

Master of Arts in **CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

S O U T H W E S T B A P T I S T U N I V E R S I T Y

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY EARLY ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM (4+1 TRACK)

Current Southwest Baptist University undergraduates and those applying to the undergraduate program at SBU are eligible to apply on a competitive basis for early conditional acceptance into the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program. Early acceptance is required for the 4+1 track, an accelerated program of study that enables students to earn both their bachelor's and master's degrees at SBU in a span of five years total. Qualifying students may concurrently enroll in up to twelve hours of specially designated upper-level courses that will count for both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. [See Graduate Catalog for further details.]

High school seniors and others applying to the undergraduate program at SBU must have a minimum 25 ACT [or equivalent SAT] or 3.5 GPA to be eligible to apply to the Early Acceptance Program (4+1 track). A maximum of six admissions to the 4+1 track will be awarded to incoming students during any one academic year. For those participating in SBU's Scholars Day, applications to the Early Acceptance Program should be submitted at the same time as the Scholars Day application. For those not participating in Scholars Day, applications are due **April 15**. Notifications will be sent by March 1 for Scholars Day applicants and May 15 for April applications.

Those accepted to the 4+1 track must enroll and maintain their status as full-time students at SBU continually to retain their place in the Early Acceptance Program. The 4+1 track requires that all prerequisites and major courses be taken at SBU. Current SBU undergraduates may apply to the 4+1 track at any time. The deadline for applications is **April 15**, with notifications being sent by May 15. Students who are not accepted to the 4+1 track are eligible to reapply the following year. To participate in concurrent enrollment courses, students must be admitted to the program (4+1 track) and have completed 80+ hours of coursework and all course prerequisites.

Students on the 4+1 track must indicate to their advisors in the next-to-last semester of their undergraduate studies their intent to matriculate into the M.A. program. During the final semester of their undergraduate studies, these students will meet with their advisors to discuss their progress toward the completion of prerequisites for the M.A. program, as well as to plan their graduate program of study and register for their first semester of graduate coursework.

Master of Arts in CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

S O U T H W E S T B A P T I S T U N I V E R S I T Y

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE ADMISSION | EARLY ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM (4+1 TRACK)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION *(Please Print)*

Date _____

Ms. Mr. Mrs. Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Maiden (former names) _____ Gender: M / F Home Phone (_____) _____ Mobile Phone (_____) _____

Work Phone (_____) _____ Date of Birth _____

Email _____

Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes No

TOEFL Score: _____

(Required if English is not your native language)

Race/Ethnicity:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
 Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 Caucasian

- Hispanic/Latino
 Asian
 Multi or Bi-racial
 Other _____

CURRENT ADDRESS

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Permanent Address (if different from above) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Employer _____ Position _____

Dates _____ Supervisor _____

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THIS GRADUATE PROGRAM?

SBU Website Online Advertisement Print Advertisement Professional Conference Promotional Material Friend Colleague Alumni

Admission policies and process are listed on page 4

Master of Arts in **CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

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APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE ADMISSION | EARLY ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM (4+1 TRACK)

Education: List ALL high schools, colleges, and/or universities attended in chronological order.

High schools/colleges/universities attended	Dates attended	Degree(s)	Major(s)	GPA

Are you currently an undergraduate student at Southwest Baptist University? Yes No

If Yes, how many hours of coursework have you completed? _____

What is your anticipated graduation date [month/year] from the undergraduate program [completion of your B.A. or B.S. degree]? _____

If No, please answer the following:

Are you currently applying to the undergraduate program at SBU? Yes No

[Note: Only current SBU undergraduates and those applying to the undergraduate program at SBU are eligible to apply to the Early Acceptance Program. All other applicants to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program should use the standard Application for Graduate Admission form.]

ACT [or SAT] score _____

Are you aware of any special assistance that you may need to complete the program? If so, please explain.

<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Signature of Applicant	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Date
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Send application to: Southwest Baptist University, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Program
Attn: Brittany Crow, Administrative Assistant ▪ 1600 University Avenue ▪ Bolivar, MO 65613

Master of Arts in CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

S O U T H W E S T B A P T I S T U N I V E R S I T Y

ADMISSION PROCESS

In order to be admitted to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Early Acceptance Program, you must submit the following materials:

1. Completed and signed Application for Graduate Admission (this form)
2. High school and/or university transcripts showing completed and current coursework
3. Graduate Admission Essay
4. Letters of Recommendation

Some individuals will also be required to submit the following:

5. TOEFL documentation (if English is not your native language)

Acceptance to the 4+1 track is a form of conditional admission to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program. In applying to the Early Acceptance Program, you may submit unofficial transcripts showing the coursework you have completed and the courses in which you are currently enrolled. All applicants who have completed less than 30 hours of undergraduate coursework should include high school transcripts in their application. The Graduate Admissions Committee will make conditional admissions to the Early Acceptance Program based on the evidence of these transcripts. However, full admission to the M.A. program requires the completion of all prerequisites, including the completion of a bachelor's degree. [See Graduate Catalog for further details.] Students on the 4+1 track must submit official transcripts showing the completion of all M.A. program prerequisites upon graduating from SBU's undergraduate program.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Use the provided Letter of Recommendation forms to secure three references from the following individuals: (i) your pastor or a mentor, (ii) one of your high school teachers or college professors, and (iii) a fellow member at your church. Complete the top portion of each form, making sure to indicate whether or not you waive your right to inspect the contents of the letter that will be written on your behalf. [Note: Although all Letters of Recommendation will be given due consideration, greater weight will be given to those for which the applicant has waived his/her right to view the contents.] After you fill out this section, give the Letter of Recommendation forms to your letter writers and ask them to follow the instructions on the form for its completion and return to the graduate program Admissions Committee.

In the spaces below, please provide the names of the three individuals who will be providing references for you as well as their relationship to you.

REFERENCE 1 _____

REFERENCE 2 _____

REFERENCE 3 _____

GRADUATE ADMISSION ESSAY

Compose an essay, approximately 1,000 – 1,500 words in length, addressing the questions below. Feel free to organize your answers however you wish (the questions do not need to be answered in order, for example) and to elaborate on whatever points you judge to be most important. Beyond the purpose of helping the Admissions Committee to understand more about you, this essay will be evaluated as a writing sample.

1. Give a brief description of your statement of faith, salvation experience, and call to ministry.
2. What are your long-range vocational goals, and in what ways do you expect these goals to be advanced by graduate study at SBU?
3. Are there any other reasons that you are interested in pursuing the M.A. degree in Christian Ministry at SBU, beyond the ones pertaining to vocational goals? If so, what are these reasons?

Send completed and signed Application for Graduate Admission (this form) and Graduate Admission Essay to the following address:

Southwest Baptist University
Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Program
Attn: Brittany Crow, Administrative Assistant
1600 University Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613

SBU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status in employment, admission, access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities, except to the extent permitted by religious exemptions recognized by law.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FORM

APPLICANT Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____

TO THE APPLICANT: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 extends to students the right to inspect their records, including letters of recommendation. While we shall consider all letters of recommendation carefully, we believe that in many instances letters written in confidence are of greater use in the assessment of a student's qualifications, abilities, and potential. Select only one of the following statements indicating waiver of right to inspect this letter of reference.

- I do waive my right to inspect the contents of the following recommendation and hereby inform referent that this letter will be kept strictly confidential.
- I do not waive my right to inspect the contents of the following recommendation after submission to SBU.

_____ Signature

TO THE EVALUATOR: The above named individual is applying for admission to the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Early Acceptance Program at Southwest Baptist University. Your assistance is requested to assist the Graduate Admissions Committee in the selection of applicants who are best qualified to continue their education in this field. You are asked to complete this form and supply any other helpful information regarding this individual based on your experience/history with him/her. If you require additional space, please attach a separate comment sheet.

Please rate the applicant on each of the following criteria relative to other individuals you have known in a similar capacity [e.g., other students you have taught, others you have mentored, etc.]. In regard to any trait for which you have not had the opportunity to observe the applicant to a significant degree, please check "Unable to Assess."

	Below Average (bottom 50%)	Above Average (top 50%)	Good (top 25%)	Very Good (top 10%)	Exceptional (top 5%)	Unable to Assess
Academic ability						
Commitment to learning						
Writing ability						
Speaking ability						
Openness to new ideas						
Receptivity to constructive feedback						
Creativity						
Critical thinking						
Ability to solve problems						
Ability to self-direct						
Ability to work with others						
Innovativeness						
Time management						
Ability to handle stress						
Interpersonal skills						
Professionalism						
Responsibility						
Work ethic						
Moral character						
Spiritual maturity						
Ministerial potential						

1. Do you believe this applicant is likely to succeed in a demanding graduate program? *Please explain your answer, along with any reservations you might have.*

2. Do you believe this applicant is likely to be effective in ministry? *Please explain your answer, along with any reservations you might have.*

3. What do you see as this applicant's greatest strengths? Weaknesses?

4. How long have you known this applicant? _____ years _____ months

5. In what capacity do you know this applicant? *(Check all that apply)*

- Current Teacher or Professor Former Teacher or Professor Current Pastor Former Pastor Current Mentor Former Mentor
- Member at the same church Other (explain): _____

6. Further comments (attach separate letter if needed):

Evaluator's name (please print or type) _____

Occupation or position _____

Address _____ Daytime phone number _____

EVALUATOR'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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