



MILITARY CHAPLAIN CANDIDATE PROGRAM

The United Methodist Endorsing Agency provides ecclesiastical approval for United Methodist seminary students to participate in the Military Chaplain Candidate program.

The Army, Navy and Air Force each offer qualified seminary students the opportunity to be commissioned as military officers and participate in chaplain learning experiences. Chaplain Candidates do not serve as chaplains; the program is designed to provide training and experience for those exploring a call to future military chaplaincy, either on active duty or with the reserve components.

Applicants must be eligible to receive a commission as military officer. Participants are paid for their training days commensurate with their military rank. Military requirements and policies are subject to change; always check with your recruiter for the current requirements and specific guidance.

Requirements for Military Chaplain Candidates

Endorsing agency requirements:

- Must be enrolled in a seminary approved for United Methodist students pursuing ordination: gbhem.org/education/schools-of-theology/
- Must be preparing for ordination as a United Methodist elder and beginning the church's candidacy process with their district superintendents.

Minimum military requirements:

- Meet height, weight and age requirements.
- Be a U.S. citizen and eligible for a security clearance.
- Be physically qualified for military service based on an examination by the military medical system.
- Meet other requirements, as determined by the military departments.

To learn more about military chaplaincy, speak directly to a chaplain recruiter. Only chaplain recruiters have the expertise to guide you correctly.

Next Steps for the Chaplain Candidate Program

- Contact a chaplain recruiter to determine your eligibility and begin the military application process.
- Register and apply for ecclesiastical approval at methodist.smapply.io.

The Chaplain Candidate Approval Process

Complete the application form at methodist.smapply.io.

Write a brief life sketch (one page) and upload with your application.

Upload your photo and academic transcripts with your application.

Provide contact information for your DS and your pastor.



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The application system will contact your district superintendent and your local pastor. The approval process normally takes several weeks.

Approval for the Military Chaplain Candidate Program does not serve as an endorsement for active duty or reserve component chaplaincy. Future endorsement as a chaplain is not guaranteed. Chaplain candidates must complete the full endorsement process when they become eligible to be considered for endorsement as military chaplains.

For further information contact:

The United Methodist Endorsing Agency
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
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Web: gbhem.org/umea

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