

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The District Committee plays an important role in guiding candidates with respect to their educational requirements. Each candidate is encouraged to develop an EDUCATIONAL PLAN together with their Candidacy Mentor, paying specific attention to the requirements listed for their ministry track. “Satisfactory progress” in this educational plan serves as a condition of their continuation in the candidacy process (see ¶ 313. *Continuation of Candidacy*). *Those candidates who are preparing for ordained ministry are encouraged to enroll in a school that is recognized by the University Senate.* Check the comprehensive list at <https://www.gbhem.org/education/university-senate/list-approved-schools>

Please note that degrees conferred by other institutions may not be accepted for meeting the educational requirements.

At each annual interview, the Candidate shall present to their DCOM an official transcript from the school the person is attending and provide a report as to whether his or her local church is supporting him or her spiritually and financially (see ¶ 247.8).

The transcript shall be considered by the district committee on ordained ministry as part of the evidence of his or her progress.

GBHEM assesses student transcripts for Master of Divinity equivalence (¶ 324.7) or for applying credit toward Course of Study or Advanced Course of Study (¶¶ 324.6c, d). GBHEM determines whether courses qualify for the United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity requirement (¶ 1421.3b). GBHEM is also available to advise Boards of Ordained Ministry on whether a student’s educational history meets the deacons’ educational requirements (¶ 324.4c). Boards of Ordained Ministry in the United States should consult with GBHEM when evaluating student transcripts from schools outside of the United States, as education systems vary from nation to nation.

In the BWC, it is typical for the DCOM to confer with the Center for Clergy and Laity Development and GBHEM around educational requirements (see ¶ 324.7). The final decision rests with the Board of Ordained Ministry, who is responsible for determining whether courses on a student’s transcript fulfill the conference’s standards. GBHEM is available to consult with Boards of Ordained Ministry on such assessments. An unofficial copy of the candidate’s transcript can simply be sent to Pastor John W Nupp to coordinate this review process.

Basic Graduate Theological School (BGTS) Requirements :

The *Discipline* lists the following specific course requirements that must be included in graduate theological education prior to provisional membership in the United Methodist Church (see ¶ 324.4a). Note that the Baltimore-Washington Conference requires completion of all educational requirements prior to commissioning and probationary membership:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Testament• New Testament• Theology• Church History• Mission of the Church in the World | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evangelism• Worship/Liturgy• United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity |
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The first seven courses listed above are to be taken as separate courses, typically for three semester hours of credit each, totaling 21 hours. United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity courses should collectively add up to six semester hours of credit (e.g., three courses at two hours each or two courses at three hours each, depending on the institution).

In addition to this, the Baltimore-Washington Conference requires the completion of a class in **Ethics**.

Although each seminary has the responsibility to designate which basic courses meet the core requirements and advise students of these courses, the conference Board of Ordained Ministry will have the final authority to approve academic studies. All required courses must be taken for credit or CEU. They may NOT be audited.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEACONS

In addition to those requirements here listed for Provisional Membership from ¶324.4a, Deacons are encouraged to review the governing paragraphs in the 2016 Discipline concerning educational requirements, namely ¶324.4, a,b & c and 324.5 and ¶330. Further clarification is av

There are three main educational tracks for deacon candidates:

Bachelor's degree + MDiv or Master's degree in area of ministry (such as an MA in theology, Christian education or pastoral counseling) from a University Senate recognized institution (¶324.4, a,b)

OR

Bachelor's degree + Master's degree in area of specialization (such as law, social work, medicine, music) from accredited institutions + basic graduate theological studies(¶324.4 c)

OR

For candidates over age 35 only: bachelor's degree + GBHEM-recognized professional certification in area of ministry + a minimum of 8 semester hours of graduate credit in the area of specialization + 27 semester hours of basic graduate theological studies. (¶324.5)

EDUCATION TRACK FOR LOCAL PASTORS (Course of Study)

Following attendance at License to Preach School (80 hours) and passing the required Reflection Paper, Exegesis Paper and Preaching Practicum, certified candidates become eligible for a License. In order to maintain a current License to Preach, attendance at Course of Study is required, beginning with the **prerequisites Course 121 (Bible 1: Introduction) and Course 122 (Theological Heritage 1: Introduction)**. Evidence of satisfactory progress in the Course of Study, in college, or in seminary (¶319) is required until they have completed educational requirements. Full-time local pastors complete the Course of Study within eight years and part-time local pastors complete the Course of Study within 12 years (¶ 319.3)

In order to become an **Associate Member** of the Annual Conference, one must have served

a minimum of four years as a full-time local pastor, completed licensing school and the Basic Course of Study, and completed at least 60 semester hours toward the Bachelor of Arts degree or an equivalent degree in a college or university listed by the University Senate.