

## Diaconal Formation

Most deacon candidates are expected to participate in the two-year diaconal formation program provided by the West Coast Collaborative School for Ministry.

- This is a collaborative program shared between EDSD and the Dioceses of Northern California and El Camino Real (central California coast).
- The school utilizes the video and other resources provided by the Iona Collaborative sponsored by the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, which ensures high quality teaching content.
- Each class has two mentors and uses a “flipped classroom” model. The students watch videos and do readings in advance, and attend class for a moderated discussion.
- Classes are held online on Thursday evenings beginning in February each year, with an annual in-person retreat.
- Cost is \$1,800 per year, and cost-sharing with the diocese and sponsoring parish is available for candidates who request financial aid.
- The curriculum includes three modules (classes) each year:

Year 1:	Lay Preaching (Scripture and Homiletics)
	Diakonia I (The Ministry of a Deacon)
	Spirituality I
Year 2:	Church History and Theology
	Diakonia II
	Spirituality II (including field education placement)
- In-person retreats concentrate on preaching and community organizing training.
- Non-diaconal candidates who are approved by their priest and bishop may take the lay preaching course and become licensed lay preachers. Lay Preaching has cohorts offered in English and Spanish; the other modules are offered in English.
- The bishop and field education supervisor will work with each candidate on an appropriate field education placement(s). A “community ministry” placement may also be recommended – that is, a placement at a social service organization rather than a congregation.
- For non-English-dominant candidates, an alternate deacon formation program at Bexley Seabury may be considered. This program is competency-based and mentor-assessed, rather than classroom-based.