

FAQ

Q: Is LCU closing?

A: No. Lincoln Christian University is transitioning to a model that will be strategically focused on ministry education. For a more detailed explanation, please read the attached Memorandum written by President Silas McCormick. This Memo will also be available on the LCU website.

Q: What are my options for completing my degree?

A: You have several options for completing your degree:

- (1) Complete your degree at LCU in the same major in which you are currently enrolled.
- (2) Complete your degree at LCU by changing majors and enrolling in one of the two degree options that will continue to be offered: B.A. in Bible & Theology or B.A. in Christian Ministry.
- (3) Complete your degree by transferring to one of the other colleges or universities with which LCU will negotiate an articulation agreement.
- (4) Complete your degree by transferring to any other college or university of your choice.

Details about these options are addressed in the questions below.

Q: What can I expect if I want to complete my degree at LCU in the same major in which I am currently enrolled?

A: Simply register for courses next fall and return to campus as usual. A full slate of courses will be offered both semesters on campus next year. If you will be a graduating senior next year, you should be able to graduate in May 2023 as usual.

If you still have courses to complete after the 2022-2023 academic year, LCU will continue to provide you with the opportunity to take the courses you need to complete your degree in your current major. You should be aware, however, that as time goes on, it is much more likely that your courses will have small enrollment and thus will be more likely to be taught by adjunct instructors or offered via independent study.

You may also complete some of your remaining degree requirements by taking courses at other colleges and universities and transferring that credit back to LCU. Such transfer credit must be pre-approved by your academic advisor, the Undergraduate Academic Dean or the Vice President of Academics as well as the registrar.

Although plans may change, undergraduate courses for the two degree programs (Bible & Theology, Christian Ministry) offered after the 2022-2023 academic year will be offered both in-person and online. Students who are completing discontinued degrees after the 2022-2023 academic year may need to complete their remaining courses on-line or via independent study.

Q: What if I want to complete my degree at LCU by changing majors and enrolling in one of the two degree options that will continue to be offered (B.A. in Bible & Theology or B.A. in Christian Ministry)?

A: You may certainly do so and you can simply follow the current process for changing majors (though we will waive the change of major fee).

However, before you make this decision, you should wait until our faculty finalize the curriculum for those new programs and meet with your academic advisor to review whether this is a good option for you. The registrar's office will perform a transcript analysis for you to help you evaluate this option. If you are not able to meet with your academic advisor, the Academic Dean or the Vice President of Academics can advise you.

Although plans may change, undergraduate courses for the two degree programs (Bible & Theology, Christian Ministry) offered after the 2022-2023 academic year will be offered both in-person and online.

Q: What would be involved in completing a degree in my current major at another college or university with which LCU enters into an articulation agreement? How would this work?

A: LCU is reaching out to a select number of other colleges and universities in an effort to negotiate articulation agreements that will enable LCU students to complete their degrees at those schools with no or minimal loss of credit. These conversations are in progress and our goal is to provide you with a set of options that include both other schools in central Illinois (if you need something close) as well as other Christian colleges or universities whose missions and philosophies are similar to those of LCU.

Since we have no control over how (and how soon) potential partner schools will make their decisions, we cannot at this time say exactly when this list of colleges and universities can be made available to you. However, doing so as soon as possible is a top priority for us. Once we are in a position to identify those options for you, we will provide you with instructions about the process for transferring.

Q: What if I decide to simply transfer to another college or university? Will my LCU credits transfer? What should I do?

A: The advantage of transferring to a college or university with which LCU enters into an articulation agreement is to streamline the transfer process and ensure maximum transfer of credit. However, any student always has the option of transferring to any school they desire whenever they may choose to do so. In this case, most other schools will perform a course-by-course evaluation of your transcripts (from LCU and any other schools you have attended) to decide which credits to accept in transfer. Typically, only grades of C or higher are accepted at other schools. LCU has no say in what other schools may decide to accept as transfer credit, so you will need to communicate with the other school to learn what they will accept and what they will not. You will need to follow that school's processes for application and enrollment which you should be able to locate on their website.

Q: Can I change majors into something other than one of the two degree options (B.A. in Bible & Theology or B.A. in Christian Ministry) and still complete my degree at LCU?

A: Probably not. You should assume that you must either complete your degree in the major in which you are currently enrolled or enroll in one of the two continuing degree programs. If such a change would make it easier to complete a degree (such as changing your major from the BA in Philosophy to the AA in Bible), then those requests will be considered.

Q: If I decide to "stop-out" and take a semester off from school, will I still be able to complete my degree at LCU?

A: To complete your degree in your current major, you must remain continuously enrolled at LCU.

However, the two degree options (B.A. in Biblical Studies or B.A. in Christian Ministry) will remain available for anyone who decides to "stop-out" and then later wishes to re-enroll.

Q: Am I required to complete Service Learning, Chapel, and SFG this semester, if I decide to transfer at the end of this semester?

A: Yes. Participation in our service learning, chapel, and SFG programming is a part of continuing campus life for the spring 2022 semester and a part of your academic program. You will still earn a Pass/No Pass in these offerings and that will be reflected on your transcript. If you plan to continue and complete your degree with LCU, you must pass in order to enroll in the fall 2022 semester.

Q: Can I finish my current degree program online after this semester?

A: That depends on your degree program and how many (and which) students decide to return in the fall. You should discuss this with your advisor after the faculty have had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with what their students need.

Q: Who will help me figure out my next steps and when can I meet with them?

A: Academic Advisors will be available to assist you regarding your specific academic program and what options are available to you. Please note that your advisors will need time to acquaint themselves with the details of our transition plan as well as to review the degree audits of their students, so you are encouraged to try and schedule meetings with them beginning **March 1**. Prior to that, they may not be able to assist you as much as they would like. Fall registration will begin on **March 21** and you may also want to consider discussing your options with your faculty advisor at that time. You are absolutely welcome to talk to your advisor before March 1, but you should expect that they will not yet be prepared to walk you through all of your options before that time. They will need time to process these developments just as you do. Student Development staff will also be available to help with questions related to student life programming, campus life, and housing.

Q: What will the housing options be next year?

A: As students finish their degree program and/or continue on in the new model, residential housing will be available for the 2022-2023 school year. LCU will no longer provide cafeteria service and students will live in the student apartments. Additional information about housing will be provided at a later date.

Q: Do I have to live on campus next year?

A: Students currently enrolled in a traditional undergraduate degree program who choose to continue in the 2022-2023 school year will not be required to live on campus. Students may work with their advisors to determine if any NET courses offered in the fall or spring align with the completion of their academic program. Additional options may be available but will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What will campus life look like next year if I return as a residential student?

A: This all depends on how many students remain enrolled and live on campus. Certainly some things will be different due to the size of the campus body, and more information will be shared once we have a better idea of the returning class. Those who choose to return for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond will have an integral part in determining what campus life looks like.

Q: What about athletics?

A: Any sport currently playing or yet to play in the spring 2022 semester will continue with their season as planned. LCU will no longer offer intercollegiate athletics after the 2021-2022 school year.

Q: Will my scholarships change?

A: LCU will honor all scholarship(s) that students have been awarded, as long as they maintain continued enrollment at LCU until the completion of their current degree plan. Athletic scholarship amounts will be honored by converting them to another type of scholarship in the same amount and with the same academic expectations for continued eligibility.

Q: Will there be a May 2022 graduation?

A: Yes. Any student on track to graduate in May 2022 will participate in an on campus ceremony as planned.

Q: If I'm a prospective student, looking to start in Fall of 2022, what degrees can I pursue?

A: As we move forward, we'll continue offering two bachelor degree options. You can get a BA in Biblical Studies or a BA in Christian Ministry. Our masters degrees will stay the same (<https://lincolnchristian.edu/academics/programs/masters/>) but we will no longer offer the Doctorate of Ministry (DMin).

Q: With all of these changes, will LCU still be accredited?

A: Yes. LCU has full intention to maintain its regional accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), its seminary accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), and the Master of Arts in Counseling program will continue to hold its accreditation with the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Education Programs (CACREP).

Q: If I decide to attend LCU in the Fall of 2022, where would I live?

A: The 2022-2023 academic year will continue to be on Lincoln's current campus, where housing options will be provided for our students in our student apartments.

Q: Is the application for admission process changing?

A: The application process is staying the same. You can apply at: www.lincolnchristian.edu/apply

Q: Can I still qualify or attain state and federal aid if I attend LCU?

A: Yes. We will still have a financial aid office that will walk with you through the financial aid process. Once your FAFSA is submitted, our Financial Aid office will work with you to see if you qualify for any state or federal grants, or any student loans that may be made available to you to pursue your education.

Q: What will the classroom experience be like next year?

A: During the 2022-2023 academic year, the classroom experience will continue to be the same, whether you attend classes on our campus in Lincoln, or online, dependent on your degree.

Q: If I'm a non-traditional online undergraduate prospective student, will there still be academic options for me?

A: Yes. We'll continue to offer the B.A. in Christian Ministry online that you can begin. In the Fall of 2023, you can begin the B.A. in Biblical Studies online as well.

Q: Do these questions and answers apply to current graduate and Seminary students?

A: Yes, though the impact to those students will be minimal. Although we will be making changes to graduate and Seminary programs for new students, and we will not enroll any new students in some programs we plan to discontinue, current students who continue to make timely progress toward their degrees will be able to complete those degrees even if we have indicated that they are being discontinued or revised.

Q: What does this mean for the rest of the spring 2022 semester?

A: We are moving forward as planned. All academic and student development programming will continue as we work out the transition plan. Student led activities will continue, as well as athletics.