

III. PLAN OF EXAMINATION
A. PERSONNEL OF FLORIDA DISTRICT BOARD OF MINISTRY (DBOM)
FLORIDA NAZARENE BIBLE INSTITUTE (FNBI)
(*see Roll of Ministers for contact information)

District Superintendent*

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Board of Directors – Florida District Board of Ministry (DBOM)*

B. INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

<https://www.floridanaz.com/fl-dist-board-of-min>

Introduction – The Church of the Nazarene, from its inception has always held to the biblical teaching that all believers are ministers and should be equipped for works of service (Philippians 4). The Church also holds to the value of a well-educated clergy. Those who are called to specialized service and ministry. Therefore, the following information outlines the Florida District Board of Ministry's intent to fulfill that value to the best of our ability. Note: please be aware that the regulations herein apply specifically to those persons who are pursuing ministerial credentialing and intend to become ordained (referred to as MIT – Ministers in Training). However, any person wishing to improve their knowledge and competency for ministry as a lay person is certainly welcome to register and take the classes for their own enrichment.

Registration

Registration is open to all students. MITs are those specifically pursuing the call of God to ministry, who demonstrate gifts and graces recognized by the local church and are recommended by the Pastor. Registration with the District Board of Ministry (DBOM) is done by online registration form, which is posted at floridanaz.com under Board of Ministry/Ministry Preparation. Contact the District Secretary for information.

Course of Study

MITs are required to complete the 25 COSAC approved classes of the validated course of study as established in the Nazarene Manual (Para 529 – 530.2), and according to the various fields of ministry. The DBOM coordinates training in all educational tracks and evaluates progress with each MIT. An annual interview determines the level of study assigned each year.

Educational Path of Study

The primary recommended path of study for full-time Christian service is by attending a Nazarene liberal arts college or university, Nazarene Theological Seminary, or Nazarene Bible College (NBC Online). It must be understood that Florida Nazarene Bible Institute (FNBI) offers a core set of approved classes each Church year, including classes as needed by the MITs. Dates and times will be posted on floridanaz.com/Board of Ministry. Beginning in 2018, the course of study program (Ministry Preparation Program or MPP) offered by Nazarene Bible College Online is the preferred online provider for Florida District MITs. Other Nazarene programs, such as Northwest Nazarene University Online Course of Study are also approved. Programs outside the Church of the Nazarene must be pre-approved by the District Educational Director, to determine compatibility and compliance with the established educational standards set forth by Clergy Development and the Church of the Nazarene International Board of Education. It is also possible that certain college classes taken by MITs prior to their entering the ministry preparation process, may also be accepted, once evaluated and recommended by the District Educational Director. It is to be understood that the District Board of Ministry has final determination of which classes are approved and accepted, and when an MIT has completed the educational requirements for graduation from the course of study and qualification for ordination consideration.

Regulations for Ministerial Students

1. Each MIT is instructed to obtain the *Guide to Ministerial Preparation and Ordination 2017* to become familiar with the details leading to ordination. This booklet is available online at Global Clergy Development → <https://nubo.nazarene.org/index.php/s/JYZ7WEBGG4cc5AK>.
2. New enrollees and Level One MITs should attend "**First Class**"; this is the required orientation class for ministerial preparation toward ordination on Florida District. Ideally, it should be taken before starting the course of study classes. This class will be offered at least once per Church year, but ideally more than once per year. The objective of this class is to introduce those who have sensed a call of God upon their life to the plan of examination and the credentialing process as it is offered on Florida District. Look for information posted at <https://www.floridanaz.com/fl-dist-board-of-min> and click on FNBI "**First Class**" for dates of sessions.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- MITs should be able to distinguish between a call to lay ministry and a call leading to ordination.
- MITs should be able to state a clear call to ministry both verbally and in written form.
- MITs should have an understanding of the Deacon and Elder tracks.

- MITs should be able to articulate the Plan of Examination of The Florida District.
3. All course credits for the district assembly year (March 1 through February 28) must be recorded with the District Educational Director and District Secretary by February 28. Work filed thereafter will apply in the following assembly year. January 15 is the deadline to report prior classes completed and/or to report that you are currently in a class to be completed by February 28. MITs are responsible to ensure that completed classes have been reported in a timely manner, even if the educational provider (such as NBC, NNU, FNBI, etc.) submits them.
 4. Ministry Call registration form for FNBI may be accessed online at floridanaz.com/Board of Ministry/Ministry Preparation. All requested information is required. This information will be shared with all pertinent Board of Ministry personnel.
 5. MITs are expected to be prepared to appear for an interview as called upon by the District Board of Ministry, at the date, time, and place specified. MITs seeking a first district license must have completed "First-Class" (the district ministry preparation four-hour orientation class), and one-quarter of the course curriculum (six classes, including Manual, History and Polity of the Church of the Nazarene and Doctrine of Holiness), and have held a local minister's license for at least one full year. While not required at this point in the process, it is highly recommended that the perspective MIT also be serving in some ministry in their local Church under the supervision of their local pastor.
 6. MITs should submit transcripts/verified grade reports of any/all coursework (regardless of provider) to the District Educational Director for evaluation. Only those courses that meet the desired outcome of the Course of Studies guidelines and receiving a grade of "C" or better or a "Pass" from a "Pass/Fail" grade system, will be given consideration for equivalency credit toward the COS requirement.
 7. FNBI class fee is \$75.00/ class. Payment is required to be paid at the time of registration, or the registration will not be accepted. MITs should inquire about possible available scholarships. Some classes may also be made available for auditing. Those audit classes will not be available to MITs, but only to others who may wish to take the class. The audit fee is \$25.00/ class, payable at registration.
 8. Pertaining to COS classes: an MIT receiving a grade of C or higher will be considered to have successfully completed a COS class, regardless of the program. MITs receiving a D or Failing grade in any class, will be required to retake the class at their own expense. Classes are considered incomplete when either the MIT drops out of the class after the drop date or fails to complete the class assignments. Also, incompletes must also be retaken and a fee of \$75.00 applies. In very rare instances, a MIT may petition and be approved to work with an assigned instructor to finish the portion of the class not completed, within a specified time. In such rare cases, the MIT will not be charged an additional fee. However, the grade of C or better must be achieved. Refunds for classes may only be considered if the MIT drops a class before the stated drop date. No refunds will be given if the MIT drops the class after the stated drop date, no exceptions.
 9. MITs will be required to keep a record of classes completed, grades received, and the classes they still need to complete. MIT records should be submitted for comparison to the DBOM Studies records for verification purposes. The DBOM Studies records will be updated as needed and these files will be considered the official record of completion. The DBOM will purge its old transcripts records from time to time, so MITs should be sure to obtain a complete official record/ transcript for their files when they complete the COS and are graduated.
 10. The Validated Course of Study completion requirement must be achieved within ten (10) years from the granting of the first district license. (Manual 532.4). If this time-period is not met, except for very rare exceptions, the candidate becomes ineligible for ordination.

Where to Go

Any person who desire to enroll in the Course of Study should start with their local pastor. For more information or guidance contact the Florida District NBI Director or go to <https://www.floridanaz.com/fl-dist-board-of-min>.

To inquire about the global ministerial preparation program for the Church of the Nazarene and download helpful resources go to: <https://www.usacanadaregion.org/clergy-development/call-ministry/>.