



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

January 8, 2010

Personnel Advisory Group
Armed Forces Chaplains Board
OUSD (P&R) MPP-AFCB
4000 Defense Pentagon (2E341)
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Group Members:

In our last meeting we discussed the educational requirements of candidates for military chaplaincy as outlined in DoDI 1304.28.

The DoDI states the following:

6.1.4. The RMP is educationally qualified for appointment as a chaplain. The educationally qualified applicant shall possess a baccalaureate degree with not less than 120 semester hours (180 quarter hours) from a qualifying educational institution. The educationally qualified applicant shall also possess a post-baccalaureate graduate degree in the field of theological or related studies from a qualifying educational institution. A qualifying graduate degree program shall require no fewer than 72 semester hours (108 quarter hours) of graduate-level work. Related studies may include graduate courses in pastoral counseling, social work, religious administration, and similar disciplines when one-half of the earned graduate credits include topics in general religion, world religions, the practice of religion, theology, religious philosophy, religious ethics, and/or the foundational writings from the applicant's religious tradition.

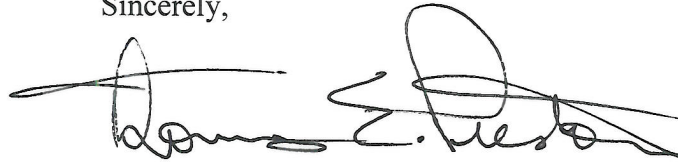
I reviewed this policy with the Office of General Counsel as well as with the Office of Accessions and there is no doubt that the guidance stipulates that the qualifying post-baccalaureate graduate degree program in the field of theological or related studies from a qualifying educational institution and the subsequent graduate degree shall require no fewer than 72 semester hours (108 quarter hours) of graduate-level work. This means that a 36 hour degree program with 36 extra graduate hours, or a 60 hour graduate degree program with 12 extra hours of graduate work does not meet this requirement. The candidate must have completed a 72 semester hour/108 quarter hour (minimum) program. This requirement is not negotiable until, or if this guidance is changed.



I ask that you provide this information to your staff and recruiting personnel so their accession actions might remain true to the intent of this guidance.

Please let me know if you have any questions, 703-697-9015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. Preston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Thomas E. Preston
Chaplain (Colonel) U.S. Army
Executive Director
Armed Forces Chaplains Board