

MONMOUTH PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

SEMINARY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must ordinarily complete a Master of Divinity degree accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) at a seminary affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Book of Order implies at G-2.0607 that graduate degrees other than the M.Div. may be permitted, which means the Monmouth Presbytery CPM will accept other graduate degrees from approved theological institutions in addition to the M. Div. as long as the course requirements listed herein have been completed with satisfactory grades (C or higher). Exceptions to studying at a Presbyterian seminary may be granted upon application by the student and approval, preferably in advance, by the CPM. The CPM may require a candidate who undertakes seminary studies at a non-Presbyterian seminary to take certain core courses at a Presbyterian seminary.

The core courses that the Monmouth Presbytery CPM requires are:

1. Biblical Studies:
 - a. Introduction to the Old Testament
 - b. Introduction to the New Testament
 - c. Hebrew:
 - i. Standard core courses, summer intensive program, or the equivalent
 - ii. A one-semester exegesis course using Hebrew texts or the equivalent
 - d. Greek:
 - i. Standard core courses, summer intensive program, or the equivalent
 - ii. A one-semester exegesis course using Greek texts or the equivalent
2. Church history:
 - a. One-semester course or equivalent in early church history
 - b. A second one-semester or equivalent church history course of the candidate's own choosing
3. One semester course or equivalent in each of the following:
 - a. Christian education
 - b. Pastoral care and counseling
 - c. Polity of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
 - d. Preaching/homiletics
 - e. Reformed worship and sacraments
4. Field education (two semesters one day per week supervised in a parish setting)

In addition, CPM reserves the right to require additional courses to correct deficiencies in a candidate's undergraduate and/or graduate programs.

CPM prefers that all courses be taken for a grade. CPM strongly discourages taking any core course listed above on a pass-fail basis, but accepts taking any other courses on a pass-fail basis.

At the conclusion of each year of seminary study, inquirers and candidates must send a copy of their seminary transcript to the person designated by the CPM. An unofficial transcript ("student copy" or photocopy) is acceptable for this purpose except for the last year of study. The final transcript must be an official transcript that includes the seminary registrar's raised seal and indicates what degree was conferred. That official transcript must be sent directly from the seminary registrar to the person designated by the CPM (ordinarily the Moderator).

Sources:

Book of Order, §G-2.06, "Preparation for Ministry"

Presbytery of Monmouth, *Standing Rules*, Section 60000, Adopted September 27, 2005 and Updated February 2008; http://monmouthpresbytery.com/wp-content/uploads/pre2016-files/StandingRules_2008_02.pdf

Presbytery of Monmouth, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, *Guidebook for Candidacy*, December 2014 draft

Mid Council Ministries of the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), *Advisory Handbook on Preparation for Ministry*, June 2015; <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/preparation-ministry-handbook/>

March 1, 2016 draft

Revised and updated May 23, 2016

Approved by CPM June 7, 2016

Received and endorsed by Mission Council October 11, 2018