

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

While the admissions process at Bethlehem College & Seminary is rigorous and deliberate, we see it most fundamentally as subject to the wise and sovereign hand of God. As such, your application should begin where our deliberations must: in earnest and dependent prayer for God's will to be done in our lives. Our aim is to see Christ exalted in your life, whether you come to Bethlehem College & Seminary or go somewhere else. Pray with us that this process would be a means to that glorious end.

We consider a combination of factors in our admissions process specific to each of our programs. But for all our programs we look not only for excellent students but for men and women who long to magnify with their lives the supremacy of Christ in the church, workplace, and world.

Master of Divinity

Bethlehem limits enrollment to the number of students who can be mentored by professors and/or the Bethlehem Baptist Church pastoral staff. This means we usually admit only 15-18 apprentices each year.

Transfer Students. Transfer students will not be accepted for our Master of Divinity or Master of Theology programs. Our program has been specifically designed to be cohort-based and sequential in nature, which precludes students from joining the program mid-stream.

International Students

Bethlehem College & Seminary is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students. International applicants should consult the [International Student Policies](#) for information about specific requirements and timeline for admissions.

Timeline

Students applying to the Master of Divinity program must have all application material submitted by December 1 (see checklist). Interviews begin in early January.

Applicants will be notified by March 1 of the Seminary Admissions Committee's decision. Once an applicant has been accepted by the Admissions Committee, the applicant must confirm his plans to attend by submitting a \$200 non-refundable deposit within two weeks of acceptance.

Admission Requirements

An application is considered complete when Bethlehem Seminary has received:

- 1. Online Application:** A completed online application (including the required essay) and \$25 non-refundable application fee which can be paid online through the application portal. Applications can be started on our website (<https://bcsmn.edu/admissions>).
- 2. References:** Applicants must submit references from a friend, a pastor, and a professor (an employer reference can be substituted for those out of school more than five years).
- 3. Writing sample:** The writing sample must be an academic research paper.
- 4. Official transcripts:** Applicants to Bethlehem's graduate program are required to have earned a baccalaureate degree (or its foreign equivalent). Applicants must submit official transcripts from all previous post-secondary institutions.

Transcripts should be sent directly to Bethlehem Seminary. It is not necessary to send CLEP scores. A 3.0 cumulative GPA is ordinarily required.

5. Greek: All students in the M.Div. program are required to complete the biblical language prerequisites prior to their first semester. The prerequisite for GREK 5210 is basic Greek competency. The guidelines to determine Greek competency are as follows:

- If a student has had two semesters of undergrad Greek immediately prior to enrolling here, and if their grades have been C or better, they do not need to take the competency exam.
- If it has been a semester or more since last completing Greek, or if they scored lower than a C in any of their semesters of Greek, or if they didn't complete both semesters, they must pass the competency exam.
- Students who have not met the Greek prerequisite will be required to enroll in [Accelerated Greek 1–2] offered online via BibleMesh April–August, and are required to attend a one week on site intensive followed by the competency exam.

Greek competency exams will be given in the spring and summer before the start of each session. Students must register for one of these exams.

- 6. A Recent Photograph:** Applicants should submit a recent photograph as part of their online application.
- 7. Spouse/ Fiancée Form:** (if applicable).
- 8. Recording:** (if applicable). Worship Pastor Concentration applicants must submit a video recording demonstrating a proficiency in worship leading and (including voice, piano or guitar).

9. Interview: The Office of Admissions will schedule an interview with prospective students once all completed application materials have been received.

Note: Applicants interested in the Church Planting Concentration must undergo an interview with the Director of the Church Planting Concentration following their first year of seminary for approval to enter the concentration.

10. Church Membership: Bethlehem College & Seminary students are required to be members of Bethlehem Baptist Church for at least the first two years of their program. After the first two years of their program, a student may petition to affiliate with another church if they have the opportunity for significant ministry or internships that will enhance their ministry preparation beyond what is possible at Bethlehem. Unusual exceptions may be granted by the agreement of the Academic Dean and the President.

11. Re-Applying: Applicants who have been accepted for admission but do not enroll in the immediate incoming cohort may re-apply the following year. To re-apply, one must submit an up-to-date pastoral reference and undergo another interview in order to be considered for admission. Students who were declined for admission are encouraged to strengthen their application and re-apply in subsequent years, but they must submit an entirely new application.

Profile of a Seminary Student

Students in the M.Div. and Th.M. programs at Bethlehem College & Seminary are called “apprentices” in order to stress that their rigorous academic training happens in the context of intentional pastoral mentorship and ministry. The ideal applicant is a man who aspires to leadership in the church and in Christ’s mission at the level of elder:

- One whose character and lifestyle is increasingly reflecting the elder qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1–7;
- One who is joyfully committed to the authority and inerrancy of Scripture;
- One who has successfully completed a year of Greek (the equivalent of two semesters of formal or informal study) and hungers to grow in his ability to study God’s word in the original languages;
- One who is drawn to the theological and ministry ethos of Bethlehem Baptist Church and to its mission to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ;
- One who is glad to live in accordance with the lifestyle implications of the Bethlehem Baptist Church covenant which read as follows: “I engage to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in my dealings, faithful in my engagements, and exemplary in my deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to seek God’s help in abstaining from all drugs, food, drink, and practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize my own or another’s faith”;
- One who is able to make the time and energy commitment necessary to fully participate in the M. Div. program (approximately 40 hours a week of study and ministry);
- One who is able to afford (by God’s gracious provision through one’s own savings and/or gifts of family, friends, and church) tuition, books, and living expenses required by the M.Div. program without going into excessive debt (Note: Students are encouraged not to be employed more than 10-15 hours per week during the four years—not including summer—of their apprenticeship);

Benefits of an Church-Based Seminary Training

- Daily reinforcement that serious biblical and theological studies from the original languages matter in real life and ministry.
- The opportunity to develop a discipling relationships with an experienced mentor whom the apprentice can observe and assist on a regular basis.
- The opportunity to see how a distinctive theology and philosophy of ministry impact the day-to-day ministry of the local church.
- Regular opportunities to teach and model what the apprentice is learning in the context of his ministry focus in and beyond the church.
- A preaching course is integrated with the weekly preaching ministry. On a weekly basis, the apprentices meet to interact with the preaching pastor about the sermon they just heard preached and also to look ahead with him to next Sunday's sermon.
- The opportunity to learn and apply theology in the context of inner city life, bringing together where the apprentice lives, studies, worships, and ministers.
- A world-Christian mindset, which sees the local church as a seedbed for missions, permeating the entire program.