



# GOSSNER THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

(An organ owned by: G.E.L. Church, Ranchi)

Affiliated to the Senate of Serampore College (University)

M.G. Marg (Main Road), Ranchi - 834001, Jharkhand



## PROSPECTUS

### Brief History of the College

Gossner Theological College (GTC), owned by the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (GELC), is located in the region of North-Central India, home to the Adivasi (Indigenous) communities. With God's grace and continued prayers, love, and support of the believers, the College has been serving both the church and society by providing meaningful, relevant, and contextual theological education. In 2016, the College celebrated 150 years of its existence as a testament to life, witness, and service, coinciding with GELC's Jubilee (1866–2016). The College has a glorious history producing Christian ministers and pastors since its establishment in 1866. Despite numerous challenges, it has grown to the level of offering Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree course for those called to serve. The College was initially founded in 1866 by German missionaries sent by Fr. Johannes Evangelista Gossner from Berlin, Germany, who had established the first Christian church in the region in 1845. During World War I (1914–1919), the College was temporarily closed and later reopened in 1921. During World War II (1939–1945), it was relocated at Govindpur and Lohardaga respectively prior to the existing place at Ranchi in 1948.

Under the initiative of Rev. Dr. J.J.P. Tigga, a professor of the History of Christianity at Serampore College, the College was affiliated to the Senate of Serampore College (University) in 1949 offering the Licentiate of Theology (L.Th.) program. At that time, it was known as Lutheran Theological College. The present campus was allocated to the College in 1965. In 1969, the L.Th. program was upgraded to the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.). Finally, it was christened Gossner Theological College. In 1988, collaboration of regional theological education instituted between GELC and Bishop Hubback Theological College (BHTC) under Church of North India (CNI), Chotanagpur Diocese. This partnership, officially established on August 8th, enabled both institutions to work together to serve the needs of the regional theological education.

The current administrative building of the College was constructed in 1975. Since then, a firm determination and objective were set to upgrade the institution from B.Th. to B.D. and higher degree programs, for imparting quality education and holistic development to the young women and men. Despite facing many hurdles and unavoidable circumstances along the way, the long-cherished dream of offering the B.D. course was finally materialized when the Senate of Serampore College (University) granted approval to offer the degree course with bilingual program (Hindi and English) in June 2016. That same year, during the GELC Jubilee celebration, the College proudly marked its 150th



anniversary. Later, recognizing the importance of English for mission and ministry, the College introduced English-medium instruction in 2023.

The degree and diploma programs not only enhance theological knowledge but also create a platform for “Adivasi/Tribal Theology” to thrive. Its essence is to facilitate a relevant and impactful ministerial formation for the neighbouring churches in particular. The university curriculum equips students with both universal and contextual knowledge, providing them with a broader perspective. In addition, the College is dedicated to fostering ecumenical relationships, promoting ecological awareness, and encouraging people-oriented ministry. Various educational exposures and capacity-building programs help students to develop a comprehensive understanding of God, emphasizing the interconnected relationship between God, human, and nature. Grounded in biblical, theological, and Christian ethical teachings, the College is committed to discerning the signs of the times and engaging with the evolving global theological discourses.

### **Mission Statement**

“To Unite Everything in Christ” – The mission of the College is to equip and empower the students with an ecumenical vision through theological education for effective pastoral ministry as well as for building Christian understanding that is inclusive and which works towards human dignity and integrity of creation.

### **Transformative Opportunities in Theological Education**

The College strives to maintain a balance between spirituality and professional development in theological education. Enrolling in a theological institution is not solely a path to sacred pastoral or ordained ministry; it also serves as a gateway to diverse life and career opportunities. Theological education encourages dialogue on a wide range of ancient and modern insights and perspectives. Engaging with these ideas empowers students to cultivate new visions and perspectives, inspiring transformative and impactful life changes. The curriculum for the students extends beyond biblical studies. It includes a variety of subjects such as Philosophy, Major Religions, Interfaith Dialogue, Church History, Mission and Ecumenism, Christian Theology (covering doctrines and traditions from Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, Pentecostal, and other perspectives), Contextual and Liberation Theologies, Church Ministry, Worship and Preaching. Students also explore disciplines like Psychology and Counseling, Socio-Analysis (addressing issues related to Adivasis, Dalits, Women, Development, and Ecology), Languages (English, Greek, Hebrew), Communication, Multimedia, Computer Skills, Leadership and Management, and Training for Skill and Personality Development, Music, etc.



In addition to the academic curriculum taught in classrooms, students at GTC have numerous opportunities to engage with diverse communities and congregations living in various life settings, such as urban-industrial areas, semi-urban regions, rural villages, tea gardens, slums, and diasporas affected by migration or displacement. They are also introduced to NGOs and church-based organizations and institutions, gaining valuable insights into their work. Furthermore, GTC students can broaden their perspectives through exposure programs and international visits, including short-term and long-term opportunities in countries like Germany and others, either during or after their studies. Upon completing their education, graduates can serve the church and society in various capacities, building meaningful careers and lives. In essence, the college is committed to providing students with a wide range of opportunities for growth and development through theological education, both academically and practically.

#### Courses Offered by the College with Required Qualification

##### **I. Residential Courses:**

Bachelor of Divinity : Graduate - 4 Years

Bachelor of Divinity : B. Th. Passed - 2 Years

##### **II. Non-Residential Courses:**

Master of Christian Studies – 2 years course: Eligibility: Senate BCS or BD with 5 years Ministerial Experience. And the applicants (GELC's only) of Senate B.Th. must do first 2 years BCS Course as mandatory provided by GTC as upgradation and afterward they can join MCS Course.

M. Div. from ATA with minimum H.S.C or its equivalent and passed in 4 qualifying papers under the Senate of Serampore College.

Bachelor of Christian Studies – 4 years Course: Eligibility: Senate DipCS with 5 years Ministerial Experience Or Graduates (i.e., other than theological degree/diploma holders) in any discipline. And, for 10th passed applicants with cleared of Mature Exam with 2 years Ministerial Experience.

**Diploma in Christian Studies:** 10th passed with 3 years work experience (both Christian and Public Service) or 12th passed - 2 years

**Diploma in Contextual Theologies:** 12th passed and above - 1 year

**Diploma in Christian Education:** 12th passed and above - 1 year

##### **Admission Procedure**

An Entrance Test and Personal Interview will be conducted to select candidates, with the test administered in English. Candidates must be at least **18 years** old at the time of admission.



### **Subjects for the Entrance Test and Interview**

1. Scripture Knowledge (Old & New Testament) - 1 hour - 100 Marks
2. English Language - 1 hour - 50 Marks
3. General Knowledge - 1 hour - 50 Marks
4. Interview - 10-20 Minutes for each candidate

### **Important Information**

Submission of Application Form: .....

Submission with late fine: .....

Date of Entrance Test: .....

Date of Interview: .....

Declaration of Result: .....

Certificate/Document Verification of the Selected Candidates: .....

Application Fee: .....

Late Fee: .....

Entrance Test Fee: ..... (Excluding Accommodation and Food Charges)

### **Security Money**

The selected candidates must deposit ..... on the day of result declaration as a “provisional admission” or “admission security fee.” This amount is non-refundable **under any circumstances** but will be adjusted against the College fees.

### **Correspondence Address :**

**THE PRINCIPAL**

Gossner Theological College  
M.G. Marg (Main Road), Ranchi  
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### **Contact for Information:**

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