

About the Program

The Hellenion Clergy Program is designed to give eligible clergy candidates the experience and knowledge to allow them to exercise all of the required and permitted functions within Hellenion. (A few of the permitted functions, such as teaching and counseling, may require additional experience and education, which it is beyond Hellenion's means to provide.)



Prerequisites

These items must be fulfilled before the candidate may apply for and be accepted into the clergy study program.

- The applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- The applicant must have completed Hellenion's basic adult education course.
- The applicant must have been a member of Hellenion in good standing for a minimum of twelve months prior to application and must remain a member in good standing throughout the study period.
- The candidate must be 21 years of age or older in order to be ordained, although study may begin earlier.



More Information

More information about the Clergy Education Program can be found online at www.hellenion.org/clergy

Apply Online at:

www.hellenion.org/clergy/clergy-application

www.Hellenion.org

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Ελληνιον Hellenion Clergy Program

*"I sing to Thee, Mighty Gods.
You who dwell in Olympos,
apart from man
yet always a part of our lives."*

- Hymn to All the Gods
by D. Romano



Goals & Responsibilities

The goal of the Clergy Education Program is to provide Hellenion with a body of trained Theoroi (legal clergy) who have the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfill their roles within our organization. Those roles are summarized below:

Hellenion Clergy are required to:

- lead worship and other rites with and on behalf of the community.
- be able to instruct fellow Hellenes about basic religious practice.
- be prepared to answer questions about our religion when asked by a member of the public.
- clear any prospective interfaith efforts with their Demos and the National organization.
- teach families the traditional life cycle rituals as needed.
- present themselves as honorable and responsible members of society.
- uphold Hellenic virtues to the best of their ability.

Clergy are permitted to:

- teach publicly about our religion.
- teach approved adult and children's religious education curricula.
- officiate at life cycle rituals.
- provide counseling on matters of ritual practice.
- perform divination for individuals.
- perform simple omen readings as part of group ritual as needed.

Clergy are not permitted to:

- speak on behalf of the organization as a whole without prior permission.
- engage in public debate.
- provide any type of pastoral or therapeutic counseling other than on matters of ritual practice unless they are trained and licensed to do so.

Overview of Study

There are three steps toward ordination: academic study, Demos endorsement, and Prutaneis approval.



Demos Endorsement

Since it is the local community that has the most direct experience with the candidate, it is that community that is charged with evaluating the candidate's vocation (personal commitment to a patron or matron deity) and to Hellenismos generally. The Demos may, at its discretion, perform or witness a ritual in which the candidate takes formal vows to their patron/matron deity.



Prutaneis Approval

Prior to acceptance into the program, candidates can expect to have an interview, conducted on a videoconference platform, with two or more Prutaneis.

When the board has received all the necessary documentation of the candidate's work, they will vote on whether to confer the title of Theoros (Hellenion clergy) on the candidate. Should a clergyperson cease to be a member in good standing of Hellenion, their clergy credentials from Hellenion immediately become null and void.



Academic Study

Candidates are required to complete a course of study covering the topics necessary for them to function effectively as Theoroi within Hellenion. An additional unit, which is optional, allows candidates with specialized interests to demonstrate their knowledge of those fields.

The program may be completed in as little as one year, but as we expect that most candidates will also be working or in school, candidates may take up to seven years provided that they submit some assignments each year.



Overview of required topics

1. Hellenic Religious History and Culture:
Basic history of Hellenic polytheism in the context of ancient European religions
2. Hellenic Theology:
Historical and modern beliefs about the nature of the gods; mythology
3. Ritual I: Standard Offertory Rites:
Fundamentals of Hellenic ritual theory and practice
4. Ritual II: Life Cycle Rites:
Historical and reconstructed rites of passage
5. Ritual III: Festivals:
Historical festivals and modern reconstructions
6. Ethics:
Historical models and modern debates
7. Divination:
Historical forms and their use in modern counseling and ritual