



# National Spiritualist Association of Churches

## Questions and Answers about NSAC Certification

### **What certifications are offered by NSAC?**

Ordained Minister, Licentiate Minister, Certified Medium, and Commissioned Spiritualist Healer; and the National Spiritualist Teacher Degree.

### **Should an applicant be serving in their church in the area of the credential before applying for any credential?**

Yes, the training ground for future service is within their church. Completion of educational requirements does not necessarily indicate that the person is ready for certification. The pastor or pastoral committee should provide opportunities for persons to serve before applying for a credential or ordination. It is the responsibility of the pastor or pastoral committee and the church board to evaluate the performance of the applicant and be satisfied that the applicant is worthy of recommendation.

### **What are the general requirements for each credential?**

#### ***Commissioned Spiritualist Healer***

Two years' membership in an NSAC church before application  
Successful completion of NSAC-required educational course for Spiritualist Healer  
Six or more acceptable Spiritualist Healing affidavits from different individuals  
Submission of application with fee to church Board of Trustees for recommendation  
After acceptance, take NSAC examination for certification: Part I, General Information, and Essay; Part II, Written Examination

#### ***Certified Medium (Mental or Physical)***

Two years' membership in an NSAC church before application  
Successful completion of NSAC-required educational course for Mediumship  
Six or more acceptable Mediumship affidavits from different individuals  
Submission of application with fee to church Board of Trustees for recommendation  
After acceptance, take NSAC examination for certification: Part I, General Information, and Essay; Part II, Written Examination

#### ***Licentiate Minister***

Two years' membership in an NSAC church prior to application  
Successful completion of the NSAC-required educational course for Licentiate Minister  
Successful completion of the NSAC-approved Pastoral Skills Course

Submission of application with fee to church Board of Trustees for recommendation  
After acceptance, take NSAC examination for certification: Pt I, General Information & Essay; Pt II, Written Examination.

#### ***Ordained Minister***

Three years' membership in an NSAC church prior to application  
Minimum of 21 years of age  
Holds a Licentiate Minister Certificate  
Successful completion of the NSAC required educational course  
Submission of application with fee to church Board of Trustees for recommendation  
After acceptance, take NSAC examination for certification: General Information, Essay and Written Examination.  
Appear before the NSAC Board of Trustees for oral Examination.

#### ***National Spiritualist Teacher***

Three years' membership in an NSAC church prior to application  
Successful completion of the NSAC-required educational course  
Submission of application with fee to church Board of Trustees for recommendation  
After acceptance, take NSAC examination for certification: General Information and Essay  
Appear before the NSAC Board of Trustees for oral Examination.

### **Where does an applicant find the complete information authorizing NSAC certification?**

This is found in the NSAC Bylaws, Article IV, fee section, and Article XIII, Certifications and Requirements.

### **When an applicant completes the Morris Pratt Institute (MPI) course, may they apply for a specific credential immediately?**

They may apply if membership time requirement is met and the applicant has sufficient number of affidavits, if applying for Commissioned Healer or Certified Medium, and feels that they are well prepared for examination.

When application is for Licentiate Minister credential, the Pastoral Skills Course must have been successfully completed.

### **What is the Pastoral Skills Course?**

The Pastoral Skills Course is a two-week residence course to introduce students to the techniques of pastoral care and information on the types of Spiritualist religious services, and includes guided practice. This course is a prerequisite for Licentiate Ministers and

those wanting to transfer their ordination from non-NSAC churches.

### **Where does an applicant get the information about Pastoral Skills?**

Information on the dates and locations where the Pastoral Skills Course is available can be obtained from the Morris Pratt Institute, 11811 Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226; 414-774-2994, [www.morrispratt.org](http://www.morrispratt.org), [info@morrispratt.org](mailto:info@morrispratt.org).

### **When does a person take the Pastoral Skills Course?**

The Pastoral Skills Course may be taken by anyone at any time. There are no prerequisites, although one should have practical experience within their church.

### **Where does one find the Affidavit forms for Healers and Mediums?**

Affidavit forms are available on the NSAC website Forms page, [www.nsac.org](http://www.nsac.org). The forms should be readily available at each church. The church secretary should have copies. *(Each church should announce from time to time that student mediums and student healers are required to obtain affidavits in order to apply for certification. Location of affidavit forms at the church should be part of church announcements.)*

### **When making application for Mediumship or Healer certification, should the applicant submit only the required six affidavits?**

It is recommended that several additional affidavits *(not to exceed twelve)* be submitted with the application. By providing extra affidavits, if any are not acceptable, the applicant may not need to be contacted for more. *(The examination process cannot continue until six affidavits have been approved by the NSAC Board of Trustees.)*

### **What is meant by "being well prepared for the examination?"**

Each NSAC certification has a Study Guide of topics for that examination. It is extremely important that the applicant study for the exam prior to making application. Once the application has been received, each examination section has a scheduled completion time, and it is assumed that the applicant can move forward without delay.

### **Where does one obtain the Study Guides?**

When an application is received, the appropriate Study Guide is emailed, together with the Essay Examination. One may request a specific Study Guide from the NSAC Department of Education.

### **What is the best way to study for the examination?**

No one method is better than another, since each person may have different ways of reviewing information. First and foremost, review the questions and

your answers from the correspondence course. Research information for each topic of the Study Guide from your written answers. Some people like to make flash cards to study. Others prefer to make a recording of the material and listen to it over and over.

### **Where does an applicant obtain an application form for certification or ordination?**

Applications are available on the NSAC website Forms page, [www.nsac.org](http://www.nsac.org).

### **Where does the applicant send the completed application for certification or ordination?**

Submit the completed application and all required documents, together with the appropriate fee *(check payable to your church)*, to your church secretary for church board review. The action of the church Board of Trustees will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. **(An approved application, with a church check, is sent to NSAC Department of Education or, when applicable, to the state association.)**

### **What kind of examination will an applicant be expected to complete?**

With all credentials or ordination, an applicant is expected to answer two pages of general questions, and write an essay consisting of a given number of words about the topics provided. The topics given have a point value to indicate the importance of the topics.

### **Will the essay section of the exam be sent automatically following the receipt of the application?**

In the case of the Medium, Healer & Ordained Minister applications, the affidavits will be reviewed and approved by the NSAC Board of Trustees prior to issuing the essay section of these two exams. Upon receipt of applications for other credentials, the essay section will be sent automatically to the applicant to be completed "open book" and returned directly to the NSAC Department of Education.

### **How much time is allowed for the essay?**

All examination material leaving NSAC Department of Education is dated and is to be returned within 45 days.

### **May an applicant have assistance writing the essay?**

No, the applicant must do their own work. If an applicant is unable to use a computer, someone else may do the word processing for them.

### **What is the other part of the exam?**

With Licentiate Minister, Medium, Healer, and National Spiritualist Teacher there is a second section *(written)*, which is issued after satisfactory completion of the essay. The Licentiate Minister, Medium, and Healer exams are administered at the local level. The Ordained Minister and NST applicants each have an oral examination before members of the NSAC Board of Trustees. The NST also includes a written examination.

**How much time is allowed for the written exam for Medium, Healer, and Licentiate Minister?**

The same 45-day limit also applies for the testing materials to be received, the test administered, and returned to the NSAC Department of Education. The actual written examination may take from two to three hours to complete.

**Who administers the exam for Medium, Healer, and Licentiate Minister?**

A committee of three persons at the church level administers the exams for these credentials. It is required that the chair of the committee hold the same credential as being tested, or higher, in order to serve as the committee chair. Other committee members need not hold credentials but must be an NSAC church member in good standing.

Chair for Medium's exam: Medium, Ordained Minister, or NST

Chair for Healer's exam: Healer, Ordained Minister, or NST

Chair for Licentiate Minister exam: Licentiate Minister, Ordained Minister, or NST

**What is the responsibility of the examination committee?**

The Examination Committee proctors the examination by seeing that no notes or other resource material are used in completing the examination.

**Who appoints the examination committee chair?**

The church board may appoint the examination committee chair unless the church is affiliated with a state association, in which case the state association board appoints the chair. In cases where there is no one nearby, who is eligible to chair, assistance will be provided by the Director of the NSAC Department of Education.

**Who grades the essays?**

The essays are graded by NSAC trustees holding equal credential to that being tested, or higher.

**Who grades the written exams?**

The written exam is graded by the NSAC Examination Committee, composed of three trustees with the appropriate credential.

**If the applicant is applying for Ordination or NST, what other considerations are there?**

The General Information and Essay sections of an examination must be completed and received by the NSAC Department of Education 30 days prior to the Pre-Annual Convention Trustee Meeting or the Trustee Spring Meeting. This requirement is necessary so that travel plans can be made by the applicant, and that the NSAC Trustees will have sufficient time to complete the process, and notify the applicant of the time and place of their examination.

**Should an applicant take more than one exam at a time?**

It is recommended that applicants complete one examination at a time. Sometimes applicants for Ordination and NST want to take the examinations at the same time. This should be discussed with the Director of the NSAC Department of Education.

**What happens if some emergency arises that would present a problem for the completion of the essay or written exam?**

One should immediately contact the NSAC Department of Education to request consideration of an extension of time.

**What happens if the applicant does not successfully complete either the essay or the written portion?**

The applicant is notified and provided with the information needed for their improvement. The applicant's church, or state association when applicable, is also notified.

The applicant is requested to study further and to notify the NSAC Department of Education when they are ready for retesting.

**If the applicant's examination is not satisfactorily completed, will there be an additional fee?**

Each applicant is entitled to three attempts for each section of the examination, all of which must be completed within one year. After this, a new application and fee are required.

# Study Guide for Commissioned Spiritualist Healer Examination



## National Spiritualist Association of Churches

The following list is intended to help the applicant prepare for the Commissioned Spiritualist Healer examination. It is not intended to replace the required education course, or development classes in the local churches.

### NSAC

#### Definitions

- Spiritualism, Science, Philosophy, Religion, Spiritualist, Spiritualist Healer

#### Founding and incorporation

#### Lyceum publication

#### Official publication

#### Presidents

#### Principles

- dates and location

- adoption

#### Symbol and motto

### Spiritualism

#### Advent of Modern Spiritualism

- dates, places, names of persons involved

#### First public meeting

#### Healer

- image, ethics, rules, hospital

- visit, guidelines for teaching class

#### Healing

- types

- various examples

#### Natural Law

- definition

- examples

#### Publications

- predating Spiritualism from New York Circle

### Definitions

Ancient belief

Anthropomorphic

Attunement

Aura

Biblical healing phenomenon

Color healing

Death

Desire

Dicyanin

Dream experience

Empathy/sympathy

Etheric body

Healer

Healing types

Kirlian photography and healer

Laying on of hands

Lourdes

Love

Medicine Man

Recipient

Reincarnation

Religion, medicine and magic

Science vs. spiritual healing

Scientific approach

Terminal illness stages

Triune being

X-ray clairvoyance

### People and

### Their Accomplishments

Asclepius

Buchanan, J. Rhodes

Cadwallader, Mercy E.

Carrington, Hereward

Colburn-Maynard, Nettie

Conant, Fannie

Crandon, Margery

Crookes, William

Davis, Andrew Jackson

Denton, William

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan

Edmonds, Judge John

Edwards, Harry

Flammarion, Camille

Foster, Charles

Greeley, Horace

Hardinge-Britten, Emma

Hayden, Maria

Hippocrates

Home, Daniel Dunglas

Hull, Moses

Imhotep

Lodge, Oliver

Loveland, J. S.

Mansfield, J. V.

Mesmer, Franz Anton

Moody, Raymond

Moses, William Stainton

Myers, F. W. H.

Paracelsus

Post, Amy

Quimby, Phineas

Swedenborg

Talmadge, Nathaniel

Von Reichenbach, Charles

Wallace, Alfred Russel

# Study Guide for Certified Medium Examination

## National Spiritualist Association of Churches

The following list is intended to help the applicant prepare for the Certified Medium examination. It is not intended to replace the required education course, or development classes in the local churches.

### NSAC

Definitions – Spiritualism, Science, Philosophy, Religion, Spiritualist, Medium  
Founding and incorporation  
Lyceum publication  
Official publication  
Presidents  
Principles  
    dates and location of adoption  
Symbol and motto  
View on  
    reincarnation, numerology, tarot, crystal balls, etc.

### Spiritualism

Advent of Modern Spiritualism  
    dates, places, names of persons involved  
First public meeting  
Mediumship  
    purpose  
Natural Law  
    definition, various examples  
Pierpont Grove  
Platform decorum  
Publications  
    predating Spiritualism/New York Circle  
Spirit World

### Definitions

Anthropomorphic  
Apport  
Aura  
Biblical phenomenon of mediumship  
Cabinet  
Centering  
Clairaudience

Clairsentience  
Clairvoyance  
Coloring  
Concentration  
Continuity of Life  
Death  
Dicyanin  
Direct voice  
Dissociation  
Ethereic body  
Glossolalia  
Home circle  
Immortality  
Independent  
Levitation  
Materialization  
Meditation – basic ingredients  
Medium vs. psychic  
Mediumship – phases, two types, examples  
Near death experience  
OOBE  
Parapsychology  
Precognition  
Prophecy  
Psychometry  
Psychokinesis  
Reincarnation  
Skotography  
Spirituality vs. mediumship  
Telepathy  
Trance  
Transfiguration  
Triune being  
Trumpet  
Veridical  
Xenoglossy

### People and Their Accomplishments

Buchanan, J. Rhodes  
Cadwallader, Mercy E.  
Carrington, Hereward  
Colburn-Maynard, Nettie  
Collville, W.J.  
Crandon, Margery  
Crookes, William  
Davis, Andrew Jackson  
Denton, William  
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan  
Edmonds, Judge  
Flammarion, Camille  
Foster, Charles  
Greeley, Horace  
Hardinge-Britten, Emma  
Home, Daniel Dunglas  
Hull, Moses  
Lodge, Oliver  
Loveland, J. S.  
Mansfield, J. V.  
Mesmer, Franz Anton  
Moody, Raymond  
Moses, William Stainton  
Myers, F. W. H.  
Peebles, James  
Piper, Lenore and guide  
Post, Amy  
Scott-Richmond, Cora L. V.  
Talmadge, Nathaniel  
Von Reichenbach, Charles  
Wallace, Alfred Russel

# Study Guide for Licentiate Minister Examination



## National Spiritualist Association of Churches

The following list is intended to help the applicant prepare for the Licentiate Minister examination. It is not intended to replace the required education course, or development classes in the local churches.

### NSAC

Certification and source of information  
Definitions - Spiritualism, Science, Philosophy, Religion, Spiritualist, Medium, Spiritualist Healer  
Founding and incorporation  
Healing prayer and purpose  
Lyceum publication and founder  
Official publication and date of origin  
Presidents  
Principles  
    concepts, dates and location of adoption  
Religious service and its elements  
Symbol and motto  
Use of - the *Spiritualist Manual*, *Spiritualist Hymnal*, and the *Bible*  
View on - reincarnation, numerology, tarot, crystal balls, etc.

### Spiritualism

Advent of Modern Spiritualism  
    dates places, names of persons involved  
Andrew Jackson Davis  
    works and prophecies  
    *Magic Staff*  
    Children's Progressive Lyceum  
Comparison to Christianity  
First public meeting  
God concept  
Healing  
    types and practices  
Religion characteristics  
Mediumship purpose  
Natural Law  
    definition, and examples  
Schools for Spiritualists and leaders  
Spirit World

### General

God  
    various concepts  
London Dialectical Society

Platform decorum  
Pierpont Grove  
Reverend title - the use of  
Terminally ill - stages of  
Visiting the sick

### Definitions

Anthropomorphic  
Apport  
Aura  
Biblical phenomenon  
    healing and mediumship  
Cabinet  
Clairvoyance  
Coloring  
Concentration  
Continuity of Life  
Death  
Ethereic body  
Immortality  
Infinite Intelligence  
Levitation  
Materialization  
Meditation  
    basic ingredients  
Medium vs. psychic  
Mediumship phases  
    two types with examples  
Miracle  
Near death experience  
Parapsychology  
Psychometry  
Pioneer  
Prayer  
Psychokinesis  
Reincarnation  
Spirit  
Spiritual healing  
Telaesthesia  
Trance  
Transfiguration  
Triune being  
Veridical  
Vicarious atonement

### People and

### Their Accomplishments

Buchanan, J. Rhodes  
Cadwallader, Mercy E.  
Carrington, Hereward  
Colville, W. J.  
Crandon, Margery  
Crookes, William  
Denton, William  
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan  
Edmonds, Judge  
Flammarion, Camille  
Foster, Charles  
Greeley, Horace  
Hardinge-Britten, Emma  
Hippocrates  
Home, Daniel Dunglas  
Hull, Moses  
Imhotep  
Lee, Mother Ann  
Lodge, Oliver  
Loveland, J. S.  
Mansfield, J. V.  
Maynard, Nettie Colburn  
Mesmer, Franz Anton  
Moody, Raymond  
Moses, William Stainton  
Myers, F. W. H.  
Peebles, James  
Post, Amy  
Shakers  
Swedenborg  
Talmadge, Nathaniel  
Von Reichenbach, Charles  
Wallace, Alfred Russel

# Study Guide for National Spiritualist Teacher Examination



## National Spiritualist Association of Churches.

The following list is intended to help the applicant prepare for the National Spiritualist Teacher examination. It is not intended to replace the required education course, or development classes in the local churches.

### Page 1

#### History

Advent of Modern Spiritualism  
    dates, places, names of persons involved  
Andrew Jackson Davis  
    works and prophecies  
    Magic Staff  
    Children's Progressive Lyceum  
Founding and incorporation  
Inspirational speakers in the early days  
Magic  
Official publication and date of origin  
Presidents  
Principles  
    concept, date, location of adoption  
Public meeting, first one  
Schools for Spiritualism and leaders  
Symbol and motto

#### People and

#### Their Accomplishments

Buchanan, Professor James R.  
Cadwallader, Mercy E.  
Crooks, Professor William  
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan  
Edmonds, Judge John  
Flammarion, Camille  
Foster, Charles  
Home, Daniel Dunglas  
Lee, Mother Ann  
Lodge, Sir Oliver  
Meyers, F. W. H.  
Mezmer, Franz Anton  
Moses, William Stanton  
Post, Amy  
Scott-Richmond, Cora L. V.  
Swedenborg, Emmanuel

#### Philosophy

Anthropomorphic  
Body, Mind, Soul  
Christianity vs. Spiritualism  
Concept of sin  
Continuity of life  
Dualism  
God  
    various concepts  
God concept  
Meaning of Principles  
Miracles  
Religion  
    points or characteristics  
Vicarious atonement  
View of Bible and Jesus  
What is Man?

#### Religion

Buddha  
Death  
Definition  
Dreams and ghosts  
Egyptian deities  
Immortality  
Mohammed  
Near death experience  
Philosophers  
Religion - characteristics  
Spirits  
Teachings of Jesus

#### The Church

Atmosphere  
Definition  
Duties of Board of Directors  
Duties of Pastor  
Ordained Minister vs. Pastor  
Symbols  
Why attend

# Study Guide for National Spiritualist Teacher Examination



## National Spiritualist Association of Churches.

The following list is intended to help the applicant prepare for the National Spiritualist Teacher examination. It is not intended to replace the required education course, or development classes in the local churches.

### Page 2

#### Mediumship

Apport  
Attunement  
Biblical phenomenon  
Cabinet  
Consciousness  
Definition  
Ectoplasm  
Home circle  
Levitation  
Materialization  
Meditation  
Medium vs. psychic  
Medium vs. spirituality  
Mediumship - phases, examples  
Pseudo Sciences  
Psychometry  
Trance  
Transfiguration  
Trumpet  
Veridical

#### Healing

Attunement  
Aura  
Concentration  
Definition  
Healing types  
Kilner  
Laws  
Magnetic

#### Teaching

Areas for student training  
Certification and source of information  
Class  
    course & seminar/workshop  
Courses/Classes to teach  
Disruptive students  
Document & Body that governs  
Guidelines for service another church  
Order of service  
Pioneers - why  
Platform decorum  
Student serving the public  
What is Spiritualism

#### Natural Law

Attraction  
Cause and effect  
Compensation  
Continuity  
Definition  
Gravity  
Harmony  
Love  
NSAC Principle  
Retribution  
Scientists  
Spiritual vs. physical  
Synonyms  
Thought  
Truth  
Understanding  
Vibration



# Study Guide for the NSAC Ordination Examination



## National Spiritualist Association of Churches

The following list is intended to help the applicant prepare for the NSAC Ordination examination.  
It is not intended to replace the required education course, or development classes in the local churches.

### NSAC

Declaration of Principles:

state all principles and explain

Lyceum publication

Official publication

Requirements for the use of the *Spiritual Manual*,

*Spiritualist Hymnal*

### Definitions

Aspects of Spiritualism

as a Science, Philosophy and Religion

Continuity of life

Infinite Intelligence

Medium vs. psychic

Natural Law

definition

various examples

Prayer

Invocation

Offertory

Benediction

Spirit greetings

### General

Consecration/Naming Service

Devotional service

explain value and description

Funeral/Memorial Service

visiting the bereaved

Information for a guest worker

Minister's responsibilities

when not a Pastor

working under a Pastor

NSAC position on reincarnation

Pastor's responsibilities

Platform decorum

Purpose of the Spirit World

Special observances

Spiritualism's plan of salvation

Spiritualism's view of the *Bible*

Spiritualist concept of Christmas and Easter

Spiritualist Vs. Christian concept of God

Use of robes, candles, and crosses

Use of the title Reverend

Visiting the sick

at home: ill or under hospice care

in the hospital

Weddings

conducting Marriage Counseling

legalities

Marriage Service