**During the candidacy phase**

- Continue your active membership and participation in a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation. If you are away from the community where your home congregation is located because of your theological education, find a PC(USA) congregation in that community and keep your home congregation informed about your involvement there.
- Maintain regular communications and consultations with the presbytery’s committee, including new covenant agreements and goals as you work toward “full preparation ... to serve the church as ministers of the Word and Sacrament” (G-2.0604).
- Fulfill any requirements your presbytery has for all candidates along with any specific requirements in your covenant agreement, including possible mandatory supervised practice of ministry experiences such as clinical pastoral education (CPE).
- With the approval and under the guidance of the presbytery, engage in some form of service to the church or field education through your seminary. To the degree possible, work to assure that your supervised practice of ministry placements are with PC(USA) congregations or their affiliated ministries.
- Complete your graduate theological education, being sure your course selections not only meet your graduation requirements but also fulfill the Book of Order requirements for courses in Hebrew and Greek and in exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek texts (G-2.0607c) and any courses required by your presbytery or within your covenant agreement.
- Discuss with your presbytery at what point in your candidacy phase you should take the standard ordination examinations in Biblical Exegesis, Theological Competence, Church Polity, and Worship and Sacraments.
- Discuss with your presbytery’s committee its processes and requirements for “final assessment” in order to be “certified ready for examination for ordination, pending a call” (G-2.0607).

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**What “outcomes of candidacy” does your presbytery require of every candidate?**

*If your seminary does not offer courses specifically in Hebrew or Greek exegesis, what options can you explore with the school and the presbytery to fulfill that constitutional requirement?*

*If you have an “individualized education program” with your seminary, what process has your presbytery established for approving “special accommodations” when taking the standard ordination examinations?*
If I have a documented learning difference or other disability, do I still have to take the standard written ordination examinations?

While a presbytery cannot “waive” the exam requirements, it may “by a three-fourths vote [approve] some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations” (G-2.0610). There is no “right” to such “alternate means” since the presbytery also needs to determine whether or not accommodations such as those requested would negatively impact “a candidate’s fitness and readiness for a call to ministry requiring ordination” (see G-2.0604). For more information, see the “Alternative Assessment of Competency” materials referenced in the “Resource” section of this Advisory Handbook.