



DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT
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The Director of Vocations and the Seminarian Admissions Board will follow the "Norms for the Admission of Candidates" from the *Program of Priestly Formation*, 5th Edition (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006) in the interview and deliberation process and in their recommendations for acceptance to priestly formation for the Diocese of Davenport presented to the Bishop. Of particular note, the Director of Vocations and Seminarian Admissions Board should keep the following norms in mind:

Applicants must give evidence of an overall personal balance, good moral character, a love for the truth, and proper motivation. This includes the requisite human, moral, spiritual, intellectual, physical, and psychological qualities for priestly formation (#44).

Any evidence of criminal sexual activity with a minor or an inclination toward such activity disqualifies the applicant from admission (#55).

With regard to the admissions of candidates with same-sex experiences and/or inclinations, the guidelines provided by the Holy See must be followed (#56).¹

If an applicant has been dismissed from a program of priestly formation or from an institute of consecrated life or society of apostolic life, no subsequent application will be considered in the two years following dismissal. If the departure was other than a dismissal, sufficient time should be allotted to evaluate carefully his application and background (#62).

Additional policies particular to the Diocese of Davenport:

Applicants older than 55 years of age will generally not be considered for priestly formation. This is to allow for the necessary time of formation (usually a minimum of 5 years, depending on previous education) and to ensure that the applicant could be ordained by age 60 and serve the Diocese for a minimum of 10 years before optional retirement at age 70. Rare exceptions to this may be granted, based on how well the applicant is known to the Diocese, his particular qualifications and his record of previous lay ministry within his parish. Other exceptions to this would include permanent deacons who are widowed.

Applicants from outside the Diocese will not be considered until they have established a minimum of 18 months of actual residence within the Diocese. During this time, an applicant should also be registered in a parish and active in the life of his parish community. Rare exceptions to this may be granted if the applicant has a relationship to the Diocese through work, family, or education, or if someone from the Diocese (preferably a priest, deacon or parish life coordinator) can testify to his suitability for priestly formation.

Applicants who have been convicted or credibly accused of child sexual abuse, abuse of dependent adults, violent or sexual crimes, or whose past behavior would in any other way give grave scandal to the faithful will not be considered for admission to priestly formation for the Diocese of Davenport.

Applicants with physical disabilities will be considered if they are capable of fulfilling the duties that accompany normal parish ministry (for example, that they are physically capable of celebrating the sacraments, driving a car, etc.)²

¹ "The Church, while profoundly respecting the persons in question, cannot admit to the seminary or to holy orders those who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so called 'gay culture.'" *Concerning the Criteria for the Discernment of Vocations with Regard to Persons with Homosexual Tendencies in view of their Admission to the Seminary and to Holy Orders* (Congregation for Catholic Education, 2005).

² Cf. *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities*, #30-33 (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1995).