



Information for International Students

Covenant Seminary welcomes students from other countries and cultures and invites applications from people serving the church around the world.

Completed applications for international students must be received by the Admissions office no later than June 1 for enrollment in the fall semester, or November 1 for enrollment in the spring semester.

In addition to our standard application requirements, international applicants must submit the following to be considered for full admittance:

- **Certification and Declaration of Finances** and supporting documents demonstrating adequate financial resources to cover one year of study and living expenses.
- **Immunization Certificate** documenting Polio, Measles/Rubella, and Diphtheria/Tetanus immunizations. Diphtheria/Tetanus immunizations must be within the last 10 years. Additionally, In accordance with recommendations from the American Lung Association, the Public Health Service, and the Centers for Disease Control, applicants from high-risk groups (international students from Asia, Africa, or Latin America, or anyone exposed to TB due to vocation, locale, or living arrangements) and their families are required to be tested for tuberculosis (TB) as part of their application to Covenant Seminary. The seminary also reserves the right to request TB test results from students and families not in high-risk groups. Those who test positive for TB must receive chest x-rays and any preventive treatment prescribed by the physician. All students required to have an initial test must have an annual follow-up interview with the International Student Advisor. In this interview they will sign a form certifying that they are free of TB symptoms. All test results must be received prior to registration in order for the student to register.
- **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test results** demonstrating English proficiency for all applicants whose first language is not English. To be considered for full admittance, applicants must submit TOEFL (iBT) results with scores no lower than 21 on each of the four components (reading, listening, speaking, and writing). At the discretion of the Admissions Committee, applicants who achieve the minimum score on three of the four

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components may be considered for admittance. Though there are three different forms of the TOEFL exam, internet-based (iBT) TOEFL exam results are the only form accepted by Covenant Theological Seminary.

International students should also be aware of the following:

Applicants from countries outside the United States must meet the U.S. Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requirements in addition to the standards of spiritual maturity and academic proficiency required of all students, including a bachelor's degree or its educational equivalent at the level represented by North American institutions.

Students with F-1 visa status are required to remain registered full-time (10 hours for master degree programs or 8 hours for the ThM) while attending Covenant Seminary. According to USCIS (<http://www.immigrationdirect.com/visas/student/index.jsp>) guidelines, most students with visa status other than F-1 will not be permitted to enroll full time. If students need to change the number of hours they are taking, they should first contact the International Student Advisor. International students who have questions regarding student visas, need to make changes to immigration status, or have other immigration issues to discuss should contact the International Student Advisor. Furthermore, international Applicants can only apply for Master's degree programs as student visas are not issued for the graduate certificate or audit programs.

Students identified by the faculty as having weak English skills may be required to take additional courses in written and spoken English until their skills are judged to be adequate. Students whose first language is not English may be permitted additional time equal to one-third of the ordinary time allotted for examinations and final exams. The student must begin the exam at the stated time (the privilege is not intended for students who arrive late). Students seeking additional time for in-class examinations must normally make arrangements with the instructor to take the examination outside of the regular class time.

For information concerning times and places of TOEFL test administration, contact:

Educational Testing Service
Box CN6151
Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, U.S.A.
www.TOEFL.org

(Covenant Theological Seminary's TOEFL code number is 6141).