

# ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

575 Scarsdale Rd, Yonkers, NY 10707 • [www.svots.edu](http://www.svots.edu) • 914-961-8313 • fax 914-961-4507

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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)

Student Status: *(check one only)*

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

## II. Letters of Recommendation

Please list the names and contact information for your references. Please note that references from relatives are not acceptable.

Name	Phone/email
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Hierarch:

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor:

\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor, employer or colleague:

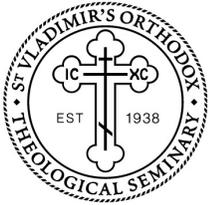
\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor, employer, or colleague:

\_\_\_\_\_

### **III. Essays**

**Instructions:** In an essay of 1000 words or less, please write a spiritual autobiography, describing your life in the church or your journey to Orthodoxy. In this essay, please indicate especially what has led you to pursue a seminary career and what you hope to achieve during your time at St. Vladimir's. Please conclude with a brief reflection on how the values of St. Vladimir's will help you in the pursuit of your goals.



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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:

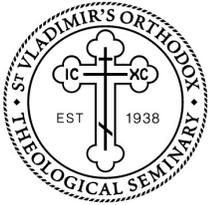
- He/she:  has my blessing.  
 has my conditional blessing (please explain)  
 does not have my blessing

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Hierarch's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

*When completed, please mail this form directly to:*

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



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## 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?

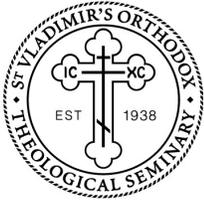
Very eagerly       Gladly       With some reservations       No comment

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

Outstanding       Excellent       Very good       Good       Fair       Poor       No comment

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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:  
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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.

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