



## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**Last Revised August 2012**

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## **Mission & Vision of LAMP**

**Mission:** The mission of LAMP Theological Seminary (LAMP) is to equip men and women for effective gospel ministry. This gospel ministry will build healthy churches and multiply throughout the un-reached ethnic, cultural, and post-Christian people groups in the urban centers of North America, and beyond.

**Vision:** The vision of LAMP is to see GOD, by His grace and for His own glory, through the cooperative prayers and efforts of Christ's Church. Raise up Godly men and women engaged in effective gospel ministry that ignites a powerful church planting and vitalization movement that has an impact on all of North America and beyond with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and at the same time transforms both the heart and the face of the church. We long to see the nations and communities deeply transformed as the result of people being saved, lives being changed, disciples being made, and needs being met in the name of Jesus Christ.

*“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2Timothy 2:2).*

## **Theological Perspective**

LAMP adheres to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, as adopted by the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). These Standards are the fullest expression of the Seminary's doctrinal position.

The seminary curriculum itself is designed around the Reformed theology espoused by LAMP .

## **Academic Guidelines**

### **Orientation**

New students are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the following helpful guidelines in becoming familiar with the operation of the seminary. Questions about seminary life may be directed to the Learning Site Coordinators or LAMP headquarters.

### **Security**

LAMP wants to assure a safe and secure environment while training. Please make yourself familiar with the Learning Site and do not admit persons in class who are not registered in LAMP.

### **Contact Information**

Current contact information is necessary for LAMP to communicate with the student body. It is the responsibility of every student to ensure that LAMP has accurate postal address information as well as a telephone number and a current email address. Each time contact information changes student should notify the local Learning Site.

### **Endorsements**

LAMP has a special relationship with the PCA. The PCA adopted an internship program which must be completed prior to ordination in addition to the Master of Divinity degree. LAMP is structured to accommodate this additional requirement. LAMP's curriculum has been designed to fulfill the requirements of the uniform curriculum of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

### **Class Length**

Each dialog session requires a 2 hour of class time. There can be breaks for longer hour sessions.

### **Homework**

For every hour of class-time, an average of four hours of homework is assigned.

### **Electronic recordings**

There may be times (e.g., planned absence) when a student may wish to record class sessions. Electronic recordings of class lectures and chapel messages may be made only with the facilitator's permission and with the understanding that the recording is for no other purpose than personal use.

### **Academic Freedom**

While the seminary strongly holds to a Reformed position, it practices academic freedom for its students. Students from other churches or traditions are not discriminated against, nor are they required to adopt the theological Distinctives of LAMP. However, students are expected to be familiar with the seminary's position on doctrinal and related matters and to be able to clearly express the reasons for that position. Facilitators will consider opposing views fairly and charitably. Academic freedom exercised fairly by students and faculty will lead students to a clearer grasp of God's truth. The seminary seeks to maintain a proper atmosphere of

academic freedom within the sphere of Christian love in order to be a blessing to all the churches in our region.

## **Writing Standards**

1. LAMP students are required to know how to give proper credit to the academic works they reference in their own written projects. Failure to credit properly other works will make the student liable for plagiarism. Students are required to submit a summary paper of at least 6 pages, for each course. The summary will encompass three areas:
  - a. Logos: How has your study of this subject impacted your understanding of God's word?
  - b. Ethos: How has your study of this subject impacted your view of the world as a Christian?
  - c. Pathos: How has your study of this subject impacted your passion for the Christian Life and/or ministry?

The materials for the Summary Paper can be taken from the weekly **“Assignment Schedule.”**

2. Prepare a detailed teaching outline and class handouts to address the area of doctrine covered in this course:
  - a. Subject matter needs to be approved by the Course Facilitator.
  - b. The material should be formatted for at least 6 lessons.
  - c. The material should be formatted with a particular age group in mind, for example children, middle school, high school, college, adult. The age group should correlate with the area of ministry you are currently ministering to or have a particular calling to reach.
3. All writing must be typed, double spaced, 12 pt font and using MLA citation.

## **Academic Records**

Students whose tuition accounts are current can submit for official transcript within 30 days after the end of a course. The student will be assessed a charge of \$5.00 for each copy. Original student files remain the property of the seminary.

## **Graduation Requirements**

Candidates for graduation must be approved by the seminary board of directors. All tuition, fees, and any additional charges must be paid in full for a candidate to be considered for graduation. Each Learning Site will perform a graduation ceremony celebration. This ceremony can be given in conjunction with an ordination ceremony for those seeking ordination. Nevertheless, graduate candidates are not required to attend a graduation ceremony in order to receive their degree.

## **Privacy Issues**

Information about students' records will not be released to third parties without the express written consent of the student (including transcripts and financial records).

## **Publication Notice**

Every effort is made to provide accurate and up to date information. LAMP Theological Seminary reserves the right to change, without prior notice, statements in any Handbook/manual concerning, but not limited to, policies, academic offerings, tuition and fees. The information in this handbook supersedes and replaces the information in all previous publications. Where changes exist between the documents, the most current issue takes precedence.

## **Spiritual Life**

**The goal of a LAMP education is to establish Christian principles in the minds of students according to the Word of God.**

### **Church**

All students shall live Christian, godly and blameless lives according to the rules of God's Word. They should constantly attend upon all the duties of the Christian religion, both in public and secret. Attendance in weekly worship service at their local church is required for all students.

### **Scripture Reading**

Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and Learning. Every student shall so exercise in reading the Scriptures at least twice a day, in order to be ready to give an account of his proficiency therein.

### **Prayer life**

Seeing that God is the giver of all wisdom, every student must be engage in private and secret prayer life.

### **Prayer requests**

Prayer requests may be submitted in writing to LAMP headquarters. Prayer can be offered for the needs of the seminary family at the beginning of class sessions, in weekly worship service, and on spontaneous occasions.

## **Grievance and Appeals Policy**

### **Academic appeals**

If a student believes he has been unfairly graded in an assignment, a test, or an entire course, he first is to make an appointment to discuss the matter with the facilitator involved. Normally this step is all that is required to resolve the difficulty. If the student wishes to appeal the decision of the facilitator, he is to write his appeal and turn it in to the Learning Site Coordinator, to be presented to the local Learning Site development team (normally this is the session for a church base Site). The Learning Site development team will decide the issue, and the student will be notified. The development team, at its own discretion, wish to confer with the student before rendering its decision. If student is not satisfied with the decision of the development team, he may appeal in writing to LAMP headquarters whose decision is final. During the appeal process the concerned facilitator will abstain from voting.

### **Disciplinary appeals**

Normally disciplinary matters first will be handled by the Local Learning Site with the guidance of LAMP headquarters. Through counsel, discussion, and prayer most cases will be settled satisfactorily and biblically. LAMP may assign a particular member of the local Learning Site to provide continuing counsel and oversight for the student. The student's cooperation is essential if there is to be spiritual growth and success in theological study. The seminary reserves the right, to dismiss any student whose behavior is not in harmony with the biblical standards accepted by the seminary. LAMP may also impose lesser penalties including suspension or disciplinary probation. In cases of disciplinary probation, LAMP will set the conditions and requirements of the probation. LAMP also will decide if and when a student is restored to good standing. The affected student may appeal in writing any decision to LAMP headquarter. Decisions of LAMP's board are final.

### **Grievances and suggestions**

If a student has a grievance or a suggestion involving any aspect of the seminary, the first step is to go directly to the person most directly involved and seek a solution. Normally this step is all that will be required. If there is no satisfactory solution, then the student may consult with a Mentor, facilitator or coordinator of the local Learning Site. Students have the right to appeal in writing any decision of the local Learning Site to LAMP's headquarters. Decisions made by LAMP's board are final.