

A Mentor's Guide to Seminary

Seminaries

There are 13 United Methodist Seminaries plus another 50-ish that are approved by the University Senate. For 2020-2021, the Great Plains UMC has students taking Master's courses at the following seminaries:



- Asbury Theological Seminary—Wilmore, KY, Orlando, FL and online*
- Candler School of Theology—Atlanta, GA
- Duke School of Theology—Durham, NC
- Garrett-Evangelical Seminary—Evanston, IL
- Iliff School of Theology—Denver, CO, and hybrid*
- Methodist Theologica School of Ohio—Delaware, OH
- Perkins School of Theology—Dallas, TX
- United Theological Seminary— hybrid*
- Saint Paul School of Theology—Leawood, KS and Oklahoma City, OK

There are many other approved seminaries in our region. A complete listing of approved schools is found here: <https://www.gbhem.org/education/university-senate/list-approved-schools>. Often seminaries have a “rolling admission” in which they will admit students throughout the school year. However, their “big” scholarships, which are often tied to additional leadership programming, are typically decided by late January (maybe earlier).

Encourage students to inquire about deadlines, even internal ones. Housing is often expensive at seminary so for students that are residential, applying early and identifying housing possibilities can be helpful.

*These seminaries have online or hybrid courses that do not require relocation for degree completion. Iliff and United have programs with a cohort that comes to campus for instruction during a set time. Asbury has flexibility for students to take online courses and attend courses in Wilmore, KY or Orlando, FL for a weekend, week, or month. Online courses are only allowed at UM seminaries and Asbury where at least 1/3 of courses must be taken in person or in the hybrid classroom.

Scholarships

Great Plains UMC

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/boomscholarships>

The Board of Ordained Ministry offers two types of scholarships.

GP Ministerial Education Fund Scholarship

- For students who are certified candidates for ordination and members of a Great Plains UMC or Campus Ministry
- Awarded per credit hour on a semester basis (students are eligible for 2 semester/year—a semester is expanded to include summer or January term courses, if applicable)
- There is a priority deadline of July 15 (fall/winter term) and November 15 (spring/summer term)
- The amount is subject to change, but the 2020-2021 amount is \$100/credit hour
- See the website for other eligibility requirements

GP Seminary Scholarship Trust Funds

- For students who are members of a Great Plains UMC or Campus Ministry
- Applicants are *not required* to be certified candidates for ordination
- Students who are certified candidates are automatically eligible for this scholarship in addition to the GPMEF scholarship upon completion of the application
- Awarded per credit hour on a semester basis (students are eligible for 2 semesters—a semester is expanded to include summer or January term courses, if applicable)
- There is a priority deadline of July 15 (fall/winter term) and November 15 (spring/summer term)
- The amount is subject to change, but the 2020-2021 amount is \$50/credit hour
- See the website for other eligibility requirements

GBHEM

<https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships>

GBHEM offers scholarships and loans for UMC students for college and for seminary. The application for 2021 scholarships are available between early January and early March. See their website for specific deadlines.

Candidacy Summit

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/candidacysummit>

Anyone ready to begin the candidacy process can consider attending a GPUMC Candidacy Summit. They are held in January and June each year. The next two summits will be held as follows:

- January 22-23, 2021, held virtually
- June 2021, dates & location to be determined

At the Summit, people can expect to learn more about the process for ordination, get connected with a mentor and other exploring candidates through a mentoring group, and take their psychological assessment. The deadline for applying for each summit is listed on the website but is about a month prior to the Summit. In order to register for the Summit, encourage your mentee to meet with the District Superintendent. Other preparatory steps are listed on the website. There is a cost of \$250 in order to attend the Summit, primarily for their portion of the psychological testing. Often a sponsoring church is encouraged to pay all or part of the registration fee.

Resources

- Check out our website for articles, videos, and other resources for ministry discernment: www.greatplainsumc.org/exploringcall
- GBHEM has put together some resources here: www.explorecalling.org