

BCO 21-4. Ordination Requirements and Procedures

- a. An intern applying for ordination shall be required to present a diploma of Bachelor or Master from some approved college or university, and also a diploma of Bachelor or Master from some approved theological seminary or authentic testimonials of having completed a regular course of theological studies, or a certificate of completion of and endorsement from a theological study program as approved by the General Assembly and one of the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America. No Presbytery shall omit any of these educational requirements except in extraordinary cases, and then only with a three-fourths (3/4) approval of the Presbytery. Whenever a Presbytery shall omit any of these educational requirements, it shall always make a record of the reasons for such omission and the parts omitted. The intern shall also present satisfactory testimonials as to the completion and approval of his internship in the practice of the ministry.

- b. Every candidate for ordination shall ordinarily have met the requirements of the Assembly's approved curriculum. Ordinarily, the intern shall have been examined in most of the following trials when he was licensed. If the Presbytery previously approved all parts of the licensure examination, it need not re-examine the intern in those areas at this time. If there were areas of weakness, which the Presbytery noted, or if any member of the Presbytery desires to do so, the intern may be examined on particular points again. Additionally, the intern shall be examined on any parts required for ordination which were not covered in his examination for licensure. In all cases, he should be asked to indicate whether he has changed his previous views concerning any points in the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America.

- c. Trials for ordination shall consist of:
 - (1) A careful examination as to:
 - a. his acquaintance with experiential religion, especially his personal character and family management (based on the qualifications set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and Titus 1:6-9),
 - b. his knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages,
 - c. Bible content,
 - d. theology,
 - e. the Sacraments,
 - f. Church history,
 - g. the history of the Presbyterian Church in America, and
 - h. the principles and rules of the government and discipline of the church.A Presbytery may accept a seminary degree which includes study in the original languages in lieu of an oral examination in the original languages.
 - (2) He shall prepare a thesis on some theological topic assigned by Presbytery.
 - (3) The candidate shall prepare an exegesis on an assigned portion of Scripture, requiring the use of the original language or languages.
 - (4) He shall further be required to preach a sermon before the Presbytery or committee thereof, upon three-fourths (3/4) vote.No Presbytery shall omit any of these parts of trial for ordination except in extraordinary cases, and then only with three-fourths (3/4) approval of Presbytery.

Whenever a Presbytery shall omit any of these parts, it shall always make a record of the reasons for such omissions and of the trial parts omitted.