

Academic Catalogue 2024-2025



Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

100 East 27th Street
Austin, Texas 78705-5711
www.austinseminary.edu



Accreditation

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is accredited by the
Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools
10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1103, USA
Telephone 412-788-6505
Fax: 412-788-6510
Website: www.ats.edu

The following degree programs are approved: MA (Theological Studies), MA in Ministry Practice,
MA in Religion, MA in Youth Ministry, MDiv, DMin

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is accredited by the
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
to award degrees at the master's and doctoral levels.
The Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097
Phone: 404-679-4500
Website: <https://sacscoc.org>.

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is a member of
The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is related to
The Synod of the Sun and to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Table of Contents

Introductory Information

Accreditation and Memberships.....	2
2023-2025 Academic Calendar	5-8
Purpose and History of Austin Seminary	9-10
Location	10

Admissions

Campus Visitation	12
Master's-level Degree Application Process.....	13
Action and Notification	14
Deferring Matriculation	14
Health Insurance Requirement	14
Matriculation.....	15
Declaration of Intent.....	15
International Student Policies	16
Other Classifications of Study.....	20
Auditors.....	20
Certificate in Ministry (CIM)	20
Certificado en Ministerio en Español (CEM).....	20
Dual-Degree Program in Social Work.....	20
Provisional Students.....	21
Special Students (Nondegree)	21
No earned Baccalaureate	22
Transfer Students	22
Criminal History Check.....	22
Readmission to a Degree Program	23
Global Partner Program.....	23
Doctor of Ministry (DMin) Application Process.....	24
DMin Action and Notification.....	25
DMin Deferring Matriculation.....	25

Master's Degree Programs

Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS)	27
Master of Arts in Ministry Practice (MAMP).....	28
Master of Arts in Religion (MAR).....	30
Master of Arts in Youth Ministry (MAYM)	31
Master of Divinity (MDiv)	33
Concentration in Public Theology.....	36

Academic Information for Master's Programs

Academic Probation	37
Adding and Dropping Courses.....	37
Auditing Courses	38
Biblical Language Options, MDiv	38
Biblical Language Waiver or Academic Credit.....	38
Classification and Numbering of Courses	38
Credit Load: Full-time and Part-time Study	39
Cross-Registration	39
Deadline for End-of-Term Coursework	39
Denominational Requirements	39
Directed Study Project.....	40
Duration of Programs.....	40
Ecclesiastical Endorsement.....	40
Extensions.....	41

Academic Information for Master's Programs continued...

Faculty Advisor Program	41
Grade Reports and Academic Records	41
Grading System	41
Hearer's Credit Option	43
Incompletes	43
Leave of Absence	43
Matriculation.....	43
PC(USA) Ordination Examinations.....	43
Privacy Rights of Students.....	44
Satisfactory Progress	44
Style Guide.....	44
Transfer of Coursework	44
Waiver of Requirements	44
Withdrawal from the Seminary.....	44

Academic Departments and Course Listings

Biblical Department Faculty	45
Biblical Languages and Introductory Courses	46
Hebrew and Greek Exegesis.....	47
Biblical Interpretation Courses.....	48
Department of the Church's Ministry Faculty	51
Christian Education Courses.....	52
Leadership and Administration Courses	55
Mission and Evangelism Courses.....	56
Pastoral Care Courses	57
Preaching, Worship, and Music Courses.....	58
Theological-Historical Department Faculty	62
Ethics Courses.....	63
History Courses	64
Theology Courses	65
Interdepartmental Courses	71

Ministerial Formation

Program in Formation for Ministry.....	72
MAYM Youth Ministry Practica.....	72
Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM)	73
Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)	74
Elective Options.....	74

Additional Academic Opportunities

Travel Seminars	75
Dual-Degree Program in Social Work.....	77
Hispanic Summer Program.....	78
Center for Church Innovation.....	78
Presbyterian Exchange Program.....	78
Protestant Theological University of the Netherlands.....	78

Doctor of Ministry Program

Goals and Requirements.....	79
Structure of the Program.....	79
Areas of Concentration.....	80
The Integrative Portfolio/Integrative Project	80

Table of Contents

Academic Information for DMin Program

Auditing Seminars.....	81
Consultation and Advancement to Candidacy.....	81
Costs	81
Dismissal or Suspension	82
Extensions	82
Grading System.....	82
Leave of Absence.....	83
Probation.....	83
Residency Requirements.....	83
Satisfactory Progress.....	83
Style Editor	84
Style Guide	84
Transfer of Credit	84
Withdrawal from the Seminary.....	84

Additional Educational Opportunities

Certificate in Ministry	85
Certificado en Ministerio en Español.....	88

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning at Austin Seminary	91
Clergy Cohort Programs.....	91
Programas en Español.....	91
Congregational Initiatives.....	91
Workshops for Practitioners	92

Institutional Policies

Academic Honesty	93
Disability Accommodation	94
Designated Section 504 Coordinator	94
Procedure for Requesting 504 Accommodation.....	94
Dismissal	95
Drug Abuse and Prevention Counseling	95
Grade Appeals.....	95
Grievance Procedures	96
Inclusive Language Use.....	96
Medical and Hospitalization Insurance	97
Nonacademic Probation and Involuntary Leave of Absence.....	97
Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment.....	97
Sexual Misconduct.....	98
Student Code of Conduct	99
Student Rights and Responsibilities.....	99
Title IX Statement.....	99
Transcripts.....	99
Veterans.....	99
Weapons.....	100

Educational Environment

The Seminary Community and the Office of Student Affairs and Vocation.....	101
Ministry, Finance, Mindfulness	101
Relationships with Other Institutions	102
Smoot Center	102

Educational Environment, cont.

Library Services: The Mary B. and Robert J. Wright Learning and Information Center and Austin Seminary Archives.....	103
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Lectures and Lecturers

Midwinter Lectures	104
Constitution Day Lecture	104
HESED Lectures	104
George S. Heyer Distinguished Lectureship.....	104
Settles Lectures	104
Jean Brown Visiting Scholar.....	105
Hoxie Thompson Lecturers	105
Ware Endowed Lectureship and Fellowship	105
Zbinden Chair of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership..	105

Financial Information

Seminary Expenses	106
Payment of Fees	107
Refund Policies.....	107
Financial Aid.....	109
Campus Employment	110

Student Housing

Eligibility and Assignments.....	111
----------------------------------	-----

Campus Resources

Campus Identification Card.....	112
Campus Conduct Hotline SM	112
Classroom Technology.....	112
Computer Lab.....	112
Dining Services: Barth and Grill	112
Email	113
Emergency Notification System.....	113
Stanley R. Hall Liturgics Lab.....	113

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

Merit Awards.....	114
Other Scholarships and Awards.....	115
Graduate Residency	116
Graduate Awards.....	116
Graduate Fellowships	118

Giving to Austin Seminary

Directories

2024 Graduates.....	121
Trustees.....	121
Faculty	123
Additional Instructors	125
Administration	126
Austin Seminary Association (ASA)	129
Contact List	131

Academic Calendar

Fall Term 2024

- August 26-30 MDiv/MAR/MATS/MAMP New Student Orientation
- August 26-30 New Special Student/Auditor Orientation (online)
- September 2 Labor Day Holiday
- September 3 8:00am Fall term begins
11:10am Opening Convocation
7:00pm Opening Worship with Signing of the Declaration of Intent
- September 9 5:00pm Last day to add or drop a course for Fall term
- September 12-14 MAYM Intensive in Austin/Nashville
- October 14-18 Fall Break
- October 21-25 MAYM Intensive Week in Austin
- October 22 11:10am Worship including MAYM new students Signing Declaration of Intent
- November 1-2 Fall Discovery Weekend
- November 11-12 Fall Board of Trustees Meeting
- November 11-14 Open Registration for Spring and Summer 2025
- November 28-29 Thanksgiving Break
- December 3-6 Reading period
- December 5-7 MAYM Intensive in Austin/Nashville
- December 9-13 Final Examination Week
- December 13 5:00pm Fall term ends; Christmas Break begins for students
- December 20 5:00pm Seminary Offices close for two weeks

January Term 2025

- January 7 8:00am January Masters Term Begins
- January 9 5:00pm Last day to add or drop Master's level course
- January 9-11 MAYM Intensive Weekend in Nashville
- January 13-17 Doctor of Ministry in residence
- January 13 Spring 2025 New Student Orientation opens online
- January 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- January 24 January Masters Term Ends

Academic Calendar

Spring Term 2025

January 27	New Special Student/Auditor Orientation opens online
February 3	8:00am Spring Masters Term begins
February 4	11:10am Opening Worship
February 7-8	Board of Trustees retreat
February 10	5:00pm Last day to add or drop a course
February 13-15	MAYM Intensive in Austin/Nashville
February 11	11:10am Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Worship Service
March 17-21	Spring Break
March 24-28	MAYM Intensive Week in Austin
March 25	11:10am Worship including Spring new students Signing of the Declaration of Intent
April 4-6	Spring Discovery Weekend
April 17-19	Triduum
April 18	Good Friday Holiday
April 21	Easter Monday - no classes
April 22-25	Open Registration for Fall '25 and January '26 Masters terms
May 1-3	MAYM Intensive in Austin/Nashville
May 6-9	Reading period
May 12-16	Final Examination Week
May 12	5:00pm Final deadline for graduating students' work
May 13	5:00pm Final deadline for grade entry for graduating students
May 16	5:00pm Spring Term ends
May 16-17	Board of Trustees Spring meeting
May 17	Baccalaureate
May 18	Commencement

Summer Term 2025

June 2	8:00am Summer Masters Term begins
June 2-6	Doctor of Ministry in residence
June 4	5:00pm Last day to add or drop Master's level course
August 7-9	MAYM Intensive Weekend in Austin
August 22	Summer Masters Term ends

Tentative 2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Fall Term 2025

- August 25-29 MDiv/MAR/MATS/MAMP New Student Orientation
- August 25-29 New Special Student/Auditor Orientation (online)
- September 1 Labor Day Holiday
- September 2 8:00am Fall term begins
11:10am Opening Convocation
7:00pm Opening Worship with Signing of the Declaration of Intent
- September 8 5:00pm Last day to add or drop a course for Fall term
- September 11-13 MAYM Intensive in Austin/Nashville
- October 13-17 Fall Break **to be determined**
- October 24-26 Fall Discovery Weekend
- October 27-31 MAYM Intensive Week in Austin
- October 28 11:10am Worship including MAYM new students Signing Declaration of Intent
- November 9-11 Fall Board of Trustees Meeting
- November 17-20 Open Registration for Spring and Summer 2026
- November 27-28 Thanksgiving Break
- December 2-5 Reading period
- December 4-6 MAYM Intensive in Austin/Nashville
- December 8-12 Final Examination Week
- December 12 Fall term ends; Christmas Break begins for Students
- December 19 5:00pm Seminary Offices close for two weeks

January Term 2026

- January 5 8:00am January Masters Term Begins
- January 7 5:00pm Last day to add or drop Master's level course
- January 8-10 MAYM Intensive Weekend in Nashville
- January 12-16 Doctor of Ministry in residence
- January 12-16 Spring 2025 New Student Orientation open online
- January 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- January 23 5:00pm January Masters Term Ends

Tentative 2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Spring Term 2026

January 26	New Special Student/Auditor Orientation opens online
February 2	8:00am Spring Master's Term begins
February 3	11:10am Opening Worship
February 6	5:00pm Last day to add or drop a course
Feb 6-7	Board of Trustees Retreat
February 10	11:10am Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Worship Service
February 12-14	MAYM Intensive in Austin/Nashville
March 16-20	Spring Break <i>*to be determined*</i>
March 23-27	MAYM Intensive Week in Austin
March 24	11:10am Worship including Spring new students Signing of the Declaration of Intent
TBA	Spring Discovery Weekend
April 2-4	Triduum
April 3	Good Friday holiday
April 6	Easter Monday - no classes
April 13-16	Open Registration for Fall and January Masters terms
April 30-May 2	MAYM Intensive in Austin/Nashville
May 5-8	Reading period
May 11-15	Final Examination Week
May 11	5:00pm Final deadline for graduating students' work
May 12	5:00pm Final deadline for grade entry for graduating students
May 15	5:00pm Spring Term ends
May 15-16	Board of Trustees Spring meeting
May 16	Baccalaureate
May 17	Commencement

Summer Term 2026

June 1	8:00am Summer Masters Term begins
June 1-5	Doctor of Ministry in residence
June 3	5:00pm Last day to add or drop Master's level course
August 6-8	MAYM Intensive Weekend in Austin
August 21	Summer Masters Term ends

The Purpose and History of Austin Seminary

Purpose - The Board of Trustees has adopted the following Statement of Purpose:

For the glory of God and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is a seminary in the Presbyterian–Reformed tradition whose mission is to educate and equip people for ordained Christian ministry and other forms of Christian service and leadership; to employ its resources for the nurture of the church; to practice and promote critical theological thought and research; to engage a range of voices and perspectives within and beyond the life of the Seminary; and to be a winsome and exemplary community of God’s people.

History - By 1880, Presbyterian churches were being organized west of the Mississippi at a rate which demanded far more new ministers than were available from Presbyterian seminaries east of the Mississippi. The problem deepened as ministerial candidates from the Southwest left to attend seminaries in the east and then frequently remained there. The beginnings of a solution came when Dr. Richmond K. Smoot, pastor of First Southern Presbyterian Church, Austin, and Dr. Robert Lewis Dabney, University of Texas professor of mental and moral philosophy, opened the Austin School of Theology in 1884. It closed in 1895 but the need remained. In 1899, the Synod of Texas authorized the establishment of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Dr. Thornton Rogers Sampson left the presidency of Austin College to begin the Seminary. Along with other gifts, the donation of \$75,000 by Sarah C. (Mrs. George) Ball of Galveston enabled Dr. Sampson to commence the academic program of the Seminary in the fall of 1902. The synods of Arkansas (1905), Oklahoma (1908), and Louisiana (1929) joined in support and control of the school. In 1905 the campus moved from the former Stuart Female Seminary building at 9th and Navasota Streets in East Austin to the current campus north of The University of Texas. Sampson helped bring about its affiliation with the University of Texas, a union that set a precedent for denominational schools. He resigned the presidency on June 30, 1905, but continued to teach church history and polity. Robert Ernest Vinson became president in 1909 and resigned in 1916 to become president of the University of Texas.

In May of 1917, Dr. Thomas W. Currie became chairman of the faculty which ran the seminary during the war years when the institution was partially closed. Currie became president in 1922 and served until his death in 1943. During this period the Seminary faculty increased, the campus was enlarged, the student body grew, and the endowment was augmented. A chapel was also erected in 1941. In 1943, Dr. Robert F. Gribble was appointed acting president by the board of trustees to serve until a new president was elected.

In 1945, Dr. David L. Stitt became president and served until 1971. During these years the Seminary advanced in every measurable way. The student body grew, and the number of faculty increased. The library, the Trull Building, and McMillan Building were erected. Extensive property on 30th Street was secured, and Currie Hall and student apartments were built.

In 1971, Dr. Prescott H. Williams Jr. became acting president, and subsequently the fifth president in 1972. Having brought to the Seminary a special facility in the areas of Old Testament languages and archaeology, Dr. Williams laid emphasis on revision of the curriculum to meet the changing needs of the church’s ministry.

In 1976, Dr. Jack Martin Maxwell was called to be the sixth president of the Seminary. In his administration, the physical plant was much improved, with addition to the library, renovation of the dining hall, and construction of new student housing. Moreover, the financial base of the Seminary was made more secure.

In January of 1984, Dr. C. Ellis Nelson, retired seminary president, became interim president. On July 1, 1985, Dr. Jack L. Stotts became the seventh president, having already served as president of a sibling Presbyterian seminary for a decade. He retired in July 1996. In May 1997, Dr. Robert M. Shelton, who had been on the faculty since 1971, was elected as the Seminary’s eighth president, after serving one year as interim president.

The Purpose and History of Austin Seminary

History *continued*...

Austin Seminary celebrated one hundred years of service to the church on October 1, 2002. Centennial events included special lectures, historical displays, the construction of the Centennial Trustee Gateway, and the naming of the Seminary Chapel for retiring President Shelton. In November of 2002, the board of trustees elected Austin Seminary's ninth president, the Reverend Dr. Theodore J. Wardlaw.

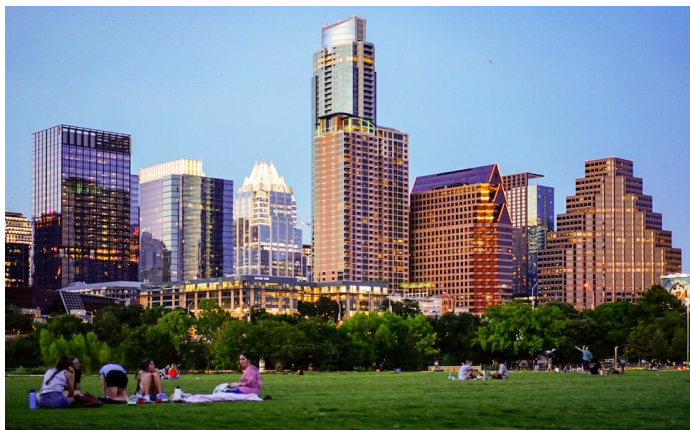
Under President Wardlaw the Seminary saw improvements to the physical facility with two new student apartment buildings and a renovated and expanded library and information center, new degree and certificate programs in English and Spanish, including a new partnership with The University of Texas at Austin, and significant fundraising for student scholarships. Upon President Wardlaw's retirement in 2022, the Reverend Dr. José R. Irizarry was called as the tenth president of Austin Seminary.

For a more detailed history see *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History* by Dr. Thomas White Currie Jr. and *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary: Completing a Century of Service* by Dr. James S. Currie, or visit the Austin Seminary Archives at www.austinseminary.edu/archives.

Location of Austin Seminary

Austin Seminary is ideally situated in the city of Austin, on the north edge of The University of Texas at Austin and two blocks away from the Seminary of the Southwest. The city of Austin also makes a splendid setting for theological education, for many and varied reasons:

- the picturesque setting: an exceptionally attractive city built in the natural beauty of the Texas Hill Country;
- the pleasant weather: Austin has gentle season changes and an average of 300 days of sunshine each year;
- the extraordinary educational atmosphere provided by The University of Texas at Austin and other outstanding colleges and universities;
- the lively churches and ecumenical groups;
- the availability of the arts in diversity and abundance with a year-round variety of concerts, plays, and exhibits;
- Austin's status as a major center for high technology; city growth has emphasized clean industry;
- the availability of recreation through the city's park system, on the Colorado River which winds through the city, and the Highland Lakes which stretch upriver for one hundred and fifty miles. Also, for an annual fee students have access to the recreational and sports facilities of The University of Texas at Austin.



Enrollment Office

The Admissions Commission at Austin Seminary welcomes your inquiry about theological education and our degree programs. The commission is composed of faculty members, senior students, and administrators. It is their desire to assist you as you discern your vocation. The Admissions Commission reviews and evaluates all applications. The commission seeks to ensure that each applicant is prepared to engage in theological study, is aware of personal strengths and limitations, and is familiar with the educational dimensions of the curriculum. Further, the commission is concerned that applicants have the necessary academic and intellectual preparation to embrace critical theological inquiry. An undergraduate degree with a liberal arts emphasis is an optimal way to prepare for seminary study.





Campus Visitation

If you are considering theological study, you are encouraged to visit Austin Seminary. When arrangements have been made in advance of your arrival, the Office of Admissions can assist in the planning of your on-campus visit, meals, and lodging. A campus visit may include class attendance, a campus tour, and personal conversations with faculty members, staff members, and students. The Enrollment Department generally offers up to a \$300.00 travel stipend to assist in travel and lodging costs.

If you are interested in pursuing the Doctor of Ministry degree, you are encouraged to contact the office of admissions at admissionsoffice@austinseminary.edu. You are also welcome to visit the campus and meet with professors and the associate dean for ministerial formation and advanced studies, who oversees the DMin program. All degree seeking candidates are encouraged to visit the campus and meet with community members, including staff and faculty members, and current students.

Master's-Degree Programs

Those applying for admission to the Master of Arts (Theological Studies), Master of Arts in Ministry Practice, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Arts in Youth Ministry, or Master of Divinity degree program at Austin Seminary are expected to be of honorable character and ordinarily shall provide evidence that they are in full communion with some branch of the Christian church. Applicants shall also provide evidence that they have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university recognized by the Seminary. As a school of the church, Austin Seminary is not merely an institution for academic study. Academic qualifications alone, therefore, do not qualify applicants for admission. The call of God and the affirmation of God's people are equally valued in the admissions process.

Austin Seminary reserves the right to exercise its discretion in granting or denying admission of applicants to any of its degree programs on any grounds consistent with its educational standards, its stated purpose and mission, its religious commitments, and its self-understanding as a community.

Applicants who believe that their academic abilities are inadequately represented by the grade point average of their previous academic work are encouraged to address that matter in the admissions essay and/or the admissions interview.

An applicant to the Master of Arts in Youth Ministry (MAYM) first completes the application process outlined by the Center for Youth Ministry Training at CYMT.org. All applicants for the MAYM must meet criteria for both CYMT and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in order to be admitted to this degree program.

Admissions

The faculty's Admissions Commission reviews applications on a monthly basis. For fall semester admission, one must have an application file completed no later than May 1st; for spring semester admission, no later than November 1st; for international applicants, no later than January 1st.

Applicant Process

1. Submit a formal application for admission using the on-line application accessible through www.austinseminary.edu/applynow.
2. Submit an application fee of \$50 (payable online by credit card). This fee is non-refundable.
3. Complete the criminal history check process. Refer to page 18 for information.
4. Provide an *official* transcript of record from *each* institution attended (required). Students applying while in the process of completing the baccalaureate degree should provide grades for at least six full-time semesters (or the equivalent) of college or university work. A final, *official* transcript indicating the baccalaureate degree earned must be submitted prior to matriculation.
5. Submit 4 references from unrelated individuals who can speak to the applicant's call history, service and work history, and educational history and promise. Family members or anyone related to and/or living with the applicant are not permissible. References should be able to speak knowingly of the applicant's life and character.
6. Submit three essays described as follows:
 - In an autobiographical essay (3-5 pages, double-spaced), reflect on your spiritual journey and/or call to ministry. Address your personal, educational, and religious background, your work history, your gifts and abilities for ministry and service, and your current vocational goals.
 - In an analytical essay (4-5 pages, double-spaced), craft a cogent argument on a specific topic of theological interest or concern. This essay should demonstrate your capacity to think critically, write coherently, reflect theologically, and engage scholarly sources.
 - Complete a third essay, specific to the program to which you are applying, according to the directions below.
 - Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS) Applicants
The MATS degree is a general academic degree that provides for foundational studies in the biblical and theological disciplines with advanced concentration in theology, ethics, history of religions, or biblical studies. In a brief essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced), identify your area of academic interest and how this study will inform your life and work.
 - Master of Arts in Ministry Practice (MAMP) Applicants
The MAMP degree equips individuals for general pastoral leadership. It offers opportunities to focus on specific areas in the practice of ministry. In a brief essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced) speak to your ministry goals and how you hope to be engaged in pastoral leadership.
 - Master of Arts in Religion (MAR) Applicants
The MAR degree is a general academic degree. It deepens candidates' basic knowledge in the biblical and theological disciplines. In a brief essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced), identify your area of academic interest and how this study will inform your life and work.

Admissions

Applicant Process, cont...

- Master of Arts in Youth Ministry (MAYM) Applicants

The MAYM degree program, created in partnership with the Center for Youth Ministry Training, is designed to immerse students in practical experience in local youth ministry settings and nurture them through coaching and peer-to-peer interaction. In a brief essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced), reflect on your goals for youth ministry and how the MAYM degree will prepare you to succeed.

- Master of Divinity (MDiv) Applicants

The MDiv degree is designed to nurture leaders who will give strong, loving, and imaginative leadership to worshiping, learning, and serving communities. In a brief essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced), reflect on your hopes and concerns for the church and your call to ministry.

- Master of Divinity/Master of Science in Social Work Applicants

The dual degree, MDiv/MSSW, is designed for students who have a particular interest in non-traditional ministries, including agency-based social service, social justice advocacy, policy-oriented ministries, and clinical counseling, as well as more traditional ministry roles such as pastor or chaplain. In a brief essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced), reflect on your particular ministry interest and how the dual degree will prepare you to serve in that capacity.

7. After the application form and essays are submitted and academic transcripts requested, arrange for an admissions interview through the scheduling link in the application checklist.
8. Applicants whose primary language of higher education instruction was not English *are required* to present scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Austin Seminary's TOEFL institution code is 6018. The minimum acceptable score for the iBT (Internet-based TOEFL) is 79 or greater. Students who have achieved the minimum TOEFL score but whose English language abilities are judged to be weak may be required to take advantage of Seminary-provided assistance in writing and study skills.
9. International applicants please see International Student Policies, pages 16 - 19.

Action and Notification

When the application process is completed, consideration and action will be taken by the Admissions Commission. Notification of such action will be communicated to the applicant no later than one month prior to the term for which the applicant has applied.

Deferring Matriculation

An applicant admitted to a degree program who desires to delay beginning theological study at Austin Seminary must submit a written request for deferment of matriculation to the vice president for enrollment management. This request is reviewed and acted upon by the Admissions Commission. Matriculation can be deferred up to one year. After one year, a candidate must begin the application process again. An applicant admitted as a Provisional Student cannot defer matriculation.

Medical and Hospitalization Insurance

Each degree student (and spouse and children, if applicable) is required to carry medical and hospitalization insurance. For Presbyterian students under the care of a presbytery, medical and hospitalization insurance is available through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Admissions

Matriculation

To complete admission an applicant:

1. must sign and return the *Intent to Matriculate* form;
2. must have official transcripts on file with the Office of Admissions from each institution attended, including official final transcripts which indicate degree(s) obtained and the date(s) of graduation (*matriculation into the Seminary cannot be effected until this supplementary record has been received*);
3. must be present for and participate in orientation and registration on the days and times specified in the academic calendar and orientation schedule;
4. must provide proof of health insurance coverage for oneself (and spouse and children, if applicable);
5. if age twenty-one or younger, must provide proof of vaccination for bacterial meningitis (contact the Office of Admissions for information); and,
6. is invited to participate in the signing of the *Declaration of Intent*.

Declaration of Intent

As an instrument of the church, the Seminary is not merely an institution for academic study, and membership in it is not granted in answer solely to the private interest or personal decision of those who present themselves for admission, however thoroughly qualified academically. For staff, faculty, and students, membership in the community is by invitation and commitment. The call of God and the affirmation of God's people are appropriately attended by a declaration of one's commitment and an acknowledgment of one's obligation to make full use of all means to the cultivation of the gifts of God for fulfilling the ministries to which one has been called. This occurs not only by devotion to study, but also by responsible participation in the whole of the community's varied life of worship and work, as well as by the exercise of personal prayer. The Seminary, therefore, invites its students to sign the following statement, which has been adopted by the faculty:

"In recognition of the claims of God upon me and in reliance upon God's grace, I declare my intention to live responsibly in this community, to be persistent in the pursuit of learning, diligent in prayer and praise, responsive to the needs of my fellow members, and open to their efforts to contribute to my equipment for the service of Christ."



International Student Policies

Application Deadline

The application deadline for international students is January 1st. International applicants are considered for fall-term admission only.

Degree Eligibility

International Students are only eligible for a student visa if they apply for one of our Master's Degree programs. Non-Baccalaureate international students are not eligible to apply.

Admission

Form I-20 A-B will be issued to international students once all standards for admission have been met and all required items received. After the students obtain their Form I-20 they must pay a [I-901 Student Exchange Visa Information System \(SEVIS\) Fee](#) of \$350. This fee is mandatory and must be paid before international students enter the United States. It is the responsibility of the student to pay this fee. Upon payment students will be able to book an appointment with their local consulate and start the process of applying for an F1 visa.

Language Proficiency

Students must meet English Proficiency Requirements. Austin Seminary requires a TOEFL test for all applicants that did not study their baccalaureate program in English. Students are required to present scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Austin Seminary's TOEFL institution code is 6018. The minimum acceptable score for the IBT (Internet-based TOEFL) is 79 or greater.

Funding

International applicants must submit proof of adequate financial funding to cover living and educational costs for the duration of the program. International Students may apply for financial aid at the Seminary.

Tuition and fees for 2024-2025 are \$16,800 for one year.

- International students who do not receive any form of funding must provide proof of \$35,000 of funds per year.
- International students who receive a scholarship must provide proof of finances of a minimum of \$20,000 per year.
- International students who receive fellowships must provide proof of \$10,000 per year.

Please note that scholarships and fellowships do not cover medical insurance, renter's insurance, entrance fees, registration fees, student fees, or graduation fees. Please review the [sample student's budget](#) here.

Dependents

F-1 international students may bring their spouse (for example, husband, wife, legal partner) and children with them while studying in the United States. However, they will also need to receive a Form I-20 from their DSO and follow specific rules while they are here. Proof of funding of \$10,000 is required for each dependent per year. F1 Dependents are not eligible to work in the USA.

International Student Policies

International Students currently in the US

International students currently studying in the United States on an F-1 visa who desire to transfer this status to Austin Seminary, are eligible to do so only if their F-1 student status is being maintained and in good standing. International applicants verify their F-1 student status by completing a Transfer Request for International Student form, available from the Austin Seminary Office of Admissions. This form requires the signature of the international student advisor at the United States institution the applicant most recently attended. When completed, the form is submitted to the Office of Admissions.

Transcripts

SpanTran is our international transcript evaluation service. All International Applicants' transcripts must go through SpanTran. They have created a custom application for Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary that will make sure students select the right kind of evaluation at a discounted rate. Students may access their application here: [SpanTran Application - Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary](#)

Insurance

International students are required to have adequate health and hospitalization insurance for themselves and their dependents. See what options are available here: isoa.org

Employment

Campus Employment

Austin Seminary provides opportunities for students to work up to fifteen hours per week on campus. To be eligible to work on campus, a student must be enrolled in a Master's-level degree program for at least twelve credits during the fall and spring semesters. On-campus employment is specific to work that takes place on campus. To work on-campus international students need to have a social security number (SSN). As soon as international students receive a letter of employment, they must apply for a SSN. Austin Seminary's policy is that when classes are in session, a total of no more than 15 hours a week may be recorded; when classes are not in session students may record up to 19 hours a week.

Off-Campus Employment

Off-Campus employment is work that takes place outside of a school campus. Off-Campus employment is only available to international students if they have completed at least one full academic year of their program of study and have an economic hardship that qualifies for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's emergent circumstances. To work off campus, international students must receive approval from their DSO, obtain an updated Form I-20, and apply for and receive employment authorization from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Required Off-Campus Course Work (CPT)

A field placement of supervised practice of ministry of 12 credits are required for all MDiv and MAMP students. International students that are required to do this field work need to register for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) with their DSO. International students need to secure the training opportunity before CPT can be authorized. One year of full-time CPT eliminates a student's eligibility for OPT.

International Student Policies

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

All OPT must be directly related to the student's major area of study. F-1 students are eligible to participate in OPT in two different ways:

- **Pre-completion OPT** International students may apply to participate in pre-completion OPT after they have been lawfully enrolled on a full-time basis for one full academic year. If the student is authorized to participate in pre-completion OPT, they may work (15 hours or less per week) while school is in session. The student may work 19 hours when school is not in session.

If an international student has already received 1 year of part-time (20 hours per week) pre-completion OPT, the total time of full-time OPT still available would be reduced by 6 months, 50% of the previously authorized year at the same education level. In this scenario, the international student would only be entitled to a remaining period of 6 months full-time post-completion OPT employment authorization.

If an international student has already received 1 year of full-time (40 hours per week) pre-completion OPT, the total time of full-time optional practical training still available would be reduced by 1 year, 100% of the previously authorized year at the same education level. In this scenario, the international student would not be entitled to any period of post-completion OPT employment authorization.

- **Post-completion OPT** International students may apply to participate in post-completion OPT after completing their studies. If authorized for post-completion OPT, the international student must work part time (at least 20 hours per week) or full time.

Application for OPT

1. Submit a practical training request to the DSO.
2. The student must sign the new Form I-20 issued by the DSO and file the Form I-765 "Application for Employment Authorization." (International students are not allowed to work before their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) has been approved.)
3. Once the student receives the EAD and the start date listed on the EAD arrives, they can begin work. When hired, the student must report the employer information to their DSO.

Online courses and Distance Learning

Only one class or six credits during each term or semester may count toward a full course of study for an F-1 student if the class is taken online or through distance learning.

Duration of Program, Course Load & Add and Drop Courses

To maintain status as an F-1, the international student must enroll in a full course of study at Austin Seminary and finish the degree in the minimum required years. A full course of study is four courses in the fall, four courses in the spring, one course during January term and one course during the summer.

Under certain circumstances, F-1 students may talk to their DSO about enrolling in a reduced course load and still maintain their student status. If an F-1 student has specified initial academic difficulties, a temporary illness, a medical condition, or needs fewer courses than a full course load in their last term to complete the program of study, the DSO may authorize a reduced course load.

International students must talk to their DSO about requesting a possible program extension if they do not think they will complete their program of study by the end date listed on Form I-20. An extension must be requested before the program end date.

International Student Policies

Withdrawal from the Seminary

If F1 students chooses to withdraw from the Seminary, they should speak to their DSO who is authorized to permit early withdrawals. If the withdrawal is permitted the students have a 15-day grace period to leave the country. If an F1 student withdraws without receiving authorized approval from their DSO, they will lose their status immediately.

Leave of absence

International students must talk to their DSOs to request a leave of absence before they leave school. If the DSO allows the student to withdraw from school or take a leave of absence, the student will be allowed a 15-day period for departure from the United States and their Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record will reflect Terminated status for authorized early withdrawal. The international student must return to the United States within 5 months of the date of the Terminated Status in order to keep their visa status.

Questions?



Rev. JD Herrera, Dean of Admissions

Principal Designated School Official (PDSO)

Other Classifications of Study

Auditors

Austin Seminary offers the opportunity to audit courses to those interested in deepening their knowledge of the Bible, theology, and Christian ministry. Auditors are eligible to attend class but do not complete course assignments, take part in discussion, or receive evaluations or academic credit. Audited course work is not recorded on an academic transcript. Auditing requires permission of the course instructor. Auditors are also required to complete the criminal history check process. Refer to page 33 for information. Regularly enrolled degree students, their spouses, other members of the Seminary community, and guests of the Seminary may audit approved classes. Application is made through the Office of Admissions for all but regularly enrolled degree students who register through the Office of the Registrar. The auditing fee of \$300 per master's level course is waived for current degree students, their spouses, regular full- and part-time employees of Austin Seminary. Students are allowed to audit one certificate course per year for the application fee of \$25. Thereafter, full tuition must be paid.

Certificate in Ministry Program

The Certificate in Ministry (CIM) is a program for congregational leaders and others seeking substantive theological education but who are not planning to pursue study in a degree program. Persons seeking theological preparation for congregational leadership or wishing to enrich their personal theological understanding will be well served by the CIM. A broader description of the program can be found on page 78 of this Catalogue.

Applicants complete the online Certificate in Ministry application and submit it and the \$25 nonrefundable, one-time, application fee to the Office of Admissions. A brief enrollment interview with a member of the office of enrollment management is required.

Students admitted to the CIM program are not eligible to enroll in master's-level courses, except by application and admission to those programs as described in this Catalogue.

Certificado en Ministerio en Español

El Certificado en Ministerio en Español (CEM) es un programa para líderes de la iglesia y congregacion que buscan profundizar su conocimiento en educación teológica, sin realizar estudios a nivel de licenciatura o de maestría. Las personas que buscan la preparación teológica para liderazgo congregacional o que deseen enriquecer su comprensión teológica personal, se beneficiaran de estos cursos. Una descripción más amplia del programa se puede encontrar en la sección de Programas de Estudio de este catálogo.

La aplicación para el programa de Certificado en Ministerio se hace en línea y requiere un pago no reembolsable de \$25. Una breve entrevista para las inscripción es necesaria. Los estudiantes admitidos al programa de CeM que deseen inscribirse en los cursos de alto nivel de maestria, descritos en este catálogo, deben realizar el proceso de aplicación y admisión para esos programas, de manera separado del CeM.

Dual-Degree Program in Social Work

Austin Seminary and the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin (UT) have established a dual-degree program of study that provides master's-level students the opportunity to complete requirements for two degrees concurrently: the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and the Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW). The program is designed to be completed in four years of full-time study. Upon completion, students receive degrees from both institutions. Students must be accepted into both programs independently, meeting each institution's admission criteria.

Other Classifications of Study

Dual-Degree Program in Social Work, cont...

The determination of in-state residency status as it relates to tuition charges at The University of Texas at Austin is the sole discretion of UT. Enrollment in a degree program at Austin Seminary does not qualify one as an in-state resident for tuition purposes at UT.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions, and refer to page 70 of this Catalogue.

Provisional Students

Occasionally, an applicant to the MATS, MAMP, or MDiv degree program who does not meet all the academic qualifications for admission to that program, but who has earned a baccalaureate degree, and whom the Admissions Commission considers academically capable to undertake the program, may be permitted to enroll in the regular course of study for academic credit on a provisional basis. Ordinarily, a Provisional Student may matriculate only in the fall semester and must enroll in 4 required courses determined by the Admissions Commission. In order to continue as a student, a Provisional Student must appear before the Admissions Commission to be removed from provisional status and to be considered for admission to the MAR, MATS, or MAMP degree program upon satisfactory completion of twenty-four credits, or the MDiv degree program upon satisfactory completion of twenty-four credits inclusive of one language course.

Special Students (Non-Degree)

The classification of Special Student is for a person not enrolled in any degree program offered by Austin Seminary but who desires to enroll in regular master's-level courses for academic credit. A person is admitted as a Special Student on a term-by-term basis, may enroll in regularly scheduled master's-level courses, and may take the maximum course load set for master's degree students. Special students are allowed to take the equivalent of a year of full time study, 8 courses, and then they must matriculate into a degree program. International students who are not lawful permanent residents of the United States will not be considered for Special Student status.

Applicants submit a formal application for admission using the online application accessible at www.austinseminary.edu/apply-now and submit the nonrefundable, one-time fee of \$50. First-time Special Student applicants are required to schedule a brief enrollment conference with the vice president for enrollment management, who makes the decision about that applicant's enrollment. In addition, each term, Special Student applicants shall attach a brief explanation of why they wish to enroll in the course(s) indicated on the application. Tuition charges and any applicable registration fees must be paid to the Office of Finance and Administration prior to the beginning of the term for which admission is requested.

Special Student applicants are required to complete the criminal history check process. Refer to page 18 for information.

A person desiring to continue as a Special Student in a subsequent term must reapply for the term in which study is desired. The individual shall complete the Special Student application form and submit it to the Office of Admissions. Approval of enrollment as a Special Student can be granted only if all previous course work has been satisfactorily completed and all financial obligations have been settled with the Seminary. The academic dean, in conversation with the vice president for enrollment management, reserves the right to exercise discretion in granting or denying enrollment to continuing Special Students.

A Special Student wishing to matriculate into the MAR, MATS, MAMP, or MDiv degree program must complete the admission process for that program. Up to forty-eight credits earned as a Special Student at Austin Seminary may be applied to the MATS, MAMP, and MDiv degrees. In all cases, a review of transfer credit may require conversation between the student and the academic dean.

Other Classifications of Study

Applicants with No Earned Baccalaureate Degree (Non-Bacc)

Under extraordinary circumstances, and with the approval of the faculty meeting in executive session, an applicant who does not possess a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent may be admitted to study in the Master of Arts in Ministry Practice, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Arts in Youth Ministry, or Master of Divinity degree program. Non-bacc's are not eligible to apply for the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree program. The application file must be completed no later than April 1st for consideration by the faculty. Non-bacc applicants are eligible for Fall admission only. Prior to the student's final semester of study, the faculty, meeting in executive session, will review the student's record. The quality of the student's academic work at the Seminary will determine whether the faculty will award a master's degree or a Theological Certificate.

Transfer Students

A student from another accredited theological school who wishes to transfer into a master's-degree program at Austin Seminary must first apply and be admitted. Part of the application process includes both an official transcript of record as well as a statement of good standing from the previous theological school.

Upon favorable action by the Admissions Commission and after returning the *Intent to Matriculate* form accepting the Commission's offer of admission, the Office of the Academic Dean will evaluate the transcript and provide a *preliminary* assessment of how the transfer of credits will be handled and what the requirements will be for completion of the degree. Then, after matriculation into the degree program, an official memo regarding transfer credit will be issued by the academic dean.

In all cases, a review of transfer credit may require conversation between the student and the academic dean. The student may also be asked to provide a course syllabus for any course being considered for transfer.

Only courses with a grade of C or better will be considered for transfer credit. Up to sixty-eight credits may be applied to the MATS or MAMP degree; up to one hundred twenty credits may be applied to the MDiv degree. These maximums also include any credits earned as a Special Student or as a student enrolled in another degree program at Austin Seminary.

International students wishing to transfer from another institution in the United States to a degree program at Austin Seminary, in addition to the requirements noted above, must be in good standing both academically and under the provisions of their visa.

Criminal History Check

All degree program applicants, special students, and auditors are required to complete the criminal history background check process, including driving records, through CastleBranch.com, granting Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary permission to access those records. The cost for this service is \$36 and is the responsibility of the applicant. Note that charges and past offenses do not automatically disqualify an applicant from matriculation, however, failure to disclose offenses may result in denial of admission. All records will be evaluated in context. Contact the Office of Enrollment Management for more information.

Other Classifications of Study

Readmission to a Degree Program

A student who withdraws from a program of study and subsequently desires readmission shall submit a formal, written request to the Admissions Commission, through the Office of Enrollment Management. In all cases the Admissions Commission will consult with the academic dean concerning the circumstances of withdrawal and may require supplementary information or material from the applicant. Readmission may be granted if the Commission considers the person able to complete all remaining degree requirements and if all outstanding financial obligations to Austin Seminary have been settled.

A student who withdrew from a program of study while on academic or nonacademic probation shall be considered for readmission on the appropriate probationary status. If the student was dismissed by the faculty, the Admissions Commission shall refer the matter to faculty with or without recommendation, and the faculty shall determine whether to readmit the individual. In such cases, readmission is on the appropriate probationary status.

An applicant readmitted to a program of study ordinarily enters under the current Catalogue and is required to meet current degree requirements. Credits applied toward the MAR, MATS, MAMP, MAYM, or MDiv degree program must be earned within ten years of the awarding of the degree. In the DMin program, credit earned more than five years prior to re-entry cannot be applied toward the degree.

Global Partner Program

The Global Partner Program at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary exists primarily to provide theological study and resources for the education of international students. The program provides a course of study that will enrich the practice of ministry in the student's context of origin. In a year of full-time, graduate-level, theological study, students enroll in regularly scheduled courses offered in our master's-level programs. Students are expected to return to their country of origin at the end of the program of study.

Global Partner Program Description

Ordinarily students applying to this program shall come from an institution with which Austin Seminary has a cooperative agreement.

Admission is for one year of theological study, ordinarily beginning with the fall semester. Course work may be applied toward the Master of Arts in Religion degree. Global Partners applying for the MAR program must complete a full application and be admitted by the Admissions Commission. There after the vice president of academic affairs will approve the student's course of study. In order to complete the MAR degree within a year, a Global Partner student must be granted advanced standing. Ordinarily advanced standing is granted by the vice president for academic affairs, in consultation with the assistant dean for academic affairs. Facility in English is prerequisite. Refer to page 14, item 8, for details.

The application deadline for the Global Partner Program is January 1st for matriculation in the fall semester. Ordinarily applications for the Global Partner Program from international students already studying in this country are not accepted. All inquiries should be made through the Office of Admissions. Austin Seminary is authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.

Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree is a professional doctorate intended to equip ministers for a high level of excellence in the practice of ministry. The DMin program is for ministers who already possess at least the first theological degree of Master of Divinity or its equivalent. Admission ordinarily presupposes at least three years in the practice of ministry after earning the MDiv degree and continued practice of ministry during the course of study. See *Academic Programs, Doctor of Ministry* (page 72) for information.

Applicant Process

1. Submit a formal application for admission to the Office of Admissions. The admission file must be completed by September 1st for consideration of admission to a January term or by February 1st for consideration of admission to a summer term.
2. Submit an application fee of \$50 (payable online or by credit card). This application fee is not refundable.
3. Complete the criminal history check process. (Refer to page 18.)
4. Provide *official* transcripts from *each* college, university, seminary, and graduate school attended, as well as a record of recent nondegree education. Transcripts shall provide evidence that applicants hold a baccalaureate degree and a Master of Divinity degree from accredited institutions. Ordinarily a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or 2.0 on a 3.0 scale) is required for admission.
5. Submit the completed *Letter of Endorsement*, signed by the appropriate member(s) of your session, church board, or institution.
6. Submit 4 references from unrelated individuals who can speak to the applicant's service, work, and educational history. Family members or anyone related to and/or living with the applicant are not permissible. References should be able to speak knowingly of the applicant's life and character.
7. Complete Track Selection form to select your concentration path.
8. Submit a written statement in two parts.

Part I (750-1000 words; 3-5 pages)

In this section you are expected to:

- articulate how, since ordination, you have changed personally, professionally, and theologically;
- describe the background in ministry which motivates you to seek further competence in ministry;
- describe clearly the ministry situation in which the DMin work will be done;
- list personal and professional goals and how the area of concentration to be pursued will meet those goals and increase your competence in ministry (refer to page 73 in this Catalogue for a description of DMin concentrations).

Part II Academic Essay (1500 words; 6 pages)

● For applicants for the Leadership for Public Theology Concentration

The Israelite prophet Amos (8th c. BCE) uttered this oracle:

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain-offerings I will not accept them;

And the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5:21-24)

Reflect on the significance of judgment upon Israel in light of the call to the present-day church to speak to matters of justice and righteousness. What do the terms "justice" and "righteousness" mean in your context? How do you envision your congregation or ministry context acting so that the prophet's call to "let justice roll down like waters" becomes a reality in your community?

Doctor of Ministry

- **For applicants for the Leadership for Wonder Concentration**

G.K. Chesterton once wrote: “We are perishing for want of wonder, not for want of wonders.”

Calvin, following Psalm 145:5, advises us to “meditate on the wondrous works of God” commenting that it is “fitting... for us to pursue this particular search for God, which may so hold our mental powers suspended in wonderment as at the same time to stir us deeply” (*Institutes* 1.5.9)

Write an essay that reflects on why it is difficult for us to wonder at the presence of the holy and how we can do a better job both of participating in, and of inviting others into, such wonder. Include in your discussion your sense of how theology, biblical studies, liturgics, preaching, the arts, psychology, or other disciplines may be of help in thinking about the human encounter with the holy.

9. After the application form and essays are submitted and academic transcripts requested, arrange for an admissions conference with the Associate Dean of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies, or a designated representative of the Seminary’s Admissions Commission.

Action and Notification

When the application process is completed, consideration and action will be taken by the Admissions Commission. Notification of such action will be communicated to the applicant by October 31st for matriculation in the January term or March 31st for matriculation in the summer term.

Deferring Matriculation

An applicant admitted to the Doctor of Ministry degree program who desires to delay beginning study at Austin Seminary must submit a written request for deferment of matriculation to the Dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management, with a copy to the Associate Dean for Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies. Matriculation can be deferred up to one year.



Masters'-Degree Programs

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary offers five individual Master's Degree programs of varying requirements:

- Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
- Master of Arts in Ministry Practice
- Master of Arts in Religion
- Master of Arts in Youth Ministry
- Master of Divinity

Students desiring to do so may take a course path concentrating in Public Theology (see page 36)

Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS)

Goals

The Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree, or MATS, at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is a general academic degree. It deepens candidates' basic knowledge in the biblical and theological disciplines. The MATS degree is designed to achieve the following goals:

- ◆ promote theological comprehension by requiring a broad, foundational course of study in the three academic departments: Biblical, Church's Ministry, and Theological-Historical;
- ◆ strengthen candidates' skills in research and critical thinking; and,
- ◆ assist candidates to grow in spiritual and moral depth.

MATS Degree Requirements

1. Have on file with the registrar a complete and official transcript of credits showing graduation with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Complete satisfactorily 102 credits of required and elective work with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
3. If granted advanced standing, complete satisfactorily thirty-four credits of required and elective work with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
4. Complete satisfactorily at least the last thirty-four credits of required and elective work while enrolled and in residence at Austin Seminary.
5. Complete all curricular assignments prior to commencement and by the deadline posted in the official academic calendar.
6. Clear all indebtedness to the Seminary by the Wednesday prior to commencement.
7. To participate in commencement exercises, complete satisfactorily all degree requirements noted above.

Duration of program

The program of study leading to the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree requires a minimum of two years (i.e., twenty-one months) of full-time academic study. This may be reduced to one year when a student is granted advanced standing on the basis of previous academic work. Students granted advanced standing will be required to complete satisfactorily a minimum of fifty-four credits and a written comprehensive examination. For students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.

Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS), cont...

Program of Study

The Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree requires 102 credits. (Note: a regular course at Austin Seminary is valued at six credits, equivalent to three semester hours.) The program is composed of fifty-four credits in required course work (i.e., nine required courses) and forty-eight credits in elective course work (i.e., eight six-credit courses), as follows:

Required Coursework for MATS

Bi.102 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

Bi.116 Introduction to the New Testament

TH.100 Early and Medieval Church History

TH.104 Theology: Doctrines and Themes

One 6 credit Ethics Requirement:

TH.200 Introduction to Christian Ethics, TH.206 Biomedical Ethics,

TH.208 Environmental Ethics, or TH.296 Moral Issues

MATS-IS The MATS Integrative Seminar

Three six-credit courses from the Church's Ministry department: one each from three of the five departmental areas of I. Christian Education; II. Leadership and Administration; III. Mission and Evangelism; IV. Pastoral Care; V. Preaching, Worship, and Music

Elective Options

In order to fulfill the degree requirement of 102 credits, students select a minimum of forty-eight credits from any of the course offerings. Note that MATS elective work can include no more than six credits from Church's Ministry department offerings. Cross-department courses (i.e., TH/CM, Bi/CM) are excluded from this restriction. MATS students may participate in CPE courses for elective credit, subject to the requirements of CPE.

Students also have the option of taking approved courses through our cross-registration agreements with the other Presbyterian (PC(USA)) seminaries, the Seminary of the Southwest, and graduate-level courses from The University of Texas at Austin and St. Edward's University. Additionally, elective credit can be earned through Hearer's Credit (page 43) or, in special cases, through a directed study project (page 39).



Master of Arts in Ministry Practice (MAMP)

Goals

The Master of Arts in Ministry Practice degree, or MAMP, at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary equips individuals for general pastoral leadership and offers opportunities to focus on specific areas in the practice of ministry. It is designed to achieve the following goals:

- ◆ enhance general theological comprehension by requiring a broad, foundational course of study in the Biblical, Church's Ministry, and Theological-Historical departments;
- ◆ develop candidates' effective communication in speech and writing;
- ◆ strengthen candidates' proficiency in the pastoral arts; and,
- ◆ assist candidates' growth in spiritual maturity and moral depth.

MAMP Degree Requirements

1. Have on file with the registrar a complete and official transcript of credits showing graduation with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Complete satisfactorily 102 credits of required and elective work with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
3. Complete satisfactorily at least the last thirty-four credits of required and elective work while enrolled and in residence at Austin Seminary.
4. Complete all curricular assignments prior to commencement and by the deadline posted in the official academic calendar.
5. Clear all indebtedness to the Seminary by the Wednesday prior to commencement.
6. To participate in commencement exercises, complete satisfactorily all degree requirements noted above.

Duration of Program

The program of study leading to the Master of Arts in Ministry Practice degree requires a minimum of two years (i.e., twenty-one months) of full-time academic study. The program must be completed within six years of matriculation into a master's-level degree program at Austin Seminary. F1 students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.

Program of Study

The Master of Arts in Ministry Practice degree requires 102 credits. (Note: a regular course at Austin Seminary is valued at six credits, equivalent to three semester hours.) The MAMP program is composed of seventy-two credits in required course work (i.e., ten required courses and SPM) and thirty credits in elective course work (i.e., five six-credit courses), as follows:

Master of Arts in Ministry Practice (MAMP), cont...

Required Course Work

Bi.102 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

Bi.116 Introduction to the New Testament

One additional course in biblical studies

TH.100 Early and Medieval Church History

TH.104 Theology: Doctrines and Themes

TH.200 Introduction to Christian Ethics, or TH.206 Biomedical Ethics, or TH.208 Environmental Ethics, or TH.296 Moral Issues

MATS-IS The MAMP Capstone Seminar

Three six-credit courses: one each from three of the five departmental areas of I. Christian Education; II. Leadership and Administration; III. Mission and Evangelism; IV. Pastoral Care; V. Preaching, Worship, and Music

Twelve credits are required in the form of a field placement in Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM). SPM can be taken in the Master of Arts in Ministry Practice degree program after satisfactory completion of forty-two credits.

Elective Options

In order to fulfill the degree requirement of 102 credits, students select a minimum of thirty credits from course offerings: eighteen from the Department of the Church's Ministry and twelve from any department. Students typically focus their electives on a specific aspect of ministry.

Students also have the option of taking approved courses through our cross-registration agreements with the other Presbyterian (PC(USA)) seminaries, the Seminary of the Southwest, and graduate-level courses from The University of Texas at Austin and St. Edward's University. Additionally, elective credit can be earned through Hearer's Credit (page 43) or through a directed study project (page 39).



Master of Arts in Religion (MAR)

Goals

The Master of Arts in Religion degree, or MAR, is a general academic degree. It deepens candidates' basic knowledge in the biblical and theological disciplines. The MAR degree is designed to achieve the following goals:

- ◆ promote theological comprehension by requiring a broad, foundational study in Bible, theology, and church history;
- ◆ strengthen candidates' skills in research and critical thinking; and
- ◆ assist candidates to grow in spiritual and moral depth.

MAR Degree Requirements

1. Have on file with the registrar a complete and official transcript of credits showing graduation with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Complete satisfactorily 72 credits of required and elective work with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
3. Complete satisfactorily at least the last twenty-four credits of required and elective work while enrolled and in residence at Austin Seminary.
4. Complete all curricular assignments prior to commencement and by the deadline posted in the official academic calendar.
5. Clear all indebtedness to the Seminary by the Wednesday prior to commencement.
6. To participate in commencement exercises, complete satisfactorily all degree requirements noted above.

Duration of program

The program of study leading to the Master of Arts in Religion degree requires a minimum of one and a half years (eighteen months) of full-time academic study. F1 students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.

Program of Study

The Master of Arts in Religion degree requires 72 credits. (Note: a regular course at Austin Seminary is valued at six credits, equivalent to three semester hours.) The MAR program is composed of thirty credits in required course work (i.e., four required courses and MAR Seminar) and forty-two credits in elective course work (i.e., seven six-credit courses), as follows:

Required Course Work

- Bi.102 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
- Bi.116 Introduction to the New Testament
- TH.100 Early and Medieval Church History
- TH.104 Theology: Doctrines and Themes
- MATS-IS The MAR Capstone Seminar

Elective Options

In order to fulfill the degree requirement of 72 credits, students select a minimum of forty-two credits from course offerings. Students granted advanced standing will be required to complete satisfactorily a minimum of fifty-four credits.

Master of Arts in Youth Ministry (MAYM)

Goals

The Master of Arts in Youth Ministry degree, or MAYM, is offered at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in partnership with the Center for Youth Ministry Training. It is intended to educate aspiring youth pastors. MAYM graduates will:

- ◆ perceive and describe the lived experience of a congregation, especially as it relates to the care and formation of youth;
- ◆ interpret the cultural contexts in which congregations and youth live and understand how forces of culture enhance or distort their Christian formation and human flourishing;
- ◆ apply biblical, systematic, and practical theological insights to the lived experiences and cultural contexts in which youth seek to flourish as Christian disciples; and
- ◆ employ pastoral and pedagogical strategies as Christian responses to the lived experiences and cultural contexts of youth and their congregations.

MAYM Degree Requirements

1. Have on file with the registrar a complete and official transcript of credits showing graduation with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Complete satisfactorily 88 credits of required and elective work with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
3. Complete satisfactorily at least the last twenty-nine credits of required and elective work while enrolled and in residence at Austin Seminary.
4. Complete all curricular assignments prior to commencement and by the deadline posted in the official academic calendar.
5. Clear all indebtedness to the Seminary by the Wednesday prior to commencement.
6. To participate in commencement exercises, complete satisfactorily all degree requirements noted above.

Duration of Program

The MAYM program of study is designed to be completed in exactly three years. The courses are offered in a weekend intensive format with supplemental online components. Two courses are offered each fall and spring semester, taught in three intensives per semester, ordinarily five weeks apart. F1 students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.

Program of Study

The Master of Arts in Youth Ministry requires 88 credits. (Note: a regular course at Austin Seminary is valued at six credits, equivalent to three semester hours.) The MAYM is composed of sixty credits in required course work (i.e., six foundational courses and four youth ministry courses), twelve credits in youth ministry practicum, and sixteen credits in elective course work, as follows:

Master of Arts in Youth Ministry (MAYM), *cont...*

Required Course Work

- Bi.104 MAYM: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
- Bi.106 MAYM: Introduction to the New Testament
- CM.104 MAYM: Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling
- CM.130 MAYM: Engaging Youth in Mission and Evangelism
- CM.106 MAYM: Communicating the Gospel to Youth
- CM.108 MAYM: Advanced Studies in Youth, Church, and Culture
- CM.110 MAYM: Theological Methods for Youth Ministry
- CM.112 MAYM: Youth Minister as Pastor and Leader
- TH.108 MAYM: God-Talk and Youth Ministry
- TH.110 MAYM: Moral Questions in Youth Culture
- YMP-I/II MAYM: Ministry Practicum I and II (Supervised Practice of Ministry)

Elective Options

In order to fulfill the degree requirements of 88 credits, students select from a variety of elective options such as courses in United Methodist studies, Presbyterian polity, travel seminars, and August and January course offerings.

MAYM Stackable Degree Option

An MAYM student wishing to matriculate into the MDiv program upon completion of their MAYM degree must complete the following steps:

- After registering for their final spring semester of study, the MAYM student must contact the Office of Enrollment Management stating their desire to enroll in the MDiv program. The Office of Enrollment Management will confirm the student's graduation status with the Registrar.
- Once the anticipated graduation date is confirmed, the student will submit the following three documents to the Office of Enrollment Management between February 1 and March 1 of the graduation year:
 1. A letter from the vice president of academic affairs supporting the student's academic ability and desire to matriculate into the MDiv program.
 2. A letter from an Austin Seminary faculty member supporting the student's academic ability and desire to matriculate into the MDiv program.
 3. A one page essay written by the student, expressing why they are now pursuing the MDiv, focusing on what has changed in their call to ministry and what they have learned in the MAYM program that will support their pursuit of the MDiv.
- Once all the documents have been submitted, the dean of enrollment will submit the student's documents and MAYM transcript to the Admissions Commission for action.

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Vision and Goals

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary intends its Master of Divinity degree program to prepare men and women to enter the office of ordained minister in the church for the sake of the church's obedient service in the world. Most seminary graduates serve as ministers to congregations or in other leadership capacities in the church. The Master of Divinity program takes this fact seriously. It nevertheless acknowledges the real differences which exist in student needs, interests, and goals, and it therefore endeavors to mediate that knowledge and to allow for the development of those skills which together provide the essential foundation for a variety of ministries. To foster this development, our theological education occurs in a residential community.

The church has the right to expect that those who graduate with professional degrees from theological seminaries will be prepared to practice Christian ministry consistently and with integrity. The Seminary therefore intends to foster the integration of self-understanding, knowledge, and skills, and the faculty has committed itself to achieve a style of education appropriate to this intention.

To this end, the faculty has adopted the following Vision Statement for the Master of Divinity program:

Master of Divinity Vision Statement

God calls the church to be light, salt, and leaven in a beautiful but broken world. Alive in Christ, the church must respond to the vitality of God, proclaiming and embodying a prophetic witness to life. Amidst national and international political strife, economic injustice, social and spiritual alienation, and abuse of the natural world, the Spirit bears Christ's joy and wholeness to broken places. As the church, we sense the call to participate in this reconciling work of God.

The task of theological education is to form leaders who will prepare and embolden the church for service to God in offering healing in this world. Thus, the purpose of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Master of Divinity program is to nurture church leaders who will give strong, loving, and imaginative leadership to congregations that will be worshiping, learning, and serving communities. These leaders and congregations will prize and bear witness to life in God as grounded in Christian tradition, faith, and practices; nurture relationships within the church as the body of Christ; navigate the complexities of contemporary culture; and so recognize and answer God's call to love God and neighbor.

Graduates of the Master of Divinity program will learn to integrate selfknowledge, the traditions of the church, awareness of the world and particular contexts, and ministerial skills in order to minister effectively in contexts to which God calls. Such pastoral leadership may take several forms, including ministries of Word and Sacrament, specialized congregational ministries, chaplaincies, and leadership in the public arena.

Based on this vision statement, the faculty has developed the following goals.

Our Master of Divinity graduates are leaders in the church and will:

- ◆ understand the varying perspectives of the Christian tradition, humanities, and social sciences and how they impact personal, ecclesial, and public contexts of ministry;
- ◆ preach and teach the Word of God through the artful integration of biblical exegesis, theological reflection, historical awareness, and cultural analysis;
- ◆ demonstrate proficiency in the content and methodology of the pastoral arts, administering and shaping communities as places of worship, care, nurture, learning, spiritual growth, and mission;
- ◆ pursue and evaluate knowledge through inquiry, research, contemplation, critical thinking and practice, and wide-ranging discussion and collaboration;
- ◆ communicate effectively in speech and writing to a variety of audiences;
- ◆ exercise leadership needed for congregations to mobilize for Christian witness in the world; and
- ◆ possess capacities for self-understanding, self-care, and spiritual practices that foster wholeness, humility, faithfulness, and vocational vitality.

Requirements for the Master of Divinity Degree

1. Have on file with the registrar a complete and official transcript of credits showing graduation with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Complete satisfactorily 180 credits of required and elective work with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
3. Complete satisfactorily at least the last sixty credits of required and elective work while enrolled and in residence at Austin Seminary.
4. Complete all curricular assignments prior to commencement and by the deadline posted in the official academic calendar.
5. Clear all indebtedness to the Seminary by the Wednesday prior to commencement.
6. To participate in commencement exercises, complete satisfactorily all degree requirements noted above.

Note: A student who is admitted to the MDiv degree program may receive the Diploma instead of the MDiv degree upon the satisfactory completion of all the degree requirements except Hebrew and/or Greek and any courses for which these languages are prerequisite. Such an exemption must be approved by the faculty, meeting in executive session, and is considered only upon the request of the student and the denominational governing body which has responsibility for the student's ordination process. The Diploma requires 180 credits, and any language courses waived are substituted with other courses as prescribed by the academic dean.

Duration of Program

The program of study leading to the Master of Divinity degree requires a minimum of three years (i.e., thirty-three months) of full-time academic study. The program must be completed within six years of matriculation into a master's-level degree program at Austin Seminary. F1 students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.

Program of Study

The Master of Divinity degree requires 180 credits. (Note: a regular course at Austin Seminary is valued at six credits, equivalent to three semester hours.) The MDiv program is composed of the following required and elective work (courses are valued at six credits unless otherwise indicated):

Required Course Work

- Bi.102 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
- Bi.116 Introduction to the New Testament

Two-Language Track (PC(USA) Students and others)

- Bi.108 Elementary Biblical Hebrew
- Bi.120 Elementary New Testament Greek
- One exegesis course in Biblical Hebrew
- One exegesis course in New Testament Greek
- One additional exegesis course in either Biblical Hebrew or New Testament Greek

Master of Divinity (MDiv) *cont...*

Required Course Work, *cont...*

One-Language Track (Non-PC(USA) Students)

Hebrew Option

Bi.108 Elementary Biblical Hebrew

Two exegesis courses in Biblical Hebrew

One additional course in New Testament studies (English-based)

or

Greek Option

Bi.120 Elementary New Testament Greek

Two exegesis courses in New Testament Greek

One additional course in Old Testament studies (English-based)

CM.122 The Church as a Worshiping Community

CM.222 Introduction to Educational Ministries

CM.230 Theology and Practice of Mission and Evangelism

CM.236 Introduction to Preaching

CM.244 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling: Care for Stories, Systems, and Self

TH.100 Early and Medieval Church History

TH.104 Theology: Doctrines and Themes

TH.106 Theology: Figures and Movements

TH.200 Introduction to Christian Ethics, or TH.206 Biomedical Ethics, or TH.208 Environmental Ethics, or TH.296 Moral Issues

TH.204 Introduction to World Religions

I.310 Senior Capstone Seminar

Twelve credits are required in the form of a field placement in Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM).

Typically, a student in the Master of Divinity program shall satisfactorily complete seventy-six credits before beginning SPM.

Elective options

In order to fulfill the degree requirement of 180 credits, students in the two-language track select a minimum of sixty additional credits from any of the course offerings or PFM opportunities; students in the one-language track select a minimum of sixty-six additional credits. Students also have the option of taking approved courses through our cross-registration agreements with the other Presbyterian (PC(USA)) seminaries, the Seminary of the Southwest, and graduate-level courses from The University of Texas at Austin and St. Edward's University. Additionally, elective credit can be earned through Hearer's Credit (page 43) or, in special cases, through a directed study project (page 39).

Concentration in Public Theology

The Austin Seminary faculty has strengths in the area of “public theology,” or the way in which Christian traditions engage, shape, and challenge practices of peace and justice in the wider society. Issues of ecological sustainability, racial justice, immigration, human rights, gender and sexuality, and political life more broadly help frame many of the faculty’s exploration of the ongoing vitality and voice of Christian faith. Current and prospective students often express interest in public theology and ministries of justice, reconciliation, and transformation in our broken world. This concentration in three of our master’s programs is an outgrowth of current faculty strengths and a desire among many students for a degree program that allows for a focus on public theology, without sacrificing the broad exposure to theological disciplines that our degrees already provide.

Successful completion of a concentration in our degree programs would entail the following:

- ◆ Students in the MDiv program would take a total of 3 elective courses (out of 10 or 11 total electives) from the following list

- ◆ Students in the MATS program would take a total of 3 elective courses (out of 8 total electives) from the following list

- ◆ Students in the MAMP program would take a total of 3 elective courses (out of 5 total electives) from the following list:

Bi.191 Reading the Old Testament from the Margins

Bi.195 Immigration and the Old Testament

Bi.235 Contextual Bible Study

Bi.240 Activism and Old Testament Scriptures

Bi.315 Womanist and Feminist Readings of the New Testament

CM.189 Communication for Ministries of Social Justice

CM.191 Your Money and Your Life

CM.240 Difficult Conversations

CM.254 Ministry and Mental Illness

CM.300 The Church’s Prayer Life in a Time of “Thoughts and Prayers”

I.123 Sharing Our Faith Traditions

TH.155 African American Religious Ethics

TH.206 Environmental Ethics*

TH.208 Biomedical Ethics*

TH.219 Theologies of Gutiérrez and Moltmann

TH.253 Feminist Theologies

TH.275 Theological Ethics of Martin Luther King Jr.

TH.309 Religion and American Public Life

TH.310 Social Justice

*These two courses cannot simultaneously fulfill both the ethics requirement and the public theology concentration requirement

Satisfaction of the concentration will include the completion of a Senior Capstone Seminar in public theology approved by the faculty for application to the concentration (MDiv) or the submission of a paper in public theology for the MATS or MAMP integrative seminar. Additional courses can be added to this list (or deleted from it) by a vote of the Seminary faculty.

Academic Information for Master's-Level Programs

Academic Probation

A student enrolled in the MATS, MAMP, MAR, MAYM, MDiv, Diploma, or Theological Certificate program, or any student admitted on provisional status is placed on academic probation for any of the following:

- ◆ failure to maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average;
- ◆ receiving one *F* in each of two consecutive terms; or,
- ◆ receiving two *F*'s in a given term. A student receiving two *F*'s in a given term will also be liable for dismissal by the faculty.

Each student's progress is monitored by the Office of the Academic Dean. Students placed on academic probation are notified of their status by the academic dean, and a copy of the notice is placed in the student's file in the registrar's office.

During the period of academic probation students ordinarily are restricted with regard to extracurricular activities, including leadership of student groups. They are not allowed to participate in the occasional pulpit supply arranged through the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies, to serve on a faculty committee, or to assume the duties of a student senate officer. Exceptions to these restrictions may be made by the Student Academic Standing Committee.

To be removed from academic probation a student must achieve a cumulative 2.0 grade point average and complete satisfactorily (i.e., with no grade lower than *C*) all course work in the subsequent fall or spring semester in which they are enrolled as a full-time student. Any student on academic probation who has been on academic probation in a previous term and is placed again on academic probation will be liable to dismissal by the faculty.

Should a student become liable to dismissal by the faculty, the academic dean shall notify both the student and the chair of the Student Academic Standing Committee. This Committee shall promptly and fully review the student's status with the student and formulate a recommendation to the next meeting of faculty in executive session.

Adding and Dropping Courses

A student can add, drop, or change courses to audit status during the add/drop period of each academic term. For fall, spring, and summer terms, the add/drop period extends through the first five class days of the term. For the January term, the add/drop period extends through the first three class days of the term. It is a student's responsibility to review their registration and ensure its accuracy prior to the end of the add/drop period, reporting to the registrar and course professor any discrepancies. F1 students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.

After the add/drop period, a student can drop a course and/or change a course to hearer's credit or audit status ordinarily only in very special cases such as sickness, family emergencies, or other unusual circumstances, but not for reasons issuing from the normal pressures of academic life. The request should be made through the linked document on the Registrar Resource page in MyCampus. Permission is granted by the academic dean. For any course dropped after the add/drop period, a grade of *Q* is recorded. Barring significant extenuating circumstances, the last day to drop a class with a "*Q*" is 5:00 p.m. on the last academic day before Fall Break or Spring Break begins. Until there is an official change in registration, the original registration stands, and the student is responsible for all requirements of the course(s).

Academic Information for Master's-Level Programs

Auditing Courses

Auditors are eligible to attend class but do not complete course assignments or receive evaluations or academic credit.

Regularly enrolled degree students may audit approved classes. Auditing requires permission of the course instructor. Registration is handled through the Office of the Registrar.

The auditing fee is waived for current degree students. Information on auditing procedures for those not enrolled in a degree program is found in the Admissions section of this Catalogue, under Auditors. Registration for non-degree seeking students is handled through the Admissions Office.

Biblical Language Options - MDiv Program

Biblical study at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary presupposes facility with the original languages. In the Master of Divinity degree program, this facility can be gained through one of two tracks.

The two-language track is required of all Presbyterian MDiv students and is open to all other students. It consists of language and exegesis courses in both biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek. In the two-language track, in addition to the Hebrew and New Testament Greek language courses, students take three exegesis courses: one in biblical Hebrew, one in New Testament Greek, and a third in either language.

The one-language track, in which students choose study of either Hebrew or Greek, satisfies the biblical language requirements for non-Presbyterian students. In the one-language track, students choose to study either biblical Hebrew or New Testament Greek and enroll the corresponding language course. This course is followed by two exegesis courses in the particular language. In addition, an English-based course is required, either in New Testament studies for those following the Hebrew exegesis track, or in Old Testament studies for those following the Greek exegesis track.

Biblical Language Waiver or Academic Credit

A student who has satisfactorily completed academic work in biblical Hebrew or in classical or *koiné* Greek at an accredited college, university, or theological school may be qualified, in the case of undergraduate study, to receive a waiver of the elementary language requirement(s), or, if the work is graduate-level, to receive academic credit. Before a student is granted a waiver or awarded transfer or cross-registration credit for a biblical language, they are to be examined for proficiency in a manner established by the Biblical Department. If proficiency is not demonstrated, the student will be required to audit appropriate portions of the relevant biblical language course(s) as determined by the examining professor. After auditing the course, and upon successful demonstration of proficiency, a waiver will be granted or transfer or cross-registration credit will be awarded.

Classification and Numbering of Courses

Courses are classified according to the following faculty departments:

Bi	Biblical	TH	Theological-Historical
CM	Church's Ministry	I	Interdepartmental
CPE	Clinical Pastoral Education	SPM	Supervised Practice of Ministry

Courses numbered 100-199 are foundational courses for which there are no course prerequisites. Students are expected to complete all 100-level requirements before enrolling in upper-level courses. Courses numbered 200-299 and 300-399 are upper-level.

Academic Information for Master's-Level Programs

Credit Load: Full-time and Part-time Study

For fall or spring semesters:

The standard load is twenty-four credits; the maximum load is thirty credits, and the minimum full-time load is eighteen credits. Enrollment in fewer than eighteen credits is considered part-time study. Students are required to be enrolled for credit in the fall and spring semesters.

For January terms:

The standard load is six credits; the maximum load is six credits, and the minimum load is zero credits. Enrollment in fewer than six credits is considered part-time study.

For summer terms:

The standard load is six or twelve credits; the maximum load is twelve credits, and the minimum load is zero credits. Enrollment in fewer than twelve credits during a ten-week period in a summer term is considered part-time study; enrollment in fewer than six credits during a six-week period in a summer term is considered part-time study.

To take less than the standard credit load or to exceed the maximum credit load for a given term, as noted, requires permission of the academic dean.

F1 students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.

Credit Value

The credit value of each course is noted in its course description. One master's-level credit is defined as the equivalent of twenty-five hours of student involvement over the course of a term. Two credits at Austin Seminary are equivalent to one standard, graduate-level semester hour at other institutions.

Cross-registration

Cross-registration agreements with the Seminary of the Southwest, and for PC(USA) students other PC(USA) theological schools (through the Presbyterian Exchange Program), allow degree candidates at Austin Seminary to enroll in approved, graduate-level courses at these institutions. Under these agreements, Austin Seminary students register for course work through Austin Seminary and tuition and fees are charged and collected by Austin Seminary at the same rate per credit as comparable Seminary courses. Seminary financial aid can also be applied to these credits as it would be to Austin Seminary course work.

Deadline for Submitting End-of-term Coursework

For non-graduating students, all course work for a particular term is due no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the term. For graduating seniors, spring semester work is due no later than the date published in the Academic Calendar. In all cases, an earlier deadline may be set by the instructor.

Denominational Requirements

On a regular basis, the Seminary offers master's-level courses that satisfy particular denominational requirements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and The United Methodist Church, specifically in the areas of denominational polity, doctrine, and history. In addition, every effort is made to assist students of other denominations with particular course requirements of their denominations. These efforts include developing directed studies as well as permitting denominational requirements to be taken at other theological institutions and, if necessary, transferring credit for this work into a master's-degree program at Austin Seminary.

Academic Information for Master's-Level Programs

Directed Study Project

A student or group of students who are enrolled in a degree program may undertake a directed study project (DSP). During any term, the credit value of a DSP can range from one to six credits. Ordinarily, students may undertake only one DSP per degree program, with the exception of denominational requirements.

To initiate consideration for a DSP, the student, or students, should gather all pertinent information regarding the project and complete the project design using the *Directed Study Project Application Form*, found on the registrar resource page in MyCampus. The completed project design is signed by the student(s) and professor and is then submitted to the academic dean's office for final approval.

Duration of Programs

The program of study leading to the MATS or MAMP degree is designed as a two-year (i.e., twenty-one month) program of full-time study, with the MAR degree designed as a one-and-a-half year program with advanced standing. In order to complete the MATS in two years, a student must average twenty-four credits in each fall and spring semester and take six credits in one January term. In the MAMP program, a summer term Supervised Practice of Ministry placement valued at twelve credits allows a student to reduce their course load during fall, January, or spring semesters.

The program of study leading to the MAYM degree is designed as a structured three-year program of study. The courses are offered in a weekend intensive format with supplemental online components. Two courses are offered each fall and spring semester, taught in three intensives per semester, ordinarily five weeks apart.

The program of study leading to the MDiv degree is designed as a three-year (i.e., thirty-three month) program of full-time study, exclusive of any year-long internship. In order to complete the MDiv degree program in three years, a student must average twenty-four credits in each fall and spring semester, six credits in each January term, and six to twelve credits each summer term.

Ecclesiastical Endorsement

Ordinarily, students enrolled for the Master of Divinity degree intend to become ordained ministers. Thus, they plan their seminary training in consultation with responsible officials of their respective denominations.

Seminary officers, especially the dean of students, will remind degree candidates of their need to keep in regular communication with their denominational officials and will help them to do so. It is to the student's advantage to have ecclesiastical endorsement established as quickly as possible.

Presbyterian students who have not entered the preparation for ministry process of a presbytery when they enter seminary are urged to begin the process of becoming an inquirer by the end of their first year of study. Obtaining and maintaining a proper relationship with church officials or governing bodies are responsibilities of the degree candidate.

Academic Information for Master's-Level Programs

Extensions

All course work for a particular term is due no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the term. For graduating students, spring semester work is due no later than the date published in the Academic Calendar. In all cases, an earlier deadline may be set by the instructor.

A student may submit a request to the academic dean for an extension in order to complete the requirements for a particular master's-level course. The request must be made before 5:00 p.m. on the last day of an academic term, with the exception that extensions for final exams must be requested no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day of reading week. Extensions are granted only for very special cases such as sickness, family emergencies, or other unusual circumstances, but not for requests issuing from the normal pressures of academic life. If the request for an extension is granted, the academic dean will notify the student and the professor in writing. Extensions for spring semester work are not available to graduating seniors.

The duration of an extension shall be for no more than three weeks beyond the end of the course. A second such extension may be requested and granted for each course. A grade of *I* (for Incomplete) is recorded when an extension is granted by the academic dean. A grade of *I* becomes a grade of *F* if the work is not completed by the date determined by the academic dean. If a professor does not submit a final course grade for a student and the student has neither completed the requirements for the course, nor been granted an extension by the academic dean, a grade of *F* shall be posted. In this instance, the *F* is not remediable.

Faculty Advisor Program

Upon admission to a master's-level degree program, each student is assigned a faculty advisor by the academic dean. The faculty advisor counsels the student with respect to the planning of the student's course of study, assists the student with course registration, and serves as a special guide for the student in making decisions about academic goals. The faculty advisor is available to reflect with the student with respect to their spiritual pilgrimage. After one year, a student may make a request to the academic dean for a different faculty advisor.

In the MAYM degree program, the academic dean serves as faculty advisor to students who are in the Austin cohort; the director of the MAYM program serves as advisor to students in the Nashville cohort.

Grade Reports and Academic Records

After each academic term students' individual grade reports are available in MyCampus. Students can request (in writing) that the registrar provide grades, in the form of a transcript, to presbyteries, conferences, and other denominational bodies or agencies. The registrar takes measures to ensure accuracy and security from loss or unauthorized use of student grades, according to federal law.

Grading System

The grading system employed by Austin Seminary for all academic work is as follows:

1. Academic performance for all students will be evaluated by means of one of the following two options:

LETTER GRADE option

A 4.00 grade points per credit	C+ 2.33 grade points per credit
A- 3.67 grade points per credit	C 2.00 grade points per credit
B+ 3.33 grade points per credit	C 1.67 grade points per credit
B 3.00 grade points per credit	D 1.00 grade point per credit
B- 2.67 grade points per credit	F 0.00 grade points per credit

PASS/FAIL option

- P Satisfactory academic performance. No grade points.
- F Unsatisfactory academic performance. No grade points.

Academic Information for Master's-Level Programs

Grading System, cont...

2. All required courses in the MATS, MAMP, MAR, MAYM, or MDiv program are graded by letter grade, except as noted in items 3 and 4.
3. MAYM students may take only one elective pass/fail during their program.
4. The biblical language courses Bi.108 and Bi.120 and all elective courses shall be graded by letter grade or pass/fail at the option of the student for each particular course.
5. The following academic work shall be graded pass/fail only:
the reading courses Bi.171 and Bi.221; CM.214; I.123; all travel seminars; all SPM work, including Ministry in a Hospice Setting, Pastoral Care in a Hospital Setting, and Clinical Pastoral Education; and any course taken through a cross-registration agreement at another theological school.
6. Students shall state their grading preferences upon registration but may change any option during the add/drop period for the given term. After the add/drop period the grading preference cannot be changed.
7. Students stating no preference for grading for a particular course or directed study project shall be graded by letter grade.
8. In the pass/fail option, the grade of *P* has no effect on the student's grade point average, while the grade of *F* has a negative effect.
9. A course for which the grade of *D* or *F* is earned will not be applied to a student's degree program. A required course must be repeated.
10. When a grade of *D* or *F* is earned and the course is repeated, all instances of the course appear on the student's transcript. The grades earned for all courses are counted in the student's grade point average.
11. If a final course grade is not submitted by an instructor for a student who did not complete the requirements for a course and was not granted an extension by the academic dean, a grade of *F* shall be posted. In this instance, the *F* is not remediable.
12. If a student receives a failing course grade that the professor determines is remediable, the student may be granted permission through the academic dean to remedy the failing grade. The deadline for remedying the grade is three weeks after the end of the term. A second and final three-week period can be requested.
13. Final course grades will be submitted by faculty members into MyCampus no later than two weeks after the end of a semester or term, or two weeks after the deadline for an extension. Fall term grades will be due the second day of the January term.
14. Letter grades will be recorded for coursework transferred from institutions with which Austin Seminary has a formal Memoranda of Understanding; otherwise, grades of P/F will be recorded.

In order to receive a Master of Arts (Theological Studies), Master of Arts in Ministry Practice, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Arts in Youth Ministry, or Master of Divinity degree, or the Diploma or Theological Certificate, a student must have a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for all academic work. The grade point average is computed by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of credits for which a letter grade has been recorded.

Academic Information for Master's-Level Programs

The following grades are given in special situations:

- I Incomplete. The academic work is not complete for reasons beyond the student's control; requires an extension approved by the academic dean. *I* becomes *F* if the work is not completed by the deadline.
- Q Dropped (quit) course after the add/drop period.
- W Withdrew from the Seminary.

Hearer's Credit Option

Students already heavily engaged in course work who are interested in other courses being offered but have insufficient study time to elect them for full credit may request enrollment for hearer's credit. In providing this option for degree students, the Seminary operates under the following guidelines:

1. The professor(s) may permit, limit, or deny hearer's credit enrollment in any given course.
2. Students enrolled for hearer's credit are required to attend all class sessions regularly and are evaluated by means agreed upon by the professor(s) and the student, with documentation provided to the registrar.
3. Students are limited to one hearer's credit enrollment in any given term.
4. For the successful completion of a course taken for hearer's credit the student receives one credit toward the degree.
5. Credit received through the hearer's credit option ordinarily does not count toward the fulfillment of the departmental requirements and is always graded pass/fail.

Incompletes

An Incomplete (*I*) is the temporary grade posted when a student is granted an extension in a course by the academic dean (see *Extensions*).

Leave of Absence

A request for a leave of absence ordinarily is made only for reasons of health, to make possible a period of study in another theological seminary, or to enable the student to engage in noncredit practice of ministry. Such a request is addressed in writing to the academic dean who considers the request and presents it to the faculty in executive session for approval. A leave of absence is granted for a particular period not to exceed one academic year. It is the student's responsibility to register for future classes during the published registration period, even when said period coincides with an approved Leave of Absence. F1 students refer to International Students Policies on pages 16-19.

Matriculation

Matriculation into the MATS, MAMP, MAR, MAYM, or MDiv degree program is permitted in any academic term. A Provisional Student admitted to one of these programs can matriculate only in the fall semester.

Ordination Examinations, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) expects a minister of the Word and Sacrament to be knowledgeable and to be able to apply that knowledge in five areas: Bible Content, Open Book Bible Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity. Seminary courses contribute to such knowledge and application.

The Bible Content examination is given on campus on the Friday before Labor Day and on the first Friday of February each year. The examination is open to any student who registers for it. A passing score is required to meet the ordination requirements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Academic Information for Master's-Level Programs

Privacy Rights of Students

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, students are entitled to examine their education records. These records are confidential and in most circumstances may be released to third parties only by written consent of the student. See FERPA in the *Student Handbook*.

Satisfactory Progress

A student is judged to be making satisfactory progress toward an MATS, MAMP, MAR, MAYM, or MDiv degree by maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and by ongoing enrollment in sufficient course work to complete the degree.

Style guide

The Chicago Manual of Style (17th Edition) is the Seminary's preferred style guide and resource for student writing assignments. It is available online to all students and faculty free of charge. A link to this resource is available in the Library Quick Links section of the Resource page in MyCampus.

Transfer of Course Work

A student may request transfer credit for graduate-level academic work from accredited institutions. For admitted students who have submitted the *Intent to Matriculate* form, the Office of Academic Dean will evaluate their transcript(s) and provide 1) a *preliminary* assessment of how the transfer credit will be handled, and 2) the remaining requirements necessary for completion of the MATS, MAMP, MAR, or MDiv degree. After matriculation into the degree program, the student will receive an official memo from the Office of the Academic Dean regarding transfer credit. A request for transfer credit initiated after matriculation into a master's-level degree program should be directed to the Office of the Academic Dean. In all cases, transfer of credit is granted at the discretion of the academic dean. A review of transfer credit may require conversation between the student and the academic dean. The student may also be asked to provide a course syllabus for any course being considered for transfer. Only courses with a grade of C or better will be considered for transfer credit. Letter grades will be recorded for coursework transferred from institutions with which Austin Seminary has a formal Memoranda of Understanding; otherwise, grades of P/F will be recorded.

Waiver of Requirements

Students who have completed work in an accredited college or university comparable to courses at Austin Seminary may be permitted to waive some or all required courses. Requests for such waivers are made through the Office of the Academic Dean.

Withdrawal from the Seminary

Should a student enrolled in a master's-level degree program at Austin Seminary decide to withdraw from the Seminary, the student shall 1) make an appointment with the Academic Dean, and 2) notify the president in writing indicating the reason for withdrawal and providing an effective date. The president will report this information to the faculty at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The student's academic record will reflect the date of withdrawal. If the withdrawal occurs prior to the end of an academic term in which the student is registered for course work, then, depending on the student's standing in each unfinished course, a grade of *W* (withdrew) or *F* (failure) will be posted. If a student withdraws while on academic or non-academic probation, or while on an involuntary leave of absence, the transcript will reflect this status. F1 students refer to International Students Policies on pages 16-19.

The Biblical Department

Austin Seminary recognizes the value of biblical studies for theological education and preparation for ministry. Introductory courses in master's-level degree programs provide an overview and survey of the biblical witness in its proper context. Additional requirements in the MDiv program serve to develop students' abilities to integrate biblical exegesis, theological reflection, historical awareness, and cultural analysis.



Dr. Margaret P. Aymer



Dr. Rodney Caruthers



Dr. Gregory Cuéllar



Dr. Donghyun Jeong



Dr. Song-mi Suzie Park



The Biblical Department Course Descriptions

I. Biblical Languages and Introductory Courses

Bi.102 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible - Six credits *Profs. Cuéllar or Park; Fall*

This course is a study of the Hebrew Bible as shaped by the varied circumstances in which the faith and life of the believing communities found expression.

Bi.104 MAYM: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible - Six credits *Prof. Park*

Through close readings of stories in the Hebrew Bible, this course explores the ways in which ancient Israelite and modern interpreters imagined their world, community, and religion. Special attention is placed on the use and interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in believing communities in contemporary settings.

Bi.106 MAYM: Introduction to the New Testament - Six credits *Faculty*

This course introduces the writings of the New Testament as influenced by the cultural and literary contexts of the world of the first-century Mediterranean world. Attention is given to higher critical questions such as authorship and the Synoptic problem. Special emphasis is placed on the use of New Testament in contemporary youth ministry.

Bi.108 Elementary Biblical Hebrew - Six credits *Profs. Cuéllar or Park; Fall*

This intensive course is designed to equip a student with basic reading skills in biblical Hebrew making extensive use of selected readings from the Hebrew Bible.

Bi.116 Introduction to the New Testament - Six credits *Profs. Caruthers or Jeong; Spring*

This course is a study of the New Testament as shaped by the varied circumstances in which the faith and life of the early Christian community found expression.

Bi.120 Elementary New Testament Greek - Six credits *Prof. Jeong; Spring and Summer*

This course is designed to equip a student with basic reading skills in New Testament Greek, making extensive use of audio and visual instructional materials and concentrating on the fundamentals of grammar and the vocabulary occurring most frequently in the New Testament.

Bi.171 Hebrew Reading - Three credits *Profs. Cuéllar or Park*

This course is designed to increase a student's ability to read and translate the Hebrew Bible.

Prerequisite: Bi.108.



The Biblical Department Course Descriptions

II. Hebrew and Greek Exegesis

Exegesis courses presuppose a working knowledge of the biblical languages and involve in-depth work with the Hebrew or Greek text. The courses listed below carry a value of six credits. The prerequisite for Hebrew exegesis courses is Bi.108 Elementary Biblical Hebrew; the prerequisite for Greek exegesis courses is Bi.120 Elementary New Testament Greek.

Hebrew Exegesis

Taught by either Prof. Cuéllar or Prof. Park

- Bi.214 Genesis 1-11: The Primeval History
- Bi.215 Genesis 12-50: The Matriarchal and Patriarchal Narratives
- Bi.219 Isaiah 40-66
- Bi.223 Ruth and Jonah
- Bi.224 II Kings
- Bi.227 Daniel
- Bi.255 Esther
- Bi.259 I Samuel: Samuel, Saul, and David Stories
- Bi.260 II Samuel: The Rise and Fall of David
- Bi.275 Lamentations
- Bi.277 Psalms 120-134: Songs of Ascent
- Bi.283 Joshua
- Bi.285 Judges
- Bi.339 Jeremiah
- Bi.361 Hosea
- Bi.363 Exodus
- Bi.369 Selected Old Testament Texts
- Bi.377 Amos

Greek Exegesis

Taught by either Prof. Aymer, Prof. Caruthers, or Prof. Jeong

- Bi.201 Matthew
- Bi.205 Romans
- Bi.207 Galatians
- Bi.209 Luke
- Bi.217 I Corinthians
- Bi.243 Mark
- Bi.249 Philippians
- Bi.251 James
- Bi.303 Acts
- Bi.307 Ephesians
- Bi.335 John
- Bi.359 I & II Thessalonians
- Bi.367 The Book of Revelation

The Biblical Department Course Descriptions

III. Biblical Interpretation

Bi.185 Jesus and the Gospel Parables - Six credits *Prof. Caruthers*

The course presents the parables attributed to Jesus of Nazareth in the New Testament Gospels, and examines their meaning, structure, function, and content. Students learn a variety of interpretive approaches, including social, literary, and historical. They consider the impact of the form and placement of parables in the wider gospel narratives on their interpretation, investigate how and why Jesus implemented them as didactic instruments, and examine the insights offered by these parables into the daily life, customs, and beliefs of first-century Palestine and surrounding Roman provinces. Students also explore the reception history of parables in later church traditions and their relevance for the contemporary church and culture.

Bi.191 Reading the Bible from the Margins - Six credits *Prof. Cuéllar*

This course examines readings of the Old Testament produced by individual readers marginalized because of color, class, gender, disability, and sexual orientation. We explore the ways social locations shape and inform readings and interpretations of the biblical texts. How do the social locations of minority community members impact the questions they put to the biblical texts? Also pertinent to this course is the potential value of marginalized modes of reading and interpreting the biblical texts for diverse ministry contexts.

Bi.195 Immigration and the Old Testament:

Perspectives from Latino/a Experiences - Six credits *Prof. Cuéllar*

The primary focus of this course is to engage in a critical reading of immigration in the Hebrew Bible. Privileging the final form of the text, students engage in a critical analysis of biblical texts that center on themes of immigration, deportation, exile, return, and diaspora. Informing our reading is the broader context of the U.S. Latina/o perspective(s) on diaspora and immigration.

Bi.233 Topics in Biblical Studies - Six credits *Faculty*

In this course, students consider research about the "Sitz-im-Leben" of the New Testament. The course examines questions of empire, urban life, masculinity, the role of women, slavery, honor and shame, and other topics that further illuminate New Testament writings.

Bi.234 Love in the Hebrew Bible - Six credits *Prof. Park*

Language and concepts about love permeate the Old Testament. Indeed, the declaration to love the Lord is daily recited as part of the Shema, one of the central prayers in Judaism. Likewise, Jesus in the Gospel of Mark states that the most important commandment is to love the Lord. In this course, we will examine the various understandings and definitions of love that emerge from the Old Testament. Furthermore, we will explore biblical concepts related to love such as hesed (loving-kindness), covenantal fidelity, divine love, and sexual and romantic love.

Bi.235 Contextual Bible Study - Six credits *Prof. Aymer*

This class teaches students to develop Bible studies aimed to assist communities to think theologically and ethically and to respond in practical ways. Based on Contextual Bible Study methodologies developed in South Africa, and Popular Bible Reading methodologies developed in Cuba, Contextual Bible Study uses the tools of literary, narrative, and historical exegesis to help communities to think and respond biblically to concerns that they themselves have identified. As part of this class, students develop and lead a contextual Bible study. No knowledge of ancient languages is presumed.

The Biblical Department Course Descriptions

III. Biblical Interpretation cont...

Bi.237 Postcolonial Trauma and the Minor Prophets (English-based) - Six credits *Prof. Cuéllar*

This course explores the postcolonial traumas inscribed in the writings of the minor prophets. Emphasis is given to postcolonial theory on trauma and the narratives of modern colonized people to understand the legacies of violence and traumatic impact of colonization on the prophetic writers.

Bi.239 How to Interpret the Bible:

Methods, Approaches, and Application (English-based) - Six credits *Prof. Park*

How does one interpret the Bible? Is interpretation the same as reading the Bible or is it similar to Bible study? What separates a good interpretation from a bad one? Focusing on the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, this course examines various exegetical methods – such as feminist, postcolonial, structuralist/historical-critical approaches – that have been used to interpret the biblical text. The course examines the history and the theoretical assumptions that undergird each method and also asks students to apply a particular method to their interpretation of a biblical text. Through discussion and application, students discover the strengths and the limitations of the various exegetical approaches. In so doing, students become better and more attuned readers and interpreters of the Bible.

Bi.240 Activism and Old Testament Scriptures (English-based) - Six credits *Prof. Cuéllar*

This course focuses on the role of Old Testament Scriptures in activism. Students read and discuss a variety of activist readings of the Old Testament that gave impetus to revolutions, political uprisings, decolonization movements, and other mass social movements. Particular attention is given to Social Movement Studies and the signifying work and framing processes that mobilize or activate adherents so that they move, metaphorically, from the balcony to the barricades.

Bi.245 Perspectives on Paul - Six credits *Prof. Jeong*

This English-based course surveys various perspectives (Old/New perspectives on Paul, Paul-within-Judaism, the Apocalyptic Paul, and other contextual approaches to Paul such as feminist, postcolonial, African-American, Asian-American, Latinx, etc.) and encourages students to develop their own perspectives when reading Paul's letters.

Bi.311 Topics in New Testament Theology - Six credits *New Testament Faculty*

A seminar which considers selected areas in New Testament theology, such as christology, womanist and feminist readings of the New Testament, Jesus and Judaism, Sermon on the Mount, etc. May be taken more than once for credit. Prerequisite: Bi.120.

Bi.315 Womanist and Feminist Readings of the New Testament - Six credits *Prof. Aymer*

This course explores the implications of feminist and womanist perspectives for the reading and interpretation of the writings of the New Testament. Students explore how the truism that women are people has undergirded feminist thought, arguing against the marginalization of women, body, mind, and spirit. We further explore how womanist thought has pushed further, calling for a consideration of the intersectionality of race, class, and gender on women and their communities. How do these interpretations change what and whom we notice? Of what value are these questions for those preparing for ministry in the twenty-first century?

The Biblical Department Course Descriptions

III. Biblical Interpretation cont...

Bi.318 Christianity, Exorcisms, Healing, and Magic in the Papyri - Six credits *Prof. Caruthers*

The course explores the various ways that miracle, magic, exorcism, and healing were understood and how they functioned during the formative years of Christianity. The course introduces Christian descriptions of magical practices in papyri (ancient manuscripts) to demonstrate the beliefs and concerns of early Christians. Students read examples of magical spells and incantations in the papyri, alongside New Testament texts, extrabiblical sources, and artifacts (e.g., amulets). Studying the magical papyri prepares students to critically analyze intersections between New Testament teachings, material artifacts, and the embedded theology of real-world practices in antiquity.



The Department of the Church's Ministry



Dr. Sarah D. Allen



Prof. Patricia Bonilla



Dr. Philip Browning Helsel



Prof. Ted Foote



Dr. Carolyn B. Helsel



Dr. José R. Irizarry



Dr. Jennifer L. Lord



Dr. Crystal Silva-McCormick



Prof. Eric Wall



Dr. Andrew Zirschky

The Department of the Church's Ministry

The Department of the Church's Ministry

The Department of the Church's Ministry engages in practical theology, which consists of critical and constructive theological reflection on the practices of the community of faith. God calls people through the church to engage in a number of diverse practices in the course of Christian ministry. This department organizes these practices into the following areas: Christian Education; Leadership and Administration; Mission and Evangelism; Pastoral Care; and Preaching, Worship, and Music. Each of these areas of theological inquiry finds its roots in scripture, its foundational doctrines articulated within the tradition, its practices changing throughout history, and its methods in conversation with the social sciences. Consequently, through biblical and historical study, theological analysis, and interdisciplinary dialogue, this department assists students to gain the understandings and skills necessary to being faithful participants in the ministry of the church.

Course descriptions

I. Christian Education

CM.106 MAYM: Communicating the Gospel to Youth—Six credits *Profs. Bonilla or Zirschky*

In this course students explore seven contemporary approaches for communicating the Gospel to adolescents and assess them theologically and in light of our sociocultural situation. Students test these approaches by crafting and teaching lesson plans that draw from each of them. In the process, students formulate a personal philosophy of youth ministry to guide the formation of youth. Students gain from this course a deeper understanding of approaches to faith formation and a more developed skill set for engaging in the work of communicating the Gospel to young people.

CM.108 MAYM: Advanced Studies in Youth, Church, and Culture - Six credits *Profs. Bonilla or Zirschky*

This course introduces students to the notion of youth as a historical phenomenon, including the relatively recent construction of the institution of adolescence, with special attention to recent trends related to technology, brain research, gender and racial differences, generational research, and emerging adulthood. As more complete and intersectional descriptions of contemporary adolescence emerge, students engage them theologically with a view toward developing more adequate approaches to congregations' ministries with youth.

CM.110 MAYM: Theological Methods for Youth Ministry - Six credits *Profs. Bonilla or Zirschky*

This course explores various sources and methods for reflecting theologically on youth ministry contexts. Students identify themes that are particularly relevant for the formation of youth in contemporary contexts: physiological, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual. Students engage these themes utilizing a range of theological methods, including postliberal, narrative, mutually critical, liberation, hermeneutical, emerging, constructive, and practical approaches. This course assists students in developing important skills for engaging youth ministry in participation with the Word and work of God.

CM.112 MAYM: Youth Minister as Pastor and Leader - Six credits *Profs. Bonilla or Zirschky*

This course introduces various roles played by the youth leader in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and social needs of adolescents in American congregations. It examines the role of youth minister as leader in the Christian community in light of systems theory, cultural intelligence, and theological reflection. Additionally, an exploration of the role of youth minister as pastor and caregiver are considered in light of the developmental needs and realities of contemporary American youth.

The Department of the Church's Ministry

CM.132 MAYM: Youth, Secularization, and Experiences of Religious Doubt - Four credits *Prof. Zirschky*
Research shows a majority of Christian youth doubt their faith. Few ever talk about it, leaving teenagers to doubt alone. This course prepares students to journey alongside young people who are doubting their faith. Students examine historical and contemporary accounts of religious doubt, explore a theology of doubt, consider the influence of secularization, and investigate the varieties of doubting experiences that beset youth.

CM.133 MAYM: Relational Youth Ministry in an Age of Networks - Four credits *Prof. Zirschky*
Youth ministry has been nearly universally conceived as relational in nature. These forms of relational ministry are being challenged by a change in the meaning of relationality fostered by life in a networked society. This course explores the challenges posed to relational youth ministry by the sociological shift to networked individualism, and seeks to guide students in reimagining relational ministry for the networked age through a practical theological framework.

CM.148 Progressive Youth Ministry: Exploring Praxis in Contemporary Contexts - Six Credits *Prof. Zirschky*
This course offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the principles, practices, and challenges of undertaking just, inclusive, and compassionate ministry through active participation in the Progressive Youth Ministry Conference. Students attend and engage the diverse range of sessions, workshops, and plenary addresses offered at the November conference in Austin, gaining firsthand insights into innovative approaches to youth ministry within progressive Christian contexts.

CM.192 MAYM: Your Money and Your Life - Four credits *Faculty*
This course explores money as a social construct, occasion for idolatry, and genuine problem for Christians. Specific attention is given to one's personal relationship with money, theories of stewardship, and the use of money in contemporary American congregations.

CM.196 MAYM: Sustainable Faith in a Secular Age - Four credits *Prof. Zirschky*
This course explores the rise in religiously unaffiliated youth and young adults in North America, and evaluates theology, theories, and strategies for addressing this trend through the efforts of Christian congregations and other religious communities. Drawing from sociology, students learn about various perspectives within secularization theory and conduct research interviews to help them understand firsthand the religious concerns and perspectives of unaffiliated and disaffiliated young people. Students consider and evaluate diverse theological proposals for fostering faith in young people that is sustained beyond adolescence, and they propose a plan of action for ministry by their faith communities.

CM.202 MAYM: Youth & Social Justice, Environmental Justice, & Urban Gardening - Four credits *Prof. C. Helsel*
This course invites youth ministers to deepen youth engagement with local forms of social justice through participating in sustainable agriculture and urban gardening. The need to feed the hungry, as called by Jesus, is an ongoing form of justice ministry in which youth can actively participate. Students visit a Nashville-based non-profit that provides gardening training for local schools in impoverished areas where children lack access to fresh food. In addition to learning about non-profits that offer fresh food and gardening training for families, students theologically engage issues of environmental racism and its impacts on communities of color. Finally, students also get their hands dirty by learning about the local soil structure.

The Department of the Church's Ministry

CM.203 MAYM: Beyond Youth Group: Exploring Community-based Ministry - Four credits *Prof. Zirschky*
This course explores community-based youth ministries outside of traditional ecclesial spaces. Grounded in the missio dei and ecclesiological practice, these new forms of youth ministry are being pursued in urban spaces and other under-resourced neighborhoods by faith-based youth development organizations. Some of these ministries have strong ties to congregations, while others operate independently, but all seek the holistic flourishing of youth in aspects both spiritual and material. Through field trips, in-person guest lectures, and live video interviews, students meet and hear from a variety of youth ministers who are actively leading opportunities that seek to empower and promote the agency of youth.

CM.204 Queer Youth Ministry - Six credits *Prof. Zirschky*
Exploring the intersection of theology, ministry, and LGBTQ+ identities, this course focuses on the unique experiences and needs of queer youth within the context of Christian communities. Students engage in examination and reflection on queer-affirming ministry principles as they delve into the theological foundations of practices that embrace LGBTQ+ identities and the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals. Topics include developing inclusive and affirming practices for youth ministry programs; navigating challenges and obstacles in advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusion within Christian communities; cultivating pastoral care skills to support queer youth in their spiritual journeys; and collaborating with LGBTQ+ organizations and allies to create welcoming spaces for youth.

CM.218 Educating for Prophetic Witness in the 21st Century—Six credits *Profs. Bonilla & Silva-McCormick*
This course engages a variety of ways of knowing that will inform students' theological perspectives and prepare them to engage the public sphere, centering the land and the stories of people on the margins. Readings from indigenous, Latina, and Chicana feminists serve as the primary texts for this course.

CM.222 Introduction to Educational Ministries - Six credits *Prof. Bonilla*
How do we reframe educational ministries to address the context of the 21st century? How can educators and church leaders think holistically about Christian formation? This course is designed to introduce students to a range of theological, educational, and ecclesial concepts that foster a broad understanding of philosophies and practices of educational ministries in the church and beyond.

CM.255 Special Topics - Six credits *Faculty*
This course explores a select topic in pastoral care, preaching, worship, music, Christian education, leadership, administration, mission, or evangelism. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, and writing.



The Department of the Church's Ministry

II. Leadership and Administration

CM.191 Your Money and Your Life - Six credits *Faculty*

This course explores money as a social construct, occasion for idolatry, and genuine problem for Christians. Specific attention is given to one's personal relationship with money, theories of stewardship, and the use of money in contemporary American congregations.

CM.194 Person as Pastor, Pastor as Pilgrim - Six credits *Faculty*

This course explores classical and contemporary approaches to pastoral identity and the relationship between the minister's sense of self and the role of "pastor." Students explore relational, psychological, and spiritual wholeness, with an emphasis on gaining clarity about their individual calls and confidence in receiving their ecclesial calls. Additionally, a focus on personal renewal sustaining a pastor's health and well-being helps students develop practices for mindfulness, meditation, and attending to the world. Students participate through readings, written and oral reflections, and physical and spiritual practices.

CM.214 Seminar in the Work of the GA of the PC(USA)- Three credits *Faculty*

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a large, rapidly moving, and complicated gathering whose decisions have profound impact on the life and work of the church. Students familiarize themselves with the inner workings of the Assembly and issues to be addressed. They then attend the Assembly itself, observing both plenary and standing committee sessions, and debrief each night after the day's events. Among other requirements, students follow a particular issue of interest through the committee and plenary process and reflect on their observations.

CM.227 Congregational Planning and Visioning - Six credits *Faculty*

This course examines models of planning. It considers dynamics of change, the role of the pastor, and the value and limits of visioning in the life of the congregation. Students learn thoughtful and effective practices for encouraging a culture of "purpose over preference" and building productively on the congregation's mission history.

CM.255 Special Topics - Six credits *Faculty*

The course explores a select topic in pastoral care, preaching, worship, music, Christian education, leadership, administration, mission, or evangelism. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, and writing.

CM.301 The Polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - Six credits *Prof. Jeong*

In this course students become acquainted with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), with special attention to the *Book of Order*. An emphasis is placed on the theological roots of Presbyterian government. Students explore the practices of government that grow out of Presbyterian polity in order to further the faithful mission of the church.

CM.302 Approaching the Threshold of Ministry - Six credits *Faculty*

The first year of ministry is a time of extraordinary transition. This course helps students prepare for the realities of ministry, gain a deeper understanding of the character and skills required for leadership, and develop a more profound knowledge of how their own personalities intersect with first-year tasks and opportunities. Historical development and current pastoral roles, congregational dynamics, financial stewardship practices, and specific first-year milestones are explored in depth. Readings, reflection papers, and final project are required.

The Department of the Church's Ministry

CM.329 The History and Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Six credits *Faculty*

In this course students critically examine the historical context for the origin of the Disciples of Christ denomination and explore the development of that church up to the present day. Participants also study the polity of the denomination in order to gain further understanding of that tradition.

CM.339 Workshop in Church Administration - Six credits *Faculty*

Congregational leadership demands that pastors have mastered, and are theologically responsible for, a variety of skills, from the management of staff and program to team building among lay and professional leaders, from the raising of funds and financial management to ministry through conflict. This workshop focuses on various areas of church administration, familiarizing students with relevant resources, providing a context in which appropriate skills can be developed, and allowing students to critically evaluate the biblical and theological adequacy of specific approaches to church administration. Workshop topics include, among others, church management, conflict, stewardship, and leadership.

III. Mission and Evangelism

CM.130 MAYM: Engaging Youth in Mission and Evangelism - Six credits *Prof. Silva-McCormick*

This course is designed to equip students to engage constructively in the theology of mission and evangelism through the *Missio Dei* lens while at the same time reflecting critically on how they have been practiced in Christian history. Attention is paid to current issues, challenges, and trends in global Christianity, and to appropriate mission and evangelism models for youth ministry. Students study leading figures in mission and evangelism and develop their own missiologies.

CM.207 Exporting American Imperialism to the Ends of the Earth—Six credits *Prof. Silva-McCormick*

This course explores the relationship between the history of U.S. Christian missions and the nexus of politics, economics, and American imperialism. Through a critical study of Christian missions to various regions of the globe, students analyze how this nexus affects local populations and the enduring impact it has on these regions of the globe. Students ask challenging questions about the role race, class, and power play in Christian mission and consider how these function in their ministerial contexts. Special attention is given to American Christianities, civil religion, and transnational Christianities.

CM.208 Introduction to Global Christianities - Six credits *Faculty*

This course traces the cross-cultural history of Christianity as a global movement. The role of missionaries, immigration, and renewal movements are examined, as well as socio-economic, cultural, and theological influences on the spread of Christianity. Non-Western expressions of Christianity are emphasized, such as the three-self movement in China, transnational church networks, indigenous churches, Pentecostalism, and African Independent Churches. Participants explore ways Western Christianity can learn from expressions of Christianity in the Global South.

CM.211 Spiritualities of the Borderlands - Six credits *Prof. Silva-McCormick*

In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore the different expressions of Christianity that exist on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border where migrants and asylum seekers from various parts of the globe seek to cross.

The Department of the Church's Ministry

CM.255 Special Topics - Six credits *Faculty*

The course explores a select topic in pastoral care, preaching, worship, music, Christian education, leadership, administration, mission, or evangelism. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, and writing.

IV. Pastoral Care

CM.104 MAYM: Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

Students explore pastoral care for adolescents with an eye toward the ends of psychological wholeness, Christian discipleship, and teens' own advocacy for social justice. Loss, trauma, and self-destructive behaviors are addressed within a family-counseling context. The course teaches competent care for immigrant youth, African American youth, LGBT youth, and working class youth, with special attention to the distinctive struggles of adolescents in a technology-saturated culture.

CM.150 Graphic Novels as Pastoral Care - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

This course deals with themes of sin, justice, and redemption in graphic novels, a medium especially suited to exploring limit situations. Students learn to read graphic novels as multilayered documents, linking them to their everyday lives. Students examine the psychological and spiritual significance of graphic novels. Students reflect on how graphic novels make theological meaning, thus exploring the connection between image and text in sequential art.

CM.238 Pastoral Care of Family and Kin Networks - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

This course explores theological, psychosocial, and cultural perspectives on family life and development as these inform pastoral work with families. Biblical and theological resources are placed in conversation with the human sciences as a means for reflecting on and practicing pastoral care and counseling with couples and families in contemporary contexts.

CM.244 Intro to Pastoral Care & Counseling: Care for Stories, Systems, & Self - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

This course promotes a holistic vision of the person-in-context, indicating how to develop relationships of trust across differences with special attention to rural contexts. Students study the structural factors, including prejudice and poverty, that impact families and kin networks within congregational systems. The course examines special topics such as suicide, intimate partner violence, and addiction. Bringing practices of care and counseling to the minister's self-care means prioritizing opportunities for reflection and savoring life.

CM.246 Pastoral Care in Loss, Death, and Dying - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

This course familiarizes students with contemporary issues in death and dying so that they can better provide care for the dying and their loved ones, helping them to make narrative sense of their grief. Ministers are liminal figures who frequently meet death in their work and engage in care for the dying and their families. This course examines how the work of congregational ministers involves balancing the grief of individuals facing loss, communities in transition, and the unjust circumstances of loss brought about by social oppression.

The Department of the Church's Ministry

CM.254 Ministry and Mental Illness - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

This course examines how best to care for persons with mental illness and their families within the context of ministry focusing on pastoral care and ministerial leadership that reduces stigma and provides support. Students learn about the treatment of schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and bipolar and borderline disorders, developing resources for referral. The course explores the role that poverty may play in the development of mental illness resulting from social oppression. Special attention is given to the impact of mental illness on families.

CM.255 Special Topics - Six credits *Faculty*

The course explores a select topic in pastoral care, preaching, worship, music, Christian education, leadership, administration, mission, or evangelism. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, and writing.

CM.264 Positive Dispositions in Pastoral Care - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

In this elective course in pastoral care, students explore the dispositions of curiosity, awe, attention, gratitude, serenity, compassion, humor, and joy. Rather than being extraneous to serious pastoral care, such dispositions become even more essential in times of disruption, linking to creativity and spiritual practice. Students reflect on how problem-based pastoral care marginalizes these dispositions. A final paper will be an in-depth study in one of these dispositions, including its theological and biblical horizon.

CM.310 Literature and the Life Cycle - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

This course explores the life cycle in conversation with contemporary literature so that students can provide empathic care across the seasons of life. Students study life-cycle theory, but the primary content of the course is literary fiction. Course sessions explore links between spiritual, psychosocial, and cultural perspectives of the literature and students' own contexts for ministry.

V. Preaching, Worship, and Music

CM.122 The Church as a Worshiping Community - Six credits *Prof. Lord; Spring*

This course is designed to equip students to function responsibly in local congregations as leaders of corporate worship. Students study the character and shape of the corporate worship of congregations during various periods in the history of the church. In addition, students investigate how liturgy and theology have been and continue to be related to each other in the Christian movement. Then on the basis of this inquiry, which includes the examination of various worship forms and expressions, the participants in the course are required to produce in writing a theological rationale for the corporate worship of a particular church. An examination of the place of music in corporate worship and of the role of the pastor as a leader of worship on the occasions of funerals and weddings is an additional emphasis of the course.

CM.127 Seminary Choir - One and one half credits or no credits *Prof. Wall*

The Seminary choir rehearses once a week and sings weekly for chapel worship. It also participates in special worship, such as Advent, the Martin Luther King Celebration, Ash Wednesday, and Triduum. Students may participate in the Seminary choir for no credit or for pass/fail credit.

The Department of the Church's Ministry

CM.145 MAYM: Youth and Intergenerational Worship - Four credits *Prof. Allen*

Adolescent participation in worship is often limited to one Sunday a year. This sidelines and silos youth into prescribed roles and diminishes the worshiping life of the congregation by ignoring the gifts and graces of adolescents in the community of faith. This course explores creative and developmentally appropriate ways to fully engage adolescents in the intergenerational worship of the congregation throughout the liturgical year, utilizing their particular gifts and vocations.

CM.187 Music and The Church - Six credits *Prof. Wall*

This course looks at song as participatory theology, enabling the people's prayer and the church's witness. Topics include streams of song, resources for planning, style and language, aesthetics and context, faith formation, and implications for ethics and justice. Students read practitioners and scholars of music, study the relationship of music to scripture and liturgy, and explore the imaginative possibilities of music in the church's life. Students plan and lead worship services in the semester chapel schedule.

CM.189 Communication for Ministries of Social Justice - Six credits *Prof. C. Helsel*

This course prepares students to communicate with broad audiences about issues of social justice. Examples of this type of communication include preaching about social justice in congregations comprised of diverse socio-political standpoints, writing letters to raise funds for faith-based non-profit organizations, and presenting a position informed by religious convictions within a secular forum. Students examine the challenges to communicating about faith and social justice and practice communication models within these various contexts.

CM.197 A Practical Theology for Eco-Justice - Six credits *Prof. C. Helsel*

Who are the communities most impacted by environmental degradation? How are groups already disenfranchised through systemic discrimination working to restore the earth and reconnect to nature? How are we called to join their lead? This course identifies ways eco-justice intersects with the call of Jesus to feed the hungry and "consider the birds" by bringing in voices from the greater Austin community and beyond. Through engagement with guest speakers, field trips, and resources from the Christian tradition, students develop their own practical theology for ministering alongside various groups working to care for all of God's creation.

CM.232 MAYM: More than Youth Sunday: Worship and Music with Youth and their Communities - Four credits *Prof. Wall*

This course looks at ways that liturgy and music can enfold youth into worshiping communities. Students consider a variety of worship and music resources that are both youth-specific and multi-generational. Students practice creating specific elements of services that can be used in their contexts. By exploring prayer, reading, proclamation, music, and other arts, this class identifies ways to help youth bring their whole selves to worship. This class meets in conjunction with the Montreat Youth Conference at Montreat Conference Center, North Carolina, and students have opportunities to observe and participate in the conference. This course takes place in Montreat, NC.

CM.236 Introduction to Preaching - Six credits *Prof. C. Helsel*

This course provides students a general introduction to the task of preaching. In it students are asked to consider basic questions relative to the purpose of preaching and methods appropriate to that purpose. Further, students examine the ordinary mode of preaching called a sermon to determine its essential characteristics. In addition, this introductory course offers the opportunity for the participants to practice various skills requisite to responsible designing of sermons and effective oral communication. Prerequisites: Bi.102, Bi.116, and CM.122.

The Department of the Church's Ministry

CM.240 Difficult Conversations - Six credits *Prof. C. Helsel*

This course follows the argument made by homiletics Lucy Rose and John McClure that preaching needs to include a “roundtable” in which preachers consider their listeners as dialogue partners and co-creators of meaning. Students simulate opportunities for discussion around difficult topics, viewing these conversations as part of the task of preaching. Topics to be discussed include race, gender, and sexuality, as well as additional topics of interest. Students receive guidance for leading and engaging in such conversations to equip them to facilitate discussions successfully in various ministry contexts.

CM.252 Good News and the World of Harry Potter - Six credits *Prof. C. Helsel*

Informed by studies that have shown readers of J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series develop greater empathy for others, this course examines how these texts can influence our communication in ministry. Students study a particular pericope that models themes of redemption or moral formation found within the Harry Potter series and build this into a sermon. This course includes travel to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Orlando, Florida. Prerequisite: CM.236.

CM.255 Special Topics - Six credits *Faculty*

The course explores a select topic in pastoral care, preaching, worship, music, Christian education, leadership, administration, mission, or evangelism. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, and writing.

CM.260 Pilgrimage: A Study - Six credits *Prof. Lord*

This course is a study of historic and contemporary pilgrimage with special attention to its place in Christian ecclesial traditions and its current popularity among “nones.” Utilizing ethnographic, religious, ritual, and social science studies, students explore the phenomenon of pilgrimage journeys, destinations, and experiences. Additionally, students examine pilgrimage in relation to migration, religious tourism, and leisure tourism. This course does not include a travel component but may include local outdoor excursions.

CM.262 Music, Liturgy, & Imagination: Pastors and Musicians as Partners - Six credits *Profs. Jones & Wall*

This course informs and equips students to explore and understand the content, context, biblical and theological foundations, and role of music in the worship life of the local church, as well as methods for promoting creative and cooperative pastor-music director relationships. Students in this course experience weekly partnership with musicians in the congregational worship of God. Students work with faculty preachers in the preparation of chapel worship.

CM.271 Preaching and the Revised Common Lectionary - Six credits *Prof. Lord*

Students investigate the relationship between lectionary preaching and celebration of the sacraments in the ongoing life of the worshipping assembly. Attention is given to how the readings of the day interact with each other and relate to the church’s calendar and the homiletical issues involved. Hermeneutical assumptions are explored throughout the course. Prerequisites: CM.122 and CM.236.

CM.283 Workshop in Liturgical Ministry: Sunday and Sacraments - Six credits *Prof. Lord*

This course helps students develop and enhance their skills in planning corporate worship and presiding at the principal services of worship of a congregation. Working as part of a planning team, students plan, lead, and critique services based on the *Book of Common Worship* (1993), or equivalent liturgical resources of the student’s denomination. The Sunday liturgy and the services for baptism and Eucharist are studied, with attention to the leading of prayer, public reading, and presiding at the corporate celebration of the sacraments. Prerequisite: CM.122 or instructor’s permission.

The Department of the Church's Ministry

CM.287 Workshop in Liturgical Ministry: The Pastoral Celebrations - Six credits *Faculty*

This course helps students develop and enhance their understandings and skills for leading occasional and special services of worship, including the rites of marriage, funerals, healing and ministry with the sick, ordination, and reaffirmation of baptism. Students also reflect on the place of the sacraments in pastoral ministry and develop pastoral skills for sacramental ministry with those who are unable to attend public worship. Prerequisite: CM.122 or instructor's permission.

CM.289 Workshop in Liturgical Ministry: From Page to Practice - Three credits *Prof. Lord*

This course helps students develop skills for preparing corporate worship in a variety of settings. Participants use and critique resources of their own denomination as well as those available through different publishing media. Attention is given to the ways that the integrity of rites and coherent theology inform choices drawn from various resources. Attention also is given to practical implications of moving from resources and ideas to the worship event.

CM.291 Women, Voice, and Preaching - Six credits *Prof. Lord*

This course focuses on the history and present experience of women who are preachers. Using current homiletical theory, we engage historical and contemporary discussions of vocation, voice, authority, and purposes of preaching in relation to the experience of women in ministry. Students preach in class. Prerequisites: CM.122 and CM.236.

CM.300 The Church's Prayer Life in a Time of "Thoughts and Prayers" - Six credits *Prof. Lord*

How do we value Christian practices of prayer in a time when prayer can be perceived as clichéd in relation to the needs of the world? Is prayer helpful? Do our prayers lead to social action? What is faithful prayer? Students engage these and other questions as they study the church's received traditions of daily and Sunday prayer in light of how these practices relate to the church's actions in the world. Additionally, students study liturgical understandings of the relationships between prayer, belief, and social action, and examples of assessing and strengthening prayer in the public sphere and in congregations.

CM.308 Preaching and Storytelling - Six credits *Prof. C. Helsel*

This course provides students theoretical background on narrative theology and the role of narrative in hermeneutics, spiritual memoir, and preaching during times of transition. Students practice storytelling and read spiritual narratives to develop their own skills in narration. Prerequisite: CM.236.

CM.321 Sermon Workshop - Three or Six credits *Faculty*

This course examines and explores the significant components of a sermon and works at developing the students' skills in producing, shaping, and using these various elements of a sermon. Attention is focused primarily on how one can most effectively communicate through the preaching event and the insights gained from one's experience and study. May be offered for three or six credits.

Theological – Historical Department

The courses in the Theological and Historical Department are designed to provide grounding in Christian theology, history, ethics, and comparative religion.

Theology courses survey the history, significance, and philosophical dimensions of the major doctrines and issues of the faith, exploring their significance for contemporary life and ministry. These courses consider the thought of major theologians and philosophers, both past and present, with emphasis on the Reformed tradition and perspectives from the wider church and society.

Ethics courses address both fundamental matters and specific topics and thinkers. The courses encourage students to bring theological, philosophical, and ethical insights to bear upon contemporary moral and cultural issues.

Courses in history of the church acquaint students with its diverse expressions throughout the centuries and lead them to view the contemporary church against this historical background. This approach provides perspective on the challenges and opportunities that confront the church today. In addition, students investigate the origins and development of their own denominations so that they can fulfill informed and constructive roles in the lives of their churches.

Courses in comparative religion explore basic concepts of religion, the particularity of protestant Christianity within the diversity of religious thought and practice, and the beliefs and nature of other religions. Students explore ways that religious diversity affects their ministry, missions, and work in local, national, and international settings.



Dr. Ángel J. Gallardo



Dr. William Greenway



Dr. David Jensen



Dr. Cynthia L. Rigby

Course Descriptions

I. Ethics

TH.110 MAYM: Moral Questions in Youth Culture - Six credits *Faculty*

Today's youth are confronted by many difficult moral issues including abortion, suicide, eating disorders, and sexuality. The goals of the course are to give students a practical understanding of the moral challenges many youth face and to equip students with the tools to think about these issues from various modes of Christian moral reasoning.

TH.155 African American Religious Ethics - Six credits *Faculty*

This course examines major historical and contemporary trends in African American theology and ethics. Special attention is given to the ways that African American theologians and ethicists formulate theology, critically engage a constellation of social and theological problems, and promote liberation and empowerment. Objectives of the course are to give students an understanding of the historical trajectory of African American theology and ethics, to increase understanding of American society from the perspective of black religious thought, and to introduce students to a set of problems specific to the discourse.

TH.200 Introduction to Christian Ethics - Six credits *Faculty*

This course serves as an introduction to basic themes, concepts, and methodologies of Christian ethics, understood as Christian reflection on the sources, norms, practices, and ends of human (moral) life. Among topics addressed are: natural law, virtue theory, liberationist ethics, and Christian feminist ethics. Objectives of the course are to gain a clear understanding of our moral commitments, to assist in developing a basic vocabulary in moral theory and theology, and to introduce students to a number of approaches to Christian moral discernment.

TH.206 Biomedical Ethics - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

This course focuses upon issues in biomedical ethics especially pertinent to Christian pastors, chaplains, and counselors. Special attention is given to beginning- and end-of-life issues (e.g., genetic screening, abortion, euthanasia), issues in animal (including human) experimentation, transhumanism, and issues related to distribution of scarce resources and access to health care. Students gain familiarity with the four-fold focus on the principles of autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, and justice that inform contemporary Western biomedical ethics and legal theory as well as the distinctive principles invoked by various Christian confessions.

TH.208 Environmental Ethics - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

This course focuses on issues in environmental ethics from a Christian perspective. Issues that may be considered include climate change, distribution and accessibility of potable water, preservation of habitat, valuing and treatment of non-human animals, endangered species, genetic engineering, environmental racism, population, conservation, wilderness, as well as the use, preservation, and distribution of limited resources. The course attends both to major contemporary secular ethical and legal approaches to issues and to major Christian ethical approaches.

Theological – Historical Department

TH.235 Special Topics - Six credits *Faculty*

This course explores a select topic of timely interest or controversy in theology, history, ethics, philosophy, or religion. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, and writing.

TH.275 The Theological Ethics of Martin Luther King Jr. - Six credits *Faculty*

This seminar examines the theology and ethics of Martin Luther King Jr. Students engage in the constructive task of formulating the theological social ethics of this pastor-theologian. Special attention is given to figures who influenced King's thought and King's legacy in contemporary thinking and public witness. Topics include: strategies of social change, the social gospel, Christian Realism, philosophy and theology of nonviolence, personhood, social justice, love, and the beloved community.

TH.296 Moral Issues - Six credits *Faculty*

The goals of this course are to familiarize students with the various elements of analysis in Christian ethics and to use these to study particular moral issues. Issues considered may include: ecojustice, abortion, racism, gender and sexuality, immigration, economic justice, and capital punishment.

TH.309 Religion and American Public Life - Six credits *Faculty*

This course offers an introduction to American public theology. Special attention is given to historical, legal, philosophical, and theological structures which frame the conditions for the possibility of public theology. The course also surveys contemporary theological interventions in American public life along contemporary points of contestation, including: economics, religion and participatory democracy, church-state relations, and justice. Objectives of the course are to give students a historical understanding of public theology in America and to provoke critical, theologically accountable, and publicly responsible dialogue and reflection about the relationship of religious commitments to American public life. Prerequisite: required course in Christian ethics.

TH.310 Social Justice - Six credits *Faculty*

This course introduces students to theories of justice from philosophical and theological perspectives. Students develop a basic vocabulary in the discourse of justice reflected in political theory and theology. The course familiarizes students with a set of core texts and authors in the discourse of justice. Special attention is given to hermeneutical frameworks that ground theories of justice and to how such theories may be related to public policy and US public life.

II. History

TH.100 Early and Medieval Church History - Six credits *Prof. Gallardo*

This introductory course on early and medieval Christianity covers the major figures, movements, schools, and doctrines as they develop from the Apostolic to the Scholastic Era (200-1450 C.E.). Students probe intellectual and ecclesial developments in their periodic and diverse expressions by engaging foundational primary sources that highlight encounters and conflicts between Christian communities and the “non-Christian” world. This course approaches ecclesial history as an intellectual discipline that culminates with a deepened understanding of the Christian tradition, which, in the end, is vital for faithful ministry in the 21st century.

Theological – Historical Department

TH.118 Development in the History of Modern Christianity: 1650 to the Present - Six credits *Prof. Gallardo*

This course analyzes developments in Christianity from the dawn of the modern era to the present and explores issues such as Christianity and the Enlightenment, the emergence of the modern states, political and industrial revolutions, as well as the emergence of missionary and ecumenical movements. Particular attention is given to issues surrounding developments in Christianity in the United States as students develop their own topics for in-depth historical research.

TH.210 The Birth of Christianity in the “New World” - Six credits *Prof. Gallardo*

This course explores the emergence of Christianity in the “New World.” It begins by examining the religious and geo-political context of late medieval Iberia. Students examine how scholastic debates about “purity of blood” (*limpieza de sangre*) shaped early modern ideas about race and religion post-1492 and how these impact Christian ministry in the 21st century. Special attention is given to the role of Scholasticism in the writings of Christopher Columbus, Bartolomé de Las Casas, and other theological figures involved in the colonial enterprise.

TH.213 The Life, Theology, and Legacy of Bartolomé de Las Casas (1484-1566) - Six credits *Prof. Gallardo*

This course explores the life and thought of the Dominican theologian and bishop, Bartolomé de Las Casas (1484-1566). Named “defender of the Indians” by Pope Alexander IV, Las Casas sheds light on a critical moment in world and church history. By studying his life and writings, students reflect on the ways Christian theology helped undergird and undermine colonial projects. This course focuses on human rights, colonialism, and indigenous religion/spirituality. Prerequisite: TH.100.

TH.235 Special Topics - Six credits *Faculty*

This course explores a select topic of timely interest or controversy in theology, history, ethics, philosophy, or religion. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, and writing.

III. Theology

TH.104 Theology: Doctrines and Themes - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

This course explores the basic doctrines and themes of Christian systematic theology, including: revelation, Trinity, creation, humanity, sin, christology, atonement, Holy Spirit, church, and eschatology. Students learn basic theological vocabulary and are invited to explore some of the main questions people of faith have always raised about the relevance of Christian doctrine to their actual lives. Students study the theology of John Calvin and are also introduced to a broad range of thinkers and ideas that have shaped theological discourse through the centuries and into today.

TH.106 Theology: Figures and Movements - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

This course explores the significance of several influential theologians and theological movements, with a particular focus on the modern and postmodern eras. Attention is given to the diversity and vitality of the Protestant and Reformed traditions, to their continual transformation, and to their constructive restatement in the church’s life today. Figures and movements ordinarily include Friedrich Schleiermacher, Karl Barth, John Wesley, Catherine Keller, and Gustavo Gutiérrez.

Theological – Historical Department

TH.108 MAYM: God-Talk and Youth Ministry - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

Are the historic teachings of the Christian church relevant to the lives of youth and the “real world” issues they face today? In this course, students explore Christian doctrines, always with an eye toward how they might be seen, interpreted, and even re-shaped by issues of concern to youth and youth ministry. Topics may include climate change, terrorism, poverty, human rights abuses, discrimination, pluralism, economic pressures, stress, depression, and religious hypocrisy. The doctrines of revelation, Trinity, creation, sin, christology, redemption, Holy Spirit, church, and hope are among those that are explored and examined.

TH.204 Introduction to World Religions - Six credits *Prof. Jensen*

In this course students study the origin, history, basic beliefs, practice, and internal diversity of several of the major religious traditions of the world—Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam—as well as two indigenous traditions. Students engage participants in each of these traditions and visit worship sites for several traditions. This course focuses on the process, etiquette, and challenges of studying and engaging another religious community and the particular theological issues that each of these traditions raises for Christians. Prerequisites: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.218 Christopher Columbus’s Theological Imagination - Six credits *Prof. Gallardo*

Few historical figures have received as much attention or derision as Christopher Columbus. While Columbus’ legacy is widely contested in public and academic circles, Columbus’ theological imagination remains vastly misunderstood. To address that misunderstanding, this course explores how a reading of history rooted in the scholastic tradition informed the Columbian Enterprise. This course invites students to probe Columbus’ thought by analyzing his corpus (e.g., journals, letters, maps, religious writings) in light of the intellectual and economic developments sparked by the Age of Exploration. In doing so, this course traces how theological ideas about the natural order informed the racial and geographic hierarchies that shaped the early modern world. Ultimately, this course enables students to develop an historically informed perspective on the current challenges and possibilities for faithful Christian ministry in the wake of 1492. Prerequisite: TH.100.

TH.219 The Theologies of Gutiérrez and Moltmann - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

In this course, students study primary texts by Gustavo Gutiérrez and Jürgen Moltmann, theologians who have been instrumental in bringing the explicit concerns of liberation theologies into productive conversation with more traditional approaches to Christian theology. Special attention is paid to how their work has changed contemporary understandings of doctrines including creation, the Trinity, the cross, the resurrection, the church, and Christian vocation. Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.221 Figures/Topics in Philosophical Theology - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

This seminar brings the approach and tools of philosophical theology to bear upon a select figure or topic particularly influential or significant for Christianity (e.g., Plato, Irenaeus, Pascal, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Weil, Ricoeur, Pannenberg, aesthetics, animal rights). The seminar emphasizes critical analysis, constructive research, and discussion of primary texts.

Theological – Historical Department

TH.229 Christian Creation Spirituality - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

This course explores the theological, spiritual, and ethical aspects of the relationship of human beings to nature. Major Christian theological approaches to nature are contrasted both to one another and to other approaches influential in the West (e.g., scientific, Native American). Correlative spiritualities are considered and key biblical texts investigated. Additionally, the class delves into ethical questions regarding the status and treatment of animals, biodiversity, the idea and significance of “wilderness,” and issues of sustainable development and conservation.

TH.235 Special Topics - Six credits *Faculty*

This course explores a select topic of timely interest or controversy in theology, history, ethics, philosophy, or religion. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, and writing.

TH.237 Hermeneutics, Critical Theory, and Religion - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

Hermeneutics and its countervailing twin, critical theory, upended modern Western notions of rationality, giving rise to the catchphrase “postmodern.” This profoundly reshaped the humanities, philosophy, theology, religious studies and ethics in the 20th century and gave rise to a plethora of new theories (for instance, critical race theory, postcolonial theory, decolonial theory) and movements (for instance, Black, womanist, Latinx, or ecological theologies). This course studies major philosophers in the hermeneutical and critical traditions (for example, Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger, Gadamer, Habermas, Ricoeur) along with 20th and 21st century philosophers who clearly articulated the challenges to ethics and religion in the light of hermeneutics and critical theory (for example, Butler, Levinas, Rorty, Spivak). Students gain foundational understanding of the revolutionary philosophical trajectories behind our current, contested understandings of rationality, ethics, and religion, preparing them to contribute to emerging movements and debates.

TH.245 The Theological Legacy of Karl Barth - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

This seminar considers the theological achievement of Karl Barth by exploring selected themes in his own writings and in the writings of theologians influenced by him such as Wolfhart Pannenberg, Jürgen Moltmann, and Eberhard Jüngel. Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.250 Open and Relational Theologies - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

This course explores the constructive theological work of process theologians and those in close conversation with them, focusing especially on reconstructions of God’s sovereignty, the creation ex nihilo, the relationship between divine and human agency, and Christian hope. Attention is given to the work of thinkers including Charles Hartshorne, John Cobb, Marjorie Suchocki, Catherine Keller, Thomas Oord, Jürgen Moltmann, and Tripp Fuller. Prerequisite: TH.104.

TH.253 Feminist Theologies - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

In this course participants explore a broad range of figures and themes in feminist theology, considering the history of its development, the critiques it has made of traditional Christian doctrine, the constructive alternatives it proposes, and the impact it has on the life of the church today. A significant portion of the course is devoted to the womanist and Mujerista literature and to the challenges women of color are making to the theologies of white feminists. Thinkers to be considered include: Rosemary R. Ruether, Sallie McFague, Jacquelyn Grant, Rita Nakashima Brock, Delores S. Williams, Elizabeth A. Johnson, and Elsa Tamez. Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

Theological – Historical Department

TH.264 The History and Doctrine of The United Methodist Church - Six credits *Prof. Gallardo*

The course provides an overview of the history and doctrine of the Methodist movement from 1726 to the early twentieth century. Students explore the life, work, and theology of John Wesley, the roots of Methodism, and the early American Methodist experience. Close attention is paid to the theology and history of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church (such as Moravians, Anglicans, Dissenters, and the Evangelical United Brethren) and successor denominations (such as the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, and a range of Holiness churches).

TH.269 Doctrine of The United Methodist Church - Six credits *Faculty*

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the doctrinal standards and the theological task of The United Methodist Church beginning with the writings of John Wesley and continuing on to contemporary theological debates. Students examine Wesleyan traditions of theological method, order of salvation, classic doctrinal categories, and sacramental theology.

TH.271 Theology and Literature - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

In this course students read and analyze works of literature with an eye toward reflecting on how knowledge of Christian doctrine shapes our readings of texts and discovering what great literature has to teach us about the relevance of Christian doctrine to everyday life. Readings are selected from both classic and contemporary literature, with some attention given to writings which explicitly reflect on the relationship between writing fiction and thinking theologically. Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.289 Eschatology and Christian Hope - Six credits *Prof. Jensen*

In this course students explore multiple voices within the Christian tradition that speak of the “last things,” eternal life, and the consummation of creation. This exploration is not restricted to theological understandings of future events, but includes ways in which differing articulations of hope and eschatology permeate all Christian understanding. Beginning with patristic and medieval understandings of the doctrine, the course also highlights more recent critiques of Christian eschatology and reformulations of the doctrine in light of them. Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.299 Calvin and His Interpreters - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

This seminar examines the contribution and impact of John Calvin on Protestant theologies, approaches to pastoral ministry, and Western understandings of religious freedom. Students read and discuss primary works by Calvin, including Institutes of the Christian Religion, his biblical commentaries, selected sermons, and excerpts from his tracts and treatises. Significant attention is given to conflicting interpretations of Calvin’s thinking: to what degree does his understanding of the doctrine of election, for example, serve to foster fear, religious bigotry, and empire, and to what degree does it support humanization and egalitarianism? Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.302 Reformations of the Atlantic World - Six credits *Profs. Gallardo and Jensen*

Traditionally scholars have studied the Columbian Enterprise and the Protestant Reformation in isolation, thereby failing to grasp the theological and historic connections between these two pivotal events in Western Christendom. To address this shortcoming, this course probes how the “discovery” of the New World shaped the sixteenth-century reformation movements in both Catholic and Protestant Christianity. It explores topics such as Church and Empire, The Black Legend, Globalization, and the Origins of Race. Students study the life and thought of Christopher Columbus, Bartolomé de Las Casas, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and others within a transatlantic context. Prerequisites: TH.100 and TH.104

Theological – Historical Department

TH.305 Christologies and Atonement - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

This course examines various approaches to christology and atonement theory, beginning with the christological debates of the fourth and fifth centuries and the basic approaches to atonement developed through the scholastic period. Particular attention is given to the exploration of the ways theologians have appropriated, rejected, or reconstrued the Chalcedonian formulation and how their understandings of the figure of Jesus Christ have affected both their assessments of the human condition and their understandings of atonement. Readings for this course are drawn from the early creeds of the church, the teachers in the early church, and contemporary authors, particularly feminist and liberationist authors.

Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.313 Approaches to the Doctrine of God - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

Students in this course consider classical, scholastic, Reformed, process, and liberationist models for understanding God. Attention is given to the following topics: divine mystery and the limits of language; the development and impact of trinitarian thinking; reason and revelation; divine attributes; the relationship between divine power and human agency; and the use of female analogies for God. Each student explores his or her own approach to the doctrine of God in relation to Christian ministry. Readings include selections from Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin, Karl Barth, John Cobb, James Cone, and Elizabeth A. Johnson.

Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.315 Queering Theology - Six credits - *Prof. Jensen*

Is theology inherently a queer enterprise? Students explore how Christian faith questions, confirms, and subverts predominant cultural understandings of gender, sexuality, identity, and doctrine. Students attend not only to the contemporary movement(s) of queer theology, but also influential figures throughout history who have critically examined these topics.

TH.321 The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life - Six credits *Prof. Jensen*

This course explores the church's confession of belief "in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life." Students attend to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit as it relates to both the Trinity and the Christian life and grapple with different interpretations and meanings of "life in the Spirit." Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106

TH.325 Theology and Science - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

In this course students study how versions of rationality and reality dominant in the sciences relate to Christian understanding of the nature of knowledge, reason, faith, belief, and truth. Students study the impact on Christian theology of scientific advances from the Enlightenment to the present and the implications of the divide between the social and the natural sciences. They also evaluate current debates over the theological relevance of scientific theories regarding topics such as evolution, cosmology, quantum theory, sociobiology, and genetics. Prerequisite: TH.104.

Theological – Historical Department

TH.331 The Theologies of Kierkegaard and Tillich - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

This seminar focuses on in-depth study of the works of Søren Kierkegaard and Paul Tillich, with particular attention given to the issue of humanity's search for and relationship to God. In the first half of the term students explore Kierkegaard's *Diary of the Seducer*, *Fear and Trembling*, *The Concept of Anxiety*, and *The Sickness Unto Death*, concentrating on Kierkegaard's understanding of the human condition and what takes place on the journey of a human being toward faith. In the second half of the term students consider Tillich's *Systematic Theology* alongside selected sermons by Tillich, analyzing his conception of the nature of human existence, the position of God in relationship to this existence, and the difference it makes to claim one's identity as a Christian. Students are encouraged to set the thought of these thinkers' conversation within the contemporary context, assessing how the understandings of Kierkegaard and Tillich are helpful and unhelpful in developing approaches to pastoral ministry. Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.

TH.359 Reformed Confessions - Six credits *Prof. Jensen*

As a confessional church, the Reformed tradition understands particular statements of faith to be guideposts to its interpretation of Christian faith. This course examines some of the important creeds, confessions, and catechisms of the Reformed traditions and attempts to identify the distinctive features of Reformed theology. The confessional documents are examined in their historical contexts and in their systematic relation to each other. Prerequisite: TH.104 or TH.106.



Interdepartmental

I.123 Sharing Our Faith Traditions - Three credits *Faculty*

This course builds upon the Sharing Our Faith Traditions (SOFT) program, a retreat sponsored by the Multicultural Alliance that brings protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim seminarians together to engage each other around a particular theme related to interfaith dialogue and to explore the richness of each tradition. Scholars from each tradition lecture on the theme of the year. Students conduct worship services, meet in plenary and small groups, and complete written assignments. The retreat ordinarily is scheduled for four days during the first week in January.

I.150 Engaging Midwinter Lectures - Four credits *Prof. Aymer*

The Midwinter Lectures bring important voices of the academy and the church to Austin Seminary from around the nation and even the world. This course invites students to engage these voices by attending and reflecting on the Midwinter Lectures and worship service.

I.310 Senior Capstone Seminar - Six credits *Faculty*

In this seminar students practice the work of integration through engaging components common to topics in theological education. The components include: hermeneutics, tradition, theological analysis, contextual analysis, deepening self-awareness, and ministry activity. The seminar may include both written and performative assignments. The Senior Capstone Seminar is designed to help students explicitly and purposefully integrate their theological education, better preparing them for Christian leadership beyond graduation. The Senior Capstone Seminar also represents an opportunity for students to explore a variety of interests and questions that are relevant to their vocational commitments. Senior Capstone Seminars are team-taught by two professors. One seminar is required of each MDiv student, to be taken in the final year of the program, and, if space permits, a student can elect a second seminar. At least one seminar on proclamation will be offered each year, and there will be a regular offering of a seminar on leadership. Other seminars may be developed by faculty on topics of their own choosing. Capstone Courses are ordinarily limited to students who have completed 120 credits, and preaching capstones are limited to those who have completed CM.236 Introduction to Preaching.

MAMP-CS The MAMP Capstone Seminar - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

In this seminar, taken during the final spring semester, students produce a project which demonstrates competency in some aspect of ministry. This project grows out of mature and critical reflection on the practice of ministry, drawing from the range of theological disciplines. Students evaluate and provide written and oral response to other's projects. Prerequisite: Supervised Practice of Ministry requirement (or concurrent enrollment in SPM). This seminar can be taken no earlier than one's final spring semester of study.

MATS-IS The MATS Integrative Seminar - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

In this seminar students work together and in consultation with the instructor and a designated faculty member in the framing, research, and production of a term project which demonstrates scholarly work and applies expertise garnered through studies in their respective courses of study in the MATS degree program. Students evaluate and provide written and oral responses to others' projects. This seminar can be taken no earlier than one's final spring semester of study.

YMT.001 MAYM: Special Topics - Four credits *Faculty*

This course explores a select topic of timely interest or controversy in youth ministry. Students engage the topic through critical reading, discussion, writing, and practice.

Program in Formation for Ministry

The Program in Formation for Ministry at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary prepares MAMP, MAYM, and MDiv students to minister in a variety of contexts with increased self-awareness and self-understanding. It provides opportunities for field experience guided by trained supervisors, advanced elective courses with field components, and individual vocational counseling. Through this approach to formation, students have vocational guidance and preparation available to them throughout their program of study.

The components of the Program in Formation for Ministry are:

- field placement in Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM); and,
- opportunity to consult with the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies concerning vocational guidance and preparation.

Supervised Practice of Ministry: MAYM Program

MAYM: Youth Ministry Practicum I & II (YMP-I, YMP-II) - Six credits per semester.

In this two-semester practicum, students in the Master of Arts in Youth Ministry degree program reflect upon and integrate their concurrent work as youth ministers, peer learning within their cohort, classroom instruction, and the mentoring of their coach.

All MAYM students participate in a Supervised Practice of Ministry placement during the duration of their enrollment in the MAYM degree program. Placement is ordinarily done in conjunction with CYMT's residency program. MAYM students who are not participants in the CYMT residency program must be engaged in a Supervised Practice of Ministry placement, overseen by the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies, during the duration of their enrollment in the MAYM. SPM placements for MAYM students are ordinarily between 15 and 25 hours per week. The requirements for a supervisor include 5 years of ministerial experience and an MDiv degree or its equivalent.

MAYM students are required to enroll in Youth Ministry Practicum 1 and 2 during their first two semesters. During this period an MAYM student will meet weekly with a ministry coach in their local community who has at least 5 years of ministry experience with children or youth. The coach will also meet regularly with the SPM supervisor. Coaches are ordinarily paired through the CYMT program. If the student does not use CYMT to pair them with a coach, OMFAS will work with the MAYM Director and the Youth Ministry Practicum instructor to identify a suitable coach for the student. The coach must be approved by OMFAS and will submit to training by the practicum instructor. The student will be assessed a fee of \$600 per semester for the first two semesters to pay for costs of ministry coaching.

Program in Formation for Ministry

Supervised Practice of Ministry: MDiv and MAMP: Required Options

Supervised Practice of Ministry is a component of the program in formation for ministry critical for theological education at Austin Seminary. It provides opportunities for students to reflect critically on the practice of ministry and to develop knowledge and skills under the direction of competent supervisors who have been trained and/or certified by the Seminary. All MAMP and MDiv candidates are required to participate in a field assignment in Supervised Practice of Ministry.

SPM placements typically begin after an MDiv student has completed seventy-eight credits in the MDiv program. MAMP students complete forty-two credits before beginning an SPM placement. All students are expected to complete 100-level required courses before enrolling in SPM. Students also participate in SPM colloquies during their placements.

In preparation for an SPM placement, students are required to attend the Ministerial Formation orientation conducted prior to the conclusion of the spring semester of the junior year and the SPM orientation at the beginning of the fall semester of the middler year. MAMP students who will complete the degree program in two years should coordinate their SPM orientation with the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies.

Through SPM orientation and individual consultation with the associate dean, students develop their SPM plan of study. All SPM placements and supervisors are subject to the approval of the associate dean and the academic dean. The work done in SPM is understood to have the same academic value as classroom courses. In order to earn academic credit for SPM, in addition to documentation required by the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies, students must be registered for SPM through the Office of the Registrar.

Required and elective credit in Ministerial Formation may be earned in any of the following ways:

Congregational Ministry

This track prepares students for service in a congregation, according to one of the following patterns:

- Full Time Intensive (ordinarily 10 weeks, June-August following the middler year), 12 credits
- Concurrent Placement (two consecutive semesters, part-time, twelve to fifteen hours per week), taken while enrolled in regular on-campus course work, 6 credits per term; or,
- Year-long Internship (nine to fifteen months, full-time), ordinarily between one's middler and senior year, 12 credits.

Non-Congregational Ministry

This track prepares students for chaplaincy in a variety of settings or ministry other than congregational ministry, according to one of the following patterns:

- Clinical Pastoral Education, 12 credits;
- Institutional Setting (hospice, nursing home, educational institution, or non-profit agency); or,
- Military Chaplaincy (participation in an approved training program).

Non-ordination Track

This track is designed to provide vocational experience for students who are not seeking ordination. The field requirement can be fulfilled by any of the above options.

Dual-degree Track

The field requirement is met through a placement coordinated by the MSSW program at The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work.

Program in Formation for Ministry

Clinical Pastoral Education

Austin Seminary, through various clinical settings, offers Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) as a part of its program of study. In this specialized program, students clarify and increase their understanding of the resources, methods, and meaning of the Christian faith as expressed in pastoral care and develop skills critical for the practice of ministry. This educational experience is clinical in setting and interdisciplinary in character and is conducted under the supervision of a certified CPE supervisor. CPE ordinarily is taken during the middler or senior year (middler standing is prerequisite) for a period of at least ten weeks in the summer, but also may be taken concurrently with other course work. Twelve credits are awarded for a basic unit of clinical pastoral education. A student engaged in a year-long CPE residency also earns twelve credits. A student cannot earn more than twelve credits in a particular CPE setting.

Opportunities for CPE are available in centers accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, including a variety of training centers in the Southwest, in general and specialty hospitals and mental health institutions. Information is available through the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies. Arrangements for CPE are initiated through this office in conversation with the Associate dean.

In order to earn academic credit for CPE, in addition to documentation required by the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies, students must be registered for CPE through the Office of the Registrar.

Supervised Practice of Ministry: MDiv and MAMP Elective Options

Students may elect to engage in further field-based courses after completing SPM requirements. These may include Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and elective SPM placements in a selected aspect of ministry such as pastoral counseling, evangelism, stewardship, church administration, ministry with the elderly, institutional chaplaincy, campus ministry, social action and service, pastoral care, worship, children's work, and youth ministry. Ordinarily, students cannot arrange an elective SPM at the same site in which they fulfilled the SPM requirement. The opportunity to take part in such elective supervised practice of ministry must be arranged in advance through the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies. Ordinarily students are permitted to register for no more than six credits of elective SPM in any given fall, January, or spring term. The total credit earned through required and elective SPM placements, including CPE, shall not exceed thirty-six.

Travel Seminars

Travel seminars at Austin Seminary offer cross-cultural experiences and exposure to religious histories and traditions that are important for students of the Christian story. Visiting locations of historical events significant to the Christian faith gives students insight that expands their horizons and enhances their understanding of the faith. Exposure to various Christian communities makes students more cognizant of the global church. Each seminar, in its distinctive way, provides opportunity for cross-cultural and experiential learning. Students can apply credit for one travel seminar to their degree program. A student desiring to participate in additional travel seminars can do so as an auditor. Students must adhere to deadlines for deposits and payments.

Seminar Descriptions

APCE Conference - Six credits *Prof. Allen*

This course includes attending the annual Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) Conference held in Memphis TN, January 29 - February 1, 2025. The theme for the January 2025 conference is “A Stirring in our Souls: Wrestling with God and Church Toward a More Beloved Community.” Students attend plenary and worship sessions as well as workshops that focus on best practices for Christian Formation across the lifespan. (Gunther funds are not eligible for this course.)

The Church’s Life and Mission in Zambia and Malawi - Six credits *Prof. Greenway*

This travel seminar explores the witness of the Reformed churches in Zambia and Malawi. This seminar includes travel to Lusaka, Zambia, to Justo Mwale Theological College, where students share activities and lectures with Zambian students. It also includes travel to Lilongwe, Malawi, and rural areas of Malawi and eastern Zambia for exposure to the church’s witness in those regions. Finally, the seminar includes travel to Lake Malawi to explore the beauty and wonder of that ecosystem.

Cuba - Six credits *Prof. Aymer*

Based at the Seminario Evangélico de Teología in Matanzas, Cuba, this travel seminar introduces students to the history and culture of Cuba. Students study the churches’ roles and responses to the Cuban Revolution and to more recent historical events. Students learn what it means to read the Bible and do theology within Cuban contexts. Students also spend time with Cuban pastors, seeing ministry in Cuba first hand.

The Lands of the Bible - Six credits *Prof. Jensen*

The purpose of this seminar is to introduce participants to the history and geography of the biblical period. The seminar consists of lectures, readings, visits to sites and museums, and a research paper due at the end of the course. Countries visited may or may not include Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Greece, and Turkey.

Ministry in a Thai Context - Six credits *Prof. P. Helsel*

This course fosters international relationships with the ecumenical church in Thailand in order to better understand the church universal. Students engage ministry and preaching contexts in conversations with Thai theological students and encounter prominent areas of cultural interest. Goals include meeting the church in a minority-Christian context and expanding students' vision beyond what Joseph Kitagawa called the “western captivity of the church.”

Seminar Descriptions, cont...

National Museums and the Bible - Six credits *Prof. Cuéllar*

This travel seminar visits four major national museums with artifacts linked to the Bible. The seminar visits the Museum of the Bible (Washington, DC), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York City, NY), and the British Museum (London, UK). Here students learn how these national museums became centripetal sites for the study of the Bible.

The Pauline Mission - Six credits *Prof. Rigby*

The purpose of this travel seminar is to introduce participants to the history, culture, and geography of the Mediterranean World at the beginning of the Christian era. The seminar consists of lectures, readings, visits to sites and museums, and a research paper. The seminar focuses on the cities of the Pauline mission in Turkey and Greece. Places visited may or may not include Ephesus, Antioch of Pisidia, Pergamum, and Athens.

Theology and Race in South African Contexts - Six credits *Faculty*

This travel seminar to South Africa focuses on learning about the relationship between theology and race in South African contexts. Students meet with faith leaders, academics, and activists who occupy a range of social locations to gain insight on theology. Students also reflect on theology and race at the intersection of monuments, museums, and theological texts and figures.

The Way of St. James: On the Pilgrimage Trail - Six credits *Prof. Lord*

The purpose of this travel seminar is to introduce participants to and walk the way of a major historical Christian pilgrimage trail: The Compostela de Santiago, the Way of St. James. The seminar consists of preparatory meetings and walking, readings, journaling, reflection on the movement of the traveler in community, visits to sites, and hiking the initial portion of the primary French section of the Camino.



Additional Academic Opportunities

Dual-Degree Program in Social Work

Austin Seminary and the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin (UT) have established a dual-degree program of study that provides master's-level students the opportunity to complete requirements for two degrees concurrently: the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW). The program is designed to be completed in four years of full-time study. Upon completion, students receive a degree from each institution. Students must be accepted into both programs independently, meeting each institution's admission criteria. As much as possible, the program of study will be tailored to meet students' individual vocational needs as approved by an oversight committee.

The determination of in-state residency status as it relates to tuition charges at The University of Texas at Austin is the sole discretion of UT. Enrollment in a degree program at Austin Seminary does not qualify one as an in-state resident for tuition purposes at UT.

This program agreement with The University of Texas at Austin provides resources that extend Austin Seminary's current offerings for students with particular interests in non-traditional ministries, including agency-based social service, advocacy, policy-oriented work, and clinical counseling. This program also provides added resources for students planning to serve in more traditional ministry settings as pastors or chaplains, including opportunities for enhancing understanding of, and skills in, the following: negotiating concrete services related to the social welfare system, public advocacy, programming assessment, community organizing, service to organizations that set or influence public and/or ecclesiastical policy, and clinical and community counseling.

This program is also a response to the growing demand for social workers to be sensitive toward and proficient in their understandings of their clients' religious and spiritual lives and also to work with faith-based communities to foster both individual and community well-being as they strive to alleviate critical social problems.

For dual-degree students, the MDiv and MSSW degrees are awarded upon satisfactory completion of all course work required for both degrees. A dual-degree student (MDiv/MSSW) who by May of an academic year has fully satisfied all requirements for the degrees except the second field practicum in the MSSW, and who will complete the practicum as an extended block placement by August of the same year, will be presented to the Seminary Board of Trustees in May with the recommendation that upon completion of the remaining UT/MSSW course work (by August) the MDiv be awarded. This allows a dual-degree student who has completed all MDiv course work by May and who then completes the UT/MSSW field practicum in August to be granted the MDiv degree at the time the MSSW is granted. The student also will be allowed to participate in the Seminary's May commencement exercises prior to his or her August completion.

Note that the Seminary's grant-based financial assistance (e.g., tuition grants, including the tuition grant portion of merit awards) is not transferable from Austin Seminary to The University of Texas at Austin.

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Hispanic Scholars Program

The Hispanic Scholars Program (HSP) offers each summer a two-week program which provides theological students have an opportunity to study in a Hispanic setting with Latino/a peers and professors. Austin Seminary is one of forty ATS-accredited theological schools which sponsor the program.

Courses are offered in both Spanish and English. Students may do their academic work and participate in class discussions in either Spanish or English, but they must be able to read materials both in Spanish and English. Students take one course during the program. Each course includes assignments to be completed prior to the beginning of the program and work that must be completed within two weeks after the end of the program. Each course is valued at six Austin Seminary credits and is transferred from the hosting school to the student's Austin Seminary record.

In addition to registering for the course at Austin Seminary, students must apply and be admitted to the program. Application information is online at www.hispanicscholarsprogram.org/programs/hsp-summer-session, or you may contact Dr. Daisy L. Machado, Director, Hispanic Scholars Program, Inc., 3041 Broadway, New York, New York 10027, (212) 280-1566.

Center for Church Innovation

Austin Seminary students are eligible to take part in the educational offerings of the Center for Church Innovation, an ecumenical program in mission and theological leadership, through their Faith + Justice Fellowship. These courses include both distance learning and an immersive experience in urban ministry in San Francisco, during the January term. For more information, contact the Academic Dean and the Center for Faith and Justice website: <https://faithjustice.net/seminary>

Presbyterian Exchange Program

This program of cross-registration between the ten theological institutions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is designed to enhance the theological education of persons preparing for ministry in the denomination by making available to students the particular strengths of each institution.

Presbyterian students registered in a master's-degree program in one of the ten institutions can take courses at any of the other institutions without payment of additional tuition and fees. Tuition and fees are charged and retained at the school in which a student is enrolled as a degree candidate. Students may spend up to the equivalent of one semester in this program.

Protestant Theological University of the Netherlands

Through a mutual exchange agreement, Austin Seminary students may take one semester of coursework at the Protestant Theological University in the Netherlands. PThU is the primary theological school for Protestant clergy in the Netherlands and hosts a significant number of theological students from other parts of world in a vibrant, ecumenical setting. English is the language of instruction in the exchange program. Austin Seminary tuition costs cover the cost of tuition at PThU. Housing and additional costs are borne by the student. Students interested in taking part in this exchange program should contact the Office of the Academic Dean.

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Goals

The Doctor of Ministry program is designed for persons who hold a ministerial degree from an ATS-accredited seminary and who are actively engaged in the practice of ministry. The program provides ministers the opportunity to increase significantly their competence in areas of their professional interests. In the course of this program students will be expected to:

- demonstrate functional integration of self-understanding, practice of ministry, and theological knowledge;
- demonstrate theological understanding of particular acts of ministry;
- demonstrate a high level of competency in the practice of ministry;
- acquire new skills and develop new resources for the practice of ministry; and,
- identify areas of personal growth in spiritual awareness and moral sensitivity.

Requirements for the Doctor of Ministry Degree

1. Have on file with the registrar complete and official academic transcripts showing graduation with a baccalaureate degree and a master of divinity degree (or its equivalent) from accredited colleges, universities, or theological schools.
2. Complete satisfactorily thirty-six credits of work with at least a 2.67 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. At least twenty-four of the thirty-six credits must be completed at Austin Seminary.
3. Clear all indebtedness to the Seminary by the Wednesday prior to commencement.

Structure of the Program

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree program is composed of two concentrations, Leadership for Public Theology (Concentration One) and Leadership for Wonder: Re-Enchanting the Christian Life (Concentration Two). Upon entering the DMin program, students declare a concentration and take five seminars in that concentration, one per term. Each seminar requires a paper or project appropriate to the seminar's content and related to the student's ministry context.

Seminars are taught in an on-campus, online, or hybrid (i.e., partly on-campus, partly online) format. DMin seminars are offered in January and June each year. Some may be offered in August. Students enroll in one seminar per term.

For each seminar, students will place at least one artifact from the seminar into their integrative portfolio, together with a reflection on that artifact. After completing course work in the chosen concentration, the student will complete the portfolio by designing and creating an integrative project drawing on and extending themes from the seminars and applying them to a specific ministry context.

This rhythm of study and reflection through the seminars, combined with papers written and projects carried out in the student's ministry context, provides a community of peers as well as an integration of theory and practice that serves to deepen skills and knowledge for ministry.

Additional information about the program is available in the *DMin Student Handbook* provided to students upon matriculation.

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Concentration One - Leadership for Public Theology

This concentration focuses on reclaiming the presence of the church at the intersection of the Good News and the Common Good. Seminar work includes instruction by Austin Seminary faculty in collaboration with practitioners in fields such as the justice system, immigration policy and practice, public health, etc. Seminars will be offered on the following topics:

- DMin.01 Religion in American Life: The United States and the Bible
- DMin.02 Power: Creation, Creatures, and Creation Spiritualities
- DMin.03 Justice
- DMin.04 Freedom (features travel to the Texas-Mexico borderlands)
- DMin.05 Preaching and Communication

Course Offerings for January 2025 Public Theology Track:

DMin.04 Freedom: Travel Seminar to the Borderlands - Six credits *Prof. Cuéllar*

Concentration Two - Leadership for Wonder: Re-enchanting the Christian Life

This concentration focuses on the “re-enchantment” of theology and Christian witness with a sense of wonder and awe, even as they exist in a technological, consumer-driven age that often shuns the practices of wonder and attentiveness. Seminars will be offered on the following topics:

- DMin.07 Wonder and the Mind: Living Thoughtfully
- DMin.08 Wonder and the Body: Living Justly
- DMin.09 Wonder and Relationships: Living with Others
- DMin.10 Wonder and the Soul: Living Before God
- DMin.11 Creativity and Imagination: Travel Seminar to Ghost Ranch

Course Offerings for January 2025 Wonder Track:

DMin.11 Creativity and Imagination: Travel Seminar to Ghost Ranch - Six credits *Prof. Silva-McCormick*

DMin.11 Creativity and Imagination: Travel Seminar, San Anselmo, CA - Six credits *Prof. Lord*

The Integrative Portfolio

Over the course of study in their chosen concentration, students will compile an integrative portfolio of their work. Components of the portfolio are artifacts, reflections, the integrative project, and assessments of the student’s work in individual seminars, the integrative project, and the curriculum as a whole.

The Integrative Project

Each candidate will design and execute an integrative project that serves as the capstone of the candidate’s work.

During the final seminar of one’s chosen concentration, the candidate consults with the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies to identify and describe an integrative project idea. The associate dean assigns a faculty reader who guides the candidate through the creation and approval of a project proposal and the completion of the project.

The integrative project is a substantive piece of work that draws on what the candidate has learned in seminars and engages in exploration of a theme as it relates to the candidate’s ministry context. It may be a written thesis, a collection of shorter works closely connected to a research issue or question, a mixed-media presentation, or other form as described in the project proposal and approved by the candidate’s faculty reader and the academic dean.

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

The Integrative Project, cont...

When the candidate and faculty reader agree that the integrative project is complete, the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies will schedule an assessment of the student's integrative portfolio, with special attention to the integrative project. The assessment will be conducted by the faculty reader with the assistance of the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies. Satisfactory completion of the integrative project and the assessment is required for the degree.

Auditing Seminars

Doctor of Ministry graduates may return to audit a DMin seminar. Permission of the instructor is required. Auditors are required to complete all assigned readings and may participate fully in class discussions. An auditor may choose to undertake a project with the understanding that it will not be supervised or evaluated. The standard Seminary audit fee applies.

Consultation and Advancement to Candidacy

Students who satisfactorily complete all five seminars in their chosen concentration are eligible for Advancement to candidacy for the degree. Students must demonstrate the capacity for doctoral-level work, and this demonstration is a prerequisite for continuation in the program. Advancement to candidacy is based on the following criteria:

- satisfactory academic performance in three seminars;
- capacity for critical self-awareness;
- capacity to reflect critically on the practice of ministry; and
- overall readiness to succeed in the program.

Following completion of each seminar taken, each instructor makes a recommendation to the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies concerning each student's advancement to candidacy. At the completion of the final seminar, the associate dean reviews the student's academic performance and may, as needed, invite instructors or others to participate in the review. A recommendation regarding a student's advancement to candidacy is then referred to the academic dean who presents it to the faculty in executive session for a final decision. A student not advanced to candidacy cannot continue in the program and must withdraw or will be dismissed. Students must be advanced to candidacy before beginning work on the integrative project.

Costs

Fees are payable at registration for each term. There is a nonrefundable basic entry fee of \$300. In addition, tuition of \$2,120 per seminar is charged for all courses, including the final project, each valued at six credits. A travel seminar fee for room and board will be charged in addition to tuition for the term in which it is taken. The travel seminar fee may fluctuate depending on the location of the seminar; the fee is communicated by the Office for Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies prior to registration.

When the curricular base for a unit of study is completed at another institution, a fee equal to one-half the cost of a seminar is charged for the services of the Austin Seminary faculty member appointed to supervise the design of the project and to evaluate it.

A continuation fee of \$150 is assessed for each term in which a Doctor of Ministry student is not registered for course work. This includes terms in which a student is working with an approved extension. This fee is not assessed of a DMin student on an approved leave of absence or during the twenty-four months allotted for the integrative project.

A graduation fee of \$400 is assessed of each candidate prior to the commencement at which the degree is conferred. This non-refundable fee covers graduation expenses, the style editor for the final project, and preservation of the project through ProQuest.

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Dismissal or Suspension

The faculty may suspend or dismiss a Doctor of Ministry student for reasons including, but not limited to, unsatisfactory academic performance, academic dishonesty, or conduct unbecoming to Christian community. All such actions shall be recorded in the faculty minutes with a statement of the reason(s). A student dismissed prior to the completion of a Doctor of Ministry course will receive a grade of *Q* or *F* in the course(s) in which they are enrolled, depending on the circumstances of the dismissal.

Extensions

A student may submit a request to the academic dean (with a copy to the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies) for an extension to the deadline for completing work in a particular DMin course. The request must be made before the work for the course is due. Extensions are granted only for very special cases, such as sickness, family emergencies, or other unusual circumstances, but not for requests issuing from the normal pressures of academic life. If the request for an extension is granted, the academic dean will notify the student and the professor in writing.

The duration of an extension shall be for no more than three weeks beyond the due date for final course work. A grade of *I* (for Incomplete) is recorded when an extension is granted by the academic dean. A grade of *I* becomes a grade of *F* if the work is not completed by the date determined by the academic dean. If a professor does not submit a final course grade for a student and the student has neither completed the requirements for the course nor been granted an extension by the academic dean, a grade of *F* shall be posted. In this instance, the *F* is not remediable.

Grading System

All courses in the DMin program, with the exception of the integrative project, are graded by letter grade. A student receiving a grade of B- or higher will pass the course. A grade of C+ or lower does not demonstrate doctoral-level proficiency and no credit will be counted toward degree requirements. A student who earns two course grades below B- will be liable for dismissal from the program by the faculty. A student whose cumulative grade point average falls below B- (2.67 on a 4.0 scale) also will be liable for dismissal by faculty. The integrative project is graded pass/fail. In addition to course grades, written evaluations are given to the student and become part of their permanent file.

Letter Grade System

A	4.00 grade points per credit	C+	2.33 grade points per credit
A-	3.67 grade points per credit	C	2.00 grade points per credit
B+	3.33 grade points per credit	C-	1.67 grade points per credit
B	3.00 grade points per credit	D	1.00 grade point per credit
B-	2.67 grade points per credit	F	0.00 grade points per credit

Note: A course in which a student earns a C+ or lower will not be counted toward DMin degree requirements.

Pass/Fail System

- P Satisfactory academic performance. No grade points.
- F Unsatisfactory academic performance. No grade points.

The following grades are given in special situations:

- I Incomplete. The academic work is not complete for reasons beyond the student's control; requires the approval of the academic dean. A grade of *I* becomes a grade of *F* if the work is not completed by the date determined by the academic dean.
- Q Dropped (quit) course. Requires approval of the academic dean.
- W Withdrew from seminary.

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Leave of Absence

A leave of absence ordinarily is made only for reasons of health, a change in ministry setting, or vocational uncertainties. Such a request is addressed in writing to the academic dean, who, after consultation with the student and the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies, considers the recommendation and presents it to the faculty in executive session for approval. A leave of absence is granted for a particular period, not to exceed eighteen months. During an approved leave of absence, a DMin student is not charged a continuation fee.

Probation

A student in the DMin program will be placed on academic probation if they receive a grade of C+ or lower, signifying unsatisfactory academic performance, for any seminar in which they are enrolled. The student can be removed from academic probation by receiving a grade of B- or higher in a seminar taken during the following DMin term.

A student also will be placed on academic probation for failing to maintain satisfactory progress in the DMin program as outlined in the section Satisfactory Progress. When probation is the result of failing to enroll in course work for two consecutive DMin terms, the student can be removed from probation by enrolling in a seminar in the next DMin term subsequent to being placed on probation and completing, with a grade of B- or higher, the course work undertaken during that term.

A student may be placed on nonacademic probation or dismissed from the program by the faculty for violating the Seminary's Student Code of Conduct, including engaging in academic dishonesty.

A student placed on probation is liable for dismissal from the program by the faculty, as is a DMin student not removed from probation within a period of one academic year.

Residency Requirements

Doctor of Ministry seminars are taught in January and June in weeks designated as residence terms. Some may occasionally be taught in August. Seminars will be either one or two weeks in length and may be offered online, or in hybrid format (one week online, one week in residence). The Doctor of Ministry program is designed to be completed in four years and ordinarily is completed within six years.

Satisfactory Progress

A student is judged to be making satisfactory progress in the Doctor of Ministry degree program by:

1. being in residence (enrolled in a DMin course) at least once every twelve months, except when writing the final project;
2. maintaining a valid ministerial context in which to do doctoral research projects, and notifying the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies of any changes in ministry context;
3. passing all courses within their deadlines;
4. being advanced to candidacy; and,
5. progressing through the program on a schedule that allows for the timely completion of degree requirements.

Candidates working on the integrative project must submit written evidence of progress on their projects in a timely manner, as agreed upon with their faculty reader(s) and in accordance with their written timelines. Projects for which no written work has been submitted within twelve months ordinarily will be considered unsatisfactory unless otherwise approved by the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies. Any student may be asked to withdraw from the Doctor of Ministry program if satisfactory progress is not being made by the student on the integrative project.

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Style Editor

All integrative projects are proofread by a style editor. After the assessment of the student's portfolio and project, and after all revisions in the project file have been approved by the faculty reader, the candidate submits a complete copy of the integrative project to the Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies. The style editor then proofreads for correct form, style, and grammar.

Style Guide

The Chicago Manual of Style (17th Edition) is the Seminary's preferred style guide and resource for student writing assignments. It is available online to all students and faculty free of charge. A link to this resource is available in the Research and Writing section of the Resource Boards in MyCampus.

Transfer of Credit

DMin students who have previously earned credit for doctoral-level academic work (beyond the basic theological degree) that includes study, practice of ministry, and evaluation may apply for credit for this work. All requests for transfer of credit should be directed to the Office of the Academic Dean. Ordinarily, a student can transfer no more than two courses into the DMin program. No credit will be given for academic work completed more than five years prior to a student's matriculation.

Withdrawal from The Seminary

Should a student enrolled in the DMin degree program at Austin Seminary decide to withdraw from the Seminary, the student shall 1) make an appointment with the associate dean of ministerial formation and advanced studies, and 2) notify the president of the Seminary in writing indicating the reason for withdrawal and providing an effective date. The president will report this information to the faculty at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The student's academic record will reflect the date of withdrawal. If a student withdraws while on academic or non-academic probation, or while on an involuntary leave of absence, the transcript will reflect this status.



Certificate in Ministry Program

General Information

The Certificate in Ministry (CIM) is a program for congregational leaders and others seeking substantive theological education but who are not planning to pursue study in a degree program. The CIM is designed to equip Christian leaders with a foundation in Bible, theology, preaching, and the pastoral arts. Persons seeking theological preparation for congregational leadership or wishing to enrich their personal theological understanding will be well served by the CIM. Additionally, the CIM may meet presbytery requirements for preparation of ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and may be helpful preparation for leadership in other Christian traditions.

In order to receive the Certificate, students must satisfactorily complete seven (7) courses within four years. However, students may enroll in as many courses as they choose and in any order. Students cannot miss more than two consecutive terms without reapplication to the program.

Certificate in Ministry courses are offered in ten-week sessions, three sessions per year, two courses per session. Students may enroll in one or both courses taught in each session. Courses in the CIM program may be added no later than one week after a term has begun. A full refund or credit toward a future course is given for a course dropped within the first three weeks of the term. Thereafter, no refund is available. The majority of the program is taught online. Two courses, CIM.o3 Worship and Preaching, and CIM.o4 Christian Education, are hybrid courses that require one weekend of on-campus instruction in addition to the online components. Typical courses include video lectures, online discussion, written papers, and responses to readings. Courses are presented in an asynchronous manner, meaning that they do not require simultaneous participation of the students and instructor. Courses are self-paced with assignments and schedules set by each instructor. Course materials are available online to students at all times. There are no prerequisites to CIM courses. Students are allowed to audit one certificate course per year for the application fee of \$25. Thereafter, full tuition must be paid.

A student may transfer credit from a certificate program at another institution with approval of the Office of Lifelong Learning. For consideration, students must supply both the syllabus and evidence of satisfactory completion of the course for which they seek transfer credit.

Students admitted to the CIM program are not eligible to enroll in master's-level courses, except by application and admission to those programs as described in this Catalogue. Students who have been inactive for two years or more are considered to be dismissed from their program.

Technical Requirements

CIM courses are taught online through pre-recorded lectures housed in and accessed through the Austin Seminary MyLearning platform. Technical requirements include: computer with internet connectivity capable of streaming video and audio; speakers or audio capability; Internet browser (supported browsers include the current versions of Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, any mobile browser); Flash or HTML5 capability; word processing software; Adobe Acrobat Reader.



Certificate in Ministry Program

Courses

CIM.01 Church History

This course surveys the development of Christianity from the earliest communities established by the apostles through the contemporary era. Attention is given to critical turning points for Christianity in relation to the state, development of doctrine, institutional changes, spiritual ideals, and practices of worship.

CIM.02 Theology

In this course, students explore major teachings (“doctrines”) of the Christian faith and why they matter not only to Christian believers and church communities, but to the healing of the world. Particular attention is given to learning theological vocabulary and to developing the capacity for students to talk about doctrines themselves, so they will be prepared to teach, preach, and assist others in reflecting theologically in the context of their ministries.

CIM.03 Worship and Preaching

The Christian church is a community at worship. In this course, students explore the historical roots, theology, and practice of Christian worship. Students learn the basic components of the Lord’s Day service, including sacraments, and design services for weekly worship, weddings, and funerals. Included is a basic introduction to preaching within the context of worship. This is a blended course, with online components and face-to-face interactions that include performative practice. Students are required to attend one weekend workshop on the Austin Seminary campus.

CIM.04 Christian Education

This course provides a theological and practical vision for the church’s ministry of education. Students explore theories of teaching and learning, alternate approaches for teaching, and strategies for organizing the ministry of education in congregations. The course is appropriate for pastors, Christian education directors, and teachers who wish to improve their craft. This is a blended course, with online components and face-to-face interactions. Students are required to attend one weekend workshop on the Austin Seminary campus.

CIM.05 Pastoral Care

This course is designed to introduce students to the practice of pastoral care. It explores pastoral care as it has evolved from and been implemented within the context of the Christian faith community. Attention is given to learning and developing caring skills and understanding our role as caregivers in the life of the church. Attention also is given to the ways pastoral care both shapes and is shaped by pastoral leadership in the various aspects of ministry in the church.

CIM.06 PC(USA) Polity

This course is designed to orient students to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and especially to the *Book of Order*. Students learn the structure and content of the four sections of the *Book of Order* and explore polity as a tool for effective ministry. The course also offers exposure to basic parliamentary procedure and acquaints students with the role of moderator in planning and managing session meetings.

CIM.07 Ethics

This course introduces students to topics, themes, and problems in Christian ethics. These may include moral virtue and character, the Bible and Christian ethics, moral relativism, sexuality and marriage, and economic justice.

Certificate in Ministry

CIM.o8 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

This course exposes students to the wide array of literature in the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), as they learn about the historical and literary circumstances out of which the writing arose. As the course moves through the various sections of the Hebrew Scriptures—Torah, Prophets, and Writings—assigned readings discuss both the history and the theology of the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings; lectures highlight major themes and examine particular texts; student discussions explore questions of interpretation.

CIM.o9 Introduction to the New Testament

This course provides an overview of the New Testament to assist students in their teaching, preaching, and service in the church. Particular attention is given to the Gospels, major Pauline writings, and Revelation. Through lectures and assigned readings, students learn key concepts and themes while exploring the historical and cultural contexts that shape these texts.

Additional information about the Certificate in Ministry Program is available from the Seminary's Office of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies.



Programa Certificado en Ministerio en Español

Información General

El Certificado en Ministerio en Español (CEM) es un programa para líderes de iglesia y congregación que buscan profundizar su conocimiento en educación teológica, sin realizar estudios a nivel de licenciatura o de maestría. El CEM está diseñado para equipar a los líderes cristianos con una base bíblica en teología, predicación y artes pastorales. Personas que buscan la preparación teológica para liderazgo congregacional o que deseen enriquecer su comprensión teológica personal, se beneficiarán de estos cursos. Una descripción más amplia del programa se puede encontrar en la sección de Programas de Estudio de este catálogo. Además, el CEM puede cumplir con los requisitos del presbiterio para la preparación de los ancianos gobernantes encargados de servicio pastoral en la Iglesia Presbiteriana (EE.UU.); igualmente puede ser de gran utilidad para la preparación de liderazgo en otras tradiciones cristianas.

Los estudiantes deben completar satisfactoriamente un total de seis (6) cursos para obtener el certificado final. Sin embargo, los estudiantes pueden inscribirse en tantos cursos como quieran, y en cualquier orden. Aquellos alumnos que buscan completar el certificado deberán tomar todos los siete cursos dentro de un período no mayor de cuatro años. Los estudiantes tampoco pueden faltar más de dos períodos consecutivos, si desean permanecer en el programa.

Los cursos del CEM se ofrecen completamente en Español, en sesiones de diez semanas, tres sesiones por año. Los estudiantes pueden inscribirse en uno o dos cursos que se imparten en cada sesión. Los cursos en el programa del CEM pueden agregarse no más de una semana después de que el término académico haya comenzado. Un reembolso completo o crédito para aplicarse a un curso futuro se puede otorgar por un curso que se haya abandonado, siempre que sea durante las primeras tres semanas del término. Después de esto, no habrá reembolso. No hay requisitos previos para tomar los cursos del CEM. Los estudiantes están autorizados para ser oyentes en un curso por certificado al año con el pago de la aplicación de \$25. Después de esto, debe hacerse un pago completo del curso.

Un estudiante puede transferir créditos de un programa de certificado a otro, con la debida aprobación de la Oficina de Formación Ministerial y de Estudios Avanzados. Para que esta transferencia de crédito sea posible, el estudiante deberá suministrar el plan de estudios y proporcionar evidencia de la terminación satisfactoria del curso.

Los estudiantes admitidos al programa de CEM que deseen inscribirse en los cursos de Alto Nivel de maestría, descritos en este catálogo, deben realizar el proceso de aplicación y admisión para esos programas, de manera separado del CEM.

Requisitos Técnicos

Los cursos del CEM, se imparten en línea a través de conferencias pregrabadas, a los que los estudiantes pueden acceder a través del MyLearning del Seminario Presbiteriano para los estudiantes. Los requisitos técnicos para el acceso incluyen: PC o tableta con conectividad a Internet con capacidad de vídeo y audio; altavoces o capacidad de audio; navegador de Internet (navegadores soportados incluyen: Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, en cualquier navegador móvil); capacidad de Flash o HTML5; software de procesamiento de textos; Lector Adobe Acrobat.

Cursos

CEM.12 El Antiguo Testamento y la Exegesis - *Prof. Cuéllar*

Este curso brinda una visión panorámica del Antiguo Testamento (AT). Los grandes temas son los siguientes: La Crítica Bíblica Moderna del AT, el Pentateuco, los Profetas, los Escritos. De carácter más general, el curso dar a conocer al estudiante el origen, proceso de composición, las características literarias y redacción final del Antiguo Testamento. Otros elementos que dan contenido al curso son los varios métodos de la interpretación bíblica y la aplicación de textos bíblicos a varios contextos pastorales.

CEM.13 El Nuevo Testamento y la Exegesis - *Faculty*

Este curso explora una visión panorámica del Nuevo Testamento. Después de una introducción al mundo del Nuevo Testamento, tanto judío como greco-romano, enfocaremos en los grandes géneros del texto, incluso los cuatro evangelios, Hechos, las cartas paulinas, las epístolas generales y el Libro de Apocalipsis. En cada género, estudiaremos métodos de exegesis y hermenéutica, o sea, la interpretación del Nuevo Testamento, tanto en su contexto original como para entendimiento moderno, especialmente para la vida de fe y ministerio Latino/a.

CEM.14 Teología y Ética - *Prof. Puig-Jordan*

El curso está diseñado para preparar a líderes de las iglesias pastoral y teológicamente. La primera parte ofrecerá un acercamiento ecuménico y crítico a la labor teológica. Se abordarán temas relevantes para la teología sistemática, a la vez que analizamos textos teológicos importantes en la historia del pensamiento cristiano de los siglos XX y XXI. En la segunda parte se ofrecerá una introducción a la Ética cristiana y bíblica. Esta parte abordará dilemas morales y éticos que desafían la reflexión teológica cristiana en la actualidad. El curso ha sido diseñado desde una perspectiva ecuménica y pastoral, de manera que nos desafíe a aprender en un ambiente diverso y útil para nuestras comunidades cristianas.

CEM.15 Cuidado Pastoral - *Faculty*

Este curso introduce a los estudiantes a la práctica del cuidado pastoral. Énfasis es dado a pensar sobre la atención pastoral en el contexto de las comunidades de fe y a desarrollar la evaluación básica y habilidades relacionadas con preocupaciones y problemas humanos comunes de cuidado. También se presta atención a cómo el cuidado pastoral fiel y competente informa y es informado por un liderazgo pastoral de calidad.

CEM.16 Predicación - *Faculty*

Los estudiantes adquieren los conocimientos básicos de la predicación, utilizando la homilética para comunicar el evangelio. Esto es fortalecido a través de elementos como la preparación del sermón, su estructura y la formulación de sermones expositivos con un enfoque en ilustraciones y aplicación. Este curso ayudara al alumno a entender lo que es un sermón bíblico y a vencer los retos que enfrenta el predicador.

CEM.17 Gobierno de la Iglesia Presbiteriana - *Faculty*

Este curso intenta orientar al estudiante acerca de la Constitución de la Iglesia Presbiteriana (EE.UU.). El estudiante aprende la estructura y contenido de las cuatro partes del Libro de Orden y como el gobierno de la iglesia sirve como una herramienta eficaz para el ministerio. También se ofrece un entendimiento básico del proceso parlamentario para los que serán moderadores, planificadores y facilitadores de reuniones de concilios.

CEM.18 Evangelismo y Misiones - *Faculty*

Los estudiantes aprenderán principios bíblicos básicos sobre el evangelismo y misiones, de manera que la iglesia pueda llevar a cabo la tarea que Dios le dio de alcanzar, ir y hacer discípulos y enseñarles discipulado hasta alcanzar la madurez en Cristo.

CEM.19 Interpretación Bíblica - *Faculty*

A través de esta clase, los alumnos exploran una introducción a los métodos básicos de estudio bíblico y las reglas de interpretación, con especial énfasis en la comprensión de la scriptura como la Palabra de Dios, así como en el desarrollo de aptitudes prácticas hermenéuticas.



Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning at Austin Seminary

The Center for Lifelong Learning (LLL) is a branch of Austin Seminary designed to meet the needs of two main groups: 1) people who have a hunger for theological education but do not desire a theological degree, and 2) people who have theological degrees and are looking for continuing education. In short, LLL exists to serve everyone! Our offerings are shaped around four main principles:

- Race - the prevailing theological issue in the West
- Place - our understanding of land and location
- Grace - freely given and received for all
- Space - our relationship with our neighbors

Our Center for Lifelong Learning creates real-time responses to learning needs among clergy and churches, drawing from the Seminary faculty and others with wisdom and knowledge. We host signature learning cohorts from pastors doing public theology to Latinas growing in Christian leadership to self-designed groups for clergy renewal. Our Center for Congregational Innovation develops congregational initiatives to support churches dealing with the changing landscape of ministry. The schedule of current offerings is available on the Seminary's website at www.austinseminary.edu/lifelong-learning.

Clergy Cohort Programs

Facilitating the development of supportive peer communities.

- **Grants: The College of Pastoral Leaders** makes two-year grants of \$10,000 to self-selected groups of pastors so they may pursue their own self-designed program for renewal, vitality, and pastoral excellence. **Latinx Leadership Renewal** grants are one-year grants of \$3,500 awarded to leaders of Latinx churches for renewal and refreshment. Applications available online mid-May each year.

Programas en Español

Strengthening Latinx Christian leaders in Texas and around the world.

- **Instituto de Maria y Marta** develops and equips Hispanic women for the sake of the church, the community, and the world. Its signature offering, *Liderazgo Cristiano/Christian Leadership for Hispanic Women*, is a two-year program taught entirely in Spanish that includes courses on Bible and theology, women's identity, and leadership.

Congregational Initiatives

Partnering with congregations to stay rooted in tradition, dream for the future, and live fully in the present.

- **The 787 Collective** is a network of diverse congregations, communities, and leaders dedicated to authentic and faithful connection with and among young adults. The Collective is open to all who are passionate about the ongoing spiritual formation of young adults. www.787collective.org
- **Houses of Hope** is an initiative for small-town and rural churches practicing discernment, gratitude, and forgiveness. Rooted in storytelling and shared experiences, the work is to discover the next most faithful step toward hope for individuals, congregations, and their communities. www.ourhousesofhope.org

Workshops

Learning new ideas and generative practices in community online and in person. Workshops range from 1/2 day to multi-day affairs:

- Just-in-time online and in-person workshop events developed in response to emergent needs and the changing landscape of our times.
- Online multi-week courses that have live, facilitated sessions and asynchronous content. Available to individuals and small, private groups.
- Events for Christian Educators, leaders of the Horizons Bible Study, and youth ministers.
- Workshops by partners like 1001 Worshipping Communities, PC(USA) Board of Pensions, and Lake Institute on Faith and Giving.
- Partnered events with Undocumented Stories, an educational outreach that seeks to heal discrimination against immigrants through storytelling. <https://www.theundocumentedstories.org>
- Writing and storytelling workshops on topics relevant to religious leadership.
- Innovative Practice workshops, including art, music, contemplation, and other creative explorations.
- Interdisciplinary workshops for pastors, counselors, social workers, and other professionals to address spiritual dimensions of the human condition such as disability, loss, and mental health or illness.

Policies and General Information

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is essential to the spirit of Christian community in a seminary environment. Such integrity is requisite to productive collegiality among students and faculty as well as for genuine and creative learning. All members of Austin Seminary are expected to practice academic honesty and to hold one another faithful to this mark of scholarly inquiry. No form of cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will be tolerated. Students who disregard the basic requirements of academic honesty by any such acts are liable to course failure and dismissal from the Seminary.

Modern scholarship in most fields rests upon the work of many individuals, depends upon a great body of common knowledge, and is highly dependent upon the achievements of people who are no longer credited with them individually. Nevertheless, research work, such as that represented by essays, projects, and term papers, is expected to acknowledge indebtedness to the published work of others, as well as to any unpublished sources.

When written work is submitted under an individual's name, it is implied that the ideas, form of expression, and supporting arguments are one's own, unless by footnote indebtedness to another for an idea, an argument, or verbiage is acknowledged.

It is incumbent upon every writer to acknowledge indebtedness fully, in order to assist the reader to pursue the matter further, and in order to make clear the writer's own sense of obligation to others.

There are various forms of indebtedness in scholarly writing. General indebtedness can be acknowledged in a prefatory note, in the bibliography attached to the work, or in the body of the essay.

Particular indebtedness for materials such as quotations, phrases, ideas, and sentences that originated with someone other than the essayist must be indicated in footnotes. Acknowledgment of indebtedness should disclose the exact source of the material adduced.

All essays should be considered incomplete until a full bibliography of all the sources used has been attached, including unpublished sources such as a professor's lecture, or an unpublished essay by the author or by someone else. All sources referred to in footnotes should be listed in the bibliography.

Therefore, when a student at Austin Seminary submits an essay, it will be understood that the paper, apart from the obligations indicated, is presented as the student's own work and has been written with full recognition of the above standards.

The Chicago Manual of Style (17th Edition) should be used to ensure that footnotes, bibliographies, etc., are in adequate form to acknowledge all indebtedness to the work of others. Faculty and students are referred to *The Chicago Manual of Style* section titled "The Author's Responsibilities" for information on avoiding charges of plagiarism, and to "Section 14, Documentation I: Basic Patterns" for instruction on proper citation. *The Chicago Manual of Style Online* is available to all faculty and students free of charge. A link to this resource is available in the Library Quick Links on the Resource Page in MyCampus.

Academic dishonesty also includes the unacknowledged use of one's own work in two different contexts (self-plagiarism). Students may not submit identical assignments for two different courses. Students may adapt, revise, and edit previously submitted assignments for another course, but if they choose to do so must: 1) seek approval from the professors of both courses and 2) make significant revisions in the original assignment so that the second submission differs substantively from the original submission.

Instances of academic dishonesty and plagiarism disrupt the spirit of Christian community in a seminary environment. In cases in which the professor has concluded that academic dishonesty has occurred:

1. The professor will discuss the incident with the student and take measures appropriate to the nature of the assignment and course.
2. The professor will submit a written report, together with a copy of the student's work in question, to the Office of the Academic Dean and to the registrar. The academic dean will provide the student with an opportunity to view the professor's report and to respond in writing.

Policies and General Information

Upon the first incident of academic dishonesty, the academic dean, at his or her discretion, may refer the student to the Student Academic Standing Committee, which will make a recommendation to the academic dean and the faculty regarding that student's continuance at or dismissal from the Seminary.

3. A subsequent incident of academic dishonesty will result in an additional written report, including an opportunity for the student to respond, and automatic referral to the Student Academic Standing Committee, which will make a recommendation to the academic dean and the faculty regarding that student's continuance at or dismissal from the Seminary.

It is the aim and hope of the Seminary that an atmosphere of respect for one another and of commitment to disciplined inquiry will prevail and constructively guide personal and professional development.

Disability Accommodation Policy

Austin Seminary does not discriminate against students with conditions that may require disability accommodation. The Seminary prohibits harassment or retaliation against any individual for requesting an accommodation or for filing a complaint related to disability discrimination or failure to accommodate. The Seminary will attempt to make all reasonable arrangements necessary to ensure that students with disabilities are able to attend class, study, and live at the Seminary.

Disabilities that may require accommodation include but are not limited to the following: attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities, psychological disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, visual impairments, mobility impairments, hearing impairments, other health and chronic medical disabilities, and/or temporary disabilities.

Designated Section 504 Coordinator

The Seminary's designated Section 504 Coordinator who is responsible for administering this policy is Dr. Margaret Aymer, academic dean, Trull Administration Building, second floor, 100 East 27th Street, Austin, Texas, 78705, 512-404-4821, dean@austinseminary.edu.

Procedure for Requesting a Reasonable Accommodation

Students seeking disability accommodation on the basis of a diagnosed disability must submit to the Section 504 Coordinator a written request regarding the need for an accommodation. This written request should include documentation from the student's treating health care provider that verifies the student's eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/disability/index.html), the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, (www.ada.gov), or the ADA Amendments Act. (http://www.eeoc.gov/ada/amendments_notice.html). The written request should not disclose the student's diagnosis or medical condition. It should address proposed accommodations that will address the student's needs.

The Seminary reserves the right to request additional documentation if the initial documentation the individual provides is incomplete or inadequate to determine the need for accommodations. The Seminary will keep all medical-related information confidential (unless disclosure is necessary for business-related purposes) and will retain such information in the MyCampus system.

Accommodations are handled on a case-by-case basis. Reasonable accommodation can be made only after the written request and the written statement have been filed with the Section 504 Coordinator. The following procedure should be utilized to address complaints of disability discrimination, retaliation, harassment, or failure to provide a reasonable accommodation: any aggrieved individual may file a complaint in writing, containing the name and address of the person filing the complaint and describing the discriminatory act. The complaint shall be filed in the Office of the Academic Dean within 30 days after the complainant becomes aware of the allegedly discriminatory act. Should the Section 504 Coordinator be a party to the complaint, the complaint should be filed with the dean of students.

Policies and General Information

Dismissal

The faculty may suspend or dismiss any student for reasons including, but not limited to, unsatisfactory academic performance, academic dishonesty, or conduct unbecoming to Christian community. All such actions shall be recorded in the faculty minutes with a statement of the reason(s). A student dismissed prior to the completion of an academic term will receive a grade of *Q* or *F* in the course(s) in which they are enrolled, depending on the circumstances of the dismissal. If a student is dismissed while on academic or nonacademic probation, or while on an involuntary leave of absence, the student's transcript will reflect this status.

Drug Abuse and Prevention Counseling Policy

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in its concern for the growth, equipment, and maturation of students, makes counseling services for students available when such services are indicated. The Seminary identifies personnel and institutions that provide such services. It also provides limited funds to students to subsidize the cost of services of physicians, therapists, and counselors doing substance abuse counseling, treatment, and prevention. The Seminary's full policy on drug abuse and prevention counseling can be found in the *Student Handbook*.

Grade Appeals: Evaluation of Students' Work

The process of grading is essentially a private matter between individual students and instructors, ruled by principles of academic proficiency, professionalism, and confidentiality. Grading a student's work is the responsibility and prerogative of the instructor and, in principle, any alteration in a student's grade rests in the discretion of the instructor. As people responsible for their own quality education and as mature participants in the evaluation process, students are encouraged to discuss course grades and the multiple factors supporting the evaluation with the instructor(s).

Grade Appeals: Appeal to the Instructor

If a student has a question about a final course grade received, the student is expected to contact the instructor directly and within fourteen days from the date posted on the student's grade report. A student has the right to ask an instructor to review the student's work (copies of which the student shall provide), and the professor has an obligation to explain the grounds upon which the grade was rendered, enlisting the opinion of another faculty member when appropriate. Ordinarily the professor shall respond to the appeal in writing no more than fourteen days after receiving the student's written request. Should an appeal to the instructor result in a changed grade, the instructor shall complete and submit to the academic dean an *Update of Student Academic Record form*.

Grade Appeals: Appeal to the Academic Dean

In the event that the appeal to the professor has failed to resolve the matter, the student may immediately submit a formal appeal in writing to the academic dean, using the *Grade Appeal* form (available in the *Student Handbook* and in the dean's office). If the grade being appealed is a passing course grade, the appeal process ends with the decision of the academic dean.

To be considered, appeals to the academic dean must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Instructor violated the terms of the syllabus.
- Instructor made an error in calculating or recording a grade.
- Instructor violated a Seminary policy when they gave assignments, administered exams, or assigned grades.

Policies and General Information

- Instructor applied an inconsistent grading standard across students.
- Instructor did not allow the student to complete assignments or exams missed before the student added the course.
- Instructor violated a written agreement with the student.

The following supporting documentation is required (unless otherwise noted):

- explanation of what occurred and how the criteria previously noted apply to the situation;
- correspondence from instructor indicating that the appeal has been denied;
- course syllabus;
- timeline of events relevant to the appeal;
- assignment or exam in question (if applicable);
- correspondence with instructor (if applicable);
- copy of appropriate Seminary policy (if applicable); and
- any other documentation supporting the appeal.

After reviewing the appeal documents, the academic dean consults with the instructor and the student and may also consult colleagues with expertise in the subject matter. The academic dean communicates the decision in writing to both the student and the instructor. In the case of the appeal of a passing course grade, the academic dean's decision is final.

If the student chooses to appeal the decision of the academic dean, the student submits a written request to the academic dean asking that the matter be referred to the Student Academic Standing Committee. The referral and materials related to the appeal are provided to the chair of the Committee and copied to the registrar.

If the instructor whose grade is being questioned is a member of the Committee, the instructor will be recused. In this case, or if the Committee's faculty members are unavailable to meet, the academic dean will make necessary substitutions.

At its next scheduled meeting, or called meeting, if necessary, the Committee convenes to deliberate the case. The instructor and the student will each be offered the opportunity to meet separately with the Committee. The Committee will review all material pertaining to the case and, after deliberation, arrive at a decision regarding the issue. This decision is communicated in writing to the student and the instructor, with copies to the academic dean and registrar. A decision to change the grade is carried out under the direction of the academic dean. The decision of the Committee shall be binding and conclusive on the matter.

Grievance Procedures

Students with grievances related to their life and work in the Seminary should speak first with the person causing the grievance or the administrator into whose hands are entrusted the policies causing the grievance. If this initial conversation does not resolve the concerns, the student should put the grievance in writing. Where it is not clear to whom the written grievance should be addressed, the student should consult the dean of students or the academic dean for a recommendation.

Policy on Inclusive Language Use

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is committed to equality for people of every background. Recognizing that language is a key to understanding and shaping people's perceptions of themselves, of others, and of the God we worship, the Seminary urges students, faculty, and staff to use language in the community's worship, in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings that is respectful of persons regardless of sex, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, economic condition, or disability.

Policies and General Information

Medical and Hospitalization Insurance

Each degree student (and spouse and children, if applicable) is required to carry medical and hospitalization insurance. For Presbyterian students under the care of a presbytery, medical and hospitalization insurance is available through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Policy on Nonacademic Probation and Involuntary Leave of Absence

In the exercise of its oversight of all students, the faculty's Student Life Committee may place on nonacademic probation or involuntary leave of absence any student whose continued enrollment at the Seminary is in question on other than academic grounds. Reasons for such action include, among others, persistent failure in moral responsibility, intellectual dishonesty in academic and ministerial tasks, irresponsibility in financial obligations and dealings, behavior that is deemed to be dangerous to the student or others (see Student Code of Conduct, *Student Handbook*).

After review with the student, according to procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, the Committee shall make known by written report to the student and the academic dean its action in placing the student on nonacademic probation or its recommendation to the faculty in executive session that the student be placed on involuntary leave of absence. The report shall include the nature of the problem in question, the specific course of discipline which is proposed to the student to correct the difficulties or inadequacies, and the specific length of the probationary or leave period.

Nonacademic probation or an involuntary leave of absence shall be applied for a period of not more than one calendar year, during which time there shall be full opportunity for the student to meet the conditions set by the Committee.

During an involuntary leave of absence, the student is not enrolled in course work and does not live in campus housing.

If at the end of the designated probationary or leave period the student has not corrected the difficulties or inadequacies, the Student Life Committee shall review the situation with the student and may decide to recommend to the faculty that the student be dismissed.

Policy on Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment

The Seminary is committed to creating a respectful and courteous environment free of discrimination and unlawful harassment of any kind. It is the Seminary's policy not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, status as special disabled veterans or qualified veterans of the Vietnam era, or status in any group protected by federal or state or local law (i.e., Protected Categories). In accordance with the Seminary's Disability Accommodation Policy (page 87), the Seminary will provide reasonable accommodation for both qualified applicants for study and enrolled students who have disabilities, except where such an accommodation would create an undue hardship.

The Seminary expressly prohibits any form of unlawful harassment based on race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, status as special disabled veterans or qualified veterans of the Vietnam era, or status in any group protected by federal or state or local law (i.e., Protected Categories). This policy applies to all incidents of alleged harassment, including those that occur off-premises or off-hours, where the alleged offender is a supervisor, coworker, student, or even a non-employee with whom the employee or student is involved, directly or indirectly, in a professional, academic, or business relationship or in a potential professional, academic, or business relationship. The Seminary does not tolerate sexual or other unlawful harassment by any employee, student, volunteer, vendor, contractor, consultant, customer, or visitor.

Policy on Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment, cont...

Harassment is a breach of Seminary policy and a violation of state and/or federal law. In addition to any disciplinary action that the Seminary may take, up to and including termination of employment (employee) or dismissal (student), offenders may also be personally liable for any legal and monetary damages.

The president of the Seminary has the overall responsibility to maintain effective enforcement of nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policies.

The Seminary's full policy statement on nondiscrimination and anti-harassment, including prohibited harassment and complaint procedure, is published in the *Student Handbook* and the *Employee Handbook*.

Persons with a disability who have questions about the admissions process should contact the Office of Admissions. An employee who believes they have been discriminated against should consult the *Employee Handbook* for procedures on reporting the incident. Students should follow the procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct in the *Student Handbook*.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

Sexual misconduct constitutes behavior that is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The following is a brief summary of the Seminary's Sexual Misconduct Policy statement, which is published in full in the Seminary's *Student Handbook* and in the *Employee Handbook*. Sexual misconduct is defined as the threat or the commission of behavior used to obtain sexual gratification against another's will or at the expense of another such as inducing fear, shame, or mental suffering. Sexual misconduct includes unwanted sexual acts or actions, whether by an acquaintance, a person in the position of authority, or a stranger, that occur without indication of consent of both individuals or under threat or coercion. Sexual misconduct can occur either forcibly and/or against a person's will, or when a person is incapable of giving consent. Silence does not in and of itself constitute consent. The victim of sexual misconduct may be anyone, including but not limited to, adults, adolescents, minors, the developmentally disabled, and vulnerable individuals regardless of age. All members of the Austin Seminary community, including, but not limited to students, faculty (including adjunct faculty), field supervisors, staff, other employees, trustees, volunteers, and independent contractors are subject to the Seminary's Sexual Misconduct Policy.

A person who is the victim of sexual misconduct, has knowledge of another person being the victim of sexual misconduct, or believes in good faith that they have witnessed signs of sexual abuse of a child or other protected person as defined in the Seminary's Sexual Misconduct Policy is urged to make a formal report to the designated campus administrator and, in the case of potentially illegal acts, to local law enforcement. Any instance of child sexual abuse must be immediately reported to the proper legal authority. A report of sexual misconduct will be dealt with promptly. Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

To report a violation of the Seminary's Sexual Misconduct Policy, contact Heather Zdancewicz, vice president for finance and administration, Trull Administration Building, Business Office (2nd Floor), 100 East 27th Street, Austin, Texas 78705, 512-404-4816, hzdancewicz@austinseminary.edu. Local law enforcement can be contacted by calling 9-1-1 (to report a crime in progress or an emergency), 3-1-1 (to report a crime that has already occurred or a non-emergency), and Victim Services at 512-974-5000. To report abuse or neglect of a child or exploitation of an elderly or disabled person, contact the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400. In addition to the above reporting options, persons wishing, confidentially and in good faith, to report to the Seminary ethics-related issues such as sexual misconduct may also call the Seminary's Campus Conduct Hotline® at 1-866-943-5787.

Policies and General Information

Sexual Misconduct Policy cont...

Whether or not the individual makes a formal report, all victims of sexual misconduct are urged to seek appropriate help, which may include a medical evaluation and obtaining information, support, and counseling, either on or off campus. Resources available to victims are listed in the Seminary's Sexual Misconduct Policy statement as published in full in the Seminary's *Student Handbook* and the *Employee Handbook*.

Student Code of Conduct

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary by its mission to educate and equip individuals for the ordained Christian ministry and other forms of Christian service and leadership, upholds particular standards and expectations in behavior for all its members in their life together. These qualities of life are grounded in a common faith in Jesus Christ, within which all people are regarded as children of God and are to be treated accordingly.

The Student Code of Conduct, the full text of which appears in the *Student Handbook*, outlines behavioral expectations and possible consequences for behavior that violates the Code of Conduct. It also details procedures to be followed in reporting a violation, and procedures for hearings and appeals.

Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student rights are ensured by faculty and the board of trustees, and these rights are listed in the *Bylaws*, the *Faculty Manual*, the *Student Handbook*, and the *Academic Catalogue*. Student responsibilities are set forth in the same documents.

Title IX Statement

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or sexual expression in its education programs and activities. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on this basis in education programs and activities of Austin Seminary. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX and reports of violations of the Seminary's Title IX policy should be made to the campus Title IX coordinator, Heather Zdancewicz, vice president for finance and administration, Trull Administration Building, Business Office (2nd Floor), 100 East 27th Street, Austin, Texas 78705, 512-404-4816, hzdancewicz@austinseminary.edu.

Issuance of Transcripts

Austin Seminary has partnered with Parchment - the largest credential exchange company in the world - to provide secure, electronic, official transcripts for our students and alumni. For instructions on requesting a transcript, [Click HERE](#) or go to www.austinseminary.edu/alumni/requesting-a-transcript.

An official transcript can be sent to a designated official, agency, or institution for any student, former student, or graduate of the Seminary. A transcript for a particular individual can also be provided directly to that individual. With respect to dismissal or withdrawal from the Seminary, the student's transcript shall record the action and the date of such action. If a student withdraws while on academic or non-academic probation, or while on an involuntary leave of absence, the transcript will reflect this status.

Veterans

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is approved to enroll veterans eligible for educational assistance as prescribed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The registrar handles veterans' enrollment certification. In addition, veterans are eligible to apply for Seminary-based financial aid which is granted according to demonstrated need and availability of funds.

Policies and General Information

Policy on Weapons

The carrying or possession of any type of weapon or firearm on the premises of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is strictly and absolutely prohibited by institutional policy and in accord with state law set forth in Section 1, Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, as amended by Section 411.2031 (also known as S.B. 11). This prohibition expressly includes those persons licensed to carry firearms (other than those who are licensed peace officers). The following weapons are prohibited: pistols, revolvers and rifles (including pellet guns and BB guns), shotguns, armor-piercing ammunition, club or night sticks, compound bows, explosive weapons, firearm silencers, illegal knives, knuckles, machine guns, swords, and switchblade knives.

For purposes of this policy, the premises of Austin Seminary are defined as any non-residential property, building, or portion of a building or property that Austin Seminary owns or occupies, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, and any off-site premises where Austin Seminary is conducting any activity sponsored by Austin Seminary. This includes all parking lots, parking areas, sidewalks, and walkways, and all vehicles and equipment owned by Austin Seminary. Any person violating this policy will be required to leave Austin Seminary's premises immediately. Any employee or student found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, including immediate termination or dismissal.



Educational Environment

The Seminary Community and the Office of Student Affairs and Vocation

At Austin Seminary we are committed to preparing leaders for the ministry and mission of the church. This commitment extends beyond the classroom to special interest in and concern for the welfare of individuals, families, and groups. Faculty and administration share this concern and participate in this care, and it is given visibility and institutional support through the Office of Student Affairs and Vocation, which seeks to maintain and enhance the characteristics of Christian community through support of students and their families.

This office sponsors a variety of student groups that add to opportunities on campus and provide a network of fellowship and support. In these groups one can gather information and resources, find common interests and build friendships, be exposed to issues before the church, exercise leadership styles, observe group functions, examine assumptions and test their validity, appropriateness, and promise of effectiveness. The procedure for official recognition of a student group is found in the *Student Handbook*.

The Student Senate provides programs to enrich the lives of students and the life of the community and works constructively to address student and community concerns.

The dean of students is available for pastoral support, counseling referrals, and support for other nonacademic concerns in an attempt to equip students personally and professionally for life and service. Financial support for counseling and consultations, often in conjunction with area professionals, is available. Emergency aid and crisis management are also available through this office.

The Care and Retention Team is a non-disciplinary body that provides caring support to and advocacy for students and their families in difficult situations, a coordinated response as necessary, and assistance and support to the dean of students and to other administrators, faculty, or staff as appropriate. The president appoints the Care and Retention Team annually. Ordinarily the Care and Retention Team is made up of the dean of students, the academic dean, the dean of admissions and enrollment management, the director of financial aid, the assistant dean for academic affairs and registrar, the director of financial services, and one or two faculty members. An individual can self-refer to the Care and Retention Team by writing or in person, or the referral can be made by an administrator, a faculty or staff member, any member of the Care and Retention Team, a spouse or other family member, a pastor or denominational body, another student, or the faculty Student Life Committee. The Care and Retention Team may make referrals to whatever type of on-campus service(s), mental health professional(s), or community service(s) the situation warrants.

The dean of students also sits on faculty and administrative committees giving attention to structural and institutional questions that affect student attitudes, perceptions, and performance. All of these efforts are an attempt to realize more closely the purposes expressed by the board of trustees in the Statement of Purpose which calls us “to be a winsome and exemplary community of God’s people.”

Ministry, Finances, Mindfulness

Ministry, Finance, Mindfulness (MFM) is a program of events that help students, staff, and faculty gain better financial literacy in both their personal lives and their ministries. Originally begun as a program to help students graduate in the best possible financial situation, MFM now provides one-on-one budget consultation, topical workshops, financial literacy opportunities, and other supportive activities to anyone in the community. For information, contact the MFM coordinator.

Educational Environment

Relationships with Other Institutions

Austin Seminary enjoys a wide variety of relationships with other academic institutions and mission agencies. These relationships constitute resources that enrich significantly the educational enterprise.

[The Seminary of the Southwest](#) is located only two blocks from the Austin Seminary campus. The two schools work cooperatively and make the course offerings of each available to students of the other. They also share a library catalog and extend borrowing privileges to students, faculty, and staff at either institution. (See Library services on the following page for more information.)

[The University of Texas at Austin](#), across the street from the Seminary, represents a valuable resource of an entirely different kind. Students have ready access to many facets of the life of this great university and enjoy the cultural and recreational benefits it offers as well as the privilege of electing, with the approval of the academic dean, graduate-level courses for Seminary credit.

Austin Seminary has been a member of [iAct](#), an interdenominational, interreligious agency for mission in Austin, since its inception. The Seminary continues to maintain a close working relationship with this organization, and its varied programs and projects provide students with numerous and valuable opportunities for both learning and service.

Austin Seminary holds a close relationship with [Texas Impact](#), Texas' original interfaith policy network, which is located across the street. A representative from the Seminary serves on the Board of Directors, their director co-teaches policy and faith courses from time to time, and students frequently serve their ministry placements there. www.texasimpact.org.

Furthering our commitments to youth ministry, Austin Seminary provides vision, direction and leadership for [Progressive Youth Ministry](#), a network of youth ministers connected online and convened in person for annual conferences in Austin. www.progressiveyouthministry.org

As mentioned in the description of the Master of Arts in Youth Ministry, the Seminary partners with the [Center for Youth Ministry Training \(CYMT\)](#). CYMT equips leaders to minister, innovate, and engage with youth so they may experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ leading to identity and purpose. www.cymt.org.

Smoot Center

The Smoot Center was established by the board of trustees in 1977 in honor of Dr. Richmond Kelley Smoot, cofounder of the predecessor institution to Austin Seminary, the Austin School of Theology. Dr. Smoot also served as a professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. This center is used for Christian leadership events and by Seminary groups and others for seminars and meetings.



Educational Environment

Library Services: The Mary B. and Robert J. Wright Learning and Information Center and Austin Seminary Archives

The Mary B. and Robert J. Wright Learning and Information Center provides state of the art spaces for collaborative learning, remote learning, writing and academic skills consultations, and individual study. The Center actively acquires scholarship in electronic and print form. Seminary students and faculty can access more than 400,000 e-books and a variety of online research tools, including AtlaSerials Plus and the JSTOR Religion and Theology archive collection. The Stitt Library Collection of print books and journals numbers more than 86,000 volumes. Seminary faculty and students have access to the study spaces on the first floor of the Wright Center 24/7. Hours of service for the seminary community and the general public are posted on the Wright Center's website.

Sophi Search, an integrated discovery service, provides access to articles, e-books, and print books held by the Wright Center and by the The Bishop Dena A. Harrison Library at the Seminary of the Southwest (SSW), located a few blocks from campus. Austin Seminary students have borrowing privileges at SSW and the main library of The University of Texas at Austin. Wright Center staff provide access to other needed items via interlibrary loan.

The Austin Seminary Archives serves as the repository for documentation of the Seminary's administrative activities, educational programs, publications, memorabilia, and photographs. The Archives also collects materials on the activities of the Presbyterian Church in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Access to materials is afforded by detailed finding aids. A growing assortment of Seminary-produced content and archival materials is being made available as digital collections.

The librarians and learning specialist are partners with the faculty in teaching and learning, and support theological scholarship. Librarians manage the seminary's learning management system and offer user training through classroom sessions and tutorials.



Lectures and Lecturers

Midwinter Lectures

January 27 - 29, 2025

Thomas White Currie Lecturer - John Pavlovitz

The Thomas White Currie Lectures were established in 1952 by the Tom Currie Bible Class of Highland Park Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas, in honor of Dr. Currie and the current teachers of the Bible Class. The Lectures, supported by the class on an annual basis for fifty-nine years, are now funded by the Thomas White Currie lectureship Endowed Fund, a gift of the Currie family.

E. C. Westervelt Lecturer - Dr. Reggie L. Williams

The E. C. Westervelt Lectures were established in 1949 by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Flato of Corpus Christi, Texas, in honor of the parents of Mrs. Flato.

Robert F. Jones Lecturer - Dr. Wendy Farley

The Women of the Church of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, Texas, established in 1949 the Robert F. Jones Lectures in Christian Education. These are financed on an annual basis.

Midwinter Lectures Preacher - TBD

Constitution Day Lecture - September 19, 2024

Judge Rene Haas

HESED Lectures

February 28 - March 1, 2025

The Hased Lectures were established in 2014 through the efforts of the Seminary's (then) African American Student Group and the Hispanic Student Association. The purpose of the Hased Lectures is to promote awareness and church involvement in the area of social justice, thus enabling hesed, which is Hebrew for justice, loving kindness, and mercy.

2024 HESED - *History/Whose Story? Reclaiming Our Stories*

Speakers: Guesnerth Josué Perea and Dr. Maria Hammack

Preacher: Rev. Yadi Martínez-Reyna

The George S. Heyer Jr. Distinguished Lectureship

This lectureship was established to honor George S. Heyer Jr., professor emeritus of the history of doctrine, for his thirty years as a valued member of the Austin Seminary faculty. The purpose of the annual lecture is to symbolize and advance the important relationship between the academy and the church; to recall the long-lasting cooperation between The University of Texas and the Seminary; and to encourage the positive relationship between faith and knowledge.

October 24, 2024

Lorraine Haricombe, Vice Provost and Director, University of Texas at Austin Libraries, Professor

Settles Lectures

The Settles Lectures in Mission and Evangelism were established in 1947 by Mrs. W. R. Settles of Big Spring, Texas. Over the course of years, topics of the lectures have alternated between mission and evangelism, or home mission and foreign mission.

April 3-4, 2025

Guesnerth Josué Perea

Lectures and Lecturers

Jean Brown Visiting Scholar

Established by the board of trustees in order to attract outstanding scholars to the Austin Seminary campus for periods of up to one year, the position of Jean Brown Visiting Scholar was first filled in September 1982. The Jean Brown Scholar is invited to participate in the life of the Seminary and may spend their time teaching, writing, and/or meeting informally with students and faculty.

Hoxie Thompson Lecturers

The Seminary's master's programs are enriched each year by the presence on campus of a number of distinguished visiting lecturers. Such persons are ordinarily designated as Hoxie Thompson Lecturers. The Hoxie Thompson Lecturer for 2023-2024 was:

Jason Santos, Pastor, Community Presbyterian Church, Lake City, CO

The Karen G. and Elgin W. Ware Jr. Endowed Lectureship and Fellowship Fund

Established by Karen and Elgin Ware of Dallas, Texas, to support an annual lectureship for the purpose of exploring the relationship between science and religion and also to support a more extensive follow-up seminar with the lecturer and ten fellows (5 pastors and 5 seminary students). The fellows will be selected based on their demonstrated gifts for ministry, leadership ability, intellectual curiosity and scholarship, and potential for impacting the larger communities in which they serve or will serve.

The Louis H. and Katherine S. Zbinden Distinguished Chair of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership.

The Louis H. and Katherine S. Zbinden Distinguished Chair of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership was endowed in 2002 by the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Texas, to honor Louis Zbinden's thirty-one year ministry there and to demonstrate appreciation for his guidance and hope for a new generation of church leaders. The chair provides funding to call, for one- to five-year terms, distinguished and experienced pastors to teach in the broad area of ministry, including: church administration, stewardship, worship, preaching, Christian education, pastoral care, and church programming.

In 2024, the board of trustees elected The Reverend Ted Foote as the fifth holder of the chair, beginning in fall 2024. The chair has been held previously by The Reverend Dr. Louis H. Zbinden Jr., The Reverend Dr. K. C. Ptomey Jr., The Reverend Dr. Blair R. Monie, and The Reverend Bobbi Kaye Jones.

Seminary Expenses 2024-2025

These tuition fees, effective with the 2024 fall semester, represent only a small part of the cost of providing theological education. Most of the cost is met through gifts from individuals and churches and by endowment income. Other services to students are provided on a nonprofit or subsidized basis.

Fees mentioned in this Catalogue are subject to change by action of the administration and/or the board of trustees. Any changes are effective on the date set by the administration or the board, and students will be informed in writing concerning them.

Master's-level Fees

Application Fee	\$50
Graduation Fee (year of graduation)	\$160
Registration Fee (annual)	\$60
Late Registration Fee	\$50
Seminary Fee (annual)	\$250
Student Activity Fee (annual)	\$80
Tuition for Auditors	\$300
Tuition per credit hour	\$280

The student estimating the expenses of theological study should allow, in addition to the above fees, approximately \$1250 per year for books. The director of financial aid is available to discuss living expenses and budgets with students.

International student applicants are required to demonstrate they have secured financial funding adequate to cover living and educational costs. If admitted, international students are required to make a financial deposit equal to one-half the minimum annual student budget.

MAYM Funding

Students in the Master of Arts in Youth Ministry degree program are funded through the Seminary's partnership with the Center for Youth Ministry Training. Students receive a 50% Seminary Tuition Grant for a maximum of three years, and CYMT pays the balance of students' tuition and fees. MAYM students are not eligible for additional institution-based financial assistance.

Doctor of Ministry Fees

Annual Program Continuation Fee	\$150
Application Fee	\$50
Entrance and Tech Fee (one time)	\$300
Graduation Fee (year of graduation)	\$400
Supervisory Fee	\$1800
Travel Seminar Fee (room & board)	\$500
Tuition per seminar	\$2120

Any tuition costs incurred at other institutions for courses credited toward the DMin degree are the responsibility of the DMin student.

Certificate in Ministry

Tuition per course	\$ 380
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Certificado en Ministerio en Español

El costo por curso	\$ 200
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Seminary Expenses 2023-2024

Payment of Fees

A student's registration is complete when satisfactory financial arrangements for the payment of all Seminary charges are made with the Office of Finance and Administration. Tuition and fees are due prior to the beginning of an academic term and, for students enrolled in a master's-level degree program, no later than the end of the add period for a particular term. If payment is not made by this deadline, the student's registration is cancelled. For Special Students, the payment deadline is the Friday before an academic term begins.

The required payment of Seminary charges—tuition, fees, and rent for campus housing—can be made from various sources, such as a Seminary tuition grant, other grants or loans, or personal funds. If other grants or loans are anticipated, written verification from the source of these funds is required before the academic term begins.

Charges accrued on a student's account during a particular term must be paid before entering the next term. A student must clear all indebtedness to the Seminary prior to graduation and/or prior to release of any academic transcripts or grade reports. Failure to keep one's student account in good standing is grounds for nonacademic probation, involuntary leave of absence, or dismissal.

Refunds for Master's-level Students

All refunds will be offset against all amounts owed to the Seminary. Tuition refunds are granted as follows:

1. *Fall and Spring Semester Courses:* A full refund is given for a course dropped within the first five class days of the term. A refund of 75% is given for a course dropped within the next five class days of the term. A refund of 50% is given for a course dropped within the next ten class days of the term. Thereafter, no refund is available.
2. *January Term Courses:* A full refund is given for a course dropped within the first three class days of the term. A refund of 50% is given for a course dropped within the next five class days of the term. Thereafter, no refund is available.
3. *Summer Term Courses:* A full refund is given for a course dropped within the first five class days of the term. A refund of 50% is given for a course dropped within the next ten class days of the term. Thereafter, no refund is available.
4. *Auditors:* A full refund is given if the course is dropped by notifying the registrar within the first five class days of the term.

Seminary Tuition Grants will not be applied toward courses not completed. When a student receives a Seminary Tuition Grant for courses which are subsequently dropped, that part of the Seminary grant related to the dropped course(s) will be reversed and must be repaid to the Seminary. Students should be aware that they will be responsible for the full amount of tuition charges remaining after application of any tuition refund.

Housing refunds are granted as follows: Students who vacate Seminary housing will receive, based on the official checkout date, a prorated refund of rent charges, when applicable. Under all other circumstances, no refunds will be granted without authorization by the president.

Refundable and Non-refundable Fees:

1. Non-refundable fees include the one-time application fee, the entrance fee, the annual registration fee, and the graduation fee.
2. The annual student activity fee is refunded at the rate of 50% for each fall or spring semester in which a student does not enroll.

Seminary Expenses 2023-2024

Refunds for Doctoral-level Students

All refunds will be offset against all amounts owed to the Seminary. Tuition and fee refunds are granted as follows:

1. A 50% refund of tuition is given for a course dropped during the one- or two-week period that a DMin class is in session. No refund is given after this period.
2. The one-time application fee, the entrance fee, and the graduation fee are not refundable.

Housing refunds for students who vacate Seminary overnight housing will receive, based on the official checkout date, a prorated refund of housing charges, when applicable.

Under all other circumstances, no refunds will be granted without authorization by the president.

Refunds for Certificate students

A full refund or credit toward a future certificate course is given for a course dropped within the first three weeks of the term. Thereafter, no refund is available.

Refunds for Students Receiving William D. Ford Direct Loans

If a student receives financial aid in the form of a William D. Ford Direct Student Loan and withdraws from all courses in a semester or withdraws from the Seminary, the portion of the refund due the student must be returned to the Department of Education, in accordance with federal regulations. Refer to the *Financial Aid Handbook* for details.



Financial Aid

Program

Austin Seminary, in accordance with principles generally accepted by member seminaries of the Association of Theological Schools, seeks to assist students whose financial resources are insufficient to meet the cost of attending the Seminary.

Financial assistance is available only for course work taken at Austin Seminary, with the exception of eligible, approved course work taken through the Seminary's cross-registration agreements with the Seminary of the Southwest, or the exchange program of the PC(USA) theological institutions. For students enrolled in the dual-degree program in social work through The University of Texas at Austin, only courses taken at Austin Seminary qualify for financial assistance from Austin Seminary. Students seeking financial assistance for courses taken at The University of Texas at Austin should contact UT's Office of Student Financial Services. There is no financial aid available for Special Students at Austin Seminary.

Financial assistance through the Seminary is not available to students who have any federal student loans in default status.

Resources

Financing of a seminary education is understood to be a *shared* responsibility of the individual student (and spouse, where applicable), the Seminary, and the church (including individual members, local congregations, and governing bodies). A student with available resources to meet tuition and other charges is expected to cover those expenses.

The Seminary shares primarily tuition expense with students qualifying for need-based financial assistance. The Seminary's capacity to assist with expenses other than tuition is mainly limited to subsidizing indirectly the costs of campus housing and of meals in the dining hall.

Financial assistance is offered to MATS, MAMP, MAR, and MDiv students. (Information on MAYM funding is found on page 98.) The financial aid resources of the Seminary are awarded on a year-to-year basis, and, ordinarily, solely on the basis of demonstrated need. The *Financial Aid Handbook* available on the Seminary's website and from the Financial Aid Office, contains information on:

1. *Grants*: MATS, MAMP, MAR, and MDiv students may, by demonstrating need, and by meeting satisfactory academic progress, qualify for a Seminary tuition grant, subject to the availability of funds.
2. *Loans*: Student loans are available to students in master's-level degree programs through the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program. Application is made through the Seminary's Office of Financial Aid.
3. *Emergency Grants*: In cases of emergency, grants may be awarded from the Emergency Aid Fund administered by the dean of students.
4. *Child Care Assistance*: Limited funds are available to students to help offset the costs of child care. Application is made through the Seminary's Office of Financial Aid.

Application Procedures

The Office of Financial Aid posts the *Financial Aid Handbook*, the *Application for Financial Aid*, and the *Steward's Resource Navigator* (budget) on the Seminary's website. The same material in paper form will be provided to anyone upon request. New and returning students must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*. In addition, the *Austin Seminary Application for Financial Aid* must be completed, signed, and submitted to the Office of Financial Aid with a budget, an income tax return transcript, and W-2 forms. If the student's income tax information is retrieved from the Internal Revenue Service and entered on the FAFSA, the income tax return transcript will not be required. For current deadlines please refer to the most recent *Financial Aid Handbook*.

Financial Aid

Application materials are reviewed by the director of financial aid. Students who qualify for financial aid are notified of the amount and type of assistance available. Awarded tuition grants and scholarships are credited to the student's account in the Office of Finance and Administration and are first applied against Seminary charges such as tuition, rent, and fees. This aid is subject to proportional adjustment should a recipient drop a course or withdraw from Seminary. Students receiving grants and scholarships that exceed in aggregate the cost of tuition and course-related expenses (books, fees, etc.) will find those funds may be taxable.

Seminary Tuition Grants will not be applied toward courses not completed. When a student receives a Seminary Tuition Grant for courses which are subsequently dropped, that part of the Seminary grant related to the dropped course(s) will be reversed and must be repaid to the Seminary. Students should be aware that they will be responsible for the full amount of tuition charges remaining after application of any tuition refund.

Campus Employment

Austin Seminary provides opportunities for students to work up to fifteen hours per week on campus. To be eligible to work on campus, a student must be enrolled in a Master's-level degree program for at least twelve credits during the fall and spring semesters. There is no minimum enrollment requirement during the January and summer terms. After minimum qualifications for the position are met, preference is given to students with demonstrated financial need. F1 students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.

Faculty members seek student assistants who excel in a particular subject area to work as research assistants, instructional aides, and to serve as tutors, regardless of demonstrated financial need. Applicants for these positions are approved by the Academic Dean.

Employment opportunities include assisting a faculty member, working in an administrative office, working in the library or chapel, or supporting hospitality in Lifelong Learning. For more information refer to Student Employment Program Practices and Procedures in the *Student Handbook* or the *Financial Aid Handbook*. Again, F1 students refer to International Student Policies on pages 16-19.



Student Housing

We believe that theological education is as much about “formation” as “information,” and we are committed to the ideal of a residential community. We affirm that spiritual and intellectual growth occurs both inside and outside the classroom—indeed “where two or three are gathered”—and we strive to provide comfortable accommodations that foster an atmosphere of shared interest and mutual support. Our twelve-acre campus is a lush oasis in the very heart of a bustling university neighborhood. Though commuters are vital members of the Austin Seminary community, most full-time students live on campus, either in our residence hall or in efficiency, one-, two-, three-, or four-bedroom apartments. Single or married, with or without children or pets, students in master’s-level degree programs are encouraged to live on campus.

Campus housing is affordable with housing rates far below the market cost of housing offcampus in the central Austin area. Campus housing also provides easy access to classes and to the surrounding central Austin community. Rental rates are reviewed each year and announced each spring. New rates are effective July 1 of each year.

Currie Residence Hall

Currie Residence Hall provides affordable housing for single students and those commuting long distances from their homes. Each Currie room is furnished with a twin bed, built-in desk, and small dresser, and has central heat and air conditioning, private bath, closet, and built-in shelving. Washers and dryers are available in the laundry room. There is a lounge area and adjoining kitchen for residents’ use, a place to relax or spend time with other residents. Pets are not allowed in this building.

Currie Hall room rates vary from \$250 to \$345 per month. Weekday breakfast and lunch are available for purchase in the Seminary dining hall when school is in session.

Seminary Apartments

Seminary housing also includes a wide range of unfurnished apartments varying in size from efficiencies and one- to four-bedrooms. Rental rates vary from \$475 per month for an efficiency to \$1,030 per month for a four-bedroom apartment. All campus housing is within close proximity to the Seminary’s main campus which helps create a uniquely caring and close community.

Pets are welcome in certain campus apartments; uncaged pets (i.e., dogs and cats) require a \$250 per pet fee and proof of current rabies vaccination. There is a two-pet limit. Caged pets do not require a deposit, but do require a pet application. Pet applications are completed upon arrival on campus. Pet deposits must be paid in full at the time the lease is signed and before occupying the housing unit.

Housing Eligibility and Assignments

Any student enrolled in a master’s-degree program is eligible to live in student housing. Special Students and auditors are not eligible for student housing. See the *Housing Handbook* on our website for more information on housing eligibility.

Eligibility for particular types of campus housing is based on the student’s family size. (Refer to the *Housing Handbook* for more information.) While eligibility for housing does not guarantee availability of housing, every effort is made to secure campus housing for all students who request to live on campus.

Priority for housing assignments is based on the date and time the student returns their housing application. Housing application forms are available only after the *Intent to Matriculate* form is returned to the Admissions Office.

The deadline for submitting the *Housing Application* form in order to secure a housing assignment with priority is no later than May 31. Fall housing assignments ordinarily are made to incoming students in June. Upon moving into campus housing, the *Housing Lease Agreement* and *Housing Condition* form should be completed and returned as soon as possible to the Office of Student Affairs and Vocation.

Campus Resources

Austin Seminary Student Identification Card

The Austin Seminary Student Identification Card serves as a student identification card and a library card for students, faculty, and staff members. Identification cards are issued at the McCord Reception Desk in the McCord Community Center.

Campus Conduct HotlineSM

Austin Seminary is committed to maintaining high standards for ethical behavior by its employees, volunteers, and students. The Seminary's expectations for ethical behavior are outlined in the Behavior Expectations for students, found in the Student Code of Conduct in the *Student Handbook*, in the Employee Code of Conduct, published in the Seminary's *Employee Handbook*, and other institutional policies in these documents and elsewhere.

Persons wishing to report violations of either the Employee Code of Conduct or the Student Code of Conduct, confidentially and in good faith, can call the Seminary's Campus Conduct HotlineSM at 866-943-5787. The Campus Conduct HotlineSM is available 24/7. It is operated by an independent organization, and any calls made through this hotline are confidential and anonymous. The hotline does not replace or supplant other reporting and investigation procedures, rather, it provides another way for persons to report possible violations. (Additional information about Campus Conduct HotlineSM can be found in both the *Student Handbook* and the *Employee Handbook*.)

Classroom Technology

Each classroom at Austin Seminary is outfitted with audio/video technology. All classrooms have a projector or video display, speakers, a computer, and connections for laptop computers. Small classrooms have web cameras for video conferences. Additionally, the largest classrooms have lapel and lectern microphones.

Computer Lab

Austin Seminary provides students access to computer workstations in several locations on campus. In the McMillan Building, three workstations and a PaperCut printer are available in the student lounge, accessible during business hours and after hours with the building entry code. In the library, multiple workstations are available. The library also contains a Media lab that is intended for self-service video recording for school related projects. The media lab has a 1080P camera with microphones and a PC for video editing. Public computers on campus feature Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint), access to copier printing via papercut, and, on specifically labeled computers, Accordance Bible software. The library staff assists patrons in using Bible software. Information Technology (IT) staff members are available to assist with student computer labs and wireless access issues.

Dining Services: Barth and Grill

The Seminary's Stotts Fellowship Hall is located in the McCord Community Center, adjacent to the Currie Residence Hall. The facility houses the Seminary's dining service, Barth and Grill, which is operated by Southern Foodservice Management, Inc., with the goal of providing a variety of reasonably priced meal options. Stotts Fellowship Hall also serves other special events of the Seminary as needed.

Any member of the campus community and the public can dine at Barth and Grill. Accepted forms of payment are cash or credit card. Ordinarily, breakfast and lunch are served Monday through Friday while school is in session. The meal schedule and costs are subject to change. There is no required meal plan for students.

Campus Resources

Email

All faculty, staff, and students are assigned a Seminary email address and provided an email account. The Seminary addresses official electronic communications to these accounts. Students are required and expected to use their Seminary-provided email accounts and are responsible for the timely access of information sent to them by Seminary administration and faculty.

For more information, refer to the Seminary Email Policy in the *Student Handbook*. Information Technology (IT) staff members are available to assist with email issues.

Emergency Notification System

The Seminary utilizes an emergency notification system to enable members of the Seminary community to receive urgent emergency information to their mobile phones and Seminary email. Through this system, the Seminary provides timely information regarding school closures and any event that presents a clear and immediate threat to the Seminary campus. MDiv, MAMP, MAR, and MATS students are enrolled during orientation. All other students, adjunct faculty, and campus residents and community members are encouraged to opt-in to receive text messages. For more information, refer to the Emergency Texting System in the *Student Handbook*.

The Stanley R. Hall Liturgics Lab

This McMillan Building classroom (room 103) is a special-purpose space designed for liturgical practice. It was given by the graduating class of 2009 and dedicated to the memory of Professor Stanley R. Hall, Jean Brown associate professor of liturgics from 1992-2008. The Liturgics Lab is available to students to prepare their own sermons for course assignments, practice, or other vocational purposes.



Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

Merit Awards

Merit fellowships and scholarships are awarded by the faculty of Austin Seminary, upon the recommendation of the Admissions Commission and in accordance with the criteria of the particular award, to applicants admitted to the Master of Divinity degree program. Each award is renewable for a period up to three years (specifically, thirty-three months) provided the recipient continues as an MDiv student, maintains a grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale), and continues to demonstrate promise for ministry and leadership ability.

The tuition grant portion of any merit award can be used only to cover tuition for courses taken at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary or courses taken through an approved cross-registration agreement (see p. 39). The tuition grant portion cannot be used to cover the cost of tuition or fees for courses taken at The University of Texas at Austin as part of the MDiv/MSSW dual-degree program of study or to cover the cost of any course work transferred in from another institution.

Applicants for merit awards must complete an admissions application by February 1st to be eligible for consideration. Ordinarily, notification of merit awards is made by March 1st for the following fall term of entry. If admission is deferred, one must reapply for a merit award as the award cannot be deferred. Applicants who defer enrollment are eligible for reconsideration for their new fall term of entry.

Merit Fellowships

The following merit fellowships are annual awards, renewable for a period up to three years, according to the terms noted above. They cover full tuition and fees and provide a stipend for on-campus housing and other educational expenses.

Preference is given to students who demonstrate interest in and a strong promise vocationally for leadership in the church, exceptional academic achievement, and leadership ability. Recipients are chosen on the basis of merit and in accordance with the Seminary's financial-aid policies.

- The Jean Brown Fellowships
Up to four Jean Brown Fellowships may be awarded for each entering class.
- The Vannie E. Cook Jr. Fellowship
Strong preference is given to Presbyterian students.
- The Mert and Betty Cooper Fellowship
- The Crawley Family Fellowship
Preference is given to Presbyterian students who express a desire to enter the parish ministry.
- Grace Presbytery Endowed Fellowship
Preference is given to a candidate from Grace Presbytery.
- The Clifford J. and Mary K Grum Fellowship
- The Robert W. B. and Shirley Johnston Merit Fellowship
- The Trull-Herlin Family Merit Fellowship
Preference is given to students from small, rural communities.
- The Elizabeth Currie Williams Fellowship
- The Hugh H. and Nancy T. Williamson Merit Fellowship
- The Betty Wilson Jeffrey Merit Fellowship

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

Merit Scholarships

The following merit scholarships are annual awards, renewable for a period up to three years, according to the terms noted above. They cover full tuition.

Preference is given to students who demonstrate interest in and a strong promise vocationally for leadership in the church, exceptional academic achievement, and leadership ability. Recipients are chosen on the basis of merit and in accordance with the Seminary's financial-aid policies.

- The Jean Brown Scholarships
Up to four Jean Brown Scholarships may be awarded for each entering class.
- The James A. "Buddy" Davidson Merit Scholarship
- The William J. Fogleman Merit Scholarship
Preference is given to first-career Presbyterian students.
- The James M. O'Leary Memorial Merit Scholarship
- The Francis S. Springall MD Memorial Scholarship

Other Scholarships and Awards

Ada and Adams Colhoun Award

This memorial award is made available by The Crusader Class of Northridge Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas. The award is given to a senior student of demonstrated academic ability and promise for ministry and is to be used for the purchase of books.

De Puertas Abiertas (DPA) Fellowship and Scholarship

In 2021, the Board of Trustees approved The De Puertas Abiertas Award (DPA). DPA Fellowship Awards are given annually to Master of Divinity students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, leadership ability, and interest in and strong promise vocationally for ministry in the church. Recipients of the renewable fellowship and scholarship awards, made without reference to financial need, are selected by the faculty, with special consideration given to racial ethnic minority students.

Elma Gunther Scholarship for International Study

Each master's-level student at Austin Seminary is eligible for a one-time subsidy or grant for participation in an international or cross-cultural program approved by the faculty. Awards are made by the academic dean, and the total funds available varies from year to year. In the case of limited funds in a particular year, priority will be given to MDiv students. Alumni/ae may be eligible to request funds for a travel seminar occurring in the summer immediately after graduation only. Thereafter, funds are not available to alumni/ae.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam B. Hicks Scholarship

The Mr. and Mrs. Sam B. Hicks Scholarships are offered annually to second- and third-year students on the basis of academic achievement, Christian character, and promise of effectiveness in the ministry. Recipients are determined by the president and the academic dean. The purpose is to provide incentive for exceptional work and maintenance of high standards by the recipients.

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

Austin Seminary Post-Graduate Pastoral Residency

The Austin Seminary Post-Graduate Pastoral Residency provides seed funding each year for two graduating seniors at Austin Seminary to be hosted for a two-year pastoral residency, under the supervision of an experienced and capable pastoral mentor, in a thriving, best-practice congregation of the Seminary's designation. Eligible students will be graduating seniors who are on track toward ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Salary and expenses for the residency will be shared by the Seminary and the designated host congregation.

The purpose of the Post-Graduate Residency is to refine skills for pastoral ministry—particularly in preaching, pastoral care, church administration, and effective church leadership—while serving under the tutelage of a wise and experienced pastoral leader. During the residency, residents shall complete any remaining requirements for ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament, and with the approval of the presbyteries involved, may be ordained to that ministry.

Applicants for the Post-Graduate Pastoral Residency will be:

- Graduating seniors (i.e., will have completed all degree requirements within twelve months of the most recent commencement ceremony before beginning the residency)
- Members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Candidates under the care of a presbytery of the PC(USA)
- Have demonstrated strong academic performance throughout their seminary career
- In the assessment of the selection committee, show promise for pastoral ministry

Applications for residencies beginning in June of each year are due to the dean of students no later than November 1 of the applicant's final year in seminary. Residencies to begin in June will be announced at the annual Austin Seminary Association banquet at the end of Midwinter Lectures each year. Applications and descriptions of the program are available from the dean of students.

Graduate Awards

Donald Capps Award in Pastoral Care

The Donald Capps Award in Pastoral Care was established by an anonymous donor in 2005 to honor the person, teaching, scholarship, and remarkable contributions to theological education and ministry of Dr. Donald Capps, William Harte Felmeth Professor of Pastoral Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. The award is given each year to a graduating MDiv student who demonstrates outstanding gifts for, and commitment to, the church's caring ministries, based on the recommendation of the Seminary's professor(s) of pastoral care.

The Chidester Preaching Award

The Chidester Preaching Award, established in 2010 by the First Presbyterian Church of Malvern, Arkansas, is given annually to the graduating senior who shows the greatest potential in the area of preaching. The selection is made upon the recommendation of the Seminary's homiletics faculty.

The Rachel Henderlite Award

The Rachel Henderlite Award was initially funded through a bequest in the will of Ms. Betty Jane Schaufele, longtime friend and companion of the late Dr. Rachel Henderlite. Dr. Henderlite served for several years as professor of Christian education at Austin Seminary. The award goes to a graduating Master of Divinity student who has made a significant contribution to cross-cultural and interracial relationships while at Austin Seminary.

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

Hendrick-Smith Award for Mission and Evangelism

The Hendrick-Smith Award for Mission and Evangelism was established in 2005 with a gift from William Smith Sevier of Dickinson, Texas, in memory of the Reverends James Hardin Smith, William Swan Smith, Edwin Eugene Hendrick, and John Henry Hendrick, and in honor of John Robert Hendrick, professor emeritus of evangelism and missions at Austin Seminary. The award goes to a graduating senior who has shown academic interest in, or whose life direction is focused on, evangelism and missions in this country or overseas.

Carl Kilborn Book Award

This award is funded by Mrs. Carl Kilborn of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in memory of her late husband. It is to be given to a graduating senior who shows leadership and potential for the ministry along with academic excellence.

Charles L. King Award for Excellence in Preaching

This award, made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor, is given to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated distinction in preaching. It is awarded by the President, upon the recommendation of the Seminary's homiletics faculty.

The Ethel W. Lance Human and Civil Rights Fund

The Ethel W. Lance Human and Civil Rights Fund was established in 2016 with a gift from First Presbyterian Church in Cuero, Texas, in memory of Ethel W. Lance, one of nine victims shot and killed on June 17, 2015, at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. This annual award is given to a graduating senior who, during their time at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, demonstrated outstanding contributions to human or civil rights.

Sam O. Morris III Award

The Sam O. Morris III Award in Youth Ministry was established in 2021 by an anonymous donor to honor the life, person, and ministry of The Reverend Sam Morris. Reverend Morris was a United Methodist minister in the Mississippi Annual Conference and a key figure in youth ministry in the southeastern United States. Under his leadership, hundreds of young people came to Christian faith and dozens responded to a call to ministry. The award is given each year to a graduating MAYM student who demonstrates outstanding gifts for, and commitment to, the church's ministries with youth, based on the recommendation of the Seminary's professors of youth ministry.

The Max Sherman and Barbara Jordan Fellowship Fund

The Max Sherman and Barbara Jordan Fellowship Fund was established in 2008 by Michael and Deborah Jinkins of Austin, Texas. The fund provides an annual award to one member of the graduating class who demonstrates a significant potential to integrate faith and public policy. The award is made on the basis of Christian character, scholarship, record of public service, and potential for leadership upon recommendation to the faculty by the academic dean.

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

Graduate Fellowships

Each year the Seminary awards up to five fellowships to graduating seniors. Awards are based on Christian character, academic achievement, and promise for ministry.

Alsup-Frierson Fellowship

The Alsup-Frierson Fellowship for Excellence in Biblical Exegesis and Hermeneutics was established in 2005 by the families of John and Carole Alsup of Georgetown, Texas, and Clarence and Betty Frierson of Shreveport, Louisiana, in recognition of the long-standing tradition of excellence in biblical studies at Austin Seminary. The award is granted annually to the MDiv or MATS graduating student deemed by the Biblical Department (and approved by the faculty as a whole) to have demonstrated excellence in the field of biblical exegesis and hermeneutics.

Janie Maxwell Morris Fellowship

The Janie Maxwell Morris Fellowship was established in 1953 by a bequest from the will of Mrs. Milton Morris of Austin, Texas. The income on this bequest may be used in aiding some Master of Divinity graduate of the Seminary who desires to pursue studies further.

W. P. Newell Memorial Fellowship

An endowment was established in 1946 by Mrs. W. P. Newell of Albany, Texas, as a memorial to her late husband, W. P. (Dick) Newell. The income from this fund is to be used annually by the board of trustees of the Seminary to provide scholarships, a graduate study fellowship for a Master of Divinity student, or in some other manner to enrich the lives of those training for the Christian ministry.

Pile-Morgan Fellowship

An endowment was established in 1984 in honor of Leo V. Pile and Helen Porter Pile of Harlingen, Texas, and Edmund Holland Morgan and Estella Martin Morgan of Dallas, Texas, the income from which is to be awarded to a member of the Master of Divinity graduating class for the purpose of advanced study. The selection is made by the faculty on the basis of Christian character, scholarship, and ability.

David L. Stitt Fellowship

The Austin Seminary Association, the alumni association of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, established the David L. Stitt Fellowship for continued study in 1971. This fellowship is to be awarded to one member of the Master of Divinity senior class. The award is made by the board of the Austin Seminary Association, upon the recommendation of the faculty, on the basis of Christian character, scholarship, personality, and ability.

Terms of Graduate Fellowships

The recipient of a fellowship must use it within seven years after it has been awarded. The proposal for the use of a fellowship must be submitted by the recipient, in writing, to the academic dean who is empowered by faculty to authorize the release of fellowship funds if such request is in accordance with the stipulations of the particular fellowship. The academic dean may refer the matter for counsel or advice.

Giving to Austin Seminary - An Investment in the Future of the Church

Austin Seminary's mission is dependent upon charitable gifts from individuals, churches, and foundations. A financial commitment to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary supports students fulfilling their call to Christian service and leadership by providing scholarships, housing, classroom technology, library materials, and much more. Gifts to Austin Seminary afford the finest theological faculty and allow for an administration committed to upholding the highest standards with respect to the unique vocation of ministry.

Austin Seminary accepts gifts of cash and assets such as appreciated stock. Donations may be designated in the following ways.

Gifts for Student Support

Gifts to the Annual Fund are received throughout the year and support every aspect of our institutional mission: To educate and equip people for Christian ministry and other forms of Christian leadership and service. While Austin Seminary remains an endowment dependent institution, the endowment is subject to the economic turbulence of the marketplace. A strong Annual Fund supplements the income drawn from the endowment and helps to keep tuition and fees reasonable for all students. It is a living stream of income that supports faculty, library and research resources, student housing and maintains our campus, one of the most beautiful Seminary campuses in the nation. Funded through contributions from individuals and congregations, the Annual Fund is equal to nearly 10% of the annual operating budget. While gifts of any size are deeply appreciated, donors are encouraged to make a 3-year commitment to the Annual Fund. Common pledging levels are \$5,000, \$3,600, and \$1,200 per year but are made at any level of commitment the donor wishes. Donors may also make monthly, sustained gifts to the Annual Fund using a bank draft or credit card transactions. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Office of Institutional Advancement to learn more about the Annual Fund.

Endowment Gifts

Gifts to the endowment are permanent. Endowment funds are managed in accordance with the investment policies of the institution. Endowment income sustains the operating budget and is drawn from the managed assets of the endowment. The draw rate is set by the Board of Trustees who have a fiduciary responsibility to preserve the corpus of endowment gifts as well as sustain asset growth to address inflation.

Income from *restricted* gifts to the endowment may be specified in one of the following broad areas;

- o Student Support and Enrichment*
- o Faculty Support*
- o Curriculum and Programming*
- o Campus and Seminary Community*

Named endowed funds are listed in perpetuity, by name, in the official books and records of Austin Seminary. A minimum gift of \$100,000 is required to establish an endowed fund bearing the donor's name, or name of one to be honored or memorialized.

Seminary Support

Endowment Gifts, cont...

Minimum gift amounts to establish named endowments for full scholarships, fellowships and faculty chairs are as follows:

Student Scholarship (full tuition)	\$ 250,000
Student Fellowship (full tuition, housing, and stipend)	\$ 600,000
International (Global Partner) Fellowship (full tuition, housing, and expenses)	\$ 740,000
Faculty Chair (annual compensation and support services)	\$2,100,000
Distinguished Faculty Chair (annual compensation, support services, and stipend for opportunities in which to advance topics and issues surrounding holder's area of study)	\$2,500,000

Memorial Gifts

Gifts to Austin Seminary in memory or honor of a family member, or special friend, or pastor are welcomed and appreciated.

Wills and Planned Gifts

The many friends who have, over the years, included the Seminary in their wills and planned life income gifts have played a large part in making Austin Seminary the strong school it is today. Austin Seminary uses the services of our Presbyterian foundations to assist those who desire to make a planned or deferred gift from which the donor receives income for life and the Seminary becomes the ultimate beneficiary. By including the Seminary in your estate planning, your stewardship can strengthen the church of the future.

Bequest Language

The following or like language may be used:

"I give to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas, the sum of \$_____ (_____% of my estate, real estate, securities, or other property as described)." It is requested that the Seminary's vice president for institutional advancement be informed of any bequest to the Seminary.

Article from the Bylaws

"A sacred regard shall be paid to the wishes and directions of all testators or donors who may bequeath or give anything to the Seminary. Any individual or individuals, who shall, by will or otherwise, found or endow a professorship or a scholarship, or a fund of sufficient amount for any specific purpose connected with the Seminary, ordinarily may designate the name by which it shall be called."

Legal Name

The legal name of the institution is "Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary." It is incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas, and gifts to Austin Seminary are tax deductible.

Further Inquiry and Information

Additional information on current or planned gifts to strengthen Austin Seminary's mission of educating leaders for the church of the twenty-first century may be requested from the Office of Institutional Advancement, or visit our website at www.austinseminary.edu/giving.

Degrees Awarded May 19, 2024

Master of Arts in Ministry Practice

James Scott Wright

Master of Arts in Religion

Christopher Galvez Daomar

Enala Chavula

Master of Arts (Theological Studies)

K. C. Grace III

Del White Randall

Master of Arts in Youth Ministry

Jeremy Barrett Demarest

Rhys Mataz Ferguson

Lillian Maria Langdon

Austin David Lerner-Gay

Kristia Danielle Oney

Laura Katherine Provence

Paige Erin Richardson

Holley Danielle Simone

Rebekah Anne Small

Samantha Jean-Nicole Stoll

Josey Chantelle Waggoner Seevers

Audrey Carlene Webb

Master of Divinity

Amanda Jean Alvarado

David Cuauhtémoc Angulo Bocanegra

Nancy Mohn Barnard

Chrystal Brigman

Claire Irene Cumiskey *

Carly Hoffman Diaz

Brittany Susan Hicks

Carrie Lynn Holley-Hurt

Langley Ruth Hoyt

Megan Elizabeth Koeneman *

Heather Marie Malkawi

Amy Elizabeth Nelson

Marta Jean Pumroy

Lydia Kristine Sullinger

Bonifacio Frank Vasquez III

Clay William Walden

Doctor of Ministry

Jeffrey Alan Binder

Britta Martin Dukes

Mirjam Haas-Melchior

John Michael Hagmann

Charlie Michele Hornes

Kimberly Dawn Kinsey

Elizabeth Boone McLean

Scott William Szabo

Dual Degree, Master of Science in Social Work awarded by Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin.

Board of Trustees 2024-2025

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Anne Vickery Stevenson
Sugar Land, Texas

Faculty

Sarah Allen, *Associate Dean of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies*

BA, MDiv, DMin; Austin College, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Margaret P. Aymer, *Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty; The First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, D. Thomason Professor of New Testament Studies*

BA, MDiv, PhD; Harvard University, Union Theological Seminary in New York

Patricia Bonilla, *Instructor in Christian Education*

BA, MACE, MPh, PhD candidate; Lake Forest College, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Drew University, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Rodney Alan Caruthers II, *Assistant Professor of New Testament*

BA, ThM, MA, PhD; Oakland University, Ashland Theological Seminary, Emory University, Candler School of Theology, University of Michigan

Gregory Lee Cuéllar, *Professor of Old Testament*

BA, MDiv, PhD; Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University

Ángel Jazak Gallardo, *Assistant Professor of Church History*

BA, MDiv, PhD; Eastern University, Duke University Divinity School, Southern Methodist University

William Greenway, *Professor of Philosophical Theology*

BA, MDiv, PhD; Houghton College, Princeton Theological Seminary

Carolyn B. Helsel, *Associate Professor in The Blair R. Monie Distinguished Chair of Homiletics*

BA, MDiv, ThM, PhD; Whitworth University, Princeton Theological Seminary, Emory University

Philip Browning Helsel, *Associate Professor in The Nancy Taylor Williamson Distinguished Chair of Pastoral Care*

BA, MDiv, PhD; Anderson University, Princeton Theological Seminary

José R. Irizarry, *President, Professor of Practical Theology*

BA, MDiv, PhD; University of Puerto Rico, McCormick Theological Seminary, Northwestern University

David Hadley Jensen, *Professor in The Clarence N. and Betty B. Frierson Distinguished Chair of Reformed Theology*

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Crystal Silva-McCormick, *Visiting Assistant Professor in Evangelism and Missions*

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Faculty

Eric Wall, *Gene Alice Sherman Associate Professor of Sacred Music and Dean of the Chapel*
BM, MM; Florida State University

Andrew Zirschky, *Director of the MAYM Program and Research Professor in Youth Ministry*
BA, MDiv, PhD; Northwest Nazarene University, Princeton Theological Seminary

Faculty Emeriti

John Edward Alsup, *The First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, D. Thomason Professor Emeritus of New Testament Studies*

BA, MDiv, DTh; University of the Pacific, Princeton Theological Seminary, University of Munich

Ellen L. Babinsky, *Professor Emerita of Church History*

BA, MDiv, MTh, PhD; Earlham College, McCormick Theological Seminary,
Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, University of Chicago

Whitney S. Bodman, *Associate Professor Emeritus of Comparative Religion*

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New York University

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Timothy D. Lincoln, *Library Director and Research Professor in Theological Education, Emeritus;*

BA, MDiv, MS(LIS), PhD; Concordia College, Yale University Divinity School, Simmons College,
The University of Texas at Austin

Ralph L. Underwood, *Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care*

BA, BD, MTh, MA, PhD; Bluffton College, Asbury Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary,
University of Chicago

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BA, DMin, STM; Presbyterian College, Union Theological Seminary, Yale University Divinity School

David F. White, *The C. Ellis and Nancy Gribble Nelson Professor Emeritus of Christian Education and Professor Emeritus of Methodist Studies*

BA, MDiv, MA, PhD; Mississippi State University, Asbury Theological Seminary,
Claremont School of Theology

Additional Instructors and Lecturers 2023-2024

Paul Hooker, Lecturer in the Church's Ministry, DMin Program, and Certificate in Ministry, Retired, Hoschton, Georgia

Dietrich Kirk, Lecturer in the MAYM Program, Executive Director, The Center for Youth Ministry Training

Justin King, Lecturer in Biblical Studies, Faculty, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Gabriel Marcano, Lecturer in the Certificado en Ministerio Program, Pastor, Iglesia San Jose Obrero, ELCA, Houston, Texas

Charles Mendenhall, Lecturer in the Certificate in Ministry Program, Retired, Austin, Texas

Jorge Orozco, Lecturer in the Certificado en Ministerio Program, Austin, Texas

David Puig-Jordan, Lecturer in the Certificado en Ministerio Program, Associate Pastor, Northwoods Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas

Stephanie Rodriguez, Interim Dean of the Chapel, Bastrop, Texas

Jason Santos, Lecturer in the MAYM Program, Pastor, Community Presbyterian Church, Lake City, Colorado

Liz Theoharis, Lecturer in Christian Ethics, Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice & Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign, New York, New York

David White, Lecturer in the DMin Program, The C. Ellis and Nancy Gribble Nelson Professor Emeritus of Christian Education and Professor Emeritus of Methodist Studies, Austin, Texas

Supervisors in the Practice of Ministry 2023-2024

Tracey Fletcher, pastor, First St. Peter AME, Stone Mountain, Georgia

Matt Gaventa, pastor, University Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas

Thom Lamb, pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Temple, Texas

Shawn McCain, rector, Resurrection Anglican Church, Austin, Texas

Elizabeth McLean, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas

B.W. McClendon, pastor, St. James Missionary Baptist Church, Austin, Texas

Emily Owen, pastor, Hyde Park Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas

Josh Robinson, pastor, Hope Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas

Jill Williams, pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas

Mary Wilson, director, ChrysalisQ, Austin, Texas

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*Associate Dean of
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Learning Technologies Librarian, Archives and Records Manager.....	Rodrigo Leal
Learning Specialist	Alan Constant

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Maintenance Supervisor	David P. Hill
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Maintenance Staff	Rodrigo Rosales
Service Technician.....	Johnny Rogerio
Housekeeper.....	Adriana Surita

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Associate Dean of Lifelong Learning..... Sean Watkins
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Associate for Donor Relations Sharon Sandberg
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Office of Student Affairs and Vocation

Dean of Students Sarah Kinney Gaventa
Senior Associate, Student Affairs and Communications Usama Malik

Office of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships

Vice President for Strategic Engagement and Partnerships..... Melissa Wiginton
Director of Communications
Associate Director for Marketing and Communications Jeff Sanchez
Senior Associate, Student Affairs and Communications Usama Malik
Director of Congregational Innovation..... Phil Dieke
Assistant Director of Congregational Innovation Jade Evans



Austin Seminary Association

Purpose

Austin Seminary Association (ASA), under the auspices of the Office of Institutional Advancement, exists to communicate, advocate, care, and connect at the intersection of Austin Seminary's mission and Austin Seminary's alumni.

All graduates are, by definition, members of the Association. Others are encouraged to become members by declaration of intent to support the Seminary and the Austin Seminary Association.

The ASA Board members are representative of over 2,250 alumni/ae representing 49 states and more than 30 countries throughout the world. Board members and officers take office at the beginning of each academic year, July 1. They serve one three-year term and may be eligible for reelection for a second term, after which one year must elapse before they are eligible for another election.

Board membership shall be represented by alumni across the country and shall reflect the full expression of the rich diversity of the alumni base. Members of the Board shall be chosen based on their commitment to, concern for, and knowledge of the mission and purpose of Austin Seminary Association.

The Association Board ordinarily holds two meetings a year, in September and January. Other meetings are called at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The annual luncheon and meeting of the Association is usually held during Midwinter Lectures.

ASA Awards for Service

Austin Seminary Association Awards are presented annually to persons who have distinguished themselves through service to the church. Since the inception of the program of awards, the following persons have been honored:

- 1975 Barton W. Freeland, Jack S. Hodges, Henry W. Quinius Jr., Glenn A. Railsback
- 1976 Stuart D. Currie (posthumously), J. Martin Singleton, Elsworth "Pete" Wright
- 1977 John F. Anderson Jr., T. Hardie Bowman, Rachel Henderlite, John R. Williams
- 1978 John R. Blue, Catherine M. Sautter, Harry B. Wood
- 1979 Jack C. Hunnicutt, R. William Jablonowski Jr., T. Watson Street
- 1980 Jimmie T. Clark, John F. Jansen, Charles L. King
- 1981 Jack K. Bennett, Robert B. Trull, Prescott H. Williams Jr.
- 1982 W. Eugene March, E. Otis Moore, John W. Smiley
- 1983 Joe M. Brown, James W. Mosley
- 1984 Harvard A. Anderson, Charles R. Gibbs, Earl B. Wiggins
- 1985 James E. Andrews, C. Ellis Nelson, J. Allen Smith
- 1986 Thomas W. Currie Jr., Felix W. Keys Jr., Patricia McClurg
- 1987 Guadalupe M. Armendáriz, Michael N. Miller, John R. Shell
- 1988 William J. Fogleman, Ida Nell Forbes
- 1989 Edward Dixon Junkin, Genevieve R. Luna, John Arthur Shute
- 1990 James E. Fogartie, Shirley H. Howard, W. Frank McElroy Jr., G. William Murray, William F. Pruitt, Walter D. Shepard, William C. Washburn
- 1991 F. Clark Williams, Flynn V. Long Jr.
- 1992 Mary E. Gaines, George S. Heyer Jr., C. Keith Wright
- 1993 Prentice H. Barnett, Walter A. Bennett, Judy Record Fletcher, Carroll L. Pickett
- 1994 William McIntire Gould Jr., Benjamin F. Gutierrez, John R. Hendrick, David L. Stitt
- 1995 Sam McDowell Junkin, Jerry R. Tompkins
- 1996 Don Alan Farquhar, Neil M. Weatherhogg
- 1997 Lynn Tilghman Johnson, Joseph L. Turner

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ASA Awards for Service, cont...

- 1998 Walter M. Crofton, Frank Diaz
- 1999 Exell L. Coon, Elizabeth Johnson-Pense, James A. Wharton
- 2000 Fane Downs, John R. Evans, John Ed Withers
- 2001 Michael F. Murray, Phineas Washer
- 2002 Robert H. Bullock Jr., Cynthia Weeks Logan, Jack L. Stotts
- 2003 Priscilla A. Abbott, G. Thomas Huser, Louis H. Zbinden Jr.
- 2004 Thomas W. Currie III, Bobbi Kaye Jones, Charles Brooks Partee
- 2005 William K. Hedrick, Frank B. Walker Jr., Eugenia Hopper Zavaleta
- 2006 Lydia Hernandez, Hans-Richard Nevermann
- 2007 James R. Miles, Jan W. Owen
- 2008 Alfred W. Morgan, Ralph L. Person
- 2009 Marvin C. Griffin, Robert D. Lively
- 2010 Laura C. Mendenhall, Clinton Clark Rabb
- 2011 Carlos E. Ham, Gilley G. Richardson
- 2012 Ruben Pacillas Armendáriz, Judith M. Henderson
- 2013 Helen Locklear, John M. McCoy Jr., Gregory D. McDonell
- 2014 James W. Dollar, Melinda A. Veatch, Miles H. White
- 2015 Michael J. Cole, Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, John D. Williams,
- 2016 Rebecca Reyes, William O. Walker
- 2017 James Hickson Lee (posthumously), Sharon Ann Risher,
Clarence DeLeon "C. D." Weaver
- 2018 Valerie Bridgeman, David P. Gambrell
- 2019 Patricia K. Tull, Sallie Sampsell Watson
- 2020 Carol Howard Merritt, Dick Powell Jr.
- 2021 Cynthia Kohlmann, Steven Miller
- 2022 Martha Sadongei, Fred Tulloch
- 2023 Nancy Chester McCranie
- 2024 Theodore Foote Jr., Anne Simpson Pardington, William C. Poe

CONTACTING THE SEMINARY

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- Certificate in Ministry programs: *Sean Watkins, Associate Dean of Lifelong Learning*
- Doctor of Ministry program: *Sarah Allen, Associate Dean of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies*
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- General matters including faculty, board of trustees, and Seminary policies: *José R. Irizarry, President*
- Gifts to the Seminary: *Ryan Arnold, Vice President of Institutional Advancement*
- Guest rooms and facilities reservations: *Sarah Gomez, Director of Auxiliary Enterprises*
- Housing for students: *Usama Malik, Senior Associate, Student Affairs and Communications*
- Library: *Kristy Sorensen, Associate Dean, Library & Learning Services*
- Marketing and publicity: *Jeff Sanchez, Associate Director for Marketing and Communications*
- Ministerial formation, Supervised Practice of Ministry, occasional pulpit supply: *Sarah Allen, Associate Dean of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies*
- Publications and the website: *Jeff Sanchez, Associate Director for Marketing and Communications*
- Student needs and concerns, vocation, ecclesiastical relations, and placement: *Sarah Kinney Gaventa, Dean of Students*
- Transcripts and enrollment verifications: *Mary Blick Wall, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Registrar*