CHECKLISTS FOR COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION

For admission to degree program (MDIV, MAR, MSF, MCPC, MAC), the following items are required:

- Application Form
- Screening Questionnaire
- Autobiography (see Note 1)
- Writing Sample (see Note 2)
- GRE or MAT scores (see Note 3)
- Official transcripts of prior work, sent directly from those institutions
- Reference forms in sealed, signed envelopes (see Note 4)
- Photograph (preferred, but not required)
- Application fee of $55
- Optional forms: Financial Aid Evaluation; Transfer Credits

For admission to a program preparing for ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church or in another denomination, the following is required:

- Copy of your bishop's letter designating you a postulant, or similar document from your denominational authority

For admission to the Diploma programs (DAS and DTS), the following items are required:

- Application Form
- Screening Questionnaire
- Autobiography (see Note 1)
- Writing Sample (see Note 2)
- Official transcripts of prior work, sent directly from those institutions
- Reference forms in sealed, signed envelopes (see Note 4)
- Photograph (preferred, but not required)
- Application fee of $55
- Optional form: Financial Aid Evaluation

For admission as a SPECIAL STUDENT, the following items are required:

- Application Form
- Screening Questionnaire
- Letter explaining what study is intended and why
- Official transcripts of prior work, sent directly from those institutions
- Reference form in sealed, signed envelope (see Note 4)
- If your intent is to earn credits to transfer to another institution, submit a letter from your academic advisor there stating the need for this coursework
- Photograph (preferred, but not required)
- Application fee of $55
NOTE 1. AUTOBIOGRAPHY. In an autobiographical statement of four to seven double-spaced pages, please address the following:

1. your background, experience, and work and educational history;
2. your personal faith pilgrimage, including your vocational aspirations;
3. your understanding of the mission of the Church in and to the world;
4. your expectations of the Seminary, and your idea of how your work here will serve your Christian vocation;
5. how your attendance at seminary will affect your family, i.e., your children, parents, spouse or partner, and others close to you.

NOTE 2. WRITING SAMPLE. Editorial letters present short arguments. In the following Editorial letters from the January 10, 2016 issue of the New York Times, readers respond to a January 3 piece on gratitude by the author and political activist Barbara Ehrenreich. Read each letter and consider its arguments: What central claim does it make? What reasons does it offer in support of the claim? What evidence?

In a short essay (300 - 500 words), please do the following:

1. Compare and contrast the letters' arguments. How are they similar? How are they different? Consider not only the content of the arguments, but also elements such as tone, diction, and structure, if relevant.
2. Evaluate the letters' arguments. Which do you consider more effective, and why?

LETTER 1:

RE "THE SELFISH SIDE OF GRATITUDE," BY BARBARA EHRENREICH (SUNDAY REVIEW, JAN. 3):

WHAT A BEAUTIFULLY COGENT WAY TO FRAME THE ONSET OF ANOTHER YEAR. NOT ONLY IS THIS CONTEMPORARY WAVE OF SELF-IMPROVEMENT GRATING IN ITS OVERUSE OF #GRATITUDE AND #AUTHENTICITY, BUT AS EXPRESSED SO WONDERFULLY IN THIS ESSAY, IT'S JUST A RUSE TO JUSTIFY EMBRACING YOUR INNER NARCISSIST AT THE EXPENSE OF YOUR BROADER COMMUNITY.

ACTUAL GRATITUDE USED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DESIRE TO GIVE BACK AND SHARE THE WEALTH, SO TO SPEAK. TODAY'S ALL-TOO-COMMON FALSE GRATITUDE SEEMS TO CONFUSE SHARING THE WEALTH WITH ALLOWING OTHERS TO BASK IN THE REFLECTED GLORY OF YOUR OWN GOOD FEELINGS ABOUT YOU. IT'S NOT ENLIGHTENED, JUST SELFISH AND DREADFUL. WE LIVE IN A TIME OF SUCH HORRIBLE INEQUITY AND STRUGGLE, WITH, YES, MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR, BUT ALSO MUCH TO RECTIFY AND IMPROVE. IF WE CAN'T FIND MEANING IN CONNECTING WITH THE LIVES OF OTHERS UNLESS WE CAN MAKE IT ALL ABOUT OURSELVES, WE'RE TRULY LOST.

LETTER 2:

I WAS SO DISHEARTENED BY BARBARA EHRENREICH'S LEAP TO ASSUME THAT IT'S SELFISH TO FIND PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH POSITIVE THINKING AND GRATITUDE. IT'S IRONIC FOR ME PERSONALLY THAT SHE POINTS TO THE CRASH OF 2008 AS AN EXCELLENT REASON FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE ABANDONED "SILLY" POSITIVE THINKING.

WHEN MY HUSBAND AND I ALMOST LOST OUR HOUSE THAT YEAR, STRUGGLING WITH HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND A NEW BABY, I DISCOVERED THE EXACT SELF-HELP MESSAGES THAT SHE'S DISMISSING, AND THEY KEPT ME AFLOAT MENTALLY SO THAT I COULD FOCUS ON A PLAN TO GET WORK, AND GET US OUT OF OUR HOLE. I WAS IN DESPAIR, AND FOUND THAT MAKING LISTS OF THINGS I COULD BE THANKFUL FOR BROUGHT ME SOME HAPPINESS, THEN MORE HAPPINESS — AND, YES, IT DID FEEL GOOD, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

AND I WASN'T SELFISH. I DUG MYSELF OUT OF AN ONSLAUGHT OF DEPRESSION, AND WHEN WE GOT BACK ON TRACK FINANCIALLY, I DID PRACTICE A "VIGOROUS AND INCLUSIVE" GRATITUDE BY GIVING BACK TO PEOPLE WHO NEEDED IT. THERE'S ANOTHER SELF-HELP Cliché ABOUT PUTTING YOUR OWN OXYGEN MASK ON FIRST, THEN HELPING OTHERS, AND YOU SIMPLY CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT FIRST PRACTICING PERSONAL (SELFISH?) GRATITUDE.
NOTE 3. GRE/MAT. Scores must be less than five years old.
- Applicants for MDIV and MAR submit GRE scores.
- Applicants for MSF, MCPC, MAC submit MAT scores.

The testing requirement is waived if the applicant:
- holds a Master's degree; or
- has earned a Doctorate from an accredited institution; or
- has completed at least 18 hours of graduate work with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA; or
- has received a 3.25 cumulative GPA on all undergraduate work within the last ten years.

NOTE 4. REFERENCES. Depending upon the program you are applying for please submit the following references:

MDiv and DAS Applicants: Please submit reference forms from three of the following:
1. Parish Priest/Pastor
2. Lay Member of Congregation
3. Academic or Personal

Plus, a letter (or reference form) must be submitted by your bishop or denominational authority.

MAR, MSF, MCPC, MAC, DTS Applicants: Please submit reference forms from three of the following:
1. Parish Priest/Pastor
2. Lay Member of Congregation
3. Academic or Personal

Special Student Applicants: Please submit one reference from one of the following:
1. Parish Priest/Pastor
2. Academic Advisor

CONCERNING YOUR REFERENCES. The Seminary may contact your references by phone or otherwise to follow up on their written comments. The Seminary may also contact other persons in a position to be familiar with your process of discernment for ministry, including if applicable, information about you that is required of dioceses "during preparation for ordination" by Title III of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

NOTE 5. TOEFL. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to present scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language.