

# Military Chaplaincy Requirements

As of Thursday, August 21, 2008

To learn more about a Master of Divinity degree or a Master of Arts at Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina, please visit us at: <http://www.rts.edu/charlotte>

Or visit my page at <http://thecall.rts.edu>

(The Reverend) Michael A. Milton, PhD, President and Professor of Practical Theology  
Chaplain (Major), United States Army Reserves, Chief of Chaplain's Office, Washington, DC

PCA, OPC, RPCNA inquirers: <http://www.pca-mna.org/chaplainministries/index.php>  
EPC Inquirers: <http://www.epc.org/ministries/ministerial-vocation/becoming-a-chaplain/>

ARP, CP, CPCA and PCUSA inquirers: <http://www.pccmp.org/Applications.htm>

## Air Force

1. Selection for chaplains is both competitive and based on the needs of the Air Force. The basic requirements for the Air Force Chaplain Service include:
  - Ecclesiastical Endorsement, DD Form 2088, from a DoD recognized endorser
  - Minimum two years religious leadership experience
  - United States citizenship
  - Baccalaureate degree (not less than 120 semester hours) and a Master's Degree in Theology or related subjects (not less than 72 semester hrs) from an accredited institution.
  - Must enter active duty (EAD) prior to 40 years of age or prior to 42 with two years of satisfactory prior active duty military service
  - Commissioned officers must be in the grade of Captain (O-3) and below
  - Pass commissioning physical and background security investigation
  - Ability to work in DoD directed religious accommodation environment supporting the free exercise of religion for all military personnel and their dependents
  - Have not accepted military separation pay, VSI/SSB

*For more information visit: <http://www.usafhc.af.mil/>*

## Navy/Marines

1. The Navy accepts clergy from over 100 denominations and faith groups
  - Qualified applicants must be U.S. citizens at least 21 years of age;
  - Must meet certain medical and physical fitness standards;

- Must hold a B.A. or B.S. degree, with not less than 120 semester hours from a qualified educational institution; and hold a post baccalaureate graduate degree, which includes 72 semester hours of graduate level course work in a field of theological or related studies. At least one half (i.e. 36) of these hours must include topics in general religion, theology, religious philosophy, ethics, and/or the foundational writings from one religious tradition. Accredited distance education graduate programs are acceptable.
2. Chaplains then attend the Navy Chaplain School in Newport, RI for a basic orientation course.
  3. The Navy also has a Chaplain Candidate Program Officer (CCPO) program for seminary students who might be interested in obtaining a commission before completing their graduate studies. The CCPO program offers significant pay advantages once a chaplain enters active duty. The program also includes on-the-job training under the direct supervision of an active duty chaplain.

***For more information visit:*** <http://www.navy.com/officer/clergy?lid=skills#j>

## **Army**

1. You must obtain an ecclesiastical endorsement from your faith group. This endorsement should certify that you are:
  - a. A clergy person in your denomination or faith group.
  - b. Qualified spiritually, morally, intellectually and emotionally to serve as a Chaplain in the Army.
  - c. Sensitive to religious pluralism and able to provide for the free exercise of religion by all military personnel, their family members and civilians who work for the Army.
2. Educationally, you must:
  - a. Possess a baccalaureate degree of not less than 120 semester hours.
  - b. Possess a master's degree in divinity or a graduate degree in theological studies, which includes at least 72 hours.
3. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
4. Be able to receive a favorable background check.
5. Pass a physical exam.

***For more information visit:***

<http://www.goarmy.com/chaplain/index.jsp?iom=9389-ITBP-ACCH-01012008-25-07021-TEXTAD>