



Andover Newton
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS WITHOUT A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

In accordance with Andover Newton's accrediting body, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the school may accept a limited number of students without a baccalaureate degree into the Master of Divinity (MDIV) and Master of Religious Education (MARE) programs each fall semester. In order for Andover Newton to stay within the ATS guidelines, no more than 10% of the students enrolled in either of these programs may fall into this non-baccalaureate category.

The selection process is highly competitive because there are a limited number of openings. Please note that the Admissions Committee will be looking for evidence of ministerial competence (leadership and proven aptitude and gifts for ministry), and professional competence (leadership, initiative and reliability in the workplace.)

If you have not completed a bachelor's degree, please consider Andover Newton's requirements and criteria for these openings:

You must submit the following:

1. A completed degree application file, including application form, application fee, all official transcripts, reflections essay, and 3 letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a pastor or church official.
2. An additional letter of recommendation from your Judicatory*, which must include acknowledgment that you do not have a completed Bachelor's degree. See back for a sample letter. (This letter is not necessary for Master of Religious Education candidates.)

*Judicatory means the church or denominational body that is responsible for dealing with matters of ordination, discipline, etc. The judicatory should be contacted as soon as possible, in order to allow time for them to receive your materials and deliberate about your candidacy. Your local pastor should be able to assist you in contacting the appropriate judicatory body.

3. An additional 3 to 5 page paper which comments on or analyzes another piece of writing (such as an article in which an argument is made, a newspaper editorial, a review of a book.) The topic of your paper may be any issue, problem or question that is important to you. This writing sample is designed to demonstrate your ability to think critically and write analytically. Please do not submit a sermon.

Please note:

You must be at least 35 years old, and generally you should have completed at least 40 credit hours of college level liberal arts studies and have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

The deadline for completed applications for non-baccalaureate candidates is April 1. Applications are considered for the fall semester only. The Admissions Committee will evaluate all completed files competitively and notify applicants of admissions decisions by mid-June. **If you have further questions, please contact us at: 617-964-1100 or 800-964-2687 ext. 2430 or admissions@ants.edu.**

Thank you for your interest!

Official Letterhead

SAMPLE JUDICATORY LETTER

Date

Admissions Office
Andover Newton Theological School
210 Herrick Road
Newton Centre, MA 02459-2243

To the Admissions Committee:

Sample Statement of Endorsement:

As [Associate Conference Minister] for the [Conference Name & Denomination], I recommend [Jane or John Doe] for admission into the Master of Divinity Program at Andover Newton as a candidate without a baccalaureate degree. The [conference] supports [Jane/John] in pursuing ordination within our denomination without a Bachelor's degree.

Sample Description of Candidate:

[Jane/John] is a very intelligent and energetic person whose curiosity and desire for learning have moved her/him to take many college level courses, but whose family and job demands have precluded pursuing a degree. S/he is a person who has grown and continues to grow in faith.

Sample Description of Meeting with Candidate re: Educational Plan:

[Jane/John] has outlined to me a plan that, although difficult, seems reasonable and doable for completing the work of the Master of Divinity degree. I believe s/he will be an asset to the school and to the Church.

Faithfully Yours,

Name
Position within denomination