

The New Jersey School for Ministry

Frequently Asked Questions



Formation through the School for Ministry... what does it look like?

The School for Ministry is designed as a three-year program. Four academic sessions are offered each year. Our Fall 2022 begins after Labor Day and continues to late October. The Winter session begins the first week in December and continues to late February. Spring 2023 runs mid-March to late May. The Summer 2023 session runs from mid-June to mid-August.

Four courses will be offered in the Fall 2022 session, two on Saturday, one on Wednesday morning, and one on Monday evening. The full schedule of courses for the 2022-23 year will be available soon.

Beyond academics, students gather for two-day weekends three times each year. These Gathering Weekends are spiritually and communally formative. We share our lives; we explore varied forms of prayer; and we develop practical skills for ministry. Through it all, we build strong bonds with each other.

Students take on a variety of leadership roles and ministry experiences. Students regularly participate in and lead daily online Morning Prayer and Evening Worship. Those moving toward the diaconate or priesthood are assigned to parish internships. Through it all, we build strong bonds and enduring friendships.

What should I expect if I enter the School for Ministry?

Expect to find energy and joy. Expect to be challenged. Expect to make friends who will share your vision, colleagues who will equally count on you and support you. With these companions you will form deep bonds - the kind forged by shared prayer experiences and by the challenge of grappling with scripture, history, theology, and Episcopal identity. You may or may not become the kind of vessel you envisioned at the start, but - if you have been open to the possibilities - expect that God will continually transform you for leadership and service amidst God's people.

Can students enter the School at any time?

New students enter the School for Ministry at the beginning of each session. Those who wish to register for classes in the Fall 2022 session must submit an application by August 25th. Applications are available online at <https://dioceseofnj.org/school-for-ministry/>

Each year, a single day Re-Orientation Day is held before the Fall Session. The 2022 Fall Orientation Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 27th and will be held online.

How demanding is the course work?

Students must complete the assigned readings for each course weekly. Sometimes classes require students to listen to a recorded lecture before a class session. Most courses require students to contribute to online discussion boards in advance of each class. All students complete a 2-page reflection at the end of each course. At the conclusion of each course, students who hope to journey toward ordained ministry must also complete a substantive project that demonstrates the competencies required in the subject area by the canons that govern ordination.

Do I have to be great with technology to manage classes?

You do not need to be a techno-wizard to study in the School for Ministry. You simply need to be willing to learn how to successfully participate in online learning. The students with more experience using technology are always willing to help those for whom online learning is newer.

What can you say about the students in the School?

We are a bit of a motley crew. The Fall 2022 cohort is expected to consist of 8 – 15 students from across the diocese. We range from youngish to “more seasoned” in age and experience. Some of us are retired, some of us wish we were retired, and some of us love the secular work we do. We participate actively in our churches. We work in our communities, helping when and where and in what manner it is needed. We run a wide gamut of secular professions. We are all followers of the Lord. We are all lovers of God’s people. We are all passionate about servant-leadership.

How much does study in the School for Ministry costs?

Tuition for each course is \$200 and is billed at the time of course registration. Most students take 8 courses per year, incurring a \$1600 annual tuition expense. Limited financial aid may be available. Students incur a Technology Fee of \$7 per month, billed quarterly (September, December, March, and June). The costs of course books, Gathering Weekends, and Clinical Pastoral Education are additional, though every effort is made to keep these expenses as reasonable as possible.

What is the schedule of upcoming Episcopal Servant Ministry seminars?

Each seminar consists of 3 sessions. Participants must attend all 3 sessions. Registration for each seminar is limited to 12. We are presently finalizing the seminar dates for September 2022 - August 2023. If you would like to receive an email with the dates once they are finalized, please email us at njschoolforministry@gmail.com.

Can I audit a course without signing on for a full 3-year program?

Of course! Simply complete the Application for Admission and choose “Audit” as your program of choice.

I want to register for courses. What should I do?

To register for courses, you must first complete and submit the Application for Admission found under “Resources” at <https://dioceseofnj.org/school-for-ministry/>

I still have questions. How do I get answers?

You are welcome to email njschoolforministry@gmail.com with any other questions.