



Residency Requirements for students
on the Candidacy Pathway toward ordained ministry
in The United Church of Canada

Developed by: The United Church Faculty Group at AST, October 2025

Rationale

Educational formation for ministry is more than a collection of academic credits. It also requires active participation and demonstrated leadership within a theological community.

United Church of Canada students at Atlantic School of Theology who are seeking ordination must demonstrate to the faculty of AST a readiness to proceed toward ordination through course requirements, as well as in-person, on-campus community participation and leadership. This readiness is certified by AST in the form of the Testamur.

When a Testamur is granted, AST notifies the Office of Vocation, confirming that the student has completed the requirements set by General Council.

Policy (effective 1 June 2023)

- ❖ **Bachelor of Theology** students seeking ordination must take a minimum of 9 credits on the AST campus during the course of their degree (out of 25 AST credits)
- ❖ **Master of Divinity** students must take a minimum of 12 credits on the AST campus during the course of their degree (out of 30 AST credits)

This minimum residency is the expectation and requirement of the United Church Faculty Group as it adjudicates each student prior to awarding the Testamur. The UCFG needs to have confidence in a student's suitability for ministry in order to testify with integrity to the Church on this matter.

Exemptions

Exemptions are considered on a case by case basis, without precedent.

Exemptions may be granted only by the UCFG as a whole, and (if granted) will be documented in a student's official academic file.