

UMC Ordination Requirements

Ordination requirements and graduation requirements are not the same thing. It is possible to complete the MDIV or MACM degrees without fulfilling requirements for ordination in the United Methodist Church. The following information should help you to navigate ordination requirements in light of the pending transition to a new curriculum.

The courses are required by the Book of Discipline, and most Boards of Ordained Ministry will expect evidence of having completed them. In the 90 hour MDIV degree, most of these courses are now required for graduation. In the new MDIV degree, several of them become elective courses. For those pursuing the MACM toward deacons orders, the course requirements for ordination are the same as for the MDIV (though the overall degree consists of fewer courses).

Per Para. 324.4.a (p 238) of the 2012 Book of Discipline, all those seeking ordination must take:

UM Doctrine (now required; elective in new curriculum)

UM History (now required; elective in new curriculum)

UM Polity (now required; elective in new curriculum)

A course in **Evangelism** (required now and in new for MDIV; any evangelism course is acceptable. MACM students will need to pay particular attention to fulfilling this requirement.)

A course in mission, which at Saint Paul is **CHS 330 Mission of the Church in the World**. (This one is tricky because it may be used to fulfill your CHS requirement but many students take other CHS classes. The only course at Saint Paul that qualifies to fulfill the mission requirement specified by the UMC for ordination is CHS 330.)

Also, please be aware that Boards of Ordained Ministry can always add to these requirements. For example, the Arkansas BOOM requires a second course in Wesleyan theology for ordination. Boards may add to the disciplinary requirements, but they can never reduce them. So, it is in your best interest to check with your BOOM as to any additional conference requirements. Saint Paul may or may not be notified of these decisions.