



St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary

P.O. Box 130, South Canaan, PA, 18459 • 570-561-1818 • applicants@stots.edu

Application for Admission

Applicant Name: _____

Program of study for which you are applying:

- Master of Divinity
- Other _____
- Other (Non-Matriculated)

In order to be considered as a candidate for admission, the applicant must submit to the Admissions Committee a completed and signed Application Form, together with the following documents and information:

- A recent photograph; send file as a jpg;
- A certified copy of the Record of Baptism and/or Chrismation;
- A completed Health Information Form and Immunization Record;
- Official academic transcripts of attained baccalaureate and/or graduate degrees. If the applicant is currently in the last semester of college, please send a current transcript at the time of application and a final transcript upon graduation indicating grades for the final semester and conferral of the academic degree. If the applicant has taken coursework at an institution of higher education but has not completed a degree program, the applicant should submit transcripts of the coursework completed at the postsecondary level.
- International students: please submit your latest TOEFL score(s) and Affidavit of Support (USCIS Form I-134; download at <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-134.pdf>. If you are an international student seeking to transfer, please submit the International Student Transfer Form;
- A letter of recommendation from your Bishop, sent directly to the Seminary;
- A letter of recommendation from each of your parish priests from the past five years, sent directly to the Seminary;
- A brief biographical essay (1-2 pp.), reflecting on your professional background and interests, as well as your reasons for application to the Seminary;
- A reflection (1.5-2 pp.) on one of the essays listed in question 39 of this application;
- Two additional Reference Forms from individuals who can knowledgeably discuss your personal background, academic, and/or vocational qualifications, to be sent directly to the Seminary; these must be from persons other than relatives;
- A non-refundable \$75 application fee;
- Submit all application materials to applicants@stots.edu.

The personal and academic information supplied by the applicant forms an essential part of the Application for Admission. Failure to make written disclosure of information solicited on this Application Form, or misrepresentation of information supplied, may result in denial of admission. If such omissions or misrepresentations come to light after admission to the seminary, and are reasonably believed to cast doubt upon the applicant's suitability for Seminary study, the seminary reserves the right to withdraw offer of admission to the seminary.

St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary provides its educational programs and services in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local non-discrimination laws. It is the prerogative of the seminary to determine which applicants will be admitted. The seminary administration reserves the right to determine the conditions under which seminarians and other students may continue in the seminary programs or be required to withdraw. Admission to the seminary, or successful fulfillment of seminary and course requirements, does not automatically constitute qualification or basis for ordination to the Holy Orders of the Orthodox Church. All ordination decisions, in accordance with Canon Law and practice, are made by the appropriate diocesan authority. Any existing canonical impediments to ordination, including those arising through marriage, should be discussed with the applicant's local diocesan bishop.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please type or print clearly.)

1. Applicant's Full Legal Name _____

2. Social Security Number or Passport Number (specify which) _____

3. Gender

- Male
 Female

4. Race/Ethnicity (Check all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
 Asian
 Black or African American
 Hispanic or Latino
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 White
 Two or more races
 Unknown

5. Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

6. Current Address (if different from above) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

7. Telephone (with area code) _____ E-mail _____

8. Place and Date of Birth

City, Country _____ Date _____

Citizenship _____ Visa Status (if not U.S. Citizen) _____

9. If you converted to Orthodoxy, prior to conversion, what religion, philosophy, or way of life did you follow? _____

II. MARITAL STATUS

10. Applicant

- Single (never married)
 Single (widowed or divorced)*
 Married (first marriage)
 Married (not first marriage)*

Applicant's Date of Baptism _____ Where Baptized _____

Applicant's Date of Chrismation _____ Where Chrismated _____

11. Applicant's Spouse

- Married (first marriage)
 Married (not first marriage)*

* Please note: If you or your spouse previously have been married, or if, at the time of application, you are widowed or divorced, please attach a separate sheet detailing the circumstances of any previous marriage, divorce, or death of spouse (or on the response page for question 37). Include date, location, and civil or ecclesiastical authority under which each previous marriage, death, or divorce were recognized. Full disclosure of your marital history and status are imperative for every applicant. Under Orthodox canon law, your marital status, or that of your spouse, may present an ecclesiastical impediment to ordination. These should be discussed with your Diocesan Bishop prior to your application to the seminary.

Spouse's Full Name _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Spouse's Religion _____

If Orthodox, indicate date and place of Baptism _____

If Orthodox, indicate date and place of Chrismation _____

12. Marriage

Name of Church or other location where marriage was performed _____

Date of Marriage _____

Check as applicable:

Civil ceremony

Religious ceremony

13. Children

Number of Children _____

Name _____ Date of Birth (month, day, year) _____

Name _____ Date of Birth (month, day, year) _____

Name _____ Date of Birth (month, day, year) _____

Name _____ Date of Birth (month, day, year) _____

Name _____ Date of Birth (month, day, year) _____

Name _____ Date of Birth (month, day, year) _____

III. ECCLESIASTICAL INFORMATION

14. Diocese _____ Diocesan Bishop's Name _____

15. Parish _____ Parish Location _____

16. Name of Parish Rector _____ Telephone _____

17. Parish Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

18. Tonsure and Ordination to Holy Orders

Reader Month, Day/Year _____ Location _____ Bishop _____

Subdeacon Month, Day/Year _____ Location _____ Bishop _____

Deacon Month, Day/Year _____ Location _____ Bishop _____

Priest Month, Day/Year _____ Location _____ Bishop _____

19. Church Ministry Experience

Church School Director

Church School Teacher

Church School Student

Parish Choir Director

Parish Choir Singer

Parish Choir Other

Parish Council Officer (indicate office) _____

Parish Council Other

Church Reader Tonsured

Church Reader Blessed

Church Reader Other

Altar Server blessed with orar

Altar Server Other

20. Please describe other church-related activities.

21. Do you have relatives who are involved in church-related work (clergy, educators, choir directors)? Please indicate name, family relationship, and type of church-related work.

IV. EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

22. List all educational institutions attended and degrees, diplomas, and certificates received.

Institution	Location	Major	Dates Attended (from-to)	Credential Awarded

- Check if you are seeking credit transfer or advanced standing. Explain on the response page for question 40. Indicate institution, credit hours, and subject(s). Include syllabi and academic bulletin(s) as necessary.

- Check if you are now or have previously been on academic probation and/or disciplinary probation. If so, please indicate circumstances on the response page for question 40.

23. Please indicate language proficiencies.

Language	Where Learned	Level of Proficiency		
		Reading	Writing	Conversation

24. Please list any special skills and other noteworthy achievement.

25. List work experience (teaching, business, other professional experience). Résumé optional.

Employer	Location	Duties	Dates	Paid	Volunteer
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. List publications, theses, awards, and creative work.

27. Have you ever served in the United States Armed Forces? If so, indicate branch of service, years served, service occupation, and highest rank achieved.

28. List any community, civil, national, or professional organizations and associations of which you are currently a member.

29. Are you a member of the Masons, a Masonic affiliate organization, or other secret society, including a college fraternity or sorority? Yes ___ No ___

30. Is your spouse a member of the Masons, a Masonic affiliate organization, or other secret society, including a college fraternity or sorority? Yes ___ No ___

V. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

31. Financial Responsibility Acknowledgement

Each student bears the primary responsibility for payment of student tuition and fees for each semester of enrollment at the seminary. This includes room and board for dorm students, any lunch plan for married students, and rent for married student housing. Payment for tuition and other fees is due upon receipt of the bill each semester. Academic credit will not be awarded for any semester for which tuition and fees remain unpaid.

Internal scholarships are not awarded in the first year of study. A limited number of scholarships may be available in the second and third years to eligible students enrolled full-time at the seminary based on demonstrated financial need. Scholarships may only be used toward tuition.

I have read and understand the above statement.

32. Title IV Acknowledgement

St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary does not receive Title IV funding from the U.S. government. Therefore, VA benefits cannot be used for/applied to tuition, etc. Please do not let this be a hindrance to your application.

I have read and understand the above statement.

33. How do you plan to finance your seminary education? Please check all that apply, and explain if necessary.

- Personal Savings Personal employment Spouse's employment External scholarships (list source)
- Loans (list source) Family support Parish support Other (list)
-
-

34. Do you have outstanding educational loans? (List.)

35. Total amount of outstanding educational debt _____

36. Total amount of outstanding consumer debt _____

37. List names and titles of those who will supply your references.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

38. Biographical Statement of Professional Plans and Goals

Write a brief biographical statement (1-2 pp.) indicating your reasons for application to the Seminary as well as reflecting on your professional background and interests. The quality of your statement may be of critical importance to the success of your application for admission. Submit in MicroSoft Word format.

39. Essay Reflection

Read one of the following essays. These are samples of materials one might read in seminary. Write a reflection on the chosen essay. Submit in Word with the following parameters: 1.5 - 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins. This is an opportunity for a formal writing sample. This reflection should represent entirely your own work and thoughts.

- Pevear, R. and Volokhonsky, L. (trans.) (2003). The Second Gospel Commandment. *In Mother Maria Skobtsova: Essential Writings* (pp. 45-60). Orbis Books.
- Schmemmann, Alexander (1973). And Ye Are Witnesses of These Things. *In For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy* (pp. 107-113). St. Vladimir's Press.
- [Archbishop Ambrosius \(1902\). Every Christian is called to be a Missionary. Russian American Orthodox Messenger, September, 297-306. \(PDF\)](#)

40. Statement of Exceptional Circumstances

On the next page, indicate any personal information that may help the Admissions Committee interpret and evaluate your academic history and/or your academic credentials.

Please read and sign the following:

I understand that St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary will create a student record in my name and that admissions personnel will have access to this student record. I also understand that withholding information requested or giving false information may make me ineligible for admission to the Seminary and subject to dismissal. With this in mind, I certify that the above statements, to the best of my knowledge and belief, are correct and complete; and if admitted, I agree to abide by the published policies, rules and regulations of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. I further understand that from the time I file my application with the Seminary, it is my responsibility to know all the rules, requirements, and exemptions for my intended program of study. In the event that I am not admitted into the program of study for which I hereby apply, I understand that I will not be entitled to any tuition refund for any courses taken while my application is under consideration.

Signature

Date