

NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FIELD EDUCATION
Syllabus/Summary of Requirement

Program Objective

North Park Theological Seminary offers a comprehensive field education program designed to provide contextualized ministry opportunities to serve Christ and the church. Such service must be vocationally developed and nurtured through:

- discerning of one's spiritual gifts
- integration of classroom learning
- skill development and practice
- quality supervision and mentorship
- self-awareness and meaningful reflection
- peer and collegial engagement
- evaluation that promotes professional and personal development

Recognizing the validity of all aspects of the students' seminary education, field education brings about a competency that would never be developed within the seminary walls alone by integrating theory (classroom learning) with practice and reflection. It is built upon the learning by doing principle of education, making relevant classroom material already learned and motivating future classroom learning. Field education gives further content to studies, brings about a maturity of interpersonal relations, provides practice in communication, insights into organization and procedure, and enables the student to discover weaknesses while strengthening a sense of Christian vocation through reflection.

Policy

Students are required to schedule an appointment with the field education department to discuss and plan the course of their field education. This should happen in the first semester of their first year. All registration and enrollment will be generated by the field education office.

The cost for one Field Education credit is \$200 and is to be distinguished from academic credits.

Course Requirements

The Field Education Program is made up of five required components that are designed to work collectively in professional and personal development. See below the requirements for the following degree programs: Master of Divinity (MDiv.), Master of Christian Formation (MACF), Master of Christian Ministry (MACM), Master of Theological Studies (MATS):

	<u>MDIV</u>	<u>MACF</u>	<u>MACM</u>	<u>MATS</u>
FLDC 5300 Vocational Excellence	√	√	√	√
FLDC 7310 Internship Residency	√	√		
FLDC 7315 Cultural Competency Module (CCM)	√	√	√	√
FLDC 7316 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)	√			
FLDC 7318 Theological Reflection Module (TRM)	√	√	√	

FLDC 5300 Vocational Excellence* - 1 credit (MACF, MACM, MATS, MDiv)

This course, taken in the first year of studies, is designed to explore the meaning of credentialed and endorsed ministry in the Evangelical Covenant Church and the responsibilities and competencies of those called to these positions. Areas of inquiry will include: licensing, commissioning, ordination, ethical guidelines, formal care and discipline.

*Students may substitute a comparable experience related to their denomination; or, if in an independent church, the course can be adapted to their context.

FLDC 7310 Internship Residency – 8 credits for MDiv and 4 credits for MACF

Internship Residency includes a broad range of ministry experience and exposure which aligns well with your vocational aspirations. Such experiences will include mentorship, theological reflection and integration. Students are prepared to serve as competent and spiritually sensitive ministers in the Christian church at home and abroad. Therefore, a minimum of one semester of internship will be in the congregational context.

The internship must involve pastoral supervision and colleague participation (laity committee, cohort groups, field education office, etc.). Supervisors and mentors must be people who will take seriously, even be invigorated by, the mentoring and supporting roles. Such support persons must be consistent and intentionally present for consultation and encouragement. The ministry setting must also provide constructive evaluation as well as space for self-reflection for the student.

Internships are expected to be paid experiences in order to cultivate personal and professional investment from the student and those involved in the ministry setting. Students are not cheap labor for the church. The church provides opportunity for students to practice gifts and skills and the ministry leaders to invest in the pastoral formation of the student. It is understood that several churches are not financially stable to pay for the student's services and could consider other alternatives of compensation. Contact the Field Education Department for information concerning pay scale, mileage and other cost items.

Internship requirements:

1. Submit to the Field Education Department a signed Internship Agreement ([hyperlink](#)) before your internship begins so that you can be registered. **Students will not be registered after the first week of the semester.**

MDiv students are required to complete 8 credit hours of internship. This can be accomplished in the following ways:

- Two semesters full time (1 year is recommended), 4 credits per semester, minimum of 30-40 hour work week.
- Part-time with a minimum of 2 credits per semester minimum of 15 to 20 hour work week.

MACF students are required to complete 4 credit hours of internship. This can be accomplished in the following ways:

- One semester full time, 2 credits per semester, 30-40 hour work week.
- Part-time with a minimum of 1 credit per semester 15 to 20 hour work week.

2. Participate in the online classroom discussions. Reflection questions are posted monthly for cohort

discussions. These experiences are designed to generate personal and community reflection, provide feedback, develop collegiality and listening skills amongst your peers – skills that will be practiced throughout your career.

3. Submit a report at the end of every semester of internship OR a final evaluation if you are finishing all of the credit requirements. There will be designated Moodle drop box to access and submit all field education forms. This required report is a valuable tool for reflecting on the semester's experience, re-evaluating your goals, and identifying your strengths and areas of growth.
4. As the facilitator of your internship, you are responsible for the following:

Supervisor – It is the student's responsibility to schedule regular meetings with the supervisor to review responsibilities, reflect on ministry experiences and learning goals, and to evaluate work. The supervisor must submit the following:

1. Initial your End of Semester Report
2. The supervisor's midpoint evaluation
3. The supervisor's final evaluation

Laity Committee Members (MDiv Students only) - It is the student's responsibility to schedule and lead the meetings with his/her lay committee in order to elicit feedback concerning your ministry. Invite them to offer insight about your particular placement, reflect on your work, pray with you. This committee will be one source of evaluation for your internship. Their feedback gives you a more holistic view of your ministry. The Laity Committee members will submit the following:

1. Each will complete a Public Witness/Sermon Evaluation
2. A laity committee midpoint evaluation
3. A laity committee final evaluation

Spouse (if applicable) - Your spouse will share his/her observations about the internship experience at the mid-point and at the end of your internship. You are encouraged to see this as a forum for your spouse to express his/her feelings about ministry and to offer his/her insights. Your spouse will submit the following:

1. A midpoint evaluation
2. A final evaluation

FLDC 7315 Cultural Competency Module (CCM) – 1 credit (MACF, MACM, MATS, MDiv)

The purpose of the CCM is to foster cross cultural competency throughout the seminary journey and beyond. Students complete the Intercultural Development Instrument (IDI) in their first year of studies. Based on the results of their personal IDI assessment, students will work with the field education department to craft a plan for their seminary experience to maximize cross cultural exposure and engagement. Students will be encouraged to:

- Get involved in cultural campus activities
- Develop intentional personal/professional relationships
- Register for travel courses and other courses involving cultural discussion
- Register for an internship in a different culture from their own

Students register for the discussion module during their final year of seminary. Students will reflect on their

intercultural development and develop a life plan to continue intercultural competence in a cohort group of 5-10 students.

7316 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) – 0 credit (MDiv only)

Clinical Pastoral Education is designed to develop confidence and skill in dealing with persons and families in crisis situations. CPE facilitates personal and professional growth as part of an ecumenical and accountable peer group and by working under observation and instruction of a trained and credentialed supervisor.

CPE centers are located in Chicago and throughout the country. They are mostly based in hospital settings but can also be in urban ministries and hospice and senior care. Program formats vary, but can be *intensive* (approximately 440 hours, 10-12 weeks of full-time work for a full unit, or 10-12 weeks of half-time for a half unit) or *extended* (typically one fixed and one varied day each week for 6-9 months). Almost all programs also require 24-hour on-call experiences, usually once a week.

MDiv students are required to complete at least one half unit of CPE. However, students are strongly encouraged to complete a full unit of CPE at an accredited site. For those who may be interested in chaplaincy, the first full unit at an accredited site is mandatory and can count for internship credits as well. **It is recommended that students complete CPE as soon as possible after their first year of seminary and must be completed BEFORE a student enters into the ‘End of Studies’ process in preparation for graduation.**

All fees are paid directly to the CPE site (varies \$400 - \$800), with the exception of Swedish Covenant Hospital where the fee is paid directly to NPTS. The Swedish Covenant site meets the NPTS degree requirements but is not an accredited CPE program. **Submission of the CPE program acceptance letter and student and supervisor final evaluations are required for transcript purposes.** For further information and the application for all CPE programs and Swedish Covenant Hospital, visit the CPE website: www.acpe.edu.

FLDC 7318 Theological Reflection Module (TRM) – 1 credit (MACF, MACM, MDiv)

The Theological Reflection Module is taken after completing at least one half of one’s field education credits or upon approval of the Field Education Department. The TRM takes place in an intensive one or two-day format with 3-6 students and is based on group discussion of case studies presented by each student. The case study is based on a ministry experience in your internship. The TRM allows students to process oftentimes difficult ministry experiences and to receive constructive feedback.