



Tyndale University College and Seminary

An Indigenous Learning Community



APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

NAIITS

P.O. Box 181
Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0
Canada
Tel +1.780.514.4841
Fax +1.866.624.4868
admissions@naiits.com

Tyndale University College and Seminary

25 Ballyconnor Court, Toronto,
ON M2M 4B3,
Canada
Tel +1.877.896.3253
admissions@tyndale.ca



BACKGROUND FOR THE NAIITS / TYNDALE DEGREE PROGRAM

Our goal is to develop and instruct from a body of theology and biblical teaching that resonates with the culture and traditions of Native North Americans. For generations, Native North Americans have believed Christian faith required them to become like Euro-North Americans. Many still do. They live the false dichotomy of belief that a fulfilled relationship with God requires rejection of their own culture and the adoption of another. In best-case scenarios, Native North Americans struggle to embrace God in the Christianity of a secularized western culture. In the worst case, they have rejected God in Christ because of western Christianity's perceived cultural requirements.

NAIITS' /TYNDALE'S focus, therefore, is on:

- Developing mentored theological and biblical research, writing and study programs that address missional, theological and biblical issues from the perspective of Indigenous Christians.
- Working cooperatively with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners including colleges, universities, seminaries, mission societies, Native ministries and others committed to realizing the leadership potential of Indigenous people in Canada and the United States.

Traditionally, Native People did not talk about spirituality or faith, nor did they build complex theologies. They simply lived what they believed. It was expected that one would live in such a way as to acknowledge and honor their Creator. Theology was practice!

In the 21st century, however, much has changed. Now we find we must speak to our own people of our faith in God, of walking out life in a good way. We must share our understanding of God's Word in new ways. We need forums for dialogue and teaching in theology, missiology, and biblical issues.

New approaches to concerns such as ethics and AIDS, lifestyle and family, community and commitment, must be developed in authentically Native ways.

While our desire is to strengthen people of faith in Native communities, we understand that faith and community are interconnected. Evangelism is therefore an important outcome of our work. So is intercultural mission. The work of NAIITS equips people to speak the Good News of Jesus Christ to others – regardless of ethnicity, traditions, culture or language. The partnership in offering this MTS (I) degree takes this work a step further.

We are committed to the historic message as a contemporary one – necessary for today's generation.

- Our context is informal and formal
- Our methods employ a wide range of disciplines
- Our studies embrace the traditionally academic, while observing the traditions and learning styles of Indigenous people
- Our strength is in the learning dialogue – telling the story of what God is doing among us
- Our prayer is to hear our people, not just their words but also their heart

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

We are excited about your interest in studying in the NAIITS/Tyndale program. You may contact the Admissions Office of either NAIITS or Tyndale if you have any questions or concerns.

Application Fees:

\$50 North American application fee
\$150 Non-North American application fee

PLEASE NOTE: These fees are non-refundable.



Application Essay Questions:

Please answer each of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this application. Please use complete sentences:

1. In 300-500 words, relate your spiritual pilgrimage, assessing strengths and weaknesses.
 - a. Describe your journey as a follower of Jesus. If Jesus is not part of your journey, please explain other spiritual commitments that may affect your ability to study in this program.
 - b. Indicate how your relationship with Jesus affects your personal conduct and lifestyle.
2. In 300-500 words, briefly describe your present vocation of ministry, highlighting your key ministry-related (a) problems, (b) areas of interest, (c) and long-term goals.
3. In 200-300 words, describe why you are pursuing an advanced degree and what you hope to gain.
4. Describe briefly any business, professional or other significant vocational experience that might help us in assessing your application

References:

The following three reference forms are to be sent directly to the Admissions Office (reference forms are attached).

1. A pastoral/ character reference completed by your pastor or leader from your church or religious organization who can assess your personal qualities and suitability for seminary studies.
2. An academic or employer reference completed by a professor familiar with your academic performance. If you have been out of school for sometime, your employer may submit this reference.
3. A personal or tribal authority reference form that describes your relationships with the people and authorities within your community.

Transcripts:

Official transcripts should be sent directly from each post-secondary institution you previously attended. If you are unable to obtain your transcripts, please contact the Admissions Office.

Program Information Supplement:

Applicants to the Master of Theological Studies Indigenous program must complete the supplemental information questions appended to this application.

English Language Requirement:

Applicants whose first language is not English and who have not studied for three years in an English speaking secondary or postsecondary institution (where English is the language of instruction and examinations are completed in English) must submit proof of English language proficiency by completing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Test of Written English (TWE) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Go to www.toefl.org or www.ielts.org for further information about these tests. An interview or a Language Writing and Diagnostic Test administered by Tyndale may also be required at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Residence:

If you are interested in residence, complete the residence application form, a medical form, and include a \$200 residence deposit. Find these forms at www.tyndale.ca/go/residenceapp.

Medical Form:

A medical form must be completed by those individuals applying to live in residence, and by international applicants. This form does not need to be completed by your physician. This form is available at www.tyndale.ca/go/medform.

Application Checklist:

The following checklist will assist in ensuring that all application requirements have been completed:

- I have answered all applicable questions on the application form.
- I have included a check or money order, or have paid my application fee in person or via phone.
- I have submitted my responses to the essay questions on a separate sheet of paper.



Tyndale University College and Seminary

I have delivered all reference forms to my referees and request they send the completed forms directly to Tyndale Admissions Office

- I have submitted a request to all previous post-secondary institutions to mail my official transcript(s) directly to the Tyndale Admissions Office.
- If applicable, I have had my TOEFL and TWE or IELTS scores sent to the Tyndale Admissions Office.
- If applicable, I have submitted my residence application and deposit.
- I have submitted my completed medical form.
- I have completed and included my program supplementary questions section.

Your application, fee(s), and all supporting materials must be sent directly to

NAIITS/Tyndale Admissions
PO Box 181
Carlisle, ON LOR 1H0, Canada.

Questions? Email admissions@NAIITS.com

Community Standards

This statement articulates standards for appropriate personal and communal conduct for students while engaged in study within the NAIITS/Tyndale program.

Students are part of a Christian community, individually and collectively dedicated to pursuing education marked by open, rigorous and critical inquiry while maintaining patterns of belief and behaviour that foster a distinctively Christian learning environment. As voluntary members of this community, we covenant with God and one another to enter into a life of discipleship with the intention of fostering a grace-filled community that honours God in its actions, attitudes and beliefs. As imitators of Christ, we strive for personal transformation of character that is marked by the fruit of the Spirit that is love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22) and advocacy for peace and justice.

In keeping with the partners' mission(s) and joint affirmation of faith, we agree to uphold and observe the following standards at all times, on and off campus, while studying within the program of NAIITS/Tyndale.

Students will participate regularly in the life of a local fellowship of believers in order to benefit from the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the communal wisdom of the people of God manifest in such communities.

In keeping with a distinctly evangelical character of those who seek to follow Jesus, NAIITS and Tyndale recognize certain practices, and the promotion of such, as biblically unacceptable. While recognizing that periodic and unfortunate occasions of failure and sin occur in the course of the Christian life, we also recognize that unrepentant and persistent unacceptable behaviours have a debilitating impact on oneself and the community.

Students thus will refrain from practices that are prohibited by the scriptures of the Old and New Testament, including but not limited to the use of illegal drugs or abuse of prescription drugs, drunkenness, dishonest practices including plagiarism, theft or fraud, the promotion of religious beliefs incompatible with those who avow themselves followers of Jesus according to the Christian scriptures, engagement with pornography, breach of trust or confidence, gambling, profane and obscene speech, violent or abusive behaviour, and harassment of any kind.

The NAIITS/Tyndale community accepts, in submission to our understanding of Christian scriptures, an understanding of marriage as an exclusive, lifelong partnership of love and faithfulness between a man and a woman, formalized in a legally sanctioned Christian marriage. Students of the NAIITS/Tyndale program will therefore follow the biblical teaching that such a marriage is the exclusive context for sexual intimacy.

These standards of conduct are considered pertinent to the preservation and promotion of the distinctly evangelical Christian character of Tyndale and the health of our Christian community. Students who voluntarily study in this community are expected to honour these standards and to refrain from any conduct that would be inconsistent with them.



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The Following Materials comprise a completed Application:

- Completed and signed application form
- The applicable, non-refundable application fee
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Applicant's admission statement

- Three references – one pastoral, one academic or professional, and one personal/tribal (must use forms included in application packet)
- One official transcript from each college or university attended – sealed from the issuing institution

Return All Application Materials to:

NAIITS Admissions
PO Box 181
Carlisle, ON
L0R 1H0 Canada

With a copy of all materials to:

Tyndale University College and Seminary
Admissions
25 Ballyconnor Court
Toronto, ON
M2M 4B3 Canada

NOTES:

- NAIITS /Tyndale reserve the right to select students on the basis of academic performance and professional qualifications.
- As a means of providing a focused effort to address the lack of First Nations peoples in theological education, NAIITS /Tyndale reserves the right to limit applicants to those of Native North American and other Indigenous descent.
- All questions must be answered, with the exception of those marked "optional."
- An interview will be required of applicants as part of the admission process.
- Application materials become the joint property of Tyndale University College and Seminary and NAIITS and are not returned or transferred to another institution.



Application form Master of Theological Studies (Indigenous)

I. Personal Information (please print clearly in black ink)

Legal Name

First Name Middle Name(s) Last Name

Preferred Name Other names used that may appear on transcripts

Home Address

City or Town Province/State Code/Zip Country

Mailing Address (If different)

City or Town Province/State Code/Zip Country

Email Address Home Phone Cell or Business Phone

Fax Number Other (Fb, LinkedIn, Twitter) Blog

Biographic Info

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Citizenship Male Female Gender Married Single Marital Status

Immigration Status

Citizen Social Insurance Number (assists in assigning Financial aid)

Landed Immigrant

International Citizen (Country)

Are you applying for a Visa? Yes No

Indigenous Identity

Tribal Origin Band Membership

Criminal Check

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes No
If yes, please explain.



Church or Fellowship

Name Location Tradition/denomination Pastor/Leader

How did you hear about the NAIITS/Tyndale program? _____

II. Academic Information

Expected date of enrolment _____ Are you attending full-time? Yes No
Month Year

Please list, in chronological order, all colleges and postsecondary institutions attended. It is your responsibility to see that one official transcript from each Institute is sent to the NAIITS Admissions office. Use extra pages if necessary.

Education History

Institution Name	Country	Degree Earned	GPA/Average	Dates Attended

III. References & Contact

Pastoral/ Character

First Name Last Name Email Address

Academic/ Employer

First Name Last Name Email Address

Personal/ Tribal

First Name Last Name Email Address

Emergency Contact

Parent/Guardian Spouse Other Relative

First Name Last Name Relationship

Email Address Home Phone Cell or Business Phone



IV. Financial

Do you expect to file an application for financial aid with your band or tribal education authority? Yes No

Are you a veteran? Yes No

Your application will be considered complete once reference forms, transcripts and any required application supplements are submitted in full to the Admissions Department. The submission of an incomplete or complete application does not imply acceptance of the Applicant by the Institutions. Please refer to the Tyndale Academic Calendar for a full listing of conditions of admission.

A non-refundable application fee of \$50 Canadian currency (\$150 for non-North American Applicants) must be submitted with the application.

Application fee – Method of Payment

\$50 North American application fee

\$150 Non-North American application fee

Cash

Visa MasterCard _____

Cheque: CAD USA
(Indicate currency of cheque)

Card Number

Other

Expiry date

Applicant's Affirmation

I am aware of the Statement of Faith and Community Standards of Tyndale Seminary, and I certify that the information provided in this application are complete and correct.

I authorize investigation of all information provided during the application process. References provided by me may give NAIITS any and all information requested, as well as any pertinent information they may have, personal or otherwise. I release from all liability or responsibility NAIITS, its agents, partners in education and all people, companies, or corporations providing information to the institute about me. My signature also attests that I differ in no significant way in my understanding, actions or life-ways with the statement of faith of NAIITS on page 7 above and that the information provided in the 8 pages of the application, including this signature page, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date



Statement of Faith

The Gospel has the power to transform life, to create a new world. Only it can revitalize confused lives of those who have lost their culture and traditions, their identity and their pride, into such a potent demonstration of Good News that we are called to carry to others. Tyndale and NAIITS undertake this task together based in the following affirmation of mutual faith and individual identity:

Tyndale Seminary is a Christian institution of higher education standing in the Protestant Evangelical tradition. With all Christians East and West, North and South, we affirm the historic Apostles' and Nicene creeds, and we affirm our spiritual kinship with all who seek to exalt and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are also rooted in the Protestant Reformation with its conviction concerning the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the normative authority of Scripture. In the tradition of the Evangelical awakenings, we proclaim the message of a personal faith in the crucified Christ and a transformed life through the Spirit. Born out of the world missionary movement of the 19th century, we continue to serve the global Church in all its cultural diversity. We embrace the biblical call to seek justice and peace and to serve the poor, the vulnerable, and the oppressed.

The following Statement of Faith therefore reflects our theological identity within that world-wide Church.

NAIITS is a community of Indigenous Learners who believe that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of both history and change, of both transformed individuals and communities. But he does not come first to change the outer self – he comes to change the inner. Then the Spirit and the Word transform the outer for God's purposes. And God never leads astray. Allowing the Spirit of God to hold us true to the Scriptures will permit us to understand and discern more fully the meaning and value of our traditions and history.

The Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies, an Indigenous Learning Community, in the best tradition of those who follow Jesus, upholds the following as consistent with its formational words of faith as spoken to one another.

Our Joint Affirmation:

- There is but one true and living God who exists eternally in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God alone is Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things visible and invisible, at work in the world to redeem creation.
- The eternal Son of God, incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He declared God's Kingdom and embodied that reign in His acts. Having rendered a life of perfect human obedience to the Father, He died on the cross as a vicarious and victorious atonement for sin. In His atoning death and bodily resurrection, Christ opened the way of rescue from sin and death, reconciling the world to God. Exalted as Lord, He continues to intercede on behalf of His people.
- The Bible, both Old and New Testaments together, is Holy Scripture. It is the authoritative written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, inerrant in all that it teaches, the one entirely trustworthy rule for faith and life. The teachings of Holy Scripture are apprehended through the careful study of the text in all its dimensions, together with prayerful theological reflection, under the guidance of God's Spirit.
- Human beings alone, male and female, are created in the image of God. All people are made to enjoy relationship with God, with one another, and with the good creation of which we are stewards. Humankind's sinful disobedience has incurred God's just judgment, bringing sin, guilt, depravity and misery upon all humanity.
- God in mercy and grace redeems all who repent of their sin and trust Jesus Christ alone for their salvation, justifying them through faith in the Saviour, restoring their relationship with Him, giving them new life by the Holy Spirit, and empowering them for discipleship.
- The one holy, catholic and apostolic church occurs in local communities of believers all over the world. The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God, and the fellowship of the Spirit, sent into the world to glorify Jesus Christ and to bear witness to God's dawning Kingdom in word and deed.



Pastoral/Character Reference

Applicant's Name _____
First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____

Applicant Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Instructions

Applicant: Your pastor or leader in your church or religious organization must complete the Pastoral/Character Reference form. References from family members will not be accepted. Complete the top portion of this form with your information. Request that your referee complete the remaining sections of this form and submit it directly to NAIITS/Tyndale in a stamped pre-addressed envelope provided by you.

Referee: Please complete both pages of this form. We appreciate your honest evaluation of the applicant and your assessment of the applicant's academic and ministry potential. Upon completion, please submit this form directly to **NAIITS/Tyndale Admissions at PO Box 181, Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0, Canada**, or via fax to 1.866.624.4868. All information will be treated in accordance to the terms of Tyndale's privacy policy, accessible at www.tyndale.ca/privacy.

About the Applicant (to be completed by the referee)

How long have you known the applicant? _____ Years _____ Months

How well do you know the applicant? (Check one) By name and sight Casually Fairly well Very well

In what capacity do you know the applicant? _____

Do you consider the applicant to be a good candidate for the NAIITS/Tyndale MTS (I) program? (Please explain)

About the Referee (please PRINT)

Name of Referee _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Name of Church or Organization _____ Church/Denomination _____

Address _____ Position/Title _____

City _____ Code _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____



Personal Knowledge Matrix

Please rate the applicant by marking the appropriate box under the headings below. To best assist the admissions committee, please provide a brief comment or example to supplement or interpret your rating of the applicant.

Characteristic/Quality	Excellent, Outstanding, Strong	Good, Above Average	Average	Below Average, Weak	Unable to Observe, Tell
Leadership ability or potential					
Comments					
Energy and perseverance					
Comments					
Ability to work collaboratively					
Comments					
Sense of purpose					
Comments					
Integrity, spiritual growth					
Comments					
Maturity, emotional stability					
Comments					
Speech and conduct					
Comments					
Ability to express ideas in writing					
Comments					
Ability to communicate verbally					
Comments					
Critical thinking, problem solving skills					
Comments					
Overall intellectual ability					
Comments					
Anticipated achievement in study					
Comments					
Anticipated achievement in vocation					
Comments					
Recommendation for study	I recommend	I recommend with reservation	I do not recommend		

Would you like more information on the MTS (I) program	Yes	No
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Academic/Employer Reference

Applicant's Name _____
 First Name Last Name Date

Applicant Address _____

 Email Address Phone

Instructions

Applicant: A professor able to assess your academic performance and suitability for seminary studies should complete the Academic/ Employer Reference form. If an academic referee is unavailable, you may request an employer furnish this reference form. References from family members will not be accepted. Complete the top portion of this form with your information. Request that your referee complete the remaining sections of this form and submit it directly to NAIITS/Tyndale in a stamped pre-addressed envelope provided by you.

Referee: Please complete both pages of this form. We appreciate your honest evaluation of the applicant and your assessment of the applicant's academic and ministry potential. Upon completion, please submit this form directly to NAIITS/Tyndale Admissions at PO Box 181, Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0, Canada, or via fax to 1.866.624. All information will be treated in accordance to the terms of Tyndale's privacy policy, accessible at www.tyndale.ca/privacy.

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How long have you known the applicant? _____ Years _____ Months

How well do you know the applicant? (Check one) By name and sight Casually Fairly well Very well

In what capacity do you know the applicant? _____

Do you consider the applicant to be a good candidate for the NAIITS/Tyndale MTS (I) program? (Please explain)

About the Referee (please PRINT)

Name of Referee Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Name of Church or Organization Church/Denomination

Address Position/Title

City Code Country

Phone Email

Signature



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Comments					
Anticipated achievement in study					
Comments					
Anticipated achievement in vocation					
Comments					
Recommendation for study	I recommend	I recommend with reservation	I do not recommend		

Would you like more information on the MTS (I) program	Yes	No
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Personal/Tribal Reference

Applicant's Name First Name Last Name Date

Applicant Address Email Address Phone

Instructions

Applicant: A person familiar with your life and/or participation in your Indigenous community should complete this reference. References from family members will not be accepted. Complete the top portion of this form with your information. Request that your referee complete the remaining sections of this form and submit it directly to NAIITS/Tyndale in a stamped pre-addressed envelope provided by you.

Referee: Please complete both pages of this form. We appreciate your honest evaluation of the applicant and your assessment of the applicant's academic and ministry potential. Upon completion, please submit this form directly to NAIITS/Tyndale Admissions at PO Box 181, Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0, Canada, or via fax to 1.866.624. All information will be treated in accordance to the terms of Tyndale's privacy policy, accessible at www.tyndale.ca/privacy.

About the Applicant (to be completed by the referee)

How long have you known the applicant? Years Months

How well do you know the applicant? (Check one) By name and sight Casually Fairly well Very well

In what capacity do you know the applicant?

Do you consider the applicant to be a good candidate for the NAIITS/Tyndale MTS (I) program? (Please explain)

Three horizontal lines for explanation.

About the Referee (please PRINT)

Name of Referee Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Name of Church or Organization Church/Denomination

Address Position/Title

City Code Country

Phone Email

Signature



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Please rate the applicant by marking the appropriate box under the headings below. To best assist the admissions committee, please provide a brief comment or example to supplement or interpret your rating of the applicant.

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