Advanced Course of Study
A checklist to assist in completing the required 32 hours

The purpose of the Advanced Course of Study for Ordained Ministry is to provide a curriculum, which will enable a local pastor to meet the educational requirements for full conference membership and ordination as elder. Local pastors seeking this route need to have completed the five-year Course of Study program and a bachelor’s degree from college or university recognized by the University Senate.

1. "Local pastors may fulfill the requirements for provisional membership when they have:
   a. reached forty years of age;
   b. satisfied all requirements of Section 1-3 and 7-14 of this paragraph.
   c. completed the five-year Course of Study for ordained ministry, of which no more than one-half may be taken by correspondence or Internet; up to one-half of Course of Study may be online courses; and
   d. an Advanced Course of Study consisting of thirty-two semester hours of graduate theological study offered by a seminary recognized by the University Senate; or its equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry that shall include United Methodist history, doctrine and polity.” 324.6

2. Local pastors need to complete a total of 32 semester hours of graduate theological studies at a University Senate approved school; or an equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Graduate studies, which parallel courses offered for advanced studies, taken in non-University Senate approved schools may be approved by the GBHEM up to a maximum of nine (9) semester hours. Such studies must have been taken with the last 10 years. Students may complete no more than 10 hours of online or correspondence courses within the Advanced Course of Study. Each student shall have courses recorded by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and these will become a part of their permanent educational record for Boards of Ordained Ministry.

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3. Advanced Course of Study classes will not duplicate those included in the five-year Course of Study curriculum. Advanced Course of Study programs sponsored by COS Schools shall organize their curriculum to build upon the substance of the foundational and functional courses of the five-year COS. These courses are to be vigorous in study, equivalent to master’s degree classes. While all ACOS students are required to complete the United Methodist Studies courses, all other specific course requirements listed in the Book of Discipline have been fulfilled through the five-year COS.

   a. The curriculum should parallel the curriculum of the basic graduate theological studies in the Christian faith but the course work should be upper level (not survey) courses as those have been completed through the five-year Course of Study program.

   b. All students shall complete upper level courses in the following areas:
      
      • Old Testament (non-survey course)
      • New Testament (non-survey course)
      • Theology (non-survey course)
      • Church History (non-survey course)
      • United Methodist Doctrine
      • United Methodist Polity
      • United Methodist History
      • Mission of the Church in the World (COS course 513/423 fulfills this requirement)
      • Evangelism (COS course 313/523 fulfills this requirement)
      • Worship/Liturgy (COS course 413/223 fulfills this requirement)

   c. In addition, many annual conferences require courses in the following areas, but check with your conference for a complete list:
      
      • Pastoral Care (COS course 314/323 fulfills this requirement)
      • Homiletics – two courses (this is in addition to COS course 214/324)
      • Worship (this is in addition to COS course 413/223)
      • Pastoral Leadership/Administration (COS courses 124 or 114/224 fulfills this requirement)
      • Clinical Pastoral Care Unit(s)
      • Women’s or Ethnic Studies
# Advanced Course of Study

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**Additional courses completed in above areas for ACOS credit**

- Evangelism
- Pastoral Care
- Missions
- Bible (Old or New Testament)
- Church Leadership
- History
- Theology

**Other Conference Specific Requirements**

- Clinical Pastoral Care Unit(s)