

## >>> GENERAL INFORMATION

---

### *Note of special importance about this catalog.*

The catalog is not a contract between students and/or applicants and Asbury Theological Seminary. The Seminary reserves the right to revise it and policies derived from it as it deems appropriate.

Consistent with the requirements and options under applicable law, the Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, physical impairment or gender. The Seminary, however, does reserve the right to make admission, employment and degree conferral decisions on the basis of those principles and beliefs set forth in the Ethos Statement and Statement of Faith. Each student, as a condition of entering the Seminary, represents that he or she has read and understands the Ethos Statement, Statement of Educational Mission, and Statement of Faith and further understands that remaining a student of the Seminary or having a degree conferred by the Seminary is dependent upon compliance with the Ethos Statement and Statement of Faith.

### **STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MISSION**

Asbury Theological Seminary was founded “to prepare and send forth a well-trained, sanctified, Spirit-filled, evangelistic ministry” to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world. The contemporary form of this mission commits the Seminary to maintain a multid denominational, multicultural community which:

1. Pursues the union of sound learning and vital piety through excellence in graduate, professional and continuing studies for ordained and lay ministries, and provides resources for scholarly leadership in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition;
2. Nurtures men and women called of God for parish ministry and other forms of servant leadership in the experience and practice of personal and social holiness as defined by Scripture and Wesleyan theology;
3. Encourages its members, in their teaching, scholarship and service, to live out the witness of a Spirit-filled life formed by the authority of Scripture; and
4. Prepares women and men for prophetic ministries of redemption and renewal in an increasingly urbanized and secularized world.

### **EDUCATIONAL ASSUMPTIONS**

The Christian faith rests on the personal self-revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Therefore, the philosophy of education at Asbury begins with the Christian faith which centers in God, as revealed in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and as witnessed in the Holy Scriptures by the Holy Spirit.

Asbury Seminary, founded upon and committed to a vital evangelical Christian faith, finds its roots in the Wesleyan-Arminian theological tradition which is summarized in the Articles of Incorporation and in the Statement of Faith. The trustees, officers of administration and faculty members are committed to a style of education in which this faith will permeate all the work and instruction of the Seminary. The theological, ethical and social commitments of the Seminary provide the foundation for its instruction and life. The institution purposes to assist students to grow intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually in their lifetime quest of becoming and doing all that God intends.

In general, atheological seminary is an institution of higher learning composed of scholarly teachers, leaders and students dedicated to truth. In the search for truth, the faculty at Asbury Seminary affirms the following guidelines: Scripture, reason, experience and tradition. Learning and growth take place in an atmosphere of love, caring, faith and obedience to God. In this sense, the seminary is the Church at work in the education of its clergy and leaders. The theological seminary serves the same Lord as other parts of the Church, and it makes the same general commitments as any other part of the Body of Christ. The theological seminary, however, seeks to make its central contributions in keeping with its character as an educational institution.

While Asbury Seminary stands within the Wesleyan tradition and holds to a clearly defined statement of faith, the faculty is committed to academic freedom. Central to all academic work at the Seminary are two commitments: the first to Jesus Christ as sovereign Lord and the second to the pursuit of truth as a corporate and personal vocation. Faculty members and students are encouraged to carry on research, lecturing and publishing that reflect a growing knowledge of God and a widening awareness of truth. The faculty members are committed to the objective study and discussion of all theological opinions, and the Seminary regards liberty of conscience as an important dimension of theological and personal integrity.

#### **COMMITMENTS TO THE STUDENT**

Asbury Seminary takes the position that God calls to His ministry men and women renewed by faith in Christ and set apart for Christian service by a divine call. God empowers them in their work and guides them into the pastorate, missions, evangelism, teaching, the chaplaincy, Christian education, music, staff ministries, social work, counseling, campus ministries, youth ministries, administration and other forms of Christian leadership. The major objective of Asbury Seminary is to help facilitate the preparation of men and women called by God to such forms of Christian ministry.

The Seminary includes several important dimensions in its curriculum, program and ministry to students. The first commitment Asbury makes to the student is to provide a spiritual education. Persons are essentially spiritual beings and the primary thrust of Christian ministry is spiritual. Therefore, the process of spiritual formation constitutes an intentional part of the Seminary's program. Asbury stresses the development of spiritual devotion through regular chapels, prayer services, classes, special lectures, spiritual formation groups, counseling and periodic calls to dedication and service to others.

Second, Asbury commits itself to balanced preparation for ministry. Ministry in the contemporary age requires a holistic development of the entire person. The Seminary stresses a balanced emphasis on both the personal and social factors in student life. Attention is given to fostering emotional and intellectual maturity. Students are provided spiritual and emotional support so they may gain a better understanding of themselves, their personal growth opportunities, their unique potential, their callings and their relationships with others. Since Scripture constitutes the final authority for faith and life, stress is placed upon the application of the biblical norms of love and justice in human concourse. This regard for social justice takes the following forms:

1. Inclusion of women and minorities on the faculty and the development of ministries to specific social needs;
2. Admission of qualified students from every continent and from diverse nations and ethnic backgrounds, and enhanced intercultural understanding among all members of the Seminary community;
3. Opportunities for field education, internship and Christian ministry in both urban and rural settings; and
4. The continuing pursuit of a biblical ethic to shape the relationships between social action and spiritual formation.

In all aspects of human life, the Seminary seeks to introduce students to a range of responsible options and to help them develop a balanced approach to ministry.

Third, the Seminary is dedicated to professional preparation for Christian service. The Seminary takes the view that its program is one of graduate education and preparation for the practice of ministry. Scholarship, honest inquiry and a high standard of academic excellence are considered vital to professional readiness for fulfilling God's call in one's life. The Seminary offers a full-orbed program which covers all of the significant theological disciplines. The trustees and faculty are intentionally committed to achieving and supporting the highest academic standards. In order to maintain this commitment, the Seminary includes the following components in its instructional design:

1. Commitment to flexibility in curriculum planning so as to allow for innovation, change and growth;
2. Encouragement to use a variety of teaching models;
3. Support of faculty professional development through travel, research, conferences and publication; and
4. Careful feedback and evaluation through student and faculty participation.

Fourth, Asbury emphasizes ecumenical theological education. Asbury hosts students from a large number of denominations and takes seriously the apostolic description of the Church as one body with many members. Students are encouraged to work within their own denominations, and the Seminary encourages loyalty to one's parent denomination. At the same time, students are urged to work cooperatively with Christians from theological traditions other than their own. While the Seminary is committed to a Wesleyan-Arminian theological position, the Seminary believes that enormous treasures can be gained from a variety of traditions. Therefore, careful study and respectful attention is given to every serious theological development that emerges from the life of the Church in worship and service. The Seminary is committed to assisting the various denominations and local congregations that comprise its constituency. In order to serve the larger Church, the Seminary program includes the following emphases:

1. Faculty research designed to understand and evaluate current trends in the Church and society;
2. Continuing education events to meet present and future needs of clergy and laity;
3. Mentored ministry experiences for students and faculty; and
4. Dialogue with denominational leaders and outstanding Christian thinkers from around the world.

Finally, the Seminary commits itself to personal theological education. Students are helped to discover and develop their own spiritual gifts and individual talents. Through the Counseling Resource Center under the direction of the director of student life, opportunities for counseling both on and off campus are coordinated for those students with special needs and concerns. The curriculum is structured with some flexibility and a number of free elective hours to enable students to develop a degree plan that best prepares them for career goals. Asbury is dedicated to helping students in their preparation for Christian service by equipping them to lead others toward maturity and effective ministry to the world.

Asbury affirms the role of women in ministry, including the ordained ministry. Thus, the Seminary aims to create a climate in which women are encouraged in their progress toward professional ministry goals and enabled in their spiritual development toward effective ministry.

**ETHOS STATEMENT**

The Asbury community is a family of believers who have committed themselves to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. They seek to live out this commitment in lives of sanctity, both personal and social. As servants of Christ and as ministers to one another, students, faculty, staff and administrators seek to develop relationships in mutual respect. They exercise their individual and collective responsibilities within the policies and structures which make it possible for the whole institution to fulfill its ministry.

Out of these common commitments they seek to witness to authentic Christian discipleship by living with each other and with the world in integrity, purity and love. Through their common life together, in classes, in study, in chapel services, at meals, in small-group sharing, in prayer and other scheduled activities, they encourage one another to find wholeness in Christ and readiness for ministry in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition.

The Asbury community expects its witness to society today will include personal commitment against prevailing moral laxity by not participating in, advocating, supporting or condoning sexual relationships outside of marriage or homosexual practices, since these are contrary to Scripture and Christian tradition, and by refraining from the use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and tobacco. This commitment will also show itself in sincere efforts to minister redemptively on behalf of Christ in every human relationship and societal structure.

**HISTORICAL STATEMENT**

In 1923 several members of the faculty of Asbury College met with President Henry Clay Morrison to discuss the matter of evangelical theological education. Growing out of a recognition of the need for a graduate theological seminary committed to the historic Wesleyan interpretation of evangelical Christianity, plans were made for the organization of Asbury Theological Seminary.

Asbury Seminary was officially opened in the fall of 1923. From 1923 to 1931 the Seminary was an integral part of Asbury College. In 1931 articles of incorporation were drawn up and the Seminary became a separate educational unit. In 1939 the Seminary moved to its present campus. Since 1941 Asbury Seminary has been an independent administrative unit, completely separate from any other institution.

Dr. Henry Clay Morrison, long-time president of Asbury College, was the guiding spirit of the entire movement. In addition to being the founder, Dr. Morrison became the first president of Asbury Seminary, serving until his death in 1942.

Dr. Julian C. McPheeters succeeded Dr. Morrison as president of the Seminary and served until his retirement in 1962.

Dr. Frank Bateman Stanger became the third president of the Seminary on commencement night, 1962. He served in this executive capacity for 20 years, officially retiring May 31, 1982.

In July 1982, Dr. David L. McKenna became the Seminary's fourth president and served with distinction until his retirement on July 1, 1994.

On July 1, 1994, Dr. Maxie D. Dunnam assumed the presidency of the Seminary. During the spring of 2003, Dr. Dunnam announced his retirement from Asbury Seminary. He was elected chancellor and began this new role June 1, 2004.

Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway began his term as the sixth president of Asbury Theological Seminary on July 1, 2004. Dr. Greenway began his presidency after having served as a pastor and District Superintendent of the Pittsburgh East District of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. He resigned in October 2006.

Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, former dean of the Beeson International Center and current professor of preaching, is serving as the acting president during the interim period.

**ACCREDITATION**

Asbury Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA; telephone: 404-679-4501) to award master's and doctor's degrees. It is an accredited member of The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (TATS) and is approved by The University Senate of The United Methodist Church.

Asbury Theological Seminary does not, within the context of its religious principles, its heritage, its mission and its goals, discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, physical impairment or gender in administration of its admission policies, educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic or other school-administered programs.

The Seminary is authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.

**LOCATIONS: KENTUCKY, FLORIDA AND VIRTUAL**

**Wilmore, Ky.:** Asbury Seminary's Kentucky campus is located 16 miles south of Lexington, at 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390.

The Kentucky campus offers the following degrees: certificate in Christian studies, master of arts (biblical studies specialization, theological studies specialization) master of arts in Christian education, Christian leadership, Christian ministries, counseling, pastoral counseling, intercultural studies, world mission and evangelism, and youth ministry, master of divinity, master of theology (biblical studies, world mission and evangelism), doctor of ministry (Beeson pastor program, Beeson international leaders, in-ministry), doctor of missiology, doctor of philosophy in intercultural studies.

**Orlando, Fla.:** Located in the heart of Orlando, Fla., Asbury Theological Seminary operates at 8401 Valencia College Lane. The Florida campus is accredited to offer the master of divinity, the master of arts in Christian ministries degrees, the master of arts in counseling, the master of arts in pastoral counseling and the certificate in Christian studies. Students on the Florida campus may take courses toward the Seminary's master of arts programs (biblical studies specialization, theological studies specialization), Christian education, Christian leadership, world missions and evangelism, and youth ministry. Also located on the Florida campus is the Latino/Latina Studies Program (LLSP). It offers a Certification in Advanced Theological Studies and an opportunity to specialize in 6 different areas of ministry. The three-year curriculum was designed to provide theological education in Spanish and also from a Hispanic perspective. Areas of specialization include theology, pastoral studies, missions and evangelism, leadership, and worship.

**Virtual Campus:** Asbury Seminary's Virtual campus is located on the worldwide web at [www.asburyseminary.edu/virtual/](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/virtual/), and services graduate degree programs of the Seminary. Students taking Extended Learning courses can earn the certificate of Christian studies, earn up to two-thirds of the master of divinity degree, or up to one-half of a master of arts degree online.

Asbury Online Institute (AOI) is an online experience of Asbury Seminary that allows current students, as well as ministers, missionaries, lay and church professionals to sharpen their ministry skills and to be connected to valuable resources on the worldwide web. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are optional and can be customized with topics that interest individuals. To learn more about AOI and its offerings from leading ministry-related periodicals, visit our site at [www.aoi.edu](http://www.aoi.edu).

**INTERDENOMINATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Asbury Theological Seminary is an interdenominational graduate school of theology. Members of eight Protestant denominations serve on the faculty. The student body represents nearly 90 denominations. Alumni of the Seminary serve around the world in 66 foreign countries, more than 137 denominations, all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and in 22 out of 24 time zones.

Asbury Seminary is approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church for the preparation of ministers for the denomination.

In its relationship to the various denominations it serves, Asbury recognizes the validity of the foundation principle. A denomination, in accordance with the terms of an agreement with Asbury, is entitled to establish a denominational foundation at the Seminary to care for the continuing spiritual life of student-members of that denomination and to give them denominational instruction. The general purpose of a denominational foundation is to guarantee the identity and integrity of a denomination whose students are being served by the Seminary.

The agreement establishing a denominational foundation states that, though each foundation is granted autonomy in its program and is independent of the Seminary's administration, all the activities of the foundation must be kept within the spirit and practice of Asbury. It is also agreed that a foundation shall hold no vested interests in the property or corporate holdings of Asbury Seminary and that no Seminary funds are to be invested in a denominational foundation.

Asbury Seminary likewise agrees that adequate courses in the polity and history of the denomination shall be provided in the curriculum. At present there are two denominational foundations serving the Seminary: the John Wesley Seminary Foundation of the Free Methodist Church and the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation of The Wesleyan Church.

Asbury Seminary holds institutional memberships in the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and the Christian Holiness Association (CHA), is a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), and is a member of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities.

**ASBURY FOUNDATION FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION, INC.**

The Asbury Foundation for Theological Education, Inc., is a separate, but wholly owned subsidiary of Asbury Theological Seminary. It was established to help advance the ministry and mission of Asbury Seminary. It exists to help friends, donors and alumni benefit Asbury Seminary and other charitable interests in the most effective and efficient way possible. It employs the techniques of financial, estate and gift planning to help fulfill the goals of individuals seeking to support the Seminary, their church, other benevolent interests, and the financial futures of themselves and their loved ones.

The Asbury Foundation supports all the programs of Asbury Theological Seminary, whether on the Kentucky, Florida, or Virtual campuses.

**SEMINARY WEBSITES**

[www.asburyseminary.edu](http://www.asburyseminary.edu)  
[www.aoi.edu](http://www.aoi.edu)  
[www.doctorofministry.org](http://www.doctorofministry.org)  
[www.asburyblog.net](http://www.asburyblog.net)

