



Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS) for elder and deacon must include courses in Old Testament, New Testament, theology, church history, mission of the church in the world, evangelism, worship/liturgy, and United Methodist doctrine, polity and history for a total of six hours. (Paragraph 324.4)

Check with jenni@awfumc.org prior to registration to ensure course selection will satisfy the requirements.

For a current audit of your education requirements, send an unofficial transcript to jenni@awfumc.org. An Official Transcript is needed only when applying for a status change. All requirements must be fulfilled prior to beginning Residency in Ordained Ministry (RIOM).

Old Testament

New Testament

Theology

Church History

Mission of the church in the World

Evangelism

Worship/Liturgy

6.0 Hours of United Methodist Courses: UMC Doctrine/Theology, Polity, History

Preaching

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Although each seminary has the responsibility to designate which basic course meets the core requirements and advise students of these courses, the conference Board of Ordained Ministry will have the final authority to approve academic studies.

The Alabama-West Florida Conference Board of Ordained Ministry requires that all educational requirements (both disciplinary and conference requirements, including one unit of CPE) be completed successfully prior to residency and full membership.

The Alabama-West Florida Conference Board of Ordained Ministry follows the direction from the University Senate rulings on distance learning. The University Senate set these policies:

1. All 13 UMC seminaries and Asbury Theological Seminary are allowed to offer 2/3 of the Master of Divinity degree online. 1/3 of the degree must be done on campus.
2. The only online courses allowed to count toward a degree for a person seeking UMC ordination must come from one of the 13 UMC seminaries and Asbury Theological Seminary.
3. At their June 2010 meeting, the University Senate made the decision to require that all official transcripts of University Senate approved schools must identify the courses that are taken online. The University Senate reconfirmed this decision in January 2011. The term “online courses” includes those that offer some instruction on campus.
4. As of January 2011, few if any additional seminaries will be invited to join the list of non-UMC schools approved for the education of those seeking ordination in the UMC.
5. All non-UMC schools currently approved to educate UMC candidates for ordination must continue to meet University Senate criteria. It is necessary that a non-UMC school either (a) have at least one full-time UMC faculty member with a Ph.D. or Th.D. on a long-term contract teaching the courses in UM history, doctrine and polity (b) or partner with a UMC seminary to offer the required courses in history, doctrine, and polity. This policy takes effect in August 2012.