COMMUNITY LIFE

For more information about student life and policies, see the Seminary Student Handbook at www.northpark.edu/seminary.

Christian Formation

North Park Theological Seminary is a Christian community of students, faculty, and staff coming together for the equipping of men and women for ministry. Students are challenged intellectually in the classroom, gain practical experience through internships and course projects, and are formed spiritually through community, our Spiritual Formation program, and the process of testing and evaluation. The Dean of Students and Community Life facilitates the evaluative processes. For details, see http://www.northpark.edu/Seminary/Academics/Vocational-Development.

The Seminary's Corporate Worship

At chapel services, the community gathers to pray with and for one another and the world, as well as receive the ministry of God's Word and the Lord's Supper. Through Scripture read and proclaimed, music and silence, testimony and sacrament, chapels become an important part of community life. Students are expected to attend and participate in seminary chapels on a regular basis. The worship of the community is facilitated by a faculty-student chapel committee under the leadership of the chair of the chapel committee. Students are encouraged to offer their gifts in service to the community to enhance our corporate worship.

Local Churches

The local church is an important venue for the ongoing formation and education of persons called to ministry. NPTS encourages students to worship and to serve at a local church of their choice. A listing of local ECC churches is available from Seminary Student Services.

The Evangelical Covenant Church

NPTS is the seminary of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Denominational leaders interact with students on a regular basis in their classes, at their churches, and at many other events. To learn more about the ECC, visit www.covchurch.org.

Student Government

The Student Association is led by the Student Council. The purpose of student government is to promote community life and represent students to the faculty as well as the broader university administration. The Student Council provides leadership for several student committees focusing on the areas of finance and academics, community concerns, globalization and diversity, and social events. The Student Council constitution is designed to encourage student involvement. A copy of the constitution and bylaws is available on request from Seminary Student Services. Officers of the Student Council are elected each spring and are responsible for representing the larger student association.

Women in Ministry

The Evangelical Covenant Church and North Park Theological Seminary encourage and support women serving at all levels of ministry. Realizing the challenges that face women in pastoral ministry, the Women in Ministry Committee meets regularly for fellowship, discussion, and support. In addition, they sponsor events and plan chapel services that help to encourage dialogue around the issue of women in ministry. The committee is co-led by a faculty-student team.

Statement of Inclusive Language

We are committed to being inclusive in language and imagery in an effort to eliminate prejudice, whether gender, racial, ethnic, national, religious, denominational, cultural, or physical. This way of proceeding in no manner seeks to deny personal identity; rather, it guards against any use of word or phrase that tends to exclude people. (Adapted and revised from the Board of Publication Policy, the Evangelical Covenant Church, 1987.)

Housing

Unfurnished student apartments either on campus or within a short walk of the campus are available for Seminary students who maintain enrollment of at least 6 hours per semester (fall and spring). A separate housing application is required, and apartments are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, with consideration for specific apartments given to families with school-age children. Information on housing is available on the Seminary website or from the Housing Coordinator at (773) 244-6219 or semhousing@northpark.edu. Visit www.northpark.edu/Seminary/Community/Housing for more information.

International Students

The International Student Services Office of the University provides counseling, advice, and referral services for international students. In addition, matters relating to student visa status are monitored by this office which regularly reports to the U.S. government about the academic standing of all international students. For more information regarding these services, please contact the International Student Office: www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/International-Student-Services.

Nyvall Hall

Nyvall Hall was erected in 1947 and is the home of the Seminary on the North Park campus. Students, faculty, and staff gather twice weekly for worship in Isaacson Chapel, followed by coffee and announcements in Olsson Lounge. Nyvall Hall contains classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, Seminary Student Services, Seminary Academic Services, and the Field Education Office. The Office of Seminary Admission is located in Old Main.

Counseling and Health Centers

The North Park Counseling Center and the Student Health Center are located on Foster Avenue on the north edge of campus. Both offer basic services to students free of charge. The Counseling Center offers students professional counseling services and referrals in situations of individual and family stress. They also offer education and screenings for attention deficit disorder, substance abuse, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, and other areas of concern. Discounted services for students and their families is also available at Swedish Covenant Hospital. Students are required to carry health insurance. If a student wishes to pursue counseling with another provider the Dean of Students has referrals as well as resources to help defray some of the cost.

Athletics

Students have access to the University gym, Helwig fitness center, and classes offered there to promote health and wellness. During the academic year students can also access the athletic facilities, pool and fitness classes at Northeastern Illinois University. The University also

offers a variety of intramural sports, and Seminary students often form teams for volleyball, basketball, football, and soccer.

Spouses' Programs

Spouses may take advantage of many opportunities available though Partners In Ministry (PIM) and Partners Enrichment Program (PEP). The mission of PIM is to give support to spouses of seminary students and provide opportunities for growth and ministry. The main objective of the Partners Enrichment Program is to offer learning experiences for spouses. This is accomplished through special speakers, marriage retreats, and classes. Spouses of full-time Seminary students may audit Seminary courses at no charge. Partial childcare reimbursement is available for PIM and PEP events. Each spring, a leadership team is formed to plan and execute the events for the following year. More information may be found at http://www.northpark.edu/Seminary/Community-Life/Community-Groups/PIM.

Employment Opportunities

There are employment opportunities on campus for North Park students. Students or spouses interested in employment at the University should check www.northpark.edu/About/Prospective-Faculty-and-Staff for notices of available employment on campus. The Seminary Student Services Office posts notices of part-time church work opportunities in Nyvall Hall and the Nyvall News weekly newsletter. The Youth Ministry Study Center maintains an online list of youth oriented jobs as well. Chicago offers many job opportunities, including part-time employment in area churches.

Childcare

Most students make their own arrangements for childcare within the North Park community. Some students send their children to private and public pre-school programs within the area.

Schools for Children

Several excellent public and private schools are within a few blocks of North Park. It is recommended that students concerned about the schooling of their children contact the schools directly several months before their planned matriculation. Further information about local schools may be obtained from Seminary Student Services.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

In compliance with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, North Park is committed to providing a drug-free and alcohol-free learning and work environment. Smoking, chewing, or dipping tobacco are prohibited in all campus buildings. The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on campus or in conjunction with institution-sponsored events, whether on-campus or off-campus is prohibited.

Harassment Policy

NPTS will not tolerate personal, racial, or gender harassment or intimidation of students, faculty, or staff by any person in any form. The institution will take prompt and appropriate action when complaints of harassment are registered, including appropriate disciplinary action up to dismissal if the complaint is substantiated and such discipline is deemed necessary. Any who believe they have been harassed may turn for assistance to the Dean of the Seminary, the Dean of Students and Community Life, or the Academic Dean.

Student Handbook

For further information regarding student and community life, services, and student conduct policies and procedures, see the Seminary Student Handbook available at http://www.northpark.edu/Seminary/Academics/Student-Resources.