

STATE OF NEBRASKA
COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.

**APPLICATION FOR A RECURRENT AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE A
POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN NEBRASKA**

For Institutions Applying to Offer One or More Courses or Programs

Procedures for Submitting the Application

1. Send the application form and all supporting materials to:

Executive Director
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
P.O. Box 95005
Lincoln, NE 68509-5005

OR

Submit the application via email to Kathleen Fimple at:
Kathleen.fimple@nebraska.gov with the fee sent by U.S. mail.

2. A non-refundable [application fee](#) for the Commission's administrative costs shall be submitted with each application. Make checks payable to "Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education."
3. All sections shall be clearly marked for easy location by the reviewer.
4. The Commission may request additional information deemed necessary for an appropriate determination of compliance with the evaluation criteria.

STATE OF NEBRASKA
COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

**APPLICATION FOR A RECURRENT AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE A
POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN NEBRASKA**

For Institutions Applying to Offer One or More Courses or Programs

Date: July 17, 2023

Name of Institution: Trinity International University

Street Address: 2065 Half Day Road

City/State/Zip Code: Deerfield, IL 60015

Name of Owner of Institution: n/a

**Owner's Mailing Address (if
different from above):** _____

Name of Contact person: John Simons

Title: Associate Dean

Telephone Number: 847-317-8136

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: asscdean@tiu.edu

Web Site for Institution: www.tiu.edu

Proposed location in Nebraska: Brookside Evangelical Free Church

**Will this be a new campus
(owned by the institution or
under long-term lease)** yes no

Proposed offerings: Course/s only (list courses below) Program/s
(please provide a copy of the institutional catalog)

Course/s: _____
(if not offering a program) ST 5201 Theology I: God of the Gospel
ST 5202 Theology II: The Gospel of God

Programs to be offered and Awards to be conferred: n/a

Legal Status of the Institution:

- a. Nonprofit (please provide documents of incorporation, and if available §501(c)(3) status documentation, that provide business name and address; names, titles, and business addresses of all principals in the business)
- b. For-profit (please provide documents of incorporation or other legal documents that provide business name and address; names, titles, and business addresses of all principals in the business)

Is ownership: proprietorship, partnership, corporation?

Has the business, a principal officer in the business, or a shareholder with 25% or more ownership interest in the business filed for bankruptcy during the preceding five years? yes no

Please provide the following information in a narrative format. Include copies of pertinent documents where appropriate.

Each numbered, italicized item is a standard identified in state statute. Statutes charge the institution to “demonstrate that it can be maintained and operated in accordance with such standards.” (Neb. Rev. Stat. §85-2406) Each bulleted item should be addressed. Additional information under each numbered item may be included as appropriate to the application.

Institutions applying to offer courses only (not a complete degree program) need only respond to starred (*) items.

1. *The financial soundness of the institution and its capability to fulfill its proposed commitments and sustain its operations*
 - The most recent audited financial statements and a copy of the management letter*
 - Tuition and fees for the most recent academic year or term*
 - Proposed annual budget identifying all sources of income and all categories of educational and general expenditures for the programs in Nebraska
 - Explanation of how the interests of students will be protected if the institution were to discontinue its offerings in Nebraska
 - Student loan default rate and financial responsibility composite score from the U.S. Department of Education (if applicable)

2. *The quality and adequacy of teaching faculty, library services, and support services*
 - Number of faculty teaching in the program/s (course/s*)
 - Qualifications of each faculty member (vitae, resume, or other biographical information)*
 - Library and learning resources*
 - Written agreements with local libraries regarding shared resources
 - Agreements with online libraries or data sources
 - Support services for students such as academic or career advising*

3. *The quality of the programs offered, including courses, programs of instruction, degrees, any necessary clinical placements, and the institution’s ability to generate and sustain enrollment*
 - Curriculum description/s including a list of required and optional courses
 - Course descriptions*

- Any licensure or certification requirements for the field/s and the way in which the institution will meet them
 - Instructional equipment, especially that required for specific programs*
 - Assurance that the institution will be able to secure clinical placements for students in programs that require them
 - Estimated enrollments and the basis for the estimate*
 - Comparison of the program (or course/s*) with that offered on the main campus or other campuses of the institution (if applicable)
 - Relationship between the hours of instruction and the credits awarded*
4. *The specific locations where programs will be offered or planned locations and a demonstration that facilities are adequate at the locations for the programs to be offered*
- Description of the facility (include a floor plan if this is a new campus)*
 - Copies of leases or facility use agreements*
5. *Assurances regarding transfer of credits earned in the program to the main campus of such institution [if applicable] and clear and accurate representations about the transferability of credits to other institutions located in Nebraska and elsewhere*
- Any articulation agreements with Nebraska postsecondary institutions*
 - Any other affiliations with Nebraska postsecondary institutions regarding the transfer of credits, joint use of faculty or facilities, or other supportive relationships*
6. *Whether such institution and, when appropriate, the programs, are fully accredited, or seeking accreditation, by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education*
- Name of the body that accredits the institution*
 - Status of institutional accreditation, including the date of the most recent accreditation and any required reports or actions*
 - List of all programmatic accreditations related to the proposed program or courses*
 - Status of all programmatic accreditations, including the date of the most recent accreditation and any required reports or actions*
7. *The institution's policies and procedures related to students, including, but not limited to, recruiting and admissions practices*
- Admission requirements for the institution and programs (if different)*
 - Anticipated methods of recruiting students in Nebraska*
 - Loan procedures

8. *The tuition refund policy for an institution that does not participate in federal financial aid programs described in Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 as such act existed on January 1, 2011*
 - Copy of the Title IV Program Participation Agreement with the US Department of Education (for institutions participating in federal financial aid programs) or a copy of the tuition refund policy if not participating in Title IV*

State of Nebraska Coordinating Commission
for Postsecondary Education
Application for Recurrent Authorization to Operate a
Postsecondary Institution in Nebraska

by
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Trinity International University



July 26, 2023

Executive Summary

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) is the divinity school of Trinity International University (TIU), located in Bannockburn, Illinois. TIU is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America. TEDS is accredited to offer graduate degrees and certificates by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Association of Theological Schools (ATS). TEDS is a broadly evangelical divinity school that “exists to serve the church of the living God by equipping servants for the work of the gospel of Christ Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.” The faculty and staff of TEDS have pursued this mission for more than fifty years and have equipped congregational leaders and scholars from around the world. Presently, TEDS alumni serve more than fifty denominations across the United States.

Our proposal seeks to offer GRADUATE COURSES ONLY in the state of Nebraska beginning in Fall 2023 at Brookside Evangelical Free Church (Brookside) in Omaha, NE. These courses can be used to complete degree or certificate programs at the Bannockburn campus or online (depending on the degree or certificate). Our plan is to offer one course per semester at Brookside.

The TIU Catalog can be found online [here](#).

1. Finances

TEDS Master’s tuition is \$750 per credit hour, including distance education courses. If a student is a part of a Certificate program, then the tuition is \$335 per credit hour. The audit fee is \$85 per hour. Full-time academic standing begins at 10 hours per semester, and full-time students may audit one course at no charge. TEDS Master’s students are assessed a Comprehensive fee each semester of \$280 for full-time students (10+ hours) and \$140 for part-time students (5-9 hours). For all of TEDS’ fees, see [here](#).

See attached for the most recent audited financial statements and a copy of the management letter.

2. Teaching and Services

TEDS employs 32 full-time faculty and a host of adjunct faculty at our Bannockburn campus and online. The courses taught in Nebraska in 2023-2024 will be taught by adjunct faculty approved by our full-time faculty (see CVs attached). All of our faculty have a terminal degree (PhD or DMin) Our faculty regularly provide students with advising opportunities and have office hours via Zoom or in person for students to ask questions and get assistance.

TEDS has a world-class research library (library.tiu.edu) for biblical and theological studies, and many of its resources are available online for remote students, such as those in Nebraska. Remote students are also able to make use of our Thrive Center (thrive@tiu.edu), which provides learning services such as tutoring, writing assistance, and academic peer advising. Our Office of Placement Services (placement@tiu.edu) helps TIU and TEDS students

and alumni fill full-time openings at churches and other ministry-focused organizations. Students can receive career services and find open positions.

3. Courses

The following courses will be offered in Nebraska:

ST 5201 Theology I: The God of the Gospel - 3 Hours

This course establishes the foundations for systematic theology, reflecting upon the triune God and the God-world relation. It introduces theological methodology and treats the doctrines of general and special revelation, particularly that of Holy Scripture. The course also engages theology proper (the divine perfections and personal attributes of the Holy Trinity) and the works of God in creating and providentially caring for the cosmos, including humans.

ST 5202 Theology II: The Gospel of God - 3 Hours

This course focuses on the gospel, the economy of salvation, the incarnation of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The course begins by treating the human condition as now fallen, and sin as the backdrop of the gospel. Attention then turns to the work of Christ, particularly the atonement and accomplishment of redemption as the content of the gospel. The course then considers the application and consummation of redemption by examining the work of the Holy Spirit, the nature, mission, and destiny of the church as the gathered people of God as the climax of the gospel. The course concludes with a consideration of how the gospel story ends, for believers and unbelievers in the glory of God's being all in all in the new heaven and the new earth. Prerequisite: ST 5201.

No special instructional equipment is required for these courses. They will be taught in person at Brookside and will have the necessary technology for presenting lectures, etc.

Enrollment for these courses will be between 5-10 students initially. This estimate is based on the estimated number of residents/interns who will be on staff at Brookside plus a small number of church members interested in taking classes.

These courses are identical in title and description to courses offered at the Bannockburn campus or online and are applicable to several degree programs or certificates. Each course is 3 credit hours and will consist of 35 hours of in person instruction at Brookside.

4. Location

All courses will be taught at Brookside Evangelical Free Church (Brookside) in Omaha, NE, which is located at 11607 M Cir, Omaha, NE 68118. This is the Millard Campus of Brookside. Classes will be taught in Room 262, which is approximately 1,135 sq. ft. (see pictures

and blueprint attached). Brookside owns its building outright (i.e. no remaining mortgage), and Brookside has approved use of its building for TEDS classes for 2023-2024 (see attached for facility use agreement).

5. Transfer of Credits

TIU/TEDS is a member of the [National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements \(NC-SARA\)](#). TIU/TEDS may offer distance education to students located in states where we have a physical campus and in the states marked on the [NC-SARA map](#).

TIU/TEDS does not have any articulation agreements with Nebraska postsecondary institutions or any other affiliations with Nebraska postsecondary institutions regarding the transfer of credits, joint use of faculty or facilities, or other supportive relationships.

6. Accreditation

TIU/TEDS is accredited by the [Higher Learning Commission \(HLC\)](#) and [Association of Theological Schools \(ATS\)](#). The most recent HLC comprehensive evaluation was in 2020-2021, and accreditation was reaffirmed with monitoring due to the “lack of assessment data and the current restructuring of general education curriculum and assessment processes at the institution.” TIU/TEDS has an Assurance Review related to these items due in April 2024.

TEDS is also accredited in good standing with ATS. The most recent ATS accreditation visit was in June 2020, and accreditation was reaffirmed through 2027. TEDS was required to provide reports in April 2022 regarding the stewardship of the institution’s resources, April 2024 regarding a new strategic plan for institutional vitality and educational effectiveness, and a focused visit in spring 2025 related to the April 2022 and 2024 reports.

There are no programmatic accreditations related to the proposed courses.

7. Admissions and Recruitment

Admission requirements for students in the courses to be offered in Nebraska are no different than for any other applicant to TEDS. Applicants to master’s programs (MA, MDiv, ThM), graduate certificate programs, and visiting student status must possess an earned bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university (generally at least 120 hours), which normally includes a minimum of 60 hours of liberal arts coursework, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) as stipulated below (on a 4.0 scale):

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Minimum GPA</u>
MA	3.00
MDIV, MA/TS	2.50
AP MDiv	3.25
ThM	3.00 (in MDiv program)
Certificate or Visiting Student	2.00

Students must also submit official transcripts from their baccalaureate degree and any additional transcripts required for the program to which they are applying. Some programs require recommendation letters, written statements, and/or standardized test results. For admission requirements for specific master's degree programs, see the TIU Catalog [here](#).

The plan for recruitment focuses on networking with local churches in the Omaha area that have an interest in theological education. Brookside staff plan to meet with area pastors and churches to promote the courses, and people at Brookside (incl. interns and residents) will also be a key demographic for recruitment..

8. Tuition Refund Policy (Title IV)

See attached for copy of the Title IV Program Participation Agreement with the US Department of Education.