GUIDELINES
FOR THE LUTHER RICE COLLEGE & SEMINARY
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY ENTRANCE PAPER

The applicant must submit a 5-7 page scholarly paper written on any theological topic of the applicants’ choosing.

1. The paper must conform to the 8th edition of Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. The sample papers available at [http://crw.lutherrice.edu/Content.aspx?page=turabian/video](http://crw.lutherrice.edu/Content.aspx?page=turabian/video) should be used, as it includes preferred deviations from the Turabian standard.

2. The paper must reflect graduate-level research skills. A minimum of five sources (not including the Bible) should be used, including journal articles and, if available, credible, primary sources obtained from internet sites. A scholarly source is composed by an expert in the field that frequently has obtained a terminal degree. A compare and contrast research design must be employed. Opinionated papers do not qualify as research.

3. The paper must reflect a strong regard for academic integrity; due credit must be given to every source quoted or used. Footnotes, not endnotes, should be used to document the sources. Every source cited should also appear in a Selected Bibliography at the end.

4. The paper must reflect competence in writing; conciseness and clarity are essential.

5. The paper must reflect good organization of thought. Outline the paper before writing, and include the outline after the title page.

6. The paper must reflect a good command of the English language. Check carefully for such errors as subject-verb disagreement, incomplete sentences, improper punctuation, etc.

7. The paper must reflect conscientious attention to details; proofread it several times before submitting it. Ask another to proofread it as well.

8. The paper must reflect the customary hallmarks of academic writing. Write in the third person, avoid colloquialisms and slang, do not use contractions, and treat those who hold opinions contrary to yours with respect.

9. This is a vital component of the admission criteria and should be given your very best effort.