SEMINARY ADMISSION

Admission

The Seminary welcomes students who are committed to the Christian faith and who desire to be obedient to Christ in their vocation. Enrollment is open, without distinction of gender, race, disability, ethnicity, or denominational affiliation, to qualified students who desire to engage in serious theological study for Christian service, whether as a member of the clergy or the laity. Information about what is required for admission to NPTS and application forms are available at www.northpark.edu/seminary. You may also contact Seminary Admission personnel at (773) 244-6229 or (800) 964-0101 or at semadmissions@northpark.edu.

Entrance Requirements

The prerequisite for entrance to graduate studies at NPTS is a bachelor's degree, or its academic equivalent, from an accredited college or university. Prospective students must have maintained an undergraduate GPA of at least a 2.5. A limited number of students who have not earned an accredited baccalaureate degree or whose undergraduate GPA is below 2.5 may be admitted under special circumstances.

Materials Required for Consideration

The following materials must be submitted to North Park Theological Seminary Admission prior to an admission decision (documents submitted in support of an application become the property of North Park University and are not returned):

- Completed application form
- Official transcripts from previous institutions of higher education
- Required essays
- References or recommendations
- Other materials, as requested
- Personal interview, as requested
- Application fee

Offer of Admission

An offer of admission is for a specific start term, either fall, spring, or summer term. An admitted student may defer admission for up to one year, after which re-application is necessary. Transcripts for any academic studies undertaken subsequent to the initial offer of admission must be submitted to the Seminary Admission Office. Failure to provide complete and accurate information during the application process may be grounds for withdrawal of an offer of admission, disciplinary action or dismissal from the Seminary.

Acceptance of Admission

Once the student receives an offer of admission, a tuition deposit indicates acceptance of the offer of admission and the intention to enroll at North Park Theological Seminary. The tuition deposit deadline for the fall semester is June 15 and for the spring semester is December 1. Cancellations after June 15 or December 1 respectively are not refundable. Students admitted after June 1 or after December 1 will have four weeks to accept the offer of admission by making a tuition deposit. Failure to make a tuition deposit by the appropriate deadline may result in the cancellation of the offer of admission, and scholarships and grants may be offered to another student. After a student has made a tuition deposit, the student may apply for student housing.

Admission to Dual Degrees with School of Business and Nonprofit Administration

Students must apply for a specific dual degree program through the Seminary Admission Office. In addition to all materials required for a regular seminary application, students must also submit a résumé and GRE or GMAT test scores if cumulative GPA for previous college level work is below 3.0. Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

Tuition for dual degree programs is set at a separate rate from Seminary tuition.

Current degree-seeking seminary students who wish to change to a dual degree program must apply through the Office of Seminary Admission before they have earned 30 credits for the M Div, 16 credits for the MACF, or 12 credits for the MACM. Students who have earned more that the specified hours in their respective program must complete or withdraw from their current program before beginning another North Park degree program.

Admission for Visiting Students

A visiting student is authorized by the Seminary Admission Office to register for a course or courses for seminary credit or audit but has not been admitted into a degree or certificate program. Application for admission as a visiting student requires submission of a visiting student application. Courses taken as a visiting student can be applied to degree programs and may meet certificate requirements. A visiting student wishing to begin a degree or certificate program must complete the appropriate application and be accepted to that program. The visiting student is expected to meet the degree requirements that are in force at the time of admission for degree or certificate seeking status. Once accepted into a degree or certificate program, students must also fulfill any non-academic requirements for the program.

Admission for Orientation Students

Those seeking admission to the Covenant Orientation program should contact the Evangelical Covenant Church Department of the Ordered Ministry at (773) 583-3211. More information can be found at www.covchurch.org.

Orientation to Covenant Missions

Applicants who wish to serve as missionaries for the Evangelical Covenant Church should contact the denominational World Mission Office at (773) 784-3000 in order to discuss missionary candidacy and seminary requirements prior to submission of an application to North Park.

International Students

In addition to the regular application requirements, international students must:

1. Demonstrate English proficiency
   Proficiency in the English language is required for success as a student at North Park University, and more advanced degrees require greater proficiency. International students must submit evidence of English proficiency in the form of official test results such as the TOEFL or IELTS as a part of the application process.

Testing: Requirements for Admission

TOEFL

	Masters Level	Doctoral Level
Internet Based Test (iBT)	90	100
Reading	24	25
Listening	21	22
Speaking	21	22
Writing	24	25
Paper Based Test	577	600

IELTS

	Masters Level	Doctoral Level
IELTS	6.5	7.0

Test results must be:

- Current, meaning that the testing date must be within two (2) years of applying for admission into North Park.
- Sent directly to the North Park Office of Admission by the testing agency. The North Park TOEFL code is 1556. The ACT code is 1098.

Validation of Proficiency – Testing Upon Arrival at North Park

Upon arrival at North Park, North Park administers its own English language proficiency test to all new international students during new student orientation at the beginning of a student's first semester.

New students who test below standards will be required to take appropriate ESL or other English courses during their first semester, or until they demonstrate the required proficiency for academic work. These courses are variable credit, are billed at regular course rates, and do not count toward the masters or doctoral degrees. See the catalog for further information about academic policies regarding credit and fulfillment of graduation requirements.

Exceptions to Submission of Test Results

International students in certain categories do not need to submit a test score for an admission decision. However, all new international students are required to take the North Park English Proficiency test during new student orientation.

Seminary and Other Graduate Program Exceptions

- Canadian students.
  - Students who have earned a bachelor's degree taught in English in a country where English is the primary language (the United Kingdom, British West Indies, Ireland, Australia, or New Zealand).
  - Students who have earned a bachelor's or master's degree or have at least 30 hours of Masters degree level credit with a C average at a US accredited college or university and in which they have had to take courses developing proficiency in English composition and research methods.
  - Students from Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, and Denmark) must submit a TOEFL or IELTS test score only when applying for a DMin degree program.

Additional Requirements

North Park University reserves the right to require additional material, such as a writing sample or the TOEFL or IELTS before making an admission decision.

Non-United States-based Curriculum

A local Education USA advising center can provide valuable advice about testing, financial aid and immigration issues.

2. Submit a financial resources form
   Anyone applying for an international student visa (F-1), the United States government requires evidence of sufficient financial resources to allow a year of study in the United States. The evidence must be demonstrated in order to apply for a visa. International students need to show personal or family resources or sponsorship from friends, churches or scholarships that would permit them to pay for tuition, books, insurance (if needed) and living expenses. This proof is recorded in an affidavit of financial support. Contact the Seminary Admission Office for information as to the current budget required to pursue a seminary degree. The affidavit form may be downloaded from the international student application page of the website.
3. Arrange for evaluation of transcripts
   If a student has attended any college or university outside the United States and Canada, they must have their transcripts evaluated by an agency that will provide NPTS with a translation and evaluation of the documents. A recommended organization is Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. at www.ece.org. Another is the World Education Service at www.wes.org. This is in addition to requesting transcripts from any college or institution attended to be sent directly to the Seminary Admission Office.

Following the receipt of all the application materials, the completed application will be reviewed and a decision made. If the student is admitted into North Park Theological Seminary, North Park will issue an I-20 form, which will allow the student to apply for a visa to study at North Park in the United States.

Notification of Acceptance

When the student's application is complete, the Seminary Admission Office will take official action on the application and will notify the student of an admission decision.