

Admission to the Master of Divinity Program

The Policy

At the time of application to AMBS the student may indicate his/her intention to pursue the M.Div. degree. However, admission into the M.Div. program will be granted only at the end of the first year of study by action of the Admissions Committee and approval by AMBS faculty. Candidacy for the M.Div. degree is contingent upon the following: participation in a Formation in Ministry seminar involving several large group meetings as well as small vocational discernment groups led by the academic adviser; the provision of appropriate evidence in support of the student's call to ministry; the completion of personality diagnostic tests and profiles; an evaluation of a preaching video; a biblical language course begun; the recommendation of the academic adviser; the action of the Admissions Committee, and approval by AMBS faculty.

Procedures

1. Formation in Ministry Seminar

The design of the Formation in Ministry Seminar involves mostly small group meetings with the academic adviser. Group sessions will include themes such as the following: my pilgrimage with the church, views of the church, understandings of church ministry and leadership, personality profiles and assessments, curricular consideration and preliminary goal setting.

2. Evidence in Support of Call to Ministry

For admission to AMBS the student normally solicits two or three written statements in support of his/her call to ministry. These come from the pastor or another member of the student's home congregation, college professors, or others who provide evidence in support of the student's call to ministry. These statements are given to the academic adviser. In situations where evidence in support of a student's call to ministry from the above sources is difficult to obtain or the student's sense of specific call remains elusive, the student is invited to fulfill this requirement through a procedure worked out with his/her academic adviser, the counsel of the Formation in Ministry seminar group, and the M.Div. coordinator.

3. Tests and Assessments

The student is required to complete the Meyers-Briggs, 16 PF, and the Taylor-Johnson. The personality tests are available for the taking in the library reference section. Upon completion the tests should be given to the faculty member in charge of assessment and appointments to discuss the tests should be made. Faculty members who interpret the personality tests will prepare brief summaries of the test results and any specific recommendations for each candidate and communicate them to the student.

4. Spiritual Growth Plan

During the Formation in Ministry course each student is encouraged and expected to develop a Spiritual Growth plan to be included with the application for admission to the M.Div. program.

5. Adviser's Recommendation

On the basis of the results of steps 1 to 3 above the student's submission of application and supporting documents and his/her own assessment of the student's potential for ministry, the adviser formulates a recommendation on the form provided regarding the student's candidacy for the M.Div. degree. This recommendation is submitted to the Dean's Office.

6. Admissions Committee Action

The Admissions Committee acts on this recommendation before the end of the student's first year of studies.