



Board of Ordained Ministry

South Carolina Conference | The United Methodist Church

DISCIPLINARY & CONFERENCE REQUIRED COURSES POLICY & DESCRIPTIONS FOR PROVISIONAL AND FULL MEMBERSHIP (DEACON & ELDER) CANDIDATES (SEMINARY & ACOS)

POLICY

- *No course may be used to satisfy more than one requirement. (Exception: UM Polity/Doctrine and UM History/Doctrine Courses specially designed to meet all three requirements and providing increased course hours-total must equal 6 when both classes are taken.)*
- *Disciplinary required courses must be completed (or accepted in transfer credit) by a University Senate approved seminary, school of theology or the United Methodist Advanced Course of Study.*
- *Provisional Membership candidates must have completed all the Disciplinary required courses and have had their Masters of Divinity (or Masters Degree in specialized discipline for Deacons) conferred or completed the entire Advanced Course of Study (including other degree requirements) before the first day of the Annual Conference they are seeking a status change. Full Membership Candidates must have completed all Disciplinary and Conference academic requirements before the first day of the Annual Conference they are seeking a status change.*
- *Courses must focus on the required area. Courses which merely include the focus area are not acceptable. The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM) ultimately determines if a questionable course meets Disciplinary requirements. The Coordinator of Clergy Services ultimately determines if a course meets South Carolina requirements.*

DISCIPLINARY COURSE REQUIREMENTS *(required prior to Provisional Membership)*

1. **Old Testament:** A survey course on the Old Testament (3 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
2. **New Testament:** A survey course on the New Testament (3 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
3. **Theology:** A survey course in systematic theology (3 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
4. **Church History:** A survey course in church history (3 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
5. **Mission of the Church in the World:** A course focused on the mission of the church beyond the local church in South Carolina (3 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
6. **Evangelism:** A course on the theory or practice of evangelism (3 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
7. **Worship/Liturgy:** A course on the theory or practice of worship/liturgy (3 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
8. **Homiletics/Preaching:** A course on the theory or practice of preaching (3 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
9. **United Methodist Doctrine:** A course on UM theology and doctrine (2 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
10. **United Methodist Polity:** A course on UM polity (2 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)
11. **United Methodist History:** A course on UM History (2 credit hours or 2 ACOS credits)

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE COURSE REQUIREMENTS *(required prior to Full Membership)*

1. **Black Studies:** A survey course on the history or culture of African Americans. May be undergraduate, but not a directed study. *(at least 2 semester hours, 3 quarter hours or 2 ACOS credits)*
2. **Women's Studies:** A survey course on the history and experiences of women in America or on feminist or womanist theology. May be undergraduate, but not a directed study. *(at least 2 semester hours, 3 quarter hours or 2 ACOS credits)*
3. **Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE):** One basic unit of CPE from an ACPE accredited (or other recognized accrediting agency) site. *(usually translate to 400 program hours or 6 semester hours of credit)*

Revised 12/2024