



# SHEPHERDS THEOLOGICAL S E M I N A R Y

## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND COMPLETE ENTIRE APPLICATION OR APPLY ONLINE**

**Application Fee:** A non-refundable \$50 application fee must be submitted with your application. If you choose to apply online the application fee will be waived.

**Applicant's Checklist:**

- Complete entire application form
- Pay \$50 non-refundable application fee
- Request transcript(s) request form(s) from all schools
- Request Letters of Recommendation
- Attach spousal support letter (if married)
- Attach personal statements, essays, and a picture.
- Arrangements made to take TOEFL  
*(if English is not your native or birth language)*

Shepherds Theological Seminary prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability or status as a veteran or disabled veteran. The school maintains its Christ-centered, biblically-based Christian character, but does not discriminate on the basis of religion, except to the extent that applicable law respects its right to act in furtherance of its religious objective.  
Title IX Coordinator: Deborah Martin, 6051 Tryon Rd. Cary, NC 27518 – [titelx@shepherds.edu](mailto:titelx@shepherds.edu), 919-573-5350

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Term Applying for:  Fall 20\_\_  Spring 20\_\_

Social Security Number (required by Federal Government for Tax Purposes) \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name (Last, First, Middle) \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle preferred phone number)

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 1 (name, relationship, phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 2 (name, relationship, phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  Male  Female Current Employment and Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

The U.S. Department of Education requests the following information on ethnic origin (check one):

- White  Black/African American  Hispanic  Asian  American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  Non-resident alien  Unknown  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ If not a citizen of the United States, on what type of VISA are you presently in the United States or planning to enter the United States of America? \_\_\_\_\_

Denominational or Ecclesiastical Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Are you:  Ordained  Licensed If so, what church and denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

Present Church Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status:  Single  Engaged  Married  Widowed, not remarried  Widowed, remarried

Separated  Divorced

If you are engaged, when do you plan to be married? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse/fiancé \_\_\_\_\_ Number of minor children \_\_\_\_\_

TO ATTACH: If married please attach a signed letter from your spouse describing his/her faith in Christ, when they made their profession of faith, and how he/she feels about your training for Christian service.

**COURSE OF STUDY/DEGREE PROGRAM**

**Master of Divinity**

- Traditional Master of Divinity
- Advanced Placement Master of Divinity (requires prior degree in Bible/Theology\*)

Write in Concentration of interest from Catalog \_\_\_\_\_

**Master of Arts in Church Ministry (with the following major(s)):**

- Biblical Counseling  Christian Ministry

**Master of Arts in Biblical Literature & Languages**

- Biblical Literature & Languages

**Master of Theological Studies**

- MTS – Laramie, WY  MTS – Bryan, TX  MTS – Cary, NC

**Diploma Program**

- Biblical Counseling  Church Ministry  Theological Studies

**Non-Degree (Credit-Only) Status (Bachelor’s Degree required)**

- Audit  Credit-Only

Do you intend to be a:  full-time student (9+ credit hours) OR  part-time student (less than 9 credit hours)?

If accepted to Shepherds Theological Seminary, when do you plan to enroll in classes? Fall 20\_\_\_\_ Spring 20\_\_\_\_

Have you ever applied to Shepherds before? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

**ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

Schools Attended After High School	Date Entered	Date Graduated	Degree/Major

**Please request an official academic transcript be sent to the Registrar's Office from every institution you have attended since high school. You can use the Request for Academic Transcript form at the end of the application if needed. Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted.**

Do you consider your scholastic record an accurate indicator of your academic abilities?  Yes  No

If not, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Are you still enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program of study?  Yes  No If yes, please attach a list of courses which you intend to complete before coming to STS but do not appear on your transcripts.

Have you ever been refused admission to, suspended by or dismissed from a school or seminary?  Yes  No

Are you under any kind of disciplinary action or pending any investigation by any school?  Yes  No

Have you ever been placed on probation, suspended, or expelled from any school (academic or conduct)?  Yes  No

If you have answered YES to any of the above please attach a statement describing the situation in detail.

To what other seminaries are you applying? (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**International Students Only (International Applicants must be sponsored by either an evangelical American missionary or an evangelical American pastor/local church that personally knows the candidate)**

Have you obtained the documentation outlined in the STS International Student Policy Manual?  Yes  No

If you are married, will your wife accompany you to the United States of America?  Yes  No

If you have children, how many of them will accompany you to the United States of America? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you studied English? \_\_\_\_\_ How many years have you spoken English? \_\_\_\_\_

If English has not been your native language, you must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and request that the scores be sent to our Office of Admissions. Date when TOEFL was or will be taken: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL, HEALTH, & BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

*STS believes in good stewardship which includes helping our students be good stewards financially and personally.*

Are you currently in good financial standing?  Yes  No Are you behind on any debt payments?  Yes  No

Do you currently have student loan debt (if married include spouse)?  Yes  No

Approximately how much (include spouse's debt)? \_\_\_\_\_

Not including mortgage/rent, what is the total amount of your debt? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have the finances for the first semester by the time of enrollment?  Yes  No

If not, how much do you lack? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a source of income developed to support you to degree completion?  Yes  No

Do you anticipate working part-time or full-time (circle one) to pay for your seminary expenses?  Yes  No

Are you expecting to apply for a grant or scholarship through STS?  Yes  No

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How is your health at present? Excellent Good Fair Poor

(If fair or poor please explain in an attached statement.)

Are you under the care of a doctor for anything? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any health concerns or are you aware of any issues that could interfere with your completing your degree at STS? Yes No Such as: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been under emotional or mental care? Yes No

(If yes, please explain in an attached statement.)

If you have a disability contact the registrar (registrar@shepherds.edu).

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Have you ever been charged with a misdemeanor or felony offense? Yes No

Are you currently on probation or parole? Yes No

(If yes, please explain in an attached statement)

STS performs background checks on all new students during the application process at both the state and Federal level. While the result may not immediately disqualify a student from attending Shepherds, falsifying anything on the application or not being entirely forthright with your answers will result in discipline that may include possible suspension or expulsion from Shepherds.

Sign here indicating that you understand the preceding and declare that your answers are truthful and accurate.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### DOCTRINAL & CODE OF CONDUCT INFORMATION

Before completing the following please read through the sections in the Academic Catalog & Student Handbook that relate to the STS Doctrinal Statement and the Student Code of Conduct. *Available on the website, the academic catalog, and the handbook.*

Have you read and do you understand the STS Doctrinal Statement? Yes No

The non-negotiable aspects of the doctrinal statement that all students must affirm are as follows:

- Scripture is authoritative and inerrant.
- God expresses Himself as a Trinity of three co-equal individuals, each with a distinct role.
- The God of the Old and New Testaments is the only God and He is not the same as the god of other religions.
- Christ, in His incarnation, was simultaneously fully God and fully man.
- Humanity is spiritually lost at birth and completely alienated from God.
- Christ's death is a substitutionary atonement, and Christ is the only way to God the Father.
- Christ's death was followed by his subsequent bodily resurrection.
- Salvation is by faith alone in Christ.

Do you, in good faith, affirm the above doctrinal points? Yes No

If you become a student at STS and are in disagreement with any other points in the Full Doctrinal Statement you will be expected to handle any disagreements with maturity and in a non-contentious manner, to maintain unity in the classroom, as well as to not promote any theological agenda or denominational framework that runs counter to any area of the Doctrinal Statement or that causes division within the seminary body.

Have you read and do you agree to fully abide by the Student Code of Conduct in all areas?  Yes  No

I hereby declare that I have read the Doctrinal Statement and Student Code of Conduct. Sign here indicating that you understand the preceding and declare that your answers are truthful and accurate.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

*Please attach the following to the application. These must be typed, not handwritten.*

### 1. **Biographical Testimony**

Please attach an essay describing your salvation and faith in Christ (when, where, how, why). Include the significant factors that led to your profession of faith. Please discuss what you believe a person must do to receive eternal life. Also, please tell us a bit about your Christian life since salvation. (Please limit this essay to no more than two pages double-spaced).

### 2. **Purpose for Seminary and Potential for Christian Service**

Tell us why you are applying to seminary. We at S'TS want to get to know you and understand where you are on your journey. Answer the following questions (in essay format, in any order you choose). How has God been working in your life to lead you toward studying the Word of God at the seminary level? What has influenced you to pursue this and how do you see Shepherds Theological Seminary preparing you for future ministry? Also, please describe your view on the importance and responsibility of the local church, as well as discussing how you have been involved in your local church throughout your Christian life. What sort of expectations do you have for your time in seminary?

### 3. **Additional Statements as required.**

- 1) If married, please attach a signed letter from your spouse describing his/her faith in Christ, when they made their profession of faith, and how he/she feels about your training for Christian service.
- 2) If needed, please attach the answers to certain questions under the health and/or financial, sections as indicated in the application based on your answers to certain questions.

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

Shepherds Theological Seminary requires three letters of reference for all applicants. Please use the attached Letter of Reference Form and send it to each of your references. List their names and phone numbers so we know whom you have asked to be your references when the forms arrive.

1. **Pastoral Letter of Reference** – Please have this completed by your current pastor at your current church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Academic/Professional Letter of Reference** – Please have this completed by a former professor, employer, or business associate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Personal Letter of Reference** – Please have this completed by someone within your circle of Christian friends. We ask that your references not be related to you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL SIGNATURE**

I hereby certify that I have not knowingly withheld any information that might adversely affect my chances for admission and that the answers given by me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that I have personally completed this application (except for spouse's information section). I understand that omission or misstatement of material fact(s) on this application or on any attached documentation shall be grounds for rejection of this application or for immediate expulsion if I am admitted, regardless of the time elapsed before discovery.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SHEPHERDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY RECOMMENDATION FORM

### APPLICANT INFORMATION AND AUTHORIZATION – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program for which you are applying: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Fill in the information above then mail or give this form to all three required individuals. One should be a pastor at your local church, one should be a former professor or business colleague, and another should be a personal reference from someone within your Christian circle to whom you are not related. Please ask them to return these recommendations in a timely manner, since your application cannot be processed without them. These can be mailed or scanned and emailed to STS at [registrar@shepherds.edu](mailto:registrar@shepherds.edu).

I waive my rights to examine this letter     
  I do not waive my rights to examine this letter

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATION – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RECOMMENDER/REFERENCE

The above applicant is applying to a degree program at Shepherds Theological Seminary and considers you to be in a position to evaluate his/her ability to pursue a seminary degree and potential career in ministry. Please give honest and reflective feedback on this applicant's qualifications, abilities, and character/personality as it pertains to both pursuing a degree focused on the Word of God and being prepared for ministry (whether vocational or otherwise). At STS we strive to impact the head, the heart, and the hands of our students with teaching built on the Bible, so the following questions are built around those categories.

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_ In what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please rate the applicant on each characteristic by filling in the appropriate circle:**

Characteristics	Superior	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Intellectual Ability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motivation for Graduate Work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Analytical Ability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ethical Standards and Integrity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organizational Ability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to Communicate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Professionalism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leadership Ability (current)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leadership Potential	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Judgement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Initiative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dependability and Follow-Through	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emotional Stability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commitment to Christian Life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spiritual Walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial Integrity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Potential for a Career in Ministry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**CONTINUED ON THE OTHER SIDE**

Overall, how do you rate the applicant as a candidate for a graduate program at Shepherds Theological Seminary?

- Highly Recommend    Recommend    Recommend with Reservation    Do Not Recommend

Have you ever known this person to be a contentious or divisive individual? (If yes, please explain)

- Yes    No

Do you have any reservations about this applicant's potential for vocational ministry? (If yes, please explain)

- Yes    No

Additional comments (positive ones, or reservations): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to complete this reference. We prayerfully consider all applicants at Shepherds Theological Seminary and we value your candid input.

Please indicate which reference you are:

- Pastoral    Professional    Personal

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Shepherds Theological Seminary**

6051 Tryon Road, Cary, NC 27518

919-573-5350

Fax 919-573-1438

Visit us at – [www.shepherds.edu](http://www.shepherds.edu)





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919-573-5350 Fax 919-573-1438

**TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM**

**Applicant:** Please photocopy this form and complete it (*including signature*) and send it to each college, university, seminary, or learning institution you have attended since high school.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Registrar's Office at: \_\_\_\_\_

As a student at your institution I was registered under the following name(s):

(Last, First, Middle): \_\_\_\_\_

(Last, First, Middle): \_\_\_\_\_

My Social Security Number is: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize the release of the requested academic information to Shepherds Theological Seminary. Please mail an official copy of my transcripts to Shepherds Theological Seminary. The Seminary asks you, as Registrar, to please sign across the sealed envelope flap or otherwise officially seal the transcript.

Mail to:  
Shepherds Theological Seminary  
Attn: Academics & Registrar's Office  
6051 Tryon Road, Cary, NC 27518

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_