

Becoming a Freemason

NOTE: REGULATIONS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP MAY VARY FROM JURISDICTION TO JURISDICTION AROUND THE WORLD.

To Become a Freemason You Must:

- Be a man, freeborn, of mature age, of good repute, and well-recommended
- Have a belief in a Supreme Being
- Be able to support one's self and family
- Come to Freemasonry of your "own free will and accord"

"Be a Man, Freeborn, of Mature age, of Good Repute and Well Recommended"

The applicant must be a man (Freemasonry is a fraternal organization) and be at least 21 years of age. He must be of good moral character and demonstrate responsibility in his family and work. To join a Lodge, a man needs to be sponsored by two Masons who belong to that Lodge.

"Belief in a Supreme Being"

Freemasonry does not demand belief in the God of a particular religion -- but demands a belief in a Supreme Being. Freemasonry strongly discourages any discussion of religious issues or politics while in Lodge. These are personal topics, and topics that tend to create disharmony -- which is antithetical to the culture of 'Brotherhood' that Freemasonry seeks to promote.

"Be Able to Support One's Self and Family"

The applicant should be financially able to become (and remain) a Mason without it being a burden to himself or to his family.

"Come to Freemasonry of Your Own Free Will and Accord"

Freemasonry does not 'invite' men to become Masons! Solicitation of members is, in fact, strictly prohibited.

Which Lodge Should I Join?

In addition to the criteria above, there are options with respect to which Lodge you join: Commercial #81 is a "daylight Lodge" and meets once a month in the afternoon of the third Saturday of every month (except April and December, and does not meet at all in July and August).

Other Lodges meet on weekday evenings, typically twice a month - once for regular business and once for the conferring of degrees (called 'emergent' meetings). Commercial #81 combines both in the once-per-month meeting. If a weeknight works better for you, please see the [Grand Lodge website](#) for more information.

Financial Considerations. Fees can vary from Lodge to Lodge. Lodge fees are levied according to the following disbursements: Grand Lodge Assessment, Building Assessments (covering the costs of the Lodge's building costs), and the Lodge Assessment (covering the operating expenses for the Lodge itself).

The Petition. You will be given a 'Letter of Information' which you need to sign. Once signed the Secretary will send you an 'Application Form' or 'Petition', which needs to be completed by you and signed by two members of Commercial Lodge. If you are interested in becoming a member of Commercial 81, and you don't know any of the members of our Lodge, please send an email to one of the Brothers at the bottom of this page. We will arrange to meet with you, give you the 'paperwork' and also make arrangements for you to meet with a second member of Commercial Lodge.

The Investigation. Once the petition is presented in open Lodge, the Master calls an "Investigation Committee" consisting of 2 or 3 members who will arrange to meet with you and your significant other. (Yes, you AND your wife or significant other!) Though we're certainly a fraternal organization, we want to ensure that the prospective member's spouse is 'on-board' and doesn't have any fundamental objections to the fraternity. Though called an "Investigation Committee", this is really an informal get-together that allows you and your significant other to ask questions about the fraternity, and assure the Lodge that you are eligible to join and haven't been invited or coerced to join. (They'll make sure that you're over the age of 21, ask if you believe in a 'Supreme Being', ask if you're economically solvent, and find out why you want to join a Lodge.) It's an opportunity for you and your significant other to meet a few more members of our Lodge, and ask some questions. Typically this meeting is held in your home at a time that is convenient for all concerned.

The Ballot. The next step is for the "Investigating Committee" to report their findings at the next Lodge meeting. In response to a positive report, a ballot is held at the same meeting. Given a positive ballot, the Master asks the Secretary to advise you of the same, and ask you to present yourself at the Lodge at a particular date and time.

The Initiation. This date / time is at the call of the Master and will be the date of your initiation into the fraternity, and into Commercial Lodge, in particular. A member of Commercial Lodge will contact you before your initiation to prepare you for it.

How Long Will it Take? Commercial Lodge does not rush candidates through the three degrees. There can be two or three months (or more) between each of the three degrees.