During each application cycle, the Grace College Office of Charter (GCOC) accepts applications from all types of applicants, including:

- New Operators seeking to launch one new charter school
- Experienced Operators seeking to launch one or more charter schools
- Existing Indiana charter schools seeking to switch authorizers

The GCOC defines “New Operators” as those applicants who have not previously operated a charter school and who do not intend to contract with an Education Service Provider (ESP) to oversee school operations. “Experienced Operators” are defined as either: (a) applicants that have previously operated a charter school or managed a network of charter schools; or (b) applicants that have not previously operated a charter school, but intend to contract with an ESP. Per IC § 20-24-1-6.1. ESP is defined as a "for profit education management organization, nonprofit charter management organization, school design provider, or any other partner entity with which a charter school intends to contract for educational design, implementation, or comprehensive management." Experienced Operators led by experienced Boards may apply for one or more charters.

Step 1: Letters of Intent

All applicants seeking to submit a proposal to the GCOC are first required to submit a non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI) indicating their interest in applying to the GCCO. Only those applicants that meet the LOI deadline are eligible to submit a Full Application. Please note that submission of the LOI does not obligate the applicant to submit an Initial Proposal or Full Application.

The Letters of Intent must be submitted to tziebarth@grace.edu by the deadlines established for each application cycle. Please refer to the Charter School Application Deadlines PDF for relevant dates.

- LOI New Operators
- LOI Experienced Operators
Step 2: Request for Initial Proposal

Grace College Office of Charter will send a request for an Initial Proposal. This gives the GCOC a brief overview of the proposed school. If Grace College deems the proposal viable for the community in which the charter is proposed and based on the GCOC capacity, the GCOC will make recommendations for full application or notify the organizer the reasons for denial at this time.

INITIAL PROPOSAL

Step 3: Full Application

Applicants that meet the LOI deadline may be eligible to submit a Full Application. During each application cycle, the Full Application should be submitted to the GCOC no later than the established deadline. Please note that failure to submit a timely or complete application may serve as grounds to reject the application. Grace College of Charter accepts charter school applications June 1 through December 31 for the 2016-2017 school year.

For New Operators and Experienced Operators

- Charter School Application for New Operators 2015
- Charter School Application for Experienced Operators 2015

Step 4: Evaluation Reviews and Interviews

Teams consisting of Grace College and Seminary Staff and Authorizing Charter School Trustees will evaluate all applications and conduct independent due diligence on applicant groups. Evaluators will also interview applicant teams to explore any questions concerning the application and to assess founding team capacity. Also, as required by Indiana law, public hearings will be held to allow for public comment from community members where applicants propose to open charter schools.

Step 5: Grace College and Seminary Authorizing Charter Board Decisions

Grace College and Seminary Board members will make qualification decisions based on recommendations from Grace College and Seminary staff, evaluation teams and any additional information considered by Grace College and Seminary.