

Application for Admission

asburyseminary.edu | 800.2ASBURY admissions.office@asburyseminary.edu



Thank you for your interest in Asbury Theological Seminary.
Please consider applying online at asburyseminary.edu/apply.

Your application to Asbury Theological Seminary is the first step in the process. This is a self-authored application, and you are responsible for the completion of the process. We have helpful admissions counselors ready and able to assist you once this initial application is complete, but ultimately the completion of your file in a timely manner is your responsibility. Should you need assistance before the completion of this initial phase or have further questions, do not hesitate to contact the admissions team at **800.2ASBURY**.

All graduate programs have the following deadlines:***

Term	Fall	Spring	Summer
Admission Deadline	August 15	January 15	May 15

NOTE: International applicants are encouraged to apply two semesters in advance of their entering term.

* For counseling programs, see asbury.to/counseling.

† D.Min., Ph.D., and Th.M. applicants please see online Academic Catalog for deadlines and additional requirements.

Your complete admissions file for either an MA** or the M.Div. degree must contain:

- This application either mailed in or submitted online (asbury.to/apply).
- A \$50 non-refundable application fee.
- Official transcripts from all institutions where you have taken more than one semester of academic coursework. (Additional transcripts may be requested by the Admissions Office.)
- The complete submission of three personal essay questions.
- Four references (one of these must be a pastoral reference). We are unable to accept references from family members or significant others.
- An interview may be requested by the Admissions Committee at any time during the application process.

For International Applicants:

- For International applicants whose native language is other than English, a satisfactory TOEFL Score (79 for Internet, 550 for paper) or a IELTS (7.0) must be submitted.
- Additionally, all transcripts must be certified and translated if from a foreign institution; official transcripts must be sent directly from the institution. We recommend that all international transcripts be first submitted to WES (www.WES.org) to assist in timely processing of a complete file.

** In addition to the above requirements, applicants to the MAMF, MAMH, or MAPC (Counseling applicants) must also:

- Submit their application, personal essays, application fee, references, and transcript(s) before their background check is processed.
- Once a background check is cleared and GPA of 3.0 or higher has been verified, applicants will be asked to complete tests and inventories as well as schedule a personal interview with the counseling faculty.

Statement of Faith

The following states, in short form, the Wesleyan-Arminian theological doctrines on which Asbury Theological Seminary was founded in 1923. We believe:

God: In the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, infinite in love, perfect in judgments and unchanging in mercy. God exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

Scripture: In the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both the Old and New Testaments, the only written Word of God, without error in all it affirms. The Scriptures are the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The Holy Spirit preserves God's Word in the church today and by it speaks God's truth to peoples of every age;

Humankind: That human beings were created in the image of God. This image was marred in every part through the disobedience of our first parents, and fellowship with God was broken. God, by His prevenient grace, restores moral sensibility to all humankind and enables all to respond to His love and to accept His saving grace, if they will;

Jesus Christ: That Jesus Christ is God's Son incarnate, born of the Virgin Mary. He died for the sins of all, taking on Himself, on behalf of sinful persons, God's judgment upon sin. In His body He rose from the grave and ascended to the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for us;

Holy Spirit: That the Holy Spirit is God present and active in the world. The Holy Spirit was given to the church in His fullness at Pentecost. By the Spirit, Christ lives in His church, the gospel is proclaimed and the kingdom of God is manifested in the world;

Justification: That God graciously justifies and regenerates all who trust in Jesus Christ. Believers become children of God and begin to live in holiness through faith in Christ and the sanctifying Spirit;

Entire sanctification: That God calls all believers to entire sanctification in a moment of full surrender and faith subsequent to their new birth in Christ. Through sanctifying grace the Holy Spirit delivers them from all rebellion toward God, and makes possible wholehearted love for God and for others. This grace does not make believers faultless nor prevent the possibility of their falling into sin. They must live daily by faith in the forgiveness and cleansing provided for them in Jesus Christ;

Assurance of believers: That believers are assured that they are children of God by the inward witness of God's Spirit with their spirits, by faith in the gracious promises of God's Word, and by the fruit of the Spirit in their lives;

Christians in society: That Christians are called to live in daily witness to the grace which comes to us in Jesus Christ, to preach the gospel to every person according to the command of Christ, and to declare God's insistence upon righteousness and justice in all relationships and structures of human society;

The Church: That the Church is the people of God composed of all those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Church is Christ's body; it is visible in the world wherever believers, in obedience of faith, hear the Word, receive the sacraments, and live as disciples;

Return of Christ: In the personal return of Jesus Christ, in the bodily resurrection of all persons, in final judgment, and in eternal reward and punishment;

God's ultimate victory: In God's ultimate victory over Satan and all evil and the establishment of His perfect kingdom in a new heaven and a new earth.

Statement of Educational Mission

The following describes the style of life expected of all persons within the Asbury Theological Seminary community:

Asbury Theological Seminary is a community called to prepare theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled men and women to evangelize and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world through the love of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God the Father. This mission commits the Seminary to maintain a multi-denominational, multicultural community which:

1. Pursues the union of sound learning and vital piety through excellence in graduate, professional and continuing studies for ordained and lay ministries, and provides resources for scholarly leadership in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition;
2. Nurtures men and women called of God for parish ministry and other forms of servant leadership in the experience and practice of personal and social holiness as defined by Scripture and Wesleyan theology;
3. Encourages its members, in their teaching, scholarship and service, to live out the witness of a Spirit-filled life formed by the authority of Scripture; and
4. Prepares women and men for prophetic ministries of redemption and renewal in an increasingly urbanized and secularized world.

Ethos Statement

The following describes the style of life expected of all persons within the Asbury Theological Seminary community:

Asbury Theological Seminary is a community called to prepare theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled men and women to evangelize and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world through the love of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God the Father.

We, the trustees, administration, faculty, staff and students embrace this global mission as a Wesleyan community which stands within the tradition of Christian orthodoxy and whose life and work is committed to reflecting the truth, beauty and goodness of God's holiness.

We aspire to order our communal and personal life according to the truth and love revealed in Scripture and imparted by the Holy Spirit. We pledge ourselves to go on to the fullness of salvation, seeking through relationships of mutual accountability the maturity of faith, hope, and love that reflects the mind and likeness of Jesus Christ. By the Spirit's power we will bear witness to God's Kingdom, embodying a way of scriptural holiness that unites sound knowledge and vital piety in proclaiming the Gospel and participating in God's mission.

We covenant together to embrace ways of living in keeping with the spirit and intent of the General Rules set forth by John Wesley.

1. By doing no harm and by avoiding evil of every kind.
2. By doing good of every possible sort as far as possible to all people.
3. By practicing the means of grace together.

We are committed to speaking the truth in love, sharing one another's burdens, bearing with one another's weaknesses, and serving one another by the mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation extended by God. We will practice and nurture speech that is just, charitable, encouraging, and respectful of the standards and policies of Asbury Seminary. Exercising discernment which is guided by the law of love, we will affirm the breadth of views that bear witness to the richness of the Gospel and the diversity of Christian communities it calls and creates.

With God's help we will exercise the freedom of joyful obedience in being faithful stewards of our minds, bodies, time, gifts, abilities, possessions, and finances as expressions of God's good creation. We will renounce those attitudes and actions that resist the work of the Spirit, divide Christian community, and impede human flourishing. In faithfulness to the Gospel, we will resist the pervasive influence of materialism and commit ourselves to ministry with the poor. We will reject utilitarian methods that commodify the faith and mission of the Church according to the values of a consumerist culture. By God's grace, we will nurture redemptive relationships that honor and uphold the dignity of creation, human life, the sanctity of human sexuality, the equality of women and men, the covenant of Christian marriage, and the importance of the family. Soli Deo Gloria!

Application of Wesley's General Rules as a Covenantal Community

This covenantal ethos orients our community life toward the fullness of holy love as the end of God's Law which has been fulfilled in the life and work of Jesus Christ. In light of the truth and goodness of God revealed by Christ, and as interpreted by our Wesleyan heritage, we acknowledge the Christian life cannot be reduced to either right doctrine or morality. Because we have been created and redeemed through Christ in the power of the Spirit, the fullness of salvation consists of the restoration of our being and life in communion with God and others. Intrinsic to our task as a theological seminary is the cultivation of knowledge, wisdom, and virtue for the practice of faithful obedience that bears fruit in love for God, our neighbors, and the whole creation.

For this reason, concerns related to particular expressions of thought and behavior will be assessed in light of the law of love which is the source, means, and goal of true freedom in Christ. To this end, we commit ourselves to seeking the Spirit's wisdom and discernment through the study of Scripture and participation in the means of grace, common worship, and holy conversation. For the common good of the Asbury Seminary community, we offer the following guidance:

- We stand with all Christians, both past and present, against the misuse of all substances that abuse the body, foster addiction, and bring harm to others.
- We covenant with each other to maintain an alcohol, tobacco and drug free environment with respect to all Seminary facilities, events, and activities.
- We affirm the need for responsible care and stewardship of the human body through regular exercise when possible, practicing healthy eating habits, and proper balancing of study, work, rest, and leisure.
- We commit ourselves to the practice of celibacy in singleness and fidelity in Christian marriage which we affirm as a sacred union between one woman and one man.
- We commit ourselves to helping one another attain the highest standards of sexual morality, and to recognize the devastating personal, social, and global effects of sexual sin against God, the self, and others, but especially society's most vulnerable members.
- We condemn any form of harassment or abuse.

This ethos assumes the practice of Christian hospitality within a seminary community that is dependent upon the gift of God's grace and characterized by relationships of mutual trust and respect. To this end, we acknowledge our constant need for keeping covenant with one another and diligence in speaking the truth in love. We encourage the practice of repentance, confession, pardon, correction, and redemptive discipline when breaches of this covenant may occur.

Please fill out the next few pages, tear out, and send back to Asbury Theological Seminary in the envelope provided. You may also apply online at asbury.to/apply. You will receive an email from the Office of Admissions after your application has been received and processed. Please allow up to five business days for your application to be processed once received. Thank you!

Personal Essays—M.A. and M.Div. Applicants

These essays can be sent after your application is submitted.

Asbury Theological Seminary recognizes that students entering seminary represent a wide range of experiences and backgrounds. We welcome students from Christian communities outside the Wesleyan tradition. Asbury Seminary seeks in every aspect of its life and programs to represent the commitments expressed in its Statement of Faith.

Applicants must, therefore, demonstrate that their personal integrity, spiritual maturity, and theological conviction meet the standards expected of applicants called by God to pursue graduate-level theological education.

The following questions should be answered in three to four typed, double-spaced pages. This required essay is a critical component of the application process. Please consider your response carefully, paying particular attention to content, style, grammar, and organization. If the Admissions Committee believes it is necessary they may ask you to expand upon your answers.

Personal Essays (1050-1500 words) 350-500 words per question.

1. Share your life story, including at what point you began your relationship with Jesus Christ. Talk about your growth since that time and what brings you to apply to seminary at this season in your life. Include your thoughts on how you would like to see your faith grow during your time in seminary.
2. What draws you to your desired major/area of study? What is your intended outcome upon degree completion? Why is that career or ministry choice meaningful to you?
3. Discuss a local, national, and/or international issue and why you are passionate about it.
4. Optional: If your GPA is not a good indication of your academic ability, please explain.

Personal Essays—Ph.D. and D.Min. Applicants

Please go to asburyseminary.edu/admissions/personal-history

Church Information

Are you currently a member of a church?

Yes No

If yes, please complete the information below.

NAME OF CHURCH

DENOMINATION/CHURCH NETWORK/FELLOWSHIP/AFFILIATION

CONFERENCE *(if applicable)*

ADDRESS: NUMBER AND STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

COUNTRY

TELEPHONE NUMBER

NAME OF PASTOR

If no, please complete the information below:

CHURCH MOST OFTEN ATTENDED

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ATTENDING?

ARE YOU INVOLVED IN ANY SERVICE WITHIN THIS CHURCH BODY?

Name the churches that you have been in fellowship with during the past five years and give dates:

Will you be pursuing any level of ordination within this Denomination, Church Network, Fellowship, or Affiliation?

Yes No

IF YES, WHAT LEVEL?

NOTE: *It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that the applicant's degree of study satisfies ordination requirements.*

Education

List in chronological order all colleges and universities attended **for more than one semester**. Official transcripts must be sent directly from each school where more than one semester of coursework has been completed. Attach an additional page if more space is needed.

All undergraduate or graduate institutions attended

FULL INSTITUTION NAME

CITY, STATE, COUNTRY

DATES OF ATTENDANCE FROM (MM/YYYY) TO (MM/YYYY)

DATE OR PROJECTED DATE OF GRADUATION

DEGREE EARNED

FULL INSTITUTION NAME

CITY, STATE, COUNTRY

DATES OF ATTENDANCE FROM (MM/YYYY) TO (MM/YYYY)

DATE OR PROJECTED DATE OF GRADUATION

DEGREE EARNED

FULL INSTITUTION NAME

CITY, STATE, COUNTRY

DATES OF ATTENDANCE FROM (MM/YYYY) TO (MM/YYYY)

DATE OR PROJECTED DATE OF GRADUATION

DEGREE EARNED

FULL INSTITUTION NAME

CITY, STATE, COUNTRY

DATES OF ATTENDANCE FROM (MM/YYYY) TO (MM/YYYY)

DATE OR PROJECTED DATE OF GRADUATION

DEGREE EARNED

ANSWER BEFORE PROCEEDING

Have you ever had to leave any educational institution for academic or disciplinary reasons?

Yes. *Please explain in an additional attached statement.* No

Personal Information

Family

NAME OF SPOUSE _____

NAMES AND AGES OF CHILDREN _____

Is there any personal or family situation which may interfere with your seminary studies?

Yes No

If yes, please attach a written statement explaining the situation.

Are there any current challenges to your personal or emotional health at this time?

Yes No

If yes, please attach a written statement explaining the situation.

Application Influence *(including name)*

Asbury Seminary Alumni: _____

Asbury Seminary Faculty: _____

Asbury Seminary Staff: _____

Current Asbury Seminary Student: _____

Other: _____

Statement of Support

Do you have a financial plan to fund the costs of your education?

Yes No

Does your church/denomination offer any additional level of support for those pursuing seminary?

Yes No

Are you eligible for government aid set aside for those who have served in the military?

Yes No

Do you have any current outstanding loans that may impact your ability to complete your degree at Asbury Seminary? *(Do not include home mortgage.)*

Yes No

If yes, please attach a written statement explaining the situation.

To what other institutions have you applied?

Intended vocational goal:

International Applicants

Please note that international applicants are encouraged to apply at least two semesters in advance of their term of enrollment.

Education Information

Have you completed or will you complete a bachelor's degree or equivalent?

Yes No

DEGREE _____

NAME OF SCHOOL _____

DATE OR PROJECTED DATE OF GRADUATION _____

Is this school accredited by your country's Ministry of Education and/or regional theological accreditation body?

Yes No

ACCREDITING BODY _____

Educational Testing

A TOEFL or IELTS score is required by all applicants for whom English is not their first language. For further information on TOEFL or IELTS requirements, please view the Academic Catalog.

FIRST LANGUAGE LEARNED _____

OTHER LANGUAGES SPOKEN _____

Type of Test Taken or Scheduled

Type	Date	Score
TOEFL (IBT)		
TOEFL Paper		
IELTS		

Citizenship

If you are not a U.S. citizen, please complete this section.

IN WHAT COUNTRY WERE YOU BORN? _____

IN WHAT COUNTRIES ARE YOU CURRENTLY A CITIZEN? _____

If you are now residing in the U.S., what is your immigrant or non-immigrant classification? *(Choose one.)*

F-1 F-2 J-1

J-2 H-1 H-2

R-1 Permanent Resident

Other, please explain: _____

If you are currently residing and attending another school in the U.S., please list the institution name and location.

How many dependents will accompany you? _____

Degree Programs

If you are a degree-seeking student, select the program, concentration, and/or track for which you are applying. *Please note not all degrees can begin in every semester. Your admissions counselor will modify your application term of enrollment if your degree of choice has a restriction placed on it.*

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master of Divinity

Master of Arts (Choose concentration)

- Specialization in Biblical Studies
- Specialization in Theological Studies
- Aging and Spirituality
- Christian Education
- Christian Leadership
- Christian Ministries (Choose track)
 - Ecclesial Ministries
 - Ministries in Hispanic Congregations
 - Mission/Evangelism Ministries
 - Worship Ministries
- Church Planting
- Marriage and Family Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling
- Pastoral Counseling
- Intercultural Studies
- Spiritual Formation
- Youth Ministry

Doctor of Ministry

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Master of Theology

(Choose concentration)

- Biblical Studies
- World Mission and Evangelism

Doctor of Philosophy

(Choose concentration)

- Biblical Studies
- Intercultural Studies

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Aging and Spirituality
- Christian Education
- Christian Studies
- Leadership Development
- Youth Ministry

- Unclassified
- Visiting Student
- Auditor

Term of Enrollment

- Fall semester Spring semester Summer semester January term (Auditing, returning, unclassified, visiting, and In-Ministry D.Min. applicants only.)

Year of Enrollment

Learning Environment (primary campus)

- Florida Dunnam Campus Kentucky Campus ExL™/Online ACE Extension _____ (State)

On which campus do you expect to complete your residential requirements?

- Florida Dunnam Campus Kentucky Campus

Institutional Documents (Please initial by each statement in the space provided.)

Asbury Seminary students represent a wide range of experiences, backgrounds, and Christian traditions. Currently, students from over 90 distinct Christian denominations attend Asbury Seminary. Applicants must demonstrate personal integrity and spiritual maturity conducive to the mission of the Seminary, as well as compatibility with our institutional documents by completing the following:

I have read and familiarized myself with Asbury Seminary's Statement of Faith and Educational Mission. ____

I understand the Seminary is committed to historic Christian orthodoxy as expressed in the Wesleyan tradition. ____

If admitted, I agree to abide by the community standards set forth in the Ethos Statement and policies of the Seminary. ____

I understand my admission is dependent upon the Admissions Committee's prayerful discretion and sole judgment as to whether I meet the standards for admission. I assert the information contained herein is true and accurate.

APPLICANT NAME (PRINT)

SIGNATURE

DATE

Background Check Disclosure

Have you ever been charged with a misdemeanor or felony offense? This would include any appearance in court for any misdemeanor or felony accusation regardless of dismissal or conviction.

- Yes No

If yes, please discuss the circumstances surrounding this incident/events and the decision of the court on a separate sheet. It is also helpful to note the approximate date of these events as well.

All new students are subject to a background check. If a significant difference is found between the application information provided here and the background check, this information will be forwarded to the Admissions Committee, as well as the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services, and could result in disciplinary action, denial of your application to study at Asbury Theological Seminary, or, if enrolled, immediate dismissal from Asbury Theological Seminary.