

Virginia Conference UMC Educational Requirements 2024

To apply for provisional membership (deacon or elder), students must complete The Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS) (§324.4 The Book of Discipline) by May of the application year in which they apply. These courses must be completed at a UMC University Senate-approved seminary: <https://www.gbhem.org/education/list-of-approved-seminaries/>.

Classes can be completed in person or *entirely online.

*On Jan. 26, 2023, the University Senate voted to approve a policy change that allows United Methodist students the opportunity to engage in a fully online Master of Divinity degree program. This policy change is effective immediately for all 13 United Methodist seminaries and Asbury Theological Seminary.

All courses must be taken for a letter grade (NOT pass/fail). A “C” or better is required.

See the class requirements below:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Theology
- Church history
- Mission of the church in the world
- Worship/liturgy
- Evangelism
- A minimum of two semester or three quarter hours in each of the fields of United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity (6 credits total). The Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry strongly encourages completion of United Methodist doctrine before applying for provisional membership.
- The Virginia Conference requires a course in preaching.

The Board recommends courses in Christian education and systematic theology for all candidates.

Clinical Pastoral Education Requirement at Full Membership

In addition to the above requirements, the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry requires that all candidates for full membership and ordination complete at least ½ unit (0.5 unit) of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) by the application deadline for ordination as a deacon or elder and/or full membership in the conference. The Board strongly encourages completion of CPE before applying for provisional membership. CPE must be taken at an accredited ACPE program and can be completed in person or online (i.e., GBHEM).

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Candidate's Name: _____

Applying for: _____

Date: _____

As you complete your seminary degree, you can keep track of your classes below.

Please indicate below the course number, course title, # credits, name of approved seminary, and grade for each required course.

	Course #	Course Title	# Credits	Grade	Name of Approved Seminary
Old Testament					
New Testament					
Theology					
Church History					
Mission					
Evangelism					
Worship/Liturgy					
Preaching					
UM Doctrine					
UM Polity					
UM History					