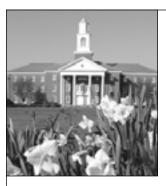
Admissions



- Requirement Descriptions
- Degree Programs
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- Master's Program
- Doctoral Programs
- Acceptance Categories
- Deadlines

"At Southern Seminary you will have the opportunity to study under leading scholars, develop spiritually, and gain hands-on experience in ministry." The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is comprised of four separate schools—an undergraduate college and three premier graduate schools. The School of Theology, the founding school of the institution, specializes in classic studies for ministry and scholarship, such as Bible, Theology, Church History and Preaching. Greater specialization is offered in the other two graduate schools. The Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism is the largest Great Commission school in the world, and is dedicated to training ministers and laypersons to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). The School of Church Ministries prepares pastors and staff members for service in fields of education and church leadership.

The traditional background for a seminary education has been a baccalaureate degree in liberal arts. With the wide range of undergraduate programs available, pre-seminary study is most helpful when academic tools are developed and communication skills are cultivated. Regardless of the ministerial objectives, the most useful preparation develops the capacity to think thoroughly, to communicate clearly and to relate constructively.

Admissions Requirements by Degree Program

MATS	ICL	OGC	Diploma
Application Form	Application Form	Application Form	Application Form
Application Fee	Application Fee	Application Fee	Application Fee
Official Transcription	Church Affirmation Form	Church Affirmation Form	Church Affirmation Form
Pastor/Leader Recommendation	Official Transcription	Official Transcription	Official Transcription
Spiritual Autobiography	Recommendation Forms (3)	Recommendation Forms (3)	Recommendation Forms (3)
Housing Application	Spiritual Autobiography	Spiritual Autobiography	Spiritual Autobiography
Proof of Missionary appointment*	Housing Application	Housing Application	Housing Application
TOEFL (International applicants)	TOEFL (International applicants)	TOEFL (International applicants)	TOEFL (International applicants)

MA/M.Div./Adv. M.Div.	D.Min./D.Ed.Min.	Th.M./Ph.D.
Application Form	Application Form	Application Form
Application Fee	Application Fee	Application Fee
Church Affirmation Form	Church Affirmation Form	Church Affirmation Form
Official Transcription	Official Transcription	Official Transcription
Recommendation Forms (3)	Recommendation Forms (3)	Recommendation Forms (3)
Spiritual Autobiography	Spiritual Autobiography	Spiritual Autobiography
Housing Application	TOEFL (International applicants)	Housing Application (Residential only)
TOEFL (International applicants)	Ministry Field Essay	TOEFL (International applicants)
Academic Paper (Adv. M.Div. Only)	Interview	Academic Paper
		GRE (Ph.D. only)
		Library and Employer Forms (Modular Format)

^{*}Proof of missionary appointment is required for students applying to the MATS for Intercultural Leadership Program only.

Admission Requirement Descriptions:

- <u>Church Affirmation Form</u>: All applicants must receive official endorsement from the local church where they are a member. All applicants are expected to have maintained official church membership for a minimum of one year.
- Recommendation Forms: We suggest that a minister, a professor, and a business acquaintance each complete one of your recommendation forms. Family members may not complete a recommendation form. Recommenders must have known the applicant for a minimum of one year. If for some reason recommendations do not reflect this kind of diversity, the Admissions Office may request additional recommendations. Research Doctoral applicants are encouraged to submit at least three recommendation forms. While an applicant's recommendations should be more heavily weighted towards academics, at least one recommendation must come from a pastor
- <u>Pastor/Leader Form</u>: This is a requirement for all MATS and Online Graduate Certificate applicants. The Pastor/Leader Recommendation is submitted in lieu of the normal Church Affirmation Form and three Recommendation Forms.
- <u>Spiritual Autobiography</u>: The Spiritual Autobiography is a typed 2-3 page, doubled spaced, essay documenting your conversion, spiritual

- growth, call to ministry, life and ministry experiences, and reasons for choosing Southern Seminary. MATS applicants must indicate that they understand that the MATS degree is designed for laypersons only and not for those pursuing vocational ministry.
- Housing Application: All applicants (including internet and extension center applicants) are required to affirm or deny their need for campus housing. Campus housing constraints require us to know of housing needs at the earliest possible date.
- <u>Academic Paper</u>: This is a requirement for Advanced Master of Divinity
 and all research doctoral applicants. Applicants are required to submit a writing sample from their undergraduate or seminary education,
 respectively. This requirement allows for proper analysis of an applicant's writing and research abilities. Please submit an unmarked sample from your previous schooling. It should be a clean copy and may
 account for former professor's editorial comments. The paper should be
 a minimum of 12 pages in length.
- Official Transcripts: Transcription from all educational institutions is required. Diploma applicants must submit an official copy of their high school diploma or the GED, unless the applicant has completed a minimum of 24 hours of college credit. The students (or applicants) must request that their official transcripts be mailed directly from the school to the Admissions office. If, in any case, a transcript is marked "issued to student," we will not be able to accept it as official.

Quick Reference Guide for Degree Programs:

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	Christian Ministry	
	Pastoral Studies	
	Biblical & Theological Studies	
	Biblical Counseling	
	Worldview and Apologetics	
	Advanced Master of Divinity	
Master of Arts		
	Master of Arts in Theological Studies	
	Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling	
Diploma		
	Diploma in Theology	
	Diploma in Theological Studies	
Professional Doctoral		
	Expository Preaching (D.Min.)	
	Biblical Counseling (D.Min.)	
	Biblical Spirituality (D.Min.)	
	Applied Theology (D.Min.)	
Research Doctoral		
	Master of Theology (Th.M.)	
	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)	
School of Church Ministries	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	63-108
Master of Divinity in Church Ministries		
,	Church Ministries	
	Leadership	
	Children's & Family Ministry	
	Discipleship & Family Ministry	
	Worship Leadership Minor	
	Women's Leadership	
	Biblical Counseling Minor	
	Youth & Family Ministry	
	Worship Leadership Minor	
	College Ministry	
	Worship Leadership	
	Discipleship & Family Ministry Minor	
	Youth & Family Ministry Minor	
	Children's & Family Ministry Minor	
	Women's Leadership Minor	
	Leadership Minor	
	Missions & Ethnodoxology Minor	
	Biblical Counseling Minor	
	Advanced Master of Divinity-Church Ministries	
	Auvanced Master of Divinity-Church Ministries	

Quick Reference Guide for Degree Programs (continued):

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	Leadership Obliderate 8 Family Ministry	
	Children's & Family Ministry	
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	Worship Leadership Minor	
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	Worship Leadership Minor	
	College Ministry	
	Worship Leadership	
	Worship Leadership and Church Ministry	
	Discipleship & Family Ministry Minor	
	Youth & Family Ministry Minor	
	Leadership Minor	
	Missions & Ethnodoxology Minor	
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	Diploma In Worship Leadership	
	Diploma in Church Ministries	
Professional Doctoral		
	Doctor of Educational Ministry (D.Ed.Min.)	
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Master of Divinity in Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth	Great Commission Ministries Applied Apologetics Black Church and Urban Ministry Intercultural Youth Ministry Itinerant Evangelism Missions North American Church Planting Pastoral Studies International Church Planting (2+2/3 and Reverse 2+2) Missions and Bible Translation Advanced Master of Divinity –	109-130
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The Diploma Program

Admission Prerequisites:

- The Diploma Program is designed for candidates who have not completed or earned an accredited Bachelor's degree. They must give proof of high school graduation by submitting a high school transcript, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or equivalency. Candidates must be over 30 years of age. Younger applicants are encouraged to complete an undergraduate degree prior to seminary or to apply to Boyce College, the undergraduate school of Southern Seminary.
- A minimum of one year of church membership.

Application Requirements:

Please see the table and descriptions listed on pages 17-18.

International Applicants:

 For applicants whose native language is not English, an official score report of TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) with a minimum acceptable score of 83 (internet-based) or 220 (computer based). Scores may not be more than 3 years old.

Additional Information:

- Students in the Diploma Program within the School of Theology or Billy Graham School complete any of the M.Div. curricular concentrations with the exception of the Hebrew and Greek requirements.
- Students within the School of Church Ministries complete the requirements for the MACE degree.
- If the applicant has 24 or more college hours, a high school transcript or GED transcript is no longer required.
- Any additional items requested by the Admissions Committee in order for the Committee to obtain a more in-depth profile of the applicant.

The Master's Program (MA, M.Div.)

Admission Prerequisites:

- Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) may be accepted on academic probation on an individual basis.
- Church Music Degrees Baccalaureate degree with a major in music from a regionally accredited institution. This degree must be approved by the National Association of Schools of Music (N.A.S.M). Applicants with a less specialized course of study may provisionally enter the program and satisfactorily complete either placement examinations and auditions in music or accelerated pre-graduate studies in music theory, music history, conducting, and applied major and minor areas.
- · A minimum of one year of church membership.

Application Requirements:

Please see the table and descriptions listed on pages 17-18.

International Applicants:

 International students must submit an official score report of TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) if English is not their native language. No score less than 83 (internet-based) or 220 (computer based) or older than 3 years is accepted.

Advanced Master of Divinity requirement:

 Applicants must submit an academic paper of 12-15 pages in length written during undergraduate study as a research and writing sample.

Additional Information:

MATS students must indicate in their spiritual autobiography that they
understand this degree is for laypersons only and they do not plan on
serving in a pastoral or staff position. The only exception is the MATS in

- Intercultural Leadership. Students in the MATSIL are expected to be full time missionaries or candidates for appointment.
- Advanced M.Div. applicants must have a minimum of a 3.3 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. Additionally, students must have completed at least 6 hours in: Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Church History, and Systematic Theology. Only courses in which a grade of "B" or higher was achieved will be recognized. Other classes students should have completed on the undergraduate level include 3 hours in each of the following: Ethics, Philosophy, Hermeneutics, Preaching, Hebrew, and Greek. Under certain exceptions, students may be admitted into the Advanced M.Div. if they can complete these prerequisites within their first semester of enrollment.
- All students in Music degrees must go through Music Placement Exams to determine their level of ability during orientation.
- Master of Arts in Missiology Missions applicants must have declared a call to missions and must have approval of the school dean.
- Additional items may be requested by the Admissions Office as needed

The Professional Doctoral Program (D.Min., D.M.M., D.Ed.Min.)

Applicants for Professional Doctoral Degrees will be considered on the basis of an overall profile rather than on a single, disqualifying score. Applicants will be evaluated in light of their academic record, performance on entrance examinations, personal aptitude, and motivation for graduate study. International applicants considering professional doctoral degree programs, should first contact the Supervisor for Ministry Resources and Internationals to discuss the program's special visa requirements.

Admission Prerequisites:

- A Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or its equivalent from a regionally accredited institution.
- The Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E.) or its equivalent is acceptable for some degrees within the School of Church Ministries.
- A minimum master's level cumulative grade point average of "B" (3.0 on a 4.0 scale). D.Min. applicants with a cumulative grade point average between 2.8 and 3.0 may be admitted on academic probation if they successfully complete all other application requirements, including any required standardized exam. Students admitted on probation whose work is not doctoral level after one semester, will not be permitted to continue in the program.
- In most cases, a minimum of three years of full-time ministry experience after graduating with an accredited theological master's degree is required.

Application Requirements:

• Please see the table and descriptions listed on pages 17-18.

Additional Requirements:

- A personal interview with the Director of Professional Doctoral Studies or a designated representative. The purpose of this interview is to provide insight into the applicant's motivation for pursuing the degree and the applicant's professional goals.
- An essay in response to a case calling for the application of biblical or theological insights into a ministry situation. The essay will help determine the applicant's quality and style of writing. Contact the Professional Doctoral Studies office for more information.
- The Director of Professional Doctoral Studies may require the Miller Analogies Test for any applicant whose master's level cumulative grade point average is below the required minimum.
- Additional writing samples may be required as needed by the program director.
- D.Min. Expository Preaching applicants must have a minimum of one (preferably two) semesters of graduate level study of Hebrew and Greek.
- D.Min. Korean Church Leadership applicants must submit a TOEFL score of 90 (internet-based) or 233 (computer based).

 Doctor of Music Ministry students will want to consult with the Dean of the School of Church Ministries due to the technical nature of music degrees.

The Professional Research Doctoral Program (D.Miss.)

Applicants for Professional Research Doctoral Degrees will be considered on the basis of an overall profile rather than on a single, disqualifying score. Applicants will be evaluated in light of their academic record, performance on entrance examinations, personal aptitude, and motivation for graduate study. International applicants considering professional doctoral degree programs, should first contact the Supervisor for Ministry Resources and Internationals to discuss the program's special visa requirements.

Admission Prerequisites:

- A Master of Divinity (M.Div.), a Master of Arts in Missiology, or its equivalent from a regionally accredited institution.
- For D.Miss. applicants, a minimum master's level cumulative grade point average of "B+" (3.3 on a 4.0 scale) is required. Any exception must be cleared through the missions faculty of the Billy Graham School and the Director of Professional Doctoral Studies.
- In most cases, a minimum of two years of appropriate field experience in cross-cultural ministry.

Application Requirements:

Please see the table and descriptions listed on pages 17-18.

Additional Requirements:

- A personal interview with the Director of the Doctor of Missiology Program and other Billy Graham School faculty members. The purpose of this interview is to provide insight into the applicant's motivation for pursuing the degree and the applicant's professional goals.
- Successful completion of a written qualifying exam. The essay will help determine the applicant's quality and style of writing. Contact the Director of the Doctor of Missiology Program for more information.
- Additional writing samples may be required as needed by the program director

The Research Doctoral Program (Th.M., Ph.D.)

All applicants for research doctoral programs will be evaluated on the basis of their previous academic record, performance on examinations, personal aptitude, and motivation for graduate study.

Admission Prerequisites:

- Master of Divinity or equivalent from a regionally accredited seminary.
 The M.Div. degree must include the minimum Hebrew and Greek required in the M.Div. program of Southern Seminary (at least 3 hours of one language at the elementary level and 3 hours of the other language at the intermediate level). The Doctor of Musical Arts degree requires the equivalent of the Master of Music degree as offered by Southern Seminary. Individual departments may have additional expectations.
- The Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E) or its equivalent is acceptable for degrees within the School of Church Ministries.
- Master of Theology: A minimum master's level cumulative grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale. Admission is competitive and a higher GPA is favored.
- Doctor of Philosophy: A minimum master's level cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Admission is very competitive and a higher GPA is favored.

Application Requirements:

Please see the table and descriptions listed on pages 17-18.

International Applicants:

 Non-native English speakers, including those who have graduated from any U.S. school, must submit an official score report of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Takers of the TOEFL internet-based test (iBT) must submit a minimum score of 90. Takers of the computerbased test (CBT) must submit a minimum of 233. Students can go to www.toefl.org for more information about these tests.

Additional Requirements:

- An official copy of the GRE score (except Doctor of Musical Arts applicants).
- All test scores must be less than three years old and must be officially submitted to the Admissions Office by the appropriate application deadline in order to be considered for admission.
- Successful completion of the Graduate Field Essay (except Th.M. applicants). Applicants who have completed the application requirements by the appropriate deadline and who are believed to have a reasonable possibility of acceptance may be invited to take the Graduate Field Essay in the major area for which application is being made. Further information may be obtained from the Office of Doctoral Studies.
- Interview with the faculty of the school or division that covers the applicant's desired area of study. Applicants who are invited to take the Graduate Field Essay will be scheduled for their faculty interview on the same day that the Graduate Field Essay or Qualifying Examination is taken.
- A graduate level research paper in the field to which the applicant is applying must be submitted along with the application.
- Ph.D. applicants in the School of Church Ministries must have a minimum of 21 hours of Biblical and Theological Studies and a minimum of 21 hours of Church Ministry Studies. Additional requirements include a personal vitae including previous academic studies, rationale for doctoral studies, personal goals, area of research interest, and description of current and past ministry responsibilities.

Admissions Acceptance Categories

- New These are students who have completed the entire admissions process by submitting all required information and who have been approved into a degree program.
- Readmit All students who DO NOT formally withdraw (through the Academic Records Office) are required by school policy to reapply. The amount of material that must be submitted is dependent upon how many semesters one is out of school. Students who DO formally withdraw can contact the Admissions Office to see if additional materials are required before re-enrolling for classes.
- Non-Degree Student status This is a non-degree classification for students who are in the process of applying but will be unable to complete the requirements before the start of the semester. Non-degree students must submit the application, application fee, church affirmation, housing application and spiritual autobiography in order to be admitted. Admittance as a non-degree student in no way guarantees admission into a degree program. Non-degree student status normally does not extend beyond one semester. Non-degree students may not take doctoral courses except for the Graduate Research Seminar, modern languages, and Latin.
- Student Spouse see "Non-Degree" above. Must submit application, church affirmation, and spiritual autobiography.
- Non-Southern Baptist Applicants Many seminary applicants are not from a Southern Baptist background. While all students attending Southern Seminary receive the same educational experience that is subsidized by the tithe dollars of the Southern Baptist Convention, only Southern Baptist students qualify for the financial subsidy. Students who desire to affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention for career service but are not current members of a SBC church are eligible to receive the SBC tuition rate if they complete a standardized covenant form available from the Admissions Office. In the standardized verifica-

tion form, applicants will document their intention to serve within the Southern Baptist Convention and to sever their ties with their previous denomination. The Covenant Agreement Form must be received by the first day of classes for the term to which it will apply. Within that first semester, the student must establish membership in a local southern Baptist congregation. By the end of the first semester, the student must complete a Membership Verification Form, available from the office of Admissions. Completion of this form will allow the student to continue receiving the SBC tuition rate.

- Applicants Recently Divorced Applicants who are divorced must wait a
 minimum of one calendar year before they can be considered for admission. Upon receipt of the application materials, additional information
 may be required, including an interview with the Dean of Students.
- Academic Probation Students lacking a 2.4 cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale) may be admitted on a case-by-case basis under Academic Probation. The student must maintain a "C" average for the first two semesters in order for Academic Probation to be removed.
- Visiting Student A student who is regularly enrolled in another accredited institution may enroll at Southern Seminary for a limited period (one semester) upon recommendation of the dean and registrar of the student's home institution. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that credit will transfer to the home institution. To enroll as a Visiting Student, applicants will complete the application requirements for Special Student status.
- Delayed Admission This status is granted on a case by case basis to students who for a variety of reasons are not able to be considered for immediate admission. Upon receipt of requested materials and documentation, these students will be reconsidered for the following semester.
- Incomplete Bachelor's Degree Students who have a strong cumulative GPA (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) and who are within one semester of completing an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution may be granted Admission with Academic Deficiency. Specific documentation must be provided ensuring the completion of the bachelor's degree within the first semester of registration at the seminary. Students who do not fulfill this obligation will be immediately removed from classes. No more than two semesters can be completed within this acceptance status.
- Provisional Provisional admission to master's level programs may be granted, on an individual basis to applicants who have graduated from an institution lacking regional accreditation in the U.S. or Canada. In order to qualify, applicant's cumulative GPA must be strong (over a 3.0). The applicant's course of study must have included at least 60 hours in the areas listed below. No more than 30 hours can be from areas broadly considered to be courses of Instruction related to ministry preparation. The applicant must have taken classes in at least six of the following areas and no more than 12 hours from a single area can be counted towards the 60 hours total. If accepted under Provisional Admission, the student will be placed on Academic Probation and must maintain a "C" average for the first two semesters.
 - · English/Speech
 - · History/Geography/Cultural Studies
 - · Philosophy/Ethics
 - Psychology/Social Science/Management
 - Fine Arts (music, art, drama)
 - Natural Science
 - Mathematics/Statistics
 - Modern Foreign Languages
 - · Biblical Studies
 - Religious Studies (history, theology, ministry)
 - Biblical Languages
 - Professional Studies

International

Southern Seminary is authorized under Federal law to enroll non-immigrant alien students. Students with F-1 visas can study at the Louisville campus only. The seminary is NOT authorized by the USCIS (Immigration Service) to accept international "visiting scholars" with J-1 Exchange Visitor visas, whether as students or researchers. As US immigration regulations are often subject to change, any international student seeking to study without F-1 visa status must first contact the seminary's Supervisor for Ministry Resources and Internationals before making application.

International applicants must meet particular admission guidelines:

- For applicants whose native language is not English, an official score report not more than three years old on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required prior to admission. Applicants for Master of Arts or Master of Divinity programs must score at least 83 (internet-based) or 220 (computer-based); applicants for Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, or Doctor of Philosophy programs must score at least 90 (internet-based) or 233 (computer-based).
- Applicants, other than Doctoral applicants, who are graduates of a United States college or university may request a waiver of the TOEFL requirement.
- International students seeking F-1 (student) visas must provide the seminary's Supervisor for Ministry Resources and Internationals with affidavit(s) of adequate annual financial support, and unless transferring from a U.S. school, provide a deposit. This deposit is necessary in order to ensure at least minimum funds to begin studies. Guidelines for determining the required amount for the deposit and the annual support are available on the "International Student Checklist" from the Admissions section of the seminary's website.

International applicants are advised to submit their applications at least four months prior to the semester or term in which they wish to begin studies. If admission materials are not complete at least 45 days prior to the date when the applicant wishes to begin studies at Southern, the applicant will be notified of the withdrawal of their application.

The seminary cannot provide any applicant a Form I-20 necessary for the F-1 (student) visa unless, at least 30 days before the semester or term begins, the applicant has been approved for admission, and has provided the financial documents and deposit mentioned. Once accepted, applicants should plan to arrive on campus at least one week before new student orientation (but may not arrive more than 30 days before classes begin) in order to adjust to the community and receive assistance for special needs. Health insurance must be obtained before the student can enroll in courses. F-1 visa status students are eligible to earn a maximum of two master's level degrees at SBTS. Questions concerning admission to master's programs may be directed to the Admissions Office. Questions regarding admission to doctoral programs should be addressed to the appropriate Doctoral Studies Office (either Professional or Research). Questions about financial or visa matters should be directed to the Supervisor for Ministry Resources and Internationals (international@sbts.edu).

Admission Deadlines

Degree Program	Fall Semester	Winter Term	Spring Semester	Summer Term
Diploma, MA, M.Div.	July 15*	December 1*	December 1*	May 1*
Coordinated Learning Community - October 1				
Th.M.	July 15		December 1	
Professional Doctoral (D.Min., D.Ed.Min., D.M.M.)		October 15		March 15
Professional Research Doctoral (D.Miss.)	January 15		August 1	
D.M.A.	February 1		August 1	
Research Doctoral (Ph.D.) for School of Theology, Billy Graham School (Residential) and School of				
Church Ministries**	January 15		August 1	

^{*}These are **priority deadlines.** The Admissions Office will continue to process applications after the deadlines, but does not guarantee completion after the priority dates listed above. Our goal is to process all applications before each term and semester.

^{**}The School of Church Ministries only admits Ph.D. students for the fall semester. All applications are due January 15.