



Mail application to:

Director of Admission
Beeson Divinity School
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
bdadmis@samford.edu
www.beesondivinity.com

Admission Material Deadlines

Fall Admission:
March 1

Spring Admission:
October 1

Confessional: Beeson Divinity School is committed to the great principles of historic Christian orthodoxy while at the same time remaining open to students and faculty from a wide variety of Christian traditions.

Interdenominational: More than 30 denominations are currently represented at Beeson Divinity School. The faculty is also interdenominational, representing Anglicans, Baptists, Lutherans, African Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterians and other denominations. The divinity school is, therefore, in the unique position of being an interdenominational and evangelical school within Samford University, a Baptist institution.

Personal: As a Beeson student, you not only learn from renowned faculty in the classroom, but worship alongside them weekly and share a community meal. Students meet weekly with faculty in mentor groups; our faculty-to-student ratio is 1:7.



SAMFORD UNIVERSITY



APPLICANT'S CHECKLIST

This checklist is designed to assist you in applying for admission to Beeson Divinity School. **All items on this checklist must be submitted by the applicant and received in the admission office prior to the application deadline.**

- Application form and \$25 nonrefundable fee (This fee is not required for graduates of Samford University.)
- Essay 1 (Description of Calling)
- Essay 2 (The Apostles' Creed)
- Academic Recommendation
- Church Endorsement
- Pastoral Recommendation
- A current résumé outlining professional experience, ministry involvement and extracurricular activities
- Admission Interview: Each applicant is responsible for calling the divinity school admission office at 1-877-575-0595 or 205-726-2066 to schedule an interview. Interviews take approximately 30 minutes and are offered Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. **Interviews must be completed prior to the application deadline.** It is recommended that your interview be completed on campus, but if this is not possible, interviews conducted by phone or Skype are acceptable.
- Official Transcript: Official transcript(s) should be sent to the divinity school admission office from all undergraduate and (if applicable) graduate institutions previously attended. A final transcript also is required upon completion of your undergraduate degree. Transcripts are considered official only when they bear the issuing institution's seal and arrive with the seal intact.

Admission Deadlines

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In addition to the application items listed above, **international applicants** also are required to submit the following items prior to the application deadline:

1. Affidavit of Financial Support
2. Official International Academic Credential Evaluation, conducted by World Education Services, Inc.
3. Official TOEFL exam results

To obtain additional information on these requirements, international applicants should contact the divinity school admission office at bdadmis@samford.edu or 1-877-575-0595.

Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Admission Policies

Beeson Divinity School of Samford University admits qualified men and women of any Christian denomination, race, color, age, or national or ethnic origin, without regard to physical disability. The decision to admit a student rests with the Admission Committee, which is appointed by the dean of the divinity school. Admission to the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Theological Studies program is based on the following considerations:

1. **Christian Character**—as evidenced by membership and active participation in the life of a church, recommendation by Christian leaders and compatibility with the stated purposes of the divinity school.
2. **Commitment to Ministry**—as evidenced by an endorsement from a congregation or church governing body, a personal statement of call to ministry, a description of past and current ministry involvement and clearly stated vocational goals.
3. **Academic Preparation**—as evidenced by a command of the English language in the admission essays and a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited institution. Admission is competitive. While the minimum overall grade point average [GPA] requirement for applicants is 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, the average GPA for admitted students is typically above 3.0.
4. **Commitment to Full-Time Studies**—The divinity school curriculum and community are designed for full-time study (9–16 credit hours per semester), and students should plan to be on campus three to four days per week. Classes are taught Tuesdays through Fridays during the day. All students are required to attend chapel services on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and to participate in mentoring groups on Thursdays at 11 a.m.
5. **Background Check**—In the interest of maintaining a safe learning environment for Beeson students, all acceptance decisions are conditional upon the applicant's successful completion of a criminal background check. These confidential checks are conducted by an authorized third party and are provided at no cost to the applicant.

International Students

Students whose primary language is not English are required to submit scores of the Test of English as a Foreign Language [TOEFL]. This test is administered in many countries and at many locations in the United States. Students should arrange to take the TOEFL by writing to Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 955, Princeton, NJ 08540 or go to www.toeflgoanywhere.org.

Based upon federal regulations and university policy, all F and J visa holders must have health coverage for themselves and all dependents during residency in the United States. Insurance may be obtained by the student independently or purchased through the university, but must contain certain required coverage. Proof of coverage is required before registering for classes. Samford University may terminate international students who do not continue to comply. Information about specific policy carriers, minimum coverage and premium costs is available from the Office of International Studies.

Students Seeking Readmission

Applicants for readmission are evaluated along with first-time applicants for available spaces in any given term. This is a competitive process, with the readmission applicant's previous academic performance at Beeson Divinity School being weighed heavily in the admission committee's evaluation. Students who have been out of Beeson Divinity School for more than one year (or who have transferred from Beeson Divinity School to another institution for any period of time) and who wish to be considered for readmission to Beeson Divinity School must submit the following:

- New application form
- Official transcripts of credits earned since leaving Beeson Divinity School
- Essay explaining why studies at Beeson were interrupted and why the applicant wishes to be considered for admission again.

To be considered for fall readmission, the deadline to submit these materials is March 1. For spring readmission, the application deadline is October 1. Students who are readmitted must follow the curriculum requirements specified in the bulletin corresponding to the semester in which the student

resumes enrollment at Beeson Divinity School. The divinity school may set additional requirements for readmitted students, all of which will be included in the readmission letter.

Transfer Students

Beeson Divinity School accepts transfer credit hours earned at accredited graduate institutions. Students who desire a transfer credit evaluation should submit to the divinity school a letter requesting evaluation, official copies of transcripts and catalog descriptions of all courses to be evaluated. No online or correspondence credit will be accepted, though students with such credits may be considered for advanced standing.

Sources of Financial Aid

Scholarships—Beeson Divinity School provides financial assistance in the form of tuition scholarships. All students who apply for admission are automatically considered for scholarships from the Beeson Endowment. All those receiving scholarships must be full-time students (9-16 credit hours per semester) and must be on campus for a minimum of two days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays are required). Endowed scholarship awards are announced simultaneously with admission decisions.

1. **Dean's Scholarship**—Qualified M.Div. candidates are selected by the scholarship committee based on academic achievement and Christian character. This award provides \$4,845 for a maximum of seven semesters. Dean's Scholars are required to earn a minimum 3.20 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.
2. **John Wesley Beeson Merit Scholarship**—This is a merit award providing \$3,500 per semester for a maximum of seven semesters to M.Div. or M.A.T.S. students. Recipients are required to earn a minimum 3.20 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.
3. **Daniel Wilson Scholarship**—This merit award is given to students training for local church pastoral ministry or for missionary service. Recipients must be M.Div. candidates. The award covers full tuition and books for seven regular semesters, as well as one international trip for theological education.
4. **Beeson Tuition Scholarship**—The majority

of full-time M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students receive Beeson Tuition Scholarships. The 2011–12 award is \$2,125 per semester. Beeson Scholarships are awarded on an annual basis. Students may receive this scholarship for a maximum of eight semesters. Beeson Scholars are required to earn a minimum 2.50 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.

5. **Memorial and Honorary Scholarships**—Several scholarships are provided through the generosity of friends of the divinity school. These often are named in memory or in honor of individuals or families, and are awarded by the scholarship committee to returning students each year. Details are available in the admission office.

Other Sources

1. **Assistantships**—A limited number of student assistantships are available. Student assistants receive a semester stipend based on performance of duties assigned by a faculty or staff member. Assistants normally are expected to work seven to eight hours per week.
2. **Veteran's Benefits**—Armed Forces veterans may be eligible for one of several types of educational assistance. Complete details are available from Samford's financial aid office.
3. **Federal Student Loans**—These loans are available through Samford's financial aid office. Students who wish to apply for federal loans should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] form, which is available from Samford's Office of Financial Aid or at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA report is not necessary for Beeson Divinity School tuition scholarship consideration, but it is required for all student loan programs available through the university.
4. **External Sources**—Many denominations and agencies offer varying kinds and amounts of aid. The divinity school makes every effort to be aware of these sources. Students are expected, however, to determine their eligibility and to apply for aid as appropriate.



APPLICATION FOR M.DIV. and M.A.T.S. ADMISSION

Please type or print in black ink.

Please mark the program for which you are applying.

- MDIV
MATS
Joint Degree

Name Last First Middle Maiden Preferred Name

Social Security Number

When do you wish to enroll at Beeson Divinity School? Fall Spring Year

Permanent Address Street City State/Province

County Zip Code Primary Telephone Secondary Telephone

Present Mailing Address Street City State/Province

County Zip Code Primary Telephone Secondary Telephone

Until when will you be at your present address? Month Year

E-mail address

The optional information requested in this portion of the application for admission is voluntary and will not be used in a discriminatory manner.

Born Male Female Marital Status

Are you Hispanic or Latino? Yes No

What is your race group? Asian Black or African American American Indian/Alaskan Native Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander White

Emergency Contact Name Telephone Relationship to You

Will you be a full-time student? (nine hours or more per semester, required attendance on Tuesdays and Thursdays) Yes No

Do you plan to be on campus 3-4 days per week? Yes No

Are you applying for financial aid? Yes No

(If yes, please complete the FAFSA. A link to the FAFSA is available at www.beesondivinity.com.)

Country of Citizenship If not a U.S. citizen, what is your visa type?

What is your first language? If English is not your first language, have you taken the TOEFL? Yes No

If yes, indicate date taken Score

List all schools attended since high school graduation in _____ (year)

College/Seminary/Graduate School	Location	Degree Received	Year

Please list additional information on a separate sheet.

Undergraduate Major _____ Graduate Major _____

Do you feel that your academic record provides an accurate index of your scholastic abilities? Yes No

If not, please explain. _____

Have you ever been convicted, paid a fine or in any way admitted guilt for a criminal or dishonest act, other than a minor traffic violation? Yes No

If yes, please attach a statement of the details.

Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action for any reason in any of the colleges or seminaries you have attended?

Yes No If yes, please attach a statement of the details.

List below, or briefly describe in an attached paragraph, your activity in local congregations, fellowships or para-church organizations. Address any long periods of nonmembership or inactivity in your descriptive essay.

Name and Location of Church or Religious Body	Activities	Years of Involvement	
		From	To

Denominational Affiliation (provide full, official name) _____

For example: If you are Baptist, please specify American Baptist, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Free Will Baptist, Independent Baptist, Missionary Baptist, National Baptist, Primitive Baptist, Progressive Baptist, Reformed Baptist, Southern Baptist Convention or other.

Church of Membership _____

Name Location

State your vocational objectives. _____

I certify that I have given full and complete information in this application and have listed each college and/or seminary I have attended. If admitted, I agree to abide by the standards of conduct as outlined in the current Beeson Divinity School Bulletin.

Signature _____ Date _____

Samford University complies with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination, including applicable provisions of and amendments to Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or services.

Inquiries and concerns regarding this policy may be directed to the vice president for business affairs or general counsel, Office of Business Affairs, 200 Samford Hall, Birmingham, AL 35229, 205-726-2811. This notice is available in alternative formats upon request.

This form, essays one and two, all three recommendations, résumé and a nonrefundable \$25 application fee should be returned to: Office of Admission, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229 or bdadmis@samford.edu.



Master's Program
**ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATION
FORM**

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Important: Please complete this portion of the form and send it to your recommender. Each of your letters of recommendation should be written by a different person. The recommendation should be returned to you in a sealed envelope, signed by your recommender across the flap. Do not open the envelope when it is returned to you. Include the recommendation with the materials you submit with your application.

Applicant's Name _____
Last First Middle/Maiden

TO THE APPLICANT: The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as the Buckley Amendment, gives students a right to inspect and review their educational records. This includes the right to read specific confidential statements and letters of recommendation. In order to protect the confidentiality of your recommendation, you may waive this right. Please indicate your decision to waive or not to waive this right by checking the appropriate statement and signing your name on the line below.

_____ 1. I waive my right to examine this recommendation.

_____ 2. I do not waive my right to examine this recommendation.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RECOMMENDER

TO THE RECOMMENDER: The person named above is applying for admission to Beeson Divinity School, Samford University. The Admission Committee would appreciate your candid and detailed assessment of the applicant's qualifications, academic abilities (specifically relating to research, writing and integrative skills) and potential. Please return the requested materials to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the flap prior to the March 1 or October 1 deadline.

If the applicant has waived his or her right, this letter will be held confidential. If the applicant has not waived his or her right, it will be assumed that this letter may be seen by the applicant if the applicant enrolls in Beeson Divinity School.

1. Recommender's Name _____

Address _____
Street City State ZIP

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Job Title _____

Employer _____

2. What is your relationship to the applicant? _____

3. How long have you known the applicant? _____

4. Do you know of any problems that might hinder the applicant's effective work in Christian ministry? Yes No
If yes, please elaborate on a separate sheet.



Master's Program
PASTORAL RECOMMENDATION FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Important: Please complete this portion of the form and send it to your recommender. Each of your letters of recommendation should be written by a different person. The recommendation should be returned to you in a sealed envelope, signed by your recommender across the flap. Do not open the envelope when it is returned to you. Include the recommendation with the materials you submit with your application.

Applicant's Name _____
Last
First
Middle/Maiden

List below, or briefly describe in an attached paragraph, your activity in local congregations, fellowships or para-church organizations. Address any long periods of nonmembership or inactivity.

Name and Location of Church or Religious Body	Activities	Years of Involvement	
		From	To

TO THE APPLICANT: The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as the Buckley Amendment, gives students a right to inspect and review their educational records. This includes the right to read specific confidential statements and letters of recommendation. In order to protect the confidentiality of your recommendation, you may waive this right. Please indicate your decision to waive or not to waive this right by checking the appropriate statement and signing your name on the line below.

- _____ 1. I waive my right to examine this recommendation.
 _____ 2. I do not waive my right to examine this recommendation.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RECOMMENDER

TO THE RECOMMENDER: The person named above is applying for admission to Beeson Divinity School, Samford University. The Admission Committee would appreciate your candid and detailed assessment of the applicant's qualifications, gifts for ministry and potential. Please return the requested materials to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the flap prior to the March 1 or October 1 deadline.

If the applicant has waived his or her right, this letter will be held confidential. If the applicant has not waived his or her right, it will be assumed that this letter may be seen by the applicant if the applicant enrolls in Beeson Divinity School.

1. Recommender's Name _____
 Address _____
Street
City
State
ZIP
 Phone () _____ E-mail _____
 Job Title _____
 Church or Organization _____

2. What is your relationship to the applicant? _____

3. How long have you known the applicant? _____

4. Do you believe the applicant evidences a clear sense of divine calling to ministry?

Please circle one: Definitely Likely Uncertain Doubtful

5. Do you know of any problems that might hinder the applicant's effective work in Christian ministry? Yes No

If yes, please elaborate on a separate sheet.

6. Please evaluate the applicant in the following areas by marking 3 for above average, 2 for average, 1 for below average, N for no information.

Christian character and integrity	3	2	1	N
Church involvement	3	2	1	N
Maturity	3	2	1	N
Leadership skills	3	2	1	N
Knowledge of the Bible	3	2	1	N
Aptitude for ministry	3	2	1	N
Communication skills	3	2	1	N
Intellectual ability	3	2	1	N
Interpersonal skills	3	2	1	N
Financial responsibility	3	2	1	N

7. Are you a Beeson Divinity School alumnus/alumna? Yes No

8. Do you know any personal habits or prejudices that might hamper the applicant's service in a church-related position?

Yes No If yes, please elaborate on a separate sheet.

9. Do you recommend this person for admission? Yes No If yes, please circle one:

With Enthusiasm With Confidence With Reservation With Reluctance

10. Please use the space below or attach a separate sheet to disclose in your own words a full and candid evaluation of the applicant's qualifications, character and personality, church involvement, fitness and gifts for ministry, academic abilities, potential and/or other information that would assist our assessment of this applicant.

11. Thank you for your thoughtful response. If further questions regarding the applicant arise, may a member of the Admission Committee contact you by phone? Yes No

12. Please return this recommendation to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the flap.

Samford University complies with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination, including applicable provisions of and amendments to Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or services.

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Master's Program
CHURCH ENDORSEMENT FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Important: Please complete this portion of the form and send it to your recommender. Each of your letters of recommendation should be written by a different person. The recommendation should be returned to you in a sealed envelope, signed by your recommender across the flap. Do not open the envelope when it is returned to you. Include the recommendation with the materials you submit with your application.

Applicant's Name _____
Last
First
Middle/Maiden

List below, or briefly describe in an attached paragraph, your activity in local congregations, fellowships or para-church organizations. Address any long periods of nonmembership or inactivity in your personal testimony.

Name and Location of Church or Religious Body	Activities	Years of Involvement	
		From	To

TO THE APPLICANT: The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as the Buckley Amendment, gives students a right to inspect and review their educational records. This includes the right to read specific confidential statements and letters of recommendation. In order to protect the confidentiality of your recommendation, you may waive this right. Please indicate your decision to waive or not to waive this right by checking the appropriate statement and signing your name on the line below.

- _____ 1. I waive my right to examine this recommendation.
 _____ 2. I do not waive my right to examine this recommendation.

 Applicant's Signature Date

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RECOMMENDER

TO THE RECOMMENDER: The person named above is applying for admission to Beeson Divinity School, Samford University. The Admission Committee would appreciate your candid and detailed assessment of the applicant's qualifications and potential, including a detailed description of the applicant's service in your congregation. Please return the requested materials to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the flap prior to the March 1 or October 1 deadline.

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ADMISSION ESSAY 1

Master of Divinity Program

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE M.DIV. APPLICANT ONLY

Essays are read for content, correctness of spelling and grammar and the applicant's ability to write clearly.

The M.Div. degree program is designed "to prepare God-called individuals to serve as ministers in the Church of Jesus Christ." Please describe your call to Christian ministry, how you have been involved in ministry for the past two years, your vocational objective(s) and your purpose for entering Beeson Divinity School's Master of Divinity program.

This essay should be 700–1,000 words typed, double-spaced and in 12-point font.

Please return the essay with the other documents. Please use a separate sheet for the essay.

Master of Arts in Theological Studies Program

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE M.A.T.S. APPLICANT ONLY

Essays are read for content, correctness of spelling and grammar and the applicant's ability to write clearly.

The M.A.T.S. degree program provides a basic understanding of Christian theology for persons seeking to enhance their service to Jesus Christ in professional vocations and lay ministry settings. Please discuss specific ways in which you believe God has called you to serve, and describe how your studies in this program will better equip you to integrate faith with your personal vocation.

This essay should be 700–1,000 words typed, double-spaced and in 12-point font.

Please return the essay with the other documents. Please use a separate sheet for the essay.



**ADMISSION ESSAY 2
THE APOSTLES' CREED**

TO BE COMPLETED BY BOTH THE M.DIV. AND M.A.T.S. APPLICANTS

Essays are read for content, correctness of spelling and grammar, and the applicant's ability to write clearly.

This essay is academic in nature. It should state a thesis, interact with three of the themes found in the confession and cite relevant sources. Applicants should indicate why they chose to focus upon the three themes they did, and they should describe how those three themes reflect what they believe doctrinally and theologically. The committee will look for each applicant's ability to think analytically and to sustain and defend an argument with reference to Scripture.

Rather than using online materials in their research for this essay, applicants should draw from a variety of books. One of the many volumes that may be helpful is *"I Believe": Exploring the Basics of the Apostles' Creed* by Alister McGrath, Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

This essay should be 700–1,000 words typed, double-spaced and in 12-point font.

Please return the essay with the other documents. Please use a separate sheet for the essay.