

MASTERS GUIDELINES FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Applicants must present evidence of their readiness for graduate studies in theology. They must also meet additional admissions criteria including, but not limited to, quality of character, spiritual maturity, and acceptable conduct. As one element in this process, the seminary admissions committee requires an autobiographical statement for evaluating your application in relation to these criteria. This is a confidential statement that also enables you to communicate personally with the committee. The essay-format autobiographical statement is to be 1,000-1,500 words, typewritten in 12-point font and double spaced. Type your name in the upper right header of each page and submit electronically to admissions@nes.edu. Organize your statement per the following sections, using the headings below as subtitles.

Spiritual Pilgrimage

Describe (1) how you came to know Christ, the factors of influence, and the steps in the process, (2) your current walk with Christ, the daily and weekly elements, and (3) your sense of calling to Christian service, how it came about, and where it currently fits in your faith journey.

Life and Relationships

Discuss (1) your primary relationships throughout life, with special attention to immediate and extended family, (2) the major components in your current life structures, and (3) the most significant experiences of your life in ministering to other persons.

Ministry Commitment and Values

Identify (1) the needs you consider to be the most significant for ministry in contemporary culture, (2) the theological beliefs you hold most strongly and will not compromise, and (3) the most influential ethical ideals in your life.

Personal Strengths and Weaknesses

Assess (1) your personal strengths and weaknesses in relation to your proposed course of graduate studies, (2) your professional development, including needed areas for growth and change, and (3) your personal and professional qualifications for Christian ministry in contemporary culture.

Career Goals and Plans

Outline (1) the past and current status of your involvement in ministry, (2) the role seminary plays in your career plans, and (3) your life/career/ministry goals over the next 20 years.