



ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY 10707 • www.svots.edu • 914.961.8313 • fax 914.961.4507

Application Instructions 2012-2013

"We cannot become like God unless we have knowledge of Him, and without lessons, there will be no knowledge"

– St Basil the Great

"The work of the Priesthood is done on earth, but it is ranked among the heavenly ordinances."

–St John Chrysostom

Thank you for your interest in becoming a student at St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Below you will find instructions for completing your application. If you encounter any problems, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Admissions at 914.961.8313, ext. 328 (admissions@svots.edu).

Before you get started, here are a few suggestions:

- Seek the advice of your pastor and others whom you trust to help you discern whether seminary is the right educational and vocational path for you. For those of you applying to the MDiv program, keep in mind that we will expect a blessing from your bishop, as well as a recommendation from your parish priest.
- Apply as early as possible (see application deadlines below).
- Request transcripts and letters of recommendation early.
- Make a copy of your application, and ask references to keep copies of their letters of recommendation.
- Allow enough time for application materials to arrive by mail (up to 10 days in the US, 4 weeks overseas).

All Degree Applicants. In addition to the completed and signed application form, you must submit a \$60 application fee, a recent photograph (full face, preferably 2 ½" x 2 ½", electronic submissions acceptable), a copy of your Baptism/Chrismation certificate, and a personal essay (as outlined on page 6 of the application). Three recommendations (one of which is from your pastor) and official transcripts from each graduate or undergraduate institution you attended must be sent directly to the seminary by the recommending individuals and educational institutions. Recommendation forms may be found appended to this application form. In addition, personal interviews are required of all applicants. To arrange your interviews, please contact the Director of Admissions at 914.961.8313 ext. 328 (admissions@svots.edu).

All degree applicants must undergo a criminal background check. Once an applicant has submitted all of the required application material, and the Admissions Committee has acted positively on their application, the Director of Admissions will forward to the provisionally admitted applicant information on how to secure this background check. The cost of the background check is included in the application fee.

The application fee may be paid either by personal check (made payable to “St. Vladimir’s Seminary”) or by credit card (please contact the Student Affairs Administrator, ext. 323).

MDiv Applicants. If you are applying to the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program, you must submit an additional essay, as outlined on page 6 of the application, and receive the blessing of your bishop. The Hierarch’s Blessing Form may be found appended to the application form, and must be sent directly to the seminary by your hierarch. Please note that the Hierarch’s Blessing Form is to be submitted **in addition to** the three letters of recommendation required of all degree applicants.

MA Applicants. If you are applying to the Master of Arts program, you are encouraged to secure the blessing of your hierarch. The Hierarch’s Blessing Form may be found appended to the application form, and must be sent directly to the seminary by your hierarch. You are also encouraged to secure at least one recommendation from a former professor or other person who can attest to your ability to pursue academic work in theology.

ThM Applicants. If you are applying to the Master of Theology (ThM) program, you must submit a thesis proposal, as outlined on page 6 of this application. While a hierarch’s blessing is not required of ThM applicants, it is recommended. The Hierarch’s Blessing Form may be found appended to the application form, and must be sent directly to the seminary by your hierarch. Please note that ThM students must also pass competency exams in one ancient language and one modern, scholarly language (in addition to English) during their course of studies at St Vladimir’s Seminary. More information on these exams may be found in the Academic Catalog. ThM applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain at least one recommendation from a former professor who can attest to the applicant’s ability to pursue advanced academic work in theology.

Non-degree Applicants. If you wish to enroll in particular courses without pursuing a degree at St Vladimir’s Seminary, you may apply as a non-degree student.

- Non-degree applicants currently enrolled in a degree program at another institution need only complete sections 1-4, sign the application, and have an appropriate official from the home institution submit a letter stating that the applicant is in good standing and qualified to take the course(s) in question.
- For all other non-degree applicants, including students who wish to audit courses at St Vladimir’s, please contact the Office of Admissions for application requirements.

Please note that non-degree applicants who wish to live in residence at St. Vladimir’s must also undergo a criminal background check.

International Applicants. In addition to meeting the above requirements, international applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum TOEFL scores (internet-based) required of applicants to the seminary are 96 (MDiv), 100 (MA), 104 (ThM). To register for the TOEFL, visit the website of the Educational Testing Service: www.ets.org. The TOEFL code for St Vladimir’s Seminary is **2804**. The TOEFL exam will be waived only for students who have completed an earlier degree at an English-speaking institution in a country where English is the primary spoken language. IELTS test scores are also acceptable; please contact the Office of Admissions for further information.

Upon admittance international applicants must complete the Certification of Financial Support for INS Form I-20 (this form is available online at www.svots.edu in January) and submit the required deposit.

Financial Aid. Full-time residential degree students are eligible for the seminary's financial aid. For complete information on St Vladimir's financial aid awards and policies, please see the Academic Catalog. All applicants for financial aid must complete the Financial Aid Application Form. Citizens and permanent residents of the United States must also complete online the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form (www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Deadlines. St. Vladimir's operates a rolling admissions procedure beginning February 1st and ending June 1st. Complete applications received during this period will be acted upon during the month following their receipt. **Note, however, that the deadline for all financial aid applications, including need-based grants, need-based scholarships and merit-based scholarships is April 1.** Applications for financial aid submitted after this date may be considered, but only if funds remain available, and/or on a wait-listed basis. Notifications of need-based grants are issued with offers of admission. Notifications of scholarship awards (Malankara, Serbian, Monastic, Dean's Fellowship) are issued in late April.

Housing. Applications for housing (single-student dormitory housing or married-student apartments) are made directly to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Housing application forms and instructions may be found online at www.svots.edu/admissions/housing.

**PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE ANY PART OF YOUR APPLICATION
PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ON SINGLE-SIDED SHEETS ONLY**

**Please send completed application materials to:
Director of Admissions, St Vladimir's Seminary, 575 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, NY 10707**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Requirements for applications to all degree programs:

- Application form, completed and signed
- Photograph
- \$60 application fee
- Copy of certificate of Baptism/Chrismation
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Personal essay
- Personal interviews (please contact the Office of Admissions to make arrangements for your interviews)

Program specific requirements:

MDiv

- Essay on *Six Books on the Priesthood*
- Hierarchical blessing (**in addition to** the three letters of recommendation specified above)

MA

- Hierarchical blessing (recommended)

ThM

- Thesis proposal
- Hierarchical blessing (recommended)

Additional requirements for international students:

- TOEFL scores (if native language other than English)
- Certification of Financial Support for INS Form I-20 (to be submitted upon admittance)

Requirements for financial aid applications (optional):

US citizens and permanent residents

- Financial Aid Application Form
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, completed online (www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Non-US citizens

- Financial Aid Application Form



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Application for Admission 2012-2013

I. Degree Program

Intended program of study: *(check one only)*

- Master of Divinity (MDiv)
- Master of Divinity – Antiochian jurisdictional requirements (MDiv)
- Master of Divinity – Armenian jurisdictional requirements (MDiv)
- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Theology (ThM)
- Non-degree

Student Status: *(check one only)*

Full time

- Residential at St. Vladimir's
- Residential at St. Nersess' (students in "MDiv – Armenian jurisdictional requirements" only)
- Non-residential (requires special permission; non-residential student are not eligible for seminary financial aid)

Part time (MA or ThM only; part-time students are not eligible for seminary financial aid):

- Residential at St Vladimir's (subject to availability)
- Non-residential

Have you previously applied for admission to St Vladimir's Seminary? Yes No

If yes, when? _____ For which program? _____

II. General Information *(Please type or print.)*

Legal Name: _____ Gender: Male Female
First Middle/Former Last/Family Suffix

Prefer to be called: _____ Former Name: _____
Nickname

Current Mailing Address: _____
Street Address

City/Town State/Province/Country Zip/Postal Code

Permanent Address *(if different)*: _____
Street Address

City/Town State/Province/Country Zip/Postal Code

Home Phone: _____ Cell/Other Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth (m/d/y): _____ Place of Birth: _____
City/Town State/Province/Country

Citizenship: USA Dual citizenship – USA and (please specify other): _____
 USA Permanent Resident Visa – Citizen of: _____
 Other citizenship – Please specify country: _____

US Social Security Number: _____

Are you applying for financial aid?

Yes No

If yes, please submit the Application for Financial Aid Form and, if applicable, complete an online FAFSA application.

III. Church Information

Jurisdiction or other affiliation: _____

Former affiliation(s): _____

Home Parish: _____ Diocese: _____

Parish Address: _____

Bishop: _____ Parish Priest: _____

Have you consulted with your parish priest about applying to St Vladimir's Seminary?

Yes No

Have you consulted with your bishop about applying to St Vladimir's Seminary?

Yes No

If Orthodox, date of reception into the Orthodox Church: _____

By Baptism By Chrismation Other _____

If you have been ordained or tonsured, indicate which order(s), when, where, and by whom:

IV. Educational Background

Please list your High School and all Colleges, Universities, Graduate Schools, Professional Schools or Seminaries that you have attended. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

School	Location	Dates Attended	Degree	Date Awarded or Expected

Honors or Scholastic Achievements: _____

Do your scholastic records accurately represent your academic abilities?

- Yes No *(If no, please explain on a separate sheet.)*

Have you been dismissed or denied admission by any other seminaries?

- Yes No *(If yes, please explain on a separate sheet.)*

Please list other seminaries or graduate schools to which you are applying: *(Optional)*

V. Language Testing Information

If applicable, please indicate your TOEFL (or IELTS) score below. Please note that official scores must also be submitted directly by the testing agency to St Vladimir's Seminary. The TOEFL code number for St Vladimir's Seminary is **2804**.

	Date Taken	Score
TOEFL/IELTS		

IX. Disciplinary History

1) Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution you have attended from the 9th grade (or the international equivalent) forward, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in a disciplinary action? These actions could include, but are not limited to: probation, suspension, removal, dismissal, or expulsion from the institution.

Yes No

2) Have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or other crime? (Note that you are not required to answer “yes” to this question, or provide an explanation, if the criminal adjudication or conviction has been expunged, sealed, annulled, pardoned, destroyed, erased, impounded, or otherwise ordered by a court to be kept confidential.)

Yes No

If you answered “yes” to either of these questions please submit on a separate sheet a brief description and explanation of the incident(s) in question.

X. Essays

MDiv applicants: Please enclose a short essay (3-4 pages, typed and double-spaced) giving your reasons for wishing to become a student at St Vladimir's Seminary. In preparing this essay, you should reflect not only on the development of your sense of vocation but also on the kind of community the Seminary strives to be, as articulated in its statement of values (as found in the academic catalog or online at www.svots.edu/about/mission). In addition, please read and reflect on St John Chrysostom's *Six Books on the Priesthood* (available from St Vladimir's Seminary Press). In an essay of no more than 1000 words, explain what St John Chrysostom says about the life of Christian ministry and how his words can be applied in the Church today.

MA applicants: Please enclose a short essay (3-4 pages, typed and double-spaced) giving your reasons for wishing to become a student at St Vladimir's Seminary. In preparing this essay, you should reflect not only on the development of your sense of vocation but also on the kind of community the Seminary strives to be, as articulated in its statement of values (as found in the academic catalog or online at www.svots.edu/about/mission).

ThM applicants: Please enclose a short essay (3-4 pages, typed and double-spaced) giving your reasons for wishing to become a student at St Vladimir's Seminary. In preparing this essay, you should reflect not only on the development of your sense of vocation but also on the kind of community the Seminary strives to be, as articulated in its statement of values (as found in the academic catalog or online at www.svots.edu/about/mission). In addition, please submit a detailed thesis proposal of no more than 5 pages (typed, double-spaced). At the conclusion of your proposal, please indicate your foreign language proficiencies. The Admissions Committee may request an additional writing sample during the admissions process.

XI. Signature *(Required of all applicants)*

I have carefully reviewed each section of this application, and I certify that the information I have provided is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I shall promptly amend the foregoing application should there be a change in any of the facts therein and shall notify St. Vladimir's Seminary Admissions of such changes as they occur.

I understand that St. Vladimir's Seminary reserves the right to conduct a background check, including, but not restricted to, a police background check. I also acknowledge that St. Vladimir's Seminary reserves the right to contact any or all of my references and to verify any of the claims made in this application or in the course of the application process.

I understand and agree that any false or misleading information or deliberate omission could be cause for denial of admission, rescission of admission offer, disciplinary action, dismissal, or revocation of degree if discovered at a later date. I agree to abide by the regulations governing academic affairs and student life at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Signature

Date (m/d/y)



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Blessing of Hierarchy

Instructions for the Applicant

After filling out this section, contact your hierarch to let him know that you would like his blessing to attend seminary. We recommend that you ask your hierarch to complete this form, and that you also include a stamped, addressed envelope.

Applicant's Name: (please print or type) _____
Last First Middle initial

Home Parish: _____

Intended program of study:

- MDiv MA ThM Non-degree

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), which gives students the right to inspect and review their educational records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of recommendation. In the belief that all concerned may wish to preserve the confidentiality of such evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:

I waive my right to examine this form. _____
Applicant's Signature Date

I do not waive my right to examine this form. _____
Applicant's Signature Date

To the Hierarchy:

The person named above is applying for admission to St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. It is our policy that MDiv applicants must secure a hierarchical blessing before beginning seminary studies; MA and ThM applicants are encouraged to secure a blessing.

Please indicate your response to this applicant's desire to begin seminary studies:

- He/she: has my blessing.
 has my conditional blessing. (*Please explain*)
 does not have my blessing.

Hierarch's Signature

Date

If you would like to share with us your overall impression of this applicant's character, with particular consideration of his/her capability to engage in theological studies and to serve as a leader in the Church, please use the reverse of this form, attaching additional sheets if necessary.

When completed, please mail this form directly to:
The Director of Admissions, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
575 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, NY 10707



Recommendation of Pastor

Instructions for the Applicant

Please fill out this section and give this form to your parish priest or another clergyman who knows you well and can comment on your character and your preparedness for seminary studies.

Applicant's Name: (please print or type) _____
Last *First* *Middle initial*

Intended program of study:
 MDiv MA ThM Non-degree

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), which gives students the right to inspect and review their educational records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of recommendation. In the belief that all concerned may wish to preserve the confidentiality of such evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:

I waive my right to examine this form. _____
Applicant's Signature *Date*

I do not waive my right to examine this form. _____
Applicant's Signature *Date*

To the Priest:

The person named above is applying for admission to St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. You have been chosen by this applicant to supply one of the references required as part of the application process. The Committee on Admissions would appreciate your help in determining this candidate's ability to participate in the seminary's intense life of worship, service and theological studies. Please be frank in your comments, providing any insights you might have into this candidate's character, level of maturity, and/or abilities. Thank you for your assistance.

How long have you known the applicant? _____

How well do you know the applicant? _____

In what capacity have you been associated with the applicant? _____

Your Name: (*please print*) _____ Title: _____

Parish/Church: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please share with us your principal impressions, both positive and negative, of this applicant's character.

How would you describe this applicant's emotional stability and social maturity? How is this person regarded by his/her peers and other associates?

In your judgment how capable is this person of living in community with others? How easy are they work with?

Is there anything that might worry you about this applicant as a future leader in the church? Is there anything that would have to change about this applicant before he/she were considered for a leadership role in the church?

Is this applicant teachable? Is this applicant "formable"?

Please note any unusual circumstances, or outstanding qualities in this applicant, that the committee should take into consideration when evaluating his/her application.

Would you accept this applicant as an assistant in your parish?

Very eagerly Gladly With some reservations No comment

Overall, this applicant's level of preparation for seminary studies is:

Outstanding Excellent Very good Good Fair Poor No comment

When completed, please mail this form directly to:

The Director of Admissions, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
575 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, NY 10707



Recommendation from Instructor, Employer, or Colleague

Instructions for the Applicant

Please fill out this section and give this form to an instructor, employer or colleague who knows you well and can comment on your character and your preparedness for seminary studies.

Applicant's Name: (please print or type) _____
Last First Middle initial

Intended program of study:
 MDiv MA ThM Non-degree

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), which gives students the right to inspect and review their educational records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of recommendation. In the belief that all concerned may wish to preserve the confidentiality of such evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:

I waive my right to examine this form. _____
Applicant's Signature Date

I do not waive my right to examine this form. _____
Applicant's Signature Date

To the Instructor, Employer, or Colleague:

The person named above is applying for admission to St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. You have been chosen by this applicant to supply one of the references required as part of the application process. The Committee on Admissions would appreciate your help in determining this candidate's ability to participate in the seminary's intense life of worship, service and theological studies. Please be frank in your comments, providing any insights you might have into this candidate's character, level of maturity, and/or abilities. Thank you for your assistance.

How long have you known the applicant? _____

How well do you know the applicant? _____

In what capacity have you been associated with the applicant? _____

Your Name: (please print) _____ Position and/or Title: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please provide us with a sense of this person's level of preparation for seminary studies by evaluating him/her according to the following categories:

	Outstanding	Excellent	Average	Marginal	Poor	No Basis for Judgment
Intellectual ability						
Creativity						
General quality of work						
Quality of written expression						
Quality of oral expression						
Emotional maturity and stability						
Leadership ability						

How would you describe this person's work ethic?

How is this person regarded by his/her peers and other associates? How does he/she interact with others?

What obstacles, if any, might impede this applicant's pursuit and completion of a seminary program?

Please note any unusual circumstances, or outstanding qualities in this applicant, that the committee should take into consideration when evaluating his/her application.

When completed, please mail this form directly to:

The Director of Admissions, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
575 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, NY 10707

St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION
Academic Year 2012-13

I. Instructions

Need-based grants and need-based scholarships are awarded annually on the basis of demonstrated need and availability of funds. Please complete and submit this form to: Admissions Officer, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 575 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, NY 10707. **The application deadline is April 1.** (Applications received after April 1 will be considered for financial aid only if funds remain available.)

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is also required for students who are US citizens or eligible non-citizens (US permanent residents), and must be completed by April 1. The seminary's Title IV school code for the FAFSA is G02833. *Failure to use this code will cause a delay in the processing of your award.* A signed copy of 2011 income tax returns and 2011 W-2 form(s) may be required for students selected for verification during the FAFSA process. FAFSA applications are made online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Please note: Although financial aid applications are submitted on an annual basis, awards are distributed one semester at a time to eligible students who are making satisfactory progress toward completion of a degree program. Students must be enrolled for at least **TWELVE** St Vladimir's credits per semester to be considered for financial aid awards and at least **SIX** credits per semester to be considered for federal loans.

II. Personal Information

Status: Entering student _____ Returning student _____ Expected graduation date _____

Degree program: M.A. _____ M.Div. _____ Th.M. _____

Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: _____
(Street or P.O. Box)

(City, State, Zip, Country)

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Date of birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Citizenship: _____ If not a US citizen, are you legally a permanent resident of the United States? _____

Marital status: _____ Number of dependent children: _____

III. Resources of Student (and Spouse)

2011 gross income _____
(U.S. currency)

Cash, savings, and checking accounts _____

Value of investments (*stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc.*) _____

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Amount expected from outside grants and scholarships (*specify sources*) _____

Amount expected from other sources (*specify type and source*) _____

2012 estimated gross income _____

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

If married, will you and your spouse maintain separate households during 2012-13? _____

IV. Applicant's Certification and Authorization

I declare that the information on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, true, correct, and complete. I further agree to provide, if so requested, any other official documentation needed to verify information reported here. I also affirm that any funds received as financial aid to study at St Vladimir's—whether from the seminary itself or from an outside agency, such as my diocese or parish or the Federal Family Education Loan Program—will in fact be used solely for that purpose. I further state that if there should be any factor that would make a difference in my income or expenses, I shall promptly notify the seminary's Student Affairs Administrator.

(Applicant's signature)

(Date)