



# WILKERSON COLLEGE

North Carolina's College of Freemasonry



Class of 2024  
**CATALOG**

**Wilkerson College**  
**North Carolina's College of Freemasonry**

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Dean

Assistant Dean

Dean of Academics

Dean of Admissions

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

Secretary

# WILKERSON COLLEGE

## North Carolina's College of Freemasonry



Wilkerson College is sponsored jointly by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Orient of North Carolina and the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. The College began with a single mission in mind: to provide Freemasonry with the best trained Masonic leaders possible.

Each class is limited to 50 students. Admission preference is given to lodge Deacons under the premise that our best investment lies within those officers who have been given a leadership role within the lodge but still have several years to prepare for the ultimate goal of being an effective Master of his Lodge. Though part of the training during Wilkerson College is devoted to the origins and traditions of Freemasonry, students spend the majority of their time learning how to become effective leaders within their lodges. Subjects including budgeting, lodge operations and membership services will be new to some whose notions of a Masonic education stop at ritual and memorization. It is the goal of Wilkerson College to provide each student with a well-rounded exposure to the tools that are needed to be a confident and effective leader in his lodge, within the fraternity, and in his community.

The student's immersion in North Carolina Freemasonry is enhanced by the meeting locations themselves. Sessions are scheduled in proximity to The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, WhiteStone - A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina office located in Raleigh. Class participants will have the opportunity to tour all three facilities.

The faculty of Wilkerson College is comprised of men who are important to Freemasonry in this state. Each instructor is a recognized Masonic leader, and a man in whose life Freemasonry plays a vital part. Not only do the students get to meet and spend time learning from these individuals, they also gain some sense of how Freemasonry has influenced their lives and why our Fraternity holds so much value in their daily activities.

The entire "Wilkerson College Experience" is designed to elevate the student from a level of merely "filling an officer's chair" to a point that he holds a newfound respect and honor for this fraternity and the important role that he will have the opportunity of fulfilling as an officer and Masonic leader.

## **Admissions**

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Wilkerson College is a leadership school for Lodge Deacons; therefore, admission to Wilkerson College is open to Junior and Senior Deacons.

Junior and Senior Wardens may be considered for admission in the event that the class is not filled with Deacons.

Notification of Acceptance letters will be sent out prior to January 1st. Class size is limited to 50 participants.

## **2024 Schedule**

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Last day to apply for 2024 Session (*if class roster is full*) December 15, 2023

Last day to apply for Financial Assistance for the 2024 Session January 1, 2024

### **Session I – Greensboro**

Comfort Inn – Lanada Road Greensboro; and February 23 & 24, 2024  
WhiteStone a Masonic & Eastern Star Community (Tour)

### **Session II – Oxford**

Comfort Inn & Suites and March 22 & 23, 2024  
The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford (Tour)

### **Session III - Raleigh**

Embassy Suites Raleigh Crabtree and May 3-5, 2024  
Offices of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina (Tour)

Students will receive reporting instructions and other pertinent information prior to each session. Sessions typically begin on Friday evenings at 5:00 PM with sessions I and II concluding on Saturday at approximately 5:00 PM. Session III will conclude Saturday evening with the Graduation Banquet. Saturday night hotel accommodations are provided for those desiring to stay over following the Graduation Banquet.

## **Courses**

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The following is a partial list of courses that are offered to our students.

### **Fundraising**

A detailed analysis of fund raising within the lodge that includes proven methods as well as the do and don'ts as outlined in the North Carolina Masonic Code and the guidelines set forth by the North Carolina Grand Lodge Commission on Special Activities

### **Masonic Education**

Continuing education within our craft, identifying resources and incorporating educational programs within the Lodge

### **Social Media**

Opportunities for Lodge success using social media

### **Mentoring**

Highlights the importance of a good mentoring program within the lodge

### **Motivation**

Initiatives to stimulate attendance and member activity with practical applications

### **Planning**

An overview of strategic planning for the future lodge Master and strategies involved in achieving a successful year

### **Public Speaking and Communicating Effectively**

Tips for public speaking and how to find your confidence in front of audiences large and small

### **WhiteStone, a Masonic and Eastern Star Community**

A detailed overview of North Carolina's oldest retirement community, including a tour conducted by its staff and residents

### **The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford**

A behind the scenes look at the country's oldest home for children, including a tour of the facility by its staff and residents

### **Member Selection and Retention**

Best practices when considering candidates and keeping them engaged once they are members

### **The Master's Toolbox**

The essential tools that every Master should have for a successful and rewarding year

### **NC Masonic Foundation**

A detailed look at our Foundation, what it does, and how it ties into our Fraternity

**The Code**

An overview of how to navigate The Code utilizing practical examples and class interaction.

**Budgeting**

Learn how to create an annual Lodge budget and how to make a budget work in your Lodge

**Teambuilding**

Learning to work together in groups to achieve goals

**Faculty**

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Faculty Members are selected for their expertise on selected topics offered in the Wilkerson College Curriculum. We are grateful to the following individuals for sharing their knowledge and experience with the participants of Wilkerson College:

WB J. Riley Beaman, III  
MWB P. Shaun Bradshaw  
MWB D. Mack Sigmon  
MWB Douglas L. Caudle  
RWB Robert Rideout  
WB Michael T. Daniels  
WB Gary D. Handy  
WB Mike Register  
WB James L. Medlin  
Bro. Ben Sorensen  
MWB Bryan D. Webster  
WB Kevin C. Otis  
WB James Howell  
WB Kenneth W. Wical  
WB Chris Richardson  
WB Stephen McCraw  
WB Noah Goode  
RWB Jonathan A. Underwood  
WB Kevin Combs  
MWB Larry B. Thompson, Jr.  
WB Marc Browne  
WB Benjamin G. Wallace

## **Housing**

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Students will be housed in single occupancy rooms during Sessions I and II for Friday night. Spouses are encouraged to attend Session III for Friday and Saturday nights.

## **Graduation Weekend**

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Spouses are encouraged to take part in Session III. On Friday evening, students and their spouses will have the opportunity to tour the Grand Lodge of North Carolina office and spend the remainder of the evening socializing. The weekend will conclude with a graduation banquet on Saturday evening with all in attendance. Graduation certificates will be presented to only those that have completed all three sessions. Each graduate is allowed **one** guest at the graduation banquet.

## **Tuition and Costs**

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Tuition to Wilkerson College is \$800.00 and covers lodging, meals and course materials. Applications must be accompanied by a \$200.00 deposit with the balance being paid in full before February 1, 2024 unless other financial arrangements are made. All deposits and tuition payments should be mailed to the College Secretary.

## **Financial Assistance**

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The college has several generous benefactors who contribute money each year to afford others the opportunity to enjoy the "Wilkerson College Experience". In addition to disbursing financial assistance to the College, the following named scholarships are awarded annually to perspective candidates by the Wilkerson College Scholarship Committee:

### **The H. Lloyd Wilkerson Scholarship**

(sponsored by Maj. Gen. H. Lloyd Wilkerson, USMC ret.)

### **The Dan Weatherington, Dean Emeritus Scholarship**

(sponsored by Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760 A.F.&A.M.)

### **The Dudley H. Sheppard Memorial Scholarship**

(sponsored by Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760 A.F.&A.M.)

## **Guidelines for Seeking Financial Assistance**

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If you wish to apply for financial assistance to the College, there are a few guidelines that must be followed. Please take the time to read the following information pertaining to requests for financial assistance. Incomplete requests will not be processed.

- Requests must be in letter or essay format to the Scholarship Committee
- Requests for financial assistance must be received on or before January 1, 2024
- Requests must be made by the applicants themselves (not the lodge Secretary or the lodge Master)
- Applicant must provide justification for financial assistance and why he has a desire to attend Wilkerson College
- No more than one applicant from any lodge will be considered for financial assistance in a given calendar year

Applications for financial assistance should be mailed to:

**Scholarship Committee  
Wilkerson College  
P.O. Box 735  
Walnut Cove, North Carolina 27052**

## **Admission Guidelines**

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1. Applications from those planning to serve as Deacons in the ensuing year should be received by the Secretary of Wilkerson College by December 1.
2. Incoming Junior or Senior Deacons will receive first priority for acceptance. The order of acceptance will be based on the date of receipt of their application by the Secretary of Wilkerson College, not the date of their application.
3. If the class has not been filled with Deacons by January 1, Wardens will be considered. Acceptance of Wardens will be based on the date of receipt of applications by the Secretary of Wilkerson College, not the date of their application.
4. Should a Deacon be accepted and later be elected or appointed to a position other than Junior or Senior Deacon, he should notify the Secretary no later than January 1. If elected as a Warden, he retains his position in the upcoming class.
5. If a Lodge pays the deposit for an applicant, it may substitute another Deacon from their lodge to fill the slot should the original applicant become ineligible. If an individual pays a deposit and is later elected or appointed to a position other than Deacon, he waives his right to use his previously assigned slot or choose his replacement.



6. Once the class roster has been finalized, letters confirming non-acceptance, including the check submitted with the original application, will be mailed to those applicants no later than the second week of January.
7. Reviews of potential financial assistance will be conducted in early January of each year. Once the reviews are completed, confirmation of those decisions will be provided to those applying for such assistance no later than January 31.
8. Applications from officers other than Deacons or Wardens will not be considered and will be promptly returned along with deposits.
9. If for any reason a session is missed, the student will not receive a diploma until that session requirement is completed. This can be accomplished by attending the missed session during the following year's class. Once the missed session is completed the attendee is eligible to receive his diploma. Should more than one session be missed or if any missed session cannot be completed the following year, special dispensation/approval to complete sessions after one year must be obtained from the Dean of the College.
10. No more than two participants from the same lodge will be accepted in the same calendar year.
11. In addition to the maximum number of accepted Deacons, the College may allow no more than two observers to attend any or all of the sessions in a specific year at their own expense. Eligibility is limited to current District Deputy Grand Masters who have never attended Wilkerson College and Grand Lodge Officers from other Grand jurisdictions. Approval of these attendees must be obtained no later than four weeks prior to the beginning of the first session.
12. Clarifications for special circumstances that are not clearly defined in these guidelines will be reviewed by the College leadership upon request.
13. Each graduate is allowed one guest at the graduation banquet.
14. Before submitting his application, the applicant must already be a member in good standing of the lodge in which he will be serving as a Deacon.
15. College tuition fees are based on double occupancy rooms for Sessions I and II. Any special request for a private room for either of those two sessions must be approved by the Dean of the College. If approved, the Student will be responsible for the additional full cost of a private room. *[AMENDED 2/2021 to reflect single occupancy due to COVID-19 until further notice]*

Revised and Adopted: August 17, 2018

**Wilkerson College Class of 2024  
Application for Admission**



~ Please Print ~

Greetings:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ respectfully request to be  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

admitted to the 2023 Class of Wilkerson College. I certify that I \_\_\_\_\_ installed as  
Am/Will Be

\_\_\_\_\_ Deacon in \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_,  
Junior/Senior Name of Lodge

located in \_\_\_\_\_, North Carolina, for **2024**. I further certify that if  
Town or City

appointed/elected by those in my Lodge, it is my intent to progress through the line of Officers, including that of Worshipful Master. I anticipate no problems in attending the three sessions of Wilkerson College, the first being held in Greensboro, North Carolina, the second being held in Oxford, North Carolina and the third being held in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred/Nick Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date raised a Master Mason: \_\_\_\_\_

This Application for Admission must be completed in full and submitted with a \$200.00 deposit to:

**Homer T. Dearmin, Secretary  
Wilkerson College  
P.O. Box 735  
Walnut Cove, North Carolina 27052**

*"If an applicant has **not** received a notification within 14 days of mailing application, contact the College Secretary at [hdearmin@gmail.com](mailto:hdearmin@gmail.com)"*

Admissions are limited to the first fifty Deacons applying per year. Deacons should realize they will be installed into their new positions for the ensuing year prior to the first session in Greensboro, NC. Applications will be accepted until all seats are filled or December 15, 2023, whichever comes first. A deposit in the amount of \$200 **MUST** accompany all applications, with balance of tuition due no later than February 1, 2024 unless other financial arrangements are approved by the College in advance. *If financial assistance is being requested, please refer to the "Guidelines for Assistance" that can be found in the Wilkerson College Catalog or online at [www.wilkersoncollege.com](http://www.wilkersoncollege.com).* Requests for financial aid **MUST** be made prior to January 1, 2024. Notification letters concerning financial aid will be sent after the cut-off date. Should you be elected or appointed to a position other than Deacon after acceptance, please contact the Dean of Admissions immediately.