GCTEQA

GLOBAL COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE, INC.

COMPLETE ACCREDITATION APPLICATION PACKET

2026 Public Edition

Diverse Traditions. Shared Standards. Global Excellence.

For eligible theological, religious, faith-based, values-centered, and mission-driven educational institutions.

IMPORTANT
Submitting this application, paying any fee, completing a self-study, or participating in an evaluation does not guarantee accreditation. Accreditation decisions are based on documented compliance with applicable GCTEQA standards.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This packet is the formal institutional application for organizations seeking accreditation or other designated quality-assurance status from GCTEQA. Complete every applicable section. If a question does not apply, enter "Not Applicable" and briefly explain when needed.

Before You Apply
Review the GCTEQA Accreditation Handbook, Full Accreditation Standards Manual, Eligibility Requirements, current Fee Schedule, and applicable policies before submitting this packet.

Submission Expectations

- Type or clearly print all responses. Electronic completion is encouraged.
- Use the institution's exact legal name wherever requested.
- Attach supporting documentation listed in the Required Evidence Checklist.
- Do not submit original legal documents unless specifically requested; provide clear copies.
- Redact Social Security numbers, banking credentials, full student identification numbers, and other unnecessary sensitive personal information.
- Label attachments in the same order as the evidence checklist.
- Keep a complete copy of the submitted packet for institutional records.
- Notify GCTEQA promptly if material information changes after submission.

Application Review

GCTEQA may request clarification, additional documents, interviews, technology demonstrations, financial verification, or other evidence reasonably necessary to determine eligibility and evaluate compliance. Acceptance of an application means only that GCTEQA has received the submission; it does not mean the institution has been found eligible or accredited.

Accreditation Limitations

GCTEQA accreditation is an independent quality-assurance designation. It does not, by itself, establish governmental authorization to operate, degree-granting authority, eligibility for U.S. federal student financial aid, professional licensure eligibility, immigration eligibility, guaranteed transfer of credit, or guaranteed acceptance of a credential by another institution, employer, licensing authority, government agency, or credential evaluator.

SECTION A - APPLICATION TYPE & ACCREDITATION SCOPE

Select the primary service/status being requested. GCTEQA may determine that a different review pathway is more appropriate based on the institution's structure and offerings.

[ ] Institutional Accreditation - Comprehensive institutional review

[ ] Theological / Religious Education Accreditation

[ ] Online / Distance Education Accreditation

[ ] Continuing Education Provider Accreditation

[ ] Institutional Quality Review (non-accreditation service)

[ ] Accreditation Readiness Review (pre-accreditation service)

[ ] Programmatic Quality Review

[ ] Other - explain below

Other / Additional Scope Requested

_____

_____

Requested Effective Term or Target Review Date *If known*

_____

[ ] Initial applicant - institution has never held GCTEQA accreditation

[ ] Renewal / Reaffirmation applicant

[ ] Returning applicant after prior withdrawal, denial, or lapse

If previously involved with GCTEQA, provide prior institution number/status/date

_____

_____

SECTION B - INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

Exact Legal Name of Institution

_____

Public / Trade / Doing-Business-As Name (if different)

_____

Primary Website

_____

Primary Physical Address

_____

_____

Mailing Address (if different)

_____

_____

Main Telephone

_____

General Institutional Email

_____

Year Institution Was Established

_____

Primary Country of Operation

_____

State / Province / Region

_____

Other Jurisdictions Where the Institution Enrolls or Serves Learners

_____

_____

_____

Institution Type

[ ] College

[ ] University

[ ] Seminary

[ ] Bible College

[ ] Ministry School / Institute

[ ] Religious Education Institute

[ ] Continuing Education Provider

[ ] Professional / Career Training Organization

[ ] Online Educational Institution

[ ] Hybrid Institution

[ ] Other

Delivery Model

[ ] 100% Online

[ ] Hybrid

[ ] Primarily Campus-Based

[ ] Multiple Campuses / Sites

[ ] Self-Paced

[ ] Cohort-Based

[ ] Synchronous Distance Education

[ ] Other

Total Current Enrollment / Active Learners

_____

Total Graduates / Completers in Most Recent Reporting Year

_____

Institutional Mission Statement

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

SECTION C - LEGAL ESTABLISHMENT & AUTHORIZATION

This section corresponds primarily to GCTEQA Standard 2. Accreditation does not replace legal authority.

Legal Entity Name (if different from institution name)

_____

Legal Structure

[ ] Nonprofit corporation

[ ] For-profit corporation

[ ] Limited liability company

[ ] Religious organization / church-related entity

[ ] Governmental / public entity

[ ] Unincorporated association

[ ] Other

Jurisdiction of Formation

_____

Formation / Registration Number

_____

Date of Legal Formation

_____

Registered Agent / Official Representative (if applicable)

_____

_____

Operating Authority

[ ] Institution is legally authorized, registered, licensed, exempt, or otherwise permitted to operate in its primary jurisdiction.

[ ] Institution operates under a religious exemption or similar exemption.

[ ] Institution is legally authorized to grant academic degrees.

[ ] Institution does not grant academic degrees.

Describe the legal basis for the institution's authority to operate and, if applicable, to grant each degree level offered.

_____

_____

_____

_____

List governmental, educational, ministry, regulatory, or licensing agencies with which the institution is registered, licensed, exempt, or approved.

_____

_____

_____

Describe any pending, recent, or unresolved governmental/regulatory action, investigation, restriction, or sanction. *Enter NONE if not applicable*

SECTION D - GOVERNANCE, OWNERSHIP & LEADERSHIP

This section corresponds primarily to GCTEQA Standard 3.

Name of Governing Body / Board

Number of Voting Governing Members

Board Chair / Governing Leader

Chief Executive / President / Chancellor / Head of Institution

Accreditation Liaison / Primary GCTEQA Contact

Name and title of person authorized to bind the institution to this application

Governance Characteristics

[ ] The institution maintains current bylaws or a governance charter.

[ ] The governing body meets on a regular schedule and maintains minutes.

[ ] The institution maintains a written conflict-of-interest policy.

[ ] Governing officials complete conflict disclosures or equivalent attestations.

[ ] The institution has an organizational chart showing reporting lines.

[ ] Executive leadership is evaluated by the governing body or an authorized governance committee.

Describe the institution's ownership, sponsorship, church/denominational affiliation, parent organization, or controlling interest, if any.

Identify any related-party relationships, family relationships, or business relationships among owners, directors, officers, or key vendors that could create a conflict of interest. *Enter NONE if not applicable*

SECTION E - EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & CREDENTIALS

This section corresponds primarily to GCTEQA Standard 5 and, where applicable, Standard 11.

Credentials Offered

[ ] Certificates

[ ] Continuing Education Certificates

[ ] Diplomas

[ ] Associate Degrees

[ ] Bachelor's Degrees

[ ] Master's Degrees

[ ] Doctoral Degrees

[ ] Honorary Degrees / Honorary Recognition

[ ] Ministry / Ecclesiastical Credentials

[ ] Other

Number of Active Programs

_____

Number of Active Courses / Course Shells

_____

List each active program and credential awarded. Attach an additional program inventory if needed.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Describe the academic-credit, clock-hour, continuing-education-hour, competency, or other method used to measure learning.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Describe the process used to approve new programs and significant curriculum changes.

_____

_____

_____

Describe how learning outcomes are established and assessed.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Describe policies governing transfer credit, prior learning, life/work experience credit, examinations for credit, or advanced standing, if applicable.

_____

SECTION F - FACULTY, STAFF & INSTRUCTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

This section corresponds primarily to GCTEQA Standard 6.

Total Number of Faculty / Instructors

Total Number of Administrative / Support Staff

Minimum Faculty Qualification Standard

Describe how faculty/instructor credentials and experience are verified.

Describe faculty orientation, evaluation, and professional development.

Describe instructional workload expectations and how adequate staffing is maintained.

Faculty Roster Attachment

Attach a current roster that includes, at minimum: name, position, courses/programs assigned, highest relevant credential, awarding institution, relevant licenses/certifications, and professional/ministry experience where applicable.

SECTION G - ADMISSIONS, STUDENTS & LEARNER SUPPORT

This section corresponds primarily to GCTEQA Standards 7 and 10.

Describe admissions requirements and how applicant eligibility is verified.

Describe student orientation and onboarding.

Describe academic advising, tutoring, instructor access, technical support, or other learner support.

Describe the institution's complaint, grievance, and appeal process.

Describe student records management, transcript/credential issuance, and records retention.

Describe accessibility, nondiscrimination, privacy, and student conduct practices.

Describe withdrawal, dismissal, leave, refund, and completion procedures.

If serving minors or vulnerable populations, describe safeguarding and mandatory-reporting procedures.
Enter NOT APPLICABLE if the institution serves only adults

SECTION H - FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & SUSTAINABILITY

This section corresponds primarily to GCTEQA Standard 4.

Current Annual Operating Budget

_____

Primary Sources of Institutional Revenue

_____

_____

_____

Current Tuition / Fee Structure

_____

_____

_____

Describe the institution's budgeting and financial oversight process.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Describe controls for banking, payments, purchasing, refunds, and access to funds.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Describe the institution's financial sustainability plan for the next 12-36 months.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Identify any material debts, judgments, tax liens, insolvency issues, or financial conditions that could threaten operations. *Enter NONE if not applicable*

_____

_____

_____

Financial Documents

[ ] Current approved budget attached

[ ] Most recent year-end financial statement attached

[ ] Current interim financial statement attached

[ ] Cash-flow or financial projection attached

[ ] Independent audit/review/compilation attached (if available or required)

SECTION I - TECHNOLOGY, ONLINE LEARNING & INFORMATION SECURITY

This section corresponds primarily to GCTEQA Standard 9.

Primary Learning Management System / Course Delivery Platform

Student Information / Records System

Describe how students and faculty obtain technical support.

Describe account access, password, permissions, and administrator controls.

Describe backup, recovery, and business-continuity procedures for technology systems.

Describe data privacy and information-security safeguards.

Describe student identity verification and academic-integrity controls for online learning, if applicable.

List major technology vendors that materially support instruction, records, payments, communications, or student services.

SECTION J - ASSESSMENT, PLANNING & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This section corresponds primarily to GCTEQA Standards 8 and 12.

Describe how the institution evaluates student learning.

Describe the institutional effectiveness / quality-assurance process.

Identify key performance indicators used to evaluate institutional success.

Describe how student, faculty, graduate, employer, ministry, stakeholder, or community feedback is collected and used.

Provide one recent example of a documented improvement made because of assessment or stakeholder evidence.

Describe the current strategic / improvement priorities for the next 12-36 months.

SECTION K - THEOLOGICAL / RELIGIOUS IDENTITY (WHERE APPLICABLE)

Complete this section if theological, religious, spiritual, ministry, or faith formation is central to the institution's mission. Institutions for which this standard does not apply should indicate "Not Applicable."

Describe the institution's theological, religious, spiritual, or mission identity.

Describe any statement of faith, doctrinal position, covenant, community expectation, or faith-based participation requirement.

Describe how theological/religious faculty qualifications are determined.

Describe ministry formation, practicum, field education, worship, spiritual formation, or related requirements, if applicable.

Explain how the institution distinguishes academic credentials from ordination, ecclesiastical licensure, denominational recognition, or ministry commissioning.

SECTION L - PRIOR ACCREDITATION, RECOGNITION & REGULATORY HISTORY

List any current or prior institutional or programmatic accreditors / quality-assurance bodies.

List any current memberships or recognitions that the institution publicly advertises.

Has the institution ever been denied accreditation, placed on warning/probation, suspended, withdrawn, or had accreditation revoked by any body? If yes, explain fully.

Has the institution or any predecessor entity been subject to material litigation, consumer-protection action, regulatory sanction, closure order, or professional-board action within the past five years? If yes, explain.

Identify any material unresolved complaint pattern that could affect learner protection or institutional integrity. *Enter NONE if not applicable*

SECTION M - PUBLIC DISCLOSURES & INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

The institution must communicate its status accurately before, during, and after the accreditation process.

[ ] The institution will not represent itself as GCTEQA accredited until GCTEQA issues a written accreditation decision authorizing that representation.

[ ] The institution understands that applicant, pending, candidate, readiness, quality-review, or other non-accredited status may not be presented as accredited status.

[ ] The institution will not state or imply that GCTEQA provides governmental authorization, federal financial-aid eligibility, degree authority, professional licensure, or guaranteed transfer/acceptance of credentials.

[ ] The institution will use GCTEQA logos, seals, badges, and marks only as authorized.

[ ] The institution will promptly correct materially inaccurate accreditation statements identified by GCTEQA.

Provide the exact website URL(s) where the institution currently publishes accreditation, authorization, recognition, transferability, or licensure information.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Describe any statements currently made to students about transfer of credit, credential acceptance, professional licensure, or employment outcomes.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

SECTION N - REQUIRED EVIDENCE CHECKLIST

Attach the following items when applicable. GCTEQA may request additional evidence after preliminary review.

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N1 - Certificate/articles of formation or equivalent legal-entity document

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N2 - Current operating authorization, registration, exemption, license, or governmental approval

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N3 - Documentation of degree-granting authority or lawful exemption, if degrees are offered

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N4 - Current bylaws / governance charter

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N5 - Current governing-board roster with roles and affiliations

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N6 - Organizational chart

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N7 - Conflict-of-interest policy and current disclosure process

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N8 - Most recent 12 months of governing-board minutes or equivalent governance records

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N9 - Current approved budget

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N10 - Most recent annual financial statement

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N11 - Current interim financial statement

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N12 - Tuition, fee, scholarship, refund, and cancellation schedule

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N13 - Current catalog / institutional bulletin

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N14 - Student handbook

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N15 - Admissions application / enrollment agreement

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N16 - Complete active program inventory

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N17 - Representative course syllabi / outlines

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N18 - Learning outcomes and assessment plan

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N19 - Faculty/staff roster and credential evidence

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N20 - Personnel handbook / key HR policies

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N21 - Student-records and retention policy

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N22 - Complaint / grievance / appeal policy

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N23 - Nondiscrimination / accessibility / privacy policies

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N24 - Emergency / crisis / safety plan as applicable

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N25 - Safeguarding / child-protection policy if serving minors or vulnerable learners

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N26 - Technology plan / LMS overview

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N27 - Information-security / data-protection policy

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N28 - Business continuity / backup / recovery plan

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N29 - Closure / teach-out / records-preservation plan

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N30 - Strategic / institutional improvement plan

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N31 - Institutional effectiveness / assessment evidence

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N32 - Current public website pages containing institutional status/accreditation disclosures

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N33 - Theological identity / statement of faith / mission-formation materials if applicable

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N34 - Current promotional / recruitment materials

[ ] Attached [ ] N/A N35 - Other evidence requested by GCTEQA

SECTION O - INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATIONS & ASSURANCES

By signing the certification in Section P, the institution affirms each assurance below unless a written exception is attached and accepted by GCTEQA.

[ ] All information submitted to GCTEQA is true, complete, and not materially misleading to the best of the institution's knowledge.

[ ] The institution is legally established and will maintain all approvals, registrations, exemptions, licenses, and authorizations required for its operations.

[ ] The institution will notify GCTEQA of material legal, regulatory, ownership, governance, location, program, delivery, financial, or operational changes.

[ ] The institution will cooperate with reasonable requests for documents, interviews, verification, monitoring, and review.

[ ] The institution understands that GCTEQA may verify information with governmental, educational, professional, financial, or other relevant sources as permitted by law and policy.

[ ] The institution will protect student records and maintain reasonable continuity and records-preservation arrangements.

[ ] The institution will publish tuition, fees, refunds, accreditation status, program requirements, and other material student information accurately.

[ ] The institution will not misrepresent GCTEQA accreditation or imply benefits that GCTEQA does not confer.

[ ] The institution understands that application fees and review fees are for evaluation and related services and do not purchase accreditation.

[ ] The institution understands that accreditation may be denied, deferred, conditioned, monitored, suspended, or withdrawn under applicable GCTEQA policies.

[ ] The institution will maintain a complaint/grievance process and will not retaliate against persons who submit good-faith complaints to GCTEQA or appropriate authorities.

[ ] The institution will comply with authorized use requirements for the GCTEQA name, seal, badge, and accreditation statements.

[ ] The institution agrees that public accreditation status and other designated public information may be published or verified by GCTEQA.

[ ] The institution understands that GCTEQA accreditation does not itself create governmental authorization, federal financial-aid eligibility, licensure eligibility, guaranteed transferability, or guaranteed credential acceptance.

List and explain any requested exception, qualification, or additional disclosure related to the assurances above. *Enter NONE if there are no exceptions*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

SECTION P - AUTHORIZED CERTIFICATION & SIGNATURE

The person signing below must be authorized by the institution to submit this application and certify its contents.

Certification
I certify that I have reviewed this application and its attachments; that the information provided is true, complete, and not materially misleading to the best of my knowledge; that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the institution; and that the institution agrees to comply with applicable GCTEQA standards, policies, review procedures, and public-disclosure requirements if the application proceeds.

Institution Legal Name

_____

Authorized Representative - Printed Name

_____

Title / Position

_____

Email Address

_____

Telephone

_____

Signature

_____

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

_____

Board Chair / Governing Authority Acknowledgment - Name and Title *Recommended for institutional accreditation applications*

_____

_____

Board Chair / Governing Authority Signature *Recommended*

_____

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

_____

FINAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

[ ] Every applicable section of this application is complete.

[ ] The legal institution name is consistent throughout the packet.

[ ] Required evidence is attached and clearly labeled.

[ ] Sensitive personal information has been redacted where appropriate.

[ ] The institution has reviewed the current GCTEQA Fee Schedule and payment instructions.

[ ] The authorized representative has signed and dated the certification.

[ ] The institution has retained a complete copy for its records.

Submission Method

Submit the completed packet and supporting evidence through the application method published on the official GCTEQA website or as otherwise instructed by GCTEQA. Do not send passwords, full payment-card numbers, Social Security numbers, or unnecessary sensitive student information by email.

Processing Notice
GCTEQA may return incomplete applications without substantive review. Formal evaluation begins only after the institution satisfies applicable intake requirements and receives confirmation that its application has advanced to review.

GCTEQA ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

Date Application Received

_____

Institution ID / File Number

_____

Application Type

_____

Intake Reviewer

_____

Eligibility Review Outcome

_____

_____

Additional Information Requested

_____

_____

_____

_____

Date Advanced to Formal Review

_____

Assigned Lead Reviewer / Team

_____

_____

Notes

_____

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SUBMISSION?

Thank you for submitting an application to the Global Commission for Theological Education & Quality Assurance, Inc. GCTEQA will process the application through its established review procedures.

1. Intake Confirmation

GCTEQA confirms receipt and determines whether the application is administratively complete.

2. Eligibility Review

GCTEQA reviews the institution's legal status, scope, basic governance, educational offerings, and readiness to proceed.

3. Formal Evaluation

If eligible to proceed, the institution receives instructions for self-study, evidence review, interviews, and any additional evaluation activities required.

4. Accreditation Decision

The authorized decision-making body considers the complete record and issues a written decision under applicable GCTEQA policies.

Remember
Application, payment of fees, technical assistance, readiness review, or completion of evaluation does not guarantee accreditation. Accreditation decisions are based on demonstrated compliance with applicable standards and documented evidence.

Diverse Traditions. Shared Standards. Global Excellence.

Global Commission for Theological Education & Quality Assurance, Inc. (GCTEQA)
2026 Public Edition