EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEACON AND ELDER
IN THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

(As per the 2024 *Transitional Book of Doctrines & Discipline, the* 2025 *Book of Doctrines & Discipline, and the 2027 Book of Doctrines & Discipline*)

** Candidates pursuing deacon's orders under Transitional Book requirements (entered candidacy process prior to January 1, 2025) may be ordained after completing six required classes, with seven years following to complete 10 classes in all.*
Deacon ▻Elder -- required classes for deacons who are pastoring or pursuing elder's orders under the TBDD

COURSE	***TBDD* PRE '25 *** (per ¶ 407)	***BDD* 2025 **** (per ¶ 507)	***BDD* 2027 ***** (per ¶ 507)
DEACON'S ORDERS			
Introduction to Old Testament	Deacon required	Deacon required	Deacon required
Introduction to New Testament	Deacon required	Deacon required	Deacon required
Wesleyan Doctrine and Theology	Deacon required	Deacon required	Deacon required
Methodist History and Po ¶	Deacon required	Deacon reqjuired	Deacon reqjuired
Basics of Preaching	Deacon required	Deacon required	Deacon required
Christian Leadership/Conflict Resolution	Deacon required	Elder required	Elder required
Systematic Theology		Deacon required	Deacon required
Inductive Bible Study or Herementics		Deacon required	Deacon required
Pastoral Care	Deacon▻Elder	Deacon required	Deacon required
Wesleyan Worship & Sacraments	Deacon▻Elder	Deacon required	Deacon required
Evangelism & Missions	Deacon▻Elder	Deacon required	Deacon required
Apologetics	Deacon▻Elder	Elder required	Elder required
Gospel Vision for Justice	Deacon elective		
Christian Education/Discipleship	Deacon elective		
Ministering to Children	Deacon elective	Elder elective	
Models of Youth Ministry	Deacon elective	Elder elective	
Ministry in Intercultural Contexts	Deacon elective		
Additional courses in Bible or theology	Deacon elective		
ELDER'S ORDERS			
History of Christianity Through Reformation	Elder required	Elder required	Elder required
History of Christianity from Reformation to Present	Elder required	Elder required	Elder required
Church Finance & Administration	Elder reqjuired	Elder elective	Elder reqjuired
Systematic Theology	Elder required		
Wesleyan Discipleship/Spiritual Formation		Elder required	Elder required
The Ministry of the Holy Spirit		Elder required	Elder required
Elective Class in Old Testament	Elder required	Elder required	Elder required
Elective Class in New Testament	Elder required	Elder required	Elder required
Theology elective	Elder elective	Elder elective	Elder elective
Mission & Church Renewal	Elder elective		
Media and Modern Applications	Elder elective		
Advanced Preaching	Elder elective	Elder elective	Elder elective
Spiritual Formation	Elder elective		
Philosophy of Religion	Elder elective	Elder elective	Elder elective
Cross Cultural Evangelism		Elder elective	Elder elective
Hebrew or Greek language study		Elder elective	Elder elective
Pastoral Counseling		Elder elective	Elder elective
Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)		Elder elective	Elder elective
Field Study in Israel		Elder elective	Elder elective
Theology of Worship		Elder elective	Elder elective
Directed internship or independent study		Elder elective	Elder elective

** Candidates pursuing elder's orders under* Transitional Book *requirements who were approved by a conference board prior to January 1, 2025, may be ordained after completing 6 required classes, with 7 years following to complete 10 classes in all.*

*** Candidates beginning their education after January 1, 2025 under the 2025 GMC Book of Doctrines & Discipline are required to complete 10 classes prior to their ordination as a deacon and ten additional classes prior to their ordination as an elder.*

**** Candidates beginning their education after January 1, 2027 under the 2027 GMC Book of Doctrines & Discipline are required to complete 10 classes prior to their ordination as a deacon and ten additional classes prior to their ordination as an elder.*

Classes required for deacon's orders
Classes required for deacons who are pastoring or pursuing elder's orders as well
Elective choices for deacon's orders
Classes required for elder's orders
Elective choices for elder's orders

This document is accurate as of September 28, 2026. Students should continue to check with their Board of Ministry for educational requirement updates.