

Formation for Ordained Ministry
Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Priestly Formation:

In general, ordination as a priest requires a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree.

- If a candidate has done previous graduate-level theological study, that study will be taken into account and the previous work may be supplemented by a certificate of study at an approved seminary.
- If a candidate previously studied, or was previously ordained, in another Christian denomination, some additional Anglican studies work will likely be required.
- For a candidate without previous graduate theological study, the bishop will most likely require study at an Episcopal seminary.
- Residential options: Virginia Theological Seminary, Sewanee School of Theology, Seminary of the Southwest (Austin), Berkeley at Yale. Several of these schools offer almost-complete scholarships covering tuition, room and board for qualified candidates. The bishop will insist on seeing proof that a candidate can graduate without significant debt.
- The bishop is unlikely to approve study at Nashotah House until they change their stance on the ordination of women.
- Hybrid / online options include Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP); Bexley-Seabury; or General Theological Seminary. CDSP offers two years of curacy funding after graduation, which is an attractive possibility. The bishop will discuss the options with the candidates to find the best fit.
- The bishop must approve all formation plans and courses of study. She will take into account special needs (language fluency, family requirements, etc.) to work with the candidate to find the best option for their situation.
- Field Education (i.e., a two-semester internship at an Episcopal congregation) takes place as a part of seminary study.
- Clinical Pastoral Education or a similar experience-based chaplaincy program is an additional requirement beyond seminary education, which frequently takes place during the summer between the 2nd and 3rd years of seminary.
- Priestly candidates are expected to take the General Ordination Exam (GOEs) in January of their last year in seminary. The bishop will review grades below “passing” as a guide to any additional study that may be helpful to the candidate’s formation.

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 EDSB 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.