The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been involved in classical education since before its inception. All first-generation pastors, teachers and lay leaders received a rigorous education in Germany, rooted in the classical periods of ancient Greece and Rome. As Martin Luther wrote,

“A city’s best and greatest welfare, safety, and strength consist in its having many able, learned, wise, honorable, and well-educated citizens. They can then readily gather, protect, and properly use treasure and all manner of property. So it was done in ancient Rome. There boys were so taught that... they were well versed in Latin, Greek, and all the liberal arts. Their system produced intelligent, wise, and competent men,...skilled in every art and rich in experience.”

From the time of the German Lutherans’ arrival in America, they intended to hand down this great tradition to their children. For this reason, Concordia University Chicago was founded in 1864 as Addison Teachers Seminary.

The Classical Teacher Education Program draws from this rich heritage to equip future educators with skills and knowledge to work in classical schools and home schools, consortiums, settings that do not require state licensure, and other institutions in and beyond the United States.

**Classical Pedagogy Program Overview**

Students in this program will complete the Classical Pedagogy Minor, which is normally, but not exclusively, taken with the Classical Liberal Studies Major.* The Classical Pedagogy Minor will equip students to work in Christian Classical schools. Students who desire state licensure may take the minor concurrently with the course of studies prescribed by the College of Education.

The minor requires 18 hours of coursework, fieldwork experience and an 8-week teaching internship. Lutheran students desiring recognition as commissioned classical teachers in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod must complete additional required theological courses and must
demonstrate competency in at least one of the classical languages (Latin and/or Greek).

*Other complementary majors include theology, philosophy, theological languages, music, art, history and English.

**The Concordia-Chicago Advantage**

Concordia University Chicago has more than 150 years of experience in training educators. With a thriving parish music program, a commitment to liturgical worship, majors in Deaconess Studies, Christian Ministry and Theological Languages not readily available elsewhere, CUC uniquely offers you a broad classical education within a theologically conservative Lutheran worldview.

The Classical Pedagogy Minor draws on a historic understanding of the classical liberal arts undergirded by a Christological education to produce teachers equipped to navigate the challenges of an anti-Christian culture while enjoying great impact on the lives of their students. This commitment to classical education within a supportive Lutheran community, framed by the theological context of Lutheran distinctives, sets Concordia University Chicago apart.

**Classical Pedagogy Course Information**

The coursework for this unique minor is intentionally challenging in order to produce well-equipped, capable, high-demand teachers. Working with professors and instructors who have first-hand experience teaching in classical schools, students carefully examine the history and philosophy of Western education, the teaching of virtue and the art of rhetoric, the centrality of catechesis and the principles of classical curriculum design. Courses focus on subject content, proven classical methods of education and students’ mastery of the subject matter.

**Program Opportunities**

Concordia University Chicago’s location provides numerous opportunities for students to observe and teach in classical schools throughout Chicago and its suburbs under the guidance of experienced and thoughtful educators.