

Procedures for Persons Seeking EMC Credentials

- All credential candidates must meet with a Conference Superintendent for an initial interview and evaluation.
- Upon the recommendation of the Conference Superintendent, a credential candidate may complete and submit an “Application for Ministry” (the Superintendent will provide the link to the online application and background check release form). Additionally, the Superintendent will ask the candidate to submit any official college or seminary transcripts to the EMC’s General Secretary who will make them available to the General Board of Ministerial Education.
- If approved, the Conference Superintendent signs and submits the application to the chairperson of the EMC’s General Board of Ministerial Relations (GBMR).
- The GBMR Chair will initiate a background investigation on all credential candidates.
- With a clear background check the GBMR Chair will contact the candidate regarding a formal interview with the entire General Board of Ministerial Relations. (If the background check reveals something that would preclude the applicant moving forward, the GBMR Chair will treat that information confidentially, and communicate a decline of their application to the applicant and the Conference Superintendent.
- Upon the recommendation of the General Board of Ministerial Relations the candidate may be referred to the General Board of Ministerial Education to enroll in the Haggard School of Ministry (HSOM) and/or the Evangelical School of Ministry (ESOM) should they need additional ministerial education, or be approved for “Admission on Trial” status. If needed, The Academic Dean of the appropriate school will secure an enrollment application.
- Credential candidates admitted to either HSOM or ESOM will complete the required courses for the particular credential sought (Deacon/Deaconess, Local Preacher, Elder).
- The educational path for credential candidates without a bachelor’s degree can be as short as one year (Deacon/Deaconess) or as long as five years (Elder).
- The Haggard School of Ministry prepares candidates without bachelor’s degrees in ministerial related resident and non-resident courses. The completion of HSOM fulfills the requirements for Local Preachers License, which is a status that may be renewed annually by approval of the local church and GBMR, or the candidate may choose to pursue Elder’s Orders.
- The Haggard School of Ministry (HSOM) and Evangelical School of ministry (ESOM) replace our former Course of Study. ESOM prepares candidates for Elders Orders who have completed either HSOM or hold a bachelor’s degree in a ministry related field.
- Credential candidates with degrees from non-recognized EMC colleges or seminaries may be asked to attend specific classes in HSOM or ESOM. All ministerial candidates must attend an introductory course (This is the EMC) regardless of their placement.
- **Transfers:** The Discipline of the Evangelical Methodist Church explains the procedures for ministerial transfers. See chapter 6: “Receiving Ministers from Other Churches.”