

Credential Application Process: First Credential

Southern California District Council Assemblies of God
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To apply for credentials, the following preliminary basic requirements must be met.

1. Completion of one of the following educational requirements:
 - a) Completion of formal Bible School training in an Assemblies of God endorsed school, college, or university
 - b) Completion of Institute Ministerial Level of Berean College/Global University or Southern California District School of Ministry
 - c) Completion of College Degree Level of Berean College/Global University
 - d) Completion of significant life experience to include self-study and ministry experience of substantial duration. *(Please request the following form from the District Office: Request for Waiving Educational Requirements Through Life Experience. Must be submitted before applying for credentials.)*
2. If married, you and/or your spouse must be in your first marriage unless the previous marriage was terminated by death of a spouse, annulment, pre-conversion divorce, or divorce based on the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness or abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever. *(If you or your spouse have been divorced, contact the Secretary/Treasurer's office at the District Office for information regarding the Divorce Application process which must precede the credential application process.)*
3. You must be an American citizen, have a current permanent residency visa or R1 temporary work visa.
4. You must satisfactorily pass a full background check. *(This will be processed by the Southern California District Office as part of the Application process.)*

Application Process:

Step 1: Request Application: Submit Request for the Credential Application form. (Request form available at: www.socalag.org or contact District Office)

The Official Credential Application packet contains the following:

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| 1. Official Application Form | 4. Authorization/Release Forms |
| 2. District Financial Commitment Form | 5. District Bylaws |
| 3. Background/Credit Report Release Forms | 6. General Council Bylaws |

AG Position Papers available at: www.ag.org under Beliefs

Step 2: Submit Application: Return the fully completed application to the Southern California District Office with the fee of \$100.00 for Certified Level or \$105.00 for License level, ATTN: Credential Processing. Please make check payable to SCDC.

Fees for Certified level:

\$ 20.00 General Council Fee
\$ 20.00 Examination Fee
\$ 60.00 Background Check Fee*
\$100.00 Total

Fees for License level:

\$ 25.00 General Council Fee
\$ 20.00 Examination Fee
\$ 60.00 Background Check Fee*
\$105.00 Total

*Once Background is completed and the actual cost is calculated, you will either be reimbursed if under \$60.00 or billed if over \$60.00. Background fees average around \$60.00 but can range from \$40.00 to \$180.00.

- Step 3: Application Review:** When all items of the application have been received here at the District Office, your application will be reviewed to determine that all basic requirements are completed. If eligible, the District Office will process the background/credit check. Once background check has been cleared, you will be notified to proceed to the next step.
- Step 4: Presbyter Interview:** Once your background/credit check is cleared, a letter will be sent to you, instructing you to contact the Sectional Presbyter for an interview. A copy of your application will be sent to the Sectional Presbyter in order to conduct your personal interview. If you are married, your spouse is required to accompany you to this interview.
- Step 5: Credential Exam:** Applicants must successfully pass a proctored examination for the credential level for which they are applying. You will be notified when it is time for you to sign up for the exam.
- Step 6: Credential Committee Interview:** Once your file is completed you will receive a letter from the Secretary/Treasurer's office notifying you to contact your Sectional Presbyter to set up the committee interview. If you are married, your spouse is required to attend this interview; no exceptions will be given.
- Step 7: District Credential Committee Approval:** If your application is approved by the Credential Interview Committee, your application will be presented to the District Presbytery who serves as the District Credentials Committee for recommendation to General Council. (This committee convenes 4 times a year.)
- Step 8: General Council Approval:** If the District Credentials Committee recommends your application, it will be sent to General Council for final approval. A ministerial credential is not active or legally in place until General Council approval has been received.