



LifeSong

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY



STUDENT HANDBOOK

Deeper Passion • Deeper Presence • Deeper Purpose

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WELCOME TO LSOM!

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry exists to develop Spirit-filled, Word-grounded disciples and leaders who embody Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

Students are not only enrolling in classes. They are entering a process of spiritual formation, biblical instruction, leadership development, ministry preparation, and personal growth.

Because LSOM is a ministry formation school, students are expected to approach the program with humility, hunger, teachability, faithfulness, and a sincere desire to grow in Christ.

Student expectations are designed to help protect the culture of LSOM, strengthen the learning environment, promote spiritual growth, and prepare students for faithful ministry and leadership.

The Heart of a Student

At LSOM, we believe formation begins in the heart.

God is not only interested in what students do. He is interested in who students are becoming.

Students are encouraged to maintain a heart posture marked by:

- Love for Jesus
- Hunger for the Word of God
- Desire for the presence of God
- Humility
- Teachability
- Honor
- Faithfulness
- Integrity
- Servant leadership
- Willingness to grow
- Openness to correction
- Compassion for people
- Commitment to the mission of God

Deeper Passion is not merely outward expression or religious activity. It is a heart fully turned toward God.

Students are encouraged to ask throughout the program:

- Is my heart becoming more surrendered to Jesus?
 - Am I growing in love for God and people?
 - Am I serving from devotion or simply duty?
 - Am I becoming more teachable, humble, and faithful?
 - Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to form my character?
-

Spiritual Expectations

Students are expected to pursue a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

This includes:

- Regular time in Scripture
- Prayer
- Worship
- Obedience to God's Word
- Repentance and humility
- Participation in Christian community
- Dependence upon the Holy Spirit
- Faithfulness in the local church
- Growth in Christlike character

LSOM does not expect students to be perfect. However, students are expected to be honest, teachable, and willing to grow.

When students struggle, they are encouraged to seek help, prayer, counsel, accountability, and support from appropriate leaders.

Commitment to the Word of God

Students are expected to honor the authority of Scripture and engage seriously with the Word of God.

Students should approach Scripture with reverence, hunger, obedience, and a desire to be transformed.

This includes:

- Completing assigned Bible readings
- Studying Scripture faithfully
- Bringing a Bible or Bible app to class
- Using assigned Bible study tools when required
- Applying Scripture to personal life and ministry
- Submitting beliefs, attitudes, and conduct to the Word of God
- Learning to interpret and communicate Scripture responsibly

At LSOM, the Bible is not merely a textbook. It is the living Word of God and the foundation for discipleship, doctrine, worship, leadership, and ministry.

Commitment to the Presence of God

Students are expected to value and pursue the presence of God.

LSOM is not simply an academic environment. It is a Spirit-filled formation environment where prayer, worship, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, and dependence on God are essential.

Students are encouraged to participate fully in environments of worship, prayer, ministry, and spiritual formation.

This includes:

- Engaging in worship with sincerity
- Participating in prayer
- Honoring the work of the Holy Spirit
- Remaining open to spiritual growth
- Ministering to others with humility and love
- Avoiding spiritual pride, performance, or manipulation
- Submitting spiritual gifts and ministry expressions to biblical wisdom and leadership

Students should desire not only to learn about God, but to walk with God.

Academic Expectations

Students are expected to take their studies seriously.

Academic faithfulness is part of spiritual formation. How students steward assignments, deadlines, class participation, and learning opportunities reflects character and responsibility.

Students are expected to:

- Attend class faithfully
- Arrive on time
- Complete assigned readings
- Submit assignments by the deadline
- Participate in discussions
- Engage MoodleCloud regularly
- Prepare for class
- Take notes
- Ask questions when clarification is needed
- Communicate respectfully with instructors
- Complete all course requirements with integrity

Students should not treat LSOM casually. The goal is not simply to receive information, but to be formed, equipped, and prepared for faithful service.

Attendance Expectations

Attendance is an essential part of the LSOM experience.

Because LSOM is a formation-based school, students are expected to attend scheduled classes, ministry labs, practica, intensives, and required gatherings.

Students are expected to:

- Attend all scheduled class sessions
- Arrive on time
- Remain for the full class session
- Notify the instructor when an absence is unavoidable
- Complete any required make-up work
- Participate in required ministry practicum activities
- Follow the attendance policy stated in each course syllabus

Excessive absences, repeated tardiness, or lack of participation may affect grades, course completion, practicum completion, academic standing, or graduation eligibility.

Participation Expectations

Students are expected to participate actively and respectfully.

Participation may include:

- Classroom discussion
- Prayer
- Worship
- Group activities
- Ministry labs
- MoodleCloud forums
- Peer interaction
- Practicum reflection
- Leadership exercises
- Presentations
- Feedback conversations

Students should participate with humility, respect, and a desire to grow.

Participation should never be used to dominate, argue, draw attention to oneself, dishonor others, or create division.

Healthy participation builds the learning community and helps students grow together.

Ministry Practicum Expectations

Students enrolled in ministry practicum are expected to serve faithfully in approved ministry environments.

Practicum is not merely volunteer service. It is part of the student's formation and ministry training.

Students are expected to:

- Serve in the assigned or approved ministry area
- Arrive on time and prepared
- Follow the direction of ministry leaders
- Communicate clearly with mentors or supervisors
- Complete required ministry hours
- Submit practicum reflections and assignments
- Receive feedback with humility
- Demonstrate faithfulness, reliability, and teachability
- Follow LifeSong Church ministry policies
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and confidentiality
- Represent Jesus, LifeSong Church, and LSOM with integrity

Failure to complete practicum requirements may delay course completion or graduation.

Servant Leadership

Students are expected to grow as servant leaders.

Leadership at LSOM is not first about title, platform, visibility, or position. It is about character, responsibility, humility, and service.

Students are expected to:

- Serve before seeking position
- Honor those in authority
- Take responsibility for assignments
- Follow through on commitments
- Work well with teams
- Encourage others
- Avoid entitlement
- Receive correction
- Lead with humility
- Be faithful in small things
- Use influence to build others up

Students should remember that ministry leadership is a privilege and a responsibility.

Honor and Respect

Students are expected to help build a culture of honor.

This includes honoring:

- God
- Scripture
- Classmates
- Faculty
- Ministry mentors
- LifeSong Church leadership
- Volunteers
- Church members
- Guests
- The LifeSong campus
- The LSOM learning environment

Honor does not mean students may never ask questions or express concerns. It means students do so with humility, respect, and a desire for understanding and unity.

Dishonor, gossip, slander, sarcasm, mockery, divisive behavior, or disrespect toward leaders or classmates is inconsistent with LSOM culture.

Integrity and Personal Conduct

Students are expected to live with integrity in both public and private life.

Students should seek to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel and consistent with Christian discipleship.

Students are expected to avoid conduct that dishonors Christ, harms others, damages trust, or undermines ministry formation.

This includes avoiding:

- Dishonesty
- Plagiarism or cheating
- Gossip or slander
- Divisive behavior
- Sexual immorality
- Pornography
- Drunkenness
- Illegal drug use
- Violence or threats
- Harassment
- Abuse
- Manipulation
- Misuse of spiritual authority
- Misrepresentation of LSOM, LifeSong Church, or ministry roles

Students who struggle in any area are encouraged to seek help and accountability. LSOM desires to respond with truth, grace, wisdom, and a commitment to restoration whenever possible.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete academic work honestly.

Academic dishonesty is inconsistent with Christian character and the mission of LSOM.

Academic dishonesty may include:

- Plagiarism
- Cheating
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Submitting work completed by another person
- Misusing artificial intelligence tools
- Fabricating information
- Misrepresenting sources
- Reusing prior work without permission
- Misrepresenting ministry practicum hours
- Copying online material without proper citation

Students should ask instructors when they are unsure how to cite a source, use Bible study software, collaborate with classmates, or use digital tools appropriately.

Use of Technology

Students are expected to use technology responsibly and respectfully.

This includes:

- Checking email regularly
- Logging into MoodleCloud regularly
- Submitting assignments through approved platforms
- Using Logos Bible Study software or other required tools when assigned
- Maintaining access to required technology
- Communicating promptly regarding technical issues
- Using digital tools with academic integrity
- Avoiding distractions during class
- Respecting copyright and digital resources

Students should not allow phones, laptops, tablets, or other devices to distract from worship, prayer, instruction, discussion, or ministry formation.

Communication Expectations

Students are expected to communicate clearly, respectfully, and promptly.

This includes communication with:

- Instructors
- LSOM leadership
- Administrative staff
- Ministry mentors
- Practicum supervisors
- Classmates
- LifeSong Church leaders

Students are responsible for:

- Keeping contact information current
- Reading official LSOM communication
- Responding when required
- Asking for help when needed
- Communicating absences in advance when possible
- Addressing concerns through appropriate channels
- Avoiding gossip, passive-aggressive communication, or public criticism

Healthy communication is part of healthy leadership.

Confidentiality

Students may hear personal stories, prayer requests, ministry situations, pastoral concerns, or sensitive information through classes, ministry practica, small groups, prayer ministry, or church service.

Students are expected to protect confidential information.

Students should not repeat private information, share sensitive stories, post ministry situations online, or discuss personal matters outside the appropriate context.

Confidentiality is not absolute. Students must report concerns involving abuse, threats of harm, safety issues, or serious misconduct according to LifeSong Church policy and applicable law.

Students should never promise complete secrecy. A wise statement is:

“I will do my best to honor your privacy, but I cannot promise to keep something confidential if someone may be in danger, if abuse is involved, or if I need to involve appropriate leadership to help care for you well.”

Ministry Boundaries

Students are expected to maintain healthy boundaries in ministry relationships.

This includes appropriate boundaries related to:

- Time
- Emotional dependence
- Physical contact
- Communication
- Social media
- Mentoring relationships
- Prayer ministry
- Pastoral care conversations
- Transportation
- Meeting locations
- Relationships with minors

Students should avoid secretive, exclusive, romanticized, manipulative, or emotionally dependent relationships in ministry contexts.

Students should seek guidance from LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership when unsure whether a boundary is appropriate.

Prayer Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

Students are expected to minister with humility, love, biblical wisdom, and accountability.

LifeSong values prayer, healing, deliverance, prophetic ministry, words of knowledge, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Students participating in these ministry environments must follow LifeSong Church guidelines and serve under appropriate leadership.

Students should:

- Pray with love and humility
- Avoid manipulation or pressure
- Avoid shame-based language
- Use spiritual gifts to encourage and build up
- Avoid presenting impressions as infallible
- Submit spiritual impressions to leadership when needed
- Maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries
- Refer serious concerns to approved leaders
- Remember that ministry is about loving people, not drawing attention to oneself

Spiritual gifts must reflect the character of Jesus.

Social Media and Digital Conduct

Students represent Christ, LifeSong Church, and LSOM in digital spaces.

Students are expected to use social media wisely.

Students should not post:

- Confidential ministry information
- Private prayer requests without permission
- Photos or videos of minors without approval
- Divisive or dishonoring comments
- Harassing or inappropriate content
- Misleading claims about LSOM or LifeSong Church
- Content that contradicts Christian character or LSOM expectations

Online conduct may affect student standing, ministry placement, practicum participation, or leadership opportunities.

Facility and Campus Expectations

Students are expected to respect the LifeSong Church campus.

Students should:

- Use approved classrooms and meeting spaces
- Follow parking instructions
- Clean up after themselves
- Respect church property
- Report facility concerns
- Avoid unauthorized access to offices, records, equipment, or restricted areas
- Follow all safety and emergency procedures
- Treat church staff, volunteers, and guests with respect

Because LSOM operates on an active church campus, students should remain aware that many ministries use the facilities throughout the week.

Safety and Reporting

Students are expected to take safety seriously.

Students should promptly report:

- Injuries
- Safety hazards
- Threats of harm
- Abuse or suspected abuse
- Harassment
- Boundary violations
- Misconduct
- Emergency situations
- Unusual ministry incidents requiring leadership awareness

Students should not attempt to investigate serious safety concerns on their own.

If immediate danger exists, students should contact emergency services first and then notify appropriate LifeSong Church or LSOM leadership.

Financial Responsibility

Where tuition, fees, resources, books, software, or other costs apply, students are expected to fulfill financial responsibilities according to LSOM policy.

Students are responsible for:

- Reviewing tuition and fee information
- Understanding payment deadlines
- Reading refund policies
- Purchasing required materials
- Communicating promptly about financial questions
- Resolving outstanding balances
- Keeping copies of payment records or agreements

Financial matters should be handled through approved LSOM or LifeSong Church procedures.

Housing and Transportation Responsibility

LSOM does not provide student housing, dormitories, meal plans, or transportation.

Students are responsible for arranging their own:

- Housing
- Meals
- Transportation
- Personal expenses
- Schedule management
- Employment arrangements
- Family responsibilities

In certain situations, LifeSong Church families may voluntarily offer housing or temporary lodging to a student. Such arrangements are not guaranteed and are not an official LSOM housing program.

Any housing arrangement between a student and a LifeSong family or church member is a private arrangement between those parties unless otherwise approved in writing by LifeSong Church leadership.

Commitment to LifeSong Culture

Students are expected to respect and participate in the culture of LifeSong Church.

LifeSong culture is shaped by:

- The Word of God
- The Presence of God
- Prayer
- Discipleship
- Generosity
- Faith
- Worship

Students are expected to grow in understanding and embodying the values of Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

This does not mean every student will have the same personality, style, or calling. It means students should be willing to learn, honor, participate, and be formed within the spiritual culture of the house.

When Students Are Struggling

LSOM recognizes that students may face difficult seasons.

Students may struggle with academics, finances, family, spiritual discouragement, personal habits, emotional health, ministry pressure, or schedule demands.

Students are encouraged to seek help early.

Possible support may include:

- Meeting with an instructor
- Talking with LSOM leadership
- Asking for prayer
- Meeting with a ministry mentor
- Requesting academic guidance
- Seeking pastoral care
- Asking for accountability
- Requesting a leave of absence, if needed
- Receiving referral to professional support when appropriate

Students should not wait until they are overwhelmed, failing, isolated, or ready to quit before asking for help.

Consequences for Unmet Expectations

When a student does not meet LSOM expectations, leadership may respond according to the nature and seriousness of the concern.

Possible responses may include:

- Conversation or coaching
- Prayer and pastoral care
- Written warning
- Academic warning
- Formation plan
- Ministry placement restriction
- Required meeting with LSOM leadership
- Academic probation
- Conduct probation
- Removal from practicum
- Suspension
- Dismissal from the program

- Referral to LifeSong Church leadership
- Reporting to civil authorities when required

LSOM desires restoration and growth whenever possible, but the school also has a responsibility to protect students, the church, ministry environments, and institutional integrity.

Student Agreement

By enrolling in LifeSong School of Ministry, students agree to participate in the academic, spiritual, and ministry formation process.

Students agree to:

- Pursue Jesus wholeheartedly
- Honor the Word of God
- Engage the presence of God
- Attend faithfully
- Complete coursework honestly
- Serve humbly
- Communicate respectfully
- Protect confidentiality
- Follow ministry conduct expectations
- Receive correction with humility
- Represent Christ, LifeSong Church, and LSOM with integrity

The LSOM journey is a privilege and a responsibility.

Students are invited to give themselves fully to the process and to believe God for deep transformation, strong foundations, and fruitful ministry.

Summary

Student expectations at LifeSong School of Ministry are designed to support the formation of healthy disciples and leaders.

LSOM students are called to grow in the Word of God, the presence of God, spiritual maturity, ministry faithfulness, servant leadership, and Kingdom purpose.

The goal is not merely that students would complete a program, but that they would become people who embody:

Deeper Passion — a heart fully turned toward God.

Deeper Presence — a life centered on the presence of God.

Deeper Purpose — a life fully engaged in God's mission.

Important Student Disclosure

Academic Status, Transferability, Ordination, and Ministry Placement

LifeSong School of Ministry exists to help students grow in biblical understanding, theological clarity, spiritual maturity, ministry competency, servant leadership, and LifeSong culture. LSOM is a ministry-based leadership development school operated by LifeSong Church and is designed to form students in **Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose**.

Because LSOM is a church-based ministry formation school, students should understand the following important disclosures before and during their participation.

1. Ministry-Based Education

LifeSong School of Ministry is operated as a religious ministry education and leadership formation program of LifeSong Church. LSOM courses, practicums, gatherings, assignments, and leadership expectations are designed to help students grow as disciples of Jesus and be equipped for faithful, Spirit-empowered ministry.

LSOM is not merely an academic program. It is a formation environment where students are developed in the Word of God, the presence of God, prayer, discipleship, generosity, faith, worship, character, and practical ministry service.

2. Accreditation and Academic Credit

LifeSong School of Ministry is not currently accredited and does not currently award accredited college credit unless otherwise stated in official LSOM materials.

LSOM units are used for internal academic structure, workload expectations, student progress, program completion, transcript records, and future institutional planning. LSOM units are not automatically equivalent to accredited college credit.

Students should not assume that LSOM coursework will transfer to another college, university, seminary, or ministry training program.

3. Transferability

The transferability of LSOM coursework, units, certificates, diplomas, or transcripts is determined by the receiving institution. LSOM cannot guarantee that another school, college,

university, seminary, or ministry organization will accept LSOM coursework for credit, placement, or program completion.

Students who desire to transfer LSOM coursework to another institution are encouraged to contact that institution directly before making academic or financial decisions based on possible transfer.

4. Regulatory Status

LifeSong School of Ministry may seek verification of exempt status from the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education under an applicable religious exemption, or may pursue another legal or regulatory pathway as determined by LifeSong Church leadership and legal counsel.

Unless and until such status is formally verified or otherwise approved, LSOM will not claim BPPE approval, BPPE exemption verification, state authorization, or regulatory approval beyond what has been officially documented.

5. Financial Aid, VA Benefits, and Student Loans

LSOM is not currently approved to participate in federal financial aid programs, federal student loan programs, or Title IV funding.

LSOM is not currently approved for VA education benefits unless otherwise stated in official LSOM materials.

Students should not assume that LSOM enrollment qualifies for federal financial aid, student loans, VA benefits, military education benefits, workforce funding, or other third-party educational funding unless LSOM has officially published such approval.

6. International Students

LifeSong School of Ministry is not currently authorized to issue immigration documents for international student visa purposes unless otherwise stated in official LSOM materials.

LSOM is not currently SEVP-certified and does not currently issue Forms I-20 for F-1 student visa purposes.

International students or non-U.S. citizens interested in LSOM should seek appropriate legal or immigration counsel before making enrollment, travel, or relocation decisions.

7. Graduation and Ordination

Graduation from LifeSong School of Ministry does not automatically result in ordination.

Ordination is a separate process administered by LifeSong Church leadership according to church doctrine, spiritual discernment, character qualifications, ministry readiness, pastoral recommendation, and ordination procedures.

Participation in LSOM, completion of an LSOM program, or participation in the Ordination Candidate Track does not guarantee ordination.

8. Employment and Ministry Placement

Completion of LSOM coursework, graduation from an LSOM program, participation in ministry practicum, or participation in the Ordination Candidate Track does not guarantee employment, paid ministry placement, staff appointment, volunteer leadership placement, ordination, or recommendation to another church or ministry organization.

LSOM exists to form and equip students for faithful ministry. Ministry placement and employment decisions are separate matters and are made according to the needs, discernment, standards, and leadership processes of LifeSong Church or any other ministry organization.

9. Student Responsibility

Students are responsible to read and understand LSOM's published policies, disclosures, program requirements, and student expectations. Students are encouraged to ask questions about LSOM's academic status, program requirements, transferability, ordination process, tuition, and ministry expectations before enrolling and throughout their participation.

LifeSong School of Ministry is committed to honesty, clarity, spiritual integrity, and responsible development. LSOM's desire is that every student would understand both the value of this ministry formation experience and the current limits of LSOM's academic, legal, accreditation, financial aid, transfer, and ordination status.

ATTENDANCE

Overview

Attendance is an essential part of the LifeSong School of Ministry experience.

LSOM is not designed merely as an information-based program where students complete assignments on their own. It is a formation environment where students learn through instruction, discussion, prayer, worship, ministry practice, relationship, feedback, and participation in the life of the school.

Because spiritual formation and leadership development happen best in community, students are expected to attend classes, ministry labs, practicum assignments, required gatherings, and other scheduled LSOM activities faithfully.

Attendance reflects stewardship, responsibility, teachability, and commitment to the formation process.

Why Attendance Matters

At LSOM, attendance is not merely administrative. It is spiritual and formational.

Students grow not only by receiving information, but by being present in environments where God is forming their hearts, renewing their minds, developing their gifts, and shaping their character.

Regular attendance helps students:

- Receive consistent biblical and theological instruction
- Participate in classroom discussion
- Engage in prayer and worship
- Build relationships with classmates and leaders
- Receive feedback and encouragement
- Grow in accountability
- Stay current with assignments and expectations
- Participate in ministry formation
- Develop faithfulness and discipline
- Prepare for future ministry responsibility

Ministry leadership requires faithfulness. Attendance is one way students demonstrate faithfulness in the training process.

General Attendance Expectation

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions, ministry practicums, required gatherings, intensives, ministry labs, and formation experiences.

Students are expected to:

- Arrive on time
- Remain for the full session
- Participate actively
- Come prepared
- Bring required materials
- Complete any assigned pre-class work
- Communicate promptly regarding unavoidable absences
- Complete any required make-up work
- Follow the attendance expectations listed in each course syllabus

Because LSOM courses may be offered in different formats, specific attendance expectations may vary by course.

Course Attendance

Each course syllabus may include specific attendance requirements.

In general, students are expected to attend every scheduled course meeting.

A student's grade or course completion status may be affected by:

- Excessive absences
- Repeated tardiness
- Leaving class early
- Lack of participation
- Failure to complete make-up work
- Failure to engage MoodleCloud requirements
- Missing required presentations, exams, ministry labs, or group activities

Students should review each course syllabus carefully and ask the instructor if they have questions about attendance expectations.

Absences

An absence occurs when a student misses a scheduled class session, required gathering, ministry lab, practicum assignment, or other required LSOM activity.

Students should notify the instructor, ministry mentor, or appropriate LSOM leader as soon as possible when an absence is unavoidable.

Examples of unavoidable absences may include:

- Illness
- Family emergency
- Work emergency
- Ministry emergency
- Transportation issue
- Significant personal hardship
- Other circumstances approved by LSOM leadership

Students are responsible for any missed content, assignments, discussions, announcements, and make-up requirements.

An absence does not automatically excuse a student from completing assigned work.

Excused and Unexcused Absences

LSOM may distinguish between excused and unexcused absences when appropriate.

Excused Absence

An excused absence is an absence that has been communicated appropriately and approved by the instructor or LSOM leadership.

Examples may include illness, emergency, significant family need, or other approved circumstances.

Unexcused Absence

An unexcused absence is an absence that is not communicated, not approved, or not supported by an appropriate reason.

Repeated unexcused absences may result in academic warning, grade reduction, required meeting with LSOM leadership, probation, course failure, practicum delay, or dismissal from the program.

Even when an absence is excused, students may still be required to complete make-up work or fulfill missed practicum requirements.

Maximum Absences

Because LSOM courses are formation-based and often involve discussion, interaction, prayer, ministry training, and in-person engagement, excessive absences may prevent successful completion of a course.

Unless otherwise stated in the course syllabus:

- A student who misses more than **20% of scheduled class sessions** in a course may be required to meet with the instructor or LSOM leadership.
- A student who misses more than **25% of scheduled class sessions** in a course may not be eligible to pass the course unless an exception is approved by LSOM leadership.

For shorter courses, intensives, ministry labs, or eight-week courses, even one absence may be significant.

Specific attendance requirements may be stricter for certain courses, intensives, practica, or formation experiences.

Tardiness

Students are expected to arrive on time.

Tardiness disrupts the learning environment and may cause students to miss important instruction, prayer, announcements, discussion, or ministry formation moments.

A student may be considered tardy if they arrive after the scheduled start time.

Repeated tardiness may affect attendance records, participation grades, course standing, or ministry practicum evaluation.

Unless otherwise stated in the syllabus, repeated tardiness may be counted as an absence at the discretion of the instructor or LSOM leadership.

Leaving Early

Students are expected to remain for the full class session or required activity.

Leaving early may be counted as partial attendance, tardiness, or absence depending on the amount of time missed and the course policy.

Students should communicate with the instructor in advance if they know they must leave early.

Repeated early departures may affect participation grades, attendance standing, practicum completion, or course completion.

Make-Up Work

Students are responsible for completing any required make-up work due to an absence.

Make-up work may include:

- Watching a recorded lecture, if available
- Completing additional reading
- Submitting a reflection paper
- Participating in a MoodleCloud discussion
- Completing missed assignments
- Making up ministry practicum hours
- Meeting with the instructor or mentor
- Completing an alternate learning activity

Make-up work is intended to help students engage missed learning outcomes. It does not always replace the full value of in-person participation.

Faculty are not required to provide make-up options for every missed activity, especially when the activity involved live discussion, ministry practice, group participation, prayer, worship, or in-class evaluation.

MoodleCloud and Online Attendance

Some LSOM courses may include MoodleCloud assignments, online discussions, recorded lectures, quizzes, or other digital learning activities.

Students are expected to complete online participation requirements by the posted deadlines.

In hybrid or online-supported courses, attendance may include:

- Logging into MoodleCloud
- Viewing assigned content
- Posting discussion responses
- Submitting assignments
- Completing quizzes
- Participating in online sessions
- Responding to instructor prompts
- Completing ministry reflections

Failure to participate in required online activities may count as lack of attendance or participation.

Ministry Practicum Attendance

Students enrolled in ministry practicum are expected to attend and complete all assigned ministry service, mentor meetings, ministry labs, reflection assignments, and evaluations.

Practicum attendance may include:

- Weekend service responsibilities
- Midweek ministry assignments
- Outreach events
- Ministry team meetings
- Mentor meetings
- Training sessions
- Required church-wide events
- Reflection or reporting deadlines

Students must communicate with their ministry mentor or supervisor if they are unable to attend a scheduled practicum assignment.

Unexcused practicum absences may affect practicum completion, ministry placement, course grade, or graduation eligibility.

Because practicum involves real ministry teams and responsibilities, students should treat practicum attendance with the same seriousness they would treat a ministry leadership assignment.

Required Gatherings and Special Events

Some LSOM programs may require participation in special gatherings, ministry events, intensives, retreats, prayer nights, leadership nights, church-wide events, or commissioning services.

Required events will be communicated through the syllabus, academic calendar, MoodleCloud, email, or official LSOM communication.

Students are responsible for attending required events unless excused by LSOM leadership.

Examples of required gatherings may include:

- Orientation
 - Ministry labs
 - Formation nights
 - Leadership gatherings
 - Prayer and worship events
 - Practicum trainings
 - Church-wide ministry events
 - Outreach events
 - Capstone presentations
 - Graduation or commissioning activities
-

Communication Regarding Absences

Students are expected to communicate promptly, respectfully, and responsibly regarding absences.

When possible, students should notify the instructor, mentor, or LSOM leader before the absence occurs.

A good absence communication should include:

- Student name
- Course or practicum assignment missed
- Date of absence
- Brief reason for absence
- Request for any missed assignments or make-up instructions
- Expected date of return

Students should not rely on classmates to communicate absences on their behalf unless an emergency prevents direct communication.

Failure to communicate may cause an absence to be treated as unexcused.

Attendance and Grades

Attendance may affect a student's grade depending on the course syllabus.

Attendance may be included in:

- Participation grade
- Practicum grade
- Pass/fail completion
- Ministry evaluation
- Course completion requirements
- Capstone eligibility
- Graduation review

Students should not assume they can pass a course simply by submitting assignments if they have missed significant class time or required formation activities.

Because LSOM is a formation-based school, presence and participation are part of the learning process.

Attendance and Graduation

Students must satisfy attendance and participation requirements in order to graduate.

Excessive absences may delay or prevent graduation if the student has not met course, practicum, formation, or capstone requirements.

Graduation review may consider:

- Course attendance
- Practicum attendance
- Required gathering participation
- Ministry service completion
- MoodleCloud participation
- Communication regarding absences
- Completion of make-up work
- Overall faithfulness and engagement

Students with attendance concerns may be required to meet with LSOM leadership before being cleared for graduation.

Attendance and Ministry Readiness

Attendance is one expression of ministry readiness.

Students preparing for ministry leadership must develop faithfulness, reliability, and responsibility.

A pattern of missed classes, late arrivals, early departures, poor communication, or inconsistent practicum attendance may raise concerns about a student's readiness for leadership, ministry placement, or ordination consideration.

LSOM leadership may consider attendance patterns when evaluating:

- Practicum placement
- Leadership opportunities
- Ministry readiness
- Ordination candidacy
- Internship participation
- Graduation standing
- Student formation

Faithfulness in attendance is not about perfection. It is about responsibility, communication, and honoring commitments.

Extended Absence

Students who experience an extended absence due to illness, emergency, family crisis, work change, or other significant circumstance should contact LSOM leadership as soon as possible.

Depending on the situation, LSOM may consider:

- Make-up work
- Incomplete grade
- Temporary adjustment
- Practicum extension
- Course withdrawal
- Leave of absence

- Delayed graduation
- Formation or academic support plan

Extended absence arrangements must be approved by LSOM leadership and documented when appropriate.

Leave of Absence

If a student is unable to continue participating for a season, the student may request a leave of absence according to LSOM policy.

A leave of absence may be considered for:

- Health concerns
- Family emergency
- Employment changes
- Financial hardship
- Ministry demands
- Personal circumstances
- Other significant needs

A leave of absence must be approved by LSOM leadership.

Students returning from a leave of absence may be required to meet with LSOM leadership to determine the appropriate pathway for re-entry.

Attendance Records

LSOM may maintain attendance records for courses, practica, required gatherings, and other program activities.

Attendance may be recorded through:

- Instructor attendance logs
- Sign-in sheets
- MoodleCloud participation
- Online session attendance
- Practicum reports
- Mentor or supervisor verification
- Assignment completion records

Attendance records may be used for course completion, grading, practicum evaluation, academic standing, graduation review, and institutional records.

Exceptions

LSOM leadership may approve exceptions to attendance policies in rare or unusual circumstances.

Exceptions may be considered for serious illness, family emergency, ministry emergency, unavoidable work conflict, or other significant hardship.

Approval of an exception is not automatic.

Students requesting an exception may be required to provide additional information and complete approved make-up work or alternate requirements.

LSOM reserves the right to deny an exception if the student cannot reasonably meet the learning outcomes or formation requirements of the course.

Summary

Attendance at LifeSong School of Ministry is part of the student's formation.

Students are expected to be present, prepared, engaged, and faithful.

Regular attendance helps students grow in biblical understanding, spiritual maturity, ministry competency, leadership capacity, and LifeSong culture.

The goal is not merely to mark students present or absent. The goal is to form students who honor commitments, value community, steward opportunities, and prepare for faithful ministry with Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry is committed to academic integrity because honesty, truthfulness, and responsibility are essential to Christian discipleship and ministry leadership.

Academic integrity is not merely an academic requirement. It is a matter of character.

Students are expected to complete all coursework, assignments, reflections, exams, ministry reports, and practicum documentation with honesty and integrity before God, instructors, classmates, ministry leaders, and LifeSong Church.

Because LSOM exists to develop Spirit-filled, Word-grounded disciples and leaders, students must learn to steward truth faithfully. A leader who mishandles academic work may also be tempted to mishandle Scripture, people, authority, ministry responsibility, or spiritual influence.

Academic integrity helps form students who can be trusted.

The Heart Behind Academic Integrity

At LSOM, integrity begins in the heart.

Students are not simply expected to avoid cheating because they might get caught. Students are called to live truthfully because they belong to Jesus.

Academic integrity reflects:

- Love for God
- Reverence for truth
- Respect for Scripture
- Honor for instructors and classmates
- Humility in learning
- Responsibility in preparation
- Faithfulness in small things
- Honesty in communication
- Stewardship of calling
- Readiness for ministry leadership

Students are encouraged to approach every assignment as part of their formation, not merely as a task to finish.

Student Responsibility

Students are responsible for understanding and following LSOM's academic integrity expectations.

Students are expected to:

- Submit their own work
- Properly cite sources
- Complete assignments honestly
- Represent research accurately
- Follow instructions given by the instructor
- Ask questions when unsure about expectations
- Use technology and digital tools appropriately
- Report practicum hours truthfully
- Avoid shortcuts that compromise integrity
- Receive correction with humility when mistakes are made

Not understanding the policy does not automatically excuse a violation. Students should ask for clarification before submitting work if they are uncertain.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes any action that misrepresents a student's work, effort, sources, understanding, participation, or completion of requirements.

Academic dishonesty may include, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism
- Cheating
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Fabricating information
- Misrepresenting sources
- Submitting work completed by someone else
- Reusing previous work without permission
- Misusing artificial intelligence tools
- Copying online material without citation
- Misrepresenting ministry practicum hours
- Falsifying attendance or participation
- Submitting assignments for another student
- Allowing another student to submit your work as their own
- Misrepresenting completion of reading, assignments, or ministry service

Academic dishonesty may result in academic, formational, or disciplinary action.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a student presents someone else's words, ideas, structure, research, sermon content, notes, outlines, or creative work as their own without proper acknowledgment.

Plagiarism may involve:

- Copying and pasting from a website without citation
- Using wording from a book or article without quotation marks or citation
- Closely paraphrasing someone else's ideas without giving credit
- Using a sermon outline or teaching structure without acknowledgment
- Submitting another student's work as your own
- Using Bible study software notes, commentaries, or resources without citation
- Using AI-generated content without permission or disclosure when required
- Presenting ministry materials created by others as original work

Students must give proper credit when they use the words, ideas, research, outlines, or creative work of another person.

When in doubt, cite the source.

Proper Use of Sources

Students are encouraged to read, study, research, and learn from others.

Using sources is not wrong. Failing to acknowledge sources is the problem.

Sources may include:

- Books
- Articles
- Websites
- Sermons
- Podcasts
- Videos
- Class lectures
- Bible commentaries
- Study Bible notes
- Logos Bible Study resources

- Online Bible study tools
- Ministry training materials
- Artificial intelligence tools, when permitted
- Conversations or interviews
- Classmates' ideas

Students should follow the citation instructions provided by the instructor.

If a specific citation style is not required, students should still provide enough information for the instructor to identify the source.

Scripture, Study Bibles, and Bible Software

Students are encouraged to use Scripture, study Bibles, commentaries, dictionaries, lexicons, Logos Bible Study software, and other Bible study tools.

However, students must distinguish between their own thoughts and the work of others.

Students should cite or acknowledge:

- Study Bible notes
- Commentary insights
- Word study resources
- Bible dictionary entries
- Sermon outlines
- Theological articles
- Logos resource excerpts
- Online Bible study content
- Direct quotations from any resource

Students do not need to cite every Bible verse used in normal class assignments unless required by the instructor, but they should identify the Bible translation when quoting Scripture.

Example:

Scripture quotations are from the New International Version.

or

Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version.

Cheating

Cheating is any attempt to gain an unfair academic advantage or misrepresent one's understanding, effort, or completion of work.

Cheating may include:

- Looking at another student's answers during a quiz or exam
- Using unauthorized notes or resources during an exam
- Sharing quiz or exam answers with another student
- Receiving answers from another person
- Submitting work done by someone else
- Using unauthorized online answers or study aids
- Completing assignments for another student
- Asking another person to complete an assignment
- Misrepresenting completed reading or participation
- Altering graded work and resubmitting it as if it were original
- Using AI tools in ways not permitted by the instructor

Cheating undermines both learning and character formation.

Unauthorized Collaboration

LSOM values community learning, discussion, and mutual encouragement.

Students are encouraged to discuss ideas, pray together, study together, and help one another understand course material.

However, unless the instructor gives permission, submitted assignments should represent the student's own work.

Unauthorized collaboration may include:

- Completing an individual assignment as a group
- Sharing written answers for another student to copy
- Dividing assignment questions among classmates and submitting combined work
- Editing another student's work so heavily that it no longer reflects their own effort
- Submitting substantially similar work without permission
- Using another student's notes, outline, or assignment as the basis for one's own submission

When collaboration is permitted, the instructor will explain the expectations.

Students should ask before collaborating on graded work.

Reusing Previous Work

Students may not submit the same assignment, paper, sermon, project, reflection, or substantial portion of prior work for more than one course unless the instructor gives permission.

This includes work previously submitted:

- At LSOM
- In another school
- In a ministry training program
- For an internship
- For a church assignment
- For another course or requirement

Students may build upon previous work when approved, but they should disclose the prior use and receive permission from the instructor.

Fabrication and Misrepresentation

Fabrication means making up information, sources, experiences, data, ministry reports, quotations, or documentation.

Misrepresentation means presenting something in a false or misleading way.

Examples include:

- Inventing a source
- Claiming to have read a book or article that was not read
- Making up quotes
- Misstating ministry hours
- Reporting attendance that did not occur
- Exaggerating ministry involvement
- Claiming completion of assignments not completed
- Falsifying mentor or supervisor feedback
- Altering documents or records
- Misrepresenting personal work, research, or participation

Students are expected to be truthful in all academic and ministry-related reporting.

Ministry Practicum Integrity

Ministry practicum is part of the LSOM academic and formation process.

Students must report practicum hours, ministry activities, mentor meetings, reflection assignments, and ministry participation honestly.

Practicum dishonesty may include:

- Reporting hours not served
- Exaggerating ministry involvement
- Misrepresenting attendance
- Submitting false ministry reflections
- Claiming mentor meetings that did not occur
- Asking another person to verify inaccurate hours
- Falsifying supervisor feedback
- Misrepresenting completion of training or service

Because practicum involves ministry trust, dishonesty in this area is taken seriously and may affect course completion, ministry placement, graduation eligibility, or ordination candidacy.

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

Artificial intelligence tools may be helpful for brainstorming, organization, grammar support, study assistance, or formatting when permitted by the instructor.

However, students may not use AI tools in a way that misrepresents AI-generated work as their own original work.

Unless specifically permitted by the instructor, students should not use AI tools to generate:

- Discussion posts
- Reflection papers
- Research papers
- Sermons
- Teaching outlines
- Bible studies
- Ministry projects
- Capstone work
- Personal testimony assignments
- Practicum reflections
- Exams or quizzes
- Any assignment submitted as original student work

If AI tools are permitted for a specific assignment, students may be required to disclose how the tool was used.

A disclosure may include language such as:

I used an AI tool to help brainstorm possible outline structures. The final content, biblical interpretation, writing, and conclusions are my own.

or

I used an AI tool for grammar and formatting suggestions only.

Students should never rely on AI tools as a substitute for prayer, study, Scripture engagement, personal reflection, theological thinking, or ministry discernment.

Permitted Academic Support

Students may receive appropriate academic support when it does not compromise integrity.

Permitted support may include:

- Asking an instructor for clarification
- Discussing course concepts with classmates
- Receiving tutoring or study help
- Using writing resources
- Using grammar or spell-check tools
- Asking someone to proofread for grammar and clarity
- Using Logos Bible Study tools appropriately
- Consulting commentaries and books with proper citation
- Receiving feedback before final submission when permitted

Proofreading or feedback becomes inappropriate when another person substantially rewrites the assignment or supplies the student's ideas, argument, interpretation, or conclusions.

Group Assignments

When an assignment is designated as a group assignment, students are expected to participate fairly and honestly.

Students should:

- Contribute meaningfully
- Complete assigned responsibilities
- Communicate with group members

- Give credit where appropriate
- Avoid allowing one person to do all the work
- Avoid taking credit for work they did not do

Faculty may evaluate both the group product and individual participation.

Exams and Quizzes

Students are expected to complete exams and quizzes honestly.

Unless the instructor states otherwise, students may not use notes, books, online resources, classmates, AI tools, or outside help during exams or quizzes.

Students may not share exam questions, answers, or quiz content with other students unless the instructor permits it.

Students who need clarification during an exam or quiz should ask the instructor.

Consequences for Academic Integrity Violations

Academic integrity violations may result in one or more consequences depending on the seriousness of the violation, the student's response, prior history, and the judgment of LSOM leadership.

Possible consequences may include:

- Conversation with the instructor
- Required correction or resubmission
- Grade reduction
- Failure of the assignment
- Failure of the course
- Academic warning
- Academic probation
- Removal from ministry practicum
- Delay of graduation
- Loss of leadership opportunities
- Removal from the Ordination Candidate Track
- Suspension from LSOM
- Dismissal from LSOM
- Referral to LifeSong Church leadership

LSOM desires restoration whenever possible, but academic dishonesty must be addressed because it affects trust, formation, and ministry readiness.

Process for Addressing Violations

When a possible academic integrity violation is identified, the instructor or LSOM leadership may review the concern.

The process may include:

- Review of the assignment or incident
- Conversation with the student
- Review of sources, similarity reports, or documentation
- Consultation with academic leadership
- Determination of whether a violation occurred
- Decision regarding appropriate response
- Written documentation of the outcome

Students are expected to be honest and cooperative during the review process.

Dishonesty during the review may result in additional consequences.

Student Response and Restoration

When a student has violated academic integrity expectations, LSOM desires to respond with both truth and grace.

A student who takes responsibility, repents, and demonstrates a willingness to grow may be given a pathway for correction or restoration when appropriate.

Restoration may include:

- Confession and repentance
- Correcting the assignment
- Learning proper citation practices
- Meeting with an instructor or mentor
- Accountability plan
- Academic integrity training
- Temporary restriction from ministry or leadership
- Demonstrated growth over time

Restoration does not always remove academic consequences. A student may be forgiven and still receive a reduced grade, fail an assignment, repeat a course, or experience other appropriate consequences.

Appeals

Students may appeal academic integrity decisions according to LSOM's complaints, appeals, and grievances policy.

An appeal must be submitted in writing by the required deadline and should include:

- The decision being appealed
- The reason for the appeal
- Any supporting documentation
- The requested outcome

Disagreement with a consequence does not automatically justify an appeal. Appeals should be based on concerns such as procedural error, new information, misapplication of policy, or significant misunderstanding of the facts.

When You Are Unsure

Students should ask for help before submitting work if they are unsure about academic integrity expectations.

Students should ask questions such as:

- Do I need to cite this source?
- Am I allowed to work with classmates on this assignment?
- Can I use AI for brainstorming or editing?
- Can I reuse something I wrote previously?
- How should I cite Logos or a Bible commentary?
- Is this paraphrase too close to the original source?
- What resources are allowed for this quiz or exam?

Asking early is always better than trying to explain later.

Summary

Academic integrity is part of spiritual formation.

LifeSong School of Ministry desires to develop students who are truthful, trustworthy, humble, diligent, and faithful.

Students are expected to complete academic work honestly, cite sources responsibly, use technology wisely, report ministry participation truthfully, and receive correction with humility.

Integrity in the classroom prepares students for integrity in ministry.

LSOM students are called to be leaders who can be trusted with the Word of God, the presence of God, the people of God, and the purpose of God.

CONDUCT STANDARDS

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry exists to develop Spirit-filled, Word-grounded disciples and leaders who embody Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

Because LSOM is a ministry formation school, student conduct is an important part of the formation process. Students are not only being trained in what to know, but in how to live, serve, lead, and represent Jesus Christ.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that honors God, reflects Christian character, supports the mission of LifeSong Church, protects the learning environment, and prepares them for faithful ministry and leadership.

Conduct standards apply to students in all LSOM-related settings, including classes, MoodleCloud, ministry practicum, church services, outreach events, prayer ministry, small groups, social media, student gatherings, LifeSong Church facilities, and any context where the student is representing LSOM or LifeSong Church.

The Heart of Conduct

At LSOM, conduct begins in the heart.

God is not only concerned with outward behavior. He is concerned with the posture, motives, desires, and character of the heart.

Jesus taught that what comes out of a person flows from the heart. Therefore, LSOM students are encouraged to allow the Holy Spirit to form not only their actions, but also their attitudes, speech, relationships, habits, and private life.

Students are expected to pursue conduct that flows from:

- Love for Jesus
- Surrender to Scripture
- Dependence upon the Holy Spirit
- Humility
- Teachability
- Integrity
- Honor
- Self-control

- Servant leadership
- Love for people
- Commitment to holiness
- Commitment to the mission of God

The goal of conduct standards is not legalism or outward conformity. The goal is to form healthy disciples and trustworthy leaders whose lives reflect the character of Christ.

Christian Character

Students are expected to pursue Christian character in both public and private life.

This includes growth in:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control
- Humility
- Integrity
- Purity
- Forgiveness
- Compassion
- Honor
- Courage
- Wisdom

Students are not expected to be perfect, but they are expected to be honest, repentant, teachable, and willing to grow.

When students struggle, LSOM encourages them to seek help, prayer, accountability, and pastoral support rather than hiding, withdrawing, or continuing in patterns that damage spiritual health.

Lifestyle Expectations

Students are expected to live in a way that is consistent with biblical discipleship and the mission of LSOM.

Students should avoid behavior that dishonors Christ, harms others, undermines trust, damages the witness of the Church, or compromises ministry formation.

This includes avoiding:

- Dishonesty
- Cheating or plagiarism
- Gossip
- Slander
- Divisive behavior
- Harassment
- Abuse
- Threats or intimidation
- Violence
- Sexual immorality
- Pornography
- Drunkenness
- Illegal drug use
- Misuse of prescription drugs
- Theft
- Fraud
- Manipulation
- Misuse of spiritual authority
- Misrepresentation of LifeSong Church or LSOM
- Conduct that creates safety concerns
- Conduct that undermines the learning or ministry environment

Students who are struggling in any area are encouraged to seek help early. LSOM desires to walk with students in truth, grace, accountability, and restoration whenever possible.

Honor and Respect

Students are expected to help build a culture of honor.

Honor includes treating others with dignity, humility, and respect, even when there is disagreement or correction.

Students are expected to honor:

- God
- Scripture
- Classmates
- Faculty
- Ministry mentors
- Practicum supervisors
- LifeSong Church leadership
- Volunteers
- Church members
- Guests
- The LifeSong Church campus
- The LSOM learning environment

Students should avoid dishonoring speech or behavior, including sarcasm, mockery, gossip, public criticism, contempt, slander, name-calling, divisive conversation, or disrespect toward leaders or classmates.

Honor does not mean students may never ask questions, raise concerns, or seek clarification. It means they do so with humility, respect, and a desire for truth, unity, and growth.

Speech and Communication

Students are expected to communicate in ways that reflect Christian maturity.

This applies to classroom discussion, private conversations, email, text messages, social media, MoodleCloud, ministry environments, and all LSOM-related interactions.

Students should communicate with:

- Truthfulness
- Humility
- Respect
- Patience
- Clarity
- Self-control
- Encouragement
- Wisdom
- Care for others

Students should avoid:

- Gossip
- Slander
- Profanity
- Crude joking
- Lewd or coarse conversation
- Harshness
- Manipulation
- Intimidation
- Threats
- Divisive speech
- Passive-aggressive communication
- Publicly dishonoring others
- Sharing confidential information

Words carry spiritual weight. Students preparing for ministry leadership must learn to use words to build up, not tear down.

Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to help maintain a healthy and respectful learning environment.

Classroom conduct includes:

- Arriving on time
- Being prepared
- Participating respectfully
- Listening to instructors and classmates
- Avoiding disruptive behavior
- Avoiding side conversations that distract others
- Using devices appropriately
- Asking questions with humility
- Engaging in discussion without dominating
- Respecting differing backgrounds and experiences
- Responding to correction with teachability

Students should remember that class time may include prayer, worship, Scripture, discussion, ministry practice, and personal sharing. These moments should be handled with maturity and reverence.

Ministry Practicum Conduct

Students participating in ministry practicum are expected to serve with faithfulness, humility, and integrity.

Practicum conduct includes:

- Arriving on time and prepared
- Following the direction of ministry leaders
- Serving with a good attitude
- Communicating clearly with mentors or supervisors
- Completing assigned responsibilities
- Honoring team members
- Protecting confidential information
- Maintaining appropriate boundaries
- Receiving feedback with humility
- Representing Jesus, LifeSong Church, and LSOM well
- Following all LifeSong Church ministry policies

Students should treat practicum responsibilities as real ministry assignments. How a student serves in practicum may affect course completion, leadership opportunities, graduation review, and ordination consideration.

Spiritually Sensitive Roles

Some LSOM students may serve in spiritually sensitive roles.

A spiritually sensitive role is any role in which a student represents LifeSong Church or LSOM in a spiritual, pastoral, teaching, prayer, discipleship, leadership, or ministry capacity.

These roles may include:

- Prayer ministry
- Pastoral care
- Small group leadership
- Children's ministry
- Youth ministry
- Worship ministry
- Teaching or preaching
- Ministry practicum
- Outreach leadership
- Discipleship relationships

- Mentoring
- Administrative access to sensitive information

Students serving in spiritually sensitive roles are expected to demonstrate spiritual maturity, doctrinal alignment, appropriate conduct, confidentiality, and willingness to submit to leadership accountability.

Participation in LSOM does not automatically qualify a student for every ministry role. Ministry placement is subject to approval by LifeSong Church and LSOM leadership.

Sexual Conduct and Purity

Students are expected to honor God with their bodies, relationships, sexuality, and private life.

LSOM affirms the biblical call to sexual purity and expects students to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Scripture and the doctrinal convictions of LifeSong Church.

Students should avoid:

- Sexual immorality
- Pornography
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual abuse
- Inappropriate sexual communication
- Sexualized joking or conversation
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Secretive or manipulative romantic relationships
- Conduct that exploits or pressures another person
- Conduct that violates LifeSong Church standards for ministry leadership

Students who are struggling sexually are encouraged to seek pastoral care, accountability, and support. LSOM desires to respond with grace and truth, while also maintaining standards necessary for ministry formation and spiritual leadership.

Dating and Romantic Relationships

Students are expected to conduct dating and romantic relationships with wisdom, purity, respect, and integrity.

Students should avoid relationships that are secretive, manipulative, sexually immoral, emotionally unhealthy, spiritually harmful, or disruptive to the LSOM community.

Students in leadership or ministry roles should be especially careful to maintain appropriate boundaries and avoid any relationship that creates a conflict of interest, misuse of influence, or concern for safety.

Students should seek guidance from trusted leaders when navigating romantic relationships, engagement, marriage preparation, or relationship concerns.

Substance Use

Students are expected to live with sobriety, wisdom, and self-control.

Students may not possess, use, distribute, or be under the influence of illegal drugs while participating in LSOM activities, LifeSong Church events, ministry practicum, or any context where they are representing LSOM or LifeSong Church.

Students may not misuse prescription medication or use any substance in a way that impairs judgment, harms the body, creates addiction, endangers others, or compromises ministry witness.

Students must not participate in LSOM classes, practica, ministry events, or church activities while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or any other substance.

Students struggling with addiction or substance use are encouraged to seek pastoral care, accountability, and appropriate professional support.

Harassment, Abuse, and Threatening Behavior

LSOM does not tolerate harassment, abuse, threats, intimidation, exploitation, or violence.

Prohibited conduct includes:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Verbal harassment
- Sexual harassment
- Bullying
- Threats of harm
- Stalking
- Intimidation
- Retaliation

- Coercion
- Exploitation
- Abuse of spiritual authority
- Unwanted sexual attention
- Inappropriate physical contact

Students who experience or become aware of harassment, abuse, threats, or safety concerns should report the matter immediately to LSOM leadership, LifeSong Church leadership, or appropriate authorities when required.

If immediate danger exists, emergency services should be contacted first.

Confidentiality

Students may hear personal, spiritual, pastoral, academic, or ministry-related information through classes, prayer, practicum, small groups, ministry teams, or personal conversations.

Students are expected to protect confidential information.

Students should not share:

- Private prayer requests
- Personal struggles
- Family situations
- Health concerns
- Pastoral care matters
- Student grades or records
- Practicum evaluations
- Ministry discipline matters
- Internal church matters
- Sensitive leadership conversations
- Testimonies or stories shared in confidence

Confidentiality is not absolute. Students must report concerns involving abuse, threats of harm, safety issues, or serious misconduct according to LifeSong Church policy and applicable law.

Students should never promise complete secrecy.

A wise statement is:

“I will do my best to honor your privacy, but I cannot promise to keep something confidential if someone may be in danger, if abuse is involved, or if I need to involve appropriate leadership to help care for you well.”

Ministry Boundaries

Students are expected to maintain healthy boundaries in ministry relationships.

Healthy boundaries include appropriate limits related to:

- Time
- Emotional dependence
- Physical contact
- Communication
- Social media
- Meeting locations
- Transportation
- Mentoring relationships
- Prayer ministry
- Pastoral care conversations
- Relationships with minors
- Relationships involving authority or influence

Students should avoid relationships or communication patterns that are secretive, exclusive, romanticized, manipulative, emotionally dependent, or inappropriate.

Students should seek guidance from LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership when unsure whether a boundary is appropriate.

Physical Contact

Physical contact in ministry must be appropriate, respectful, non-coercive, and consistent with LifeSong Church policy.

Students should use wisdom when praying for, comforting, or assisting others.

Students should:

- Ask permission before physical contact when appropriate
- Avoid touch that could be misunderstood
- Avoid prolonged or intimate physical contact
- Follow children's and youth ministry policies
- Respect personal space and cultural differences
- Stop immediately if someone appears uncomfortable
- Seek leadership guidance in sensitive situations

No student may use ministry as an opportunity for inappropriate physical contact.

Communication With Minors

Students must follow all LifeSong Church policies regarding communication with minors.

Students should not engage in private, secretive, inappropriate, or unapproved communication with minors.

This includes communication through:

- Text messages
- Social media
- Direct messages
- Email
- Phone calls
- Video calls
- Gaming platforms
- Other digital platforms

Communication with minors should be appropriate, accountable, and ministry-related.

Students must follow approved parent or guardian communication procedures and LifeSong Church children's and youth ministry policies.

Digital Conduct and Social Media

Students represent Christ, LifeSong Church, and LSOM in digital spaces.

Students are expected to use digital platforms with wisdom and integrity.

Students should not post, share, or promote:

- Confidential ministry information
- Private prayer requests without permission
- Photos or videos of minors without approval
- Divisive or dishonoring comments
- Harassing or inappropriate content
- Sexually explicit or suggestive material
- Misleading claims about LSOM or LifeSong Church
- Content that mocks, attacks, or slanders others
- Content that contradicts Christian character or LSOM expectations

Online conduct may affect student standing, ministry placement, practicum participation, leadership opportunities, or ordination consideration.

Use of LifeSong Facilities and Property

Students are expected to respect LifeSong Church facilities, equipment, classrooms, offices, technology, and ministry resources.

Students should:

- Use approved rooms and spaces only
- Follow parking instructions
- Clean up after themselves
- Report damage or safety concerns
- Use church property responsibly
- Avoid unauthorized access to offices, records, equipment, or restricted areas
- Follow technology and media policies
- Treat staff, volunteers, and guests with respect

Students may not use LifeSong facilities for personal events, outside activities, or unauthorized meetings without approval.

Weapons, Violence, and Safety Threats

Students may not engage in violence, threats, intimidation, or conduct that creates a safety concern.

Students may not bring weapons onto LifeSong Church property or to LSOM activities unless specifically authorized by law and church policy.

Prohibited conduct includes:

- Physical violence
- Threats of violence
- Intimidation
- Fighting
- Stalking
- Dangerous behavior
- Possession of prohibited weapons
- Reckless conduct that endangers others
- Failure to follow emergency procedures

Safety concerns should be reported immediately.

If there is immediate danger, students should contact emergency services first.

Honesty in Representation

Students are expected to represent themselves, LSOM, and LifeSong Church truthfully.

Students may not falsely claim:

- A ministry title
- Staff status
- Ordination status
- Leadership authority
- Permission to speak on behalf of LSOM or LifeSong Church
- Completion of a program
- Academic credentials
- Ministry placement approval
- Pastoral authority
- Access to confidential information

Students should not represent personal opinions as official positions of LSOM or LifeSong Church unless authorized.

Compliance With Policies

Students are expected to comply with LSOM and LifeSong Church policies.

This includes policies related to:

- Academic integrity
- Attendance
- Student conduct
- Ministry practicum
- Confidentiality
- Safety
- Child and youth protection
- Prayer ministry
- Pastoral care boundaries
- Technology
- Facilities
- Financial responsibilities
- Complaints and appeals

Failure to follow LSOM or LifeSong Church policies may result in corrective action.

Reporting Concerns

Students should promptly report concerns involving safety, misconduct, abuse, harassment, threats, boundary violations, confidentiality violations, academic dishonesty, or serious ministry concerns.

Reports may be made to:

- Instructor
- Ministry mentor
- Practicum supervisor
- LSOM Director or Dean
- LifeSong Church pastor or ministry leader
- Designated safety leader
- Appropriate civil authorities when required

Students should not attempt to investigate serious misconduct or safety concerns on their own.

Response to Conduct Concerns

When conduct concerns arise, LSOM leadership may review the situation and determine an appropriate response.

The response may depend on:

- Nature of the conduct
- Seriousness of the concern
- Student's response
- Prior history
- Impact on others
- Safety considerations
- Ministry role
- Legal or reporting obligations
- Possibility of restoration
- Need to protect the learning or ministry environment

LSOM desires to respond with truth, grace, wisdom, fairness, and appropriate documentation.

Possible Consequences

Violations of conduct standards may result in one or more responses.

Possible responses include:

- Conversation or coaching
- Prayer and pastoral care
- Written warning
- Formation plan
- Required meeting with LSOM leadership
- Academic warning
- Conduct probation
- Ministry placement restriction
- Removal from ministry practicum
- Loss of leadership opportunity
- Delay of graduation
- Removal from the Ordination Candidate Track
- Suspension
- Dismissal from LSOM
- Referral to LifeSong Church leadership
- Reporting to civil authorities when required

LSOM desires restoration whenever possible, but restoration does not always mean immediate return to a ministry role, leadership opportunity, or program standing.

Restoration and Growth

LSOM believes in repentance, restoration, accountability, and growth.

When a student violates conduct expectations, LSOM leadership may provide a pathway for restoration when appropriate.

Restoration may include:

- Confession and repentance
- Pastoral care
- Counseling referral
- Mentorship
- Accountability plan
- Temporary ministry restriction
- Training or education

- Demonstrated growth over time
- Review by LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership

Some conduct concerns may require immediate restriction from ministry or program participation in order to protect people and preserve trust.

Restoration will be considered based on the seriousness of the matter, the student's response, safety considerations, and the discernment of LSOM and LifeSong Church leadership.

Appeals

Students may appeal certain conduct decisions according to LSOM's complaints, appeals, and grievances process.

An appeal must be submitted in writing by the required deadline and should include:

- The decision being appealed
- The reason for the appeal
- Any supporting documentation
- The requested outcome

Some decisions involving safety, ministry placement, ordination candidacy, or spiritual leadership may involve pastoral discernment and may not be appealable in the same manner as academic decisions.

Summary

Conduct standards at LifeSong School of Ministry exist to support the formation of healthy disciples and trustworthy leaders.

Students are called to live with integrity, humility, honor, purity, wisdom, and love.

The goal is not merely outward behavior, but inward transformation.

LSOM desires to develop students who can be trusted with the Word of God, the presence of God, the people of God, and the purpose of God.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that reflects Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION EXPECTATIONS

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry exists to develop Spirit-filled, Word-grounded disciples and leaders who embody Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

Because LSOM is a ministry formation school, spiritual formation is not an optional part of the student experience. It is central to the purpose of the school.

Students are not only being trained to know more, serve more, or lead more. Students are being invited to become more like Jesus.

Spiritual formation involves the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the heart, character, desires, relationships, habits, worship, obedience, and mission of a disciple.

At LSOM, students are expected to pursue spiritual growth with humility, hunger, honesty, and faith.

Formation Begins in the Heart

At LifeSong, we believe God is deeply concerned with the condition of the heart.

It is possible to be involved in religious activities while the heart remains distant, distracted, proud, wounded, or unchanged. A student may attend class, serve in ministry, raise hands in worship, complete assignments, participate in prayer, and still need deeper surrender before God.

For this reason, LSOM emphasizes the heart behind the activity.

Students are encouraged to ask:

- Am I worshiping from a heart that is turned toward God?
- Am I serving from love or from performance?
- Am I studying Scripture to be transformed or merely to complete an assignment?
- Am I praying from dependence or simply participating in a routine?
- Am I obeying God outwardly while resisting Him inwardly?

- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to form my motives, desires, and attitudes?

Deeper Passion is not first about outward expression. It is a heart fully turned toward God.

Deeper Passion

A heart fully turned toward God.

Students are expected to cultivate a growing love for Jesus.

This includes more than enthusiasm, emotion, public worship, or visible ministry involvement. Deeper Passion is the inward posture of a heart that desires God above all else.

Students are encouraged to grow in:

- Personal devotion to Jesus
- Love for the Word of God
- Hunger for prayer and worship
- Surrendered obedience
- Repentance and humility
- Love for people
- Spiritual hunger
- Evangelistic urgency
- Willingness to be corrected and formed
- Faithfulness when no one is watching

At LSOM, ministry should always flow from love for Jesus.

Students should not measure passion merely by outward expression, but by the increasing surrender of the heart to God.

Deeper Presence

A life centered on the presence of God.

Students are expected to value and pursue the presence of God.

LSOM is not simply an academic environment. It is a Spirit-filled formation environment. Students are encouraged to learn how to live with awareness of God, dependence upon the Holy Spirit, and sensitivity to His voice and leading.

Students are expected to participate in environments of prayer, worship, ministry, and spiritual formation with sincerity and openness.

This includes:

- Engaging in worship with a sincere heart
- Participating in prayer with faith
- Learning to listen to the Holy Spirit
- Honoring the gifts of the Spirit
- Ministering to others with humility and love
- Avoiding spiritual pride or performance
- Submitting spiritual impressions to Scripture and leadership
- Growing in dependence on God rather than human strength

Students should desire not only to learn about God, but to walk closely with God.

Deeper Purpose

A life fully engaged in God's mission.

Students are expected to grow in their understanding of God's call and purpose for their lives.

Purpose is not merely about position, platform, title, or personal fulfillment. Purpose is about joining the mission of God and serving faithfully wherever He assigns.

Students are encouraged to discover and develop their gifts, but also to surrender those gifts to God's purposes.

Students should grow in:

- Servant leadership
- Faithful ministry involvement
- Discipleship
- Evangelism
- Compassion for people
- Responsibility
- Teamwork
- Ministry readiness
- Willingness to be sent
- Commitment to the local church
- Kingdom-minded living

At LSOM, students are not being formed for personal promotion. They are being formed for faithful service.

Personal Devotion

Students are expected to cultivate a personal life with God outside of class and ministry assignments.

Personal devotion may include:

- Reading Scripture
- Prayer
- Worship
- Journaling
- Fasting
- Silence and listening

- Repentance
- Thanksgiving
- Intercession
- Reflection
- Obedience to the Holy Spirit

Students should not depend only on public gatherings, classes, services, or ministry events for spiritual growth.

A healthy leader must learn to meet with God privately.

What happens in the secret place shapes what happens in public ministry.

Prayer

Students are expected to grow in a lifestyle of prayer.

Prayer is not merely a class activity, ministry tool, or emergency response. Prayer is communion with God and dependence upon Him.

Students are encouraged to pray:

- Personally
- In class
- In worship gatherings
- In ministry practicum
- For one another
- For LifeSong Church
- For the lost
- For healing and breakthrough
- For wisdom and direction
- For the purposes of God in the earth

LSOM students should become people who pray before they lead, pray while they serve, and pray after they minister.

Worship

Students are expected to participate in worship with sincerity, humility, and freedom.

LifeSong values worship that is expressive and genuine. Students are encouraged to grow in worship that flows from the heart rather than from pressure, performance, or imitation.

Students should not merely ask, “What is everyone else doing?” but “Is my heart turned toward God?”

Worship may include singing, lifting hands, kneeling, thanksgiving, surrender, obedience, giving, serving, silence, and daily devotion.

At LSOM, worship is not limited to music. Worship is the offering of the whole life to God.

Scripture and Obedience

Students are expected to honor the authority of the Word of God.

Spiritual formation requires more than reading Scripture. It requires obedience to Scripture.

Students should approach the Bible with reverence, humility, faith, and a willingness to be changed.

Students are expected to:

- Read assigned Scripture
- Study the Bible faithfully
- Apply the Word personally
- Submit beliefs and attitudes to Scripture
- Allow Scripture to correct and form them
- Communicate Scripture responsibly
- Build their lives and ministries on the Word of God

At LSOM, the Word of God is not merely studied for information. It is received for transformation.

Repentance and Humility

Students are expected to practice repentance and humility.

Spiritual formation involves allowing God to reveal areas that need healing, correction, surrender, and growth.

Students should be willing to acknowledge sin, confess weakness, receive correction, forgive others, make things right, and grow in maturity.

Humility may be seen in a student's willingness to:

- Listen
- Learn
- Receive feedback
- Admit mistakes
- Apologize
- Serve without recognition
- Honor authority
- Ask for help
- Change direction when corrected
- Trust God's formation process

LSOM does not expect perfection. It does expect honesty, humility, and a willingness to grow.

Teachability

Students are expected to remain teachable.

Teachability is one of the clearest signs of spiritual maturity and leadership readiness.

A teachable student does not assume they already know everything. A teachable student listens, asks questions, receives correction, reflects deeply, and responds with humility.

Students should be open to learning from:

- Scripture
- The Holy Spirit
- Faculty
- Pastors
- Ministry mentors
- Classmates
- Practicum supervisors
- Feedback
- Assignments
- Difficult experiences

Students who resist correction, reject feedback, dishonor leadership, or refuse accountability may struggle to progress in formation and ministry readiness.

Character Formation

Students are expected to pursue growth in Christlike character.

Spiritual gifts are important, but gifts must be supported by character. Talent, charisma, knowledge, or leadership ability cannot replace spiritual maturity.

Students should seek growth in:

- Love
- Joy

- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control
- Integrity
- Purity
- Courage
- Compassion
- Perseverance
- Wisdom

LSOM desires to raise leaders whose private lives can support their public calling.

Community and Accountability

Students are expected to participate in healthy Christian community.

Spiritual formation does not happen in isolation. Students need relationships that provide encouragement, accountability, correction, prayer, and support.

Students are encouraged to build healthy relationships with classmates, mentors, faculty, pastors, and LifeSong Church community.

Students should avoid isolation, secrecy, gossip, offense, and relational independence.

Healthy formation includes:

- Being known
- Being encouraged

- Being challenged
- Being accountable
- Serving with others
- Praying with others
- Learning from others
- Walking through conflict with maturity

Students are encouraged to remain connected to LifeSong Church or another healthy local church while enrolled in LSOM.

Faithfulness in the Local Church

Students are expected to value and participate in the local church.

LSOM exists as a ministry of LifeSong Church, and students are being formed in the context of the local church.

Students are encouraged to participate in church life through:

- Weekend services
- Prayer gatherings
- Worship environments
- Small groups
- Dream Team service
- Outreach
- Ministry practicum
- Church-wide events
- Discipleship environments

Students who are not members of LifeSong Church should remain meaningfully connected to a healthy local church and should honor their church leadership while participating in LSOM.

Ministry From Overflow

Students are expected to learn how to minister from overflow rather than emptiness, performance, or striving.

Ministry that does not flow from intimacy with Jesus can become exhausting, prideful, mechanical, or unhealthy.

Students should learn to serve from:

- Love for Jesus
- Compassion for people
- Dependence on the Holy Spirit
- A heart of worship
- Obedience to the Word
- Personal prayer
- Healthy identity
- Humility and surrender

LSOM students are encouraged to prioritize who they are becoming in Christ over what they are doing for God.

Spiritual Gifts and Formation

Students are encouraged to grow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit with humility, biblical wisdom, and accountability.

LifeSong values the work of the Holy Spirit, including spiritual gifts, healing, deliverance, prophetic ministry, words of knowledge, discernment, and Spirit-led prayer.

Students should pursue spiritual gifts in a way that reflects:

- Love
- Humility

- Biblical faithfulness
- Submission to leadership
- Care for people
- Emotional maturity
- Accountability
- Order
- Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
- The character of Jesus

Spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ, not to draw attention to the person ministering.

Formation Through Correction

Students should expect that part of spiritual formation will involve correction.

Correction may come through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, instructors, mentors, assignments, ministry feedback, leadership conversations, or life circumstances.

Correction is not rejection. It is often one of the ways God forms leaders.

Students are expected to receive correction with humility and respond with maturity.

A healthy student response may include:

- Listening carefully
- Asking clarifying questions
- Avoiding defensiveness
- Praying about the feedback
- Taking responsibility
- Making needed changes
- Following through

- Thanking those who care enough to speak truth

Students who learn to receive correction well will grow in leadership capacity and spiritual maturity.

Formation Through Service

Students are expected to embrace service as part of spiritual formation.

Serving helps expose the heart, develop humility, strengthen faithfulness, and form Christlike leadership.

Students should serve without entitlement, comparison, complaint, or the need for recognition.

Faithful service includes:

- Showing up
- Being prepared
- Doing what was assigned
- Serving with joy
- Honoring leaders
- Caring for people
- Staying flexible
- Following through
- Remaining faithful in small things

At LSOM, serving is not beneath leadership. Serving is the foundation of leadership.

Formation Through Pressure

Students may experience pressure during the LSOM journey.

Balancing classes, assignments, ministry, work, family, and personal life may reveal areas where God is forming patience, discipline, trust, humility, and dependence.

Students are encouraged to respond to pressure by turning toward God rather than withdrawing, complaining, isolating, or quitting prematurely.

Pressure can become a place of formation when students learn to:

- Pray
- Ask for help
- Manage time wisely
- Receive grace
- Stay faithful
- Communicate early
- Trust God
- Grow in endurance
- Keep their heart soft

God often uses pressure to form depth.

Spiritual Formation and Ministry Readiness

Spiritual formation is connected to ministry readiness.

Students preparing for ministry leadership must grow in more than knowledge and skill. They must grow in character, humility, emotional maturity, integrity, faithfulness, and spiritual depth.

LSOM leadership may consider spiritual formation when evaluating:

- Ministry practicum
- Leadership opportunities
- Internship participation
- Graduation readiness

- Ordination candidacy
- Ministry placement
- Recommendations
- Continued participation in the program

Formation is not about perfection. It is about visible growth, humility, teachability, and readiness to carry responsibility.

When a Student Is Struggling Spiritually

Students may face seasons of discouragement, temptation, dryness, confusion, grief, conflict, or spiritual struggle.

Students are encouraged to seek help early.

Possible sources of support may include:

- Prayer with a trusted leader
- Conversation with LSOM leadership
- Meeting with a faculty member
- Pastoral care
- Ministry mentor support
- Accountability
- Counseling referral, when appropriate
- Small group community
- Rest and renewal

Students should not hide spiritual struggle out of fear or shame. LSOM desires to respond with truth, grace, wisdom, and care.

Spiritual Formation Assessment

Because LSOM is a ministry formation school, spiritual formation may be considered as part of the student's overall progress.

Formation assessment may include:

- Reflection assignments
- Ministry practicum feedback
- Mentor evaluations
- Faculty observations
- Student self-assessment
- Participation in prayer and worship
- Teachability
- Faithfulness
- Conduct
- Leadership readiness

Such assessment will be handled with care, humility, and confidentiality.

The purpose is not to grade a student's relationship with God, but to help students grow as disciples and leaders.

Summary

Spiritual formation is at the center of LifeSong School of Ministry.

Students are expected to pursue Jesus wholeheartedly, honor the Word of God, value the presence of God, participate in prayer and worship, serve faithfully, receive correction humbly, and grow in Christlike character.

The goal is not merely to complete assignments or attend classes. The goal is to be transformed.

LifeSong School of Ministry desires to form students who embody:

Deeper Passion — a heart fully turned toward God.

Deeper Presence — a life centered on the presence of God.

Deeper Purpose — a life fully engaged in God's mission.

Students who give themselves fully to the formation process can expect God to shape their hearts, strengthen their foundations, deepen their calling, and prepare them for faithful Kingdom service.

CHURCH PARTICIPATION

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry exists within the life, mission, and spiritual culture of LifeSong Church.

Because LSOM is a ministry formation school, students are not only expected to attend classes and complete assignments. Students are also encouraged to participate meaningfully in the life of the local church.

The local church is one of God's primary environments for discipleship, community, service, accountability, worship, prayer, and ministry formation. Students are formed not only in classrooms, but also through worship services, prayer gatherings, serving opportunities, small groups, outreach, ministry teams, and relationships within the body of Christ.

Church participation helps students grow in Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

The Local Church and Student Formation

LSOM believes ministry training should be rooted in the local church.

Students preparing for ministry and leadership need more than information. They need to learn how to love the Church, serve people, honor leadership, work with teams, participate in worship, pray with others, make disciples, and remain faithful in community.

Church participation helps students grow in:

- Love for Jesus
- Love for people
- Faithfulness
- Servant leadership
- Spiritual maturity
- Humility
- Prayer
- Worship
- Discipleship
- Ministry responsibility
- Teamwork

- Accountability
- Mission

A student's relationship to the local church is an important part of their spiritual formation and ministry readiness.

Participation in LifeSong Church

Students who are part of LifeSong Church are expected to participate faithfully in the life of the church.

This may include:

- Attending weekend services
- Participating in worship and prayer
- Serving on the Dream Team
- Participating in small groups
- Attending church-wide gatherings when appropriate
- Participating in outreach and missions opportunities
- Engaging in discipleship environments
- Supporting LifeSong's mission and values
- Honoring LifeSong Church leadership
- Contributing to the unity and health of the church

LifeSong Church is not merely the location where LSOM classes are held. It is the spiritual family and ministry environment in which many LSOM students are being formed.

Students From Other Churches

LSOM may welcome students from other churches or ministry backgrounds.

Students who are not members or regular attenders of LifeSong Church are encouraged to remain actively connected to a healthy local church while participating in LSOM.

Students from other churches should honor their home church, pastors, and ministry commitments while also respecting the doctrine, values, and culture of LifeSong Church during their time in LSOM.

Students from other churches are expected to participate respectfully in LSOM classes, worship, prayer, practicum, and formation environments.

In some cases, students from other churches may complete ministry practicum at LifeSong Church or in another approved ministry context, subject to LSOM leadership approval.

Weekend Services

Students are strongly encouraged to participate regularly in weekend worship services.

Weekend services provide an important environment for worship, preaching, prayer, altar ministry, fellowship, serving, and experiencing the life of the church.

Students should not view weekend services only as a ministry assignment or practicum opportunity. Students should also receive, worship, listen, respond, and grow as part of the congregation.

Participation in weekend services helps students remain connected to the heartbeat of the church and the presence of God.

Prayer and Worship Gatherings

Prayer and worship are central to the culture of LifeSong Church and LSOM.

Students are encouraged to participate in prayer and worship gatherings whenever possible.

These environments help students grow in:

- Hunger for God
- Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
- Corporate worship
- Intercession
- Spiritual unity
- Faith
- Ministry awareness
- Love for the presence of God

Students preparing for ministry should learn to value prayer and worship not as optional activities, but as essential practices for Spirit-filled leadership.

Small Groups and Community

Students are encouraged to participate in small groups or other discipleship communities.

Small groups provide opportunities for relationship, prayer, accountability, encouragement, Bible discussion, care, and spiritual growth.

Students should not attempt to walk through ministry formation alone.

Healthy community helps students remain grounded, known, encouraged, and accountable.

Participation in a small group may also help students learn how discipleship happens in everyday relationships, not only in classroom settings.

Dream Team and Serving

Students connected to LifeSong Church are encouraged to serve faithfully on the Dream Team or in another approved ministry area.

Serving helps students grow in humility, faithfulness, teamwork, responsibility, and love for people.

Serving may include ministry areas such as:

- First impressions
- LifeKids
- Joy Club
- Youth ministry
- Young adults ministry
- Worship
- Production
- Prayer ministry
- Small groups
- Outreach
- Missions
- Special events
- Communications
- Pastoral care
- Ministry administration
- Other approved ministry areas

Students should approach serving as part of spiritual formation, not merely as a task to complete.

Ministry Practicum and Church Participation

Some LSOM programs include supervised ministry practicum.

Ministry practicum is a formal academic and formation requirement connected to specific courses or program requirements.

Church participation and ministry practicum are related, but they are not always the same.

A student may participate in church services, small groups, or serving opportunities as part of normal church life. Ministry practicum, however, includes specific requirements such as approved placement, mentor oversight, reflection assignments, ministry hours, and evaluation.

Students should follow all practicum requirements listed in the syllabus, practicum handbook, MoodleCloud, or official LSOM communication.

Church-Wide Events

Students may be encouraged or required to participate in certain church-wide events that support spiritual formation, ministry training, or practicum requirements.

These may include:

- Prayer nights
- Pursuit Nights
- Baptism services
- Outreach events
- Conferences
- Leadership gatherings
- Dream Team events
- Special services
- Ministry trainings
- Holiday services
- Campus-wide ministry opportunities

When church-wide events are required for a course or practicum, LSOM will communicate expectations through official channels.

Students should make every effort to participate in required events with a willing and servant-hearted attitude.

Honor for Church Leadership

Students are expected to honor LifeSong Church leadership, LSOM leadership, faculty, ministry mentors, and practicum supervisors.

Honor includes humility, respect, prayer, teachability, and appropriate communication.

Students may ask questions, seek clarification, and express concerns, but should do so through proper channels and with a spirit of humility and unity.

Gossip, slander, public criticism, divisive speech, sarcasm, rebellion, or dishonoring communication toward church leadership is inconsistent with LSOM culture and ministry formation.

Students preparing for leadership must learn to lead with honor and serve under authority.

Unity and the Health of the Church

Students are expected to contribute to the unity and spiritual health of the church.

This includes:

- Refusing gossip
- Avoiding offense and division
- Speaking with humility and wisdom
- Protecting relationships
- Resolving conflict biblically
- Praying for leaders and classmates
- Serving with a good attitude
- Encouraging others
- Supporting the mission of the church
- Carrying LifeSong culture with integrity

Students should not use LSOM or church participation as a platform for personal agendas, unhealthy influence, criticism, comparison, or division.

Healthy leaders build the Church; they do not tear it down.

Giving and Generosity

LifeSong Church values generosity and teaches that believers are called to be contributors, not consumers.

Students are encouraged to grow in generosity as part of spiritual formation.

Generosity may include giving time, serving faithfully, using gifts to bless others, encouraging people, sharing resources, and practicing financial generosity as an act of worship and obedience.

LSOM recognizes that students may be in different financial situations. The goal is not pressure or comparison, but a heart that increasingly trusts God and lives open-handed before Him.

Students serving in leadership or spiritually sensitive roles may be expected to understand and support LifeSong's value of generosity in a way that reflects the culture and expectations of the church.

Membership and Next Steps

Students who are part of LifeSong Church may be encouraged to complete LifeSong's membership, Next Steps, Growth Track, or similar pathway, depending on current church process.

These pathways help students understand the church's mission, values, beliefs, serving opportunities, and community life.

Students who desire greater ministry involvement, leadership responsibility, practicum placement, internship participation, or ordination consideration may be expected to demonstrate active connection to LifeSong Church and alignment with its values.

Specific requirements may vary by program, practicum placement, or ministry role.

Students Serving in Other Churches

Students who serve in another local church should communicate clearly with LSOM leadership regarding their church involvement and ministry commitments.

When appropriate, LSOM may approve ministry practicum in another church or ministry setting if the placement supports program outcomes and provides appropriate supervision.

Students serving in other churches are expected to honor both LSOM requirements and their home church leadership.

Students should avoid creating conflict, confusion, or divided loyalties between LSOM participation and their church responsibilities.

Church Participation and Ministry Readiness

Church participation may be considered when evaluating ministry readiness, practicum progress, internship participation, leadership opportunities, graduation readiness, or ordination candidacy.

LSOM leadership may consider whether a student demonstrates:

- Faithfulness in church life
- Servant leadership
- Participation in worship and prayer
- Commitment to discipleship
- Unity and honor
- Reliability in serving
- Teachability under leadership
- Love for people
- Alignment with LifeSong values
- Ability to function in a real ministry environment

Ministry leaders are formed in the context of the Church. A student who is disconnected from church life may struggle to demonstrate readiness for church leadership.

Church Participation Is Not Performance

Students should not participate in church life merely to appear spiritual, earn approval, or meet external expectations.

God is concerned with the heart.

Students are encouraged to serve, worship, pray, give, and participate from love for Jesus and love for people.

Faithful church participation should flow from relationship with God, not pressure, comparison, or religious performance.

The goal is not to look involved. The goal is to be formed as a faithful disciple and servant leader.

When Participation Becomes Difficult

LSOM recognizes that students may experience seasons when church participation is difficult due to work schedules, family responsibilities, illness, transportation challenges, emotional strain, spiritual discouragement, or personal circumstances.

Students are encouraged to communicate early with LSOM leadership or ministry mentors when challenges arise.

Depending on the situation, support may include:

- Prayer and pastoral care
- Schedule clarification
- Practicum adjustment
- Academic advising
- Temporary accommodation
- Leave of absence discussion
- Connection to community support
- Encouragement and accountability

Students should not withdraw quietly, isolate, or disappear when they are struggling.

Summary

Church participation is an important part of formation at LifeSong School of Ministry.

Students are encouraged to engage faithfully in the life of the local church through worship, prayer, serving, discipleship, community, outreach, and ministry practice.

The goal is not simply activity, but formation.

Through meaningful participation in church life, students grow in love for Jesus, love for people, faithfulness, humility, servant leadership, and readiness for ministry.

LifeSong School of Ministry desires to form students who do not merely attend church, but love the Church, serve the Church, strengthen the Church, and help carry the mission of God with Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY STANDARDS

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry exists to develop Spirit-filled, Word-grounded disciples and leaders who are prepared to serve Christ, strengthen the local church, make disciples, and advance the Kingdom of God.

Because LSOM is a ministry formation school, leadership is not measured only by gifting, charisma, knowledge, talent, or visible ministry ability. Leadership is measured by character, humility, faithfulness, teachability, spiritual maturity, love for people, and alignment with the heart and culture of LifeSong Church.

Students are expected to grow as servant leaders who can be trusted with responsibility, influence, people, and ministry assignments.

Leadership at LSOM is not about title, platform, or position. It is about becoming the kind of person who can serve others faithfully and represent Jesus well.

The Heart of Ministry Leadership

At LSOM, ministry leadership begins in the heart.

Students are expected to lead from devotion to Jesus, not from personal ambition, insecurity, performance, comparison, or the desire to be seen.

A healthy ministry leader asks:

- Is my heart fully turned toward God?
- Am I serving from love or from pressure?
- Am I seeking to build people or build my own platform?
- Am I willing to be faithful when no one notices?
- Am I teachable when corrected?
- Am I honoring the people God has placed over me?

- Am I loving people well?
- Am I depending on the Holy Spirit or relying only on my ability?

Leadership at LSOM flows from Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

Servant Leadership

Students are expected to embrace servant leadership.

Jesus modeled leadership through humility, sacrifice, obedience, compassion, and service. LSOM students are expected to follow His example.

Servant leadership includes:

- Serving before seeking position
- Taking responsibility without entitlement
- Honoring others
- Helping without needing recognition
- Doing small things faithfully
- Supporting the team
- Encouraging others
- Listening well
- Leading with humility
- Remaining faithful under authority
- Caring more about people than platform

Students should understand that service is not beneath leadership. Service is the foundation of leadership.

Faithfulness and Reliability

Faithfulness is one of the clearest marks of ministry readiness.

Students are expected to be reliable in classes, ministry practicum, serving assignments, communication, and follow-through.

Faithfulness includes:

- Showing up on time
- Being prepared
- Completing assignments
- Following through on commitments
- Communicating early when challenges arise
- Serving consistently
- Honoring schedules and expectations
- Completing practicum requirements
- Stewarding responsibilities with excellence
- Being trustworthy in small things

A student who is gifted but unreliable may not be ready for greater leadership responsibility.

Teachability and Correction

Students are expected to remain teachable.

Teachability is essential for spiritual growth and leadership development. Students who desire to lead must also be willing to learn, listen, receive feedback, and grow through correction.

A teachable student:

- Listens before responding
- Receives feedback without defensiveness
- Asks clarifying questions

- Takes responsibility
- Makes needed adjustments
- Honors those providing correction
- Seeks wisdom from leaders
- Learns from mistakes
- Grows through difficult conversations

Correction is not rejection. In a healthy formation environment, correction is one of the ways God develops leaders.

Students who consistently resist correction, dishonor feedback, or refuse accountability may be restricted from ministry leadership opportunities.

Humility and Honor

Students are expected to lead with humility and honor.

Humility recognizes that all ministry is a gift from God. Honor recognizes the value of others and the importance of spiritual order, respect, and unity.

Students are expected to honor:

- God
- Scripture
- LifeSong Church leadership
- LSOM faculty and staff
- Ministry mentors and supervisors
- Classmates
- Team members
- Volunteers
- Church members

- Guests and ministry participants

Honor does not mean students cannot ask questions or raise concerns. It means they do so with respect, wisdom, and a desire for unity and understanding.

Dishonor, gossip, slander, sarcasm, comparison, rebellion, or divisive speech is inconsistent with LSOM leadership culture.

Ministry Under Authority

Students are expected to learn how to serve and lead under authority.

Healthy ministry requires accountability, alignment, and submission to appropriate leadership.

Students are expected to:

- Follow the direction of instructors, mentors, and ministry leaders
- Serve within approved ministry assignments
- Respect LifeSong Church policies and procedures
- Avoid acting independently outside assigned authority
- Ask for permission when needed
- Communicate with supervisors
- Honor decisions made by leadership
- Bring concerns through appropriate channels
- Avoid creating confusion or division

Students may have ideas, gifts, and passion, but those must be expressed within healthy spiritual order and leadership alignment.

Alignment With LifeSong Culture

Students are expected to grow in understanding and embodying the culture of LifeSong Church.

LifeSong culture is shaped by:

- The Word of God
- The Presence of God
- Prayer
- Discipleship
- Generosity
- Faith
- Worship

Students are expected to grow in Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

This means students should increasingly reflect:

- A heart fully turned toward God
- A life centered on the presence of God
- A life fully engaged in God's mission
- Love for the local church
- Commitment to discipleship
- Honor for leadership
- Faith-filled obedience
- Servant-hearted ministry
- Willingness to be sent

Students do not need to have the same personality, style, or ministry expression. However, students should be willing to learn, honor, participate in, and help reproduce the culture God has entrusted to LifeSong.

Ministry Practicum Standards

Students participating in ministry practicum are expected to treat practicum as a real ministry assignment.

Practicum is not merely a requirement to complete. It is an opportunity to be formed through serving, observing, practicing, receiving feedback, and growing in ministry responsibility.

Students in practicum are expected to:

- Serve in an approved ministry area
- Arrive on time and prepared
- Follow the direction of ministry mentors or supervisors
- Complete required ministry hours
- Submit practicum reflections and assignments
- Participate in mentor meetings or evaluations
- Communicate schedule conflicts promptly
- Maintain confidentiality
- Follow ministry safety policies
- Serve with humility and joy
- Receive feedback with teachability
- Represent Jesus, LifeSong Church, and LSOM with integrity

Failure to meet practicum standards may affect course completion, graduation eligibility, ministry placement, leadership opportunities, or ordination consideration.

Teamwork and Collaboration

Students are expected to work well with others.

Ministry is rarely done alone. Students must learn to function as part of a team, honor different gifts, communicate clearly, and serve shared vision.

Healthy teamwork includes:

- Listening to others

- Supporting team goals
- Respecting different personalities and gifts
- Communicating honestly and kindly
- Resolving conflict maturely
- Avoiding competition and comparison
- Doing assigned tasks faithfully
- Encouraging team members
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Remaining flexible when plans change

Students should not use gifting, calling, or personal preference as an excuse to avoid teamwork, accountability, or collaboration.

Communication as a Leader

Students are expected to communicate in ways that build trust.

Healthy ministry leadership requires clear, respectful, timely, and honest communication.

Students should:

- Respond to communication in a timely manner
- Keep mentors or supervisors informed
- Ask questions when expectations are unclear
- Communicate absences or conflicts early
- Avoid gossip and triangulation
- Address concerns through proper channels
- Speak with humility and respect
- Use email, text, MoodleCloud, and other platforms appropriately

- Avoid public criticism or divisive communication

Leaders who communicate poorly often create confusion, frustration, and mistrust. LSOM students are expected to grow in communication maturity.

Ministry Boundaries

Students are expected to maintain healthy ministry boundaries.

Healthy boundaries protect students, ministry participants, leaders, and the church.

Students should maintain appropriate boundaries related to:

- Time
- Emotional dependence
- Physical contact
- Personal disclosure
- Communication
- Social media
- Mentoring
- Prayer ministry
- Pastoral care conversations
- Transportation
- Meeting locations
- Relationships with minors
- Relationships involving authority or influence

Students should avoid ministry relationships that are secretive, exclusive, manipulative, romanticized, emotionally dependent, or outside approved ministry oversight.

When unsure, students should ask LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership for guidance.

Confidentiality in Ministry

Students may hear sensitive information through classes, practicum, prayer ministry, pastoral care, small groups, or personal conversations.

Students are expected to protect confidential information.

Students should not casually share:

- Prayer requests
- Personal struggles
- Family situations
- Health concerns
- Pastoral care matters
- Ministry discipline matters
- Student records
- Practicum evaluations
- Internal church matters
- Leadership conversations

Confidentiality is not absolute. Students must report concerns involving abuse, threats of harm, safety issues, or serious misconduct according to LifeSong Church policy and applicable law.

Students should never promise complete secrecy.

A wise statement is:

“I will do my best to honor your privacy, but I cannot promise to keep something confidential if someone may be in danger, if abuse is involved, or if I need to involve appropriate leadership to help care for you well.”

Prayer Ministry Standards

LifeSong values prayer and believes God moves powerfully through prayer.

Students participating in prayer ministry are expected to minister with humility, love, wisdom, and accountability.

Students should:

- Pray with compassion and faith
- Ask permission before praying in a personal or sensitive way
- Maintain appropriate physical boundaries
- Avoid manipulation or pressure
- Avoid shame-based or condemning language
- Avoid drawing attention to themselves
- Refer serious concerns to approved leaders
- Protect confidential information
- Serve under appropriate ministry oversight
- Follow LifeSong prayer ministry guidelines

Prayer ministry is not about performance. It is about loving people and depending on the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Gifts and Prophetic Ministry

LifeSong is a Spirit-filled church that values the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Students who participate in ministry involving prophecy, words of knowledge, discernment, healing prayer, deliverance ministry, or other spiritual gifts must do so with humility, biblical grounding, love, and accountability.

Students should:

- Submit spiritual gifts to Scripture and leadership
- Avoid presenting impressions as infallible
- Avoid directive, controlling, or manipulative words

- Avoid using spiritual language to pressure others
- Share impressions with humility
- Encourage, strengthen, and comfort in a manner consistent with Scripture
- Seek leadership guidance when a word or impression is sensitive
- Remain teachable and accountable

Spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ and should always reflect the character of Jesus.

Healing and Deliverance Ministry Standards

LifeSong values healing and deliverance ministry and desires to minister with biblical faith, compassion, wisdom, and order.

Students may only participate in healing or deliverance ministry under approved LifeSong Church leadership and according to LifeSong ministry guidelines.

Students should not independently conduct deliverance ministry, attempt to diagnose spiritual conditions, or engage in intense ministry situations beyond their role, training, or oversight.

Healing and deliverance ministry should be conducted with:

- Dependence on the Holy Spirit
- Biblical wisdom
- Pastoral oversight
- Emotional and physical safety
- Appropriate confidentiality
- Respect for the person receiving ministry
- Sensitivity to trauma and vulnerability
- Avoidance of spectacle, shame, or coercion
- Referral to pastoral, medical, or professional care when appropriate

Students must follow LifeSong Church leadership direction in all healing and deliverance ministry contexts.

Pastoral Care Boundaries

Students may have opportunities to encourage others, pray for people, offer spiritual support, and participate in basic pastoral care environments.

However, LSOM students are not licensed counselors, therapists, medical professionals, legal advisors, or financial advisors by virtue of enrollment in LSOM.

Students should not represent themselves as professional counselors or provide advice beyond their training, role, or approval.

Students should avoid:

- Giving professional counseling beyond their training
- Providing legal, medical, or financial advice
- Creating dependent or inappropriate care relationships
- Meeting privately in unsafe or unapproved settings
- Handling crisis situations without supervision
- Attempting to resolve complex trauma, abuse, addiction, or mental health issues without referral

Students should refer serious or complex concerns to approved LifeSong Church leaders or appropriate professionals.

Leadership Integrity

Students are expected to pursue integrity in every area of life.

Leadership integrity includes:

- Honesty
- Purity
- Financial responsibility

- Moral consistency
- Faithfulness in private
- Truthful communication
- Responsible use of authority
- Appropriate boundaries
- Willingness to be accountable
- Follow-through on commitments
- Refusal to manipulate or exploit others
- Alignment between public ministry and private life

Students preparing for leadership must understand that influence increases responsibility. The more people trust a leader, the more important integrity becomes.

Handling Conflict

Students are expected to handle conflict with maturity, humility, and biblical wisdom.

Conflict should not be handled through gossip, slander, avoidance, public criticism, passive-aggressive comments, or social media.

Students should seek to:

- Pray first
- Examine their own heart
- Speak directly when appropriate
- Listen carefully
- Seek understanding
- Avoid exaggeration
- Refuse gossip
- Ask for help when needed

- Follow appropriate channels
- Pursue reconciliation when possible
- Protect unity

Healthy leaders do not avoid conflict, but they handle it with maturity and love.

Initiative and Responsibility

Students are expected to take initiative and responsibility for their own growth.

LSOM leadership, faculty, and mentors will provide guidance, but students must actively participate in their own formation.

Students should take responsibility for:

- Reading the handbook and catalog
- Understanding expectations
- Completing assignments
- Communicating with leaders
- Managing their schedule
- Preparing for ministry assignments
- Following through on commitments
- Seeking help when needed
- Responding to feedback
- Growing spiritually and personally

Students who consistently wait to be reminded, corrected, or rescued may need additional formation before receiving greater leadership responsibility.

Ministry Readiness

Ministry readiness involves more than completing courses.

LSOM leadership may consider the following when evaluating ministry readiness:

- Spiritual maturity
- Biblical understanding
- Theological clarity
- Character
- Integrity
- Faithfulness
- Teachability
- Emotional maturity
- Ministry skill
- Love for people
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Leadership capacity
- Alignment with LifeSong culture
- Ability to serve under authority
- Ability to handle responsibility
- Healthy boundaries
- Conduct in public and private life

Students should understand that ministry readiness is observed over time.

Leadership Opportunities

Students may be invited to participate in leadership opportunities as they demonstrate readiness.

Leadership opportunities may include:

- Ministry practicum responsibilities
- Small group leadership
- Prayer ministry participation
- Teaching or preaching opportunities
- Worship or creative ministry roles
- Outreach leadership
- Youth, children's, or young adult ministry involvement
- Administrative or operational responsibilities
- Event leadership
- Internship responsibilities
- Ordination Candidate Track participation

Leadership opportunities are not guaranteed by enrollment in LSOM.

Opportunities are based on calling, character, gifting, readiness, availability, ministry need, and leadership approval.

Restrictions From Ministry Leadership

LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership may restrict a student from ministry leadership or practicum participation when concerns arise.

Reasons may include:

- Conduct concerns
- Safety concerns

- Boundary violations
- Lack of faithfulness
- Lack of teachability
- Confidentiality concerns
- Academic integrity issues
- Emotional or relational instability
- Spiritual immaturity
- Unresolved conflict
- Misalignment with LifeSong culture
- Failure to complete required training or clearance
- Concerns raised by ministry mentors or supervisors

Restrictions may be temporary or permanent depending on the nature of the concern.

The goal of restriction may be protection, correction, formation, or restoration.

Ordination and Leadership Standards

Students interested in ordination should understand that ordination requires a higher level of review and discernment.

Completion of LSOM coursework does not guarantee ordination.

Graduation from LSOM does not guarantee ordination.

Ordination consideration may include review of:

- Calling
- Doctrine
- Character
- Spiritual maturity

- Ministry fruitfulness
- Leadership readiness
- Pastoral recommendation
- Background check or ministry clearance
- Teaching or preaching ability
- LifeSong Church alignment
- Emotional and relational health
- Willingness to submit to accountability

Students who desire ordination should approach the process with humility, patience, and openness to continued formation.

Representation of LSOM and LifeSong Church

Students are expected to represent LSOM and LifeSong Church with integrity.

Students should not falsely claim:

- Staff status
- Pastoral authority
- Ordination status
- Leadership title
- Permission to speak on behalf of LifeSong Church or LSOM
- Completion of a program
- Ministry placement approval
- Official endorsement
- Authority to counsel, minister, or lead outside assigned roles

Students should not use LSOM enrollment to gain unauthorized access, influence, platform, or authority.

Students should represent their role accurately and humbly.

Restoration and Growth

LSOM believes in repentance, restoration, accountability, and growth.

When a student falls short of leadership or ministry standards, LSOM leadership may provide a pathway for restoration when appropriate.

Restoration may include:

- Confession and repentance
- Pastoral care
- Counseling referral
- Mentorship
- Accountability plan
- Temporary ministry restriction
- Training or education
- Demonstrated growth over time
- Review by LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership

Restoration does not always mean immediate return to ministry leadership. Ministry access may be restored only when appropriate and approved by leadership.

Summary

Leadership and ministry standards at LifeSong School of Ministry exist to form students who can be trusted with spiritual responsibility.

Students are called to lead with humility, serve with faithfulness, minister with wisdom, protect people, honor authority, and represent Jesus well.

LSOM desires to develop leaders whose gifts are supported by character, whose passion is rooted in a surrendered heart, whose ministry flows from the presence of God, and whose purpose is fully engaged in the mission of God.

Students are being formed to lead with:

Deeper Passion — a heart fully turned toward God.

Deeper Presence — a life centered on the presence of God.

Deeper Purpose — a life fully engaged in God's mission.

LSOM STUDENT COVENANT

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry is a place of biblical instruction, spiritual formation, ministry preparation, and leadership development.

Students who enroll in LSOM are not simply signing up for classes. They are entering a formation environment designed to help them grow as Spirit-filled, Word-grounded disciples and leaders who embody Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

The LSOM Student Covenant is a statement of commitment between the student and LifeSong School of Ministry. It reflects the expectations, values, and spiritual culture of LSOM as a ministry of LifeSong Church.

This covenant is not a general LifeSong Church membership covenant. It is a student covenant for those participating in LifeSong School of Ministry.

By signing this covenant, students acknowledge that they have read and understand the expectations of the LSOM Student Handbook and agree to participate in the academic, spiritual, and ministry formation process with humility, integrity, and faithfulness.

Purpose of the Covenant

The purpose of the LSOM Student Covenant is to help students clearly understand the commitment they are making as part of the school.

This covenant is intended to:

- Clarify student expectations.
- Strengthen spiritual formation.
- Protect the culture of LSOM.
- Promote unity, honor, and accountability.
- Encourage academic and ministry faithfulness.
- Help students approach the program with seriousness and humility.
- Create a shared understanding of what it means to participate in LSOM.

The covenant is not intended to create fear, pressure, or legalism. It is intended to help students willingly embrace the formation process and understand the responsibility of preparing for ministry and leadership.

A Covenant of the Heart

At LSOM, we believe formation begins in the heart.

God is not only concerned with outward behavior, religious activity, ministry involvement, or public expression. He is concerned with the posture of the heart.

A student may attend class, complete assignments, serve in ministry, participate in worship, and still need deeper surrender before God.

For this reason, the LSOM Student Covenant is not merely about external compliance. It is about a heart posture of humility, teachability, surrender, and willingness to be formed by God.

Students are invited to approach this covenant prayerfully and honestly.

The goal is not perfection. The goal is a surrendered heart that is willing to grow.

The LSOM Student Covenant

As a student of LifeSong School of Ministry, I understand that LSOM exists to develop Spirit-filled, Word-grounded disciples and leaders who carry the presence of God, serve the local church, make disciples, and advance the Kingdom of God.

I understand that LSOM is a ministry of LifeSong Church and that the school reflects the doctrine, values, mission, and spiritual culture of LifeSong Church.

I acknowledge that participation in LSOM is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Therefore, I willingly make the following commitments:

1. I Commit to Pursue Jesus First

I commit to pursue a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

I will seek to grow in love for God, obedience to Scripture, personal devotion, prayer, worship, repentance, humility, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

I understand that ministry should flow from love for Jesus and not from performance, ambition, comparison, or religious activity.

I desire to grow in Deeper Passion — a heart fully turned toward God.

2. I Commit to Honor the Word of God

I commit to honor the authority of Scripture in my beliefs, attitudes, decisions, conduct, relationships, and ministry.

I will seek to study the Word of God faithfully, complete assigned readings, submit to biblical correction, and grow in my ability to interpret and communicate Scripture responsibly.

I understand that the Bible is not merely a textbook for LSOM. It is the living Word of God and the foundation for discipleship, doctrine, worship, leadership, and ministry.

3. I Commit to Value the Presence of God

I commit to pursue a life centered on the presence of God.

I will participate in prayer, worship, and spiritual formation environments with sincerity, humility, and hunger for God.

I will seek to grow in sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and minister to others with love, wisdom, biblical faithfulness, and accountability.

I desire to grow in Deeper Presence — a life centered on the presence of God.

4. I Commit to Live with Purpose

I commit to participate in the mission of God through discipleship, service, evangelism, ministry, leadership development, and love for people.

I understand that God has created me with purpose and that LSOM is designed to help form, equip, and prepare me for faithful Kingdom service.

I desire to grow in Deeper Purpose — a life fully engaged in God’s mission.

5. I Commit to Academic Faithfulness and Integrity

I commit to take my studies seriously.

I will attend classes faithfully, complete assignments on time, participate in discussions, engage MoodleCloud, use required resources responsibly, and communicate with instructors when I need help.

I commit to academic integrity and will not cheat, plagiarize, misuse artificial intelligence tools, falsify information, misrepresent sources, or submit work that is not my own.

I understand that academic integrity is part of spiritual formation and ministry readiness.

6. I Commit to Faithful Attendance and Participation

I commit to attend required classes, ministry labs, practicums, gatherings, and formation experiences faithfully.

I will arrive on time, come prepared, participate respectfully, and complete make-up work when required.

I understand that LSOM is a formation environment and that presence, participation, and community are important parts of the learning process.

7. I Commit to Servant Leadership

I commit to grow as a servant leader.

I will seek to serve with humility, faithfulness, responsibility, and love for people.

I will not seek title, platform, recognition, or position above character, obedience, and faithfulness.

I will seek to be faithful in small things and trustworthy with the responsibilities assigned to me.

8. I Commit to Honor and Unity

I commit to help build a culture of honor, respect, humility, and unity.

I will honor God, Scripture, classmates, faculty, ministry mentors, LifeSong Church leadership, volunteers, church members, and guests.

I will avoid gossip, slander, divisive speech, public criticism, sarcasm, rebellion, and dishonoring communication.

If I have concerns, I will seek to address them through appropriate channels with humility, honesty, and respect.

9. I Commit to Christian Character and Conduct

I commit to pursue a lifestyle that honors Christ and reflects Christian discipleship.

I will seek to live with integrity, purity, humility, self-control, honesty, and love.

I will avoid conduct that dishonors Christ, harms others, damages trust, undermines ministry formation, or compromises the witness of LifeSong Church or LSOM.

I understand that my conduct in public, private, ministry, classroom, and digital spaces may affect my standing in LSOM, ministry practicum, leadership opportunities, graduation readiness, and ordination consideration.

10. I Commit to Ministry Faithfulness

I commit to serve faithfully in any approved ministry practicum, internship, or ministry assignment.

I will follow the direction of ministry leaders, communicate clearly, arrive prepared, complete required responsibilities, protect confidential information, maintain appropriate boundaries, and receive feedback with humility.

I understand that ministry practicum is not merely volunteer service. It is part of my formation and preparation for ministry.

11. I Commit to Confidentiality and Safety

I commit to protect confidential information shared in classes, ministry settings, prayer, small groups, pastoral care, practicum assignments, or personal conversations.

I will not share private prayer requests, personal stories, ministry situations, student information, or internal church matters without permission or appropriate authorization.

I understand that confidentiality is not absolute. If someone may be in danger, if abuse is involved, or if serious misconduct or safety concerns arise, I will report the matter to appropriate LifeSong Church or LSOM leadership and, when required, to civil authorities.

12. I Commit to Healthy Ministry Boundaries

I commit to maintain healthy and appropriate boundaries in ministry relationships.

I will avoid secretive, manipulative, inappropriate, emotionally dependent, romanticized, or unsafe relationships in ministry contexts.

I will follow LifeSong Church policies regarding communication with minors, physical contact, pastoral care, prayer ministry, social media, and ministry conduct.

When I am unsure how to handle a situation, I will seek guidance from LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership.

13. I Commit to Receive Correction and Continue Growing

I commit to remain teachable.

I understand that correction is not rejection and that feedback is part of the formation process.

When corrected, I will seek to listen, reflect, take responsibility, make needed changes, and grow in maturity.

I understand that LSOM does not expect perfection, but it does expect honesty, humility, repentance, and willingness to grow.

14. I Commit to Participate in the Life of the Church

I commit to value the local church as an essential environment for discipleship and formation.

If I am part of LifeSong Church, I will seek to participate faithfully in the life of the church through worship, prayer, serving, discipleship, community, outreach, and ministry involvement.

If I am part of another church, I will honor my home church and remain meaningfully connected to healthy local church community while participating respectfully in LSOM.

I understand that ministry leaders are formed in the context of the Church.

15. I Commit to Represent Christ, LSOM, and LifeSong Church with Integrity

I commit to represent Jesus Christ, LifeSong School of Ministry, and LifeSong Church with integrity.

I will not falsely claim titles, authority, staff status, ordination status, leadership roles, program completion, or permission to speak on behalf of LSOM or LifeSong Church.

I will seek to honor Christ in my words, actions, social media, ministry involvement, relationships, and public witness.

Student Acknowledgment

I have read and understand the LSOM Student Handbook, including the expectations related to attendance, academic integrity, conduct, spiritual formation, church participation, leadership and ministry standards, confidentiality, safety, and student responsibility.

I understand that participation in LSOM is a privilege and that my continued participation may be affected by academic progress, attendance, conduct, ministry faithfulness, safety concerns, or alignment with LSOM expectations.

I understand that graduation from LSOM does not automatically guarantee ordination, employment, staff placement, ministry appointment, or transfer of coursework to another institution.

I understand that ordination, if pursued, is a separate process administered by LifeSong Church leadership.

I willingly commit to participate in the LSOM formation process with humility, integrity, faithfulness, and a heart fully turned toward God.

Covenant Agreement

Please select one:

- ☐ I have read, understand, and agree to the LSOM Student Covenant.
- ☐ I have questions and would like to speak with LSOM leadership before signing.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

LSOM Representative: _____

Date: _____

Digital Agreement Option

For online forms or digital enrollment systems, LSOM may use the following acknowledgment:

I have read, understand, and agree to the LSOM Student Covenant. I understand that this covenant reflects the expectations of students participating in LifeSong School of Ministry and that my enrollment indicates my willingness to participate in the academic, spiritual, and ministry formation process.

Response option:

- ☐ I agree.

DISCIPLINE, RESTORATION, AND APPEALS

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry desires to form students who are faithful disciples, healthy leaders, and trustworthy ministers of the Gospel.

Because LSOM is a ministry formation school, concerns related to academics, attendance, conduct, ministry practicum, safety, confidentiality, character, or leadership readiness may need to be addressed through correction, discipline, restoration, or appeal.

Discipline at LSOM is not intended to be punitive, harsh, or shame-based. The goal is to protect people, preserve trust, maintain the integrity of the school, and help students grow in Christlike maturity.

Whenever possible, LSOM desires to respond to concerns with truth, grace, wisdom, accountability, and a pathway for restoration.

Purpose of Discipline

The purpose of discipline is formation, protection, correction, and restoration.

Discipline may be necessary when a student's actions, attitudes, choices, or patterns create concern regarding academic integrity, spiritual formation, ministry readiness, personal conduct, safety, or alignment with LSOM expectations.

The purpose of discipline is to:

- Help students recognize and correct harmful or unwise patterns.
- Protect the LSOM learning environment.
- Protect LifeSong Church ministry environments.
- Protect students, church members, volunteers, minors, vulnerable individuals, and others served through ministry.
- Maintain academic integrity.
- Preserve trust in ministry leadership.

- Encourage repentance, growth, and accountability.
- Clarify expectations.
- Support the student's long-term spiritual and leadership development.

Discipline is not rejection. In many cases, discipline is one of the ways God forms leaders.

Biblical Heart of Restoration

LSOM believes in repentance, forgiveness, accountability, and restoration.

Students are not expected to be perfect. However, students are expected to be honest, humble, teachable, and willing to grow.

When a concern arises, LSOM leadership will seek to respond in a way that reflects the heart of Jesus — full of grace and truth.

Restoration does not always mean the immediate removal of consequences. A student may be forgiven and still need to complete an accountability plan, step away from a ministry role, repeat a course, rebuild trust, or demonstrate growth over time.

The goal of restoration is not merely to return a student to activity. The goal is to help the student become healthy, whole, trustworthy, and ready for the responsibilities God has for them.

Areas That May Require Discipline or Review

A student may be subject to discipline, correction, restriction, or review for concerns involving:

- Academic dishonesty.
- Plagiarism or cheating.
- Misuse of artificial intelligence tools.
- Misrepresentation of ministry practicum hours.
- Excessive absences or repeated tardiness.
- Failure to complete assignments or course requirements.
- Disruptive classroom behavior.

- Dishonor, gossip, slander, or divisive conduct.
- Harassment, intimidation, or threatening behavior.
- Sexual misconduct or inappropriate relationships.
- Pornography or sexual immorality.
- Substance abuse or impairment.
- Illegal activity.
- Violation of safety policies.
- Violation of confidentiality.
- Boundary violations in ministry relationships.
- Inappropriate communication with minors.
- Misuse of LifeSong Church facilities, property, or technology.
- Misrepresentation of LSOM, LifeSong Church, or ministry authority.
- Failure to follow ministry practicum expectations.
- Refusal to receive correction or follow leadership direction.
- Conduct that damages trust or undermines ministry formation.
- Any behavior inconsistent with LSOM student expectations, conduct standards, or ministry leadership standards.

This list is not exhaustive. LSOM leadership may review any concern that affects student formation, safety, academic integrity, ministry readiness, or the health of the learning and ministry environment.

Informal Correction

Some concerns may be addressed through informal correction.

Informal correction may include a conversation with:

- An instructor.

- Ministry mentor.
- Practicum supervisor.
- LSOM Director or Dean.
- Academic Director.
- Formation and Practicum Director.
- LifeSong Church ministry leader.

Informal correction may include clarification, coaching, prayer, encouragement, warning, or guidance.

The purpose of informal correction is to address the concern early before it becomes more serious.

Students are expected to receive informal correction with humility, maturity, and teachability.

Formal Discipline

Formal discipline may be necessary when a concern is serious, repeated, unresolved, or connected to safety, ministry trust, academic integrity, or leadership readiness.

Formal discipline may include:

- Written warning.
- Academic warning.
- Conduct warning.
- Required meeting with LSOM leadership.
- Formation plan.
- Academic improvement plan.
- Ministry accountability plan.
- Ministry placement restriction.
- Removal from ministry practicum.

- Loss of leadership opportunity.
- Conduct probation.
- Academic probation.
- Suspension from LSOM.
- Dismissal from LSOM.
- Removal from the Ordination Candidate Track.
- Referral to LifeSong Church leadership.
- Reporting to civil authorities when required.

Formal discipline should be documented and maintained according to LSOM student records policies.

Immediate Action for Safety or Serious Concerns

LSOM and LifeSong Church reserve the right to take immediate action when a concern involves safety, abuse, threats, misconduct, harassment, ministry boundary violations, child or youth protection, illegal activity, or other serious matters.

Immediate action may include:

- Temporary removal from class.
- Temporary removal from ministry practicum.
- Temporary restriction from LifeSong Church facilities or ministry areas.
- Suspension from LSOM activities.
- Contacting LifeSong Church leadership.
- Contacting parents or guardians when applicable and appropriate.
- Contacting emergency services.
- Reporting to civil authorities when required.
- Beginning a formal review process.

In serious matters, LSOM may act before completing the full review process in order to protect people and preserve safety.

Students should not interpret temporary restriction as a final decision. It may be a protective step while leadership reviews the situation.

Review Process

When a concern is identified, LSOM leadership may initiate a review process.

The review process may include:

- Reviewing the concern or report.
- Meeting with the student.
- Meeting with instructors, mentors, supervisors, or witnesses.
- Reviewing assignments, attendance records, MoodleCloud activity, practicum reports, or communications.
- Reviewing relevant LSOM policies.
- Consulting LifeSong Church leadership.
- Consulting appropriate safety or pastoral leaders.
- Determining whether a policy violation or formation concern occurred.
- Determining an appropriate response.

The review process will be handled with as much confidentiality as reasonably possible.

Information will be shared only with those who have a legitimate need to know.

Student Participation in the Review Process

Students are expected to participate honestly and respectfully in any review process.

Students should:

- Tell the truth.

- Take responsibility where appropriate.
- Provide relevant information.
- Respond respectfully to leadership.
- Avoid blaming, minimizing, or hiding information.
- Avoid retaliation against anyone involved.
- Follow temporary restrictions or instructions.
- Ask questions respectfully when clarification is needed.

Dishonesty during a review process may be considered a separate conduct concern.

Possible Outcomes

After review, LSOM leadership may determine one or more outcomes.

Possible outcomes include:

No Action Needed

Leadership determines that no violation or corrective action is needed.

Coaching or Clarification

The concern is addressed through conversation, clarification, guidance, or informal correction.

Written Warning

The student receives written documentation of the concern and expectations for change.

Formation Plan

The student is given specific steps for growth, accountability, or restoration.

Academic or Conduct Probation

The student may continue in LSOM under specific conditions for a defined period of time.

Ministry Restriction

The student is temporarily or permanently restricted from certain ministry roles, practicum placements, leadership opportunities, or spiritually sensitive environments.

Course or Practicum Consequence

The student may receive a grade reduction, assignment failure, course failure, practicum delay, or requirement to repeat a course or practicum.

Suspension

The student is temporarily removed from LSOM participation for a defined period of time or until conditions are met.

Dismissal

The student is removed from LSOM due to serious or unresolved concerns.

Referral

The matter is referred to LifeSong Church leadership, pastoral care, safety leadership, counseling resources, or civil authorities when appropriate or required.

Formation Plans

A formation plan may be used when a student needs structured support, correction, accountability, or growth.

A formation plan may include:

- Specific areas of concern.
- Required meetings with LSOM leadership.
- Required meetings with a ministry mentor or pastor.
- Assigned reading or reflection.

- Written growth plan.
- Counseling referral, if appropriate.
- Ministry restriction for a season.
- Accountability steps.
- Attendance or academic requirements.
- Behavioral expectations.
- Timeline for review.
- Conditions for continued participation.
- Conditions for restoration to ministry placement or leadership opportunity.

Formation plans are intended to help students grow. They are not meant to shame students.

Failure to follow a formation plan may result in additional discipline, restriction, suspension, or dismissal.

Academic Probation

Academic probation may be used when a student is not meeting academic expectations.

Reasons for academic probation may include:

- Failing grades.
- Repeated late assignments.
- Failure to complete course requirements.
- Excessive absences.
- Poor MoodleCloud participation.
- Academic integrity concerns.
- Failure to make satisfactory progress.
- Repeated incomplete work.

Academic probation may require the student to meet specific conditions, such as improved attendance, assignment completion, tutoring, instructor meetings, reduced course load, or successful completion of a course.

Failure to meet academic probation requirements may result in course failure, delayed graduation, suspension, or dismissal.

Conduct Probation

Conduct probation may be used when a student's behavior, attitude, relationships, communication, ministry conduct, or personal choices raise significant concern.

Conduct probation may require:

- A written conduct plan.
- Meetings with LSOM leadership.
- Ministry restriction.
- Accountability.
- Pastoral care.
- Counseling referral, if appropriate.
- Demonstrated change over time.
- Avoidance of further conduct violations.
- Compliance with specific behavioral expectations.

Conduct probation is intended to provide a structured pathway for correction and growth.

Failure to meet conduct probation requirements may result in suspension, dismissal, or removal from ministry placement.

Ministry Restriction or Removal

Because LSOM students may serve in ministry environments, LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership may restrict or remove a student from ministry participation when necessary.

Reasons may include:

- Safety concerns.
- Confidentiality concerns.
- Boundary violations.
- Conduct concerns.
- Lack of faithfulness.
- Lack of teachability.
- Unresolved conflict.
- Emotional or relational instability.
- Inappropriate communication.
- Failure to follow ministry policies.
- Concerns involving minors or vulnerable individuals.
- Concerns raised by ministry mentors or supervisors.
- Misalignment with LifeSong Church ministry standards.

Ministry restriction may be temporary or permanent depending on the nature of the concern.

A student may remain academically enrolled while being restricted from certain ministry roles.

Suspension

Suspension is a temporary removal from LSOM participation.

Suspension may apply to:

- Classes.

- MoodleCloud participation.
- Ministry practicum.
- Leadership opportunities.
- Student gatherings.
- Church-based LSOM activities.
- Ordination Candidate Track participation.

Suspension may be used when a concern requires time for review, safety protection, reflection, restoration, or completion of required steps.

Suspension conditions and duration should be communicated to the student in writing when possible.

Failure to comply with suspension requirements may result in dismissal.

Dismissal

Dismissal is removal from LSOM.

Dismissal may occur when a student demonstrates serious or repeated failure to meet academic, conduct, ministry, safety, or formation expectations.

Reasons for dismissal may include:

- Serious academic dishonesty.
- Serious conduct violation.
- Safety threat.
- Harassment, abuse, or violence.
- Repeated refusal to follow LSOM policies.
- Failure to complete probation or formation plan requirements.
- Repeated failure to meet academic standards.
- Serious ministry boundary violation.

- Misrepresentation or falsification.
- Unresolved conduct or character concerns.
- Lack of teachability or refusal to receive correction.

Dismissal decisions should be documented and communicated to the student in writing.

Restoration

Restoration is the process of helping a student move toward healing, growth, trust, and appropriate re-engagement when possible.

Restoration may include:

- Confession and repentance.
- Prayer and pastoral care.
- Counseling referral.
- Mentorship.
- Accountability.
- Written reflection.
- Apology or reconciliation when appropriate.
- Restitution when appropriate.
- Temporary ministry restriction.
- Training or education.
- Demonstrated growth over time.
- Review by LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership.

Restoration is not automatic and may take time.

Restoration does not always mean return to the same role, same placement, same leadership opportunity, or same level of trust immediately.

In some cases, restoration may focus on the student's spiritual health even if the student does not continue in LSOM.

Reinstatement After Suspension or Dismissal

A student who has been suspended or dismissed may request reinstatement only if permitted by LSOM leadership.

Reinstatement may require:

- Written request for return.
- Meeting with LSOM leadership.
- Evidence of repentance and growth.
- Completion of required formation plan.
- Pastoral or mentor recommendation.
- Counseling or accountability documentation, if appropriate.
- Resolution of academic or conduct issues.
- Agreement to specific conditions.
- Approval by LSOM leadership.

Reinstatement is not guaranteed.

LSOM may deny reinstatement if leadership determines that return is not appropriate, safe, healthy, or aligned with the mission of the school.

Relationship to Ordination Candidate Track

Students participating in the Ordination Candidate Track are held to a high standard of doctrine, character, spiritual maturity, ministry readiness, and leadership integrity.

Discipline, conduct concerns, ministry restriction, academic integrity concerns, or formation concerns may affect ordination candidacy.

A student may be:

- Deferred from ordination consideration.
- Required to complete additional formation steps.
- Removed from the Ordination Candidate Track.
- Asked to reapply at a later time.
- Determined not ready for ordination.

Ordination decisions are separate from academic graduation decisions and are made by LifeSong Church leadership.

Relationship to Graduation

Disciplinary or formation concerns may affect graduation eligibility.

Graduation may be delayed or denied when a student has unresolved concerns involving:

- Academic integrity.
- Course completion.
- Attendance.
- Ministry practicum.
- Conduct.
- Safety.
- Confidentiality.
- Ministry readiness.
- Formation plan requirements.
- Financial obligations, where applicable.

Students with unresolved concerns may be required to meet with LSOM leadership before receiving graduation clearance.

Documentation

LSOM may document discipline, formation, restoration, and appeal matters.

Documentation may include:

- Incident reports.
- Written warnings.
- Meeting notes.
- Academic or conduct probation plans.
- Formation plans.
- Ministry restriction decisions.
- Suspension notices.
- Dismissal letters.
- Appeal submissions.
- Final decisions.

Documentation will be maintained according to LSOM student records policies and handled with appropriate confidentiality.

Confidentiality

Discipline, restoration, and appeal matters will be handled with discretion.

Information will be shared only with those who have a legitimate need to know.

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in every situation, especially when disclosure is necessary for safety, legal compliance, church leadership oversight, ministry protection, or appropriate care.

Students involved in discipline or appeal matters are expected to respect confidentiality and avoid gossip, retaliation, or public discussion of sensitive matters.

Appeals

Purpose of Appeals

LSOM desires to provide students with a fair process for requesting review of certain decisions.

An appeal is not simply a request for a different outcome. An appeal is a request for review based on a specific concern such as procedural error, misapplication of policy, incomplete information, new information, or significant misunderstanding of the facts.

Decisions That May Be Appealed

Students may appeal certain decisions, including:

- Final course grades.
- Academic integrity findings.
- Academic probation.
- Conduct probation.
- Course failure due to attendance or completion concerns.
- Dismissal from LSOM.
- Graduation eligibility decisions.
- Certain ministry practicum decisions.
- Certain financial or administrative decisions.

Not every decision is appealable in the same way.

Decisions involving safety, ministry placement, leadership opportunity, ordination candidacy, or pastoral discernment may have limited appeal options.

Decisions That May Not Be Fully Appealable

Some decisions involve leadership discernment, safety concerns, ministry trust, or church governance and may not be appealable through the same process as academic decisions.

These may include:

- Ordination decisions.
- Ministry leadership appointments.
- Staff or employment decisions.
- Preaching or teaching opportunities.
- Worship team placement.
- Ministry role assignments.
- Removal from spiritually sensitive roles.
- Safety-based restrictions.
- Decisions requiring pastoral discernment.

A student may request reconsideration if there was procedural error, incomplete information, or significant new information. However, final authority remains with LSOM and LifeSong Church leadership.

Appeal Timeline

Appeals must normally be submitted in writing within **ten calendar days** of the decision being appealed.

Late appeals may be denied unless LSOM leadership determines that there is a valid reason for the delay.

Students are encouraged to submit appeals promptly and respectfully.

Appeal Submission

A written appeal should include:

- Student name.
- Date of submission.
- Decision being appealed.
- Date the decision was received.
- Reason for the appeal.
- Supporting documentation, if any.
- Explanation of the requested outcome.
- Any new information the student wants considered.

Appeals should be submitted to the LSOM Director/Dean or designated LSOM administrator unless the appeal involves that individual. If the appeal involves the LSOM Director/Dean, the appeal should be submitted to designated LifeSong Church leadership.

Appeal Review

Appeals may be reviewed by one or more of the following:

- LSOM Director or Dean.
- Academic Director.
- Formation and Practicum Director.
- Instructor.
- Ministry mentor or supervisor.
- Executive Oversight Team.
- LifeSong Church pastoral leadership.
- Designated appeal review team.

The appeal review may include:

- Review of the student's written appeal.
- Review of relevant records.
- Conversation with the student.
- Conversation with instructors or leaders involved.
- Review of LSOM policies.
- Review of new information.
- Prayerful discernment when ministry formation is involved.

The review should be conducted fairly, respectfully, and with appropriate confidentiality.

Appeal Decision

After review, LSOM leadership may:

- Uphold the original decision.
- Modify the decision.
- Reverse the decision.
- Require additional steps.
- Return the matter for further review.
- Create a revised formation or academic plan.
- Issue a final decision.

The student should receive the appeal decision in writing when possible.

The written decision may include the outcome, any required next steps, and whether further review is available.

Final Appeal

If a student believes the appeal decision involved procedural error or significant unresolved concern, the student may request a final appeal.

A final appeal must normally be submitted within **seven calendar days** of receiving the appeal decision.

Final appeals may be reviewed by the Executive Oversight Team, Senior Pastor/Lead Pastor, or designated LifeSong Church leadership.

The final appeal decision shall be considered the final internal decision of LSOM unless another process is required by law, regulation, or institutional policy.

Protection Against Retaliation

LSOM prohibits retaliation against any student who raises a concern, participates in a review process, submits an appeal, or provides information in good faith.

Retaliation may include:

- Harassment.
- Intimidation.
- Unfair treatment.
- Threats.
- Academic penalty without basis.
- Ministry penalty without basis.
- Removal from opportunities without legitimate reason.

Concerns about retaliation should be reported immediately to LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership.

False, malicious, or knowingly dishonest claims may result in conduct review.

Student Responsibility During Appeal

Submitting an appeal does not automatically pause all consequences or requirements unless LSOM leadership states otherwise.

During the appeal process, students are expected to:

- Continue following LSOM policies.
- Respect temporary restrictions.
- Attend required meetings.
- Communicate respectfully.
- Avoid gossip or retaliation.
- Complete academic work when permitted.
- Follow instructions from LSOM leadership.
- Remain humble and teachable.

Failure to follow expectations during an appeal may result in additional review.

Summary

Discipline, restoration, and appeals at LifeSong School of Ministry are designed to support truth, accountability, safety, fairness, and spiritual growth.

LSOM desires to respond to concerns with grace and wisdom while maintaining the integrity of the school and the safety of the community.

Students are encouraged to receive correction with humility, pursue restoration sincerely, and use appeal processes respectfully when needed.

The goal is not merely discipline. The goal is formation.

LSOM desires to develop students who are honest, teachable, trustworthy, restored, and prepared to serve Christ with Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

GRADUATION AND ORDINATION EXPECTATIONS

Overview

LifeSong School of Ministry exists to develop Spirit-filled, Word-grounded disciples and leaders who are prepared to serve Christ, strengthen the local church, make disciples, and advance the Kingdom of God.

Graduation and ordination are important milestones, but they are not the same.

Graduation recognizes that a student has completed the academic, spiritual formation, ministry practicum, and program requirements of LSOM.

Ordination is a separate process through LifeSong Church that recognizes a qualified individual for ministry leadership according to calling, doctrine, character, spiritual maturity, ministry readiness, and church leadership discernment.

A student may graduate from LSOM without being ordained.

Completion of LSOM does not automatically guarantee ordination, employment, staff placement, ministry appointment, preaching opportunities, or leadership position.

Graduation Expectations

Graduation from LSOM represents the faithful completion of an approved academic and ministry formation program.

Students who desire to graduate are expected to complete all requirements for their program of study.

Graduation expectations may include:

- Completion of all required courses.
- Completion of required LSOM units or semester-equivalent units.
- Completion of ministry practicum requirements.
- Completion of capstone, portfolio, final project, or final presentation requirements, if applicable.

- Satisfactory academic standing.
- Faithful attendance and participation.
- Completion of required assignments, readings, MoodleCloud activities, exams, papers, reflections, and projects.
- Compliance with academic integrity expectations.
- Compliance with student conduct and ministry conduct standards.
- Satisfactory resolution of academic, conduct, safety, financial, or formation concerns.
- Completion of any required graduation application or graduation review process.
- Final approval by LSOM leadership.

Graduation is not based only on finishing assignments. Because LSOM is a ministry formation school, graduation also reflects the student's participation in the formation process.

Graduation Is a Formation Milestone

Graduation should not be viewed merely as the end of a program.

It is a milestone in the student's formation as a disciple and leader.

By the time students complete LSOM, they should demonstrate growth in:

- Biblical understanding.
- Theological clarity.
- Spiritual formation.
- Prayer and worship.
- Christlike character.
- Ministry faithfulness.
- Servant leadership.
- Practical ministry skill.
- Teamwork.

- Communication.
- Honor and humility.
- LifeSong culture.
- Mission and multiplication.

The goal is not merely that students would know more, but that they would become more faithful, healthy, Spirit-filled, Word-grounded leaders.

Graduation Review

Before students are approved for graduation, LSOM may complete a graduation review.

The graduation review may include:

- Academic record review.
- Course completion review.
- Grade review.
- Attendance review.
- Practicum completion review.
- Ministry mentor or supervisor feedback.
- Capstone or portfolio review.
- Conduct standing review.
- Formation concerns review.
- Financial clearance, where applicable.
- Review of unresolved student record issues.

The purpose of the graduation review is to confirm that the student has completed the required program and is in good standing with LSOM.

Students with incomplete requirements, unresolved concerns, or missing documentation may have graduation delayed until those matters are resolved.

Delayed Graduation

Graduation may be delayed when a student has not completed all requirements or when unresolved concerns remain.

Reasons for delayed graduation may include:

- Incomplete coursework.
- Failed course.
- Missing assignments.
- Excessive absences.
- Unresolved incomplete grade.
- Unfinished ministry practicum requirements.
- Missing practicum evaluations.
- Incomplete capstone or final project.
- Academic integrity concerns.
- Conduct concerns.
- Safety or confidentiality concerns.
- Unresolved formation plan requirements.
- Financial obligations, where applicable.
- Missing graduation application or paperwork.

Students whose graduation is delayed should meet with LSOM leadership to identify the steps needed to complete the program.

Graduation Ceremony or Recognition

LSOM may hold a graduation ceremony, recognition service, commissioning service, or completion celebration.

Such a ceremony may include:

- Worship.
- Prayer.
- Scripture.
- Charge to graduates.
- Recognition of completed programs.
- Presentation of certificates or diplomas.
- Testimonies.
- Commissioning prayer.
- Acknowledgment of faculty, mentors, families, and leaders.

Participation in a graduation ceremony is a privilege and may require final approval by LSOM leadership.

A student may complete academic requirements but not participate in a ceremony if deadlines, conduct expectations, financial obligations, or other requirements have not been satisfied.

Graduation Does Not Guarantee Ministry Placement

Graduation from LSOM does not guarantee any specific ministry role or opportunity.

Graduation does not guarantee:

- Ordination.
- Ministry licensing.
- Employment.
- Staff position.
- Paid ministry opportunity.
- Campus pastor appointment.
- Department leadership.
- Preaching or teaching assignment.

- Worship team placement.
- Small group leadership.
- Internship placement.
- Missionary appointment.
- Any specific ministry assignment.

Ministry placement decisions are made separately by LifeSong Church or other ministry organizations according to calling, character, gifting, readiness, availability, ministry need, leadership discernment, and applicable policies.

Graduation Does Not Guarantee Transferability

Graduation from LSOM does not guarantee that LSOM coursework, units, diplomas, certificates, or completion credentials will be accepted by another institution.

LSOM is not currently accredited unless otherwise stated in official LSOM materials.

Transferability is determined solely by the receiving institution unless a formal written articulation agreement exists.

Students who desire to use LSOM coursework toward another academic program should contact the receiving institution directly.

ORDINATION EXPECTATIONS

Ordination Is Separate from Graduation

Ordination is a separate process from LSOM graduation.

Ordination is not granted automatically because a student has completed courses, served in ministry practicum, participated in the LifeSong Internship Program, completed a diploma, or graduated from LSOM.

Ordination is administered through LifeSong Church leadership according to the church's doctrine, standards, governance, spiritual discernment, and ordination procedures.

A student may graduate from LSOM and not be ordained.

A student may be encouraged to continue growing before being considered for ordination.

A student may be deferred, delayed, or not approved for ordination even after completing LSOM.

Purpose of Ordination

Ordination is a sacred recognition of calling, doctrine, character, spiritual maturity, ministry readiness, and leadership responsibility.

Through ordination, LifeSong Church may recognize that an individual has been examined, affirmed, and set apart for ministry leadership according to the church's standards and discernment.

Ordination is not merely a title. It is a recognition of spiritual responsibility.

Ordination should be approached with humility, seriousness, prayer, and a willingness to be examined.

Ordination Candidate Track

Students who sense a call to vocational ministry, pastoral leadership, church leadership, missions, preaching, teaching, church planting, campus leadership, or other recognized ministry leadership roles may apply or be invited to participate in the Ordination Candidate Track.

Participation in the Ordination Candidate Track does not guarantee ordination.

The track is designed to help LifeSong Church evaluate and prepare candidates through additional review, formation, instruction, mentoring, ministry evaluation, and discernment.

Initial Ordination Expectations

Students interested in ordination should demonstrate growth in the following areas:

- Sincere faith in Jesus Christ.

- Love for God and people.
- Agreement with LifeSong Church doctrine and values.
- Faithful participation in the local church.
- Spiritual maturity.
- Biblical understanding.
- Theological clarity.
- Ministry faithfulness.
- Servant leadership.
- Humility and teachability.
- Integrity in public and private life.
- Emotional and relational maturity.
- Healthy ministry boundaries.
- Respect for authority.
- Ability to receive correction.
- Fruitfulness in ministry.
- Willingness to submit to LifeSong Church leadership and accountability.

These expectations are not meant to imply perfection. They are meant to identify readiness for spiritual responsibility.

Ordination Review

Ordination review may include:

- Ordination application.
- Personal testimony.
- Statement of calling.

- Ministry history.
- Doctrinal statement.
- Doctrinal examination.
- Ministry evaluation.
- Character and conduct review.
- Background check or ministry clearance, if required.
- Pastoral recommendation.
- Ministry mentor recommendation.
- Teaching or preaching evaluation.
- Interview with LifeSong Church leadership or an ordination council.
- Review of alignment with LifeSong doctrine, values, and culture.
- Review of spiritual maturity and leadership readiness.

The ordination review process may vary depending on the candidate's calling, ministry role, prior experience, and LifeSong Church leadership direction.

Doctrinal Expectations

Ordination candidates are expected to demonstrate clear understanding of core Christian doctrine and alignment with LifeSong Church's beliefs and ministry convictions.

Doctrinal review may include topics such as:

- The authority and inspiration of Scripture.
- The nature and character of God.
- The person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Salvation.
- The Holy Spirit.
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- Spiritual gifts.
- The Church.
- Baptism and Communion.
- Prayer and worship.
- Healing and deliverance.
- Discipleship and sanctification.
- Evangelism and missions.
- Biblical ethics.
- Marriage, sexuality, and family.
- Church leadership.
- Last things.
- LifeSong Church values and culture.

Candidates should be able to communicate biblical truth with clarity, humility, conviction, and pastoral sensitivity.

Character and Conduct Expectations

Ordination candidates are expected to demonstrate a lifestyle consistent with biblical leadership.

Character review may consider:

- Integrity.
- Humility.
- Teachability.
- Faithfulness.
- Sexual purity.
- Financial integrity.

- Relational health.
- Marriage and family life, where applicable.
- Emotional maturity.
- Sobriety and self-control.
- Ability to receive correction.
- Reputation inside and outside the church.
- Freedom from patterns of conduct that would undermine ministry leadership.

The goal of character review is not perfection. The goal is to discern maturity, repentance, honesty, accountability, and readiness for greater spiritual responsibility.

Ministry Readiness Expectations

Ordination candidates should demonstrate ministry readiness over time.

Ministry readiness may include:

- Faithful service.
- Ability to work with teams.
- Submission to leadership.
- Ability to disciple others.
- Communication skills.
- Teaching or preaching ability.
- Prayer ministry maturity.
- Pastoral care capacity.
- Leadership growth.
- Reliability and follow-through.
- Conflict resolution.

- Emotional maturity.
- Servant leadership.
- Alignment with LifeSong culture.

Ministry readiness is not determined only by gifting. It is also determined by character, faithfulness, fruitfulness, humility, and trust.

Teaching or Preaching Evaluation

Ordination candidates may be required to demonstrate ability to teach, preach, or communicate biblical truth.

This may include:

- Sermon presentation.
- Bible teaching.
- Small group lesson.
- Written sermon manuscript.
- Teaching outline.
- Recorded message.
- Live presentation before faculty or leaders.

Evaluation may consider:

- Biblical faithfulness.
- Theological clarity.
- Organization.
- Communication ability.
- Practical application.
- Dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- Pastoral sensitivity.

- Alignment with LifeSong values.
- Ability to minister to the intended audience.

Candidates are not expected to have identical communication styles, but they should demonstrate faithfulness to Scripture and a heart to serve people.

Possible Ordination Outcomes

After review, a candidate may receive one of the following outcomes:

Approved for Ordination

The candidate has satisfied the requirements and has been approved by LifeSong Church leadership for ordination.

Deferred

The candidate may be considered in the future after additional time, formation, experience, education, or growth.

Additional Requirements Needed

The candidate must complete specific requirements before a final decision is made.

Not Approved

The candidate is not approved for ordination at this time.

Removed From Candidacy

The candidate is removed from the ordination process due to conduct, doctrinal concerns, lack of readiness, failure to complete requirements, or other significant concerns.

Ordination decisions are made by LifeSong Church leadership and should be approached with humility, prayer, and trust.

Deferral Is Not Rejection

A candidate who is deferred from ordination should not automatically view the decision as rejection.

In some cases, deferral is a wise and loving part of the formation process.

A deferred candidate may be encouraged to pursue:

- Additional coursework.
- Deeper ministry experience.
- Mentorship.
- Pastoral care.
- Counseling referral, if appropriate.
- Character development.
- Doctrinal study.
- Leadership training.
- A season of observation.
- Reapplication after a specified period of time.

The goal is readiness, not speed.

Ordination Ceremony

Approved candidates may be ordained in a public or private ceremony as determined by LifeSong Church leadership.

An ordination ceremony may include:

- Worship.
- Scripture reading.
- Charge to the candidate.
- Statement of calling and affirmation.

- Prayer and laying on of hands.
- Presentation of ordination certificate.
- Commissioning for ministry.

Ordination should be treated as a sacred moment of recognition, accountability, and commissioning.

Continuing Accountability After Ordination

Ordained ministers remain accountable to LifeSong Church according to church doctrine, conduct standards, ministry expectations, and leadership policies.

Continuing accountability may include:

- Ongoing alignment with LifeSong doctrine and values.
- Faithful Christian conduct.
- Ministry integrity.
- Submission to appropriate leadership.
- Continuing education or ministry development.
- Compliance with safety and conduct policies.
- Reporting significant changes affecting ministry qualification.
- Willingness to receive correction and accountability.

Ordination may be reviewed, suspended, revoked, or otherwise addressed by LifeSong Church leadership when serious concerns arise.

Appeals or Reconsideration

Graduation decisions and ordination decisions are handled differently.

Students may appeal certain graduation-related decisions through LSOM's academic appeals process when the concern involves course completion, grade records, program requirements, or graduation audit issues.

Ordination decisions involve pastoral, doctrinal, character, and spiritual discernment and may not be appealable in the same way as academic decisions.

However, a candidate may request reconsideration if there was procedural error, incomplete information, or significant new information.

Any reconsideration process shall be determined by LifeSong Church leadership.

Summary

Graduation and ordination are both meaningful, but they are distinct.

Graduation recognizes completion of an LSOM academic and ministry formation program.

Ordination recognizes a separate process of calling, doctrine, character, ministry readiness, and church leadership affirmation.

LSOM students are encouraged to pursue graduation with diligence and humility.

Students who sense a call to ordained ministry are encouraged to pursue that process prayerfully, patiently, and with teachability.

The goal is not merely to complete a program or receive a title. The goal is to become a Spirit-filled, Word-grounded leader who can serve Christ faithfully with Deeper Passion, Deeper Presence, and Deeper Purpose.

Appendix A

Student Acknowledgment Form

LifeSong School of Ministry

LifeSong School of Ministry exists to help students grow in biblical understanding, theological clarity, spiritual maturity, ministry competency, servant leadership, and LifeSong culture. As a student of LSOM, I understand that I am entering a ministry formation environment designed to shape my heart, character, calling, and service to God.

By signing this acknowledgment form, I confirm that I have received access to the LifeSong School of Ministry Student Handbook and that I am responsible to read, understand, and follow the expectations, policies, and procedures contained in it.

1. Student Handbook Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I have received access to the current LifeSong School of Ministry Student Handbook.

I understand that the Student Handbook includes important information regarding LSOM's mission, student expectations, attendance, academic integrity, conduct standards, spiritual formation, church participation, leadership and ministry standards, technology requirements, ministry practicum expectations, discipline and restoration, appeals, graduation, ordination expectations, and institutional disclosures.

I understand that it is my responsibility to read the Student Handbook carefully and to ask questions if I do not understand any policy, expectation, or requirement.

2. Agreement to Student Expectations

I understand that participation in LifeSong School of Ministry is both an academic and spiritual formation commitment.

As an LSOM student, I agree to pursue growth in:

- **Deeper Passion** — a heart fully turned toward God.
- **Deeper Presence** — a life centered on the presence of God.
- **Deeper Purpose** — a life fully engaged in God's mission.

I understand that LSOM expects students to demonstrate humility, teachability, faithfulness, integrity, honor, spiritual hunger, servant leadership, and alignment with the mission, values, doctrine, and culture of LifeSong Church.

3. Agreement to Academic Policies

I agree to follow LSOM's academic policies, including expectations related to:

- Class attendance and participation
- MoodleCloud engagement
- Assignment submission
- Late work and make-up work
- Academic integrity
- Appropriate use of sources
- Responsible use of Bible study tools and technology
- Appropriate use of AI tools, if permitted by the instructor
- Grading policies and academic progress requirements

I understand that academic integrity is part of Christian character and that plagiarism, cheating, dishonesty, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, or misrepresentation may result in academic or disciplinary action.

4. Agreement to Conduct and Ministry Standards

I agree to follow LSOM's conduct standards and ministry expectations.

I understand that LSOM students are expected to live in a way that honors Christ, protects the integrity of LifeSong Church, and reflects the values of the school.

I agree to conduct myself with integrity in my speech, relationships, ministry involvement, social media use, communication, classroom participation, church participation, and service opportunities.

I understand that ministry involvement requires faithfulness, humility, confidentiality, healthy boundaries, respect for authority, and care for people.

5. Agreement to Spiritual Formation Expectations

I understand that LSOM is not only concerned with what I know, but with who I am becoming in Christ.

I agree to pursue a life of personal devotion, prayer, worship, Scripture, repentance, obedience, community, generosity, faith, and servant-hearted ministry.

I understand that correction, accountability, and spiritual growth are part of the formation process, and I agree to receive correction with humility and a desire to grow.

6. Agreement to Church Participation Expectations

I understand that LSOM is connected to the life and ministry of LifeSong Church.

I agree to participate faithfully in required LSOM gatherings, church services, ministry practicums, and other assigned formation environments, unless an approved exception applies.

If I am a member or active participant of another local church, I understand that LSOM leadership may provide guidance regarding how my LifeSong participation, ministry practicum, and outside church commitments should be coordinated.

7. Agreement to Technology Requirements

I understand that LSOM uses MoodleCloud and other approved technology platforms for course communication, assignments, resources, grades, discussions, and academic participation.

I agree to maintain access to the required technology, check official LSOM communication channels regularly, submit assignments according to course instructions, and use digital platforms responsibly.

I understand that Logos Bible Study software or other Bible study tools may be required or recommended depending on the program, course, or instructor expectations.

8. Agreement to Confidentiality and Safety Expectations

I understand that LSOM students may encounter personal, pastoral, ministry, or sensitive information through classes, practicums, prayer ministry, small groups, church participation, or leadership environments.

I agree to honor confidentiality and to handle sensitive information with wisdom, discretion, and care.

I understand that confidentiality does not prevent reporting concerns involving safety, abuse, threats, self-harm, harm to others, misconduct, illegal activity, or other matters that LSOM or LifeSong Church leadership determines must be addressed.

9. Agreement to Ministry Practicum Expectations

I understand that ministry practicum is an important part of LSOM formation and may involve serving in approved ministry areas under the oversight of LifeSong Church leaders, LSOM faculty, practicum supervisors, or ministry mentors.

I agree to serve faithfully, arrive prepared, communicate responsibly, receive feedback, complete required practicum reports or evaluations, and represent Christ, LSOM, and LifeSong Church with integrity.

I understand that participation in ministry practicum may be limited, modified, paused, or removed if LSOM leadership determines that such action is necessary for student formation, ministry health, safety, conduct, or readiness.

10. Institutional Status Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I have received or have been given access to LSOM's student-facing institutional disclosure regarding academic status, accreditation, transferability, financial aid, VA benefits, international student status, graduation, ordination, employment, and ministry placement.

I understand that LifeSong School of Ministry is not currently accredited and does not currently award accredited college credit unless otherwise stated in official LSOM materials.

I understand that LSOM coursework, units, diplomas, certificates, or transcripts are not guaranteed to transfer to another institution.

I understand that LSOM is not currently approved for federal financial aid, federal student loans, VA education benefits, or international student visa authorization unless otherwise stated in official LSOM materials.

I understand that graduation from LSOM does not guarantee ordination, employment, staff placement, paid ministry opportunity, volunteer leadership appointment, or recommendation to another church or ministry organization.

11. Discipline, Restoration, and Appeals Acknowledgment

I understand that LSOM may address academic, conduct, spiritual formation, ministry, safety, or integrity concerns through correction, accountability, discipline, restoration plans, ministry restrictions, probation, suspension, dismissal, or other appropriate action.

I understand that the goal of discipline is restoration wherever possible, but that LSOM and LifeSong Church leadership must also protect the health, safety, integrity, and mission of the school and church.

I understand that the Student Handbook includes appeal procedures, and I agree to follow those procedures if I desire to appeal a decision.

12. Handbook Updates

I understand that the LifeSong School of Ministry Student Handbook may be revised, updated, or clarified as LSOM develops.

I understand that LSOM will make reasonable efforts to communicate significant updates to students.

I agree to follow the current policies and expectations of LSOM, including any updates that are officially communicated during my enrollment.

13. Student Statement of Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received access to the LifeSong School of Ministry Student Handbook and that I am responsible to read, understand, and follow its contents.

I understand that my participation in LSOM is a privilege and a sacred opportunity for growth, discipleship, and ministry formation.

I agree to pursue Jesus with a sincere heart, honor the Word of God, value the presence of God, walk in humility and integrity, serve faithfully, receive correction with teachability, and represent Christ, LifeSong School of Ministry, and LifeSong Church in a manner worthy of the calling of God.

Student Information

Student Name: _____

Program / Track: _____

Academic Year: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature

I have read and understood this Student Acknowledgment Form, and I agree to abide by the expectations, policies, and procedures of LifeSong School of Ministry.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature, if applicable

For any student under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian signature may be required.

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Digital Agreement Option

If this form is completed electronically, checking the agreement box and submitting the form through an approved LSOM platform may serve as the student's digital signature.

Digital Agreement Statement:

By checking the box below and submitting this form, I confirm that I have received access to the LifeSong School of Ministry Student Handbook, understand my responsibility to read and follow it, and agree to abide by LSOM's expectations, policies, covenant, and disclosures.

☐ I agree.

Student Name: _____

Date Submitted: _____