Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers)
to Pre-seminary Course Registration

General Information

1) When does registration take place?
See the box at the end of this document.

2) Where can I get my most complete information on courses?
The online catalog (Portal\Information\Catalog\[*red rectangle in middle-right*]
2018-19 Undergraduate Catalog) has it all, including all course descriptions and prerequisites.

3) How do I receive compact summaries of course information?
All returning students receive these (one-page list of all pre-sem courses, "Foolers", and FAQs) by email from the Deans' Office (Mrs. Diersen). All new students receive this information in a mailing from the Records Office. Contact Mrs. Diersen or Dean Balge for additional copies.

4) Where can I get my own (tailored) pre-seminary program plan?
You might still have it from your present adviser or a former adviser. Otherwise, contact your present adviser for a copy. Also, the Deans' Office (Dean Balge or Mrs. Diersen) will provide one by email.

5) What, where, and why is the five-year plan?
The five-year plan is available under <u>Scheduling</u> on the Portal. It shows when courses will be offered up to five years out. It helps students and advisers plan long-range for completion of a degree program. The Course Schedules (*Portal\Scheduling\Schedule Browser\Courses\Course Schedules*) are helpful for especially Summer 2019 through Spring 2020.

6) How I do know whether there is room for me in a given course?
Visit "Course Status" under <u>Scheduling</u> on Portal.

7) What, where, and why is my unofficial transcript?
Your unofficial transcript lists all the courses you have taken with their grades. It also shows your current school year's courses. It is available – after you log in – on Portal under <u>Grades</u>.

8) What things should I be careful to do regarding my unofficial transcript?
Distinguish degree credits. The unofficial transcript's total of credits earned is not necessarily the same as the *degree* credits (credits that count for graduation) earned. Remedial, choir, band, and non-pre-seminary (in other words for all four, non-degree) credit is also tallied as credit earned. Not every credit earned is necessarily degree credit.

Understand credit totals and GPA. AP, cbe, CLEP, and transfer credits (these all show at the top of the unofficial transcript) do not tally into the Portal's "total credit" number. The credit total reflects only courses completed at or through MLC, because GPAs are based only on courses earned via MLC.

Tally your *degree* credits. If you wish, you can check off your unofficial transcript credits against your pre-seminary program plan to tally your *degree* credits. *Degree* credits include AP, cbe, CLEP, transfer, and MLC courses, any courses that apply toward the bachelor of arts degree. Check your program plan to distinguish between *degree* credits and any others (remedial, audit, non-pre-sem).

9) 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 scheduling classes, as well as priority in other aspects of campus life. But your program plan shows how you will accrue the 130/131 *degree* credits needed for graduation and your actual graduation date.

Electives

10) Please refresh my memory about electives.
Area electives. Every pre-seminary student must choose one area elective in each of several academic areas – English, Greek, history, and science. 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 (beyond the one required in a given area) count as degree-credit free electives.

Free electives. Also free electives (from the list of pre-sem courses) are required of the pre-seminary student. Any non-biblical language courses taken outside the student's non-biblical language option count as free electives. And again, additional 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 course prerequisites. While they do *not* receive degree credit for them, such courses do impact GPAs. Students should keep in mind the eighteen-credit ceiling (see below, next).

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

Credit minimum. Four-year traditional pre-seminary students ordinarily maintain full-time status (twelve or more credits). To carry fewer credits, a four-year pre-seminary student must obtain permission from the academic dean.

Credit maximum. Students have an eighteen-credit limit each semester. Exceptions may be made through appeal to the Vice-President for Academics. 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.

12) **What is a GenEd menu?**

A GenEd menu is a list of courses in a given academic area (e.g., science, fine arts), any one of which fulfills the requirement in that area as part of the general education required of all MLC students.

Chinese

13) **Could Chinese (Mandarin) fit in my pre-seminary degree program plan?**

Yes, as a free elective(s) . All the Chinese courses are available (assuming prerequisites have been met) as free elective credit. Each also fulfills the GenEd intercultural requirement.

Yes, as a non-biblical Language option. Since fall 2013, Mandarin has been available as a non-biblical language option. Like the other single-language options, the Mandarin option requires the equivalent of six college semesters – *Elementary I & II*, and *Intermediate I, II, III, & IV*. As in the other single-language options, the college-level starting point is assumed to be *Intermediate I*; *Elementary I & II* are considered remedial (non-degree credit) courses.

Yes, as an option you can finish before junior year, if you wish. You may take Intermediate Chinese III and IV via summer immersion and avoid stacking three different foreign languages into your junior year.

Greek

14) **How does GRK3002 Greek Classics in Translation fit into degree program plans?**

GRK3002 is a required course for students in the koine Greek track. It is a free elective for classical Greek students.

15) **When is GRK3002 *Greek Classics in Translation* offered?**

It will be offered again in the fall semester of 2020-21.

History

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

Yes, it is a pre-seminary requirement.

17) **When is the best time to fulfill my HIS3010 *US History since 1945* GenEd requirement?**

The best time is second semester of your junior year, this for good balance among the writing and speaking emphases of the pre-seminary program.

Science

Spanish

18) **What is the Spanish Certificate?**

New for 2018-19, the Spanish Certificate program puts formal structure to study in the Spanish language that gives pre-seminary students the Spanish proficiency they need to serve in congregational settings.

19) **Beyond preparation for ministry, what is the benefit of the Spanish Certificate?**

The SC communicates to the student what is needed to achieve high function in Spanish. The SC identifies for the seminary and calling bodies students who have achieved such proficiency.

20) **Does the Spanish Certificate add to my total credit requirements or extend my time before graduation?**

No. The SC does not have to add credits to a typical Spanish-option degree program plan – *if one chooses SPN3001, SPN4011 (3 of 6 credits, see below), or SPN4012 (3 of 6 credits, see below) to meet the GenEd intercultural requirement*. To achieve the credits of the SC plan, one uses the GenEd intercultural requirement and the four free electives that are already built into most (not all) pre-sem plans. <u>Koine Greek</u> students would have, because of the GRK3002 requirement, one extra course (3 credits) total in their degree plan.

21) How does the Spanish Certificate compare to the Spanish option?

As mentioned, the SMC fits within existing degree plans and includes . . .

1) **<u>all four Spanish option courses</u>**
   <u>and</u>

2) ***<u>SPN4011 Spanish Immersion I</u>*** (six credits. On a typical pre-sem degree plan those six credits account for <u>2 free electives or one free elective and the GenEd intercultural requirement</u>. Accounting for SPN4011 as one free elective and the GenEd intercultural requirement allows a student to take three courses from the menu below without adding degree credit to his program plan.),

3) **<u>plus</u>**

either <u>three</u> of the following courses

· SPN3001 *Latin American Culture and Civilization* (meets intercultural requirement or accounts for one free elective). If a student accounts for SPN4011 (above) as two free electives, then taking taking SPN3001 as the intercultural requirement enables him to accomplish the SMC without adding degree credit.

·SPN3011 *Advanced Spanish Conversation* (accounts for one free elective)

·SPN4000 *Spanish and Latin American Literature* (accounts for one free elective)

·SPN4001 *Selected Topics in Spanish I* (accounts for one free elective)

·SPN4002 *Selected Topics in Spanish II* (accounts for one free elective)

OR <u>SPN4012 *Spanish Immersion II*</u> (six credits. On a typical pre-sem degree plan those six credits account for 2 free electives or one free elective and the GenEd intercultural requirement)

OR a year abroad experience (no MLC credit, but meets SMC requirement).

<u>Scheduling and Registration for 2019-20</u>

Flex Period Opportunity to Consult with Advisees .... March 20

Scheduling System Accessible .... March 21

<u>Finalization</u> of schedules by advisers .... March 25-April 12

<u>Registration</u> by rising seniors and above .... April 15

by rising juniors .... April 16

by rising sophomores.................................... April 17