

LCU Student FAQs

Fall, 2023 Edition

- Q: What is the plan again?
A: In brief, LCU will cease academic operations on May 31, 2024. We are planning to move four of our Seminary programs, the MA in Ministry, the MA in Bible and Theology, the MA in Biblical Studies and the Master of Divinity intact to Ozark Christian College. We are hoping to move the MA in Organizational Leadership intact to a different school as well. We are committed to helping all students successfully find a new academic home, and we will announce those arrangements as they are completed.
- Q: What is “OCC”?
A: Ozark Christian College. Founded in 1942, OCC is a lot like LCU. It is a Restoration Movement school with a similar mission and a focus on Jesus, the Bible and the Church. They are located in Joplin, Missouri. More info [here](#).
- Q: Will LCU leave me academically stranded when it closes in May, 2024?
A: Absolutely not. We are required by our institutional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission, to find an appropriate new academic home for each LCU student. We would anyway; it is the right thing to do.
- Q: What are my academic options now?
A: You can graduate (this is a really good idea-if you’re close, go for it)
A: You can transfer before May, 2024 (not a great idea, but you’re welcome to give it a shot)
A: You can transfer after May, 2024 on your own (not a great idea, but you’re welcome to give it a shot)
A: You can transfer after May, 2024 using a transfer pathway (a great idea, the best deal by far)
- Q: Can I transfer to any school I want, even if there’s no transfer pathway with that school?
A: Yes! You can transfer to any school you like.
Q: Is this a good idea?
A: Maybe. You will likely get a much (much) better deal with a transfer pathway school. If you transfer on your own, you will likely have to go through the other school’s application process, and they may or may not take all of your credits.
- Q: What is a “transfer pathway”?
A: A transfer pathway is a formal agreement between two schools to protect students who need to finish their degrees elsewhere. The agreement is negotiated by the two institutions, and it is then certified by our accreditor (HLC). The agreements typically make it as easy as possible for students to start at a new school. For example, students utilizing a transfer pathway do not have to go through the usual application process, they usually do not lose any credits that count toward their degrees, and often include guarantees like no extra time to degree completion, and no extra cost to completion. If the receiving school cannot guarantee no extra cost (for example, your LCU program is 120 hours, but the program at the new school is 121 hours, so you will pay for one more credit hour), they usually match LCU’s price if their per-hour tuition rate is higher. Transfer pathways will get you the very best deal by far.
- Q: What does “HLC” mean, and what is it?
A: “Higher Learning Commission” It is an institutional accreditor, which means that it is tasked by the US Department of Education to ensure that you receive the quality education that you were promised when you enrolled at LCU. Other regions of the country have different accreditors. LCU is fully

accredited by HLC.

- Q: What does “ATS” mean, and what is it?
A: “The Association of Theological Schools” It accredits the Seminary, and we hope to move the Seminary’s ATS accreditation to OCC.
- Q: What does CACREP mean, and what is it?
A: “The Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs” This is a specialized accreditor, and our MA in Counseling has CACREP accreditation. This is an extremely important accreditation to have, and it certifies the rigor and quality of our counseling program. We are only going to conclude transfer pathways with other CACREP accredited schools.
- Q: Will my program have a transfer pathway?
A: Yes! All (all) LCU programs will have a transfer pathway, unless everyone in the program graduates and there is no one left.
- Q: How can I be sure my transfer school is not going to close?
A: The best way is to select a transfer pathway school. HLC is double-checking each school on the transfer pathway list we submitted to ensure that it is in good financial standing. If you are transferring on your own, ask some pointed questions about your target school’s financial situation.
- Q: I’d like to transfer on my own, how do I do that?
A: The best way is to do lots of research, contact the other school early, visit/meet online with their admissions department and with someone from the department/program in which you would like to study. Also, critically, send them an unofficial transcript so their Registrar’s office can review it. Did we mention this was a critical step? Finally, ask lots and lots of questions. You are an experienced higher education student now, so you know what to ask.
- Q: How can I get an unofficial transcript?
A: You can get an unofficial transcript anytime from the LCU Student Portal. Free!
- Q: How can I get an official transcript?
A: Although other schools will review an unofficial transcript, you will need to send them an official one when you apply on your own, or when you transfer with a pathway. That has to be done from the LCU Registrar to their Registrar. You can request an official transcript [here](#).
- Q: If I don’t finish a class in the spring semester, can I finish after May 31, 2024?
A: No, sadly, you cannot. LCU will end our academic functions on May 31, 2024, and after that point we will no longer be certified to issue degrees or grant credit for courses. Our accreditation will end.
- Q: How can I make the best choices for my spring classes?
A: Study your degree audit on the Student Portal-it will tell you every class you have left to complete. Also, meet with your advisor to talk through your best spring options.
- Q: Will I be able to take the class(es) in the spring I need to graduate by May, 2024?
A: Yes. The courses already on the Spring 2024 schedule should be classes you need, but we recognize that since some students are trying to take extra courses, not everything will necessarily be on the current schedule. We will get any courses you need added to the schedule, or have you do them as

independent studies.

- Q: If I have to do an independent study to graduate, do I have to pay the independent study fee?
A: No! We will waive the fee for any class required for graduation. You're welcome!
- Q: I just want to take a class for fun in the spring as an independent study. Will I pay the fee?
A: Yes, you will. We will only waive the fee for courses students need to graduate by May, 2024.
- Q: I will finish all of my required courses after the graduation ceremony on May 4, but before May 31. Can I walk in graduation?
A: Yes! Normally we do not allow this, but this year we are.
- Q: I'm not going to be able to finish my BA at LCU, but I would like to have an LCU degree. Can I get an AA in May, 2024 and walk in graduation?
A: Yes, IF you have finished all the requirements for an AA by May, 2024. If you need a class or two to finish your AA in the spring semester, be sure to register for them. We are happy to award you the degree if you earn it.
- Q: My program is transferring to Ozark. Will they take all of my credits?
A: OCC has pledged to take all of your credits. It will be part of our formal transfer pathway agreement with them.
- Q: My program is transferring to Ozark. Will I have to take more classes at OCC than I would have at LCU?
A: If you are in the MA in Ministry, the MA in Bible and Theology, the MA in Biblical Studies or the Master of Divinity, OCC has guaranteed no extra time to graduation, so no extra classes.
- Q: I'm transferring as an undergraduate to OCC, will I have to take more classes than I would have at LCU?
A: Probably yes. OCC undergraduate programs are typically 125 credit hours, but our programs are 120 hours. The exception: the online BA in Biblical Studies is a 120 hour program (perfect for LCC BA in Biblical and Theological Studies!).
- Q: I'd rather not do any more work this semester, so I plan to stop turning in any work. Will I fail my classes?
A: Yes, you will. This semester, and spring, will function just like any other semester. Failing classes is very hard on your GPA, and failed classes will not transfer.
- Q: Is failing my classes now a good idea?
A: No, it is not. Failing classes at any time is a bad idea, but if you fail one now, you likely won't be able to make it up. Courses being offered this semester are probably not going to be offered next semester.
- Q: I plan to do extra courses next semester so I can graduate, but an extra course I need is not on the schedule. What should I do?
A: Work with your advisor to identify the course. Ask the faculty member who usually teaches the course to do it as an independent study (your advisor can help you with this). We are also studying now what additional courses we will need, so we will likely be updating the Spring 2024 schedule with

additional offerings.

- Q: Spring registration is coming up. How can I be sure that I'm taking the right classes?
A: Review your degree audit (on your Student Portal), and meet with your advisor.
- Q: I'm taking classes in the spring. Will the library still be open? Can I still get the resources I need to complete my work with excellence?
A: Yes! The library will stay open until the end of classes in May, 2024. While we may remove items that do not support the final courses being offered, the resources you need will still be available. Visit the library anytime-it is a great place, staffed by helpful, knowledgeable and friendly folks.
- Q: Our Registrar, Jennifer Ramsey, is a super nice person. Is she the nicest person on campus?
A: That's a tough call. All faculty and staff are really nice, but Jennifer is certainly a standout.
- Q: Dr. Dicken seems obsessed with the Gospel of Luke. What's the deal?
A: He just published a book on Luke, so he's a little obsessed right now. Be sure to ask him about its ranking on Amazon.
- Q: Studying Hebrew is really hard because it is full of weird squiggles and is read backwards. Is Dr. Mangano just making it up?
A: No, all Ancient Near Eastern languages are weird, but despite that Dr. Mangano knows most of them. You want weird? Ask him to read you the Epic of Gilgamesh aloud sometime (and we don't mean in English) (actually, it's really neat to hear it the way a person in the Ancient Near East would have).
- Q: Will you ignore all of the academic policies in the catalog? I'd like to just do what I want next semester.
A: No, we will not ignore all of them, nor will we ignore only some of them. We will be ethical to the end, following our stated policies and not violating our accreditation.

The most important question:

- Q: Is LCU ending well?
A: In all seriousness, yes, it is. When most schools close, they have spent everything, close abruptly and leave most everyone in the lurch. LCU will end with its endowment intact (the endowment nearly entirely supports student scholarships), it is giving everyone lots of time to make wise decisions, we are handing off our mission, our endowment, and our core Seminary programs to OCC, and we are giving everyone a chance to graduate who reasonably can. We have been faithful to our mission, to our founders, and to our God. We are ending well. Amen.

Have a question that isn't frequent?
Contact your advisor or Dr. Messner (messner@lincolncristian.edu)