so that there is no more than one offering per tradition per academic year. Students take these courses in their second year of LPTS studies, at the earliest. Availability of such LPTS courses depends on availability of appropriate, faculty-approved resources and the number of current students needing courses.
- Students following the ordination track for denominations that require them to spend a semester or year at a seminary of their own denomination (such as the Episcopal Church or the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) are exempted from the requirement to take a Core Ecclesial Tradition course; in place of such a course, they should register for another 3-credit hour Area B Elective (Theology, History, Ethics, and Religion).
- Students who believe that the aims of the Core Ecclesial Tradition requirement would be better met through alternative coursework may make such a petition to Area B coordinated by the Registrar, providing a rationale and identifying the alternative course to be taken. Students from non-denominational churches may select this option.