

## **What is the future of Lincoln Christian University?**

At the end of the academic year, May 31, 2024, Lincoln Christian University will cease academic operations. That is, we will no longer be offering academic credit or degrees. However, please note that:

- On June 1, 2024, Lincoln Christian Seminary and some of her current degree programs will be acquired by Ozark Christian College, retaining the name “Lincoln Seminary” to celebrate and continue the legacy of our institution.
- After May 31, 2024, it is likely the legal entity that is LCU will continue in some capacity for some time while we resolve outstanding debts, assets, or other matters.
- There are continued conversations about additional and meaningful ways to continue the legacy of Lincoln Christian University within the local church and the wider world of Christian education, and any updates concerning LCU's ongoing ministry will be shared in a timely manner.

## **What degree programs will Ozark be adopting from LCU?**

Ozark is seeking approval to adopt the following HLC- and ATS-accredited degree programs: our Master of Divinity, our Master of Arts degrees in Biblical Studies and Bible and Theology, and they will merge our MA in Ministry with their MA in Christian Ministry. This change will need to be approved by ATS (Association for Theological Schools), HLC (Higher Learning Commission), and ABHE (Association for Biblical Higher Education) before it is finalized.

## **What degree programs will Ozark *not* adopt?**

Ozark will *not* adopt any of the remaining graduate/seminary degree programs: Master of Arts degrees in Counseling, Theology, and Organizational Leadership. OCC currently offers a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries, Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in Theology (as well as other Bachelor of Arts degrees in which current students may transfer.

## **How are you helping students who will not be able to complete their degree by May?**

We will help each student in every way we can to find a “home” for their continued education that reflects sound stewardship of the work they’ve already done. If you would like to see an example of how we are already engaged in this work, please see the [student-specific FAQ document](#) Dr. Brian Messner, our Vice President of Academics has created.

## **What will it look like for any students who wish to continue on with Ozark?**

Any current Lincoln Christian University *seminary* students who wish to continue on in one of the Masters-level programs that Ozark is adopting are guaranteed zero loss—no increase in tuition, no increase in degree requirements—and all degrees can be completed through distance education (online and virtual presence). We are working with Ozark and other schools to design transfer arrangements for those currently pursuing one of our undergraduate degrees.

## **Is LCU actively recruiting and admitting students for the remaining Spring 2024 semester?**

No. Because we will cease academic operations after May 31, 2024, we have been told that we *may not* recruit new students for Spring 2024. We have contacted all admitted students to pass along this pertinent information, and we will also share this information with all who inquire about our programming. To eliminate as much confusion as possible, we have disabled our online application process on the main website.

### **Will there still be a May 2024 Commencement ceremony?**

Absolutely. Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 4, at 10AM (CST). Details concerning Commencement will be shared in good time.

### **What does this mean for LCU's faculty and staff?**

While Ozark expects to extend employment opportunities to a few members of LCU's faculty and staff, the majority of LCU faculty and staff will not be employed by LCU or Ozark beyond May 31, 2024.

### **What will happen with the remaining portions of LCU's campus?**

Since February 2022, we have sold a significant portion of our campus—the Chapel, Laughlin Athletic Center and Field House, the athletic fields, and all three of our residence halls (Ruth, Alumni, and Titus). Proceeds from these sales were applied to the University's debt, dramatically lowering our debt total, while also reducing annual debt service payments to CFR. We anticipate selling the remaining portions of our campus in the months ahead, with the proceeds applied in the University's debt. In addition to this sales work, Timothy Hall remains under contract for demolition, and we will proceed as planned. This will both reduce the cost to maintain our campus as well as increase its actual value.

### **What will happen to all the resources in LCU's library?**

Given the volume of rich resources that find their home in the Jessie C. Eury Library, this remains an ongoing point of conversation. Our alumni and friends can rest assured that all resources will be stewarded well, so that they remain available for Kingdom work. Updates will be provided over the months ahead.

### **What will happen to other campus resources—IT equipment, office furniture, portraits, etc?**

This, too, remains an ongoing point of conversation. Information concerning the opportunity to purchase any resources will be communicated to the wider LCU community in a timely manner. Please note that for the items of unique and special value pertaining to specific people or families—for example, a portrait of past employees—we will work to distribute such items to those particular families.

### **What happens to LCU's academic records?**

The provisional plan is for Ozark to take control of—and thus serve as a “home” for—all of LCU's academic records. Pending final approval from our accrediting bodies, as an alum of LCU, you *will* be able to request transcripts through Ozark's Academic Office. If you would like to request transcripts from LCU before the University's closure, you can do so [here](#).

### **What happens to the endowed scholarship money that has been given to LCU over the years?**

Ozark will take responsibility of our \$3.8 million student scholarship endowment to—as closely as possible—continue the institutional mission and honor gift purpose of the original donor. These monies cannot—and will not—be used to settle our assets and liabilities in the coming months.

### **Is Ozark obligated to use this money for tuition scholarships going forward?**

In short, tuition scholarship money *will* continue to be used for its intended purpose: to support Christian students pursuing biblical education. And please note three important matters:

- The endowed scholarship money transferred to OCC will be used for tuition scholarships and follow the guidelines in the current scholarship agreements as closely as possible.
- The names of the endowed scholarship agreements will transfer and continue to be used as well (example: The Lynn R. Laughlin Scholarship will retain that name at OCC).
- OCC has committed to using the endowed scholarship funds they receive from us to help LCU students (who become OCC students starting next June) finish their education with no additional costs than what they were expecting to pay here.

### **How will LCU's remaining debt be resolved?**

LCU does have assets, beyond the endowment that will be passed on to Ozark, that are of greater value than the debt it has. Precisely how this is resolved is a matter of ongoing conversation, but LCU is committed to ensuring that we meet our obligation to CFR, a fellow ministry and partner.

### **With LCU closing, why should someone continue to give to the school?**

Because LCU is committed to finishing the 2023-2024 academic year in service to our current students and, like any other academic year, there are costs that need to be met, ranging from faculty and staff salaries to student services to general maintenance (and much more). We need your financial help to help us finish well. What's more, a good finish for us is a good start for Ozark.

### **How will LCU continue to communicate further details related to matters above (and more)?**

Timely and clear communication will be offered via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#), emails from our Advancement team, and [the University's main site](#).