



ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

Instructions for All Applicants

"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. 322 (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 \$75 application fee, a recent photograph (full face, preferably 2 ½" x 2 ½", *electronic submissions acceptable*), a copy of your Baptism/Chrismation certificate, a personal essay (as outlined on page 6 of the application), and a fully completed and signed background check consent form. Three recommendations (one of which is from your pastor) and official transcripts from each undergraduate or graduate institution you attended must be sent directly to the seminary by the recommending individuals and educational institutions. In addition, personal interviews are required of all applicants. To arrange your interviews, please contact the Director of Admissions at 914.961.8313, ext. 322 (admissions@svots.edu).

All degree applicants (*and residential non-degree applicants*) must undergo a criminal 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, 914.961.8313, ext. 348).

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/admissions/international and is updated each 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 www.svots.edu/admissions/financial-aid or 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) in order to receive seminary financial aid.

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 financial aid awards are normally issued with offers of admission.

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**

OR

Send a PDF copy of your complete application to admissions@svots.edu

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Requirements for applications to all degree programs:

- Application form, completed and signed
- Photograph
- \$75 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 Fr Cyprian Kern's "Two Models of the Pastorate: Levitical and Prophetic"
- Hierarchical blessing (*in addition to the three letters of recommendation specified above*)

MA

- Hierarchical blessing (*optional*)

ThM

- Thesis proposal
- Hierarchical blessing (*optional*)

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