

Admission

General Application Requirements

- Applicants should have a mature Christian faith, a history of active participation in a church community, and have begun a disciplined spiritual life.
- Applicants should have a clear sense of vocation, lay or ordained, and a clear sense of how the degree program will support that vocation.
- A completed application is required. (<https://theology.sewanee.edu/apply/>)
- Applicants to all degrees should hold a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university.
- Official transcripts of undergraduate work and all other post-secondary academic work from each institution attended are required.
- Applicants should have the intellectual ability and academic background to engage the curriculum in a satisfactory way and to fulfill successfully the requirements of the degree to which the student is applying. Applicants may be required to submit additional writing samples.
- Applicants for programs with residency in the Advent and/or Easter terms must submit written proof of a background check. Normally ordination track and ordained students should have this sent by their diocese. Non-ordination track students will work with the Office of Admission to fulfill the requirement.
- Applicants should have what the admission committee considers a realistic plan of how they intend to finance their seminary program, including (when appropriate) the needs of the applicant's family and adequate medical insurance for self and family. It is expected that the applicant will not be encumbered with significant consumer debt.
- An applicant whose first language is not English is required to complete the TOEFL or IELTS. Students who are not U.S. citizens or do not have legal permanent residency in the United States are required to have or acquire a valid U.S. visa.

Degree-Specific Requirements

Master of Divinity

- Applicants for admission to the Master of Divinity program should have an ecclesiastical endorsement (normally, postulancy for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church or permission of one's bishop, or the equivalent endorsement in another faith tradition) and must submit that endorsement. This requirement may be waived when deemed appropriate by the Dean of the School of Theology.
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a person who can attest to the applicant's academic acumen, normally a professor or college faculty member, and one from a church official or member of the clergy.
- An official interview is required of all applicants.

Master of Arts

- Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant's academic acumen, normally professors or college faculty members.
- An official interview is required of all applicants.

Diploma of Anglican Studies

- Applicants for admission to the Diploma in Anglican Studies program should normally have a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary and should have an ecclesiastical endorsement (normally, postulancy for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church or permission of one's bishop).
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a person who can attest to the applicant's academic acumen, normally a professor or college faculty member, and one from a church official or member of the clergy.
- An official interview is required of all applicants.

Master of Sacred Theology

- Application to the Master of Sacred Theology (General Track) program requires evidence of a first theological degree.
- Applicants for admission to the Master of Sacred Theology (Anglican Studies Track) program must have a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary and have an ecclesiastical endorsement (normally, postulancy for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church or permission of one's bishop).
- A minimum grade of B in post-graduate work is generally required for admission.
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a person who can attest to the applicant's academic acumen, normally a professor or college faculty member, and one from a church official or member of the clergy.
- An official interview is required of all applicants.

Certificate of Theological Studies

- Two letters of recommendation, one from a person who can attest to the applicant's academic acumen, normally a professor or college faculty member, and one from a church official or member of the clergy.
- An official interview is required of all applicants.

Doctor of Divinity

- Admission to the Doctor of Ministry program requires evidence of a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent; evidence of ordination; and a minimum of three years full-time or equivalent experience in ministry, subsequent to the granting of the Master of Divinity degree.
- A minimum grade of B in post-graduate work is generally required for admission.
- Documentation of non-academic continuing education experiences, such as Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), career development counseling, workshops, and conferences the applicant considers to be relevant to their participation in the program may be included.
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a person who can attest to the applicant's academic acumen, normally a professor or college faculty member, and one from a church official or member of the clergy.

Special Students

Students seeking to take classes outside of a degree program must submit copies of their transcripts from each college and graduate-level institution attended, along with a letter addressed to the Director of Admissions outlining which class(es) they wish to take and what they intend to do with the knowledge acquired there. Permission from the instructor of the class(es) may also be required.

Application for Transfer Students to the Diploma of Anglican Studies, Master of Arts, and Master of Divinity Programs

Application for admission of potential transfer students follows the same admission procedures as those listed above. Transcripts and catalog descriptions of all theological studies previously completed are required as part of the application process. The School of Theology accepts credit for transfer and advanced standing after appropriate evaluation described in the catalog section on transfer credits.