

**Louisiana Conference
Board of Ordained Ministry
Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members
Policy Number 405
Course of Study Completion Requirements**

Paragraph 318.1 and .2 in the 2008 Book of Discipline states the requirements: “full-time local pastors shall complete four courses per year in a Course of Study school and part-time local pastors shall complete two courses per year in a Course of Study school.”

If the local pastor is not currently appointed, they are not to attend the Course of Study School unless special permission has been granted by the Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members. Within the Louisiana Conference, payment to attend Course of Study School will be dependent upon the local pastor being currently appointed to a ministry setting while attending COSS.

Paragraph 319.3 in the 2016 Book of Discipline states: “A full-time local pastor shall complete the Course of Study curriculum within eight years and a part-time local pastor within twelve, unless a family situation or other circumstance precludes the local pastor’s opportunity to meet said requirements.” The eight or twelve-year time limit is only in effect while the local pastor is under appointment. If the local pastor is not under appointment, they cannot attend COSS and therefore the above mentioned time limit would be put on hold until they receive their next appointment.

The License to Preach School may be considered fulfillment of the first year of COSS requirement from ¶318.1 and .2.

This policy was discussed and adopted by the Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members on January 24, 2011

Policy approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry on January 25, 2011

Updated to be consistent with the 2012 Book of Discipline on March 1, 2013

Updated to be consistent with the 2016 Book of Discipline on February 2, 2017