



For international applicants — On-campus degree programs (visa required) AMBS Admissions Application Fields

To assist you in preparing to complete the online AMBS Admissions Application, the content of the application appears on the following five pages so that you can know which information you will be asked to supply. The application software will automatically save your work, so you can complete the form in installments if needed. Please note that this document is not the actual application form; applicants must use the online form.

We are pleased that you are considering Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary for graduate study. Please be aware that because of limited resources, we can only accept a certain number of international students who apply to pursue theological education at AMBS. Several factors are used in our decision-making process:

1. Is the student currently involved in a church ministry in his/her own country?
2. Does the student give evidence of adequate knowledge of the English language?
3. Does the student possess adequate qualifications to pursue graduate-level studies, including a bachelor's degree?
4. Does the student possess adequate funds to live and study in the United States?

In addition to completing the form that begins below, please gather all of the following materials and submit them to the AMBS Admissions Office:

- **References**

See information on references below.

- **Transcripts**

Request that EACH academic institution you have attended send an **official** transcript directly to:

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Admissions Office
3003 Benham Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46517-1947
USA

Transcripts must be sent in a sealed envelope with the registrar's signature across the flap. Applicants may be asked to submit their education credentials to World Education Services (WES) for verification. You will be notified if this is necessary.

- **Certification of Funds**

In order for AMBS to issue the proper student visa papers, you must show that you have sufficient funding from your savings, supporters and AMBS financial aid to cover the cost of your studies and living expenses here. After submitting your Admissions Application, you will receive an email with further instructions about appropriate documentation and certification of funds, which must be completed and returned to AMBS before proper papers will be issued.

- **Housing Application**

Access the housing application:
ambs.edu/admissions/housing-application

- **Fees**

An application fee of \$50 in U.S. funds (nonrefundable) must be paid to AMBS by check, money order, VISA or MasterCard. A SEVIS fee of \$350 must be paid to AMBS for an F-1 student visa. This fee is nonrefundable once it is sent to Homeland Security for processing; we recommend waiting to pay the SEVIS fee until after an admissions decision has been made. See "Application fee" section below.

Name and contact information

First name Required

Middle name

Last name Required

Maiden name, if applicable

Preferred name Required

Current home address Required

Mailing address for I-20

(If different than above)

Telephone number Required

Phone type Required

Email address Required

Personal data

Date of birth Required

Gender Required

City of birth Required

Country of birth Required

Citizenship Required

Marital status

Name of spouse

Names of family members

If you are moving to campus or relocating to the Elkhart area and have other family members accompanying you (including spouse and minor children), please enter their information (name, date of birth, gender, and relation to you) here.

Passport scans

Please scan the first page of your passport and of all family members who will accompany you to AMBS.

How did you become acquainted with AMBS?

Required

Reason for applying Required

What was most important in your decision to apply to AMBS?

Academic objectives

Select the program and concentration for which you are applying.

Program of study Required

- Master of Divinity Campus
- Master of Divinity Connect
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies

Indicate MDiv Major or MATPS Concentration

When and where do you plan to begin studies?

Term Required

(Note: The option to start in Semester Two is only open to Graduate Certificate students.)

Location Required

Intended enrollment status Required

Religious affiliation

Current denomination Required

Current congregation Required

I am (choose any/all that apply) Required

- Licensed for ministry
- Ordained for ministry
- Not credentialed

Personal essay

Application essay

Please submit a personal essay (1,200 to 1,800 words, double-spaced) describing your desire to pursue a graduate theological degree at AMBS. Detail experiences and influences that have led you to seek a seminary education; ways that you believe this degree program will help you meet your vocational, educational and spiritual goals; and your understanding of the level of commitment this will require. Include in your answer an assessment of your gifts and abilities and how you expect to grow. This should reflect your best work, and it must be your own writing. Short phrases pulled from other sources may be used only if they are cited correctly.

Essays may be uploaded here or sent via email attachment (Microsoft Word document or PDF) to admissions@ambs.edu.

Academic background

Please list all colleges, universities and seminaries attended.

Name of Institution 1 Required
Location of Institution 1 Required
Attended from (month/year) Required
Attended to (month/year) Required
Degree granted Required
Degree and major Required

Name of Institution 2
Location of Institution 2
Attended from (month/year)
Attended to (month/year)
Degree granted
Degree and major

Additional institutions

Academic awards

Academic dismissal Required

Have you ever been dismissed or suspended from an academic institution?

Work experience

Briefly describe any work and volunteer experience, especially that which contributes to your academic and vocational goals. We are interested in knowing about work you have done inside and/or outside a church setting, e.g., Christian education, preaching, church music, youth work (summer youth camps, etc.), community service, social work, etc.

Work experience Required

List names of churches/agencies, tasks performed and time spent in each place.

Languages

English Required

Check each skill that applies to your use of English.

Other languages used

List the languages you use (other than English) and your skill in each (reading, writing, speaking).

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

Students coming from non-English-speaking countries are required to take the TOEFL or IELTS.

Request that the results be sent to:

AMBS Admissions
3003 Benham Avenue
Elkhart, IN 46517-1947
USA

Contact www.ETS.org to complete the TOEFL. The AMBS code for TOEFL is 9570. **The minimum score for admittance to AMBS is 90 on the internet-based TOEFL, or 7.0 on the IELTS.**

Students who hold or are in the process of earning a degree from an accredited institution in the United States before enrolling at AMBS may inquire about having this requirement waived.

Have you taken the TOEFL or IELTS? Required

Date taken

If you have already taken the TOEFL or IELTS, please provide the date on which you took the test.

Expected test date

If you have **not** already taken the TOEFL or IELTS, please provide the date on which you expect to take one of these tests.

References

Applicants to AMBS are required to have references in support of their goals for seminary study and/or their sense of call to ministry. Please list the names of (1) a pastor or conference minister, (2) a college professor, academic advisor or someone who can evaluate your reading and writing ability, and (3) a colleague who can provide this kind of reference for you. (If you completed your most recent education more than 10 years ago, you may choose to supply an employer reference in lieu of an academic reference.) We will send the appropriate reference form to each person using the email addresses you provide below.

We do not accept references from a spouse or relative.

Forms are attached here, in case your references prefer to complete them by hand. Please ask your

references to complete the form and return it via email to admissions@ambs.edu. Forms can also be returned via postal mail directly to AMBS.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT: It is the policy of AMBS that reference forms are kept confidential, are not made available to the applicant, and are destroyed once we have made a decision about admission or scholarships (if applicable).

Pastoral reference name Required

Pastoral reference email address

Academic reference name Required

Academic reference email address

Layperson reference name Required

Layperson reference email address

Close relative or friend

List the name, address, relationship, telephone number and email address of a friend or close relative (if any) residing in the U.S.

AMBS faculty member or current/former student

List the name, address (if known), relationship, telephone number and email address of an AMBS faculty member or current/former student whom you know (if any).

Housing

Please select your housing plans: Required

Date when you would need housing

To arrange for campus housing, please complete a Housing Application and submit a deposit. Applications can be found at ambs.edu/admissions/housing-application.

Emergency contact

Please provide the name and information of someone we should contact in case an emergency arises while you are an AMBS student.

Name (first and last) Required

Relationship Required

Address Required

Telephone number Required

Phone type Required

Email address

Health insurance requirement

You are required to hold health insurance for yourself and any family members joining you in the U.S. This insurance must meet certain requirements, so any insurance you already have may need to be supplemented. More information will be provided with admissions and enrollment materials.

Criminal history

Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

(not including a minor traffic violation)

Required

Details and explanation

Background check

As a condition of admission, an applicant will be required to authorize Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) to obtain a background check. If the results of the background check are not deemed acceptable, AMBS will evaluate the results based on the nature of the violation and extenuating circumstances. (AMBS does not automatically deny admission based on minor offenses.)

Any information provided by the applicant regarding his or her background check will be included for consideration in his or her application for admission. If the applicant is admitted, AMBS will store a copy of the background check in the student's file in perpetuity, either on paper or digitally archived. If the applicant is not admitted, AMBS will store the entire application, including the background check, in the seminary's admissions files for a period of two years, after which the application will be destroyed in its entirety.

Please complete the following three forms and return them to the Admissions Office via email (admissions@ambs.edu) or postal mail:

AMBS Admissions
3003 Benham Avenue
Elkhart, IN 46517-1947
USA

FCRA Disclosure Form.docx
Background Check Consent.docx
CanIntl Profile Form.pdf

AMBS Mission and Values

Admission to AMBS assumes a commitment on the part of every student to join and participate in a community devoted to theological education and preparation for ministry, worship, study and the life of Christian faith. This community, whether on campus or at a distance, is part of and accountable to the church of Jesus Christ, the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition and the seminary's sponsoring churches (Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA). It is understood that all members of the seminary community will respect the confessions, convictions, values and commitments of the tradition and the churches that AMBS serves, and will respect other traditions represented in the community and in the places where members minister and learn. It also is understood that members of the community will respect the core values of AMBS and the seminary's commitment to antiracism and welcoming Christians of diverse traditions and ethnicities.

To read the mission and values of AMBS, visit ambs.edu/about.

Acknowledgment of requirements and commitment

I have read the information above and understand the mission and values of AMBS (ambs.edu/about). My filing of this application indicates my willingness to cooperate with the standards and purpose of the seminary. I agree to withdraw my enrollment should I find myself unable to support them.

Acceptance of above statement Required

To indicate your acceptance, please type your full name in the box below.

Application fee

The nonrefundable application fee of USD \$50 may be paid in the form of a check or money order, or by using VISA, MasterCard or Discover. To make a payment or for further instructions about sending a check, please visit ambs.edu/admissions/application-fee-payment.

Your application is not complete until we receive your payment.

A \$350 SEVIS fee is also required for an F-1 student status visa. This fee is nonrefundable once it is sent to Homeland Security for processing. We recommend waiting to pay the SEVIS fee until after an admissions decision has been made.

Pay online with credit card

To submit the \$50 nonrefundable application fee online with a credit card, go to: ambs.edu/admissions/application-fee-payment

Call AMBS with credit card information

To submit the \$50 nonrefundable application fee by phone using a credit card, please call 800-964-2627 ext. 0 and have your credit card ready.

Pay with PayPal

To pay via PayPal, go to: ambs.edu/admissions/application-fee-payment

Pay with a personal check

To pay by check, please send the \$50 nonrefundable application fee payable to "AMBS" to:

AMBS Admissions Office
3003 Benham Avenue
Elkhart, IN 46517-1947
USA

Please indicate your full name on the check.

If you have any questions about the information that is required for the Admissions Application, please contact Enrollment and Financial Aid Specialist Teresa Thompson Sherrill at tsherrill@ambs.edu or 800-964-2627 ext. 227.

6-15-2022