



Northwest

Alternate/Mature Student Admission
Evaluation Package

We're excited you want to apply for a graduate level competency-based theological education (CBTE) program at Northwest College and Seminary. Our goal with sending you this document is to help you find the educational path that is right for you, and ultimately, aligns with the unique call of God in your life.

In cases where an applicant lacks a bachelor's degree, normally the following is required for entry into a graduate-level CBTE program delivered solely by Northwest or collaboratively with one of its CBTE networks:

- Be 28 years of age or older.¹
- At least 60 credits of undergraduate studies showing, upon review by Admissions and/or the Northwest Dean's Office, achievement of the knowledge, character, and skill competencies needed to enter and excel in a graduate-level CBTE program at Northwest.
- Completion of pre-program assessments needed for entry to a graduate-level CBTE program delivered solely by Northwest, or collaboratively with one of its CBTE networks.

If you do not have 60 credits of undergraduate studies and are 28 years of age or older, you can apply for Alternate/Mature Student admission. By providing the following information to Northwest Admissions, it will help show whether you are ready to enter and excel in the graduate level CBTE program you would like to begin.

Do you have a proposed ministry context that:

- Affirms your call to and capacity for ministry leadership, especially as it relates to the status of your character, skill, and knowledge, and how all three would grow should you enter the proposed program?
- Commits to supporting you with leadership and service opportunities for the duration of your time in the proposed program?
- Either can propose, or will propose, a ministry mentor for you if you are accepted into the proposed program?
- Evidence required: A letter of recommendation from your ministry context's leadership team that addresses each of these points.

¹ Note: 28 years of age is standard among theological schools for admission to ministry training programs without a bachelor's degree. Northwest follows this practice to encourage younger applicants to complete their undergraduate degrees before applying to seminary as bachelor's degrees provide access to valuable career possibilities. Given that not everyone's circumstances are the same and applicants may come to us through other education or career paths such as the trades, Network sponsors may appeal for Northwest to waive this requirement for an applicant under 28 years of age.

Can you show you have achieved the following?

Preparedness

Are you aware of your strengths and weaknesses, the advantages and disadvantages of your circumstances that may aid or challenge successful completion of graduate studies, and do you approach these in realistic and constructive ways? Can you capably manage your schedule, and do you have the reading, writing, and research skills essential for growth and excellence in your ministry context?

Here is how we will know that you can answer “yes” to all the questions:

- Can you identify your strengths and weaknesses, personal challenges and opportunities, and describe how these will set you up for growth and excellence in ministry?
 - Suggested example: A written response with sufficient theoretical consideration of the question and practical application to your personal and ministry context. A transcript indicating any undergraduate credit earned and/or a completed profile assessment or assessments may also be helpful here, but they are not required.
- In response to minimal, moderate, and major changes in your day-to-day life, can you make changes to your schedule to ensure focus, health, productivity, and growth as a disciple?
 - Suggested example: A resumé with supplementary commentary that explains how your accomplishments and experiences have shaped your ability to focus, maintain your health, be productive, and grow as a disciple of Jesus.
- Do you have values and priorities that define your daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly schedules? If so, what are they and how do they practically shape these schedules (i.e., what you do with your time on short, medium, and long-term bases)?
 - Suggested example: A written response with sufficient theoretical consideration of the question and practical application to your personal and ministry context.
- Can you read, write, and research at a level that will increase your understanding of and connection with God and contribute to your growth in a ministry context?
 - Suggested example: A 1500-word paper or 10-minute presentation on your interpretation of a biblical text and how it applies to your personal and ministry context, with support from at least five academic sources.

Once you have completed and submitted your application, Northwest Admissions will be in contact with you once a determination has been made.

Thank you for the time and effort you have put into this process. We appreciate your consideration of Northwest as a school that you would like to study at.