Requirements for LDS Chaplains

Department of Defense Educational Requirements

- Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 120 semester hours (180 quarter hours).
- A post-baccalaureate graduate degree (Masters of Divinity or equivalent) in the field of theological or related studies from a qualifying educational institution consisting of:
  - A qualifying degree program with no less than 72 graduate semester hours (108 quarter hours)
  - Course work may consist of: pastoral counseling, social work, religious administration, etc
  - 36 semester hours of the graduate credits must be in religious course work
  - Distance learning courses are accepted.

Church Specific Requirements

- **Marriage.** All LDS applicants must be married in the Temple and remain Temple worthy while serving as a chaplain.
- **Mission.** It is desirable that all chaplain applicants serve a mission, but it is not absolutely required.
- **Church Leadership.** The Department of Defense Directive 1304.19 requires that each applicant must have at least two years of practical ministerial experience following completion of the master's degree. Although we do not have a paid clergy, most of our applicants will meet this requirement by having sufficient practical Church leadership experience by the time they graduate, especially if a mission has been completed.
- **BYU Religion Class**. BYU Religion 540 "Preparation for the Military Chaplaincy" (Section 1 and 2), six (6) semester hours. This may be completed via distance learning.
- **Age Requirements.** Must complete all requirements for application and be selected by the Chaplain's Board by the following maximum age:
  - No prior service: less than age 40
  - With prior service: less than age 45 depending on length of service
  - Reserves and National Guard: less than age 48 depending upon length of service with the Reserves
- **Chaplain Candidate Program. A**pplicants who have not yet started their graduate program are encouraged to enter the Chaplain Candidate Program. The applicant must complete the program prior to becoming a chaplain. Age requirement for each service's program are:

  - **Army.** Chaplain requirements completed by age 40. http://www.goarmy.com/chaplain/index.jsp
  - **Navy.** Chaplain requirements completed age 38. https://www.cnet.navy.mil/netc/chaplain
  - **Air Force.** You must be less than 35 years of age at the time of selection. Allow six months for processing. See: http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/hc/cand.htm

- **Additional Military Branch Specific Information**

  - **US Army.** http://www.goarmy.com/chaplain/index.jsp
  - **US Navy.** http://www.chaplain.navy.mil
  - **US Air Force.** http://www.usafhc.af.mil

For applications and specific answers to questions, please contact:

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