



*The Episcopal
Church in
Alabama*

FORMATION FOR HOLY ORDERS

In the Episcopal Church, we are blessed with a number of institutions which form and equip individuals for ministry. While the information in this document is fluid, we hope that it will give you a better idea of what to expect and think about as you begin to ponder your formation path.

A note for those pursuing ordination to the priesthood. It is our assumption that all postulants on the priesthood track will attend a residential seminary. If this is not possible, however, you will work closely with the Bishop and the Bishop's staff to create a plan.



The School of Theology

Formation for the Priesthood

Program: Residential M.Div

Location: Sewanee, TN

Tuition & Fees:

Fall Semester 2024

Tuition:	\$9,500
Annual Fee:	\$280
Meals:	\$350
Total:	\$10,130

Spring Semester 2025

Tuition:	\$9,500
Total:	\$9,500

Additional Costs to Consider:

- \$100 Enrollment Fee is paid when the applicant accepts admission.
- Medical insurance
- University rental housing rates for seminarians range from approximately \$600–\$2,000 per month depending on unit's size, age, condition, and amenities.

Housing Options: Rental housing options in Sewanee are as wide-ranging as the ministry options and run the gamut from single family homes large enough to hold seven, to duplexes and townhouses, to the EQB community houses for single students. It's just a matter of which one is the best fit for you. Find out more here: <https://theology.sewanee.edu/master-of-divinity/community-life/>

Financial Aid Statement: (more extensive information can be found on the website)

Students in the M.Div. program will receive aid to cover the full cost of tuition and fees as well as generous need-based aid to be used toward household living expenses, such as housing, food, utilities, transportation, books and supplies, and health insurance.

The School of Theology Student Employment Program (work-study) is available to eligible seminary students through positions created in various departments of the University and the School of Theology. A full-time seminary student may work up to a maximum of 12 hours per week, depending on availability of jobs. Spouses may seek temporary employment (up to 12 hours per week) through the School of Theology when positions are available. Additionally, the School of Theology annually awards a small number of Chancellor's Scholarships to some students of exceptional promise preparing for distinctive ministries in The Episcopal Church, showing exceptional academic merit, enhancing diversity among the student body, and occasionally (as determined by the dean) to meet certain goals related to strategic initiatives that serve the School's mission. A Sanford Fund loan of \$1,000 is available to School of Theology students for extraordinary circumstances. Students may borrow no more than this amount from the Sanford Fund during their seminary years.

Helpful Links:

Tuition & Fees: <https://theology.sewanee.edu/master-of-arts/admission/tuition-fees/>

Financial Aid: <https://theology.sewanee.edu/master-of-divinity/admission/financial-aid/>

Additional Financial Resources:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_aRsNHYfuyjZ8-VE1ts3kIHDtd9JtuuNKmFlc0flh78/edit#gid=0

Recent Graduates:

- The Rev. Polly Robb
- The Rev. Mike Harber



Seminary of the Southwest

Formation for the Priesthood

Program: Residential M.Div

Location: Austin, Texas

Tuition & Fees

Tuition

For Fall 2024 & Spring 2025 Full-Time: \$18,768

Fees:

Lunch for the year \$1,232

Student Association fee for the year \$113

Total: \$20,113

Additional Costs to Consider:

- Housing (See above)
- Medical Insurance

Housing Options: A number of houses and duplexes are available for rent to students with children. The houses range in size from 2 bedroom/1 bath to 3 bedroom/2 bath and rent ranges from \$620 to \$1,800 per month plus utilities. Two apartment buildings are available for singles and couples. These studio apartments rent for \$500 per month plus utilities.

Financial Aid Statement:

Seminary of the Southwest provides scholarship grants to students with demonstrated financial need. Up to 100% tuition grant is available to eligible students following approved degree plans.

Additional Financial Support:

- Pastoral Leadership Initiative: Enhanced financial aid award package

renewable up to three years. This need-based award includes funding for housing, student health insurance, books, and fees. In combination with Southwest's current scholarship programs that fully cover the cost of tuition, the immediate goal of the Pastoral Leadership Initiative is to remove the most significant financial barriers from those on their journey to priesthood. See more here: <https://ssw.edu/news/seminary-of-the-southwest-launches-pastoral-leadership-initiative-to-provide-substantial-financial-support-for-seminarians/>

- Pauli Murray Scholarship: A merit-based scholarship to cover living expenses for a student of color studying to be a priest at Seminary of the Southwest. This grant of up to \$20,000 is renewable for the full three years of the Master of Divinity program and will be awarded along with a tuition grant from the seminary's endowment.

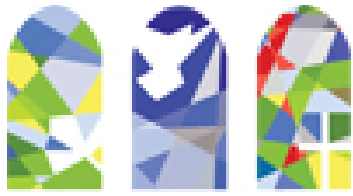
Helpful Links:

Tuition & Fees: <https://ssw.edu/admissions-2/financial-aid-2/tuition-and-fees/>

Financial Aid: <https://ssw.edu/admissions-2/financial-aid-2/>

Recent Graduates:

- The Rev. Susan Oakes



VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Virginia Theological Seminary

Formation for the Priesthood

Degree: Residential M.Div

Location: Alexandria, VA

Tuition & Fees:

They do not provide tuition information because the seminary provides a comprehensive financial aid scholarship package to all full-time students. There is, however, for all new students, both master's and doctoral, a one-time, non-refundable Registration and Degree Fee of \$200 when accepting an offer of admission.

Housing Options: Unmarried students live in dorms, though there should be some studio-like apartments are coming available soon. Students who are married and/or have children stay in on-campus apartments.

Financial Aid Statement:

Virginia Theological Seminary offers a comprehensive financial aid program. All admitted, full-time residential students pursuing a Master's-level program are eligible for a full scholarship package covering tuition, on-campus housing, and a meal plan of three meals per weekday for students in single dwelling housing, and weekday lunch only for all others.

Any student choosing not to accept an on-campus housing option and instead living off-campus will not be eligible for a housing subsidy but will be eligible to receive an award to cover tuition. These students will be considered "commuter students." Commuter students receive no housing subsidy/allowance or health insurance allowance.

In addition to a student's personal financial resources and those that may be available from the Seminary, students are encouraged to reach out to their diocese and sending parish for additional assistance. By being proactive in seeking support,

students can ensure they have the resources needed to complete their master's-level education.

Virginia Theological Seminary does not participate in federal Title IV student aid programs and therefore does not require the FAFSA to be completed.

Helpful Links:

Tuition & Fees: <https://vts.edu/admissions-academics/degrees/masters-programs-tuition-and-fees/>

Financial Aid Qualifications <https://vts.edu/financial-aid/>

List of additional scholarships: <https://vts.edu/financial-aid/>

Recent Graduates

- The Rev. Dillon Green
- The Rev. Emily Collette
- The Rev. Sarah DiCarlo-Watts



Bexley Seabury

Formation for the Priesthood

Program: Low Residency/Hybrid M.Div

Bexley Seabury's Non-residential MDiv degree program fosters the theological education and spiritual formation of continually context-aware, critically reflective, and pastorally responsive ministry practitioners. On-campus sessions for required Bexley Seabury courses meet two to three weekends per fall and spring semesters, and week-long courses, or for one week in January or June. Courses taken in conjunction with Chicago Theological Seminary may be taken 100% online. The MDIV degree can be completed in three years of full-time study or up to five years, depending on your professional, family, and ministry responsibilities.

Location: Chicago, IL

Tuition & Fees: \$2100 per 3-credit course (\$700 per credit hour) taken at Bexley Seabury; tuition and fees for Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) courses are subject to current rates published on the schedule available on the CTS web site. A technology fee of \$35 per credit applies to all courses taken for academic credit at Bexley Seabury.

Financial Aid: Bexley Seabury is committed to providing the highest quality theological education to all program participants. Through the substantial support of donors and our historic endowment funds, we are able to provide some financial aid for students with demonstrated need. We also offer the St. Marina scholarship for LGBTQ, students, funded by an anonymous donor. Future students are strongly encouraged to submit their financial aid application at the same time as their application for admission. Current students who are in good academic and financial

standing with the seminary may apply for financial aid at any time. Current students who are in good academic standing with the seminary may apply for need-based financial aid at any time.

Application for financial aid is made by submitting a financial aid application. Students requesting aid must also complete a FAFSA assessment as part of the application process.

Helpful Links:

- Program description: <https://www.bexleyseabury.edu/master-of-divinity-mdiv/>
- Sample Pathways to Completion: https://www.bexleyseabury.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Pathways-to-the-MDiv-for-website-FINAL-3-18-19-lf_td.pdf
- Tuition & Fees: <https://www.bexleyseabury.edu/tuition-fees/>
- Financial Aid: <https://www.bexleyseabury.edu/financial-aid/>



The General Theological Seminary

Formation for the Priesthood

Program: Low Residency/Hybrid M.Div

The primary focus of the Master of Divinity curriculum at General Seminary is to educate and form students for the vocation of ordained ministry. General invites students preparing for ordination from all denominations to apply to the Master of Divinity program; historically, 90% of students at General have been Episcopalian and Evangelical Lutheran. GTS offers Distributed Learning that provides student access to synchronous and asynchronous instruction from GTS faculty; week-long intensives three times a year at the Close in Manhattan; and guidance from a dedicated team of professional and spiritual mentors, ensuring every student's academic progress and personal well-being.

Location: New York, NY

Tuition & Fees: Because 100% of tuition is covered for students admitted in the Hybrid MDiv program, the seminary does not list tuition. However, it is important to keep in mind that students are responsible for the cost of Room and Board at the Seminary campus during intensive courses. Students are charged \$1000 for Room and \$500 for meals during the intensive weeks (Sunday - Friday). Students are also responsible for the cost of travel to and from the Seminary, all technology related expenses (see technology policy), plus books and incidentals. Books and supplies are estimated at \$3,000.

Financial Aid:

For students admitted into the Hybrid MDiv program, 100% of tuition is covered by a mix of internal and external scholarships for all eligible Hybrid MDiv students.

Helpful Links:

Program description: <https://www.gts.edu/mdiv>

Distributed Learning: <https://www.gts.edu/abouthybridlearning>

Tuition & Fees: <https://www.gts.edu/tuitionatgeneral>

Financial Aid: <https://www.gts.edu/financial-aid>



Alabama Integrative Ministry School (AIMS)

Formation for the Bivocational Priesthood and Deacons

Program: Nonresidential Program for Deacons of the Diocese of Alabama

The Alabama Integrative Ministry School (AIMS) is a nonresidential program for the formation of deacons and priests to serve the Diocese of Alabama in innovative and missional ministries, especially among our most underserved communities. AIMS facilitates the placement and supervision of students in contextual field placements. Students gather at least twice a year for local formation in the areas of preaching, liturgy, leadership, and pastoral identity. Through Peer Reflection Groups, students are invited to integrate their academic studies, practical experience, and developing pastoral identity.

AIMS connects students to resources for other canonically required training such as anti-racism training, Safeguarding, and Clinical Pastoral Education (if required) and currently partners with the Alternative Clergy Training at Sewanee (ACTS) for academic formation.

Tuition & Fees:

Students are responsible for costs of travel to in person gatherings, books, technology, and supplies. Students are also responsible for costs of travel and supplies in their field placement. Students are responsible for the costs of CPE or other training.

Helpful links:

<https://dioala.org/aims>

ALTERNATIVE CLERGY TRAINING (ACTS)

🏠 HOME | DEGREES & CERTIFICATES | ACTS (ALTERNATIVE CLERGY TRAINING AT SEWANEE) ⬆

Alternative Clergy Training at Sewanee

Formation for the Diaconate

Program: Low Residency, Non-degree, basic course of theological studies
Acts is a non-degree, basic course of theological studies for diaconal education and candidates for ordination who have special circumstances. ACTS partners with dioceses to provide comprehensive training for deacons and for priests for small-church, missional contexts, with an emphasis on leadership and evangelism in the context of the six canonical areas (Bible, Theology, History, Ethics, Christian Worship, and Ministry in Contemporary Society). The program comprises eight modules which represent the academic portion of students' preparation for ministry. It is expected that dioceses will see to the other areas of preparation, including field education and spiritual formation.

Each module has a residential portion in Sewanee and a non-residential, online portion. Modules begin with a one-week intensive residency. The residency is followed by online work and regular contact with instructors. Modules conclude with another intensive residency week. Spring modules begin in January and conclude in June; fall modules begin in June and conclude in January.

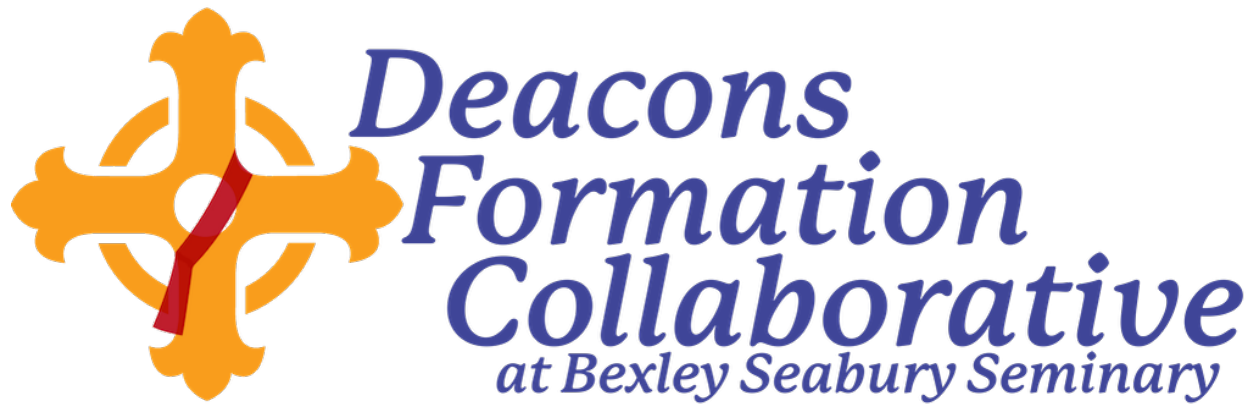
Location: Sewanee, TN (and online)

Tuition & Fees:

Tuition is \$2,500 for each session. This is exclusive of food, lodging, and transportation.

Helpful links:

<https://theology.sewanee.edu/acts/>



Deacons Formation Collaborative at Bexley Seabury

Formation for the Diaconate

Program: Low Residency

The DFC formation program prepares individuals for diaconal ordination. Participants in the program are guided by a three-person mentor team (academic mentor, diocesan mentor, and vocational mentor) as they progress through learning experiences designed to prepare them to meet canonical requirements and demonstrate the Association of Episcopal Deacons' (AED) defined competencies.

Tuition & Fees

Students pay \$360 each month for the length of their enrollment (typically two years). (Ask about discounts.)

Location: Chicago, IL

Helpful Links:

<https://www.bexleyseabury.edu/deaconsformation/>