

 Hellenic College 

 HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY 

Department of Spiritual Formation and Counseling Services

**Seminarian Program
Information & Application Packet**



Seminarian Program

Thank you for your interest in the Seminarian Program. Students entering Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology as prospective seminarians freely agree to follow the School's requirements and guidelines pertaining to priestly training and spiritual formation as directed by the appropriate offices. This all-encompassing program is used to look for indicators of healthy behaviors and true desire for ministry in the church. While quantity of seminarians is desired, the quality of seminarians is much more vital in the church today.

Acceptance to the Seminarian Program will be granted to a prospective seminarian upon the completion of his first year after matriculation into the seminary. When students apply to the Seminarian Program of HC/HC they are required to fulfill a series of prerequisites and participate in various assessments. The enclosed checklist details these items and gives a timeline for completion. Only after these items are completed are candidates invited to submit their applications for consideration.

The student's first year is devoted to application, evaluation, and beginning of the discernment process moving toward the Seminarian Program. The evaluation is a holistic assessment from both spiritual and psychological perspectives. This information is then shared with the appropriate seminary program staff. From this information one's strengths and areas of growth are indicated for the Seminary program.

Throughout their formation process seminarians participate in a variety of activities that promote development and provide continuing evaluation and feedback. A one-on-one relationship is developed with a spiritual father who guides and challenges the seminarian toward quality formation experiences. The seminarian also meets with the Pastoral and Psychological Care Directors each semester. In these encounters the seminarian addresses many life and formation issues.

During this formation period the seminarian is annually asked to compile a list of goals and objectives that will be key aspects of his formation for that year. These goals and objectives are then used to evaluate the seminarian's growth and potential for ministry. The seminarian is evaluated various times throughout the year and a formal evaluation is held in the spring of each year with the seminary program staff, the seminarian and the Program Directors. It is during these evaluations that decisions are made pertaining to the seminarian's future formation.

We are here to guide and support your preparation for church ministry and we hope and pray for your development in this program.

Program Application Checklist

Application to our Seminarian Program usually follows the steps listed below. Each step is part of the discernment process. Each step gives you an opportunity to look more closely at your vocational choices and opportunities.

All those interested in entering the Seminarian Program are expected to fulfill the following:

Attend Program Orientation with Psychological and Pastoral Care Directors	New Student Orientation
Confirm letters of endorsement from Hierarch and Parish Priest have been received by the Admissions Office	At Admission to Degree Program
Complete Seminarian Program Application	By September 14 th
Complete Psychological Assessment [Contact Assessment Provider by October 31 st]	By Last Day of Classes – Fall Semester
Complete Spiritual Assessment [Contact Assessment Provider by October 31 st]	By Last Day of Classes – Fall Semester
Select Spiritual Father & Advise Program Administrator	By October 31 st

When these items are completed please contact the Program Administrator. Then your folder will be forwarded to the President who will decide your admission into the Seminarian Program. The President and the Advisory Board will evaluate your folder as well as your performance during this first year. All applicants will be informed of the President's decision by the end of the Spring Semester. Please note that your file needs to be complete before the President can consider your application to the Seminarian Program. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Program Administrator.

Seminarian Program Expectations & Chronology

Preparation for ministry is an on-going process. The HC/HC community is committed to your preparation by providing you with a variety of opportunities to grow and develop as you respond to the call to ministry. This is a chronological overview of the formation process:

Year 1 – Application to the Seminarian Program

Fall Semester

Program Orientation

Seminarian Program Application

Spiritual & Psychological Assessment and Feedback Meeting

Spiritual Father selection

Altar Group Participation

Chanting Group Participation

Diakonia Participation

Chapel Services Attendance and Active Participation

Active Participation in Other Community-wide Religious, Academic, and Cultural Events

Spring Semester

Spiritual Father Contact (at least 3 times per semester)

Altar Group Participation

Chanting Group Participation

Diakonia Participation

Chapel Services Attendance and Active Participation

Active Participation in Other Community-wide Religious, Academic, and Cultural Events

Feedback Session (by President and designees) – informed of application decision; review of first year and planning of goals and objectives for next year.

Year 2 – Seminarian Program

Fall Semester

Spiritual Father Contact (at least 3 times per semester)

Chanting Group Participation

Diakonia Participation

Chapel Services Attendance and Active Participation

Active Participation in Other Community-wide Religious, Academic, and Cultural Events

Spring Semester

Spiritual Father Contact (at least 3 times per semester)

Chanting Group Participation

Diakonia Participation

Chapel Services Attendance and Active Participation

Active Participation in Other Community-wide Religious, Academic, and Cultural Events

Program Feedback Session – review of last year and planning of goals and objectives for next year.

Year 3 – Seminarian Program

Fall Semester

Interview: Religious Status Interview

Vocational Assessment (complete Profiles of Ministry assessment)

Spiritual Father Contact (at least 3 times per semester)

Chanting Group Participation

Diakonia Participation

Chapel Services Attendance and Active Participation

Active Participation in Other Community-wide Religious, Academic, and Cultural Events

Spring Semester

Vocational Exploration (group discussion based on Profiles of Ministry assessment)

Spiritual Father Contact (at least 3 times per semester)

Chanting Group Participation

Diakonia Participation

Chapel Services Attendance and Active Participation

Active Participation in Other Community-wide Religious, Academic, and Cultural Events

Program Feedback Session – review of last year, planning of goals and objectives for next year, exploration of post-graduation plans.

Year 4 – Seminarian Program

Fall Semester

Casebook Response: Vignettes, Short Stories, and Verbatims

Spiritual Father Contact (at least 3 times per semester)

Chanting Group Participation

Diakonia Participation

Chapel Services Attendance and Active Participation

Active Participation in Other Community-wide Religious, Academic, and Cultural Events

Spring Semester

Spiritual Father Contact (at least 3 times per semester)

Chanting Group Participation

Diakonia Participation

Chapel Services Attendance and Active Participation

Active Participation in Other Community-wide Religious, Academic, and Cultural Events

Final Program Feedback Session – review of entire program and final exploration of post-graduation goals and objectives

Seminarian Program Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Local Address: _____

Local Phone: _____

Student Status: Hellenic College Holy Cross

Current Year: 1st Year 2nd Year 3rd Year 4th Year

Degree Program: _____

Applying for Seminarian Program beginning Fall _____
Year

Please submit a personal statement, clearly and concisely written that describes why you are applying for the Seminarian program. Please describe (a) persons, experiences, and other influences which have inspired your move toward an Orthodox Christian priestly vocation; (b) your concept of the character, purpose, and possibilities of the Orthodox Christian ministry; (c) your sense of commitment to the Christian faith and vocation (include any present uncertainties); and (d) your understanding of personal spiritual formation and development.

Additionally, please sign below to authorize that a copy of your academic application and the results of your academic application interview be sent to the Program Administrator and added to your application for admission to the Seminarian Program.

Applicant's Signature

Date