WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS) (min 24 hours)
and information about completing them

-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).

Basic educational requirements for provisional membership are found in the *2008 Book of Discipline*, ¶324.4a. The deacon alternatives to the MDiv are found in ¶324.4c and ¶325.5. Local Pastor options are outlined in ¶324.6.

- Old Testament
  This must be a survey course. (eff. 8/11) 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 (eff. 8/11) 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
- Evangelism
- 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. This requirement may be satisfied through a non-credit course with instructor, content, and procedures approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- UM doctrine* at least 6 hours in 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 as an <u>elder</u> shall, prior to being interviewed for provisional membership, 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. Deacon candidates are not required to take preaching.

Distance/Hybrid 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. In addition, at least one course in theology and one course in preaching (elders only) and one course in worship must be taken in a residential classroom setting. Transcripts must indicate courses that are taken through distance or hybrid education.

The Board of Ordained Ministry recommends (but does not require) that deacons take a course in preaching and elders take a course in Christian education.

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