MLC
MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

MLC REPORT

2024-2025 SEMESTER ONE

The following are unofficial numbers for semester one.

ENROLLMENT

UNDERGRADUATES

613 Undergraduates, representing **27** states and **6** countries

EDUCATION

Includes Staff Ministry

149	First-year
110	Sophomore
77	Junior
92	Senior
25	Fifth-year
7	Other
460	Total

PRESEMINARY

Year of graduation

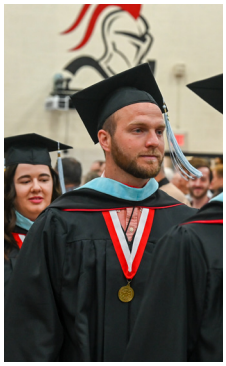
43	2027-28
32	2026-27
47	2025-26
31	2024-25
153	Total

NONTRADITIONAL EDUCATION

13 Competency-Based Theology students

CONTINUING ED / GRADUATE STUDIES

1,017 Continuing Education students



137 Graduate Studies students

- **16** MA Theological Studies
- **56** MS Educational Admin
  - 15 EC Director
  - 39 Principal
  - 2 Technology Director
- **53** MS Education
  - 8 Ed Tech
  - 19 Instruction
  - 14 Leadership
  - 12 Special Ed
- **12** MS Special Education

NEW TEACHER INDUCTION

220 Beginning Teachers
173 Schools
151 Mentors

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

67 Children
4 Lead teachers
6 Student teachers
2 Student workers
5 Full-time staff

WE NEED ONE ANOTHER!

by Rev. Richard Gurgel

"Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me."
(2 Timothy 4:9-11)

These are some remarkable words of Paul to Timothy. What stands out is how much he cherished the support and encouragement of his fellow Christians. Yes, it's true: When necessary, Paul knew how to stand all alone against those who opposed him and the gospel. During what he called his "first defense" before Nero, everyone deserted him and he did stand alone—though not completely alone, for he knew his Lord Jesus was standing by his side to rescue him (2 Timothy 4:16-18).

Yet here's what Paul's strong plea for Timothy to come to Rome reveals: Paul understood that God's typical way of providing his gospel's comfort, support, and encouragement is through other people, specifically brothers and sisters in Christ. Just as we thank God that our Lord Jesus took on flesh to become our brother, so we are also thankful when our brothers and sisters in Christ come to our side to bring us God's strength.

In our Lutheran Confessions, Martin Luther spoke highly of this gift: "the mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters" (*Smalcald Articles*, III, article 4).

As we encourage MLC students to persevere all the way to public ministry, we draw on this "mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters."

We've begun a new early ministry experience (EME) for our preseminary students. As these young men keep their eyes on the goal of ministry, EME connects them to active parish pastors, older brothers already serving in ministry, who give them very personal encouragement.

That "mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters" is also at work when our senior education students and our staff ministry students enjoy the blessing of the close relationship that so often develops between them and their cooperating teacher or supervising pastor.

And that "mutual conversation and consolation" is reflected in your prayers for our students, faculty, and staff; in your words of encouragement to us; and in your gifts that enable us to carry out the mission of our school.

For that we are profoundly grateful to God.
For that we are profoundly grateful to you.

Pursuing Excellence
UNDER THE CROSS

NEW FACES AT MLC

Martin Luther College welcomes these new faculty members to campus.

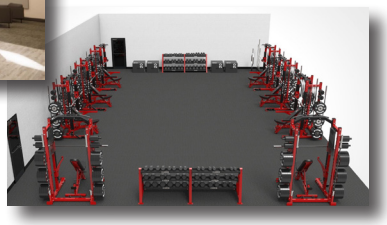
Susan Decker
Professor of English

Jon Hermanson
Professor of Music

MacKenzie Holzbauer
Admissions Counselor

Janet Justice
Admissions Counselor

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS
(ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS)



Work is progressing on the Centennial Social Space, *above*, and the Summit Training Hall, *right*.

We are moving forward with the work on the Chapel Rehearsal Hall, both Phases I and II, *left*.

MOVING FORWARD WITH COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

We continue to move forward with our competency-based education programming for returning adult learners. The theology minor received approval earlier this year, and our first cohort will begin their coursework this fall. We are moving the Alternative Pathway to Professional Licensure Eligibility (APPLE) major forward through the Higher Learning Commission approval process this academic year and hope to enroll learners next year.

If you have questions about or interest in either program, please contact Dr. Nichole LaGrow, director of Nontraditional Education, at **lagrowna@mlc-wels.edu/ 507.354.8221.**

LIGHTENING THE LOAD

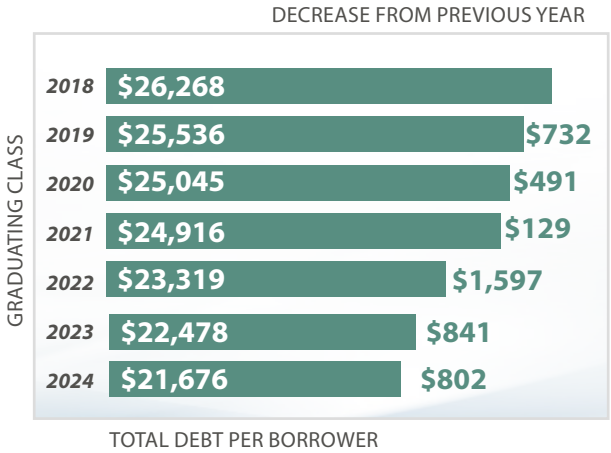
The numbers are in, and the news is good!

For six straight years, every year since 2018, MLC graduates borrowed less money to pay for their education at MLC.

The average debt of our graduates decreased six years in a row, with borrowers in this year's graduating class ***borrowing $802 less,*** on average, than borrowers in the class of 2023. Over the course of those six years, the average debt has decreased more than $4,500!

In addition, about 40% of the 2024 graduates took out no government loans at all. This is the lowest percentage of debt-free graduates since 2003.

Reducing student debt is one of the primary objectives in our strategic plan, ***Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross.*** Please know that we'll keep partnering with parents and students to make college as affordable as possible.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

STAFF MINISTRY CONFERENCE—*September 19 - 21*

HOMECOMING—*October 4 - 6*

WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT—*October 6*

FALL CHOIR TOUR (Minnesota & Wisconsin)—*October 10 - 13*

MLC FORUM PRESENTS
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF—*November 8 - 10*

MLC CHRISTMAS CONCERT—*December 7 - 8*