



Northeastern Indiana Nazarene School of Ministry

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The Course of Study for Ordination as Elder and Deacon

The path to ordination is composed of three components:

1. **Educational Preparation** through the completion of an approved “Course of Study”
The District Board of Ministerial Studies supervises the student’s progress through the “Course of Study.”
2. **Fulfillment of the credentialing process** which includes local and district licensing and examination by interviews and mentoring relationships by the District Board of Ministerial Credentials.
3. **Completion of service requirements** in active ministry in a senior pastor or staff position.

For complete information on Preparation for Ministry in the Church of the Nazarene, go to this website: <http://nazarenepastor.org/clergyeducation/>

Programs for Completing the Course of Study for Ordination as Elder and Deacon

Students may fulfill the educational requirements through a variety of curriculums and institutions:

Approved Curriculums through Nazarene Educational Institutions: All of our Nazarene institutions for higher learning have curriculums approved for the course of study. These are both on the undergraduate level (such as Olivet and Nazarene Bible College) or graduate level (Nazarene Theological Seminary). Students graduating from these institutions with the

appropriate majors can be assured they have completed the educational requirements for ordination. This is actually the preferred and best method for receiving a ministerial education.

Online Program from Nazarene Bible College: NBC has an excellent online program through which a person can complete both an academic degree and the ordination requirements. The advantage of this program is that a student does not have to relocate to receive an accredited bachelors degree for ministry.

Other Institutions of Higher Learning: It is possible to complete most of the requirements for ordination by completing coursework through other colleges and institutions. However, it is very important for such students to have their curriculum regularly reviewed by the district board of ministerial studies. Students should also be aware that it is unlikely that all requirements for ordination can be completed through coursework taken at a non-Nazarene educational institution.

The Modular Curriculum for Ministerial Preparation: The office of clergy development has developed a modular curriculum designed to be meet the needs of prospective ministers for whom attending an institution of higher learning is not possible. It is this curriculum that is being used by our district in Northeastern Indiana.

The Modular Curriculum for Ministerial Preparation

The Northeastern Indiana Nazarene School of Ministry has adopted the modular curriculum for completing the ordination requirements in the Church of the Nazarene. The modular curriculum consists of 24 classes provided through the office of clergy development at our denominational headquarters. All of these classes will be offered at various locations throughout the district in classroom settings.

These classes will have the following features:

1. Courses will follow a class structure provided through the modular curriculum. These modules have been designed to ensure Manual outcomes of learning for ministry are fulfilled.
2. All course materials will be provided to the students in digital format, making it possible for students to access all work electronically.
3. The emphasis is on learning, interaction with the material, and application to practical ministry.

Methods for Completing Classes

The modular classes are available to students through three delivery systems:

1. **Classroom Settings:** This seems, for most, to be the most desirable means of taking classes. Classes are currently offered in six locations throughout the district, a total of at least 18 classes per year. Classes will be taught by a faculty of mostly seasoned pastors who have appropriate academic qualifications and are approved by the district.
2. **Online Education:** Northwest Nazarene University and Nazarene Bible College both offer the modular course of study through an online program on the internet. It

will be the responsibility of the student to submit proof of satisfactory completion of the class to the secretary of the district board of ministerial studies.

3. **Supervised Independent Study:** Students may *petition* with the school of ministry to pursue the modular classes through a supervised independent study process. This process will require registering with the director of supervised independent study and being assigned to a supervising faculty member to complete the requirements for the class. Students should be aware, however, that permission to take classes through independent study will be granted only to students with special circumstances for whom taking regular classes is impractical.

Financial Information

The tuition cost for taking any modular class through the Northeastern Indiana Nazarene School of Ministry is \$150.00. This includes both classroom and supervised independent study. Students taking classes should remember that no credit for a class is granted until the tuition fee is paid in full.

Tuition costs for the NNU and NBC online classes are set by those institutions. Students taking online classes will pay tuition directly to those institutions according to their payment policies.

Senior Pastor Discount: Senior pastors taking the modular classes through the Northeastern Indiana Nazarene School of Ministry program or independent study will be granted a 25% tuition discount.

Supervised Ministry Experience Requirement

All students in the course of study through the district curriculum will be required to complete the supervised ministry experience module before being graduated from the course of study. Students expecting to be ordained must enroll in the supervised ministry experience module beginning the fall before.

The class will consist of monthly classroom meetings with students other enrolled in the module. In addition, students will complete practical ministry experience in the context of their local ministry setting under the direction of a local pastoral sponsor.

All students planning to apply for ordination should register for this module no later than September 1 in the year prior to ordination.

The best time to register and complete this module depends on the ministry circumstances of the student. Students pastoring or on the paid staff of a local church should register for this module as soon as practical. Students not involved in an active ministry assignment should register for this module as they near the completion of their course of study requirements.