

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**  
**Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS) (min 30 hours)**

- ✓ These courses must be taken by everyone pursuing ordination.
- ✓ All educational requirements must be completed prior to commissioning at annual conference.
- ✓ \* indicates completion required is prior to interviews in the spring (may not be in process)
- ✓ Instructions in italics are additional requirements by the Conference BOM (in addition to the BOD).
- ✓ These classes may not be taken pass/fail. They must be taken for a grade. An acceptable grade will be a "C" or better (effective 1/1/11).
- ✓ No class can meet more than one course requirement (effective 8/11).
- ✓ It is expected that these classes will be taken at a University Senate approved seminary. Exceptions must be requested to the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Basic educational requirements for provisional membership are found in the *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶324.4a. The deacon alternatives to the MDiv are found in ¶324.4c and ¶324.5. Local Pastor options are outlined in ¶324.6.

- **Old Testament**

*This must be a survey course. If a seminary waives this requirement because of work done in an undergraduate degree, the BOM exec will also consider a waiver. An OT course is still required.*

- **New Testament**

*This must be a survey course. If a seminary waives this requirement because of work done in an undergraduate degree, the BOM exec will also consider a waiver. A NT course is still required.*

- **Systematic Theology\***

*Each candidate shall, prior to being interviewed by the Board of Ordained Ministry for provisional membership, have completed a seminary-level course in systematic theology. The theology course specified by the Discipline (¶324.4a) shall satisfy this requirement only when it is a thorough survey course in systematic theology.*

- **Church History**

- **Mission of the church in the world**

*Each candidate shall, prior to admission to provisional membership, have successfully completed one basic seminary course in the mission of the church in the world in preparation to lead, equip, empower and connect the congregation to the needs of the community and world. The course should include the theological, biblical and practical foundations for the mission of the church.*

- **Evangelism**

*Each candidate shall, prior to admission to provisional membership, have included a course in evangelism. It is strongly encouraged that this class be intentional in studying the making of disciples in post-Christian, multicultural settings. We encourage innovative ideas for building relationship in one's context of ministry and creativity in adapting to the new challenges of evangelism that lay ahead for the Church.*

- **Worship**

*Each candidate shall, prior to admission to provisional membership, have successfully completed at least one basic seminary-level course in worship, this course to include an introduction to the history, theology, and practice of Christian worship, including Sunday gatherings, the sacraments, weddings, funerals, etc.*

- **UM doctrine\*** at least 6 hours in UMD, UMP, and UMH classes combined. Some seminaries offer 2 -3

- **UM polity** credit classes and some offer 3 – 2 credit classes.

- **UM history**

- **Preaching \***

*Each candidate who intends to pursue ordination, prior to being interviewed for provisional membership, shall have successfully completed at least one basic seminary course in the theory and practice of preaching, including sermon preparation and critique. Courses not requiring personal involvement in the act of preaching are unacceptable. (This requirement became effective for deacons beginning their studies fall, 2019).*

**Distance Education:** Distance education is only allowed at the United Methodist seminaries and Asbury. For the basic theological degree/program related to each order, no more than two-thirds of coursework may be taken through distance education. Transcripts must indicate courses that are taken through distance or hybrid education.