

McAFEE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
MERCER
UNIVERSITY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

MERCER UNIVERSITY

3001 Mercer University Drive • Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4115

email: theadmiss@mercer.edu

theology.mercer.edu

An Invitation from the Dean —

I appreciate your interest in McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University. If you have not already talked with someone at McAfee, let me encourage you to contact us directly. The call to Christian ministry launches you on an exciting path, and we would like to be a resource for you as you respond to God's guidance in your life.

If you are going to develop your gifts and prepare yourself as fully as possible for the challenges of ministry, you will need a solid program of theological education leading to the Master of Divinity degree. This is normally a three-year program of study. The curriculum at McAfee will be innovative and interdisciplinary, offering both classroom experience and mentoring in local churches. Since its beginnings in 1833, Mercer University has maintained its strong ties to Baptist life in Georgia and to Baptist theological education. McAfee School of Theology offers a program of study that blends the classical disciplines of theological education (biblical studies, church history, theology, preaching, evangelism and pastoral care) with a local-church-based mentoring program. Our hope is that during the time you are at McAfee you will gain a theological education that equips you with experience as a minister, so that you will be prepared to move directly into a full-time place of ministry upon graduation.

We realize that the decisions to respond to God's call to the ministry, get a theological education, and come to McAfee for that experience are all major steps in your life. In response, we commit to be partners with you, to provide you with the finest academic, spiritual and practical educational experience, and to help you with the transitions to and from McAfee to a place of full-time service. We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you as you seek God's will at this crucial time in your life.

Cordially,



R. Alan Culpepper, Ph.D.



THE MISSION OF MCAFEE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY is to extend the mission of the Church in the world by equipping women and men called of God for authentic ministry, the pursuit of spiritual maturity, and the lifelong process of theological inquiry. We are a community:

*Centered on God in Jesus Christ,
Led by the Holy Spirit,
Guided by sacred Scripture,
Founded on the heritage of Baptists, and
Committed to the ministry of the Church.*

Our vision is to graduate ministers whose passion for God and neighbor leads Christian communities to integrate head and heart, worship and witness, tradition and innovation, responsible theological inquiry and prophetic vision.

MCAFEE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY SEEKS TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO BECOME:

- ✦ literate and disciplined in the study of sacred Scripture
- ✦ articulate in understanding the historical and theological issues of faith
- ✦ effective preachers and interpreters of the Christian gospel
- ✦ wise and compassionate in personal and social ministry
- ✦ prepared to integrate faith and life in the spiritual formation of congregations

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES — Based on Jesse Mercer's vision, McAfee School of Theology is founded on 10 principles that have guided its inception and will continue to guide its formation and character:

- 1 The School shall be founded upon the belief that Jesus Christ is the Word of God, the center and focus of faith.
- 2 The School shall spring from Mercer University's conviction about its own vocation as an institution, borne and nurtured by Baptists and Baptist churches and committed to undergirding the work and witness of the church as a community of faith.
- 3 The School shall seek to educate students who are:
 - literate and disciplined in the study of sacred scripture;
 - articulate in understanding the historical and theological issues of faith;
 - effective preachers and interpreters of the Christian gospel;
 - wise and compassionate in personal and social ministry;
 - prepared to integrate faith and life in the spiritual formation of congregations.
- 4 The School shall be devoted to the preparation of men and women who combine the call of God's spirit with the intellectual gifts, the emotional maturity and the spiritual discipline to become effective and responsible pastors and leaders in ministry.
- 5 The School shall be inclusive in spirit and practice, affirming the open search for truth, and fostering tolerance for religious and intellectual diversity.
- 6 By underscoring both scholarly discipline and the experience of ministry, the School shall seek to break through the dichotomy of theory and practice, claiming both reason and compassion, the mind and the heart as gifts of God and conceiving ministry as bringing the sacred to bear upon every dimension of human experience.
- 7 The School shall hold steadfastly to the high and defining traditions of Baptists, including the priesthood of believers, the separation of church and state, the autonomy of the local congregations as the context for mission and ministry, the centrality of scripture to the life of faith, and the resolve that neither creeds nor human affirmations of faith should stand as tests of orthodoxy.
- 8 While holding firmly to its high calling and to its specific responsibility for theological education among Baptists, the School shall also accept its responsibility to embrace the whole world as the creation of God and to serve the wider Christian community as the people of God who are called to live out God's purpose and presence in the world.
- 9 The School shall embody the historical traditions of Mercer University, valuing both intellectual freedom and the affirmation of faith as the foundations of the University.
- 10 The School shall serve as a continuing resource to churches, pastors and professionals in ministry for their continuing education and as a reference and placement service for churches, pastors and other church leaders.

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION to MCAFEE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

We are pleased that you are interested in admission to McAfee School of Theology. The following instructions and the materials in this booklet should simplify the process for you. We will begin processing your application for admission when your application essays, fee, letters of recommendation and your transcripts have been received.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for admission to McAfee School of Theology are required to have a bachelor's degree with a liberal arts core from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States, or proof of an equivalent degree from a foreign university. Admission will be based on your total profile (undergraduate GPA, personal information you supply, letters of recommendation and/or interviews). A minimum grade point average of 2.75 overall and 3.0 in your major is normally required. Ultimate approval of admission to the M.Div. program is given by the dean.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE CHECKLIST

- Complete the application for admission on pages 5 and 6 and return it with a check for the \$35.00 non-refundable application fee.
- Ask your pastor to complete and return the "Pastor's Recommendation" to McAfee School of Theology.
- Ask a professor or supervisor to complete and return the "Professor's/Supervisor's Recommendation" to McAfee School of Theology.
- Ask a lay leader/minister in your church who knows you well to complete and return the "Church Leader's Recommendation" to McAfee School of Theology.
- Arrange for each institution of higher education that you have attended to send us an official transcript of your work.
- Schedule a campus visit or arrange for an interview with an admissions representative.
- Submit completed health form prior to matriculation.
- Materials should be addressed to: Office of Admissions, McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341-4115. *Make Checks payable to McAfee School of Theology*

All applicants are encouraged to visit our campus. To arrange a campus visit, call (888) 471-9922 or (678) 547-6474.

FINANCIAL AID / SCHOLARSHIPS

Compare the cost of theological education with costs at other seminaries and divinity schools and you will be surprised at the affordability of a McAfee education. Mercer University makes a significant commitment to underwrite much of the cost of studying at McAfee School of Theology. Information regarding merit- and need-based financial aid is available from the admissions office.

HOUSING

Limited student housing is available on the Mercer campus in Atlanta. Call (678) 547-6104 for more information. McAfee School of Theology also maintains a list of apartments and rental properties, and we would be happy to refer you to persons who can assist you in arranging your housing.

If you need any additional information or assistance in applying for admission to McAfee School of Theology, call (678) 547-6474 or (888) 471-9922 or e-mail the Admissions Office at theadmiss@mercer.edu. Also, please visit our Web site at <http://theology.mercer.edu>.



Attach Photograph
(optional)

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Please print clearly or type. *Optional Information*, on the back of this form, is to be used for statistical purposes only. Remember that an application requires a \$35.00 non-refundable fee. Applications will not be processed without this fee.

A P P L I C A N T D A T A Date of Birth ____/____/____ Social Security # _____

Name _____

Last or Family
First
Middle
Name Called
(Maiden)

Permanent Home Address _____

P.O. Box or Street
City
State
Zip code

School or Current Address (if different from above) _____

P.O. Box or Street
City
State
Zip code

Permanent Telephone (____) _____ School Telephone (____) _____
 Cell Telephone (____) _____ Work Telephone (____) _____
 E-mail _____

Citizenship (if other than United States) _____ Visa type _____ Expiration: _____

If not U.S., are you a permanent resident? Yes No Is English your native or birth language? Yes No

Applicants for whom English is not their native or birth language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). This applies even to applicants who are U.S. citizens. Date when TOEFL was or will be taken _____ .

E C C L E S I A S T I C A L D A T A

Religious/denominational affiliation _____

Current congregational membership and location _____

List current and past involvement in your communities of faith (churches, campus ministries, etc.) including any leadership positions held.

A C A D E M I C D A T A

Are you a former/current Mercer University student? Yes No

Have you previously applied to McAfee School of Theology? Yes No

Expected enrollment date: Year 20____ ____ Fall ____ Spring ____ Summer Full Time Part Time

What is your estimated overall undergraduate GPA? ____ What is your major? _____ Estimated GPA in major? ____

In your own view, is your academic record reflective of your scholastic ability? Yes No If not, please explain in writing.

Name of Institution	Location	Month and Year of Attendance	Major	Degree (or number of hours completed)	Date of Degree
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

O N E official transcript of your academic record must be sent by the registrar of each institution of higher education previously attended. Transcripts for former Mercer University students are on file in the Records Office, but must be requested by the applicant to be sent to the School of Theology.

WORK EXPERIENCE DATA

List employment and military service. Omit summer and part-time work unless directly relevant to your educational goals.

Employer	Location	Inclusive Dates	Kind and Level of Work
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

PERSONAL / AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Please type your answers on additional sheets for the following items. Give attention to style and content.

1. Give an account of your Christian pilgrimage.
2. Tell the story of your personal commitment to ministry.
3. What factors have led you to apply to McAfee School of Theology for your theological training?
4. What are your ministry goals (the kinds of ministries you envision for yourself)?

REFERENCES

Ask three persons who know your qualifications well to write recommendations on your behalf using the enclosed recommendation forms. List their names and contact information below. Be sure to fill out the information at the top of each form. **These forms are to be sent directly to McAfee School of Theology by the recommender.**

Name and Position	Address, Telephone #, and Email
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I certify that the information given in this application is true, correct and complete.

Signature of Applicant

Date

McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University complies with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws and does not engage in prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age or disability.

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

The following data is requested for statistical reports. This information is not evaluated for purpose of eligibility for admission.

Gender: Male Female

Marital Status: Married Single Divorced Widowed

Name of Spouse _____ Date of Marriage ____/____/____

Ethnic Background (check one): African-American Asian/Pacific Islander Caucasian

Hispanic Native American/Alaskan Other, please specify _____

What former names might appear on your academic records? _____

Home church name _____

Address _____

Other seminaries to which you are applying _____



Call With Questions
(678) 547-6474
1 (888) 471-9922
Fax: (678) 547-6478

PASTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

TO THE APPLICANT

Please complete this section before giving it to your recommender. Then submit the recommendation form to the respondent.

Application for the year 20____ Fall Spring Summer

Social Security # _____

Name _____

Address _____

P.O. Box or Street

City

State

Zip Code

Home Telephone (_____) _____ Work Telephone (_____) _____

Cell Telephone (_____) _____ School Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

I waive all future rights to review this form once submitted to McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University and agree to respect the confidentiality of the remarks made by the respondent.

Signature of Applicant

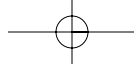
TO THE PASTOR

The student named above is applying for admission to McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University. The School of Theology is committed to training Christian leaders for local ministry. Your recommendation should refer to the applicant's Christian commitment through ministries of a local church. It should also highlight distinguishing intellectual and personal traits, character, integrity and fitness for ministry, as well as creative and special talents of the applicant. Statements will be kept confidential and made available only to those officers directly concerned with admission to the School of Theology. You will note the statement above signifying whether or not the applicant waives all future rights to review this form once it has been submitted to the School of Theology. Thank you for helping us evaluate the qualifications of this candidate. After completing the form, mail it directly to the OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS, MCAFEE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, 3001 MERCER UNIVERSITY DRIVE, ATLANTA, GA 30341-4115.

Please complete the following sections.

A. KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPLICANT

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____ Years _____ Months
2. How well do you know the applicant? Casually Well Very Well
3. How long has the applicant been a member of your church? _____ Years _____ Months
4. Describe the applicant's involvement in the local church.



B. ABILITY OF THE APPLICANT

Please rate the candidate by placing a check mark by one or more items under each of the headings below. If you wish, briefly describe on a separate page specific instances that support or interpret your judgement. Do not check boxes about which you feel uncertain or have not had opportunity to observe.

ACHIEVEMENT (*ability to formulate, execute, and carry plans to conclusion*)

- Does only what is assigned
- Starts but does not finish
- Meets average expectations
- Resourceful and effective
- Superior creative ability

EMOTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

- Yields to urges or cravings
- Tense, fearful, worried
- Easily angered, easily frustrated
- Downhearted, blue, depressed
- Maintains balance, self-controlled

INTELLIGENCE

- Learns and thinks slowly
- Average mental ability
- Alert; has a good mind
- Brilliant; exceptional capacity

LEADERSHIP (*ability to inspire others and maintain their confidence*)

- Makes no effort to lead
- Tries but lacks ability
- Has some leadership promise
- Good leadership ability
- Unusual ability to lead

PERSEVERANCE

- (*in completing tasks*)
- Gives up easily or easily discouraged
 - Needs encouragement to persevere
 - Persists in most circumstances
 - Persists even under adversity

PHYSICAL CONDITION

- Frequently incapacitated
- Somewhat below par
- Fairly healthy
- Good health

RESPONSIVENESS (*to feelings and needs of others*)

- Slow to sense how others feel
- Reasonably responsive
- Understanding and thoughtful
- Responds with unusual insight and consideration

SELF-IMAGE

- Insecure
- Inferiority complex
- Self-confident
- May be prone to boast
- Modest, true estimate of self

SOCIABILITY OR FRIENDLINESS

- Avoided by others
- Tolerated by others
- Liked by others
- Well-liked by others
- Sought by others

TEACHABILITY

- Rigid, argumentative
- Highly opinionated
- Open-minded
- Willing to receive instruction
- Eager to receive instruction

TEAMWORK (*ability to work with others*)

- Frequently causes friction
- Usually cooperative
- Prefers to work alone
- Able to work with those of different personality or temperament
- Most effective in teamwork

Listed below are some of the tendencies that may reduce the effectiveness of the student. Place a check mark by any characteristics or traits that you have noted in the applicant:

- Impatient
- Intolerant
- "Cocky"
- Easily Embarrassed
- Impersonal
- Tense
- Unteachable
- Critical of others

- Easily offended
- Aloof
- Quick-tempered
- Lacking in humor or inability to take a joke
- Argumentative
- Self-centered
- Discouraged

- Frequently worried
- Prejudice toward groups, races or nationalities
- Domineering
- Sullen
- Rude
- Depressed
- Anxious

- Rigid, not adaptable
- Lacking tact
- Irritable
- Nervous
- Given to exclusive and absorbing friendships, i.e., "crushes"

How would you rate the applicant's potential in Christian Ministry?

- Exceptional Very Good Good Fair Poor

Do you have any reservation in recommending this person?

C. Please comment on the candidate's depth of Christian commitment, relationship to the church, gifts for ministry, community involvement, ability to serve others, and other pertinent information you believe to be important to the admissions committee in considering this applicant. Attach any additional pages you require.

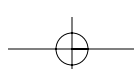
Your name (please print) _____ Title _____

Your address (please print) _____

Your institution or organization name (please print) _____

Your Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Your signature _____ Date _____





Call With Questions
(678) 547-6474
1 (888) 471-9922
Fax: (678) 547-6478

CHURCH LEADER'S RECOMMENDATION

TO THE APPLICANT

Please complete this section before giving it to your recommender. Then submit the recommendation form to the respondent.

Application for the year 20____ Fall Spring Summer

Social Security # _____

Name _____

Address _____

P.O. Box or Street

City

State

Zip Code

Home Telephone (_____) _____ Work Telephone (_____) _____

Cell Telephone (_____) _____ School Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

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Signature of Applicant

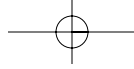
TO THE CHURCH LEADER

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B. ABILITY OF THE APPLICANT

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- Superior creative ability

EMOTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

- Yields to urges or cravings
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- Downhearted, blue, depressed
- Maintains balance, self-controlled

INTELLIGENCE

- Learns and thinks slowly
- Average mental ability
- Alert; has a good mind
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LEADERSHIP (*ability to inspire others and maintain their confidence*)

- Makes no effort to lead
- Tries but lacks ability
- Has some leadership promise
- Good leadership ability
- Unusual ability to lead

PERSEVERANCE

- (*in completing tasks*)
- Gives up easily or easily discouraged
 - Needs encouragement to persevere
 - Persists in most circumstances
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PHYSICAL CONDITION

- Frequently incapacitated
- Somewhat below par
- Fairly healthy
- Good health

RESPONSIVENESS (*to feelings and needs of others*)

- Slow to sense how others feel
- Reasonably responsive
- Understanding and thoughtful
- Responds with unusual insight and consideration

SELF-IMAGE

- Insecure
- Inferiority complex
- Self-confident
- May be prone to boast
- Modest, true estimate of self

SOCIABILITY OR FRIENDLINESS

- Avoided by others
- Tolerated by others
- Liked by others
- Well-liked by others
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TEACHABILITY

- Rigid, argumentative
- Highly opinionated
- Open-minded
- Willing to receive instruction
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TEAMWORK (*ability to work with others*)

- Frequently causes friction
- Usually cooperative
- Prefers to work alone
- Able to work with those of different personality or temperament
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Listed below are some of the tendencies that may reduce the effectiveness of the student. Place a check mark by any characteristics or traits that you have noted in the applicant:

- Impatient
- Intolerant
- "Cocky"
- Easily Embarrassed
- Impersonal
- Tense
- Unteachable
- Critical of others

- Easily offended
- Aloof
- Quick-tempered
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- Discouraged

- Frequently worried
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- Sullen
- Rude
- Depressed
- Anxious

- Rigid, not adaptable
- Lacking tact
- Irritable
- Nervous
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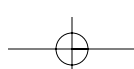
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PROFESSOR'S/SUPERVISOR'S RECOMMENDATION

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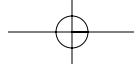
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- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient | <input type="checkbox"/> Easily offended | <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently worried | <input type="checkbox"/> Rigid, not adaptable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intolerant | <input type="checkbox"/> Aloof | <input type="checkbox"/> Prejudice toward groups, races or nationalities | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking tact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Cocky" | <input type="checkbox"/> Quick-tempered | <input type="checkbox"/> Domineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Irritable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easily Embarrassed | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking in humor or inability to take a joke | <input type="checkbox"/> Sullen | <input type="checkbox"/> Nervous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impersonal | <input type="checkbox"/> Argumentative | <input type="checkbox"/> Rude | <input type="checkbox"/> Given to exclusive and absorbing friendships, i.e., "crushes" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tense | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-centered | <input type="checkbox"/> Depressed | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unteachable | <input type="checkbox"/> Discouraged | <input type="checkbox"/> Anxious | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical of others | | | |

How would you rate the applicant's potential in Christian Ministry?

- Exceptional Very Good Good Fair Poor

Do you have any reservation in recommending this person?

C. Please comment on the candidate's depth of Christian commitment, relationship to the church, gifts for ministry, community involvement, ability to serve others, and other pertinent information you believe to be important to the admissions committee in considering this applicant. Attach any additional pages you require.

Your name (please print) _____ Title _____

Your address (please print) _____

Your institution or organization name (please print) _____

Your Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Your signature _____ Date _____

