



COMPASS APPLICATION

Who can apply?

Applicants are typically high school juniors. These are students who are juniors during the 2011-2012 school year and who would participate in the 2012 RMI in the summer between their junior and senior years. Interested high school seniors and sophomores may also apply. Contact the Compass program for more information.

When are applications due?

Applications are due by February 29, 2012. Apply before January 31 and receive an early bird discount.

When will I know if I have been accepted?

Admissions decisions will be mailed by mid-March 2012. Students who are selected will kick off their Compass experience at the 2012 RMI, June 27 to July 26.

How much does it cost?

The cost to run the Compass program is considerable. Program fees, tuition fees, room and board, round-trip overseas airfare, staff, etc. bring the total for just the RMI to about \$4000 per student, and this does not include salaries and other administrative costs. Thanks to the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc, and to the generous donors of the Compass program and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, every Compass participant receives a scholarship covering a significant amount of the cost and keeping the price per student to a low \$1900. Compass encourages this cost to be shared by the student's family, church sponsorship and fundraising. Applicants who apply before January 31 will receive a \$100 discount if they are selected to participate, bringing their contribution down to \$1800.

How do I apply?

Complete the following five forms found in this application packet. Completed forms are returned to the nominator. Once all five forms have been received by the nominator, the nominator mails the complete application to the Compass program at the address below. Please read the instructions carefully and fill out the application completely.

- Nomination Form:** The Nomination Form is to be completed by the person who is nominating the candidate to the program. The nominator should be a pastor or other church leader who knows the candidate well enough to speak to the candidate's suitability for the program.
- Covenant Form:** The Covenant Form is to be completed by the person who will be mentoring the candidate in the program. The mentor should be a pastor or other church leader who desires to mentor the candidate in the program. *The mentor and nominator can be the same person. The mentor should be the same gender as the candidate.* The Covenant Form should be returned to the nominator.

Candidate and mentor please note: The "Mutual Statement of Commitment" box on the Covenant Form needs to be completed together by the candidate and mentor.

- Candidate Application Form:** The Candidate Application Form is to be completed by the high school student who is applying to the program. The Candidate Application Form should be returned to the nominator.
- Church Reference Form:** The Church Reference Form is to be completed by a member or regular attendee of the candidate's home church who knows the candidate well enough to speak to the candidate's suitability for the program. The person completing the reference should return the Church Reference Form to the nominator in a sealed envelope.
- Peer Reference Form:** The Peer Reference Form is to be completed by one of the candidate's peers who knows the candidate well enough to speak to the candidate's suitability for the program. The person completing the reference should return the Peer Reference Form to the nominator in a sealed envelope.

Applications must be postmarked by February 29, 2012. Please contact Compass for more information. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your application!

Compass
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
130 Essex Street
South Hamilton, MA 01982

phone: 978-646-4169
fax: 978-646-4565
compass@gcts.edu
www.gcts.edu/compass



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Compass is a Christian leadership development program for high school students. Selected students participate in an unforgettable 1-month immersion experience and an ongoing 3-year mentoring relationship. Compass has given direction to nearly 300 students from 27 states in the past 10 years.

IMMERSED FOR 1 MONTH

The 1-month immersion is called the RMI—Real Ministry Immersion. Students who are selected to participate in the Compass program kick off their Compass experience at the RMI. They are immersed in a unique context in which opportunities to connect with God and with peers are cultivated and in which the necessities of considering a life of leadership and ministry are confronted. The RMI is based at the Gordon College campus and is staffed by Gordon-Conwell faculty and staff. It consists of three back-to-back expeditions:

Wilderness Expedition A nine-day wilderness adventure in the Adirondack Mountains of New York in partnership with the La Vida outdoor education program at Gordon College. La Vida has over 40 years of experience in the Adirondack State Park working with youth in outdoor education. Visit www.gordon.edu/lavida for more information.

Theological Expedition A theological exploration led by Gordon-Conwell professors on the seminary's main campus on Boston's North Shore. Gordon-Conwell is one of the top seminaries in the world and has a century-long heritage of training students for leadership in the church. Visit www.gcts.edu for more information.

Ministry Expedition An overseas trip where students are challenged to lead and minister in ways they have never imagined. Past projects include working in orphanages, leading church worship services, participating in evangelistic efforts, helping establish a church plant, helping in a home for street people, instructing English language programs, participating in sports programs, and leading church-based children's programs.

MENTORED FOR 3 YEARS

After the RMI, each Compass student is mentored for three years by a pastor or other church leader. Students and mentors meet at least twice a month for the first year and then as they best determine for years two and three. Mentors help students process their RMI experience and walk alongside them these crucial years as they make major life decisions and seek to follow God's call. Mentors also supervise student leadership and involvement in a ministry context. Compass provides support and resources, including discounts to select seminars and programs offered by the Ockenga Institute of Gordon-Conwell. Through its mentoring component, the Compass program seeks to encourage a lifestyle of mentoring, both in the lives of individual students and mentors as well as corporately in the life of the church.

CHANGED FOR LIFE

For more information visit the Compass website at www.gcts.edu/compass.

Compass is a program of the Ministry Center for Christian Youth of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The program began in 2002 as a ministry of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and with the generous support of the Lilly Endowment, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana, as part of its Theological Programs for High School Youth initiative.



NOMINATION FORM

In completing this form you are nominating the candidate named below for the Compass program, a selective Christian leadership development program for high school students.

I nominate _____ for the Compass program.
Candidate's Name

Nominator's Signature

Date

The candidate is at least 15 years of age: Yes No I'm not sure

Nominator Information Please print clearly.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Church Name _____

Church Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Phone _____

Church Website _____ Church Denomination _____

Your Position (Please circle one.) Senior Pastor Youth Pastor Other: _____

How long have you been in this position? _____ Gordon-Conwell alumnus? _____

Senior Pastor _____ Gordon-Conwell alumnus? _____

Youth Pastor _____ Gordon-Conwell alumnus? _____

How did you hear about the Compass program? _____

Nomination Form continues on page 4. ➔

Nominator Ratings

Rate the candidate's strength in the following areas.

	<u>Weak</u>		<u>Strong</u>			<u>Comments</u>
Teachability	1	2	3	4	5	
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5	
Teamwork	1	2	3	4	5	
Perseverance	1	2	3	4	5	
Conflict Resolution	1	2	3	4	5	
Sociability	1	2	3	4	5	
Stress Management	1	2	3	4	5	
Faithfulness	1	2	3	4	5	

Nomination Form Questions

Please type your answers to the following questions on additional paper.

1. Describe the length and quality of your relationship with the candidate.
2. Describe the candidate's relationship with Christ.
3. Please mention two or three personal attributes you most admire about this candidate and explain.
4. In what area(s) would you assess that this candidate needs to grow?
5. How motivated is this candidate to pursue real growth that may extend beyond his/her current Christian subculture? Explain.
6. The Compass program is for young people who give evidence of a possible call to vocational ministry. With that in mind, identify what you see as natural gifts, spiritual gifts and leadership qualities in this candidate. What leads you to believe that because of these qualities (or in spite of them), this person has a special calling to vocational ministry?
7. Describe a situation in which you observed this candidate display behavior that led you to conclude that this candidate has a possible call to vocational ministry.
8. To what extent do your observations reflect those of the larger church community? What have you heard others say about this candidate?

The Real Ministry Immersion includes participation in a wilderness expedition with the La Vida program. Although no special physical skills are needed, it can be a challenging experience. Every activity is "Challenge by Choice." Each participant determines his/her own level of challenge.



COVENANT FORM

In completing this form you are committing to mentor the candidate named below in the Compass program, a selective Christian leadership development program for high school students.

I commit to mentor _____ in the Compass program. I understand
Candidate's Name
that our mentoring relationship is a foundational part of this program.

Mentor's Signature

Date

Mentor Information Please print clearly.

Name _____ Email _____

If you are the nominator, check here and skip ahead to answer Covenant Form Questions 2-4 and complete the Mutual Statement of Commitment on page 6. (You do not need to duplicate information you have already provided on the Nomination Form.)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Church Name _____

Church Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Phone _____

Church Website _____ Church Denomination _____

Your Position (Please circle one.) Senior Pastor Youth Pastor Other: _____

How long have you been in this position? _____ Gordon-Conwell alumnus? _____

Senior Pastor _____ Gordon-Conwell alumnus? _____

Youth Pastor _____ Gordon-Conwell alumnus? _____

How did you hear about the Compass program? _____

Covenant Form continues on page 6. →

Mentor Ratings

Rate the candidate's strength in the following areas.

	<u>Weak</u>		<u>Strong</u>			<u>Comments</u>
Teachability	1	2	3	4	5	
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5	
Teamwork	1	2	3	4	5	
Perseverance	1	2	3	4	5	
Conflict Resolution	1	2	3	4	5	
Sociability	1	2	3	4	5	
Stress Management	1	2	3	4	5	
Faithfulness	1	2	3	4	5	

Covenant Form Questions

Please type your answers to the following questions on additional paper.

1. Describe the length and quality of your relationship with the candidate.
2. Discuss what you've learned in your past mentoring experiences, both when you've been mentored and when you've mentored others.
3. How do you plan on mentoring this candidate over the next three years? Discuss specific goals and obstacles you anticipate.
4. What is your understanding of the Compass program?

Mutual Statement of Commitment

I, _____, along with _____, attest
Mentor Candidate
 that we have met at least once prior to sending in this application packet to discuss the Compass program and work through the application. We understand and agree to participate in a mentoring relationship for three years after the RMI.

Mentor's Signature Date Candidate's Signature

The Real Ministry Immersion includes participation in a wilderness expedition with the La Vida program. Although no special physical skills are needed, it can be a challenging experience. Every activity is "Challenge by Choice." Each participant determines his/her own level of challenge.



CANDIDATE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL REMARKS

- Compass is a selective program. Please follow the instructions carefully so that we can best consider you for this program. It is important that you fill out the form clearly, accurately and completely.
- Pay special attention to the box at the top of page 8. In signing this box you are verifying that you understand that the Compass program includes participation in the month-long RMI and in a three-year mentoring relationship.
- Note the La Vida box at the bottom of page 9.
- Once you have completed the Candidate Application Form, please return it to your nominator. Your nominator will collect all of the completed application forms and submit them together to the Compass program.
- Completed applications must be post-marked by **February 29, 2012**.
- Should it be necessary for making selections, you may be asked to participate in an interview with a representative from the Compass program.
- If you have questions, please call or email the Compass program at 1-800-294-2774 ext. 4169 or compass@gcts.edu.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name. For your “legal name,” provide your legal first, middle and last name. This is the name that appears or would appear on your passport. In the “common name” line, let us know what name you commonly go by.

Email. Provide your email address, phone numbers and any other convenient way for us to contact you. Be sure to clearly print this information.

Year. Circle your year in school during the 2011-2012 school year.

Passport. If you are selected to the Compass program, you will need a passport. If you do not already have one, it is a good idea to at least begin thinking about the process of getting one.

Date of Birth. Be sure to indicate the month, day and year.

PARENT INFORMATION

This section is for your parents/guardians to complete.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

- This section is an important part of your application. This is our primary resource for getting to know who you are. Take time to think and pray about these questions.
- Type your answers on separate sheets of paper. There is no set page requirement. The equivalent of 3 or 4 pages of single-spaced lines in 12-point font is usually sufficient.
- Answer in clear, concise, and complete sentences that exhibit genuine consideration and self-reflection. Do not leave any questions unanswered.



Applications must be postmarked by February 29, 2012.

CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM

Please include a picture of yourself (eg. yearbook photograph, passport-style picture of your face). Please put the picture in a small envelope and include it with your application. Thank you!

In completing this form you are applying to the Compass program, a selective Christian leadership development program for high school students.

I, _____, understand that the Compass program is an opportunity
Candidate's Name
and a commitment to participate in a month-long immersion experience and to be mentored for three years.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Candidate Information Please print clearly.

Legal Name: _____ Common Name _____
First Middle Last

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

High School _____ Year (Please circle one.) So. Jr. Sr. Other

Church Name _____ I have been a part of this church since _____

Church Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Website _____ Church Denomination _____

Senior Pastor _____ Youth Pastor _____

Nominator _____ Mentor _____

Have you traveled internationally? Yes No Where? _____

Do you now have:

Current Passport? Yes No Expiration Date _____

Your full name as it appears on passport _____

Certified Birth Certificate? Yes No Date of Birth (Month, Day and Year) _____

How did you hear about the Compass program? _____

Parent Information To be completed by parents or guardians. Please print clearly.

Father/Guardian _____ Mother/Guardian _____

Address _____ Address _____

Home Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

Candidate resides with: Both parents Father Mother Other _____

Why do you support your child's participation in the Compass program? _____

Candidate Questions

Please type your answers to the following questions on additional paper.

1. Briefly describe your conversion experience or describe how your Christian life began.
2. Tell us about yourself. What are your interests? In what activities are you involved: a) at church; b) at school; c) in the community?
3. Give at least two examples of successes in your life. Why do you define them as successes?
4. Who has been the most influential person in your life? Describe your relationship. How has he/she influenced you? Be specific.
5. What are two or three things (other than your faith) that have most impacted who you are today?
6. What would you most like to see changed and why? How do you see yourself playing a role in that?
7. In the last year, what life questions and/or faith issues have you wrestled with and to what, if any, conclusions have you arrived?
8. This program is for young people who in some way sense a call to leadership and ministry. Describe your calling. This may be a specific incident or a process of God revealing himself to you. Why would you like to participate in the Compass program?
9. What is your understanding of the Compass program?

The Real Ministry Immersion includes participation in a wilderness expedition with the La Vida program. Although no special physical skills are needed, it can be a challenging experience. Every activity is "Challenge by Choice." Each participant determines his/her own level of challenge.



CHURCH REFERENCE FORM

The candidate named below has been nominated to the Compass program, a selective program for youth who are exploring leadership and ministry. The Church Reference Form is to be completed by a member or regular attendee of the candidate's home church who knows the candidate well enough to speak to the candidate's suitability for the program.

This box is to be filled out by the Compass candidate.

Candidate: Choose a member or regular attendee of your church to be a reference for you. You may not choose a family member. Before giving this form to the person you choose, fill in the information in this box.

Candidate's Name _____

Church _____

Nominator's Name _____

Nominator's Address _____

Your input is valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to be a reference for this candidate. Please return the Church Reference Form to the nominator in a sealed envelope.

Church Reference Name: _____ Date: _____

Please type your answers to the following questions on additional paper.

1. Describe the length and quality of your relationship with the candidate.
2. Describe this candidate's relationship with God.
3. What two or three attributes do you most admire in this individual? Why?
4. How have you seen this candidate demonstrate leadership abilities in your church? In what ways does he/she contribute to the community?
5. In what areas do you assess that this candidate needs to grow?

Rate the candidate's strength in the following areas.

	Weak					Strong	Comments
	1	2	3	4	5		
Teachability	1	2	3	4	5		
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5		
Teamwork	1	2	3	4	5		
Perseverance	1	2	3	4	5		
Conflict Resolution	1	2	3	4	5		
Sociability	1	2	3	4	5		
Stress Management	1	2	3	4	5		
Faithfulness	1	2	3	4	5		



PEER REFERENCE FORM

The candidate named below has been nominated to the Compass program, a selective program for youth who are exploring leadership and ministry. The Peer Reference Form is to be completed by one of the candidate's peers who knows the candidate well enough to speak to the candidate's suitability for the program.

This box is to be filled out by the Compass candidate.

Candidate: Choose a peer to be a reference for you. Before giving this form to the person you choose, fill in the information in this box.

Candidate's Name _____

Church _____

Nominator's Name _____

Nominator's Address _____

Your input is valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to be a reference for this candidate. Please return the Peer Reference Form to the nominator in a sealed envelope.

Peer Reference Name: _____ Date: _____

Please type your answers to the following questions on additional paper.

1. Describe the length and quality of your relationship with the candidate.
2. Describe this candidate's relationship with God.
3. What two or three attributes do you most admire in this individual? Why?
4. How have you seen this candidate demonstrate leadership abilities? In what ways does he/she contribute to the church and/or community?
5. In what areas do you assess that this candidate needs to grow?

Rate the candidate's strength in the following areas.

	Weak _____ Strong					Comments _____
Teachability	1	2	3	4	5	
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5	
Teamwork	1	2	3	4	5	
Perseverance	1	2	3	4	5	
Conflict Resolution	1	2	3	4	5	
Sociability	1	2	3	4	5	
Stress Management	1	2	3	4	5	
Faithfulness	1	2	3	4	5	