



The Stevenson School *for* Ministry

Curriculum – course of study for the ministry of Priest

In all there are six canonically required areas of study for those who aspire to ordination as priests:

- ❖ The Holy Scriptures
- ❖ Christian Theology
- ❖ History of the Church
- ❖ Worship
- ❖ Ethics/Moral Theology
- ❖ The Practice of Ministry

The presumption is that at the end of the course of study, individuals will sit for the Church's General Ordination Examination (GOE) as administered by The Episcopal Church. The schema below outlines the general load requirements that an individual will undertake in working through the appropriate course of study in the Steven School for Ministry (SSFM).

The load is distributed so that if a student elects to take a "full load" (2 courses per term), he or she would be able to complete the entire course of study in four calendar years. Of course, as each student moves through the ordination process as outlined by their respective diocesan authorities (Bishop, Commission on Ministry, *Board of Examining Chaplains*), the individual may need to lighten the load, take a leave of absence from active study, or respond to other circumstances that may not be of a canonical nature. In such cases, it is understood that the time needed to complete the course of study may be lengthen. The suggestion has been made that a maximum of six years be imposed for completion under normal circumstances. Exception would be at the discretion of the ecclesiastical authorities involved.

The current plan is to maintain formation cohorts that are identified at the beginning of every year. Once ascribed to a cohort, the individual will remain identified with the cohort until the completion of the course of study. If an individual's course of study is extended and no members of the cohort remain, that student may opt to join an existing cohort until the completion of their studies.

Number of Courses Required

(Minimum of 20 Courses for Certificate)

- **The Holy Scriptures (6 courses)**
Required: Introduction to Old Testament, Introduction to New Testament, 2 Scripture Electives suggested: Pauline and Johannine
- **History of the Christian Church (2 courses)**
Required: Church History I, Church History II
- **Christian Theology (3 courses)**
Required: Theology I, Theology II, 1 Theology Elective (Patristics if available)
- **Christian Ethics and Moral Theology (2 courses)**
Required: Ethics I, one Ethics Elective (Anglican Ethics)
- **Christian Worship (3 courses)**
Required: Prayer Book Studies, Liturgical Theology, Christian Worship Elective



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➤ **The**

Ministry (6 courses)

Practice of

Required: Anglican Approaches to Ministry, Anglican Practical Theology, The Message of Mission, Teaching Ministry (Christian Education and Formation), Homiletics, Deacons in Action (field placement for 6-8 months)

Recommended Course/Sequence of Study: Priest Track

➤ Semester Sessions

Learning Weekend Sessions: in person, Friday through Saturday (during COVID - webinars are mandatory)

Each Course: 10 weeks online work

Year One--- Core Content

- Fall Term I
 - Anglican Approaches to Ministry
 - Old Testament Survey
- Winter Term I
 - Church History I
 - Anglican Prayer Book Studies
- Spring Term I:
 - Introduction to New Testament
 - The Message of Mission

Year Two-- Core Content

- Fall Term II
 - Anglican Practical Theology
 - Spiritual Practices
- Winter Term II
 - Theology I
 - Anglican Liturgical Theology
- Spring Term II
 - Ethics I
 - Episcopal Church History

Year Three—Integrated Curriculum

- Fall Term III
 - Clinical Pastoral Education
 - Deacons in Action (field placement for 6-8 months)
- Winter Term III
 - Homiletics
 - Gospel of John
- Spring Term III
 - Scripture Elective
 - Theology II

Year Four—Integrated Curriculum

- Fall Term IV
 - The Teaching Ministry: Lifelong Formation for Discipleship
 - Canon Law/Ecclesiology
- Winter Term IV
 - Scripture Elective
 - Theology Elective (Patristics)
 - GOE prep
- Spring Term IV
 - Ethics II
 - Liturgical Elective—Designing Dynamic Liturgies



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Learning
of 20 for the four years,

Sessions: Total

Topics covered:

- Anglican Spirituality I, II
- Discernment
- Introduction to Theology and Theological Reflection
- Issues in Pastoral Care I, II
- Spiritual Direction

Canonical Areas of Study for Ordination

- The canons (III.6.5.f and III.8.5.g) require that preparation for ordination in all orders shall include training regarding:
 - Prevention of sexual misconduct.
 - Civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
 - The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
 - The Church's teaching on racism